

The NATURALISTS' CLUB Newsletter

2009

JULY — SEPTEMBER

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

JULY

- 11-12 Sat-Sunday Connecticut River Canoe Camping, *Vernon, Vt. to Northfield, Mass.*
12 Sunday Daylily Festival and Edible Flowers & Herb Luncheon, *Greenfield*
12 Sunday Astronomy Walk Series: Solar Eclipses & Sun Viewing, *Easthampton*
18 Saturday Ocean Kayaking at Marion Harbor & Bird Island, *Buzzards Bay*
23 Thursday Walk at Ludlow Reservoir, *Ludlow*
24 Friday Star Party at Northfield Mountain, *Northfield*
25 Saturday Hillcrest Cemetery, *Springfield*
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AUGUST

- 2 Sunday Hilltown Land Trust Hikes, *Williamstown*
9 Sunday Stanley Park Nature Series: Native, Exotic, and Invasive Species, *Westfield*
20 Thursday Walk at Ashley Ponds, *Holyoke*
23 Sunday Biking the Norwottuck Rail Trail, *Northampton to Amherst*
29 Saturday Sea Kayaking at Colebrook River Lake, *Tolland*
29 Saturday Stanley Park Nature Series: Island Hopping, *Westfield*
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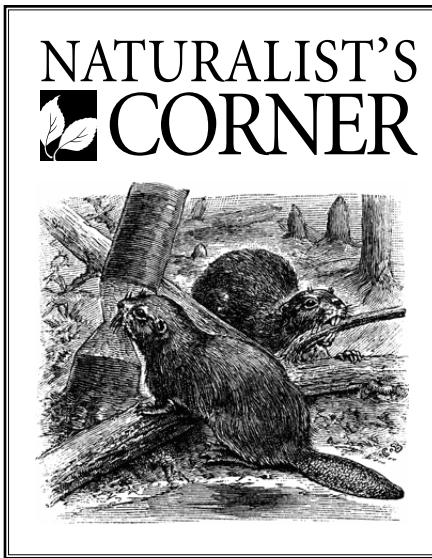
SEPTEMBER

- 10 Thursdays Beginning Stained Glass Training Class ~ Nature in Glass! (4 weeks), *Westfield*
11-13 Fri-Sunday Stump Sprouts, *West Hawley*
12 Saturday Frogs & Turtles of Western Massachusetts, *Easthampton*
13 Sunday Stanley Park Nature Series: Late Summer Wildflowers, *Westfield*
16 Wednesday SEPTEMBER MEETING: The Natural History of the Connecticut Valley and its Connections to Art, History and Science, *Springfield*
20 Sunday Stevens Hiking Trail, *Huntington*
20 Sunday Astronomy Walk Series: Star Clusters, *Easthampton*
22 Tuesdays Stained Glass Training ~ Floral Homes: Terrariums! (4 weeks) *Westfield*
24 Thursday Walk at Fannie Stebbins, *Longmeadow*
26 Saturday Ocean Kayaking on Salem Sound & Misery Islands, *Salem*
27 Sunday Museum of Science, *Boston*
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OCTOBER

- 2-4 Fri-Sunday The Naturalists' Club 40th Anniversary Weekend, *Russell*
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THE MARVEL OF A BEAVER'S WORK

When the sun begins to sink into the western sky and long afternoon shadows lace the forest floor, I love to find myself sitting along the shores of one of the many beaver ponds we have here in Western Mass. This is the time when beavers leave their lodges and begin their evening activities. A careful scan of the beaver pond might reveal a tiny brown head moving silently across the waters, a fine trailing wake radiating toward distant shores. If you move too quickly or make too loud a sound, the head will quickly submerge and a tail will flash out of the pond and slam down with a loud crack. Its report will echo across the waters, slowly fading just as the last vestiges of the beaver's wake disappear, returning the pond's surface to that of a mirror.

The American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is the epitome of a crepuscular animal, that is, an animal most active at dusk and dawn. Sitting quietly by a beaver pond, you can watch these industrious animals for a few hours in the fading light.

Upon leaving its lodge, the beaver's first task of the night will be to survey his dam. How is it holding up? Has it been damaged since his last patrol? Does it need any tweaking? If the beaver were human, I am sure that these would be his thoughts. Beavers, like humans, are one of very few animals that change their environment to suit their needs. As a king builds a castle encircled by a moat for protection, a beaver builds a dam to surround himself with a protective watery environment. Somewhere in the waters created by the dam lies his castle, a wooden lodge, surrounded by his watery moat. The beaver must survey the dam and immediately repair any damage that may weaken the structure and hence threaten his safety. If you have situated yourself near the dam, you might witness his actions.

Lacing small branches together and then packing the gaps with mud, the beaver builds his dam. Contrary to what you might have seen on Saturday morning cartoons, he uses his paws, not his tail to pack in the mud. A quick search of the streambed below the dam would reveal that this site was not chosen at random. The bed beneath the dam is almost always muddy. This allows the beaver to set those branches into a firm foundation. Had the streambed been gravelly, pressure from the water behind the dam would wear away the gravel and the dam would collapse.

You might notice fresh, leafy branches as part of the dam's construction. These are almost always used for simple repairs to the structure. The strength of the dam comes from the weight of its predominant building material: waterlogged branches. This could explain why beavers almost never bring building materials to the dam from downstream; they simply weigh too much for the beaver to carry.

Beavers have evolved to become master manipulators of gravity and water. Trees are dropped directly into the pond or slid down hills. Small branches are cut off and stored for winter food. Larger branches are left to soak in the water for future construction materials. Finally, the beaver uses the pull of gravity upon these waters to transport materials to dam locations with a minimum of effort. An average beaver can move more than 500 pounds of branches in a single day's work. When finished, a beaver dam is nearly indestructible. While driving a logging road in northern Maine, I once came upon a beaver pond flooding my path. The dam followed the road for more than 100 feet. To avoid a long detour, I tentatively drove my pickup up onto the dam. It held firm and so I used it as my road and passed safely across to the other side.

The beaver dam not only creates a watery moat to protect the beaver lodge but also creates a cold water storage device, a refrigerator if you will, in which the beaver stores food. For nutrition, beavers eat leaves and a tree's inner bark, the same part of the tree that we tap to make maple syrup. One end of a branch is driven into the muddy bottom of the beaver pond to keep it from drifting away. Throughout the year, beavers will return to their cache to retrieve these branches and bring them into the lodge for dinner.

In order to fell trees, beavers gnaw off chunks of wood. These woodchips have no nutritional value and are not eaten; nevertheless this process serves an important purpose. As a rodent, its upper and lower incisors constantly grow, offsetting wear from gnawing on trees all the time. If the beaver were to stop his gnawing activity, these sharp, chisel-like teeth would grow so long as to become useless. The chewing of wood keeps the teeth sharp and perfectly aligned for its lumbering activities.

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What is it that drives a beaver to build its dam? This has piqued biologists' curiosity for years. If you release a beaver into a deep river or lake, it will burrow into the riverbank and build neither lodge nor dam. So why do shallow rivers inspire the construction of a dam? Some believe that beavers are stimulated to build by the sound of running water. Experiments have been conducted whereby a tape recorder was placed into a beaver's habitat, playing the sound of running water. Upon return, the researcher found the recorder silenced by a pile of mud and twigs. So do you think that a beaver builds its dams to raise the water level, offering protection and food storage, but also to silence the river?

Biologists study beaver ponds for more than just the beavers. They refer to these industrious little animals as "keystone species." Like a keystone in a stone arch bridge, the beaver holds together an important ecosystem. The beaver modifies a river or stream into a shallow pond, offering new habitats for many species. Amphibians and reptiles move into these ponds, as do fish and numerous invertebrates. With these new animals come their predators. Wading birds, such as the great blue heron, can be found standing statuesque along the shores, waiting for a frog to swim by. A belted kingfisher sits perched in a tree, spying out a fish that has come too close to the surface. With a flash of blue, each bird strikes its prey. A beaver pond hosts a wider variety of plants and animals than the original stream.

But ponds, whether constructed by humans or beavers, eventually backfill with sediment. And so a beaver pond is ephemeral. Slowly, it fills. Cattail swamps begin to encroach along the shores. These swamps fill, as well, and give way to meadows that eventually transition back to forests. This ecological succession has been cycling since the retreat of the glaciers and the return of the beaver. Think about this industrious worker and its long history here as you observe its activity with the setting sun. The beaver's emergence is brief, but well worth the time taken to capture the view. ~ Tom Condon

Connecticut River Canoe Camping, Vernon, Vt. to Riverview Picnic and Recreation Area, Northfield, Mass.

Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895) and Bill Fontaine (413-533-2153)

Registration: Call Tom, Nancy or Bill

Meeting Place: State boat ramp at Barton's Cove (Mass. Route 2) at 9 a.m.

Join us for this overnight, 15-mile canoe/camping trip along one of the most scenic sections of the Connecticut River. It is an area steeped in natural beauty, interesting geological features, and Native American history. It is also a flat water paddle and float that is suitable for all ability levels. On Saturday, we'll begin our trip at the Governor Hunt Recreation Area in Vernon, Vermont for the 11-mile paddle to our stopping place for the night. Along the way, we'll pass areas that for centuries were gathering places and trading centers for Native Americans. We'll also take time out for a leisurely lunch at one of the many scenic areas along the river. Late afternoon should find us at the Munn's Ferry campground, operated by First Light Power Resources. Munn's Ferry is a reservation-only, boat access camping area with west-facing slopes reported to be fertile ground for botanists.

After breakfast on Sunday, we'll paddle the remaining 4 miles to the takeout at the Riverview Picnic and Recreation Area. This last leg of the trip will take us past Kidd's Island, reputed to be a place where the pirate buried some of his treasure. At night, you may even see the ghostly apparition of his vessel! Space at the campground is limited, so please sign up early (no later than July 1st) to avoid disappointment. If you're interested in coming along, please call one of the trip leaders for information on campsite rates, what to bring, and boat availability. Call too if you're interested in joining us but if you don't have a partner; we may be able to match you up.

Daylily Festival and Edible Flowers & Herb Luncheon Greenfield

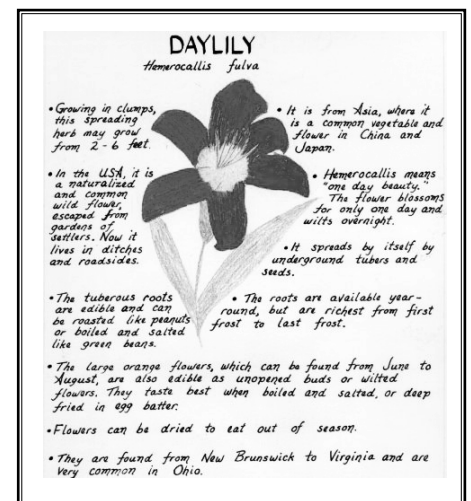
Sunday, July 12, starting at 11:30 a.m.

Leader: Joan Presz (413-569-6663)

Registration: Please call Joan to register. For luncheon to run, by end of June twenty must sign up and chip in their \$20 for the luncheon. The Daylily Festival, however, is free and will be held regardless.

Meeting Place: Mass. Information Center, Greenfield at 11:30 a.m.

Back by popular demand, although the menu this time round will be different from last year's. The Daylily Festival is an event that takes place annually at Glenbrook Gardens. People may tour the gardens, admire the blooms, choose daylilies to purchase, and by the time lunch is done, the daylilies will be ready to go home. Mary Ellen and John Warchol, herb and flower flavor experts from Stockbridge Farm in South Deerfield (665-6918), will be guest chefs. There will possibly be a talk on daylily types and care, as well. Come and enjoy the pleasures of a summer Sunday in good company. Please note the registration deadline and sign up early!



Astronomy Walk Series

Solar Eclipses & Sun Viewing, *Easthampton*

Sunday, July 12, from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.

(** Note special time!! **)

Leader: Chris Lyons, Astronomy Educator

E-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740

Fee: \$5 Naturalists' Club members, \$8 others (*Fee covers auditorium use.*)

Meeting Place: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon), 127 Combs Road, Easthampton ~ Main Building

This month we'll be talking about *solar eclipses* and the mighty spectacle these awesome alignments of the sun and moon deliver! As everyone knows, we live on a very special planet, but you probably didn't know that Earth is the *only* place in the solar system where a total solar eclipse can actually be seen. We'll discuss many of the details behind eclipses and look at how these magical events inspired our ancestors through the ages. Weather permitting, we'll also take a peek at the sun through a solar-filtered telescope to get some close-up views of our nearby star and its structure. This will be a fun-filled summer celebration of the sun, so please join astronomy educator Chris Lyons for a hot time! *Please note that the Astronomy Series will be taking a month off in August, but will return in September for more great fun.*

This is a fun active-learning indoor/outdoor program for adults (16 and up) each month, with a presentation given in the Arcadia auditorium followed by outside sky observing with eyes and binoculars (*weather permitting*). No need to attend all sessions; topics are continually reviewed to help keep everyone up to speed, so please join us whenever you are available. Please dress appropriately, bring binoculars if you have them (several pair will be available if you don't), and be ready to **take a walk through the universe!** Please contact me if you have any questions.

Please see page 10 of the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available online) for more information about the 'Astronomy Walk Series.'

Ocean Kayaking at Marion Harbor & Bird Island (Buzzards Bay), *Marion*

Saturday, July 18, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Sea Kayaker and Naturalist

E-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740

Registration: REQUIRED by 7/14/09. Please contact me directly.

Meeting Place: 8 a.m. sharp at Barnes & Noble parking lot in Holyoke. After getting a count of everyone and doing a quick gear check, we'll head out by 8:15 a.m. We'll caravan east, along the Mass Pike and I-495, to our launch site at Marion Town Landing.

Buzzards Bay paddling is one of the best kept secrets in Mass. kayaking! Marion harbor offers uncrowded paddling, even in the middle of summer, and the area's natural scenes are truly breathtaking! We'll explore all the gems of the harbor, including

Ram Island, Planting Island Cove, and Little Neck. Bird Island is a prime nesting area for common and roseate terns and has a beautiful lighthouse so we'll head out to Bird Island and possibly explore Wings Cove and the Weewantic River for birdlife and other great views of summer.

This trip can be tailored to the skills of the group and is appropriate for BEGINNER-INTERMEDIATE paddlers. Plan on 8-12 miles of paddling at a medium pace with several re-group stops if/when paddlers get separated. Please dress appropriately, pack your camera and binoculars, and bring water and your lunch.

Each person must supply his/her own kayak, paddle, and associated gear. If you don't have your own, kayaks can be rented locally and car-topped down to our put-in. There may also be some rental options in the Marion area. If looking to rent, please contact me ASAP, and I'll provide you with contact information for the best rental outfitters.

The trip will run unless there is continuous rain or high winds forecast. As with all paddling trips in my Kayak Series, you **MUST** have attended my *Sea Kayak Intro Course* or have met with me to discuss your kayaking experience and received approval for participation.

Please review the Series Introduction section in the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available online) for more information on my club kayaking activities and necessary experience. If you have ANY questions, please contact me ASAP.

Walk at Ludlow Reservoir, *Ludlow*

Thursday, July 23, at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (413-786-1805)

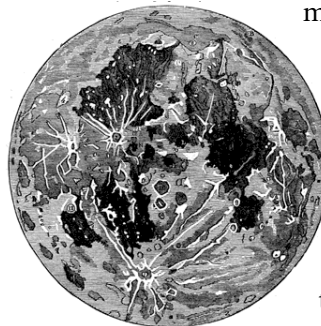
Enjoy a nice, easy stroll along the reservoir. This will be about a three-mile walk, all flat and level walking. Bring your binoculars. Call to register and for meeting place.

Star Party at Northfield Mountain, *Northfield*

Friday evening, July 24

Contact: Jack Megas (413-782-3962)

The Astronomy weekend called The Conjunction was founded 27 years ago by Naturalists' Club members. We continue to invite members to our free Friday evening stargaze at Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, Route 63, in Northfield. Sunset is late in summer (8:12 p.m.) so our observing time will begin about 9:30. Clouds and rain cancel. Bring bug spray, flashlight, and binoculars. Fine telescopes will be available for your use.



"We are in the midst of discovering nothing less than the nature of the universe and our place in it.... It evokes our sense of wonder; it speaks to us of who we are." ~ Carl Sagan ~

Hillcrest Cemetery, Springfield

Saturday, July 25, starting at 3:30 pm.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy (413-572-5307)

Registration: Not necessary.

Location: Hillcrest Cemetery is on the east side of Parker St./Route 21, between Boston Road and Wilbraham Road. Meet at the bell tower, easily visible behind the large building at the cemetery entrance.

Cemeteries can provide a safe, quiet setting for a walk to look at plants. Although many of the trees and shrubs present may be cultivated species, there will also be aquatic plants in and around the pond, upland plants in the sandy woods at the back of the cemetery, and various “weeds” along the edges. If the group is interested, a demonstration of pressing plants to make herbarium specimens (including some special techniques used on aquatic plants) will be given at the end of the walk.

Hilltown Land Trust Hikes, Williamsburg

Sunday, August 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please call 413-564-0895 to register.

Meeting Place: Parking lot behind Town Hall in the center of Williamsburg

Come explore two sanctuaries in Williamsburg now in the hands of the Hilltown Land Trust. The Bradley Sanctuary is a 41-acre parcel of land Oliver Bradley Jr. and Barbara Rust generously donated to the Hilltown Land Trust in 1989.

There are several loop trails that meander around the sanctuary, totaling about two miles. We'll hike through the stone wall, past the big oak, and up to the hilltop pine grove to view a towering stand of white pines, then amble along Nicholas Brook and any other trail of our choosing until we have discovered all the wonderful secrets of this beautiful piece of property. Then we'll hop in our cars once again and drive just a tad more down the road to another sanctuary in Williamsburg.

The Breckenridge Sanctuary is a 67-acre parcel of land donated by Margaret Breckenridge to the Nature Conservancy in 1987, then transferred to the Hilltown Land Trust who now owns and maintains it. There is a one-mile loop trail through the sanctuary that we can follow to explore this wonderful area. We'll cross Blake Brook, climb a slope, and hike the loop and a couple of spur trails that Margaret's husband, Edwin, established. We'll have to check out the West Branch of the Mill River, which is stocked with trout each year.

Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy hiking boots. A hiking stick might be helpful. Bring plenty of water, as well as your lunch. Heavy rain cancels.

“Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.” ~ Henry D. Thoreau ~

Native, Exotic, and Invasive Species, Westfield

Sunday, August 9, starting at 2 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary

While walking some of the trails, Dave will discuss three categories of plant species ~ native, exotic, and invasive ~ pointing out specimens of each along the way. Examples from all types of higher plants (ferns, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees) will be discussed. Heavy rain cancels. This walk is part of the 2009 Stanley Park Nature Series. For more information call (413)568-9312.

Walk at Ashley Ponds, Holyoke

Thursday, August 20, from 8:30 a.m. to noon

Leader: Colette Potter (413-786-1805)

Taking a walk in the cool morning air along the ponds on this summer's day sounds great! This is a slow, leisurely walk, enjoying nature along the way. Call to register and for meeting place.

Biking the Norwottuck Rail Trail, Northampton to Amherst

Sunday, August 23, starting at 10 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup. Call Dave at 413-525-4697 with any questions.

Meeting Place: Parking lot at beginning of bike trail, off Route 9.

Norwottuck means “in the mist of the river,” apropos of our starting point, crossing the Connecticut River on a truss-type bridge spanning 1400+ feet. Further along on the ride, we'll cross Hadley Commons and the Route 9 tunnel, both filled with history. The trail runs 8.5 miles each way. If past years' pesky beaver destruction has not been repaired, we may have to cut our ride short by about 1.5 miles. The Norwottuck Rail Trail makes for an easy, beautiful tree-and pond-lined ride. We could also stop for brunch at Whole Foods! Make sure you wear a helmet and bring water. Hope to see you there! Rain cancels.

Greek Isle Trip ~ June 2010

How would you like to go island hopping in the Greek Isles? Sonya Vickers is leading a land and sea trip to Greece and the islands in the Mediterranean. We will explore Athens and the Parthenon, then travel to Delphi. We will board a ship for 5 days and cruise the Greek Islands, including Santorini, Rhodes, Mykonos and Crete. A trip to Turkey will include the ancient city of Ephesus. Back on land, we will explore Epidaurus, Mycenae, Argolida and Olympia. This 13-day trip will delight those who want to learn more about Greek ancient history and take in the natural history of this unique area. This is a student trip and so boasts a low price which includes airfare. We will be leaving in early June 2010. If this sounds interesting and you would like more details, call Sonya Vickers at 413-566-3406

Sea Kayaking at Colebrook River Lake (Farmington River), Tolland

Saturday, August 29, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Sea Kayaker and Naturalist
E-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740

Registration: REQUIRED by 8/25/09. Please contact me directly.

Meeting Place: 9 a.m. sharp at Westfield Water Sports (526 College Highway) in Southwick. After getting a count of everyone and doing a quick gear check, we'll head out by 9:15 a.m. We'll caravan west along Route 57 and then south on US-8 to our launch site.

This month we'll be staying a bit closer to home and will be paddling the beautiful Colebrook River Lake, along the Farmington River, on the Mass./Conn. border. This shimmering body of water was created when the Colebrook Dam was constructed on the West Branch of the Farmington River for flood control. Although man controls the lake water levels now, nature adapts well to the varying habitat and provides some stunning displays! Wildflowers are in bloom throughout the warm season and the shoreline woods consist of great stands of oaks, maples, white pine and hemlock. The views along the lake are stunning as the lake meanders through a series of 1500-foot mountains! Many brooks enter the lake, and these areas provide superb viewing for wetland plants and a plethora of marsh birds, including *great blue herons*, *red-winged blackbirds* and *yellowthroats*. We'll break for lunch on one of the many small islands, to get us even closer to the beauty of nature around us!

This trip can be tailored to the skills of the group and is appropriate for BEGINNER-INTERMEDIATE paddlers. Plan on 8-12 miles of paddling at a medium pace with several re-group stops if/when paddlers get separated. Please dress appropriately, pack your camera and binoculars, and bring water and your lunch.

Each person must supply his/her own kayak, paddle, and associated gear. If you don't have your own, kayaks can be rented locally and car-topped to our put-in. If looking to rent, please contact me ASAP, and I'll provide you with contact information for the best rental outfitters.

The trip will run unless there is continuous rain or high winds forecast. As with all paddling trips in my Kayak Series, you **MUST** have attended my *Sea Kayak Intro Course* or have met with me to discuss your kayaking experience and received approval for participation.

Please review the Series Introduction section in the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available online) for more information on my club kayaking activities and necessary experience. If you have ANY questions, please contact me ASAP.

On the song of the hermit thrush: "Its song, which is uttered until the middle of August, is very beautiful and peculiar to itself; ... there is a weird, sad beauty in it which attracts the attention of the most unobserving, and once heard it can never be forgotten. It sings in the early dawn, at sunset, and if cloudy often through the entire day. I have even heard it at night. Perhaps the sweetest bird music I have ever listened to was uttered by a hermit thrush.... in the heart of the wilderness; the night was dark, for the moon had not yet risen.... I could distinguish dimly the outlines of the gloomy and impenetrable pine forests by which we were surrounded.... when suddenly the quiet was broken by the song of a hermit thrush; louder and clearer it sang from the depths of the grim and rugged woods, until the sweet, sad music seemed to fill the very air and to conquer for the moment the gloom of the night; then it died away and ceased as suddenly as it had begun. Perhaps the song would have seemed less sweet in the daytime, but uttered as it was, with such surroundings, sounding so strange and so beautiful amid these grand but desolate wilds, I shall never forget it." ~ Theodore Roosevelt ~

Island Hopping, Westfield

Saturday, August 29, starting at 2 p.m.

Leader: Arthur O'Leary

Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary

Munn's Island and Nelson's Island in the Wildlife Sanctuary contain wetlands, floodplain and riparian corridor. Let's bushwhack through the brush and hop a channel where once flowed the entire Little River and a canal dug out with pick and shovel. Explore the distinct habitats on these remote islands and learn how their food, cover, and nest sites support wildlife. Wear appropriate hiking attire, sturdy boots, and bring water and camera/binoculars. Heavy rain cancels. This walk is part of the 2009 Stanley Park Nature Series. For more information call (413)568-9312.

Beginning Stained Glass Training Class – Nature in Glass! Westfield

4 Weeks - Thursday September 10, 17, 24, Oct. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m

Leader: Chris Lyons, Stained Glass Artist

E-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740

Fee: \$70 (includes instruction & all materials to make a small nature-inspired panel).

Registration: REQUIRED by 9/4/09. Please contact me directly. Class is limited to 5 students max. However, if more people are interested I will open additional dates.

Meeting Place: Westfield Studio - 79 Hawks Circle, Westfield (I'll provide directions on registration.)

Ever wanted to learn the art of stained glass? The colors, textures, and overall beauty of nature-inspired stained glass creations are simply awesome! And everything is much more beautiful and fulfilling when you do it yourself. This 4-week class will show you everything you need to know, and you will build your own small nature-inspired stained glass project. You probably won't be challenging Tiffany at the end of this class, but you'll have all the necessary training to continue your artistic passions in glass. **No experience necessary** and EVERYTHING IS INCLUDED in the price (i.e., instruction, class book, studio time, tool use, glass, foil, solder, etc.). Discount packages will also be available for those wanting their own stained glass tool set and glass and supplies for future projects. Come learn a great art form and have some fun in the process!!



Stump Sprouts Weekend, West Hawley

Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 13

Time: Dinner on Friday evening through a Sunday luncheon.

Leaders: Dietrich and Julie Schlobohm (788-4125)

Registration: All-inclusive cost for two nights' lodging and six meals is \$139 per person. Make check payable to The Naturalists' Club and send to Dietrich Schlobohm, 52 Poplar Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089. Indicate in your registration your roommate preference. Reservations and a 50% deposit must be received no later than July 15. This trip will be cancelled if 18 people are not paid by that date. Call Dietrich or Julie for more information.

High on the side of a mountain with a magnificent view, Stump Sprouts ski lodge provides a beautiful setting for walking, hiking, or relaxing in solitude. A ninety-minute drive from Springfield, the property consists of a 450-acre tract surrounded by Dubuque, Savoy, and Mohawk State Forests.

Guests need to bring their own bedding, towels, and toiletries; bathrooms are shared. Our hosts will provide superb family-style garden-fresh meals, complete with homemade breads and cookies. There is usually a choice of regular or meatless entrees. Bring along binoculars, good footwear, curiosity and a sense of adventure. Limit: 20 people.

Frogs & Turtles of Western Massachusetts, Easthampton

Saturday, September 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Naturalist

E-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740

Fee: \$8 Mass Audubon members, \$10 non-members (This is a Mass Audubon program.)

Registration: REQUIRED. Please visit www.massaudubon.org or call 413-584-3009.

Meeting Place: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon), 127 Combs Road, Easthampton ~ Main Building

Frogs and turtles live relatively secret lives, but these animals are some of our oldest native species, and they have many tricks that we still don't fully understand. Join naturalist Chris Lyons for a peek at amphibians and reptiles and some of their distinguishing characteristics, including their amazing winter survival strategies. We'll also review the particular species we have here in western Massachusetts and take a peek at a host of photographic and artistic images of these magnificent animals! We'll end with a short walk around the pools at Arcadia to view their habitat and see if we can find any late-season examples of these fabulous animals. Please note that this is an ADULT program.

Late Summer Wildflowers, Westfield

Sunday, September 13, starting at 2 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary provides an opportunity to see a variety of native wildflower species, some more common here than elsewhere in the area. This walk may follow the same path as on May 17, but the change of season will make for a very different list of species this time round. Asters and goldenrods are becoming dominant by now, but many other wildflowers will be seen as well. Heavy rain cancels. This walk is part of the 2009 Stanley Park Nature Series. For more information call (413) 568-9312.



Thomas Cole (American 1801-1871)
View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts,
after a Thunderstorm (The Oxbow)

SEPTEMBER MEETING

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY AND ITS CONNECTIONS TO ART, HISTORY AND SCIENCE

Wednesday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium

Speaker: Laurie Sanders

The Connecticut River valley played a special role in our country's history. Early settlers and others took advantage of the region's natural resources, and their actions, taken during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, still influence what we experience today. In this presentation, naturalist Laurie Sanders will review some of the more noteworthy ways the Connecticut Valley and western Massachusetts influenced America's history and how they continue to do so today.

Laurie Sanders' interest in the natural world was sparked when, as a child, she explored the woods and swamps adjacent to her parents' home in Connecticut, observing wildlife and identifying plants. In the 1990's Laurie produced over thirty programs about regional natural history for public TV. For ten years now, she has been producing her Field Notes program for WFCR radio, to promote a better understanding of our natural environment and inspire us to get out there to personally enjoy it. Laurie also co-leads eco-tours to Costa Rica and the Galapagos.

Stevens Hiking Trail, *Huntington*

Sunday, September 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please call 413-564-0895 to register.

Meeting Place: Pullout along Route 20 across from the Huntington Health Center. There is a kiosk/gazebo at this pullout.

The Hilltown Land Trust has established a new 1.2-mile hiking trail in Huntington. It is on a 379-acre parcel of land donated by Frank Stevens to the Hilltown Land Trust. This trail winds through a wooded landscape dotted with boulders covered in mosses, ferns and lichen. Signs of past inhabitants include a cellar hole and a maple sugarhouse ruin. The trail was cleared in 2007 so is not well-established. Let's explore this beautiful area, only recently made available to nature lovers like us by a generous donor and the gracious efforts of the Hilltown Land Trust.

Astronomy Walk Series

Star Clusters, *Easthampton*

Sunday, September 20, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Astronomy Educator

Email: Programs@GlassVisions.biz;

phone: 413-562-4740)

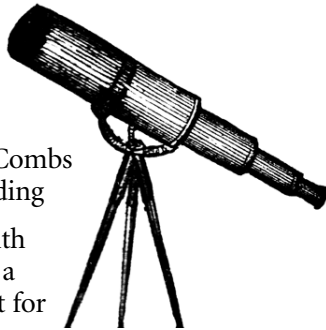
Fee: \$5 Naturalists' Club members, \$8 others (*Fee covers auditorium use.*)

Meeting Place: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon), 127 Combs Road, Easthampton ~ Main Building

Humans like to group together with family and friends, and stars have a tendency to do the same thing but for different reasons! Star clusters are groups of stars that are coupled together and provide a great view of their close-packed structure to us here on Earth. We'll discuss the various types of clusters and how they form, then look at their locations within the Milky Way galaxy and take a peek at which ones you can see and where they are located. Clusters are fairly commonplace in our nighttime sky and are a great target for eyes and binoculars in all seasons. Please join astronomy educator Chris Lyons for a fascinating look at star clusters!

This is a fun active-learning indoor/outdoor program for adults (16 and up) each month, with a presentation given in the Arcadia auditorium followed by outside sky observing with eyes and binoculars (weather permitting). No need to attend all sessions; topics are continually reviewed to help keep everyone up to speed, so please join us whenever you are available. Please dress appropriately, bring binoculars if you have them (several pair will be available if you don't), and be ready to **take a walk through the universe!** Please contact me if you have any questions.

Please see page 10 of the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available online) for more information about the 'Astronomy Walk Series.'



Stained Glass Training Class – *Floral Homes: Terrariums!* *Westfield*

4 Weeks - Thursdays - September 22, 29, Oct. 6, Oct. 13, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Stained Glass Artist

E-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740

Fee: \$55 (plus glass and supplies for your project - you can bring your own or purchase from me with discount)

Registration: REQUIRED by 9/15/09. Please contact me directly. Class is limited to 5 students max. However, if more people are interested I will open additional dates.

Meeting Place: Westfield Studio - 79 Hawks Circle, Westfield (I'll provide directions on registration.)

This is an intermediate stained glass class, open to anyone who has taken my beginner's class (or has sufficient stained glass experience). With fall and winter moving in, this class will focus on building stained glass terrariums to provide a great home for tropical flowers during the colder months. We'll review lots of terrarium design options, walk thru the construction process and get you building your very own terrarium. Come stretch your stained glass knowledge and put together a beautiful project for your home or to give as a fabulous holiday gift! Discount packages will also be available for those wanting their own stained glass tools and supplies.

Walk at *Fannie Stebbins, Longmeadow*

Thursday, September 24, from 8:30 a.m. to noon

Leader: Colette Potter (413-786-1805)

Join me for a fall walk. We will be looking for fall flowers, warblers, and whatever we can find in nature. Call to register and for meeting place.

Ocean Kayaking on *Salem Sound & Misery Islands, Salem*

Saturday, September 26, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

(*and possibly Sunday, September 27*)

Leader: Chris Lyons, Sea Kayaker and Naturalist

E-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740

Registration: REQUIRED by 9/15/09 (*earlier if interested in camping*). Please contact me directly.

Meeting Place: 8 a.m. sharp at Barnes & Noble parking lot in Holyoke. After getting a count of everyone and doing a quick gear check, we'll head out by 8:15 a.m. We'll caravan east via the Mass Pike and northeast along MA-128 to our launch site in Salem.

Salem Sound provides many fabulous paddling options! We'll explore the north face of Salem Sound, checking out the many beaches and small islands that dot the coastline. If weather cooperates, we'll head over to Great and Little Misery Islands, just about a half mile offshore. These islands are owned by the The Trustees of Reservations and offer over 90 acres of beautiful island seclusion, with plenty of hiking trails and beautiful beaches. Wildlife abounds here and you never know what you might see!

This trip will be in somewhat open waters and is appropriate for INTERMEDIATE paddlers. Plan on 10-14 miles of paddling at a medium pace with several re-group stops if/when paddlers get separated. Please dress appropriately, pack your camera and binoculars, and bring water and your lunch. If there is interest, we may camp at Winter Island in Salem and paddle in the area on Sunday too. Please let me know ASAP if interested in making this a weekend outing.

Each person must supply his/her own kayak, paddle, and associated gear. If you don't have your own, kayaks can be rented locally and car-topped down to our put-in. There may also be some rental options in the Salem area. If looking to rent, please contact me ASAP, and I'll provide you with contact information for the best rental outfitters.

The trip will run unless there is continuous rain or high winds forecast. As with all paddling trips in my Kayak Series, you **MUST** have attended my *Sea Kayak Intro Course* or have met with me to discuss your kayaking experience and received approval for participation.

Please review the Series Introduction section in the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available online) for more information on my club kayaking activities and necessary experience. If you have ANY questions, please contact me ASAP.

Museum of Science, Boston

Sunday, September 27, departing at 7:15 a.m., returning to Chicopee at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Registration: Call Bill (413-533-2153)

Meeting Place: Plantation Inn, Route 33, Chicopee

Join us for this fun family outing to the Museum of Science in Boston. While you're there, check out the special exhibits, live presentations, Omni films, planetarium shows and the museum store. And, don't miss the live animal center, a 2000-year-old giant sequoia tree, the exhibit halls and the butterfly garden. You can even use the Museum's online trip planner, at www.mos.org, to create your own personalized list of must-sees ahead of time!

When you've had your fill of the museum, we'll board the motor coach once again for the short trip to Quincy Market, for an afternoon of browsing and shopping. The adventurous might even fit in a visit to the New England Aquarium. We'll depart Quincy Market at 4:30 p.m. and return to the Plantation Inn at about 6:30 p.m.

The \$20 per person fee includes motor coach travel to and from the Museum. Admission to the Museum is extra and varies based on age. Call Bill for group rates and payment details. Your payment must be received no later than September 7. Space is limited, so please sign up early to avoid disappointment.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Naturalists' Club's 40th Anniversary Weekend, Russell

Friday, October 2, to Sunday, October 4

Registration: Please call Nancy Condon at 413-564-0895 to reserve a room in the lodge or a camping spot.

Place: Appalachian Mountain Club's Noble View property

Can you believe it? The Club is 40 years old this year! Don't miss out on the festivities and events planned to celebrate this momentous occasion. You can come for the whole weekend at AMC's Noble View facilities or come just for the daytime activities.

Double Cottage:

Cost: \$15/person/night.

Sleeping for 18: 6 rooms with 2 single beds
3 rooms with 3 single beds

Electricity, stove, refrigerator, pots, pans & dishes
and woodstove for heat

NO POTABLE WATER ~ bring water for cooking
and drinking. Wash water is available.

No linens ~ bring your own

Outhouse facilities

Camping:

Cost: \$10/person/night .

Bring your own tent ~ plenty of grassy field space
NO POTABLE WATER ~ bring water for cooking
and drinking. Wash water is available.

Outhouse facilities

Firewood provided for outdoor fireplace

Daytime participants: Cost: \$5/person/day.

Event Activities:

Friday: Potluck supper

Astronomy

Campfire

Saturday: Early morning bird walk

Breakfast (included)

Hikes and programs by Naturalists' Club

members and guest leaders and presenters

Catered lunch (included)

Hikes and programs by Naturalists' Club

members and guest leaders and presenters

Catered dinner with anniversary cake (included)

Astronomy

Campfire

Sunday: Early morning walk

Breakfast (included)

Departure by noon

The NATURALISTS' CLUB
2008-2009

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President

David Gallup
(413-525-4697)
davesuzy3@hotmail.com

Vice President

Nancy Condon
(413-564-0895)
spiderwoman@russellma.net

Treasurer

Dave Lovejoy
(413-572-5307)
dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu

Corresponding Secretary

Suzanne Gallup
(413-525-4697)
davesuzy3@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary

Sonya Vickers
(413-566-3406)
sevickers@charter.net

Directors

Tom Condon
(413-564-0895)
science@condon.net

Bill Fontaine
(413-533-2153)
wlf07@comcast.net

Jack Megas
(413-782-3962)

Dietrich Schlobohm
(413-788-4125)



The NATURALISTS' CLUB was founded in 1969 for the purpose of actively promoting knowledge, appreciation, and preservation of our natural environment. It is an all-volunteer non-profit organization.

Education is a main focus of The NATURALISTS' CLUB.

Programming, with an emphasis on local natural history, is designed to create camaraderie among people of diverse interests through experiences deepening their appreciation of nature.

Activities are geared to acquaint the layperson with the natural world, mostly through field trips. Monthly meetings are held at the Science Museum at the Quadrangle in Springfield, Mass. Most field trips and programs are free.

VOLUNTEERS

Publicity

Leo Riendeau
(413-739-5546)
NaturalistsNews@comcast.net

Webmaster

Tom Condon
(413-564-0895)
science@condon.net

Newsletter Editor

Debbie Leonard Lovejoy
(413-848-2047)
drleona@yahoo.com

Layout & Graphics

Loren Hoffman
(413-569-5689)
blackdogsims@yahoo.com



FROM THE TREASURER

Many of you know that September is the month for membership renewal for the year (September - August). Those of you with an '09-10 on your newsletter mailing label have paid for the coming year. Those who are '08-09 may either renew over the summer by sending a check (payable to The Naturalists' Club) to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086 or wait until the September meeting. Membership levels are indicated elsewhere on this page.

Please note: Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list. Direct special requests or changes to him.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

\$15 per year for Individual or Family Membership
\$25 per year for Supporting Membership
\$50 per year for Sustaining Membership
\$300 for Lifetime Membership



BECOME A CLUB MEMBER OR
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR

2009-2010

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Requests for programs/trips _____

Please send information per the above to Club Treasurer Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086.



~ Thank you ~ Naturalists' Club Board of Directors

- share costs with your driver
- carpool to destinations

If possible, please:
Just a reminder.. please be mindful of the environment.



The Naturalists' Club
Department of Biology
Westfield State College
Westfield, MA 01086

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The NATURALISTS' CLUB Newsletter

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www.naturalist-club.org