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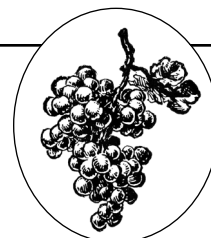
THE NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts
www.naturalist-club.org

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JULY to SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE of ACTIVITIES

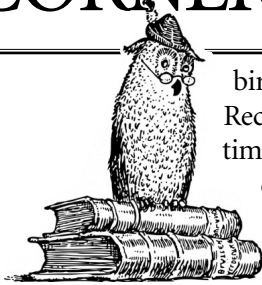
JULY	9	Saturday	Windsor Jambs Hike and Picnic, <i>Windsor</i>
	10	Sunday	Wildflower Identification (SPNS), <i>Westfield</i>
	16	Saturday	Paddle the Swift River, <i>Ware/Belchertown</i>
	16	Saturday	Island Hopping (SPNS), <i>Westfield</i>
	21	Thursday	Ashley Reservoir, <i>Holyoke</i>
	30	Saturday	Ferns at Mt. Toby, <i>Chester</i>
AUGUST	6	Saturday	Bioblitz Hike in Stanley Park, <i>Westfield</i>
	14	Sunday	Biking the Norwottuck Rail Trail, <i>Northampton to Amherst</i>
	18	Thursday	Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Sanctuary, <i>Longmeadow</i>
	21	Sunday	Southern New England's Oak Forest (SPNS), <i>Westfield</i>
SEPTEMBER	9-11	Fri.-Sunday	Stump Sprouts Weekend, <i>West Hawley</i>
	18	Sunday	Early Morning Paddle on Littleville Lake, <i>Huntington</i>
	18	Sunday	Hawk Watch at Blueberry Hill, <i>Granville</i>
	21	Wednesday	SEPTEMBER MEETING: Nature Odyssey
	22	Thursday	Robinson State Park, <i>Agawam</i>
	24	Saturday	Nature Reclaims History (SPNS), <i>Westfield</i>
	25	Sunday	Outdoor Adventures: Hiking the Holyoke Range, <i>Amherst</i>



Note: The four events above marked "SPNS" are part of Stanley Park's Nature Series. You'll find descriptive information on page 7.



SUMMER READING



Summer is upon us. If perchance you find any time between hiking, gardening, birdwatching, and all your other pursuits, you may enjoy sitting down with a good read. Recommended by Naturalists' Club board members, each one of these books is worthy of a time-out on a porch swing, a hammock, or on your summer vacation. This list is, of course, only a very few of many. What is a favorite nature/environmental book of yours? E-mail me at spiderwoman@russellma.net and we'll post a list on the Naturalists' Club website that includes member favorites. Happy reading!

The Nature of New Hampshire by Dan Sperduto ~ This is not really a field guide but does cover the various habitats and natural areas in the state (coastal to alpine), with lots of pictures, and seems to be well-done. Geared for the non-scientist.

Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver ~ Good story line which does a wonderful job of blending human lives with the natural world. Learn of the delights of nature through the eyes of the characters in this pleasant read.

A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold ~ An environmental classic, this beautifully written book covers nature's delicate balance, man's unbalancing influence, and a plea for a Wilderness ethic.

The River Why by James David Duncan ~ A boy obsessed with fly fishing shares the life insights fishing has taught him.

Silent Spring by Rachael Carson, or anything by her ~ Her poignant writing style compels reading, but her work was purely scientific. Carson's books are classic fare. Not exactly light reading, but this book, of course, turned the world on its ear with regard to pesticide use.

Mountains of the Heart, A Natural History of the Appalachians by Scott Weidensaul ~ With compelling clarity and insight, Scott paints beautiful and intricate pictures of the Cherokee, American chestnut, beaver, black bears, bird migration, and more.

Salt by Mark Kurlansky ~ How this simple natural resource changed the world.

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard ~ Experience the natural world through the eyes, spirit, and talented writings of the author.

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski ~ A novel which explores the relationship between humans and dogs. Fascinating tale of the evolution and intelligence of dogs. A wonderful read, especially for dog lovers.

The Winter of the Fisher by Cameron Langford ~ A novel based on one year in the life of a fisher, from the fisher's point of view.

New and Selected Poems by Mary Oliver ~ If you love the natural world, you will love this book.

The Nature Handbook: A Guide to Observing the Great Outdoors by Ernest H. Williams ~ This is not a dry, boring book. It's something you can pick up anytime and open to any page and you will be engaged.

Naturalist's Guide to Observing Nature by Kurt Rinehart ~ If you want a good overview of birds, mammals and their tracks, flowers and trees, this is the book for you.

Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv ~ The author coined the term "Nature Deficit Disorder," describing children's increasing alienation from nature and the effects this disconnect has.

... we drifted in such stillness that whenever we shifted position on the wooden floor the creaking of the wicker basket seemed loud in our ears. We could hear distinctly the faraway crowing of a rooster. Once when we passed over a small farm pond we looked down and caught sight of the balloon mirrored upside down on its dark surface. We saw the basket, the coil of rope, our peering faces, with the distended envelope of the red balloon beyond them. We seemed to be looking up at the craft drifting in the sky with a thin veil of cirrus clouds floating above it.

~ "A Naturalist in a Balloon,"
Edwin Way Teale ~

~ A list compiled by Nancy Condon ~

JULY

Windsor Jambs Hike and Picnic, Windsor

Saturday, July 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (413-564-0895)

Registration: Please call Tom or Nancy to register.

Meeting Place: Large parking lot at the picnic area in Windsor State Forest, off Route 9 in Windsor, Mass.

This one- to two-mile hike has some wonderful features. We'll start by carpooling up to the upper parking area. Then we'll walk along a beautiful gorge, where Windsor Jambs brook gets "jammed" between erosion-resistant rock walls. We'll wander along the rim of the gorge where the water tumbles over boulders, drops off shelves and turns around blockages. At the bottom, we'll follow the trail away from the river into a beautifully open oak forest where we'll jump the little creek a few times. Then, hiking upward, we'll seemingly be in Canada in a spruce forest covered in moss and maybe see a few red squirrel middens. Ultimately, we'll end up at the picnic area where we'll claim a table and have a bag lunch.

Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Bring a lunch and drink and a willing appetite for exploration.

Paddle the Swift River, Ware/Belchertown

Saturday July 16, from 8 a.m. until about 12 p.m.

Leaders: Dick and Moreen Kardas (413-967-5739)

Registration: Call Dick or Moreen to sign up.

Meeting Place: Job Lot/Big Y Shopping Center, Route 32, Palmer. Take I 90/Mass Pike to Palmer Exit 8. Go left at traffic light onto Route 32 North. Take left at next traffic light into shopping center.

From the meeting spot we will caravan about one half-hour to red bridge on the Swift River, on the Ware/Belchertown town line. Old Belchertown Road is on the eastern (Ware) side of the bridge; Cold Springs Road is on the western (Belchertown) side of the bridge. We will put in at red bridge and go south on the river to the Bondsville Dam. (This is the dam that has been in the news as a result of the state demanding that the dam be removed or repaired.) We will then paddle back to red bridge, upstream, continue under the bridge to Cady Lane, then back to red bridge. From the bridge to the Bondsville dam and from the bridge to Cady Lane is about one hour each, round trip.

The source of the river is water from the bottom of the Quabbin Reservoir so it's very cold all year. The water is flat and paddling is generally easy. We will probably see many fish as the water is quite pristine. There is also an abundance of birdlife along the river. Bring your life jacket, lunch, drinks, camera, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, etc., and request nice weather.

Ashley Reservoir in Green, Holyoke

Thursday, July 21, starting at 8 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (413-786-1805)

Coolness of an early midsummer morning making you feel wistful? It's been five months since this seasoned group of naturalists has visited Ashley Reservoir, last time crystalline, this time under shade of summer's green array. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

Perhaps the truth depends on a walk around the lake.
~ Wallace Stevens ~

Ferns at Mt. Toby, Sunderland

Saturday, July 30, starting 10 a.m. and lasting 3 to 4 hours, depending on group interest

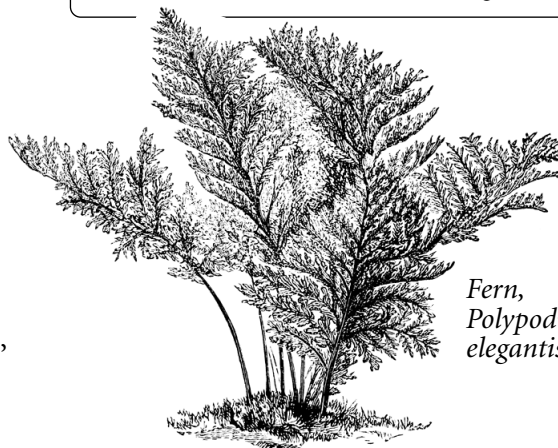
Leader: Malcolm Meltzer (413-549-6447; heronn08@yahoo.com)

Meeting Place: Call or email for meeting place.

This outing will be a brief beginning-to-intermediate introduction to ferns. No experience necessary. Referring to a fern key, we'll identify about twenty species, including such uncommon fern as bulblet fern, walking fern, and Goldie's fern. We'll be walking on uneven, moderately difficult terrain. Bring along lunch and insect repellent. Mt. Toby is a premier fern destination, known for its fern diversity. Call or email to reserve space and for meeting place. Limited to 8 participants.

Oftentimes, after rain in the night, all the ferns along the south side of our lane are clothed in special beauty, their topmost fronds spangled with glistening drops of water. Every few steps I stop to peer closely at them. Each is crystal clear. Each is rounded on top, flat on the bottom. Each forms a miniature magnifying glass, a liquid lens. When I look through one, I see the tissues of the fern below magnified within the space of the small disk where the raindrop and the fern are in contact.

~ "The Long Lane," Edwin Way Teale ~



Fern,
Polypodium vulgare
elegantissimum

AUGUST

Bioblitz Hike in Stanley Park, Westfield

Saturday, August 6, from 9 a.m. until about 12 p.m.

Leader: Nancy Condon (413-564-0895)

Meeting Place: We'll meet in the parking lot for the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Sanctuary, at the far end of the recreation entry to Stanley Park off Western Avenue, across from Westfield State's Woodward Center.

In the warmth of summer, come hike along the Little River on a trail through several types of ecosystems. We'll be hiking along the river and crossing a boardwalk, looking for interesting wetland plants, native as well as introduced species. Waterfowl are usually afoot here as well. Following the river along the border trail is a pleasant woodland hike through mixed forests. If water levels allow, part of our return trip will be through a field where different species will be encountered. Our objective will be to observe, identify, and list as many woody plant species as we can. Bring your botanical knowledge and field guides and let's have some fun.

Plan on a level two-mile hike after an initial hill. There are a couple of low spots, usually dry, that require crossing. We can avoid them if needed. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a drink and a lunch to enjoy at the picnic tables in Stanley Park at the end of our hike.

Biking the Norwottuck Rail Trail,

Northampton to Amherst

Sunday, August 14, 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 the bike trail, off Route 9 on Damon Road.

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 will 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.

Eastern Bluebird,
Sialia sialis



The bluebird carries the sky on his back. ~ Henry David Thoreau ~

Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge, East Longmeadow

Thursday, August 18, at 8 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Registration: Please call to register. Heavy rain cancels.

So many acres of forest, marsh, meadow, and farmland along a major river ~ this varied habitat earns Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge its name. Venture back into this riverine setting in the fullness of summertime, bringing along binoculars to see who pops into view. Dress for the weather. Call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

During our second summer I bought a heavy canvas hammock at an army and navy store. With its stout ropes I could tie it between trees beside the brook or sling it beneath some strong lower limb in the woods. There it made a superb observation post. ... Charles Darwin noted that in our everyday life we rarely look higher than fifteen degrees above the horizon. In my hammock my view began where it ordinarily ends. ~ "A Hammock in the Woods," Edwin Way Teale ~

SEPTEMBER

Stump Sprouts Weekend, *West Hawley*

Friday, September 9 through Sunday, September 11, from 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 have been received by July 15. This trip will be canceled if 18 people are not paid by that date. Please note: By this point 20 people may be signed up, but we are creating a waiting list. Call Dietrich or Julie first for current 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



*Red Squirrel,
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*

Early Morning Paddle on Littleville Lake, *Huntington*

Sunday, September 18, from 8 to 10 a.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (413-564-0895)

Registration: Space is limited, so please call to sign up.

Meeting Place: Parking area at Littleville Lake, off Goss Hill Road in Huntington

How do you beat the heat of summer? Get up early and hit the water! Join us as we explore this surprisingly picturesque reservoir. Tucked up in the hills of Huntington, Littleville Lake offers paddlers a unique opportunity. With so many lakes overrun with oversized powerboats, there are few quiet places to enjoy a morning paddle. Littleville restricts engine size, so the worst we could experience are small trolling motors on tiny skiffs. Come enjoy this tranquil lake, its wildlife, the scenery, and the early morning.

Bring your kayak or canoe and all the accoutrements, including life vest. Pack your camera, binoculars, or whatever, and let's catch the early morning magic in this pleasant, easy flat-water paddle.

Hawk Watch at Blueberry Hill, *Granville*

Sunday, September 18, from 10 a.m. until about 2 p.m., depending on conditions. Participants may leave at anytime they wish.

Leaders: Dietrich Schlobohm and Doug Guyett

Registration: Required. Call Dietrich (788-4125) or Doug (739-5731).

Meeting Place: Big Y parking lot on Memorial Avenue in West Springfield at 9:00 a.m. Meet in the NW corner of the parking lot (near the Firestone Tire Store) and away from the entrance to the Big Y. If you prefer to meet us at Blueberry Hill, call Dietrich for directions.

September is the time of the year when many hawks migrate south to their wintering grounds. Blueberry Hill offers a good 300 degrees of viewing, against a backdrop of hills, mountains, valleys, and sky. If conditions are good we could see a variety of hawks including broad-winged hawks which use a "kittling" technique as part of their migration strategy.

For more than a week, late one September a red squirrel took possession of the largest hickory tree beside the house. From morning until night it raced up and down the trunk, chasing away gray squirrels, harvesting the nuts, storing them deep in crannies in the wall below,...beyond the reach of the larger gray animals. We watched it rattling up the trunk, darting out to some twig tip where a hickory nut hung, nipping off the nut, racing headfirst down the tree, disappearing into some crevice in the wall, popping out again. ... The wall for twenty feet seemed crammed with its hoard of hundreds of nuts. It was, that winter, the wealthiest squirrel around.

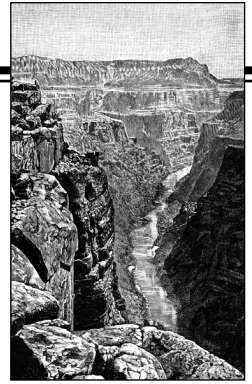
~ "Stone Fences," Edwin Way Teale ~

SEPTEMBER MEETING

NATURE ODYSSEY

Wednesday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Presenter: John Green



Join naturalist and nature photographer John Green in an hour-long natural history journey to selected North American locations. This slide show begins with a visit to Newfoundland and the Gaspé Peninsula in Canada, then jumps across the U.S., from northern New England to Alaska and back, via Montana, southeast Arizona, south Florida, then up the east coast to Massachusetts. Towering mountains, a wide variety of animals and plants and exotic ice formations are among the many nature subjects to be experienced.

John Green has been photographing nature for over 30 years, achieving an impressive background of knowledge along with a large portfolio of work. Also an interpretive naturalist, John is skilled in bird and plant identification and possesses a working knowledge of many mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians.

Robinson State Park, Agawam

Thursday, September 22, at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (413-786-1805)

Place: Robinson State Park

As this season just begins to take the turn toward cooler weather, join this friendly group of folks who've been keeping an eye on local nature spots over the years. They can lead the way down foot-friendly trails within the 800 acres of this riverfront park. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

The mountains are calling and I must go. ~ John Muir ~

Outdoor Adventures: Hiking the Holyoke Range, Amherst

Sunday, September 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Dave Gallup. Call to let us know you are coming (525-4697).

Meeting Place: Notch Visitors Center Route 116, Amherst

Join Dave for a hike through the Holyoke Range. We will hike the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail to the top of Mt. Norwottuck, the highest mountain on the range. Along the way we will discuss the geology and the forest surrounding us. After lunch on the summit of Mt. Norwottuck, we'll hike to the "horse caves." Here we will trace the steps of Daniel Shays (c. 1787). Legend proclaims that Shays escaped to the horse caves on the Holyoke Range after an ill-fated attempt to raid the Springfield Armory. From the horse caves, we will connect to the Robert Frost Trail on the hike back to the Visitor's Center. You are invited to bring your favorite Robert Frost Poem to read. Please wear sturdy footwear and bring a snack/lunch and water. This is a three-mile, moderately strenuous hike.

Dorothy Anne Wheat and Phyllis Wheat Smith Naturalists' Club Endowment

Earmarked for support of land acquisition, habitat protection, wildlife preservation and rehabilitation, and promotion of environmental education and an awareness of the natural world, funds from the Wheat sisters' endowment have been recently approved by the Naturalists' Club board of directors.

Tom Ricardi, Birds of Prey Rehabilitation.

Tom established the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehabilitation facility over 35 years ago. It is a one-person operation Tom runs at his home in Conway, Mass. Injured birds of prey, including hawks, owls, falcons, eagles and vultures, are brought to Tom. Most of these birds are returned to the wild. Those that cannot be released are used for captive breeding or education. The Springfield Naturalists' Club will donate \$1000 to assist Tom with his work.

Nature Play Area, Laughing Brook.

Mass Audubon is the recipient of a \$1000 grant to be used for a children's nature play area presently under construction at Laughing Brook in Hampden, Mass. In the event any funds are left over, those will only be used to support public schools in need of financial support to bring children to Arcadia for a nature education experience.

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

- carpool to destinations
- share costs with your driver

~ Thank you ~ Naturalists' Club Board of Directors



NATURE WORKSHOP SERIES

Stanley Park, Westfield

These seasonal Nature Workshops are conducted in the 200-acre Wildlife Sanctuary at Stanley Park. All walks and workshops meet at the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary and will cancel if there is heavy rain. Bring along your field guides, binoculars, and camera for a "bird's eye view." For further information on the Nature Workshop Series, please call the Stanley Park Office, at (413)568-9312, ext. 100.



Purple Aster
Aster puniceus

Wildflower Identification, with Dave Lovejoy Sunday, July 10, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Do you have a wildflower field guide and have trouble using it? Bring your guide and your questions. We'll walk on some of the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary trails and practice identifying what we find. Some helpful hints will be provided along the way. There is no "one size fits all" field guide for this area, but Dave recommends *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* as an excellent choice.

Year by year we watch the advance and retreat of our different wildflowers. How our [varied wildflowers]...fare in any given season depends on many factors. Hard times for one species are good times for another. In years of drought we see some plants forge ahead; in times of abnormal rainfall others advance. Even when the annual rainfall is normal that is not the whole story. When it rains, as well as how much it rains, is important to the individual plant. If it rains today instead of tomorrow, the history of something is changed. A shower ~ at a certain time ~ a series of chill days ~ at a certain time ~ and the life story of a plant is altered. A complex combination of circumstances, in a constantly shifting balance, governs the fate of the individual plant. Yet the wildflower is a supreme example of beauty combined with strength. There is strength in the frailest flower, strength in the continuity of its kind. Refined by evolution, nature's products are enduring and tough. The weed outlasts the hoer and the hoe.

~ "The Pasture Rose," Edwin Way Teale ~

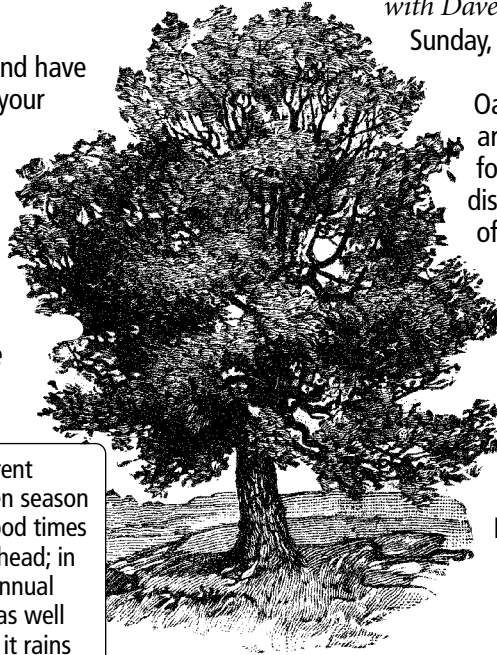
Island Hopping, with Arthur O'Leary Saturday, July 16, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Munn's Island and Nelson's Island in the Wildlife Sanctuary contain wetlands, floodplain, and riparian corridors. Art will take you bushwhacking and hopping a channel where the Little River once flowed. Along the way you'll see the canal, dug out with pick and shovel. Explore various habitats on these remote "Islands," learning how they support wildlife with food, cover, and nest sites. Wear appropriate hiking attire, sturdy boots, and bring water, camera/binoculars.



Southern New England's Oak Forest, with Dave Lovejoy

Sunday, August 21, from 2 to 4 p.m.



Oak woods (or oak-hickory woods) are the region's most common forest type. We will see and distinguish among a dozen or so of the most common species of trees and shrubs in this woodland type on this walk. Help will be provided on identifying by characteristics of leaves, bark, habitat requirements, and even smell or taste.

Nature Reclaims History, with Arthur O'Leary Saturday, September 24, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Take a walk back in time, using an 1850 map to locate and identify manmade structures, while learning the rich history of industry, home life, and stories behind the names.

Travel along old roads and trails and bushwhack in the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary. This little-known portion of Stanley Park contains remnants of a canal, dams, mill foundations, an old channel of the Little River, and footbridge abutments. Nature steadily reclaims these features by means of successional growth, deposition, and weathering. We'll locate these disappearing sites in the remote reaches of the Wildlife Sanctuary, learning about John Munn's "Newfoundland," the Ruinsville Mill, Cotton Cooley's boarding houses, and hear tales of Cyrus W. Field, Jedediah Clapp, of traumatic amputations at the Saw Mill of Lucas Cowles, and other verbal histories. Wear appropriate hiking attire, sturdy boots, and bring water, camera/binoculars.

In this issue, many quotations (followed by the chapter name) come from *A Naturalist Buys an Old Farm*, written by Edwin Way Teale.

THE NATURALISTS' CLUB 2010 - 2011

FROM THE TREASURER

Many of you know that September is the month for membership renewal for the year (September to August). Those of you with an '11-12 on your newsletter mailing label have paid for the coming year. Those who are '10-11 may either renew over the summer by sending a check (payable to The Naturalists' Club) to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA 01086, or wait until the September meeting. Note: If your address and contact information have not changed, the form below need not be completed. We would, however, like your email address if you haven't sent it previously. Thanks. *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

Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.
~ Lao Tzu ~

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Name

Address

Phone Number

Email

Requests for programs/trips

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

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.

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