



The Naturalists' Club - Dept. of Biology
 Westfield State University
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THE NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

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• SCHEDULE of EVENTS • JULY to SEPTEMBER •

JULY	6	Saturday	Nature Bike Hike, <i>Southwick</i>
	12	Friday	Stargazing at Northfield Mountain, <i>Northfield</i>
	13	Saturday	Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill, <i>Orange</i>
	18	Thursday	Summertime Stroll at Stanley Park, <i>Westfield</i>
	21	Sunday	Mt. Holyoke Range State Park, <i>Amherst/Granby</i>
AUGUST	17	Saturday	Canoeing Goose Pond, <i>Lee</i>
	22	Thursday	Pathways Around Ashley Reservoir, <i>Holyoke</i>
	24	Saturday	Hike to Ice Glen Through an Old Growth Forest, <i>Stockbridge</i>
	31	Saturday	Tekoa Mountain Wildlife Management Area, <i>Montgomery</i>
SEPTEMBER	6-8	Friday-Sunday	Stump Sprouts Weekend, <i>West Hawley</i>
	14	Saturday	Canoeing the Upper Charles River, <i>Natick</i>
	15	Sunday	Asters and Goldenrods, <i>Westfield</i>
	18	Wednesday	SEPTEMBER MEETING: EDWARD ABBEY
	19	Thursday	Roving Through Robinson State Park, <i>Feeding Hills</i>
	28	Saturday	White Cedar Swamp-McDonald Wildlife Preserve Walk, <i>Wilbraham</i>
	29	Sunday	Alander Mountain, <i>Mt. Washington</i>

Purple
Aster





Periodical Cicadas Are Making News and Noise

Have you heard of the cicada emergence along the Eastern seaboard this spring? Just head on down the Appalachian chain, and I bet you will! The way this fantastic natural event unfolds, periodical cicadas complete their life cycle in intervals of prime numbers ~ 13 years or 17 years. It's such an intriguing natural history subject, I couldn't help but do some investigative reporting.

These insects are not the typical variety of cicada you hear each year. Periodical cicadas, in the genus *Magicicada*, are only found in the U.S., east of the Great Plains. Three cicada species in the North follow a 17-year life cycle. Four species in the South take just 13 years to reach maturity due to a longer growing season.

Individuals emerging in the same year constitute what is referred to as a brood. You can consider them like a graduating class, emerging all together. With some overlap of ranges, there are 15 broods in the eastern U.S., some covering large areas, others not so large. The broods have been designated by Roman numerals. Brood X covers 16 states while Brood VII emerges in a small area only in upstate New York. Brood II, on the East Coast from Georgia to Connecticut, is a rather large collection of cicadas emerging this year. While the number of *Magicicada* emerging per acre is commonly tens of thousands, as many as 1.5 million per acre have been recorded.*

When the soil warms to a steady 64 degrees Fahrenheit in the spring, cicadas begin to emerge. A majority of the nymphs come out, amazingly, on a single night. It is not well known why or how, but soil temperature is a factor. Nymphs climb the nearest tree, molting one final time to become adults, after which time you can see plenty of shed exoskeletons clinging to vertical surfaces.

Soon after molting, the chorus begins. Males make a mating call by vibrating a membrane on the first abdominal segment, called a tymbal, just under and behind each wing. This sound then resonates in the male's hollow abdomen. You can't possibly miss the cacophony. In densely populated areas cicada buzzing can get as loud as a chainsaw, topping out at 110 decibels, making cicadas, collectively, the loudest insects in the world.

Females respond to mating calls by a species-specific timed flicking of their wings. Thus an elaborate courtship commences. After impregnation, a female will pierce a twig with an ovipositor and lay up to 20 eggs in the crevice. One female creates as many nests as necessary to accommodate up to 600 eggs. In heavily infested areas the outermost twigs of host trees can break due to numerous piercings by ovipositors and feeding activity. Dangling brown, dead twigs result, a condition called flagging. Full-grown, healthy trees may recover, but if precautions are not taken to prevent cicadas from climbing up or flying onto branches, flagging negatively impacts young orchard trees.

After six to ten weeks, the eggs hatch. White and wingless, the first instar, or stage, of the *Magicicada* nymph drops down from the tree branch to the ground. There the nymph burrows into the soil where it will feed on root sap for the next 17 years, out of sight and out of mind until the year 2030.

Cicadas' only real defense is sheer numbers, a survival strategy known as predator satiation, where the cicadas overwhelm would-be predators with such immense numbers that many individuals survive to reproduce. Cicadas don't sting, bite, have poison, or transmit any diseases, so no need for trepidation. After mating, adults die. Many crunchy bodies could pile up under trees. Time to get out the rake and add them to the compost pile.

The range of Brood II extends northward, up along the Hudson Valley in New York, as far as Connecticut. Brood XI, once found along the Connecticut River Valley and in eastern Connecticut, has become extinct. They were last reported in 1954 in Connecticut. Some disruption to their life cycle killed adults before females could lay eggs. This illustrates a major risk with an entire generation emerging at once: If something goes wrong, like an extreme weather event, the whole brood may succumb.

Although here in Massachusetts this year we will not experience the emergence of the periodical cicada, folks visiting Eastern Massachusetts in 2025 can look forward to the re-emergence of Brood XIV, last witnessed on the Cape in 2008. The fact that periodical cicadas will not visit us in Massachusetts this year may be, depending on your outlook, good or bad. You can thank your lucky stars you don't have to listen to a cicada cacophony and deal with exoskeletons around trees. Alternatively, you actually may yearn to hear music of the songsters and wish for a chance to witness the circle of life as exhibited by one of nature's most intriguing insects.

~ Nancy Condon ~

JULY

Nature Bike Hike, Southwick

Saturday, July 6, from 10 till about noon or a bit thereafter.

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (788-4125)

Registration: Call to register.

Meeting Place: Meet at the intersection of Rte. 168 (Congamond Road) and Miller Rd. in Southwick. Red Riding Hood's Basket Café is at this intersection. To get there from the center of Southwick (intersection of routes 57 and 10/202) take Rt. 10/202 south for 3 to 4 miles and then turn left at the light onto Congamond Road (Rt. 168).

Interested in getting some exercise while viewing a variety of beautiful natural landscapes? If so, join us for a nature bike hike on the newly completed stretch of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail in Southwick. The trail goes through woodlands, wetlands, farm fields and grasslands. We will stop at times to take in what nature has to offer us. Pack a lunch, some water and perhaps binoculars

I've loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night.
~ Sarah Williams, "The Old Astronomer to His Pupil"
(1837-1868) ~

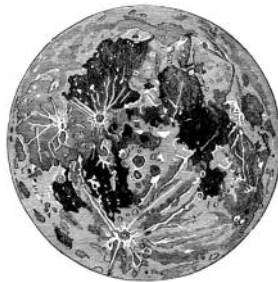
Stargazing at Northfield Mountain, Northfield

Friday evening, July 12

Registration: Please call Jack Megaw (782-3962), before Friday.

Location: From Rte. 2 in Erving, go 2 miles north on Rte. 63 to main entrance, on right.

The Astronomers' Conjunction was founded 31 years ago by members of our club as an indoor/outdoor summertime astronomy retreat ~ which now attracts over 100 stargazers from across the Northeast. The mountain at Northfield is rated one of New England's premier viewing sites. The moon, Saturn and (after moonset) the Milky Way will be among our viewing targets, with several large telescopes in attendance. This may be our last year! Rain and heavy clouds cancel. Sunset is late, 8:20 p.m. Bring a picnic.



May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome,
dangerous, leading to the most amazing view.
May your mountains rise into and above the clouds.
~ Edward Abbey ~

Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill, Orange

Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Registration: Call Bill (533-2153)

Meeting Place: Florence Savings Bank parking lot at the Stop & Shop Plaza on Route 9 in Belchertown.

The first half of this walk will take us along a gated, level, paved road through a variety of habitats on the northern end of Quabbin Reservoir, an area featuring abandoned fields and orchards, wetlands, plantation plantings, cellar holes, and even a hand-laid keystone bridge. We'll take our time as we wind our way toward the reservoir some 2.5 miles away. On our return, we'll skirt the eastern ledges of Rattlesnake Hill, home to soaring vultures, porcupines and bobcats. Total distance is approximately 6 miles. Wear appropriate footwear and bring along something to eat and drink.

Summertime Stroll at Stanley Park, Westfield

Thursday, July 18, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Venturing out along the shady pathways of Stanley Park in the coolness of an early summer morning, birds calling all around ~ Sounds refreshing, don't you agree? Please call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

I am sure it is a great mistake always to know
enough to go in when it rains. One may keep snug
and dry by such knowledge, but one misses a world
of loveliness. ~ Adeline Knapp, American journalist
(1860-1909) ~

Mt. Holyoke Range State Park, Amherst/Granby

Sunday, July 21, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Bob Cantin (536-4126)

Registration: Please call Bob and leave a message.

Meeting Place: Notch Visitor Center on Route 116 at 9:30.

We'll start off hiking the M&M Trail up to the summit of Mt. Norwottuck. From there we will proceed to the Horse Caves, then move on to Rattlesnake Knob, and finally turn back to return to the Visitor Center by the Robert Frost Trail. Please bring lunch, snacks, plenty of water, and your binoculars. Sturdy hiking shoes are recommended as the upper sections are rocky. We'll stop along the way for viewing from many lookouts. Total distance is approximately 4 to 5 miles.

AUGUST

Canoeing Goose Pond, Lee

Saturday August 17, from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Tom or Nancy (564-0895) to register.

Meeting Place: McDonald's on Route 20, north of Mass Pike Exit 2, Lee

Join us for a quiet paddle on a beautiful little lake in the Berkshires. We'll put in on Goose Pond and after a short paddle past the cottages we'll be able to explore the natural shoreline. A small canal connects Goose Pond to the more remote Upper Goose Pond. We'll stop for lunch at the far end of the lake where the Appalachian Trail swings around the end. It's a great place to get out and stretch our legs for a bit or jump in for a refreshing swim, so don't forget your suit. Bring a lunch, plenty of water, and dress for the weather. If you don't have a boat but would like to join us, give us a call. For \$5 a seat, Venture Crew 872 will rent you a boat.

What sets a canoeing expedition apart is that it purifies you more rapidly and inescapably than any other. Travel a thousand miles by train and you are a brute; pedal five hundred on a bicycle and you remain basically a bourgeois; paddle a hundred in a canoe and you are already a child of nature. ~ Pierre Elliot Trudeau ~

Pathways Around Ashley Reservoir, Holyoke

Thursday, August 22, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Let's head out for an early morning scenic walk along a flat waterfront trail. Come along on this pleasant stroll, conversing the while away, reacquainting yourself with the state of nature on a high summer day. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

As August wanes, our old forgotten sense of urgency awakens once more as we realize summer may actually be as short as spring. Sunshine, warmth, and the long days must not be wasted. It is a temptation to lie in the sun during the day and stay awake half the night, watching sunsets, moonrises, and northern lights, listening to the calling of the loons, or watching some storm with its jagged shafts of lightning between rising thunderheads. It is almost a pity to miss a single sunrise or the mists of early morning over meadows and valleys. There is so much to feel and see, the days and nights are never long enough.... Then one day, lying on a path, there is a tiny leaf of aspen, bright yellow with border of red along the veins. This is a sign, and I look at it with disbelief. It cannot be true. It is far too early, for the dark green and the fullness is still around, with growth moving swiftly as ever. My eyes refuse to accept what they have seen, but memory overrules. I pick up the leaf and twirl it between my fingers, then lay it back again on the trail. ~ Sigurd F. Olson, *The Hidden Forest* ~

Hike to Ice Glen through an Old Growth Forest, Stockbridge

Saturday, August 24, starting at 9 a.m.

Leader: Dave Gallup (Please call Dave at 525-4697 if you plan to join us.)

Meeting Place: Table and Vine, Route 5, West Springfield

Join us on a hike to a magical place, a historical spot people have ventured to for over 100 years. We will traverse old growth forests along the way to a site where giant boulders left behind by the glaciers form craggy ice-filled caves in a cool, dense, moss-covered forest. After our adventure let's put up our feet and enjoy a cool refreshing drink at the Red Lion Inn's patio in historic Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

There are no medium-sized trees in the deep forest. There are only the towering ones, whose canopy spreads across the sky. Below, in the gloom, there's light for nothing but mosses and ferns. But when a giant falls, leaving a little space ... then there's a race ~ between the trees on either side, who want to spread out, and the seedlings below, who race to grow up. Sometimes, you can make your own space. ~ Terry Pratchett, *Small Gods* ~

Tekoa Mountain Wildlife Management Area, Montgomery

Saturday, August 31, from 9 a.m. till noontime(?)

Leader: Dave Lovejoy (572-5307)

Meeting Place: Parking lot across from the Irving gas station on Route 20 in Westfield, just west of the Four-Mile store for car-pooling to the trailhead which has limited parking.

This state-owned property provides habitat for several endangered species, the best known of which is probably the timber rattlesnake. The hike to the summit (or close to the summit, where the views are just as nice) involves some steep climbing, but we will move at a pace appropriate for the group. We probably will not see rattlesnakes, but there are a variety of plant species in the various habitats and who knows what surprises may appear?



SEPTEMBER

What makes a river so restful to people is that it doesn't have any doubt ~ it is sure to get where it is going, and it doesn't want to go anywhere else. ~ Hal Boyle, American journalist (1911-1974) ~

Stump Sprouts Weekend, West Hawley

Friday, September 6, through Sunday, September 8, 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 \$154 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 by July 15. This trip will be canceled if 18 people are not paid by that date. Please note: Although by this point 20 people may be signed up, 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 meat/nonmeat fare. Bring along binoculars, good footwear, curiosity and a sense of adventure. Limit: 20 people.

What do I believe in? I believe in sun. In rock. In the dogma of the sun and the doctrine of the rock. I believe in blood, fire, woman, rivers, eagles, storms, drums, flutes, banjos and broom-tailed horses. ~ Edward Abbey ~

**SEPTEMBER MEETING
EDWARD ABBEY**

Wednesday, September 18, starting at 7:30 p.m.
Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium
Presenter: Dave Lovejoy

A few tips on desert etiquette: Always remove and destroy survey stakes, flagging, advertising signboards, mining claim markers, animal traps, poisoned bait, seismic exploration geophones, and other such artifacts of industrialism. The men who put those things there are up to no good and it is our duty to confound them. Keep America Beautiful. Grow a Beard. Take a Bath. Burn a Billboard.

~ Edward Abbey ~

Abbey's the original fly in the ointment. ~ Tom McGuane ~

American author, Edward Abbey has been called many things, America's crankiest citizen and the Thoreau of the American West among them. Edward Abbey's writings, noted for a strong advocacy of environmental issues, surely played a role in the establishment of the radical environmental group Earth First!. The novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang* and the non-fiction work *Desert Solitaire* are perhaps his best known works. This talk will focus on Abbey's many contributions, using some pertinent (and hopefully amusing) quotes combined with a few images from some the settings, mostly in the Southwest, featured in his writings.

Dave Lovejoy, well-known to club members, has taught a variety of natural history courses at Westfield State University since 1970, primarily involving mammals, plants, and environmental biology.

Canoeing the Upper Charles River, Natick
Saturday September 14, from 7 a.m. till 6 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Tom or Nancy (564-0895) to register.

Meeting Place: AMF Bowling Lanes, I-291 & Mass Pike, Chicopee

Considered one of the most beautiful sections of the Charles River, this stretch meanders from Route 109 in Millis to South Natick. The meanders will take us through beautiful meadows excellent for birding, so bring along your binoculars. Part of the trip will skirt the Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Sanctuary and another will pass the Trustees of Reservations' Rocky Narrows ~ its first sanctuary. We'll finish at the South Natick Dam. River distance is about 10.5 miles. The river is generally quiet through this section, but in low water we could run into some shallow riffles. Hope for rain the week before. Bring your own boat, a lunch, plenty of water, and dress for the weather.

Asters and Goldenrods, Westfield

September 15, from 10 a.m. till noon

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: Frank Stanley Beveridge Sanctuary in Westfield's Stanley Park. Meet at the "upper entrance" off Western Avenue, by entering the park opposite WSU's Woodward Center and following the entrance road, watching for the Sanctuary sign on the right.



Aster



Goldenrod

Late summer is the opportune time to examine two large groups of native species, asters and goldenrods, in bloom. There are a dozen or so species in each group, some difficult to distinguish from one another. We won't see them all, but we will have an opportunity to identify and distinguish the more common ones encountered along the pathway through the Sanctuary, as well as other late summer wildflowers in this season's last flush of bloom.

SEPTEMBER

In the afternoons of July and August we may get thundershowers but an hour after the storms pass the surface of the desert is again bone dry.

It seldom rains. The geography books credit this part of Utah with an annual precipitation of five to nine inches but that is merely a statistical average. Low enough, to be sure. And in fact the rainfall and snowfall vary widely from year to year and from place to place even within the Arches region. When a cloud bursts open above the Devil's Garden the sun is blazing down on my ramada. And wherever it rains in this land of unclothed rock the runoff is rapid down cliff and dome through the canyons to the Colorado.

Sometimes it rains and still fails to moisten the desert ~ the falling water evaporates halfway down between cloud and earth. Then you see curtains of blue rain dangling out of reach in the sky while the living things wither below for want of water. Torture by tantalizing, hope without fulfillment. And the clouds disperse and dissipate into nothingness.

Streambeds are usually dry. The dry wash, dry gulch, arroyo seco. Only after a storm do they carry water and then but briefly ~ a few minutes, a couple of hours. The spring-fed perennial stream is a rarity. In this area we have only two of them, Salt Creek and Onion Creek, the first too salty to drink and the second laced with arsenic and sulfur.

Permanent springs or waterholes are likewise few and far between though not so rare as the streams. They are secret places deep in the canyons, known only to the deer and the coyotes and the dragonflies and a few others. Water rises slowly from these springs and flows in little rills over bare rock, over and under sand, into miniature fens of wire grass, rushes, willow and tamarisk. The water does not flow very far before disappearing into the air and under the ground. The flow may reappear farther down the canyon, surfacing briefly for a second time, a third time, diminishing in force until it vanishes completely and for good.

Another type of spring may be found on canyon walls where water seeps out between horizontal formations through cracks thinner than paper to support small hanging gardens of orchids, monkeyflower, maidenhair fern, and ivy. In most of these places the water is so sparingly measured that it never reaches the canyon floor at all but is taken up entirely by the thirsty plant life and transformed into living tissue.

~ Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire* ~



Corn

Roving Through Robinson State Park, Feeding Hills

Thursday, September 19, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Just upstream from the confluence of the Connecticut and Westfield rivers, Robinson State Park, with five miles of riverbank frontage, is relatively narrow. But within its 852 acres are 20 miles of trails through various habitats ~ a great setting to discern the first hints of fall with friends! Please call to register and for meeting place. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

White Cedar Swamp-McDonald Wildlife Preserve Walk, Wilbraham

Saturday, September 28, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

Join us for a level walk into one of the largest inland Atlantic White Cedar areas around. We will see forests transformed at ever so slight differences in elevation. This area was recently saved from development by the town of Wilbraham. The trail goes by old farm fields and a wonderful cattail area where birds congregate. We will meet at Wilbraham Middle School on Stony Hill Rd. in Wilbraham. Go around the school to the right for trail parking. Please call to register.

Alander Mountain, Mt. Washington

Sunday, September 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Registration: Call Bill (533-2153)

Meeting Place: Former Friendly's parking lot, Great Barrington, Mass., on right side of Route 7 just north of the Route 23 intersection

Views from the summit of Alander Mountain are well worth the effort it takes to get there. This remote area has been described as one of the most beautiful and ecologically significant regions in the Northeast. The Nature Conservancy has called it one of the nation's "Last Great Places." On this strenuous 5-mile up and back hike, we'll climb through a hemlock ravine and northern hardwood community to the summit of Alander Mt. on the western escarpment of the Taconic Range, to enjoy views overlooking the Harlem Valley and Catskills to the west, Mt. Everett to the north, and Mt. Frissell and Bear Mountain to the east and south. Wear sturdy footwear, and bring along something to eat and drink. Bring poles, too, if you have them. Wet leaves make for slippery surfaces!



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*

The majority of living things retreat before the stunning glare and heat of midday. A snake or lizard exposed to the noon sun for more than ten minutes would die; having no internal cooling mechanism the reptiles must at all costs avoid extremes of temperature, especially in the desert where the temperature on the surface of the ground is much higher than it is in the air a few feet above. The snakes therefore seek shade, waiting until sundown to come out to hunt for supper. The insect-eating lizards dart from shelter to shelter, never lingering for more than a few moments in the open blaze.

The other creatures do the same. Like myself, they stay in the shade as much as possible. To conserve bodily moisture and energy the rodents remain in their burrows during the day. Scorpions and spiders go underground for the duration. Deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, bobcats, foxes and coyotes all shade up beneath rock ledges, oakbrush, pinyon and juniper trees, till the sun goes down.

Even the red ants keep to the inside of their evil nests at noon, though they will come spilling out eager to fight if riled with a stick ~ I've tried it, naturally.

Flowers curl up. Leaves fold inward. Everything shrinks, contracts, shrivels; somewhere a desiccated limb on an ancient dying cottonwood tree splits off from the trunk, and the rending fibers make a sound like the shriek of a woman.

The birds are muted, inactive. Now and then I can hear the faraway call of a mourning dove ~ a call that always sounds far away. A few gray desert sparrows fly from one tree to the next, stop there, do not reappear. The ravens and magpies stay in the shade, the former up on the rimrock, the latter in the trees. The owls, of course, and the nighthawks keep to holes and crevices during the day.

Insect life, sparse to begin with on the open desert, diminishes to near total invisibility and inaudibility during the heat of the day, although at times, during the very hottest and stillest hour, you may hear the eerie ticking noise of a sun-demented cricket or locust, a small sad music that seems to have ~ like a Bach partita ~ a touch of something ageless, out of time, eternal in its primeval vibrations.
~ Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire* ~

Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest.
Say that the leaves are harvested
when they have rotted into the mold.
Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.
Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees
every thousand years. ~ Wendell Berry,
Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front ~



Sunflowers

Laughing Brook, *Hampden*

Sponsored by Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries and Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, these programs, geared for families and children, take place at Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary and are led by Kevin Kopchynski. Please contact Arcadia at 800-710-4550 to register. Fees apply (MassAudubon members \$3, nonmembers \$5). For general information, you may contact Kevin at 267-4757.

Forest Sensory Walk

Saturday, July 20, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Use your five senses to explore Laughing Brook in a whole new way. See how many items you can find on our "unnature trail." Listen to the many different sounds all around, smell and taste nature's mints, and feel different textures.

Insects of the Field and Forest

Saturday, August 17, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Summer's a time when insects are very active. Come visit Laughing Brook to explore both field and forest to see and hear some of the many insects that live here. Watch as a bee pollinates a flower, see how many different types of butterflies you can count, and learn what lives within all that white spittle on the field plants. Please wear long pants, and wear insect repellent (optional).

THE NATURALISTS' CLUB 2012-2013

FROM THE TREASURER

Many of you know that September is the month for membership renewal for the year (September to August). Members with a '13-14 (or later) on their newsletter mailing label are paid up for (at least) the current year. Those current through '12-13 may either renew over the summer by mailing a check, (payable to the Naturalists' Club) to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State University, Westfield MA 01086, or wait to pay at 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: Since Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list, please direct special requests or changes to him, at dlovejoy@westfield.ma.edu or 413-572-5307.

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



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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Requests for programs/trips

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