



The

# NATURALISTS' CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts

### April to June **CALENDAR** of **EVENTS**

#### April

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Saturday  | 17 Hiking the East Branch Trail, <i>Huntington</i>                         |
| Wednesday | 21 Zoom MEETING: The Real Eastern Coyote                                   |
| Saturday  | 24 Chapel Brook Falls Hike to the Summit of Pony Mountain, <i>Ashfield</i> |
| Sunday    | 25 Mill River & Smith College Flower Gardens, <i>Northampton</i>           |

#### May

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Saturday  | 8 Saturday, A Paddle on Wood Creek Pond, <i>Winsted, Connecticut</i>        |
| Sunday    | 16 Spring Walk Around Hurds Lake at Camp Aya Po, <i>Somers, Connecticut</i> |
| Wednesday | 19 The May meeting is cancelled. See you in Fall 2021.                      |
| Saturday  | 22 Hike at Rock House Reservation, <i>West Brookfield</i>                   |

#### June

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Saturday | 5 Kayaking the Scantic River and Somersville Mill Pond, <i>Somers, Connecticut</i> |
| Sunday   | 6 Hike at High Ledges, <i>Shelburne Falls</i>                                      |
| Sunday   | 13 Bobolinks Nesting Hike at Hilltop Farm, <i>Suffield, Connecticut</i>            |



*Peony*

# NATURALIST'S CORNER

## *Plastic ~ That Nemesis of the Environment*

### **A Little Plastic History**

In the mid-19th century, ivory was becoming increasingly rare. A New York financial firm offered \$10,000 to anyone who could manufacture a substitute. Thusly motivated, John Wesley Hyatt came up with the first plastic in 1869, which he called celluloid. Celluloid was lauded as the savior of turtles, rhinos and elephants as it could be made to look like tortoiseshell, horn and ivory.<sup>1</sup> ***Plastic – an environmental champion!***

In 1907, Leo Baekeland hit upon a new product that he called Bakelite. This completely synthetic plastic could be mass-produced and made into nearly everything – and it was: furniture, billiard balls, telephones, tableware, jewelry, insulators, and more. Plastic-making surged. By the 1950's Bakelite was surpassed by many other types of plastics found in the myriad of things we see today.<sup>1</sup>

Chemically speaking, plastic is made up of long chains of repeated units called polymers.<sup>2</sup> Hyatt had used cellulose, a natural polymer in plants, to make celluloid. Thanks to the bonding power of carbon, petroleum is now processed to make incredibly long polymers. Depending on the many ways these polymers can be processed, there is no telling how many specific forms of plastic there are. Possibly thousands!<sup>3</sup>

As early as the 1960's people were finding that this wonder material had its drawbacks. Plastic started showing up in the oceans and murmurings about its disposal surfaced. The trouble is that because of how it's made, often involving high temperatures, plastic doesn't decompose into reusable elements. Bacteria involved in decomposition haven't "learned" to break this material down as they haven't encountered it before. Instead, plastic breaks apart (primarily under UV light exposure) into smaller pieces allowing these microplastics, sometimes too small to see, to enter the food chain. Plastic can't be digested, has no food value, and accumulates, causing health issues and even death in wildlife. ***Plastic – an environmental headache!***

### **What Can We Do?**

Consider the consumer stream in three steps:

- 1- You buy a plastic item
- 2- You use the plastic item
- 3- You dispose of the plastic item.

The final step is the kicker. Somehow, we have to break this linear life cycle. We can do this by changing the first and third steps.

**First Step** – Be a careful consumer. At the time of purchase, the best thing you can do is think about what you'll do with the item and its packaging when its job is complete. Admittedly, we often don't have a choice since plastic is so ubiquitous. It's in our cars, medical equipment, small appliances, computers, electronics, and many other things doing important jobs. But when you have a choice, alternatives are often already out there. A few ideas:

**Trash bags:** Plant-based and compostable bags are available.

**Picnic ware:** There are utensils made from corn starch, a nature-based biodegradable material. The Naturalists' Club used it for our 50th-anniversary meal.

**Shampoo/conditioner bottles:** One look down the hair care aisle, and plastic is all you see. But there are non-bottle alternatives out there – shampoo bars. Lush and HiBar are two of many brands.

In the grocery store, use cloth grocery bags and reusable produce bags. I save mesh bags from potatoes and onions for packaging produce rather than use the roll of plastic provided.

**Middle Step** – If you have plastic, make good use of it. I once heard about a woman who hosted an "eco-friendly" picnic. When someone came with a salad in a plastic bowl, the hostess was very unhappy. Unjustly so, I have to say. Using plastic is not criminal. Throwing it away is the problem. I wonder if we will see the day when we pass our plastic mixing bowl set down to our children and grandchildren as we do our fine china. If you already have it, use it. After all, it lasts practically forever. When its original function is complete, find a way to repurpose it. When the time comes, replace it with eco-friendly alternatives.

**Third step** – Dispose of plastic carefully. Even I find it challenging to know which types of plastics are recyclable. I recently learned that because black plastic can't be seen by optical sensors on recycling machinery and can only be recycled into other black plastic, it has to be separated out. Don't mix it with light-colored plastic (potentially ruining the whole batch) unless your town accepts it. My town (Russell) does not. Since it depends on your town's program, do a little legwork to find out. Also, that triangle of arrows indicating recyclability may not be reliable. There is a new recycling label system emerging now, implemented by participating manufacturers. Go to <https://how2recycle.info/> to see it. This labeling system helps take the guesswork out of recycling.

Another thing I learned is that I've been throwing some plastic out that can easily be repurposed. Plastic grocery bags, dry cleaner bags, wrapping from around toilet paper or paper towel purchases, clean and dry zip lock bags, cereal bags, produce bags, newspaper delivery bags, and that sort of plastic should be dropped off at the plastic bag recycling station at your grocery store. This type of plastic – polyethylene – is used to make recycle bins, pipes, and decking. Whatever you do, don't put plastic bags in your curbside recycling bin. It jams sorting machinery. The container may be tucked out of sight at your store but ask for it. Let managers know you want to recycle. Kohls, The Home Depot, Walmart, Price Chopper, Stop & Shop, Big Y, and others participate in the Trex (composite decking) recycling program and should have bins.

I have much more to learn about plastics. I am encouraged that research continues on many fronts: additives to make plastic degrade; plastic substitutes from plants and milk; plastic-eating bacteria; and more. I'm slowly trying to do my part as a consumer. No matter what we do, however, we humans impact our environment. Just trying to be gentler, kinder, and more connected to the environment that we depend on will go a long way in living right with our earth.

~ Nancy Condon

<sup>1</sup> Science History Institute. (n.d.). *History and Future of Plastics*. Accessible at <https://www.sciencehistory.org/the-history-and-future-of-plastics>

<sup>2</sup> Maryruth Belsey Priebe. (n.d.). *Ecolife, A Guide to Green Living/What is Plastic Made of? An Overview of What is In Plastic*. Accessible at <https://tinyurl.com/whatisplasticmadeof>.

<sup>3</sup> Professor Plastics. (2018). *Types of Plastic: How Many Kinds of Plastics are There?* Accessible at <https://tinyurl.com/howmanytotypesofplastic>

*If you restore balance in your own self,  
you will be contributing immensely to the healing of the world.  
-Deepak Chopra*

#### Pandemic Precautions

Aren't you anxious to get out and about? Spending time outdoors is a great way to get rejuvenated and has lower risk of COVID-19 spread than indoor gatherings. In response to "pandemic fatigue," the Naturalists' Club Board has planned hikes and events to get us into nature. To help us gather safely, please observed these criteria for outdoor activities.

- Please don't come if you feel unwell.
- Groups will be kept at a maximum of 10 people, including the leader(s).
- You must register with the leader. Please don't just drop in.
- Wear a face covering of at least 2 layers.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet from other participants who are not from your own household.
- We cannot guarantee your safety even after abiding by these preventative measures.

By participating, you assume the risk of illness during a pandemic and release The Naturalists' Club from liability. So let's get outdoors and enjoy this season safely. We may be able to add more outdoor events as the season progresses, so be sure to check [naturalists-club.org](http://naturalists-club.org) for updates. ~ The Naturalists' Club Board of Directors

#### Update: Just a reminder – Please use webform to register for Naturalists' Club Zoom meetings.

Naturalists' Club Zoom meetings were well attended and well received during 1Q 2021, so we're continuing them. One update: to help streamline the registration process, I've made an online form that you can use in place of an email to register for 2Q 2021 meetings. To register, please visit

<https://tinyurl.com/registrationNatClub>

and indicate your name, email address, as well as which of our meetings you wish to attend. I'll email you a Zoom link by noon the day of the meeting. Should you encounter any problems with the form, please contact me at [natclubnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:natclubnewsletter@gmail.com). Thank you! ~ Diane Genereux

#### Hiking the East Branch Trail, Huntington

Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leaders: Tom & Nancy Condon

Registration: Please call to sign up (413-297-0778)

Meeting Place: Huntington Country Store on Rt. 112

We will start at a parking lot in the Knightville Dam Recreation Area and hike northward following the beautiful East Branch of the Westfield River. Designated a National Wild and Scenic River for good reason, the East Branch boasts excellent trout habitat,

sparkling clear water, and a variety of habitats for abundant wildlife. We will hike from prime upland game habitat behind Knightville Dam along the river for 2 to 3 miles before turning around to return to our cars. Along the way we'll look for early signs of spring. The trail is wide and level for easy hiking. Bring your binoculars, water and lunch or snacks. Dress for the weather. We will stop at the Huntington Country Store on our way back for a delicious bakery item and hot beverage.

*Please join us for this event if you are willing to follow our  
Covid-19 protocols.*



April  
Meeting

## The Real Eastern Coyote

Wednesday, April 21, starting at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Speaker: Chris Schadler, M.S.

Registration: Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/registrationNatClub>

The clever and resilient coyote is our native song dog and a top predator in the Northeast. While western coyotes evolved on the Great Plains, our eastern coyote has been shaped by red and gray wolves, dogs and the wily western coyote. The habitat in the Northeast supports deer, which encourages a larger size, longer stronger legs and a more developed packing instinct in this predator. Despite the ecological benefits the coyote brings, it is the most persecuted carnivore in North America. Today, it survives and thrives despite efforts to eradicate it.

**About the speaker.** Chris Schadler (pronounced Shade-ler), M.S., Conservation Biology, will discuss coexistence strategies whether you farm, hike, or garden. "Understanding the mind and ecology of the coyote can keep us one step ahead of problems", according to Chris, who, with 30 years of wolf and coyote research, sheep farming, and teaching, will demonstrate that "knowledge is power" when it comes to living with coyotes.

Chris' interest in wild canids began in the 1970s as a volunteer at the Wolf Park in Battleground, Indiana. This opportunity and others inspired an eventual Master's in Conservation Biology at Antioch University in Keene. Her thesis focused on the Natural Recovery of the eastern timber wolf in Michigan. During the early 1980s, Chris lived in Michigan and Minnesota, where her research into the gray wolf continued and her speaking career began.

Beginning in the early 1990s, Chris taught in the Natural Resources Department at UNH, receiving many teaching excellence awards. She also instructed and mentored adult degree candidates in the UNH System at Granite State College and currently is an Adjunct Professor at Rivier University.

While wolf recovery was the focus of her early work, Chris' attention later shifted to the eastern coyote when she and her flock of sheep moved to New England. She is now the New Hampshire and Vermont Representative for Project Coyote, a national organization promoting coexistence with coyotes. Chris co-founded the NH Wildlife Coalition, which advocates for predators and aims to broaden public input into wildlife decision-making. She is a member of the Conservation Commission and chairs the Select Board in Webster, New Hampshire.



Image courtesy of  
Chris Schadler



"Flossing"  
Image courtesy  
of Loren Hoffman

"Coyotes have the gift of seldom being seen; they keep to the edge of vision and beyond, loping in and out of cover on the plains and highlands. And at night, when the whole world belongs to them, they parley at the river with the dogs, their higher, sharper voices full of authority and rebuke. They are an old council of clowns, and they are listened to."

~ N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn*

## Chapel Brook Falls Hike to the Summit of Pony Mountain, Ashfield

Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to mid-afternoon

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup

Registration: Please call Dave and Suzy (413-525-4697)

Meeting Place: Table and Vine parking lot, Rt. 5, West Springfield

Chapel Brooks Falls is a ruggedly beautiful place of ridges and forest. Some old-growth trees dot the landscape and wildflowers cover the forest floor. Streams surge and trickle for most of the year, but in spring Chapel Falls will be in full roar! After we explore the Falls, we will take a short and exhilarating hike along the summit trail to the top of Pony Mountain. The panoramic views of the highland forests and the foothills of the Berkshires are well worth the hike. All this in another Trustees of Reservations property! Don't forget to bring snacks or lunch and a camera. Rain cancels.

*Please join us for this event if you are willing to follow our Covid-19 protocols.*

*Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer*

~ Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

## Mill River & Smith College Flower Gardens, Northampton

Sunday, April 25 in the morning

Leader: Carole Dupont

Registration: Please call or email Carole (413 896 0124 ; [carole0136@gmail.com](mailto:carole0136@gmail.com)) for directions & time

We will hike along a very pleasant, flat stretch of the Mill River observing some interesting rock formations, early wildflowers and hopefully some wildlife. We will continue along the trail to the Smith College outdoor flower gardens, which should provide us with some wonderfully colorful spring blooms. The Botanic Garden of Smith College, preserving the historic Olmsted campus landscape, is set on a 125-acre campus landscape, at the edge of Paradise Pond, and with an outstanding view of the mountains nearby. Campus outdoor gardens include a systematics garden, woodland and wildflower garden, Japanese garden, and a rock garden. Additionally, there are perennial gardens, hardy xerophyte and herb gardens, with a total of more than 7,000 labeled and mapped plants. We will enjoy the beautiful spring flowers before heading back to our cars at the trailhead. Bring water, snacks, lunch, and proper attire depending on weather.

*Please join us for this event if you are willing to follow our Covid-19 protocols.*

**A Paddle on Wood Creek Pond, Winsted, Connecticut**

Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leaders: Tom & Nancy Condon

Registration: Please contact Nancy (at 413 297-0778 or [nancy@paddleforwater.net](mailto:nancy@paddleforwater.net))

Meeting Place: Gulf Station, 2000 E Otis Rd., Route 23, East Otis

Is it a fen, a bog, or a marsh? Let's find out. Wood Creek Pond in northern Connecticut is a quiet pond whose northern end is a protected sanctuary. This rock strewn, glacial pond is slowly succumbing to the relentless march of succession. The northern end of the pond is slowly filling with sediment and vegetation making for a unique natural environment with unusual plants.

We enter the pond from the southern end and enjoy a lovely paddle with great opportunities for Mountain Laurel blossoms and great blue heron sightings. At first, this will feel like many small ponds in western New England, but then we come to the pitcher plants and the other unique plants of the fen, or bog, or marsh. Join us to learn about the differences.

If you have your own canoe or kayak, sign up and let us know that you are coming. If you need a boat call Tom or Nancy to rent a boat (or seat) from a Southwick scout group at just \$10 per seat. So grab a partner, or let us know and we can find you one, and join us for this beautiful spring paddle. Bring along lunch, binoculars, and plenty of water. Life jackets are required to be worn during all paddling and boating events.

*Please join us for this event if you are willing to follow our Covid-19 protocols.*

**Spring Walk around Hurds Lake at Camp Aya Po,**

*Somers, Connecticut*

Sunday, May 16,

Leader: Carole Dupont

Registration: Please contact Carole ([carole0136@gmail.com](mailto:carole0136@gmail.com); or call 413 896 0124) for directions & meeting time

Camp Aya Po is located at the base of Perkin's Mountain on the shores of peaceful Hurds Lake, which was known as Lake Nissaski in the old camp days.

We will walk around the lake and delight in the treasures of spring as we look for early wildflowers peeking out through the lifeless leftovers of winter. We hope to enjoy large patches of fringed milkwort (*Polygala*), also known as gaywings for its brightly colored winged pinkish flowers.

We may decide to climb the mountain to enjoy the scenic view at the top. Bring along water, snacks and dress for the weather. Binoculars & poles are also encouraged.

*Please join us for this event if you are willing to follow our Covid-19 protocols.*

*Spring won't let me stay in this house  
any longer! I must get out and breathe  
the air deeply again.*

*~ Gustav Mahler*

**Hike at Rock House Reservation, West Brookfield**

Saturday May 22, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers

Registration: Contact Sonya at 413-218-7742

Meeting Place: Parking lot of Big Y in Palmer. We can carpool to West Brookfield. The Big Y is just a short distance from the Mass Pike Palmer exit.

Rock House Reservation is managed by The Trustees of Reservations. The jumbled boulders left there as the ice sheet melted 15,000 years ago were used by Native Americans as a shelter and hunting camp in cold winter months. The rock overhang provided shelter where a fire could be built with the heat reflecting off the walls. An amateur archeological dig there in the 1930's revealed pottery, tools and bones of wolf, bear, and deer. It is surmised that the rocky area was used as a shelter over a 7,000 year period.

We will use the system of trails for a leisurely walk through the forest. I have seen several different dragonflies in the pond and will bring field microscopes to share with anyone interested in taking a closer look at the pond life. The area has kingfishers and springtime birds so bring your binoculars and cameras.

After our hike, we will have the option to stop at a grill and ice cream stand on the way back to our cars.

*Please join us for this event if you are willing to follow our Covid-19 protocols.*

**Kayaking the Scantic River and Somersville Mill Pond,**

*Somers, Connecticut*

Date: Saturday, June 5, from 10:00 a.m. to approx. 12:30 p.m.

Rain date: Sunday, June 6

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (413-788-4125)

Registration: Space is limited, so please be sure to register early.

Meeting Place: In Somers, Conn. at the boat launch at Somersville Mill Pond. Easiest way to get there is to take I-91 south from Springfield to Rte 190 in Enfield, Conn., then go east on 190 for approximately 5 plus miles to Somersville-Somers. Turn right onto School Street. Go down the hill to the small park and Mill Pond boat launch on the left.

This is a delightful area to paddle. You start on the pond and after about a mile you are on the Scantic River. For the first 2 miles or so the paddling is fairly easy and then slowly the current becomes more noticeable. At one point the river takes some interesting turns. There are plenty of woodlands along the way, but also open areas with shrubs and vines, plus one place where an almost hidden passageway leads one into an oxbow of sorts. The birding is wonderful during most of the spring, summer and fall. This is an excellent trip for beginners as well as more experienced paddlers. Life jackets are required to be worn during all paddling and boating events.

*Please join us for this event if you are willing to follow our Covid-19 protocols.*

**Club elections will occur when we are back at the Tolman Wing.**

## Hike at High Ledges, Shelburne Falls

Sunday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to mid-afternoon

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup

Registration: Please call to let us know you are coming (413-525-4697)

Meeting Place: Table and Vine parking lot, Rt 5, West Springfield

Enjoy the beauty of the forest and its wildflowers, including the rare yellow lady slipper, on this moderate two-mile hike. One of the many treats of this route is the breathtaking view from High Ledges, overlooking Shelburne Falls and the valley below. After the hike we will visit Shelburne Falls, a picturesque New England town known for its "Bridge of Flowers". If you wish, take the afternoon to explore the town's unique shops and beautiful waterfalls. Wear sturdy footwear and bring a lunch. Rain cancels.

*Please join us for this event if you are willing to follow our Covid-19 protocols.*



*Yellow Lady Slipper*

## Announcements:

### Bear Hole Preserved

Approximately eight years ago, the West Springfield Environmental Committee began promoting the idea of permanently protecting the Bear Hole Watershed. Unfortunately, at that time, the town's leaders were not interested. More recently, with the support of our current mayor, Will Reichelt, that view has changed. With Mass Audubon and the State Department of Conservation and Recreation willing to purchase the development rights to Bear Hole, a Conservation Restriction was adopted. This means that Bear Hole's approximately 1500 acres will be forever protected and available for passive recreation. The DCR was ready to commit \$700,000 and Mass Audubon had to raise \$450,000. The Town of West Springfield would receive over one million dollars for giving up the development rights.

Our Club's Board of Directors decided to make a gift of \$3,000 to Mass Audubon. As of this Newsletter, Mass Audubon has achieved its goal.

*So sweet the daffodils, so fair to see;  
So blithe and gay the humming-bird a going  
From flower to flower, a-hunting with the bee."  
~ Nora Perry, In June*

## Bobolinks Nesting Hike at Hilltop Farm, Suffield, Connecticut

Sunday, June 13

Leader: Carole Dupont

Registration: Please contact Carole ([carole0136@gmail.com](mailto:carole0136@gmail.com); 413 896 0124) for directions & time

Hilltop Farm was developed in the early twentieth century (1913) as a country estate and gentleman's farm by George Hendee, the co-founder of the Indian Motorcycle Corporation of Springfield, Mass. Hendee devoted the farm to raising prize dairy cows and poultry. His large manor house, built in 1916, was torn down in 1961 to make way for the sprawling campus of Jesuit run St. Alphonsus College, later occupied by the Lincoln Culinary Institute. The farm is still operating.

We will delight in the joyous songs of the bobolinks that nest in the tall farm grasses, feeding on insect larvae, weed seeds and spiders. Hatching occurs at the same time that many farmers typically harvest their first cut of hay, resulting in nest failures, and many farmers have opted to delay their mowing to ensure the survival of the bobolink broods.

There are some very interesting trails we can explore among the beautiful wooded grounds and grasslands, which lead to the abandoned college campus, and along the Connecticut River.

Bring water, snacks and dress for the weather. Binoculars and poles are also encouraged.

*Please join us for this event if you are willing to follow our Covid-19 protocols.*

## Looking Ahead:

### Stump Sprouts Weekend, West Hawley

We are anticipating having our normal September weekend at Stump Sprouts this year from Friday evening, September 10 through luncheon on Sunday, September 12

Leaders: Dietrich and Julie Schlobohm

Registration: Reservations and 50% deposit should be sent to arrive by August 1. This trip may be cancelled if fewer than 18 people have paid by that date. For current information, please call Dietrich or Julie (413-788-4125).

All-inclusive cost for two nights' lodging and six meals is \$172 per person. Indicate your roommate preference and make your check payable to The Naturalists' Club and send to Dietrich Schlobohm, 52 Poplar Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089.

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. They offer a choice of meat or vegetarian fare. Bring along binoculars, good footwear, curiosity, and a sense of adventure.

To ensure a safe weekend, we are expecting every participant to have completed a full course of vaccination against Covid-19. If additional safety measures are required, we will announce them in late August.

Limit: 20 people.



## Events Sponsored by Mass Audubon

Due to Covid-19 protocols, pre-registration is required for all Mass Audubon programs this spring. Most of these events require registration fees. Descriptions are as published by MassAudubon. For details on upcoming events, please visit <https://www.massaudubon.org> or call (413) 584-3009.

### Vernal Pools at Laughing Brook

*Sponsored by Arcadia and Laughing Brook*

Saturday, April 17 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

Leader: Kevin Kopchynski – Photographer and Naturalist

Vernal pools are unique and critical habitats that are breeding grounds for many state-listed amphibian species. April is the best, and often the only time, to see animals such as spotted salamanders and wood frogs. Join naturalist Kevin Kopchynski to explore a vernal pool, looking for egg masses, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates. Learn why it's so crucial to protect these small bodies of water and what you can do to help ensure their protection. Suitable for children 4 years and older. Cost: \$6/person for MassAudubon members; \$8/person for nonmembers. This program will be conducted in accordance with current Municipal, State, and Mass Audubon Covid-19 protocols.

### Discovering Wildflowers at Laughing Brook

*Sponsored by Arcadia and Laughing Brook*

Saturday, May 15 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

Leader: Kevin Kopchynski - Photographer and Naturalist

Enjoy a relaxing spring walk looking for beautiful wildflowers at Laughing Brook. We hope to see wild oats, trillium, fringed polygala, lady's slippers and more! We'll play some trail games along the way. This program will be conducted in accordance with current Municipal, State, and Mass Audubon Covid-19 protocols. Groups are limited to 11 preregistered participants. Participants are required to wear a face covering and follow social distancing guidelines. A detailed confirmation letter will be emailed 24 hours before the program. Suitable for all children. Cost: \$6/person Mass Audubon members; \$8/person nonmembers.

### Saturday Morning Bird Walk

Saturday, May 22 from 7 to 10:30 a.m.

Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

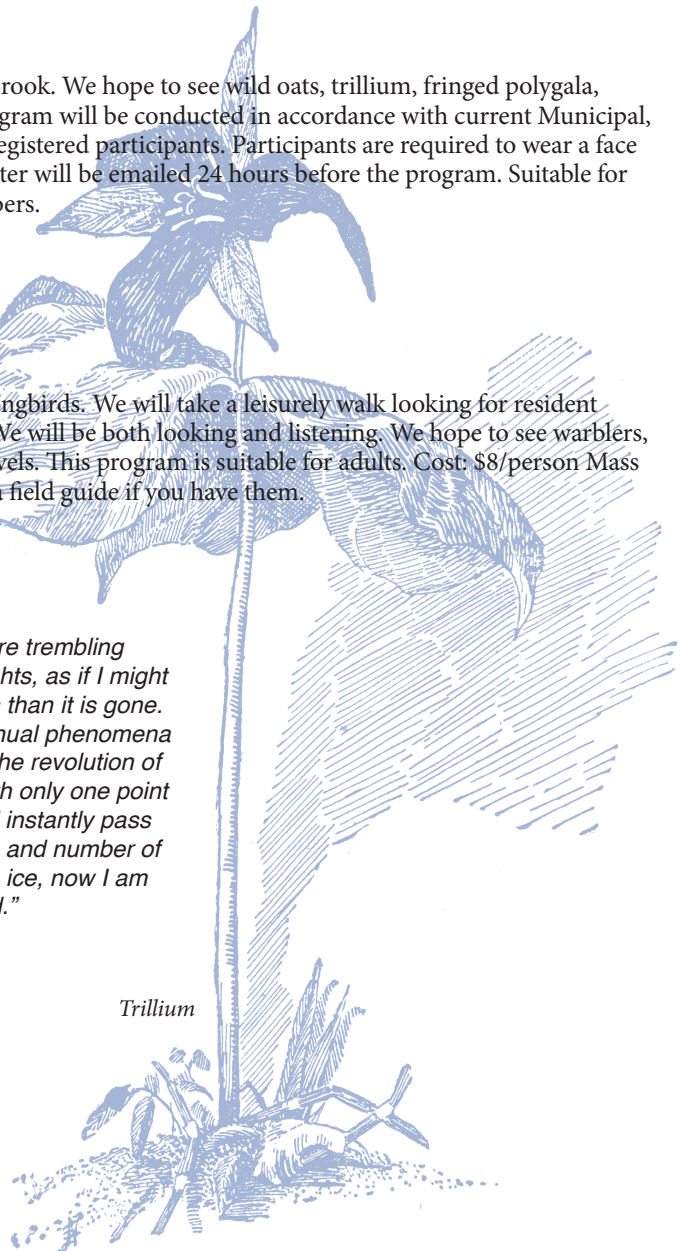
Leaders: Arcadia Staff and Volunteers

Rise early and join us for a bird walk during the peak weeks for migrating songbirds. We will take a leisurely walk looking for resident birds as well as those coming north to nest and those just passing through. We will be both looking and listening. We hope to see warblers, orioles, and tanagers, as well as hawks and vultures. Open to birders of all levels. This program is suitable for adults. Cost: \$8/person Mass Audubon members; \$10/person nonmembers. Please bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.

*"This is June, the month of grass and leaves . . . already the aspens are trembling again, and a new summer is offered me. I feel a little fluttered in my thoughts, as if I might be too late. Each season is but an infinitesimal point. It no sooner comes than it is gone. It has no duration. It simply gives a tone and hue to my thought. Each annual phenomena is reminiscence and prompting. Our thoughts and sentiments answer to the revolution of the seasons, as two cog-wheels fit into each other. We are conversant with only one point of contact at a time, from which we receive a prompting and impulse and instantly pass to a new season or point of contact. A year is made up of a certain series and number of sensations and thoughts which have their language in nature. Now I am ice, now I am sorrel. Each experience reduces itself to a mood of the mind."*

*~ Henry David Thoreau, Journal, June 6, 1857*

Trillium



# The NATURALISTS' CLUB

## FROM THE TREASURER

Everyone receiving a copy of this newsletter, either electronically or a paper copy, has paid dues for the current year. Traditionally, the time to renew membership is September so there will be a notice about that in a subsequent newsletter. Any changes in contact information should be sent to the treasurer Dave Lovejoy at [dlovejoy@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:dlovejoy@westfield.ma.edu) or Department of Biology, Westfield State University, POB 1630, Westfield MA 01086.

Note: If your contact information has not changed, the form below need not be completed. We would, however, like to have your email address if you haven't sent it previously.

Please direct changes or inquiries to Dave Lovejoy, who maintains our mailing list. And please let Dave know if you would like to receive your newsletter electronically.



## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$20 per year for Individual or Family Membership
- \$30 per year for Supporting Membership
- \$50 per year for Sustaining Membership
- \$300 for Lifetime Membership

## Renew your membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you opt for electronic delivery of the Naturalists' Club Newsletter? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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.

2021 APRIL to JUNE

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

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