



2Q-2022

The
NATURALISTS CLUB
NEWSLETTER

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts

April to June ~ **CALENDAR of EVENTS**

APRIL

- 20 Wednesday APRIL MEETING: Current and Potential Invasive Insects in Massachusetts
- 23 Saturday Steepletop Hike, *New Marlborough*
- 27 Wednesday Spring Walk Along the New England National Scenic Trail, *Southwick*
- 30 Saturday Chapel Brook Falls Hike to the Summit of Pony Mountain, *Ashfield*

MAY

- 7 Saturday It's Not an Olmsted Park! *Forest Park, Springfield*
- 15 Sunday Paddle the Quinebaug River, *East Brimfield*
- 15 Sunday Spring Flora, *Westfield*
- 18 Wednesday MAY MEETING: Native Plants: Why They Matter
- 21 Saturday Annual Gaywings Exploration Hurds Lake Camp Aya Po, *Somers, Connecticut*
- 22 Sunday Twelve Mile Brook Conservation Area, *Wilbraham*
- 29 Sunday Hike at High Ledges, *Shelburne Falls*

April 24
~ It's Arbor Day! ~
Plant a tree!

JUNE

- 5 Sunday Birding, Flowers, and Nature in Spring, *Somers, Connecticut*
- 12 Sunday Paddling the West River, *Brattleboro, Vermont*
- 18 Saturday Nesting Bobolinks Hike at Hilltop Farm, *Suffield, Connecticut*



Apple Blossom
(*Pyrus malus*)



NATURALIST'S CORNER

What's Happenin'?

(Liliaceae): Top, nodding trillium (*Trillium cernuum*); Left, flower of *Trillium recurvatum*; Right, dwarf white trillium (*Trillium nivale*)

Welcome to the Happenin' Season! With the close of winter, birds are busy raising a brood; hibernators are awake and looking for grub; amphibians are developing in vernal pools; leaves are unfurling. A lot is happenin' here in New England! I thought I'd lay out some specific examples for you to be alert for as you venture out on your springtime forays.

April

***Amphibians:** Many amphibians breed in April, including the wood frog, Northern leopard frog, and spring peeper. They are now emerging from brumation (the term for hibernation in cold-blooded animals) and gathering in great numbers in vernal pools to mate and lay eggs. Listen for their calls. Wood frogs sound like quacking ducks. The leopard frog has a drawn-out, throaty snore. Spring peepers are perfectly named for their chorus of high-pitched peeps.

***Reptiles:** Reptiles too are emerging from their hibernacula, finding mates, and laying eggs. The North American racer is the earliest snake to emerge. This long, thin, nonvenomous black snake is speedy but might be found sunning itself on a rock on a warm day. Painted turtles also emerge early from being buried in the mud in freshwater ponds and slow streams. Basking is the first order of business, mating second. A male woos a female by waving his long front claws right in front of her face where she is certain to understand his intentions.

***Birds:** Birds may be the most noticeable harbingers of spring in the animal kingdom. One of the most fascinating courtship displays this month is performed by the timberdoodle, otherwise known as the American woodcock. In a field around dusk, listen for his nasal "peent" calls, meant to get the attention of his intended. Watch in the fading light as he spirals upward, perhaps 300 feet, with a whistle of his wing feathers. Then, chirping musically, he zig-zags downward at impressive speed.

***Plants:** April is awash with blooming and emerging plants. Look for fiddleheads – those beautiful, curled stems that will unfurl to become fern fronds. In wet areas, look for clusters of false hellebore whose broad, deeply veined leaves are so much more appealing to me now than later when it blooms. Scan the woods for a delicate splash of white on a small tree or shrub; this may be the shadbush. Its blossoming occurs when American shad are coming upriver to spawn. It is also called serviceberry, as this is when circuit-riding preachers started coming around conducting services for colonists who had died over the winter and now could be buried.

***Mammals:** Some mammal activity can be seen now that the snow is gone, or even when the snow is still lightly covering the ground. By chewing through the grass, meadow voles have built a system of tunnels above ground but under the snow. Little round domes of grass attest to voles' temporary nests. Raised mounds of dirt in your yard or field are made at this time of year by moles as they tunnel around hunting for insects. Moles below the soil, voles above.

May

***Reptiles:** Many species of turtles reproduce over a period of months, but generally, breeding peaks in May. Snapping turtles, Eastern box turtles, and wood turtles are busy at it this month. Because the gestation period for garter snakes is three to four months, mating takes top priority upon emergence from brumation. Male garter snakes sometimes form a "mating ball" around one female, vying to be "the chosen one."

***Birds:** The forest should now be replete with birdsong as many passerines are bonding, nesting, and brooding. Get your birding in early this month if you want to catch a glimpse before trees leaf out. Otherwise, you can bird by ear. A few to listen for are the increasingly insistent "teacher-TEACHER-TEACHER" of an ovenbird, "witchity-witchity-witchity" of the common yellowthroat, and "pee-a-whee" of the Eastern wood peewee. Meanwhile, great horned owlets are now fledging – the adults having laid eggs in February or March.

***Mammals:** Gray squirrels may do some treetop acrobatics to feast on the protein-rich flowers of oaks and maples. Beaver kits and bobcat kittens accompany their parents, while red fox pups wait outside their den for a parent's return.

***Plants:** Wildflowers that I love are blooming in a hurry now, before the canopy shades the forest floor. Look for the gender-changing Jack-in-the-pulpit (or is it a "Jill?"), as well as trillium, toothwort, bishop's cap, Dutchman's britches, and trout lily in early May, if not already blooming in April. Crouch down and look underneath last year's raggedy leaves for Massachusetts' state flower – the Mayflower – and take a sniff of its sweet scent.

June

***Amphibians:** Although the green frog has emerged from winter dormancy as early as March, its peak breeding season is now. Listen for its banjo string-like twang. Watch your step so as not to squash those bright orange red eft's rambling around the woods. This is the juvenile stage of the Eastern newt, who was born in the water and will return to the water as a breeding adult.

***Birds:** June is a busy time for rearing offspring. Cliff and barn swallows, who build their nests out of mud, are now getting down to laying eggs and incubating. Red-shouldered hawks have hatched and are nearly ready to fledge.

***Mammals:** This is black bear mating season. One-and-a-half-year-old cubs have been kicked out by their mother and are trying to make it on their own – a very difficult time for them. Chipmunks are ready to raise their second litter by now. You may see youngsters from the first litter venturing out on their own.

***Plants:** White pine male cones are maturing and releasing airborne pollen now, dusting everything with a yellow coating. If you paddle a boat on a pond, you are likely to see bulbous yellow flowers called spatterdock or bull-head lily on the surface. I've seen beavers snacking on this flower. The sweet-scented water lily also decorates our ponds with its beautiful bright white blossom.

There are so many things to observe in your springtime walks. I invite you to contribute to the phenology database the Club has been keeping for nineteen years now. Write down the first observations of springtime occurrences, such as when daisies begin to bloom, nesting of your neighborhood house wren, or first sighting of hummingbirds. By being keenly aware of the rhythm of nature, we can harmonize with its marvelous dance.

~ Nancy Condon

9th Annual Festival of Flowers at the Quadrangle, Springfield • Thursday to Sunday, April 7 to 10.

Floral design and botanical whimsy return to the Springfield Museums during the 9th annual Festival of Flowers. Thoughtful interpretations will bring new perspectives to the objects and exhibits of the art, history, and science museums. Embrace the vibrant color and captivating fragrance of fresh flowers as we welcome spring in the galleries and on the Quadrangle Green.

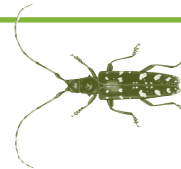
Free with museum admission! For more information, call 413-314-6486 or email programs@springfieldmuseums.org



Current and Potential Invasive Insects in Massachusetts

Wednesday, 20 April, starting at 7 p.m.

Speaker: Eric Reynolds, Massachusetts Certified Arborist
Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum



Asian Longhorned Beetle
(*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

Eric Reynolds, a Massachusetts Certified Arborist with over 40 years of experience in tree care, will offer perspectives on current and potential invasive insects here in Massachusetts. Eric started his career working for private tree care companies. In 2008, he joined the State of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Bureau of Forestry and Fire Control Forest Health Program. As the Central and Western Region Arborist, he oversees hazard tree mitigation in state parks and campgrounds. He also monitors current and potential forest pests and pathogens. When Asian longhorned beetles were discovered in Worcester in 2008, he worked as a Regulatory Compliance Officer, in coordination with the USDA, to minimize their spread. He has also worked as Climbing Supervisor and Program Supervisor with the Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program.

Steepletop Hike, New Marlborough

Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Tom Condon

Registration: Please call Tom to register (413-454-2331)

Meeting Place: Dunkin' Donuts, Rt 202, Southwick.

Steepletop is a 1,200-acre property owned by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council. We will explore the Louise Lane Trail. This 2.2-mile loop meanders through forests of pine, oak, birch, and cherry. Its gentle grade will take us over streams and wetlands and past stone walls and foundations that hint to an active past. We will explore how the forests have changed over time and will look for signs of the changing seasons as spring takes hold in this small mountain community.

Prepare for wet trails with good boots and walking sticks. Bring lunch, binoculars, and dress for the weather. Heavy rain cancels.

www.naturalist-club.org

Naturalists' Club Elections

Naturalists' Club Elections will be held at the May Meeting. Members may contact the Nominating Committee to make any additional nominations.

Nominating Committee

- Colette Potter (413-786-1805)
- Leo Riendeau (413-224-1468)

Candidates:

- President – Dave Gallup
- Vice President – Nancy Condon
- Treasurer – Tom Condon
- Corresponding Secretary – Sue Gallup
- Recording Secretary – Dave Lovejoy
- Directors – Carole Dupont, Jack Megias, Dietrich Schlobohm, Sonya Vickers

Yellow Lady's Slipper
(*Cypripedium parviflorum*)



Spring Walk Along the New England National Scenic Trail, Southwick

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Leader: Carole Dupont

Registration: Please contact Carole (carole0136@gmail.com or call 413-896-0124) for meeting place & time.

An extension of Connecticut's blue-blazed Metacomet Trail, Section 1 of the Metacomet-Monadnock (MM) Trail starts at the state line at Rising Corners in Southwick. This section is easy and scenic. We will look out for plants and flowers peeking through the lifeless leftovers of winter, including skunk cabbage, one of the first delights of the spring treasure chest. We will find short-lived ephemerals thriving in the sun-soaked soil before the trees leaf out. We will also search for Hepatica, wood anemone, spring beauty, bloodroot, and trout lily. Maybe we will even see a mourning cloak or blue azure butterfly. These signs of rebirth and renewal will surely lift our spirits after another Covid winter, invigorating our minds and our bodies for 2022. Bring water, snacks and dress for the weather. Binoculars and poles are also encouraged.

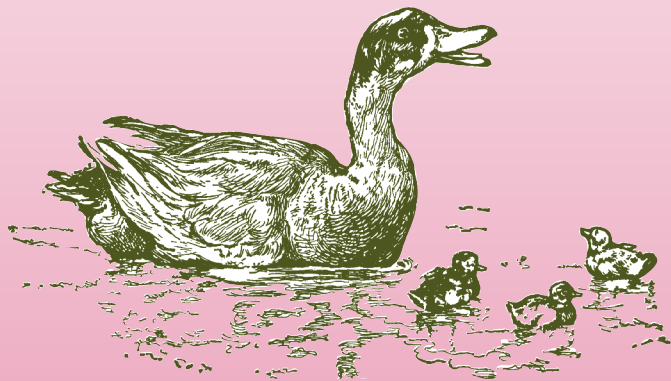
Chapel Brook Falls Hike to the Summit of Pony Mountain, Ashfield

Saturday, April 30, 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 hike the Two Bridges Trail crossing over a beautiful wooden footbridge. We then 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.



It's Not an Olmsted Park! Forest Park, Springfield

Saturday, May 7, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: Parking lot at Picknelly Field, Rt. 5 entrance

Registration: Not required.

Of course, we all make mistakes, but it's nice to be accurate. The Forest Park entry on Wikipedia has the Park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the Park brochure has the Park established in 1873, and the Barney Mausoleum entry notes a 178-acre land donation from Everett Barney in 1884. All of this is wrong. Come along for an easy walk on some roads and trails in the Aquatic Gardens and elsewhere (even in the wet ravines dominated by skunk cabbage if the group wishes), hear about "the real story" regarding Park history, and learn about some plants as well.

Spring Flora

Sunday, 15 May, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: Please call Dave (413-572-5307)

This casual walk will explore several of the habitats in the Sanctuary along the Little River, focusing on wildflowers. Many species will be in full bloom around this time. Both native and naturalized species will be observed with the possibility of seeing about 30 species. A field guide might be helpful to have along, but is certainly not necessary.

Paddle the Quinebaug River, East Brimfield

Sunday, May 15, from 9 a.m. until about 2 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Meeting Place: Job Lot/Big Y shopping center, Route 32, Palmer (Take I-90/MassPike to Palmer, Exit 8. Go left at the traffic light, onto Route 32 North. Take a left at the next traffic light into the shopping center.)

From the meeting spot, we will caravan about a half hour to East Brimfield Lake, off Route 20, near the Brimfield/Sturbridge town line. Parking is abundant. After we put our canoes and kayaks in the lake, a half-mile paddle westward will take us to the Quinebaug River. Paddling south, against the current, we'll pass some farmland, but most of the way we'll be surrounded by thick marshes filled with birdlife. We will have a chance to see turtles, great blue herons, geese, ducks, red fox, deer, turkey, hawks, various songbirds, even bald eagles and otters. Five miles into our trip, we'll find ourselves on Lake Siog (also known as Holland Pond). After a stop for lunch, we will turn around and paddle toward whence we came, going with the flow this time and back to our cars. Total trip distance is about 11 miles. The current is negligible. The water is flat and paddling is generally easy. Novice paddlers are welcome, keeping in mind the distance we'll cover is a good challenge. Bring your boat, life jacket, lunch, drink, camera, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, and sense of adventure.



Native Plants: Why They Matter

Wednesday, May 18, starting at 7 p.m.
 Speaker: Leslie Duthie,
 Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

No matter where you live, native plants are a connection to native wildlife. Everyone enjoys hearing and seeing birds in their yard. That is why we put up feeders. We all want the monarch butterflies to thrive, and oftentimes we plant a milkweed plant. Bees are imperiled, so we add some pollinator plants to our garden. Whether you live in the city, suburbs or country, you can do something for wildlife. Planting native plants is one easy way to help out. Come hear about why it matters what we plant in our gardens, and learn about some showy native plants that will look great in your yard.

Leslie Duthie is an ecological horticulturist with over 40 years of experience growing, planting and loving native plants. A former horticulturist at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Monson, she planted and cared for over 75 acres of gardens and natural areas. After retiring in 2019 and with the advent of the pandemic, she killed her lawn and planted a meadow. Bring your questions and your stories, and let's share our love of nature together.



*Jack-in the Pulpit
 (Arisaema triphyllum)*

Annual Gaywings Exploration Around Hurds Lake at Camp Aya Po, Somers, Connecticut

Saturday, May 21, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 Leader: Carole Dupont
 Registration: Please contact Carole (carole0136@gmail.com or 413-896-0124) for directions and meeting place

Camp Aya-Po is located at the base of Perkins 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 as we hunt for newly emerged spring flowers. We hope to enjoy large patches of fringed milkwort (*Polygala*), also known as gaywings for its brightly colored winged pinkish flowers. Beautiful lady slippers will be another delightful discovery. Bring along water, snacks and dress for the weather. Binoculars and poles are also encouraged. We hope you will join us, following our exploration, for some delicious ice cream at an authentic New England farmstand, The Apple Place.

Twelve Mile Brook Conservation Area, Wilbraham

Sunday May 22, starting at 10 a.m.
 Leader: Sonya Vickers
 Registration: Please contact Sonya (413-218-7742; sonya.vickers@yahoo.com)
 Meeting place: Small parking lot on Crane Hill Road. Take Glendale Rd off Rt 20 in North Wilbraham for about 2.5 miles. Crane Hill Rd. will be a sharp left turn and the parking lot is on the right just a few hundred feet from the intersection.

Join us for a leisurely hike through spring woods sprouting with ferns and wildflowers. The trail, an easy two-mile loop, follows a branch of Twelve Mile Brook and is lined by more than a dozen fern species. We will watch for birds and look at brook inhabitants through a field microscope that Sonya will bring.

Hike at High Ledges, Shelburne Falls

Sunday, May 29, 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, Route 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 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 lunch. Rain cancels.

Birding, Flowers, and Nature in Spring, Somers, Connecticut

Sunday, June 5, starting at 10 a.m.
 Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup
 Registration: Please call to let us know you are coming and for directions (413-525-4697)

Join us for a hike on a trail system maintained by the Northern Connecticut Land Trust. Whitaker Woods is a unique 266-acre property in the center of Somers, Connecticut that is pristinely maintained. The land is characterized by a variety of terrain, with the network of trails taking you past stone walls, over brooks, through stands of mature white pine along with many other species of trees in a young to old-growth forest. You will enjoy the diversity of the landscape! We will also be hiking within the Whitaker Bird Sanctuary! Dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking boots. It is an easy to moderate approximately three-mile loop hike. If you wish, bring a snack or lunch. Rain or bad weather cancels.

Paddling the West River, Brattleboro, Vermont

Sunday, June 12, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please register by phone (413-297-0778) or email (nancy@paddleforwater.net)

Meeting Place: Barnes & Noble parking lot, Holyoke

The West River in southern Vermont is a classic New England paddle. The stretch we'll paddle starts at the Dummerston Covered Bridge. How much more New England can you get? We wind our way down about 11 miles of moving water to the Retreat Meadows Lagoon where the West River meets the Connecticut, just north of Brattleboro. The river switches between quick water and short stretches of class II rock garden whitewater. This is much like the stretch of the Deerfield River from the Bardwell Bridge in Shelburne to the Connecticut River in Turners Falls. Natural Areas along the river, such as the Black Mountain Natural Area, make for a very scenic ride.

The lagoon offers great opportunities for spotting waterfowl at this time of year, so bring your binoculars. We'll lunch on the river but will plan an early dinner at one of the fine restaurants in the Brattleboro area. Life jacket and adeptness at maneuvering your boat are essential.

*One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.
~William Shakespeare*

Nesting Bobolinks Hike at Hilltop Farm, Suffield, Connecticut

Saturday, June 18

Leader: Carole Dupont

Registration: Please contact Carole (carole0136@gmail.com or 413-896-0124) for meeting place and 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. Hendee devoted the farm to raising prize dairy cattle 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 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.

An additional enjoyment will be the viewing of an eagle nest, with mom eagle protecting her babies and dad eagle watching carefully from a nearby tree. We can also explore some very interesting trails through the beautiful wooded grounds and grasslands along the Connecticut River, leading to the abandoned college campus. Bring water, snacks and dress for the weather. Binoculars and poles are also encouraged.

Not so long ago

Meeting Report: The Seymour Planetarium, Old and New

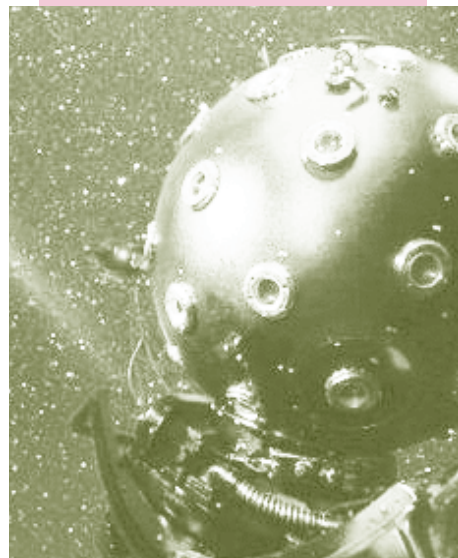
Speaker: Jack Megas

February 16, 2022

Jack Megas, longtime speaker on astronomy, gave a brief history of the Seymour Planetarium, which contains the oldest projector in the world, built more than 80 years ago by brothers John and Frank Korkosz of Chicopee. Jack was introduced by longtime Naturalists' Club president Dave Gallup, another "brother" combination. Jack's passion for the night sky can be traced to a Golden Book he received a couple years ago, at age five; he traced his history in astronomy education back to that book and to his first visit to the recently remodeled planetarium when he was six.

Since Jack reported that 80% of the constellations don't look like anything (his words, not mine), I'll mention only one here. One of the brightest stars in the night sky is Procyon (Greek for "before the dog") which is in the little dog constellation. To a biologist, Procyon is the generic name for the raccoon, apparently so named because it was thought a couple hundred years ago (a long time in biology, but of little significance in astronomy) to be related to the carnivore ancestor leading to dogs. As a final statistic, Jack reported that there may be 400 billion stars in a galaxy, which he called an "astronomical number"; I presume the pun was intentional. Twenty-one people were in attendance.

~ Summary by Dave Lovejoy



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

ONLINE EVENTS THROUGH LAUGHING BROOK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Beneficial Bats, *Online*

Three sessions, starting Friday, April 22, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Leader: Erin Ruggiano, Educator and Bat Researcher

Registration: Please visit massaudubon.org; Event fee: \$60 for MassAudubon members, \$72 for non-members

Discover the amazing world of bats, their incredible acoustic adaptations, and the conservation challenges that threaten their populations. Bats have adaptations like suction cup thumbs, echolocation, and huge eyes for capturing available light, making them fascinating creatures to learn about. In addition, they're extremely beneficial to our society through insect population control and medical research contribution. You'll learn more about echolocation, bat communication, and the social structures of bat colonies. Discover the life history and biology of bats, what's truth and what's myth, and relevant conservation challenges.



Spotted Salamander
(*Ambystoma maculatum*)

The Wonder of Spring: Amphibian Migration, *Online*

Tuesday, April 26, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Leaders: Patti Steinman, Education Coordinator, and Lucy Gertz, Statewide Adult Education Manager

Registration: Please visit massaudubon.org; Event fee: \$15 for MassAudubon members, \$20 for non-members

Crawling or hopping from their winter burrows, early spring migrating frogs and salamanders often arrive when their woodland pool breeding habitats are still covered by snow and ice. As spring warms up, less cold-tolerant amphibians will also migrate. By mid-spring the forests and ponds are filled with the nightly springtime chorus of mating frogs and amazing congresses of mating salamanders. Learn about the amphibians that migrate between their seasonal habitats and how they do it. We'll also introduce conservation efforts that are protecting these species and how you can help.

Book review

Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest, by *Suzanne Simard*

Working to solve the mysteries of what made the forest tick, and how they are linked to the earth and fire and water, made me a scientist. I watched the forest, and I listened. I followed where my curiosity led me, I listened to the stories of my family and people, and I learned from the scholars. Step-by-step – puzzle-by-puzzle – I poured everything I had into becoming a sleuth of what it takes to heal the natural world.

Suzanne Simard and her coworkers, colleagues, scientists, family members, friends, and students have conducted hundreds of experiments to assess theories of forest ecology. Through these investigations, Suzanne, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia, discovered how trees communicate and form relations to create a forest society. She has planted thousands of seedlings under varying conditions. Her book describes, in a very special way, the struggles and difficulties she and her team encountered in attempting to validate their work and communicate with a resistant forestry community. Her own family story is very poignantly interwoven into her academic and scientific pursuits.

Suzanne describes the various types of fungal mycorrhizae that form symbiotic connections with the root hairs of all trees and forest plants. The fungal mycelium constitutes thousands of miles of the interconnected underground system, the microscopic hyphae, the wiring that conveys messages and communications throughout the forest and the channels for transferring nutrients like carbon, nitrogen, sugar and water. Mother Trees are the majestic hubs, the sources of forest communication, protection and sentience. And as Mother Trees die, they pass their wisdom down to their offspring.

This book offers a wonderful history of the evolution of philosophies in forestry. One of the earliest of these is the notion that trees are competitive with one another and that weaker, less economically important, species should be removed, informing the practice of clearcutting. Complexity science, which acknowledges the multifarious interactions that make up the forest, is transforming forestry practices into what is adaptive and holistic.

You can learn more about the Mother Tree Project at <http://mothertreeproject.org> and you can become part of a citizen-science initiative, a movement to save the forests of the world. This is a very well written, informative and enjoyable read for every naturalist and just anyone who loves trees or is looking for a great book!!

~ Review by Carole Dupont

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.
~Ralph Waldo Emerson



FROM THE TREASURER

Those with a date of "21-22" (or later) on your newsletter mailing label have paid for this year. Otherwise, your dues are owed for the year that started in September 2021. You may renew by sending a check (payable to The Naturalists' Club), to

Tom Condon,
80 General Knox Road,
Russell, MA 01071

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 Tom Condon, who maintains our mailing list. And please let Tom 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

A Reminder

To receive electronic updates, please send us your email address

If you'd like to receive electronic notice of late-breaking trip announcements, or to switch from a paper to electronic Newsletter subscription, please be sure to share your email address with Tom Condon (*science@condon.net*).

Renew your membership

Name

Address

Phone Number

Email

Requests for programs/trips

Would you like to receive the electronic newsletter instead of a paper copy?

Please send information per the above to: Club Treasurer, Tom Condon, 80 General Knox Road, Russell, MA 01071

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
David Gallup
(413-525-4697)
davesuzy5@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Nancy Condon
(413-297-0778)
nancy@paddleforwater.net

TREASURER
Tom Condon
(413-454-2331)
science@condon.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Suzanne Gallup
(413-525-4697)
davesuzy5@hotmail.com

RECORDING SECRETARY
Dave Lovejoy
(413-572-5307)
dlovejoy@westfield.ma.edu

DIRECTORS
Sonya Vickers
(413-218-7742)
sonya.vickers@yahoo.com

Carole Dupont
(413-896-0124)
carole0136@gmail.com

Jack Megas
(413-782-3962)

Dietrich Schlobohm
(413-788-4125)

VOLUNTEERS

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Diane Genereux
(413-388-2830)
natchclubnewsletter@gmail.com

LAYOUT & GRAPHICS
Loren Hoffman
(413-569-5689)
lkhgrdes@gmail.com

PROOFREADERS
Nancy Condon
Dave Gallup
Suzy Gallup
Dave Lovejoy
Debbie Leonard Lovejoy