



# The NATURALISTS' CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts

### January to March **CALENDAR of EVENTS**

#### January

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Sunday    | 12 | <b>Sofinowski Preserve Hike or Snowshoe, Southwick</b>         |
| Wednesday | 15 | <b>JANUARY MEETING: Greening the Gateway Cities</b>            |
| Saturday  | 18 | <b>Beartown State Forest, Monterey</b>                         |
| Saturday  | 25 | <b>Winter Walk on a Paved Path at Ludlow Reservoir, Ludlow</b> |

#### February

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Saturday  | 1  | <b>Parade of Planets Star Party, Russell</b>                   |
| Saturday  | 8  | <b>Cold Winter Draw Day at Lyman Conservatory, Northampton</b> |
| Sunday    | 16 | <b>Winter Animal Tracking, Quabbin Reservoir, Belchertown</b>  |
| Wednesday | 19 | <b>FEBRUARY MEETING: Living Worlds</b>                         |
| Saturday  | 22 | <b>Chicopee Memorial State Park, Chicopee</b>                  |

*Winter is a season unto itself.  
~ Haruki Murakami*

#### March

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Sunday    | 2  | <b>Birds, Blooms, and Lava on Goat Peak, Holyoke</b>                       |
| Sunday    | 9  | <b>How Sweet It Is! Sugaring Time at Maple Corner Farm, West Granville</b> |
| Saturday  | 15 | <b>Red Bridge Trail, Ludlow</b>  |
| Wednesday | 19 | <b>MARCH MEETING: Fisheries and Aquatic Connectivity in New England</b>    |
| Saturday  | 22 | <b>Robinson State Park, Agawam</b>   |
| Saturday  | 29 | <b>Sanderson Brook Falls Hike, Chester</b>                                 |



# NATURALIST'S CORNER

## *A Winter Parade of Planets*

Did you get a chance to see the total solar eclipse back in April? Well, there is another special astronomical treat coming to us this winter: a planetary parade. Ok, that's not a real science term, but if you're lucky and the weather cooperates, you will be able to see all eight planets—remember, Pluto is not a planet anymore—starting in late January and running through most of February.

During this month-long event, the planets will line up across the night sky. As the sun sets, you'll see Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, Jupiter, and Mars in a straight line from the west to east. Why are they lined up? Because all the planets are on the same plane, an imaginary line called the ecliptic. To explain why this is, we'll need to go back in time and explore how we have understood the universe and our solar system.

We start our journey through time with the Greek philosopher Aristotle. About 350 B.C.E., Aristotle realizes that the sun was our nearby star, with other stars fixed in a celestial sphere very, very distant from Earth. Aristotle tries to explain how the wandering stars, which we today call planets, relate to Earth, sun, and these distant stars. Egyptians and other Greeks had placed the sun at the center of the universe. To make sense of what he saw, Aristotle instead places Earth at the center. Since the universe was created by the gods, everything would be perfect and unchanging (except for Earth), so all planets, moons, and the sun would move in perfect circles and themselves be perfect circles, creating a line across the sky.

Four hundred years later Ptolemy, a Greek living in Alexandria, Egypt, creates a system to explain the motion of the planets based on Aristotle's ideas. I often criticize Aristotle and Ptolemy in my classroom for their geocentric solar system. But how Ptolemy tries to match real-world observations with his Earth-centered model is what makes astronomy a true science. If Mercury and Venus are orbiting Earth, why are they always so close to the sun? When our models don't match what we observe, we need to adjust our models. Ptolemy does exactly this. He tries to explain the orbits of Mercury and Venus as circles within circles, called *epicycles*. But this doesn't quite work.

In the 1500s a Dane named Tycho Brahe makes even more detailed observations. Every night, Brahe goes out to observe the night sky. Using a sextant, a cross-staff and, I imagine, very good eyesight, Brahe records the location of every possible astronomical object. He realizes that Ptolemy's model is outdated. Its predictions of planetary positions are off by more than a month. Another model made by the Polish astronomer Copernicus is better but still off by two days, so Brahe updates these models. His revised model has all the planets orbiting the sun but the sun and moon orbiting the Earth. It solves some of the problems but saddles us with others.

In 1687 Sir Issac Newton publishes his theories of motion and gravity. Inspired by the works of Galileo and Johannes Kepler, Newton proposes a mechanism for why objects move in the universe. Scientists seize on this new understanding and begin applying it to explain observations in the solar system. Perhaps the most famous such deduction was by Newton's friend Sir Edmund Halley, who used the law of gravity to predict the return of the comet that today bears his name.

Now with a mechanism to explain the motion of planets, scientists can theorize how they formed. Around the time of the American Revolution, Immanuel Kant proposes the idea that the planets formed when a nebula of dust and gas was pushed into motion by a passing star: The gravity from the star made the nebula swirl like a whirlpool. At the center of the whirlpool the sun formed. Planets were the result of gravitational collisions building up mass and causing eddies in the whirlpool. As the nebula spun faster and faster, only those planets along the central plane of the sun's gravity were able to stay in orbit.

Perhaps our solar system previously contained more planets. Some may have been thrown across the resulting planetary plane, i.e., the ecliptic, causing collisions with the planets we know today. This could explain why Venus spins backwards or why Uranus is lying on its side. Many scientists suggest our moon resulted from a collision between a Mars-sized planet and our own. But that's another story for another day. So, the planets are all lined up on the ecliptic because a cloud of dust and gas was moved into motion some 5 billion years ago.

Today scientists don't think it was a passing star that set the nebula into motion. Perhaps it was instead the result of a nearby supernova. You see, our theories still have some problems, but it is the need to resolve these problems that helps us better understand how our universe works. If you would like to find out more and get a chance to see some of these planets through a telescope, join our Star Party on Saturday, February 1st (rain/cloudy date: Sunday, February 2nd) at Nobleview Outdoor Center in Russell. See the announcement on page 3 of this newsletter.

~Tom Condon

**Sofinowski Preserve Hike or Snowshoe, Southwick**

Sunday, January 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 Leaders: Nancy & Tom Condon  
 Registration: Please contact Tom (413-454-2331; or science@condon.net)  
 Meeting Place: Sofinowski Preserve, 155 Mort Vining Road

Escape into the serene beauty of winter at the Sofinowski Preserve with a guided snowshoe hike through pristine, snow-covered trails. Experience the quiet stillness of the woods as we trek through snow-covered trees and sparkling fields, surrounded by the crisp air and the soft crunch of snow beneath our feet. Whether you are an experienced snowshoer or just a beginner, this easy-to-moderate hike offers stunning winter views, wildlife sightings, and the chance to connect with nature in a peaceful, pristine setting. Perfect for all ages, this outdoor adventure is the ideal way to embrace the season and enjoy the natural beauty of the preserve. Bundle up, lace up your snowshoes (we have plenty if you need to borrow a pair), and join us for an unforgettable winter experience! Bring along a snack or lunch and some water.



*When one plants a tree, they plant themselves. Every root is an anchor, over which one rests with grateful interest, and becomes sufficiently calm to feel the joy of living. He necessarily makes the acquaintance of the sun and sky.*  
 ~ John Muir



**JANUARY MEETING: Greening the Gateway Cities**

Wednesday, January 15, starting at 7 p.m.  
 Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum  
 Presenters: Sarah Greenleaf and Samantha Eanes

Greening the Gateway Cities is a tree-planting initiative to increase urban tree canopy in Environmental Justice neighborhoods throughout Massachusetts. The program plants trees on public and private properties at no cost to recipients, with the goal of providing shade, beauty, wildlife habitat and cooler temperatures in urban centers and surrounding neighborhoods.

About the speakers: Sarah Greenleaf is a Massachusetts native and has been working as an Urban Forester with the Greening the Gateway Cities Program for the last 7 years. Sarah earned a Masters of Science in Urban Forestry at Oregon State University. She was thrilled to return to her home state to be part of a tree planting initiative that specifically works towards Urban Forest Equity and Environmental Justice.

Passionate about blending nature with cityscapes, Samantha Eanes is an Urban Forester dedicated to greening urban environments. With field experience in New York City, Detroit, and Massachusetts, she works closely with municipalities to expand canopy cover and bring communities closer to nature, one tree at a time.

**Beartown State Forest, Monterey**

Saturday, January 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 Leader: Dori Dittmer  
 Registration: Please contact Dori (917-346-0969; or dordittmer@gmail.com)  
 Meeting place: Parking lot at Benedict Pond Loop Trail, 69 Blue Hill Rd., or carpool with Dori from the parking lot of Stop & Shop on Route 5 in West Springfield

This 12,000-acre forest features hiking trails along brooks and beaver ponds. We will begin with the 1.5-mile Benedict Pond Loop Trail and take it from there. We will look for animals that are out in winter. If there is snow, we can look for tracks as well. Wear sturdy hiking boots, dress for the weather and bring hiking poles, insect repellent (ticks stay around all winter), binoculars, camera, water, and snack/lunch.

**Winter Walk on a Paved Path at Ludlow Reservoir,**

*Ludlow*  
 Saturday, January 25, starting at 10 a.m.  
 Leader: Sonya Vickers  
 Registration: Please contact Sonya (413-218-7742)  
 Meeting place: Parking lot of the Big Y on Route 21 in Ludlow, near Berkshire Bank

Even when winter's snow covers other local trails, the forested path around Ludlow Reservoir remains clear—it's even plowed! There are often birds on the water, and spectacular views of the forest resting during winter. The path totals just over 3 miles long. We will walk out and back, turning around when the group decides. Sometimes the area is windy, so be prepared with warm clothing. There is little elevation change on this smooth path, so we will have a nice opportunity to walk while looking up and ahead rather than at our feet. Since parking lot space is limited, we will meet at the parking lot of Big Y in Ludlow on Route 21, on the far end by Berkshire Bank. Please be sure to register so I can call you back if we need to cancel due to a winter storm.

## Parade of Planets Star Party, *Russell*

Saturday, February 1, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Rain/Cloudy date: Sunday, February 2

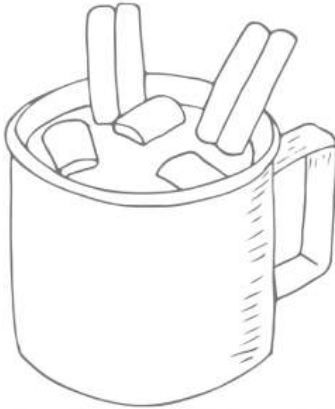
Leaders: Nancy & Tom Condon

Registration: Please contact Tom (413-454-2331; or science@condon.net)

Meeting Place: Nobleview Outdoor Center, South Quarter Road

Bundle up and hope for a clear night. Come on up to Nobleview Outdoor Center to get a chance to see all eight of our solar system's planets. February offers us the unique opportunity to view a parade of planets across our winter sky. Lining up from west to east will be Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, Jupiter, and Mars. I know that's only seven, but look at your feet and you'll see the eighth—Earth.

We will have a few telescopes to start our evening by observing the bright planets Saturn and Venus. We will also search the sky for our more distant planets of Neptune and Uranus. As the evening progresses and some planets set in the west, we will turn our attention to Jupiter and Mars. We'll have one of the buildings open and a pot of hot cocoa. Even so, be sure to bundle up!



## Cold Winter Draw Day at Lyman Conservatory, *Northampton*

Northampton

Saturday, February 8, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Please contact Dori Dittmer (917-346-0969; or dordittmer@gmail.com)

Meeting place: Lobby of Lyman Plant House Conservatory at Smith College.

In the dead of the cold, dark winter we will take refuge in the 12 warm and lush greenhouses of Smith College. We can discover intricate details as we choose a single plant to draw meticulously, or make a joyfully colorful abstract of a group of plants, a whole room—or something in between. You're also welcome to just explore the greenhouses and gardens as you wish. I will have art materials available and can help with techniques, or feel free to bring your own. Bring water and snack/lunch, dress in layers to accommodate the climate of your chosen space. Suggested donation \$2.

## Winter Animal Tracking, Quabbin Reservoir, *Belchertown*

Belchertown

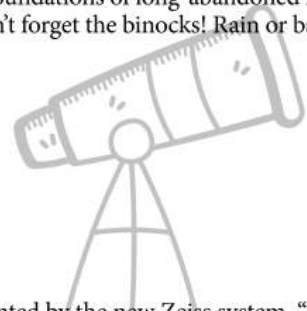
Sunday, February 16, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup

Registration: Please call if you plan to attend (413-525-4697)

Meeting Place: CVS Plaza, near the junction of Routes 9 and 202.

Join us for a snowshoe—or a hike if there is no snow—in the Quabbin Park area. Dave has extra pairs of snow shoes, so let us know if you need a pair. We will explore an upland hardwood forest. If there is snow, we may see tracks of deer, coyote, ruffed grouse, weasel, fisher and many species of animals and birds. Learn how these creatures survive in a cold, snow-covered landscape. We will see stone walls and foundations of long-abandoned farms. Dress for the conditions. Don't forget the binocks! Rain or bad weather cancels.



## Living Worlds

Wednesday, February 19, starting at 7 p.m.

Planetarium, Springfield Science Museum

Presenter: Dave Gallup

At this meeting, we will head to the Planetarium in the Science Building to enjoy a program presented by the new Zeiss system. "Living Worlds" will take you on a revealing exploration of the way life has transformed Earth's surface and atmosphere over billions of years, inviting you to journey through the cosmos in search of life in our solar system and beyond.

## Chicopee Memorial State Park, *Chicopee*

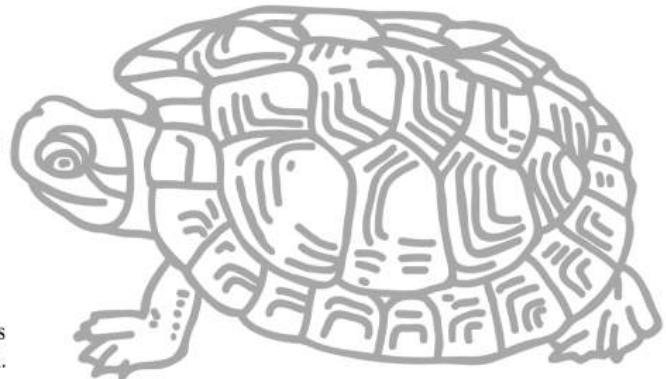
Saturday February 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Dori Dittmer

Registration: Please contact Dori (917-346-0969; or dordittmer@gmail.com)

Meeting place: Main parking lot of Chicopee Memorial State Park, Burnett Road

This easy 2.4-mile hike around a 25-acre pond leads through woods and a meadow along the Cooley Brook and Westover Air Force Base. The park was developed from the Cooley Brook Reservoir and Watershed and is now a popular recreation area. Dress for the weather and bring hiking poles, insect repellent (ticks stay around all winter), binoculars, camera, water and snack/lunch.



**Birds, Blooms, and Lava on Goat Peak, Holyoke**

Sunday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leaders: Nancy & Tom Condon

Registration: Please contact Tom (413 454-2331; or science@condon.net)

Meeting Place: Stone Nature Center, Mount Tom State Reservation, Reservation Road.

Atop Goat Peak sits an observation tower with some of the most spectacular views of the Mount Tom Range, the Connecticut River, and the entire Pioneer Valley. It is one of the gems of the Valley.

Mount Tom is the remains of an ancient lava flow, so as we walk along the closed Chris Clark Road, we'll stop and discuss the geology of the Pioneer Valley and Western Massachusetts. Because of its height and east/west orientation, it is also a hot spot for migrating birds, so bring along your binoculars.

This is a gentle, uphill walk mostly along a closed road. The total distance will be between 1.5 and 2 miles. Bring a snack or lunch and plenty of water.

**How Sweet It Is! Sugaring Time at Maple Corner Farm, West Granville**

Sunday, March 9, starting at 11 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup.

Registration: Please call if you plan to come (413-525-4697)

Meeting Place: Commuter parking lot, Westfield State University

It is once again the time of the year when we visit Maple Corner Farm. This visit has become a Naturalists' Club tradition! The Ripley Farm has been in the family for over one hundred years. Enjoy breakfast or brunch with maple syrup from the Farm's forest. After eating, we will learn about the process and history of maple syrup production. Then, conditions permitting, we will hike to the maple sugarbush (about one-mile round trip) to see how the sap is harvested. For ages 8 and up. Bad weather cancels.

**Red Bridge Trail, Ludlow**

Saturday, March 15, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Carole Dupont

Registration: For meeting place and time, please contact Carole (413-896-0124; or Carole0136@gmail.com)

Hiking at a leisurely pace along the Ludlow Reservoir and Chicopee River, we will look for early signs of spring ephemerals poking their first shoots through the frozen ground, as well as returning shorebirds. Plus, we will have an interesting view as we listen to the roaring river approaching the falls. This is a flat, easy 2.3 mile, and we will fine-tune the distance according to the needs of the group.

Weather permitting, we may decide to enjoy one of Randall's Farm's delicious deli sandwiches outdoors following the hike. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, hiking poles and boots, as well as weather-appropriate attire for a fun visit.

*A river is more than an amenity, it is a treasure.*

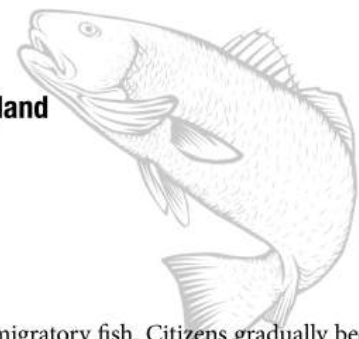
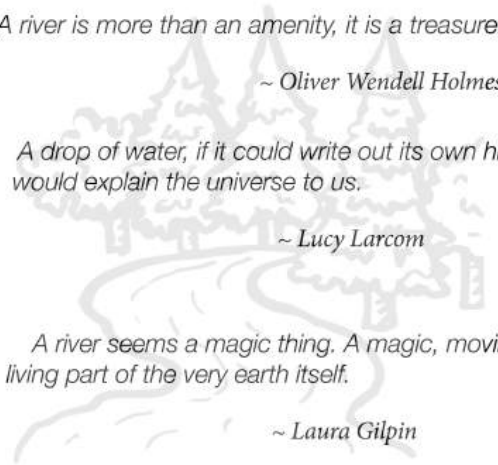
~ Oliver Wendell Holmes

*A drop of water, if it could write out its own history, would explain the universe to us.*

~ Lucy Larcom

*A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.*

~ Laura Gilpin



**Fisheries and Aquatic Connectivity in New England**

Wednesday, March 19, starting at 7 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Presenter: Stephen Mattocks

Wednesday, March 19, starting at 7 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Spring Science Museum

For more than 400 years, dams have impacted aquatic species in New England—especially migratory fish. Citizens gradually became aware of the impacts dams have on species, most notably the Atlantic Salmon, sparking the creation of Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife), which began as the State Fisheries Commission in 1866. Today, major dams remain, but there is a nationwide movement to restore waterways through dam removal and aquatic habitat restoration. This presentation will discuss migratory fishes and their habitats, offer a brief history of New England waterway use, and describe current research and monitoring conducted by MassWildlife on restoration of migratory species, including American shad.

About the speaker: Steven Mattocks is a Fisheries Biologist at MassWildlife, where he has been for eight years. He has worked in the fisheries field on Kodiak Island, Alaska, the Outer Banks of North Carolina, the Cherokee Mountains of Tennessee, and the mountains and plains of northern Colorado. He received his Master of Science degree at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he studied historical river herring populations.

### **Robinson State Park, Holyoke**

Saturday March 22, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers

Registration: Please call Sonya (413-218-7742)

Meeting Place: The park is located at 428 North Street, Feeding Hills. We will meet inside the park on the right side of the road, by the pond.

Robinson State Park is one of our local great hiking places, with many trails through the forest and a road that is closed to traffic. During the spring and summer there is an entrance charge, but in March admission is free. This park is mostly on the south bank of the Westfield River, just a few miles before it enters the Connecticut River. The Westfield River drains about 500 square miles of Massachusetts. The river used to be so polluted that it would change color depending on what factory was dumping chemicals into it. Today, it is clean enough to swim in and hosts Westfield River Whitewater Races, the oldest continuously run whitewater race in the United States.

### **Sanderson Brook Falls, Chester**

Saturday, March 29, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Dori Dittmer

Registration: Please contact Dori (917-346-0969; or dordittmer@gmail.com)

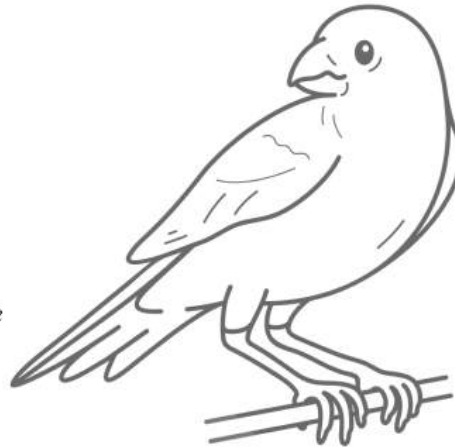
Meeting Place: We will carpool from the parking at Stop & Shop in Westfield.

In the Chester-Blandford State Forest, we will hike part or all of the 4.4-mile loop trail. We travel through a beautiful forest to reach the 60-foot Falls. The Falls plunges down over schist formations and into a beautiful pool before dropping further in several cascades. This time of year should be filling the falls with snow melt. We will have stunning views along the way, and the trail is steep in some places.

Conditions can be slippery; if ice seems likely, be sure to bring poles and cleats. This hike might not be advisable for those with knee issues. I will stay on top of the trail conditions to provide updates for registrants. Wear sturdy hiking boots, dress for the weather, and bring hiking poles, insect repellent (ticks stay around all winter), binoculars, camera, water, and snack/lunch.

*Sound the flute!  
Now it's mute!  
Bird's delight,  
Day and night,  
Nightingale,  
In the dale,  
Lark in sky—  
Merrily,  
Merrily merrily, to welcome in the year.*

~William Blake



### **Events Sponsored by MassAudubon**

Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary is at 789 Main Street, Hampden. For information on pricing and registration, please visit [massaudubon.org](http://massaudubon.org)

#### **Tracking Animal Signs at Laughing Brook**

Saturdays, January 18 and February 15, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Take a family hike while looking for tracks and signs of wildlife. This program is suitable for both adults and children 5 and up. Cost: \$6 for MassAudubon members; \$8 for nonmembers.

#### **Vernal Pools at Laughing Brook**

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

Leader: Kevin Kopchynski

Vernal pools are unique and critical habitats that are breeding grounds for many state-listed amphibian species. March and April are the best, and often only, times to see animals such as spotted salamanders and wood frogs. Join us to explore a vernal pool, looking for egg masses, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates.

### **Spring Flower Shows**

Please check online for details and updates.

#### **The Amherst Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale, Northampton**

Typically, the third weekend in February.

<https://www.amherstorchidsociety.org>

#### **Mount Holyoke Annual Spring Flower Show, South Hadley**

Typically starts the first Saturday of March.

[https://www.mtholyoke.edu/botanic/flower\\_show](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/botanic/flower_show)

#### **Smith College Bulb and Show, Northampton**

Typically, the first two weeks in March.

<https://garden.smith.edu/plants/lyman-conservatory/seasonal-shows/future-show-dates>

# Meeting Recaps

## September Naturalists' Club meeting: Meteorologist Brian Lapis

The speaker for the first meeting of our new season was the well-known Channel 22 evening meteorologist Brian Lapis, who focused his remarks on climate change, especially as occurring in western Massachusetts. It seemed that most of the 27 Club members and guests in attendance did not need to be convinced of the message in Brian's first slide, which was that climate change is certainly real and that change is occurring rapidly. Points made included the fact that our region is receiving not only more rain than in the recent past but also more rain per hour than previously. Another noted effect was the likely influence of warmer winters on disease transmission by insects and ticks; this results from larger populations of these arthropods, which experience lower mortality with our milder winter temperatures. Of particular interest to birders in the group was the demonstration of the Audubon Birds and Climate Visualizer, which details the threats faced by individual species. During the question and answer period, Nancy Condon mentioned the many years of Club's phenology records, which Brian reiterated on the air the next day on Channel 22's coverage of the event.

## December Naturalists' Club meeting: Holiday Meeting

For many years, a constant at this meeting has been Nancy Condon hosting and Kevin Kopchynski as the last presenter showing beautiful images. No exception this year. Nancy and Kevin did a fine job as usual, and it was especially enjoyable to see Kevin back from "medical leave".

In addition to Kevin's, there were five presentations, initiated by Tom Condon's "Winter in New Mexico", featuring Bosque del Apache and other regional refuges known for seasonal gatherings of sandhill cranes as well as snow geese and many other bird species.

Next we "went on safari" with Chris Mangano, who showed us Moremi Game Preserve in Botswana and a site in northern South Africa, Madikwe Game Reserve. Madikwe is certainly not as well known as Kruger National Park but still offers the opportunity to view a great variety of African species, including the "big five".

Sonya Vickers introduced us to two of this country's newest national parks. These are New River Gorge, established in 2020 in West Virginia, in a former coal mining area and the even more recent Congaree National Park in South Carolina. When Sonya mentioned that the most abundant tree in the United States is loblolly pine, I think many of us expected to see it featured at Congaree. Not so. The pine likes dry soil, and we saw that Congaree is distinctly wet.

Dori Dittmer took us west to California's famous Route 395. This highway is not as famous as the state's Pacific Coast Highway, but it is seemingly no less picturesque. One feature was the tufa towers in Mono Lake, a body of water much saltier than the ocean and home to huge numbers of brine shrimp and alkali flies—plus the migratory birds that dine on them.

John Root introduced a new word to many of us, that being *pareidolia*. Although the word may be unfamiliar, the concept it represents is not. Most people have seen a pattern or image where none really exists, such as the internet example of seeing the face of Jesus in a tortilla! John used ice patterns along streams as his examples. He then changed seasons, showing images of insects and flowers in his pollinator garden, reminding those of us who don't appreciate winter that hope is on the horizon, even though it may be months away.

In addition to Kevin's fine photography, which concluded the program, it was pleasant to hear him quote Thoreau: *I travel widely close to home.*

~Recaps by Dave Lovejoy



### February Twilight

I stood beside a hill  
Smooth with new-laid snow,  
A single star looked out  
From the cold evening glow.

There was no other creature  
That saw what I could see—  
I stood and watched the evening star  
As long as it watched me.

~Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

# The **NATURALISTS' CLUB**

## FROM THE TREASURER

Those with a mailing label indicating "24-25" or later: You are paid for this year.

Those with a mailing label indicating "23-24" or earlier: This is the last paper newsletter you will receive unless you renew your membership.

Those who currently receive a paper newsletter: Please consider switching from paper to electronic—it's an excellent way to save Club resources and conserve paper.

New memberships, changes to electronic newsletter, and inquiries should be directed to Tom Condon, who maintains our mailing list.

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



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



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.

2025 JANUARY to MARCH

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