



The

NATURALISTS' CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts

April to June ~ CALENDAR of EVENTS

APRIL

- 6 Sunday **Hike to a Vernal Pool, Russell**
 12 Saturday **Glendale Falls, Middlefield**
 16 Wednesday **APRIL MEETING: Bringing the Rights of Nature to Western Mass**
 26 Saturday **Nature in Spring Hike, Somers, Connecticut**
 27 Sunday **Minnechaug Mountain, Hampden**

MAY

- 3 Saturday **Searching for Gaywings and Lady Slippers, Somers, Connecticut**
 11 Sunday **Mother's Day at the Fishway, Holyoke**
 17 Saturday **Paddling Quaboag Pond and East Brookfield River, East Brookfield**
 18 Sunday **Chapel Brook Falls Hike to the Summit of Pony Mountain, Ashfield**
 21 Wednesday **MAY MEETING: Kestrel Land Trust's Nature Retreats**
 24 Saturday **Bear's Den, New Salem**
 31 Saturday **Bray Lake, Mt Tom Reservation, Holyoke**

JUNE

- 1 Sunday **High Ledges, Shelburne Falls**
 21 Saturday **Mineral Hills Conservation Area, Northampton,**
 22 Sunday **What's blooming, What's growing, Westfield**
 29 Sunday **Paddling the Quinebaug River Water Trail, Thompson, Connecticut**





NATURALIST'S CORNER

No Mow May



As you stroll along any suburban street, you're likely to see rows of lawns neatly manicured by homeowners or professional landscapers. They are trimmed to perfection and maintained with the help of conscientiously applied weed killer. Beneath this picture-perfect aesthetic lies a concerning reality: The alarming decline in flower-rich meadows since the 1930s has contributed to a dramatic loss of habitat for pollinators.

The traditional closely cropped lawn is a relic of the Victorian past, an outdated notion that is not aligned with the urgent need to support biodiversity. Pollinators—including bees, wasps, butterflies, moths and birds—have seen massive population declines in recent decades. Studies show a 95% decline in monarch butterflies since 1950, driven by climate change, habitat destruction, and reduced abundance of milkweed, and exacerbated by pesticide use. A nearly 50% drop in native bee populations has also occurred over this interval. No Mow May is one small way that homeowners can take action to reverse these trends.

What No Mow May Is

The No Mow May campaign began in 2019 in the United Kingdom, led by citizen scientists collaborating with Plantlife, a conservation group. It has since spread to countries around the world, including the U.S., where it has been embraced by many cities, communities, and homeowners. The movement encourages homeowners, who can register their properties, to abstain from mowing their lawns during May. Wildflowers and grasses serve as crucial food sources and shelter for pollinators in the early part of the growing season, when resources are scarce. Left unmowed, grasses grow tall, providing essential breeding spaces for insects, and flowers can set seed, fostering a richer ecosystem for birds and small mammals. Dandelions, often portrayed as undesirable weeds, are the first flowers to emerge and provide the first food for bees. The petals and leaves are also edible for humans, as are several other common “weeds,” such as clover and plantain.

What No Mow May Is Not

The point isn't to skip lawn mowing for a month so you can go fishing or take a nap. Delaying the first mow of a yard that is home to just one species of grass isn't the point, either. As one expert put it: “If your yard is the perfect expanse of uninterrupted grass, then it doesn't matter if you mow in May or not.” The key is to promote a diverse set of native plants that provide pollen and nectar for pollinators.

The Movement Gains Momentum

One of the movement's most famous supporters is Sir David Attenborough, the beloved 98-year-old British biologist and natural historian known for his PlanetEarth series, among many other broadcasts. Sir Attenborough has urged people to delay mowing until mid-July, citing the importance of allowing native plants and insects to thrive. In a recent interview, he remarked: “If it wasn't for the natural world, the atmosphere would be depleted of oxygen tomorrow and we would suffocate. But with nature-friendly farming, meadows can be restored to provide a haven for wildlife. It's all about the timing. Delaying mowing until mid-July allows birds and insects to complete their breeding and flowers to set their seed.”

The Importance of Pollinators

Pollinators are essential for the health and abundance of ecosystems and agriculture. Three-quarters of the world's flowering plants depend on them, as do one-third of the species we use as food. In New England, pollinator-dependent agricultural species include apples, plums, pears, asparagus, beans, onions, pumpkins, sunflowers, and berries of all kinds. Though onions can self-pollinate, they are stronger and grow more abundantly when cross-pollinated by insects. Among the world's pollinators are 3500 species of bees (honeybees, 20 varieties of bumblebees, and solitary bees), beetles, butterflies and moths, wasps (important despite their bad reputation), flies. Also relevant is the work of the birds, small mammals, and bats that disperse seeds and support soil health. Unfortunately, habitat loss, disease, pesticide use, and climate change continue to diminish populations of all of these creatures. There are simply not enough plants to support them.

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Who Is Participating?

Across the U.S., No Mow May has gained traction in many towns, particularly in the Northeast. Several communities in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut have embraced it, with initiatives like the Simsbury Connecticut Pollinator Pathway encouraging homeowners to participate. Roseville, Minnesota engages in “Less Mow May” or “Slow-Mow Summer”, encouraging homeowners to maintain lawn height of at least 3 1/2 inches, limiting demand for water and for lawnmower fuel, thus reducing noise and air pollution.

Why Participate in No Mow May?

The reasons for participating in No Mow May are many. Most importantly, the movement supports pollinators by providing essential food and a safe habitat. It preserves biodiversity and encourages a healthier ecosystem. In turn, meadows rich with insects attract returning migratory songbirds. No Mow May also has the added benefit of reducing lawn maintenance, saving property owners’ time, energy and money. Lastly, it brings beauty to the neighborhood as native flowers and grasses create a natural, vibrant landscape.

The Challenges of No Mow May

Though No Mow May is gaining popularity, not everyone is on board. Several reasons for not participating are worth considering. Harmful plants, insects and other pests can find refuge alongside helpful pollinators. Mold, mildew, and fungus may also become established in areas shaded by tall grasses and shrubs. Then there’s the risk of killing pollinators at the first mow (a reason to extend No Mow into July). Neighbors, passersby, children and pets may be stung by bees—an especially important consideration, given that dangerous allergies to bee stings are becoming more common. Neighbors’ lawn chemicals can easily be brought to your yard by wind or water, harming not only pollinators but you, your children and your pets (Roundup, anyone?). Neighbors may complain that you are too lazy to keep your lawn neat, or complain about the ugly overgrown or messy yard and report your lawn to authorities.

Addressing Legal and Social Barriers

No Mow May raises some legal considerations, so check your local ordinances before you participate. In Springfield, for example, lawns may be no higher than six inches, and the City of Rochester, New York prohibits “noxious weeds and plant growth higher than 10 inches.” Condominiums, subdivisions and similar neighborhoods with Home Owners’ Associations often have their own standards.

How to Participate in No Mow May

Looking for ways to mitigate these concerns? First, check your local regulations. You could also have a friendly chat with your neighbors to let them know your intentions. Maybe they will decide to join you in participating. Perhaps post a yard sign, flag, or banner to inform neighbors and deter complaints. Post them on the edge of your property, with messages like “No Mow Zone,” “Caution - Bees at Work,” “Pollinator Habitat,” “Pollinators Welcome Here,” etc. The key is to make it clear that the non-mowing of your yard is deliberate. Perhaps create a corridor or path of native pollen- and nectar-rich plants for migratory pollinators to travel along, or make a path through your meadow to your door and mailbox. You might line it with stones or bricks, providing additional hideaways for insects. Keeping hedges trimmed will further indicate your intention. If these approaches are not feasible, consider a smaller-scale approach like a “pocket prairie” in a sunny corner, or a circular patch of pollinator-attracting native wildflowers with a neat border.

If possible, plant milkweed, the only plant on which monarch butterflies, designated as a threatened species, deposit their eggs. Poisonous to most predators of monarch butterflies, milkweed provides protection for vulnerable larvae. (If you have farm animals, be sure to keep them separate.) Also consider planting native pollinator-friendly wildflowers such as asters, bee balm, columbine, gentian, dutchman’s breeches, trillium. Some people transform parts of their lawns into an herb or vegetable garden. Consider going a step farther by replacing grass with a beautiful native ground cover. You may also want to encourage others by sharing your experience on social media.

When the time comes to mow, it’s important to be strategic by mowing just a few inches at a time. This will signal to pollinators that it’s time to pack up and move to safer places. A slow pace also reduces the risk that grass will go into shock, a risk when reducing grass height by more than 1/3 at once.

Final Thoughts

No Mow May is more than just skipping a few weeks of mowing—it’s a movement toward restoring lost habitats and supporting the wildlife that keeps our ecosystems functioning. Even the smallest lawn can make a difference. Whether you commit to a month or more, or simply set aside a portion of your yard, every effort helps. So this spring, let your lawn grow wild. The bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and birds will thank you.

~Dori Dittmer

Hike to a Vernal Pool, Russell

Sunday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to noon

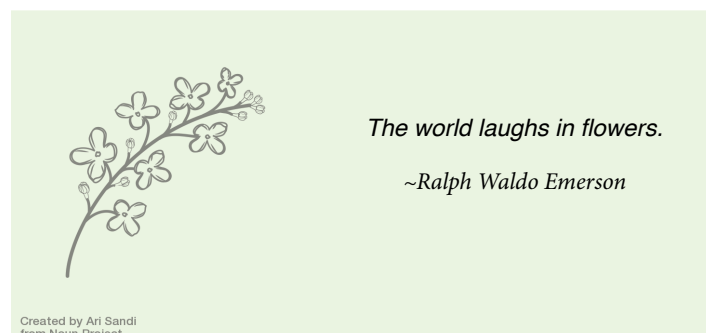
Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please contact us (413-297-0778; or nancy@paddleforwater.net)

Meeting Place: Noble View Outdoor Center; 635 S Quarter Rd Russell, in the upper (main) parking lot

Let's hike through the woods to a vernal pool. These important inland ponds are nurseries for many woodland creatures. With no inlet or outlet, these temporary water holes are fed by rain and melting snow and often dry up in the summer. Annual drying keeps them bereft of fish, providing an ideal place for frogs and salamanders to lay eggs without fear of fish eating them all up. We will take a leisurely hike to reach this special location, stopping to notice other signs of spring. Once at the pool, we'll look for eggs and perhaps gently scoop out things of interest to examine more closely.

Dress for the weather. There may still be snow or icy spots on the trails, so boots are highly recommended. For adults and families with children over seven years of age. Roughly 2.6 miles round trip.



Glendale Falls, Middlefield

Saturday, April 12, 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 lots of Stop & Shop West Springfield (Route 5)

We will hike to the 150-ft waterfall, one of the longest in Massachusetts. It flows into the Middle Branch of the Westfield River. Along the trail we'll look for early spring growth and find hemlock, birch, hornbeam, witch hazel and mountain laurel. This Trustees of Reservations property was the location of Glendale Farm in the 1700s, and we may still be able to find the foundation of the gristmill. Wear hiking boots, dress for the weather and bring hiking poles, insect repellent, binoculars, camera, water and snack/lunch.

Nature in Spring Hike, Somers, Connecticut

Saturday, April 26, starting at 10 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup

Registration and Meeting Place: Please call us (413-525-4697).

Join us for a hike on a trail system maintained by the Northern Connecticut Land Trust. McCann is a unique 84-acre property in Somers, Connecticut. It is meticulously maintained. The land is characterized by a variety of terrains, complete with a network of trails featuring vernal pools, delightful brooks, stands of mature white pine and many other species of trees, leading from a young to old-growth forest. You will enjoy the diversity of the landscape—nature at its best! Dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking boots. We'll take an easy-to-moderate ~2-mile loop hike. Rain or bad weather cancels.



APRIL MEETING: Bringing the Rights of Nature to Western Massachusetts

Wednesday, April 16, starting at 7 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: Lundy Bancroft



Following a brief overview of the Rights of Nature movement both abroad and domestically, we'll look at some specific examples of what has and hasn't worked in community efforts to use this concept in the U.S. We'll continue with a discussion of some of the benefits and potential risks of attempting strategies to give nature legal standing in our region. Finally, we'll discuss how the Rights of Nature concept can benefit environmental movements. Efforts to pass formal laws are only one way that this concept has power to bring about change.

About the Speaker: Mr. Bancroft been involved in various environmental causes for decades, going back to the movement against nuclear power in the 1980's. Most recently he has been involved in Connecticut River advocacy, with a focus on the unfortunate relicensing of the facilities run by FirstLight Power on the River. Mr. Bancroft was one of the co-founders, with Sarah Mathews, of Western Mass Rights of Nature. Western Mass Rights of Nature has been fighting for better license conditions to be placed on the FirstLight operations, building relationships with local indigenous groups and individuals, and spreading public education about the Rights of Nature. They consult and assist local environmental activists who are interested in bringing Rights of Nature laws to their municipalities, or who want to learn other ways to use the related concepts in their advocacy and organizing.

Minnechaug Mountain, Hampden

Sunday, April 27, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers

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

Meeting Place: Parking lot of Laughing Brook at MassAudubon. From there, we'll drive~one mile to the trail.

We tried this hike last spring, but the weather did not cooperate. This place has so much to see, so I will try to get a group together again this year. This mountain was saved from development by the Minnechaug Land Trust. We will be climbing to the summit. Our climb will be eased by the work of the farmers who, long ago, built stone walls and established cart paths here. The trail is a little steep in places, but the view from the summit is worth the climb. We will be walking about two miles. Poles will be helpful, and boots a must. The mountain is at an elevation of 900 feet; we will climb 500 feet of that. We will stop often to look for clues in the woods using Tom Wessels' book, *Forest Forensics: A Field Guide to Reading the Forested Landscape*.

Searching for Gaywings and Lady Slippers, Somers, Connecticut

Saturday, May 3, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Carole Dupont

Registration and Meeting Place: Please contact Carole (carole0136@gmail.com; or 413-896-0124)

Spring is definitely in the air, so it's time for our annual walk around Hurds Lake. 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 delighting in Mother Nature's treasures as we look for wildflowers peeking out from the lifeless leftovers of winter. We will likely find large patches of fringed milkwort (*Polygala*). Milkwort is also known as "gaywings" due to its brightly colored, winged pinkish flowers, which resemble a cluster of small birds taking flight. We'll also see a perennial favorite, the lady slipper. Perhaps we will even venture out for an after-hike ice cream! Bring water, snacks, good hiking boots and dress for the weather. Binoculars and poles are also encouraged.

Mother's Day at the Fishway, Holyoke

Date and Time: Sunday, May 11, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Leader: Nancy Condon

Registration: Please contact Nancy (413-297-0778; or nancy@paddleforwater.net)

Meeting Place: Holyoke Gas and Electric's Robert Barrett Fishway; 1 County Bridge, Holyoke,

The fish are coming! The annual spring migration of American shad, sea lamprey and other anadromous fish is on. Take a tour of the Robert Barrett Fishway, led by a Fishway Guide at the Holyoke Dam. Watch the unique fish lift hoist fish up and over the dam. See hundreds of fish from the flume windows. Learn about these fascinating fish, how they are counted, and how the fishway was engineered to pass hundreds of thousands of fish each spring. It is breezy on the observation deck so dress accordingly. Meet inside the visitor center at the fishway. Registration required and limited to 15.

Paddling Quaboag Pond and East Brookfield River,

East Brookfield

Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to about 3 p.m.

Leader: Tom Condon

Registration: Please contact Tom to register (413-454-2331 or tomnancycondon@gmail.com)

Meeting Place: McDonalds on Burnett Road, Chicopee at the intersection of the Mass Pike and I- 291

Our paddle today starts with a tour of the west side of Quaboag Pond. When we reach the mouth of the Quaboag River, we will nose up into the Quaboag Wildlife Management Area (WMA) as far as we can go against the current. Then turn back to the pond and south to the Quacumquasit WMA. It's a good season for birding, so bring your binoculars! We will continue to circumnavigate the pond in a counterclockwise direction until we reach the mouth of the East Brookfield River. Again, we will push up as far as the current and the beavers will allow. Yes, the river can be unpassable due to beaver dams. Dress for the weather, and bring a lunch, water, paddling gear and boats. We invite those so inclined to join us for a post-paddle beer at the nearby Oakholm Brewing Company.

Looking ahead to 2026: Botswana and Zimbabwe Safari Adventure

Are you interested in exploring Africa? Have you seen the "Big Five?" Club member Chris Mangano and the Condons are exploring the idea of offering a safari to southern Africa in 2026. Dates, duration, and cost have not yet been decided, but we're thinking of 2 weeks, with cost of about \$8000 per person, including airfare.

Our itinerary could include the Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve, and Victoria Falls. We plan to use experienced, local guides and spend part of the time glamping in the parks. Please let Chris (cmangano38@comcast.net) or Tom (science@condon.net) know if you are interested or would like more information.

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

Sunday, May 18, from 9:30 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, Route 5, West Springfield

Chapel Brook 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. In spring, though, Chapel Falls is 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.

At last came the golden month of the wild folk—honey-sweet May, when the birds come back, and the flowers come out, and the air is full of the sunrise scents and songs of the dawning year.

~Samuel Scoville, Jr.

Visit the Naturalists' Club website for...

Suggestions for reading more about pollinators and the No Mow May movement.

Reports from recent Naturalists' Club meetings.

naturalist-club.org

Bear's Den, New Salem

Saturday, May 24, starting at 10 am.

Leader: Dori Dittmer.

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

Meeting Place: Meet Dori at 10 a.m. to carpool from Stop & Shop, W. Springfield (Route 5) parking lot, or meet the group at 11 a.m. at Bear's Den on Neilson Road in New Salem

We are heading back in this wonderful well-kept secret in Central Mass. This is becoming a tradition! We have visited here in late summer and late fall, and now we'll see what spring has to offer. We will follow a short trail to admire the beautiful Swift River as it tumbles into a swirling pool before passing through 70-foot granite cliffs. (There are some shallow caves, too!) Above the cascades is a beautiful and well-managed trail where we'll find mountain laurel in bloom. We'll have our lunch inside the ruins of an old mill and learn how mountain laurel relates to clocks. Wear hiking boots, dress for the weather, and bring hiking poles, lunch, binoculars, water, and a snack.



MAY MEETING: Kestrel Land Trust's Nature Retreats

Wednesday, May 21, starting at 7 p.m.
Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum
Presenters: Monica Green and Marilyn Castriotta



The Valley's regional land trust owns seven nature retreats that offer forest trails, brooks, rock ledges, ponds, a bog, and other unique features. These properties are open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, birding, picnics, and other ways of enjoying the outdoors. Kestrel staff Monica Green and Marilyn Castriotta will provide a virtual tour of these special places and share an update on the Land Trust's work to connect Valley residents from all walks of life with the land.

About the Speakers: Monica has spent her adult life working for small nonprofits committed to the common good. Growing up in eastern Massachusetts, she spent summer vacations camping on Cape Cod and the Maine coast. After living in Maryland, Ohio, and Washington DC, she found her home in the Valley in 1995. Monica has served as Kestrel Land Trust's development director since 2012. She is passionate about the power of generosity and gratitude in our community and world.

Marilyn developed an affinity for nature growing up in the small central Massachusetts town of Barre, where she gravitated to the woods and a nearby MassAudubon sanctuary. Drawn to science during her schooling, her professional path began in the medical field. Concerned about climate change and convinced of the importance of conservation as a solution, she transferred her understanding of biological systems to the environmental field, working for Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Ceres, and The Climate Project. In 2014, Marilyn completed her Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England. Following a year of TerraCorps service at Kestrel, Marilyn joined the staff in 2018 as Community Engagement Manager.

Bray Lake, Mt Tom Reservation, Holyoke

Saturday, May 31

Leader: Sonya Vickers

Registration: Please call Sonya to register, and for meeting time (413-218-7742)

Meeting Place: We will carpool from our meeting spot. To get there, take Route 91 North to the Northampton Route 5 exit. Turn right onto Route 5, then immediately turn right onto Atwood Drive and the Cooley Dickinson Medical Group. Take another immediate right into the parking lot, our meeting spot.

The 2-mile trail offers a scenic walk through hemlock and oak forests on the side of Mt Tom that is not a cliff so the walk is easy. The trail is a loop, and we will hear birds and see plants unfolding into springtime. The mountain is made up of basalt and has an interesting geological history.

High Ledges, Shelburne Falls

Sunday, June 1, from 10a.m. to mid-afternoon

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup

Registration: Please call us (413-525-4697)

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

Enjoy the beauty of the forest and its wildflowers, including lady slippers, 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 glacial potholes. Wear sturdy footwear and bring lunch. Rain cancels.

Mineral Hills Conservation Area, Northampton

Saturday, June 21, starting at 11 a.m. (or 10 a.m. for carpool)

Leader: Dori Dittmer.

Register: Please contact Dori at 917-346-0969; or dordittmer@gmail.com

Meeting time/place: Meet us at Mineral Hills Conservation Area parking lot at the end of Turkey Hill Road at 11 a.m. or carpool with Dori starting at 10 a.m. from Stop & Shop, W. Springfield (Route 5) parking lot.

The Conservation Area is owned by the City of Northampton and monitored by Kestrel Land Trust. On this Summer Solstice, we will choose a trail to follow, with forest, meadow, beaver ponds and rock outcroppings, with various views of a large rock quarry. The Summit Trail leads to amazing ridge-top views of Mount Holyoke, and into the quarry. We'll look for wildlife and summer plants, and perhaps we'll find a porcupine den among the rocks. As always, wear sturdy hiking boots, dress for the weather and bring hiking poles, insect repellent, binoculars, camera, water and snack/lunch.

What's blooming, What's growing, Westfield

Sunday, June 22, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: Gate 1 of Stanley Park, 500 Western Avenue

Registration: Not required.

Having taken Westfield State biology students into Stanley Park for 50+ years, Dave will help participants get familiar with some of the flora in the Park's various habitats. We can focus on trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants or all three depending on the interest of the group. If you happen to have a field guide you'd like to practice with, bring it along.

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

- Leo Riendeau (413-224-1468)
- Jack Megas (413-782-3962)

The following members are running:

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

Paddling the Quinebaug River Water Trail, Holland

Sunday June 29, from 8 a.m. to about 3 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please contact us at 413-454-2331; or tomnancycondon@gmail.com

Meeting Place: McDonalds on Burnett Road, Chicopee at the intersection of the Mass Pike and I-291

Designated as both a National Recreational Trail and as part of the Watchable Wildlife Program, the Quinebaug River Water Trail is a gem of Central Massachusetts. Our journey starts by exploring Holland Pond before turning our bows into the Quinebaug River. We meander down the river to explore the marshes and history of the area until we tire or reach East Brimfield Lake, then turn and retrace our paddles, returning to Holland Pond. The total distance should be about six miles.

It's a great time of year to be in the marshes. Bring your binoculars as we are likely to see raptors, herons, and songbirds. Dress for the weather, pack a lunch, and bring your boat and paddling gear, plus drinking water.

FROM THE TREASURER

Those with a date of "24-25" (or later) on your newsletter mailing label have paid for this year. Otherwise, your dues are owed for the year that started in September 2024. 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

On occasion, information of interest to club members becomes available after our Newsletter has gone to press. Such information can include, for example, changes in speakers for upcoming meetings and late-breaking trip announcements. If you'd like to receive these electronic updates, please be sure to share your email address.

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.



The NATURALISTS' CLUB was founded in 1969 for the purpose of actively promoting knowledge, appreciation, and preservation of our natural environment.

It is an all-volunteer non-profit organization.

Education is a main focus of The NATURALISTS' CLUB.

Programming, with an emphasis on local natural history, is designed to create camaraderie among people of diverse interests through experiences deepening their appreciation of nature.

Activities are geared to acquaint the layperson with the natural world, mostly through field trips. Monthly meetings are held at the Science Museum at the Quadrangle in Springfield, Mass.

Most field trips and programs are free.

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The layout of this newsletter is based on a design by Loren Hoffman.