

The NATURALISTS' CLUB Newsletter

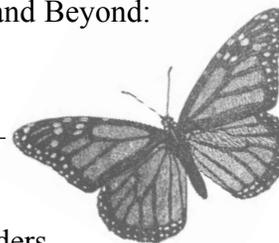
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Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts
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A P R I L - J U N E 2 0 0 5 SCHEDULE · OF · ACTIVITIES

APRIL	2	Saturday	An Opportunity to Study Vernal Pool Biology
	8	Friday	A Night Under the Stars
	9	Saturday	Native American Site Visitation
	18	Monday	W.D. Cowls Timber Harvesting, Lumber Manufacturing, Building Supply Center
	20	Wednesday	APRIL MEETING: Birds, Butterflies and Beyond: Evolving Natural History Interests
	30	Saturday	Mt. Tom Wildlife Viewing Area Maintenance Picnic Party

MAY	14	Saturday	Springtime Sampler
	15	Sunday	Stanley Park Wildflower Stroll
	18	Wednesday	MAY MEETING: Dragonflies for Birders
	22	Sunday	Nosing Around Nature
	28	Saturday	Hiking at High Ledges
	29	Sunday	Sofinowski Land Preserve



JUNE	5	Sunday	Springtime Hike – Metacomet & Monadnock Trail. Section 3
	11	Saturday	Nature Journaling
	18	Sunday	Seeing Better Across Four Seasons – Hiking to Harts Pond on the Metacomet-Monadnock
	19	Saturday	Berkshire National Fish Hatchery

NATURALIST'S CORNER **SIGNS OF SPRING**



As you read this, it will be Springtime. I am writing this in February. Winter is still here, but the signs of Spring are beginning to appear: I heard a cardinal today singing its territorial mating call, after having been silent most of the Winter. As the sun sets in the Western sky and twilight gives way to night, the stars tell their ancient stories of the seasons. In the Eastern sky, the constellation Leo the Lion rises in all its glory, the night sky's story of the arrival of Spring, and Orion sets in the West, saying goodbye to Winter. The days become longer as our Earth tilts back toward the Sun, so much warmer now. Soon March will be here with the arrival of redwing blackbirds, singing their songs in the chill Winter/almost Spring air.

As spring moves northward, birds return home behind its advancing front. Each bird, as Ernest Mayr so well expresses it, seems attached to its breeding area by a rubber band. No matter how far the autumn migration stretches the band, when spring comes it draws the bird back home again. ...The farther south their breeding ground, as a rule, the earlier they come home....Thus, returning migrants leapfrog up the map. Banding has shown that the successive waves in the tide of migration carry birds over and beyond those already at home.

~ *Edwin Way Teale, from "Miles of Warblers" in North with the Spring, pages 181-82.*

Spring officially arrives March 20th, the vernal equinox, equal day and night. Turkey vultures soar above on early March days, arriving back in New England after a Winter spent in warmer places. Snow is melting. Soon bluebirds are looking for their nesting boxes to raise their young. In March there is a fragrance in the air as the Earth comes alive. We feel it inside and see it all around us. AHHH Spring! The days are warm and the nights chilly; maple sap is being harvested and boiled. The smell and taste of maple syrup is a wonderful springtime experience.

April nights come alive with the songs of peepers and wood frogs from every vernal pool, all around us. Make sure you get out and enjoy this ancient chorus. By April, the first warm rains have signaled the earth to soften, and from the leaf litter the peepers and salamanders cross overland to the nearest vernal pool to begin their ancient ritual of dancing and singing, finding new mates. Their music continues as it has for millions of years.

Another courtship dance is unfolding in the woods and fields ~ the flight of the woodcock at dusk. Get your boots and a warm coat; the April twilight will be cool. Also, bring a flashlight so you can see this pudgy bird with the long slender beak. You will hear the male woodcock singing its courtship song, a series of short beeps. Then he'll fly up, up into the twilight, only to come spiraling down, making a chattering sound as he descends, trying so hard to impress a female nearby. Over and over again, the woodcock will do this - what a sight to experience as twilight fades into the starry sky!

The warm April days are filled with songs and flowers. The robin's song is in the air, and trilliums and violets decorate the woods. In the distance you might hear a ruffed grouse drumming on a log, that rhythmic thump, thump, thump of his wings, ending with very fast beats over and over again. AHHH the sounds of Spring!!

As April flows into May, the earth comes alive with flowers and in the treetops little jewels flit among the buds and leaves. The warblers are back after their long journey from South America, across the Gulf of Mexico. For a short time, they pass through. We know them by their names: chestnut-sided, black and white, yellow-throated, Wilson's. They have been traveling this journey long before we named them, fulfilling that ancient rite of Spring.

May is an explosion of life renewed: Birds are busy with their young, flowers and blossoms are everywhere, lady slippers are blooming on the sunlit forest floor. The call of the wood thrush can be heard throughout the woods. The colors of the leaves are soft shades of green that remind one of a Monet painting. AHHHH Spring! Soon June will be here. Summer fast approaches, so get out and enjoy Spring's sweetness.

Our newsletter has some wonderful Spring trips, a great chance to renew your spirit, feeling the earth coming alive. And enjoy those warm starry nights.

~ Submitted by Dave Gallup

An Opportunity to Study Vernal Pool Biology

Date and time: Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Leader: Sonya Vickers (413-566-3406)
Registration: Call Sonya with any questions.
Meeting Place: Minnechaug High School parking lot
Directions: Minnechaug is located in Wilbraham at 621 Main St. The parking lot can also be accessed from Tinkham Road. From Springfield, take State Street to Wilbraham Road, through 16 Acres. Tinkham Road is a left turn at the light after 16 Acres. The Minnechaug High School entrance will be 3 miles down Tinkham Road, on the left.

Ever wanted to wade into the environment of the salamander and frog or investigate the small life through a microscope? Come along and jump into a vernal pool! We will have all kinds of equipment available for our investigation, from hip boots to microscopes to vernal pool field guides. Learn why these puddles are so important and learn how you can certify a vernal pool that you might know about. Some hip boots are available. If you have a pair, bring them along.

A Night under the Stars

Date and Time: Friday evening, April 8
Leaders: Dave Gallup (413-525-4697)
and Jack Megas (413-782-3962)
Meeting Place: Fountain Park, Wilbraham, Mass.
(Call Jack or Dave for time and directions.)



Join us for a star-filled night. We will escort you on a journey through the night sky to learn the constellations and hear star stories from long ago. Jupiter and Saturn will be visible to view with telescopes.

Snow covers and temporarily arrests the decomposition of this forest floor, but beneath it lie the vestiges of several successive growing seasons. The top layer ~ "fit[ting] the earth like a leather glove," as [Robert] Frost has it at the beginning of "In Hardwood Groves" ~ is composed of the brown but intact leaves of the previous fall. Beneath them is a layer of fragments and skeletons, sometimes just the spines of leaves, or the tips, or the outlines of maple or red oak leaves defining a webwork of holes. Just below those shards, and yet another year earlier, are found the crumbly little indistinguishable scraps, the chaff of three seasons' winnowing. And then comes the sweet black dirt. This soil is the "dark decayed," a layer of renewal from which sweet nutrients seep down into the mineral mix, food for the trees that hang overhead in familial continuity.

~ John Elder, from "South Mountain: Succession" in *Reading the Mountains of Home*, page 100

Native American Site Visitation

Date and Time: Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (413-788-4125)
Registration: Call Dietrich to register. Limited to twenty participants.
Meeting Place will be given when you register.

Have you ever wondered about the first people who roamed and inhabited our local area: What they were like? Where and how they lived? What happened to them? Enjoy a trip back in time and learn more about these Native Americans. Our guide for this journey will be Dietrich Schlobohm, an environmental historian who teaches at Springfield College. This tour of our local area will take us to several probable sites occupied by native people during the period when the English first settled in the Springfield area.

W.D. Cows Timber Harvesting, Lumber Manufacturing, Building Supply Center

Date and Times: Monday April 18, 12:15 till 3:30(?) p.m.
Leader: Arthur O'Leary (413-789-7274)
Registration: Limited to twenty people. Call Art.
Meeting Place: Route 116 in Sunderland, Mass.

If the W.D. Cows Companies were a white pine tree, its trunk would be 150 feet high, 50 inches in diameter, with 264 annual growth rings. The current owners of the Cows Companies are the ninth generation of the frugal, hardworking Yankee family that started this business during the expansion of the British Empire into the American Colonies. Cows' tree farms supply 50 percent of its timber from within 50 miles of its operation. The Metacomet-Monadnock and Robert Frost Trails cross over Cows' timberlands. Trees are selectively cut, never clear-cut, using sustainable forestry management and cut-to-order wood utilization.

Join us on the observation deck to view a four-acre log yard and sawmill in full operation. Color-coded machinery will assist you in understanding mill flow. Learn about the history of the company and its evolution over nine generations, the concept of sustainable forestry, about local wildlife, the mill's certification program, and about the products manufactured by Cows. A full-line full-service home center is adjacent to the mill operations. This company has been an integral part of the Western Mass. community since 1741. Present owner Cinda Jones has arranged a guided tour for the Naturalists' Club.

● NOTICES ●

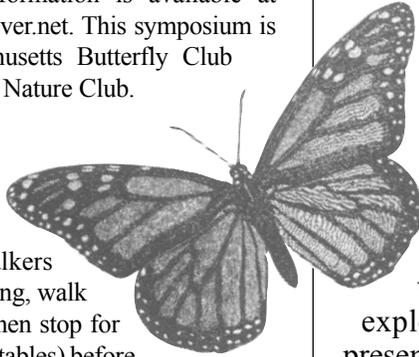
A Massachusetts Butterfly Symposium will be held Saturday, April 16th, at the Athol-Orange Elks Club, Route 2A, in Orange. A full day of speakers on the cutting edge of butterfly identification and conservation will be led by Jeff Glassberg, president of the North American Butterfly Association and author of a series of field guides to butterflies. More information is available at www.butterfly.millersriver.net. This symposium is co-hosted by Massachusetts Butterfly Club and the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

Wednesday Walkers

The Wednesday Walkers meet at 10 in the morning, walk till around noontime, then stop for lunch (mostly at picnic tables) before disbanding. Destinations are usually close, though sometimes the group ventures off, round and about – nowadays in search of spring ephemerals. If the thought of joining these walkers piques your interest, please contact Barbara Farrington (413-786-7432).

Injured Wildlife

For that someday when you might need to know, Suzanne Gallup reports there is a good place to turn to for help for injured urban wildlife – even squirrels: **Spruce Hill Veterinary Clinic** (413-782-3183) has a network of people all over the area who rehabilitate urban wildlife.



A P R I L MEETING

BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES & BEYOND: EVOLVING NATURAL HISTORY INTERESTS

Wednesday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m.
Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum
Speaker: David Small

Many of today's well-rounded naturalists began their natural history journey as birdwatchers. As time went by, we began to delve more deeply into the complexities of the natural world, learning to identify mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and their interdependence with the wonderful world of insects and plants. Massachusetts, in particular, has nurtured a cadre of well-rounded observers and citizen scientists who have added to our knowledge of the natural world and continue the rich tradition of natural history exploration and conservation of our landscape. In this presentation we will explore some of the species and the resources being produced to enhance our understanding of our natural world.

Dave Small, a lifelong resident of Royalston and Athol, is president of the Athol Bird and Nature Club and actively shares his passion for birds, butterflies and dragonflies through workshops, lectures, and field trips around New England. Focusing on lands of conservation interest, he has organized biological inventories, finding and documenting state-listed species for the Mass. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. He is on the board of several non-profits, including Millers River Watershed Council, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Mass. Watershed Coalition, and Mass. Audubon's Important Bird Area Technical Advisory Committee. Working for the Commonwealth of Mass. for thirty years, Dave currently serves as Forest and Park Regional Coordinator at Quabbin Reservoir.



Springfield's Earth Day Festival will be held Sunday, April 17, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Springfield Quadrangle. Call the Springfield Science Museum (413-263-6800 ext. 404) for times. Celebrate Earth Day under the big tent on the Quadrangle. This annual festival features demonstrations, exhibits, crafts for kids, music, and food. Don't miss the fun!

Springfield's Earth Day Clean-Up is happening on Saturday, April 30, between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Call the Springfield Science Museum (413-263-6800 ext. 404) for times and places. Put on your grubbies and sense of green pride and come help pick up unsightly trash from a number of city-owned green spaces throughout Springfield. This annual clean-up effort has been conducted for a number of years and, with your help, is really making a difference. Lunch is provided, as well as buckets, gloves, and trash bags. Come for the whole day, or just part. Come with a team, or by yourself and we will partner you up. Feel that sense of pride that comes when taking a messy park and giving it back its natural beauty.

Mount Tom Wildlife Viewing Area Maintenance Picnic Party

Date and Time: Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leader: Nancy Condon (413-564-0895)

Registration: It would be helpful to know you are coming, but drop-ins are welcome and encouraged.

Meeting Place: Route 5 entrance to Mt. Tom State Park Reservation, Holyoke, Mass. at 9:00. Later arrivals, meet us at the overlook, entering via Route 141.

Come help continue the work of removing invasive trees to encourage the growth of berry-producing shrubs up at Goodreau Memorial Overlook on Mt. Tom Reservation. The superb vista that is afforded by our wildlife area is one of the top-rated views overlooking the Pioneer Valley. We will likely encounter migrating birds as we clip, trim, and saw our way to a fruitful, wildlife-enriching habitat.

Picnic fixings will be provided, to complete our morning of work. Come in work clothes and spend a couple hours or the whole time. Bring along water to drink, work gloves, and any pruning equipment you wish. The Mt. Tom staff will also provide tools and work gloves. Mark your calendar! A fulfilling day of service, camaraderie, and enjoyment should be in store for you.

Wild flowers, though they play a vital role in the design of the forest floor, play an equally important role in the joy of those who find them.

~ Sigurd Olson, from "Time of Flowers" in *The Hidden Forest*, page 11.

MAY MEETING DRAGONFLIES FOR BIRDERS

Wednesday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: Jennifer Ohop

Admirers of the colorful plumage of birds, consider the dragonfly and damselfly. These winged predators should not be missed as they zip by. This presentation will introduce the insect order of odonates, explaining their life cycles and exploring the curiosities and myths surrounding dragonflies and damselflies. Identification tips to get you started on learning common species easy to identify at a distance will also be included. There is no longer a need to put down the binoculars when the birds stop singing, because dragons and damsels can be just as captivating.

Jennifer Ohop is the staff naturalist at the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary. She is obsessed with odes as well as vernal pools, birds, and large predators.

Springtime Sampler

Date and Time: Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leader: George Gifford (413-467-9518)

Registration: Not necessary. Prospective members welcome. Call George with any questions. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Wal-Mart parking lot, Amherst end, Route 9, Hadley. Look for a black station wagon.

A springtime sampler outing, including a gentle mile-long downhill stroll, a vernal pool, a babbling brook, old growth, and boulders bigger than cars, as well as geocaching and letterboxing. (Check out www.geocaching.com and www.letterboxing.org.) Bring along a lunch for a picnic on Jackson Hill, Leverett, by the Peace Pagoda goldfish pond.

Stanley Park Wildflower Stroll

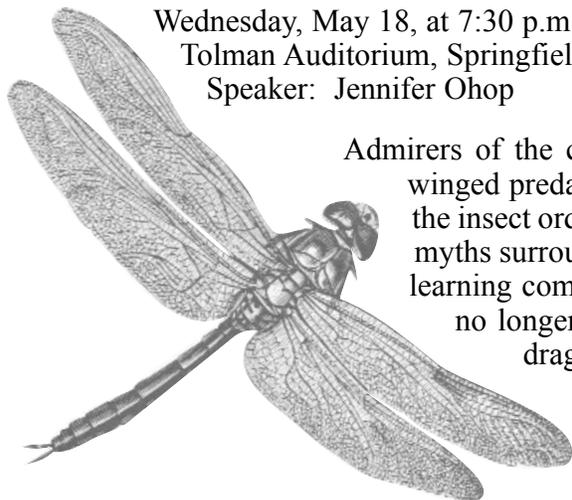
Date and Time: Sunday, May 15, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Leaders: Nancy & Tom Condon (413-564-0895)

Registration: Please call Nancy or Tom to sign up.

Meeting Place: Stanley Park, near Ed Piela Wildflower Garden

Is it a Jack-in-the-Pulpit or a Jill? Did you know that this species of flower can change sex from year to year? Do you know which gender takes more energy? Come find out during an enlightening springtime stroll as the wildflowers reveal themselves along the trails at Stanley Park in Westfield. Distance covered will be minimal since we will be stopping frequently. Not only brush up not only on identification of the flowers we see, but learn something of the origin of their names, medicinal purposes, or interesting pollination strategies. There is more to a wildflower than meets the eye! Wear sturdy walking shoes. Bring a wildflower guide, binoculars, and/or hand-lens if you wish. Heavy rain cancels.



Nosing Around Nature

Date and Time: Sunday, May 22, 8 to 11 a.m.
Lead Schnoz: Robin Marie Demetrius
Registration: None. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Belchertown at CVS/Crystal Springs parking lot (@ junction of Routes 202 & 9)

Get your tailfeathers outa' the sack and join me for a meander through Nature. We'll be visiting the Quabbin and adjacent property that provides much fodder for the interested naturalist. Plan to walk a total of about four miles of fairly even terrain, with only one area of hilly ascent. We'll sniff out birds, otter, insects and skunk cabbage! Bring snacks, water, binocs & kleenex. Dress in layers; it's always colder near the Reservoir. Please: no pets.

Hike at High Ledges

Date and Time: Saturday, May 28, 9 a.m. till late afternoon
Leader: Dave Gallup (413-525-4697)
Meeting Place: Town & Country Liquors parking lot, Route 5, West Springfield. Bring a lunch and sturdy footwear. Call Dave for information.

Join us for this hike to a special place. The beauty of the forest with its wildflowers, including pink and yellow lady slippers, is a sight to behold. We will eat lunch on the ledges, overlooking the town of Shelburne Falls in the distance. It is a breathtaking view!

After the hike, we will visit Shelburne Falls, a quaint New England village known for the Bridge of Flowers. You can explore the town's unique shops and beautiful waterfalls.



In the spring I look at the forest floor with excitement, no matter how dead it may appear to be, for life is there, waiting for the signal to emerge. The trees play their part in protection and control, providing a constant supply of leaves and branches for humus, but they change slowly and respond little from season to season, except in their colors in spring and fall. Not so with the smaller flowering plants, for their time is short. The floor is a veritable storehouse of living things, a promise for the future, a security against the disasters of fire, wind, and storm.

~ Sigurd Olson, from "Time of Flowers" in *The Hidden Forest*, page 11.

Sofinowski Land Preserve

Date and Times: Sunday, May 29, 12:30 to 4 p.m.
Leader: Arthur O'Leary (413-789-7274)
Registration: Limited to twenty people. Call Art.
Meeting Place: Route 202 in Southwick, Mass.

Sofinowski Land Preserve, dedicated in 2002, is a cooperative project of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Southwick Open Space Planning Committee/Conservation Commission. Formerly a privately owned farm, this land preserve consists of 120 acres of rolling woodlands, fields, and wetlands. Established trails, interesting flora, scenic vistas, and well-placed picnic tables make this nearby property a must-see.

Come along for an introductory walk-about. Participate in an ongoing bio-inventory of the flora at this beautiful, relatively new land preserve. Share your findings with the Southwick Conservation Commission. Bring pen and paper, binoculars, magnifying glass, and field guides

Springtime Hike - Metacomet & Monadnock Trail, Section 3

Date and Time: Sunday, June 5, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Leaders: Nancy & Tom Condon
Registration: Please call Nancy or Tom to sign up (413-564-0895)
Meeting Place: Westfield Wal-Mart parking lot, towards the back.

This seldom-used trail section takes us from the Pioneer Valley Sportsmen's Club in Westfield to the Mass Pike in the span of about three miles. It will be a "yo-yo" hike, in which we will "about-face" for our return trip, for a total hike length of about six miles. Our discussions during this hike will center on land use. We will hike beside Lane Quarry and gain vantage points from which to grasp its vastness and discuss its impact. Hikers can expect periodic stops all along the trail, to view and discuss logging techniques and effects, as the hardwood forest through which we will be traveling has recently been logged.

The trail is not well maintained, so expect to hurdle fallen trees and to encounter rocks and logs hidden under leaves on the trail. Recommended for the hearty hiker. Ankle-supporting footwear is necessary. Join us for this little-known section of trail, with water, a lunch, binoculars, and a spirit of adventure. Heavy rain cancels.

Nature Journaling with Wildflowers

Date and Times: Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. to noon.

Location: Ed Piela Wildflower Garden, Stanley Park, in Westfield

Leaders: Sonya Vickers and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Sonya (413)566-3406 or Nancy (413) 564-0895 to register.

What to Bring: A sketchbook or unlined journal. Pencil and eraser for drawing. Something to sit on the ground with, or a small stool. Some art materials will be available.

Nature journaling is an activity which allows you to closely observe an aspect of the natural world and record what you have learned. There are many ways this can be accomplished to produce a unique journal of the things you have seen and observed. Think of it as scrapbooking the natural world, or a photo or sketch compilation of the plants and animals that have crossed your path. It can contain details of the changing of seasons or a compilation of bird and dragonfly sightings or really taking the time to see the details of different kinds of wildflowers, as we will do on this event. Come join us and get to know a wildflower really well as you record your experience.

As I peer into a shallow bay of the pool,
my face close to the surface, for a moment
I see nothing but the reflections of clouds,
but as my eyes become accustomed to the
water and its brown leaf-strewn bottom,
I see many things: a mosquito larva jerking
and wriggling to the surface for air, a caddis
worm climbing sedately up a stem with its
back-borne camouflage of tiny bits of grass
and grains of sand, a diving beetle with a
tail-held silver bubble, a newly hatched
tadpole scurrying over the mud.

~ Sigurd Olson, from "The Miracle of
Spring" in *The Hidden Forest*, page 9.



Like many Vermonters, I have too often libeled spring. Winter is the main fact of our year, and the deepest mystery. Summer is a pleasant interval of warm, dry days and gardens racing toward ripeness before first frost. Fall is the climax and the culmination, with leaves like bonfires and air like cider. Spring is often referred to wryly hereabouts as mud-season ~ several weeks when it's warm enough for snow to melt but still too cold for us human residents to venture forth in shirtsleeves.

~ John Elder, from "North Mountain: Coltsfoot, Mourning Cloak" in *Reading the Mountains of Home*, page 190.

Seeing Better Across Four Seasons - Hiking to Harts Pond on the Metacomet-Monadnock

Date and Times: Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m.

Guide: Mark Cashman (860-683-0835)

Registration: Call Mark and leave your name, phone number, and address, or send email with that information (mcashman@temporaldoorway.com).

The most commonplace trails contain spectacular sights for those who know how and where to look. Mark Cashman, owner and author of *New England Trail Review*, who has taken over 15,000 photographs on over a hundred miles of New England paths, will help you look for insects, tiny mushrooms, hidden ice formations, slime molds, slugs, and many other fascinating items in this special guided hike of one trail across four seasons.

In a unique opportunity to see how a single trail changes over time, this summertime hike is second in the seasonal series, which will continue on October 22 and finish December 17. The location will be the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail, running from a start at Route 57 in Southwick near the Agawam Bowman Archery Club, to the border of Connecticut near the intersection of Stone and Barry Streets. The length of the hike is 1.75 miles, and the terrain is of low difficulty, with 166 feet of elevation loss and 81 feet of elevation gain. We will leave some of the cars at the meeting place, then pile into the remaining vehicles and drive to the trailhead at Route 57. This will allow us to hike straight through, from beginning to finish, without having to backtrack.

You're encouraged to bring your camera (film or digital, pocket or SLR) to capture the sights, large and small. Your guide will be able to offer advice on how to capture the beauty of the trail for memory and for later identification of creatures, plants, and mushrooms. A pair of binoculars and a magnifying glass are also not a bad idea if you have them.

Please reserve your space as soon as possible. Only the first eight will be accepted, to preserve the experience. Those who join us for the first hike will have preference for the second through fourth. Directions, maps, and suggestions for equipment/supplies (that is, clothing and lunch) will be provided by mail or email, depending on how you contact us. Hikes will be carried out in rain, shine or snow.

Berkshire National Fish Hatchery

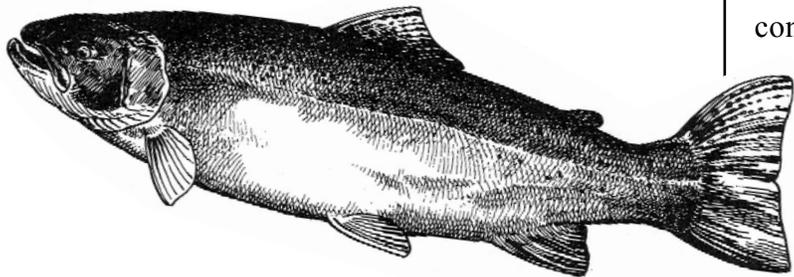
Date and Times: Sunday, June 19, 12:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Leader: Arthur O'Leary (413-789-7274)

Registration: Limited to twenty people. Call Art.

Meeting Place: Route 57 in New Marlborough, Mass.

The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery began in 1914 when the family of John Sullivan Scully bequeathed their 148-acre Berkshire retreat to the government (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) for use as a trout hatchery/watershed. Closed in 1994 due to budget cuts, today nearly 35,000 rainbow trout, brown trout, and salmon are raised in ten 3,500-gallon fish tanks. Mountain streams supply water to the fish hatchery. Seven and a half miles of self-guided nature trails, enhanced with habit and species signage, beckon you to explore this rolling wooded terrain. A display on the ecology of amphibians and reptiles is in the Egg Hatch House, which also shelters trout from the fall spawning season. The Berkshire Hatchery Foundation, heavily dependent on volunteers, promotes aquaculture and environmental education for the Berkshire community. The resident manager, Reed Baldwin, has agreed to give the Naturalists' Club a guided tour.



One song sparrow sang over and over again from the top of Deep Cut. There is health and robustness in the voice of this brown, streaked little bird. His is a functional song. Here is no dreamer, no poet, no lovesick swain, no nightingale. Here is nothing soft or sad or melancholy. His is a sturdy, practical, New England song. It rang in our ears as we watched a squadron of half a dozen dark dragonflies patrolling the tracks, darting, up, down, to the side, in their gnat-catching.

~ Edwin Way Teale, from "The Crane Fields" in *North with the Spring*, page 309.



● ANNOUNCEMENT ●

Stump Sprouts Weekend West Hawley, Mass.

Dates: Friday, September 9, through Sunday, September 11

Times: Dinner on Friday evening through a Sunday luncheon

Leaders: Dietrich and Julie Schlobohm (413-788-4125)

Registration: All-inclusive cost for two nights' lodging and six meals is \$119 per person. Make check payable to The Naturalists' Club and send to Dietrich Schlobohm, 52 Poplar Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089. Indicate in your registration your roommate preference. Reservations and a 50% deposit must be received no later than June 1, please. This trip will be cancelled if eighteen people are not paid by that date. Call Dietrich or Julie for more information.

High on the side of a mountain with a magnificent view, Stump Sprouts ski lodge provides a beautiful setting for walking, hiking, or relaxing in solitude. A 90-minute drive from Springfield, the property consists of a 450-acre tract surrounded by Dubuque, Savoy, and Mohawk State Forests.

Guests need to bring their own bedding, towels, and toiletries; bathrooms are shared. Our hosts will provide superb family-style garden-fresh meals, complete with homemade breads and cookies. There is usually a choice of regular or meatless entrees. Bring along binoculars, good footwear, curiosity and a sense of adventure.

Limit: Twenty people



Nominating Committee & Upcoming Elections

Elections for officers and board members are held annually at the May meeting. The following individuals are running:

- President ~ Dave Gallup
- Vice President ~ Art O'Leary
- Treasurer ~ Dave Lovejoy
- Recording Secretary ~ Nancy Condon
- Corresponding Secretary ~ open
- Directors ~

Tom Condon
Robin Marie Demetrius
Dietrich Schlobohm
Sonya Vickers

Please contact members of the Nominating Committee prior to the May Meeting to make any additional nominations:

Loren Hoffman (413-569-9577)
Colette Potter (413-786-1805)
Karen Daniels (413-786-8228)

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the May meeting.

Naturalists' Club Makes Gifts to Area Nature Projects

The Board of Directors recently voted to make \$2,500 in gifts to several nature projects. One gift of \$1,000 was given to the Southwick Open Space Committee to complete the purchase of the Swanson property in the Goose Pond wildlife area of Southwick, Mass. A second gift of \$1,000 was given to the Richard Cronin National Salmon Station in Sunderland, Mass. Two additional gifts were made, to the Urban Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Springfield (\$200) and to the Forest Park Zoological Society in Springfield for summer programs (\$300).

These contributions come from the Dorothy Anne Wheat Endowment, which the Club has established with the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. In the past the Club has made gifts to the Silvio O. Conte National Fish Wildlife Refuge, the Peaked Mountain Land Trust, the Valley Land Fund (to help preserve the Mt. Holyoke Range), the Nature Conservancy, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society. In addition, we have endeavored on numerous occasions to provide support to Tom Ricardi for his rehabilitation work with birds of prey.

Our current gifts are part of our ongoing efforts to foster interest in nature and to help preserve critical habitats and wildlife.

~ Reported by Dietrich Schlobohm



Lavender & Daylilies

For a special treat this summer, save Saturday, July 23, for a daylily garden tour and afternoon Lavender Tea, to be held in Greenfield, Mass. at one of the Greenfield Garden Tour spots. A full write-up will appear in the next issue of this newsletter. If interested, you may contact Joan Presz (413-569-6663 after 8 p.m., please).



2004
2005

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M E M B E R S H I P

Here's how to become a member of the Springfield Naturalists' Club: Enclose a check, in the appropriate amount, payable to The Naturalists' Club.

\$ 15 for a year of Individual or Family Membership

\$ 25 per year for Supporting Membership

\$ 50 per year for Sustaining Membership

\$300 for Lifetime Membership

Mail to Club Treasurer Dave Lovejoy, Biology Department, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086-1630. Include your mailing address.

Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list. Please direct all address changes to him (413-572-5307, dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu).

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.



NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWING MEMBERS



Become a Club Member or Renew
Your Existing Membership for 2004-2005.

Name

Address

Phone Number

Requests for programs/trips

Please fill out the above form, clip, and mail to Club Treasurer, Dave Lovejoy, Biology Department, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086-1630. Or email dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu