

# The NATURALISTS' CLUB Newsletter

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Permit No. 18

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts  
<http://naturalist-club.org/>

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## J U L Y - O C T O B E R 2 0 0 5 SCHEDULE · OF · ACTIVITIES

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### JULY

15	Friday	Hampden County Trees and Shrubs
23	Saturday	Lavender and Daylilies
30	Saturday	Berry Patch Picnic

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### AUGUST

14	Sunday	Ice in August – A Hike to Ice Glen
20	Saturday	Early Morning Paddle on Littleville Lake
26	Friday	Star Party at the Astronomers' Conjunction

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### SEPTEMBER

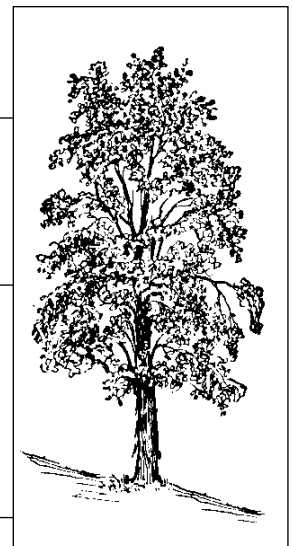
9-11	Fri.-Sunday	Stump Sprouts Weekend
14	Wednesday	Mid-Week Nature Hike: Ludlow Reservoir
17	Saturday	Nourse Farms, Inc.
21	Wednesday	SEPTEMBER MEETING: Westfield River Initiative
25	Saturday	Connecticut River Canoe Trip

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### OCTOBER

1	Saturday	Digital Camera Hike
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# NATURALIST'S CORNER

## **Dragonfly Hunters Sought**

*Following up on a theme set by speakers at the April and May Naturalists' Club meetings, we present a letter received in May via email, from Fred Morrison and Laurie Sanders (whose show, Field Notes, you may have heard on WFCR Monday mornings). They are seeking volunteers to take part in an ongoing dragonfly survey on the Connecticut River. Read on!*

Hi,

Do you think anyone in the Springfield Naturalists' Club would be interested in learning how to sample and identify the dragonflies of the Connecticut River? We're looking for several volunteers who, in exchange for a few training sessions, would be willing to collect the shed skins of dragonfly nymphs on short sections of river shoreline on a weekly basis during the field season. There are only a dozen or so species that are regularly found in the river and about half of them are state-listed! Their status as endangered, threatened or special concern is primarily because their habitat needs include living as nymphs in big, clean sand-bottomed rivers and we don't have many rivers like that in MA.

During the last four field seasons we've been working on a dragonfly survey along several sections of the Connecticut River in Northfield and Gill, MA. The work has to do with assessing any potential threats to the habitat requirements of rare dragonflies related to on-going bank stabilization projects. Our work in that section of the river (part of the Turners Falls Pool) has shown it to be extremely productive for certain species, including some of the state's rarest dragonflies.

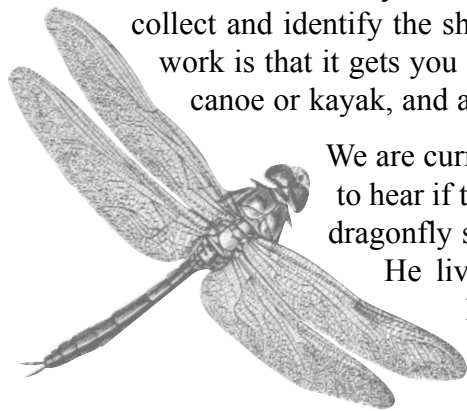
After four years of survey work we now have a fairly good sense of the population dynamics of the dragonflies that live in that upper section of the river but we know next to nothing about CT River dragonflies from South Hadley/Holyoke south to the Connecticut line. Last year we did a minimal amount of sampling in Sunderland, Northampton and Agawam, and are hoping that this year we might be able to expand the survey work to the south. We're hoping that you'd be willing to make an announcement at the May meeting of the Springfield Naturalists' Club or perhaps you could put a note about this in your newsletter to see if anyone would be interested in helping us. The lengths of riverbank to be surveyed would be 100 feet long and would require checking once a week in order to collect and identify the shed skins left behind by emerging dragonflies. A real plus to this kind of work is that it gets you out on that beautiful river usually starting early in the morning, often in a canoe or kayak, and as often as not it gives you a chance for good wildlife sightings.

We are currently living in Costa Rica, but will be back in early June. We would love to hear if there is any interest as soon as possible. Dave McLain, our partner in these dragonfly surveys, will be the best person to contact if there's any interest out there.

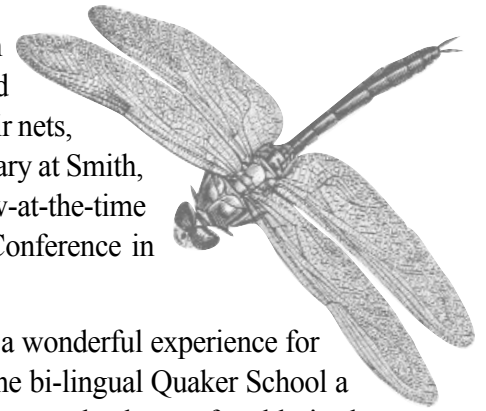
He lives at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton/Northampton and his home phone is 413-527-6940.

Thanks very much for helping us get the word out. Let us know if you'd like a more detailed description.

Cheers, Fred Morrison and Laurie Sanders  
(writing from Monteverde, Costa Rica)



Hi, thanks for the reply to our note about our search for volunteers to survey for CT River dragonflies. .... As you probably know the number of folks interested in dragonflies has absolutely mushroomed in the last few years. When we got started about ten years ago there were maybe 7 or 8 others in MA who were out swinging their nets, and the only reference materials Laurie and I could find were older texts from the library at Smith, Ginny Carpenter's slim volume on the *Dragonflies of Cape Cod* and the new-at-the-time newsletter, *OdeNews*, put out by Blair Nikula and Jackie Somes. The Dragonfly Conference in Athol last year had more than 120 odonate enthusiasts show up! What a change!



This 10 month stay at our second home in the cloud forests of Monteverde has been a wonderful experience for us, especially for Lydia, our four-year old daughter. She's been a Kinder student in the bi-lingual Quaker School a mile down the road and now has a better Spanish accent than I'll ever have. She's completely comfortable in the forests here, where she skips down the trails pointing out things at her level of sight that we'd probably miss without her help. It's going to be hard to leave but you're right, New England is pretty nice too, especially this time of year.

We return on the 7th of June [and won't be resettled right away,] so Dave McLain at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (584-6940) is still the best bet for anyone who would like to learn how to help with the survey work.

Hope we have a chance to get together this summer. Cheers, Fred Morrison

## **Hampden County Trees and Shrubs West Springfield**

Date: Friday, July 15

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy (413-572-5307)

Registration is not necessary.

The focus of this walk will be the identification of common trees and shrubs found in Hampden County, many of which are also common in the southern New England area. A list of species and hints on identification will be provided. If you have field guides that you'd like to become better versed in using, please bring them along. We'll stay on the trails, and the pace will be casual.

For other walks in the area featuring local flora, led by Dave Lovejoy (as well as by others) throughout the season, keep your eye on the Spontaneous Happenings listing on the Naturalists' Club website, [naturalist-club.org](http://naturalist-club.org).

Forest and edge plants . . . are the foundation of particular plant habitats. . . . Except on wooded shorelines fronting lakes or streams, a forest is almost always bounded by an edge. Edges are border zones, transition areas, between forest and open land, including openings in the forest itself. Dominant edge species consist mainly of shrubs and small trees that generally tolerate much less shade than forest plants. Edge plants are often pioneering species, characteristic of young stages in plant succession. Edges are by definition unstable. They form the "front line" of the forest and are major players in the process by which open land becomes forested.

~ from *The Book of Forest and Thicket*, John Eastman

## **Lavender and Daylilies Greenfield**

Date: Saturday, July 23

Time: 3 p.m. in the afternoon

Leader: Joan Presz (413-569-6663)

Meeting Place: Call Joan after 8 p.m.

Registration: Call to register and get directions. We need to know how many people will attend. The garden tour is free, but if you wish to partake of a special herbal tea workshop, you need to prepay \$10 to Joan by July 4 (246 Feeding Hills Road, Southwick, MA 01077). Please include your phone number.



We are invited to a private viewing of a garden, featured as well on the Greenfield garden tour, at a time when a great variety of daylilies, lavender and many other plants will be in bloom. (And there will possibly be a second special tour.)

We can also share in an herbal tea, planned just for us, which includes tasting of cold soup, savory tea sandwiches, sweets, and herbal lemonade. There will be a presentation on how the food was prepared and recipes to take home. There will be about one hour for the tea, done by Stockbridge Farm, the same people who did our tea last year.

This is a one-time-only event. If 20 people do not pay for the herbal tea workshop, it will not take place, though the garden tour will be held regardless.

## **Berry Patch Picnic West Granville**

Date: Saturday, July 30

Rain date: Sunday, July 31

Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

Meeting Place: Berry Patch, north side of Route 57 in West Granville, Mass. (just east of the sign for Granville State Forest)

Registration: Please call Art.

Joyce Orsi, owner of the Berry Patch, graciously invites the Naturalists' Club to pick cultivated blueberries and to enjoy a BYO summer picnic on her beautiful country estate. Spend the morning learning about and picking nature's health food - blueberries. Reward your labor with a leisurely picnic, stretched out on the lawn under the stately trees at this 200+ year old period home. The Club will provide burgers and dogs, while the leader will provide 22 flavors of old-fashioned gourmet soda in 7 oz. glass bottles, buried in a tub of ice. Also, rounding out the whole summertime picnic experience, Joyce is offering the opportunity to take a dip in her swimming pool and jacuzzi. Bring containers for berries to go, swimsuit and towel, and a creative picnic dish to share.

## **Ice in August- A Hike to Ice Glen Stockbridge**

Date: Sunday, August 14

Time: 9 a.m. 'til mid-afternoon

Meeting Place: Town and Country Liquors in West Springfield, Route 5

Leader: Dave Gallup (413-525-4697) Call for more details.

Join us on a hike to a magical place, a historic spot people have ventured to for over 100 years. We will traverse old-growth forests along the way to a site where giant boulders left behind by glaciers form craggy ice-filled caves in a cool, dense moss-carpeted forest.

After our adventure let's put up our feet and enjoy cool, refreshing drinks at the historic Red Lion Inn's patio in Stockbridge.

Please wear sturdy hiking shoes. Rain or showers will cancel this event.

## **Early Morning Paddle on Littleville Lake Huntington**

Date: Saturday, August 20

Time: 7a.m. to 10 a.m.

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

Registration: Please call Nancy or Tom.

Cost: \$5 per person for canoe rental

Meeting Place: Gateway Regional High School in Huntington

Heavy Rain Cancels

Rise and shine! This is the perfect time of day to enjoy a pleasant paddle on this beautiful little scenic reservoir tucked in among the hills. Chances are good we will see beaver, waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and other wildlife that utilize the lake. This is a calm, stillwater paddle on which people of all abilities are welcome. Canoes, life jackets, small watertight storage bags, and paddles will be provided. Bring your binoculars. Afterward, we will stop at the nearby Huntington Country Store for pastries, ice cream or coffee. Be sure to call to reserve a canoe, or bring your own. Limited to 12 people.

## **Star Party at the Astronomers' Conjunction Northfield**

Date: Friday, August 26

Time: 7:30 p.m. Clouds or rain cancels.

Leaders: Rich Sanderson, Dave Gallup (413-525-4697), Jack Megas (413-782-3962)

Meeting Place: Northfield Mountain Visitor Center, Route 63 (three miles north of Route 2 in Northfield)

The Astronomers Conjunction started 23 years ago as a Naturalists' Club activity and has now evolved into an annual Northeastern regional three-day astronomy convention, with 100 participants and nationally known speakers. Help us celebrate this anniversary by joining us for Friday's free dark-sky Star Party in this beautiful rural setting.

What is a New England landscape this sunny August day? A weather-painted house and barn, with an orchard by its side, in midst of a sandy field surrounded by green woods, with a small blue lake on one side. A sympathy between the color of the weather-painted house and that of the lake and sky.

*~ from the journals of Henry David Thoreau, August 26, 1856*

## Stump Sprouts Weekend

West Hawley

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 July 15, please. This trip will be cancelled if 18 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: 20 people

After supper a luminous pink glow spread into the clearing and drew us down to the water. The sky had cleared; Pilgrim Mountain, bulking up in the west, was backlit by the sinking sun. The lake had stilled, and it was impossible to tell where the mountain ended and its reflection began. There were, as Morris Longstreth put it, two skies. Thirty yards from shore three loons swam and dove. We settled down on a boulder and watched the sky deepen to purple, to light blue, to royal blue. Unable to turn away, we sat there until the stars appeared and the mountain dissolved into night. The silence was immense.

~ from *An Adirondack Passage*, Christine Jerome

## Mid-Week Nature Hike: Ludlow Reservoir Ludlow

Date: Wednesday, September 14

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Rain Date: Thursday, September 15 at the same time

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (413-788-4125)

Registration: Please call Dietrich.

Meeting Place: To be arranged

Dietrich has retired!! Which means occasional mid-week nature adventures are a possibility. Our first trip will be to the Ludlow Reservoir in Ludlow, just off Route 21. Our trip will have an end of summer, early fall focus. What is happening in the world of plants and animals at this time of year? Why are leaves changing color? What are insects and animals up to?

The pace will be casual, with the group choosing what sorts of things to explore. Just bring your interest and curiosity and we will go from there.

## Nourse Farms, Inc. Whately

Date: Saturday, September 17

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

Meeting Place: Whately Diner parking lot, Route 5/10 in Whately.

Registration: \$4 per person, at the request of Nourse Farms (The money is donated to Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom.)

Nourse Farms, Inc. ([www.noursefarms.com](http://www.noursefarms.com)), a small-fruit nursery for over 70 years, is the largest supplier of raspberry and strawberry plants east of the Rocky Mountains. Their 2005 catalog features 31 varieties of blackberry, blueberry, currant, gooseberry, horseradish, raspberry, rhubarb, and strawberry plants. At Nourse Farms, innovative research and development, extensive testing, advanced tissue culture propagation, and industry breeding programs aim to improve the world's berry plants. Each year they deliver millions of the best super-healthy, virus-free, disease-resistant small-fruit plants in today's market.

Tour the tissue culture lab, greenhouse, packing house, cold storage, shipping rooms, and production fields. Discuss cultural advice, variety descriptions, and pest control needed to produce quality berries from June till hard frost. Shop the nursery store for small-fruit related accessories, equipment, information, and supplies. Following the tour, experience health-promoting compounds in berries, called nutraceuticals, as we pick our own raspberries.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

# WESTFIELD RIVER INITIATIVE

Wednesday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m.  
Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum  
Speaker: Bill Toomey

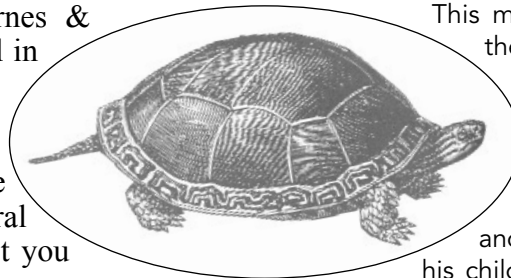
Central and western Massachusetts contain all or part of eleven exceptionally large, intact forest areas, each of which contains at least one unbroken block of contiguous forested land spanning 15,000 acres or more. These forested tracts comprise essential habitat for whole populations of wide-ranging mammals, like the black bear, mink, fisher and bobcat, as well as bird species adapted to life in the interior forest. The forests also link habitat ranging from the mid-Atlantic through to the Northern Appalachians, allowing safer passage for migratory animals.

The Westfield River watershed forests face a variety of threats, including conversion to residential neighborhoods, retail centers and mining sites. Existing land parcels are being subdivided, resulting in smaller holdings and fragmentation of the native habitat. Non-native weeds invade the territory, choking out indigenous plant species. Come listen to Bill Toomey, project manager for the Nature Conservancy, as he discusses activities of this global organization undertaken right here in our own backyard. Bill will share his insights into the attributes of the Westfield River and its surrounding watershed that have made the area a priority for protection by the Nature Conservancy. From his presentation we will learn the processes involved in protecting land and the role we all can play in preserving the last remaining large forest tracts of Massachusetts.

### Connecticut River Canoe Trip Holyoke to Springfield

Date: Sunday, September 25  
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (413-564-0895)  
Registration: Please call Nancy.  
Cost: \$5 per person for canoe rental  
Meeting Place: Parking lot of Barnes & Noble/Circuit City, near Holyoke Mall in Holyoke.  
Heavy Rain Cancels

New England's longest river, the Connecticut, winds through bucolic rural settings as well as big cities. Haven't you wondered what was up around the corner, as you pass over an I-91 bridge? Let's explore this flat section of river from Holyoke to Springfield, surprisingly pretty for such an urban area. We'll be paddling downriver 10 miles, enjoying a diversity of wildlife and seeing history from a unique perspective. A brief safety and instructional session will be provided at the beginning of the trip. Bring a lunch and pack belongings in water-resistant containers (zip lock bags work well). Bring along your own canoe or let us know if you would like us to provide one for you. Paddles, life jackets, and small watertight storage bags are provided if you rent a canoe. Limited to 12 people.



There is a story about one of our great atomic physicists – a story for whose authenticity I cannot vouch, and therefore I will not mention his name. I hope, however, with all my heart that it is true. If it is not, then it ought to be, for it illustrates well what I mean by a growing self-awareness, a sense of responsibility about the universe.

This man, one of the chief architects of the atomic bomb, so the story runs, was out wandering in the woods one day with a friend when he came upon a small tortoise. Overcome with pleasurable excitement, he took up the tortoise and started home, thinking to surprise his children with it. After a few steps he paused and surveyed the tortoise doubtfully.

"What's the matter?" asked his friend.

Without responding, the great scientist slowly retraced his steps as precisely as possible, and gently set the turtle down upon the exact spot from which he had taken him up.

Then he turned solemnly to his friend. "It just struck me," he said, "that perhaps, for one man, I have tampered enough with the universe." He turned, and left the turtle to wander on its way.

*Loren Eiseley, quoted in Time and the River Flowing: Grand Canyon, by François Leydet*

## Digital Camera Hike Hampden

Date: Saturday, October 1

Rain Date: Sunday, October 2

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Place: Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Hampden

Leader: Sonya Vickers (413-566-3406)

Registration: It would be helpful to know how many will attend, but drop-ins are welcome.

This program was rained out when last scheduled, so here is your chance to try it again. Digital photography offers a unique opportunity to record natural sightings and events because you do not have to worry about the number of pictures you actually take and the good ones can be easily catalogued on your computer. Close-ups and telephotos are a snap to use for anything from ant ID to bird ID. You can even enlarge the photo on your computer to verify the color of the eye ring of that bird you saw.

We will take a short walk at Laughing Brook Sanctuary. You may bring your digital camera or use one provided. We will return to the cars to download photos to a laptop, so each person will be able to leave with a copy of their images on CD. Bring any connections for your camera and a laptop if you have one. Laptops will be available for those without one.

Directions: From Springfield, take Route 83 through East Longmeadow center. Travel 1.5 miles south of the center and turn left onto Hampden Road at the big green sign for Hampden. At the second stop sign (Hampden House), turn right. In a few hundred feet turn left, opposite the gas station, and go almost 2 miles to the center of Hampden. Continue about half a mile. The entrance to Laughing Brook is on the left just before the fork in the road.

## WEDNESDAY WALKERS



Join this small group of folks who know where to find the wildflowers blooming. Bring lunch and meet up with the Wednesday Walkers at 10 in the morning, walk till around noontime, then stop for lunch (often at a picnic table) before going on with your day. Destinations are often close by, though sometimes the walkers venture off, round and about, to places like the Quabbin or a fondly remembered flowering glen in the hills. Wouldn't you like to be part of this informal gathering? Places are decided by the group the week before. Please contact Barbara Farrington (413-786-7432) to join in.

## SPONTANEOUS HAPPENINGS

As an ongoing experiment in making our website reflective of seasonal happenings in the natural world, events beyond those noted in these pages may be offered this summer and will be found on the Club's web page. Go to the page late in the week to find out about an event scheduled for that weekend. Details will be online.

Perhaps you would like to lead a naturalist outing and have it announced online? E-mail Tom Condon, our webmaster, at [science@condon.net](mailto:science@condon.net), or call him at 564-0895, to talk. Remember that if you do not have the internet at home, public libraries provide public access. If you haven't visited our site recently, take another look-see! Refer to the Club's Web Page at: <http://naturalist-club.org>.

## Seeing Better Across Four Seasons

series continues Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m to 2 p.m. with Mark Cashman. Registration is limited. 860-683-0835 ([mcashman@temporaldoorway.com](mailto:mcashman@temporaldoorway.com))

## ANOTHER NATURALIST SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The Invasive Water Chestnut.

To all who are interested in canoeing while pulling invasive water chestnut from the Connecticut River watershed this early summer, please contact Beth Goettel, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, 52 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376. Phone: 413-863-0209, ext. 2. Fax: 413-863-3070.

~ submitted by Arthur O'Leary

**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.



2005  
2006

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## NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Many of you know that September is the month for membership renewal and also the time that our largest annual bills (rental of Tolman Auditorium, liability insurance) are due. You may pay at a monthly meeting or send a check to the treasurer. If you cannot recall when you last paid, ask Dave Lovejoy at the meeting or inquire at [dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu) or 572-5307. If you have not paid since 2003-2004 and we do not receive your renewal, this newsletter will be your last and you will receive a dues reminder letter (probably in late October) requesting payment. Timely dues payment saves the Club the expense of sending letters. Most members renew at the regular rate, but as of May 2005 there are 13 supporting and three sustaining members.

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 per 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, Department of Biology, 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](mailto:dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu)).



Become a Club Member or Renew  
Your Existing Membership for 2005-2006.

Name

Address

Phone Number

Requests for programs/trips

Please fill out the above information and mail to Club Treasurer, Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086-1630. Or email [dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu)