

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 t o J U N E 2 0 0 6 SCHEDULE · OF · ACTIVITIES

A P R I L

Saturday	1	Go Fly a Kite, <i>Westfield</i>
Sunday	2	East River Trail Hike, <i>Chesterfield</i>
Saturday	8	It's a Small World, <i>Westfield</i>
Sunday	9	Richard Cronin National Salmon Hatchery Tour, <i>Sunderland</i>
Wednesday	19	APRIL MEETING: Spring Amphibians and Vernal Pools
Sunday	23	Big Trees – Ice Glen and Bullard Woods, <i>Stockbridge</i>
Sunday	30	Lost Towns of the Quabbin: A Natural History and Historic Field Trip, <i>Hardwick</i>

M A Y

Saturday	6	Spring Bird Walk in Mittineague Park, <i>West Springfield</i>
Sunday	7	Mt. Tom Wildlife Viewing Area Maintenance Picnic Party, <i>Holyoke</i>
Wednesday	10	Mid-Week Nature Hike: Ludlow Reservoir, <i>Ludlow</i>
Saturday	13	A Writing Walk, <i>West Springfield</i>
Wednesday	15	MAY MEETING: Our Changing Landscape
Saturday	27	Great Falls Discovery Center, <i>Turners Falls</i>
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J U N E

Saturday	3	An Evening with Naturalists, <i>Hampden</i>
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Saturday	17	Nature Bike Hike, <i>Easthampton</i>



NATURALIST'S CORNER

We thought everyone would enjoy reading the following essay, written by Richard Sanderson 22 years ago. Richard is still a Naturalists' Club member and at the time of this writing was newsletter editor. He is now the curator of physical science at the Springfield Science Museum, where our club holds meetings. And, yes, the club lives on into the 21st century! (Forwarded by Dave and Suzanne Gallup)

The NATURALISTS' CLUB: KEEPING ALIVE A NEW ENGLAND TRADITION (May - June, 1984)

June marks the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Naturalists' Club. During its 15 years, the club has continued a tradition of promoting natural history education that is deeply rooted in New England. Natural history clubs and societies are outstanding for the role they have played in increasing our knowledge and appreciation of nature. This was especially true during the first half of the 19th century, when naturalists were faced with a challenging problem: A vast amount of field work was needed to systematize our knowledge in the fields of botany, zoology, and geology. New England was in the forefront of this investigation, with such men as Edward Hitchcock, Louis Agassiz, James Dana, Benjamin Silliman, and Asa Gray. New England was also a leader in the formation of scientific and natural history societies, and after 1830 the natural history movement in New England gained great momentum. These organizations were beneficial to society by increasing the world's store of knowledge and by diffusing this knowledge among the people.

In the autumn of 1859 four Springfield gentlemen met at the home of Mr. Daniel L. Harris. These men shared an interest in promoting natural history education, and they might have formed the nucleus of a prestigious natural history society based in Springfield but their efforts were aimed in a different direction: They organized the Springfield Ethnological and Natural History Museum, which along with the City Library occupied a room in the City Hall. This museum evolved into the splendid educational facility that we enjoy today — the location of our monthly meetings.

From the Civil War to the present time, scientific societies have become increasingly specialized, reflecting the specialization of the individual scientists in response to the great increase in the body of knowledge. This tendency toward specialization is seen on both amateur and professional levels. Nature clubs of interested laymen have flourished in America since the turn of the century. Extreme specialization of organizations is still evident, but many people have re-emphasized the value of the general societies, a value demonstrated by the success of the Naturalists' Club. The Naturalists' Club is an organization in which all fields of the natural sciences are pursued. The club is successful because it contains people with widely ranging interests. Most people who specialize in a particular area of natural history, as do I with astronomy, are nevertheless eager to learn about other aspects of natural history. Ed Piela, who founded the Naturalists' Club in 1969, has often attributed its success to this holistic approach — an approach that encompassed all areas of natural history.

In order to remain healthy, a club must grow and evolve. The Board of Directors affirmed this philosophy in October of 1983 by affirming that the club should strive to increase its membership and influence in the local area. As in nature, a club's evolutionary changes can sometimes take place in rapid spurts. This happened recently with the creation of a new and more sophisticated set of by-laws, including changes in several areas of club policy.

As far as I can determine, the Naturalists' Club is the only general natural history club ever to appear in Springfield. I see no reason why the club shouldn't continue to live on into the 21st century. I think two of the key factors in our club's survival are the continual use of new ideas and a willingness to work toward growth. Someday our club may have affiliated organizations in other parts of New England, but in the coming years I think we should strive to be as successful as possible on a local level. The field of natural history offers infinite opportunities for challenge and fulfillment, but the success of the Naturalists' Club is in the hands of the membership. If you have ever considered getting more involved with the club, why not do it now? And always try to keep the goals and purpose of the club in mind. By doing these things, in the year of our club's 15th anniversary, you will increase the chances that someday our club will be celebrating its 100th.

~ Richard Sanderson

Go Fly a Kite, *Westfield*

Date and Time: Saturday, April 1, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

Place: Playing fields at Stanley Park, Western Ave., Westfield. Please call to clarify meeting place.

Bring your kite to Stanley Park in Westfield and let it soar in the March wind. This is exhilarating for all ages.

Ever get frustrated with kite flying? Come along for hints on getting the kite into the sky and keeping it there. Have you ever seen a stunt kite perform? Here's your chance!

Please call Sonya by Friday, March 30, in case weather (including forecasts for no wind!) should cancel this outing.



What's So Special about the Westfield River Watershed?

Find out the answer to this question by coming to the 12th Annual Westfield River Symposium on Saturday, April 1. With the theme "What's So Special About Our Watershed," the symposium will feature speakers on flora and fauna, historical attractions, and a look at what's needed to keep the watershed healthy in the future.

Keynote Speaker Wayne Klockner, State Director of The Nature Conservancy, will explain why TNC is making a huge land preservation commitment to the Westfield River Watershed. Other highlights of the day will include world-renowned birder Wayne Peterson discussing changing bird populations in New England, historian Dennis Picard presenting a fascinating program on the General Knox Trail, and seven other speakers. Field trips will include a hands-on demonstration of GIS mapping and a short hike to Glendale Falls, one of the natural wonders of the watershed.

Sponsored by the Westfield River Watershed Association, this program is open to the public free of charge, including complimentary continental breakfast. The program will be held in Wilson Hall of Westfield State with the indoor portion from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and field trips beginning at 2:00 p.m. For further information visit www.westfieldriver.org or call 532-7290.

East River Trail Hike, *Chesterfield*

Date and Time: Sunday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please call 564-0895 to register, so if bad weather forces cancellation we can contact you.

Meeting Place: Westfield State Commuter Parking Lot

The East River Trail begins in Chesterfield Gorge and follows the Westfield River down to Knightsville Dam in Huntington. We'll be following this trail downriver in search of interesting natural sightings. Bring binoculars to join in our quest for the return of early spring birds and pack along field guides for wildflowers, should we be so lucky, or for mushrooms if it's a wet spring?

This hike is for casual hikers. We will be traveling at a leisurely pace, with no particular destination or distance in mind. We'll walk as far as people wish and as long as time allows. Please wear appropriate footwear, dress for the weather, pack a lunch, and carry plenty of water.

It's a Small World, *Westfield*

Date and Time: Saturday, April 8, starting at 10 a.m.

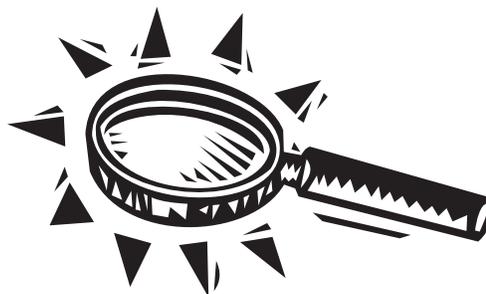
Leader: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

Meeting Place: Stanley Park, Western Ave., Westfield

Directions: Driving from Westfield center, pass the first park entrance and the playing fields on your left. Take the second entrance and park in that lot.

We have all enjoyed the natural beauty of things existing on the same scale as we do ~ the birds, wildflowers, trees, and mammals. Yet a whole realm of natural beauty, though usually too small for us to notice, exists in the small world we come in contact with every day. We will be taking a walk through the park, collecting objects to investigate for their hidden beauty. Field microscopes will be used for the outdoor walk, and lab microscopes will be used when we come indoors. No experience is necessary.

Please call by Friday, April 7, to reserve your microscope and to find out just where we'll be gathering.



APRIL MEETING:

SPRING AMPHIBIANS AND VERNAL POOLS

Wednesday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m.

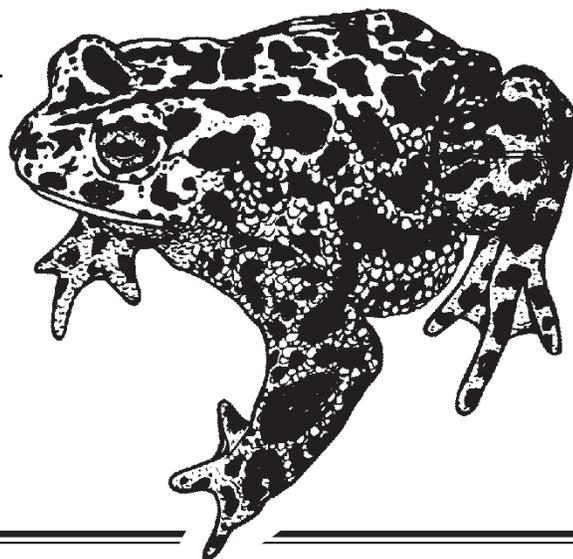
Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: Tom Tynning

With remarkable fidelity, amphibians migrate from their forested wintering sites, at night and in the rain, to reach vernal pools each spring. Tom Tynning, master naturalist and author, will introduce us to the wonders of these spectacular ecological communities. He has written the book, literally, on amphibians (and reptiles) for the Stokes Nature Guides series. And people may fondly remember his weekly newspaper column about nature in the Springfield Union News.

Tom leads natural history tours to such places as the Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Venezuela, the Amazon River Basin, South Florida's Everglades, Newfoundland and eastern Canada, and the desert Southwest. His graduate work from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) focused on the biology and conservation of the timber rattlesnake.

We are happy to welcome an old friend back to the Naturalists' Club. Don't miss this one!



Richard Cronin National Salmon Hatchery Tour, *Sunderland*

Date and Time: Sunday, April 9, 2:30 till around 5 p.m.

Leader: Nancy Condon (564-0895)

Meeting Place: Hampshire Mall parking lot, on Route 9 in Hadley, near the EMS store entrance.

Registration: Call Nancy

The Richard Cronin National Salmon Station in Sunderland plays a vital role in restoring Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River and its tributaries. In 2005, 186 fish returned to the river system so long bereft of this species. This increase of 268% from 2004 is an achievement due to the efforts made right here by a very dedicated man and his colleagues.

Mickey Novak, US Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries biologist and hatchery manager, will host our tour of this facility. Mickey will provide an update on the status of the restoration effort to date and allow us an insider's look at the salmon-saving efforts being made there. We can feed the 2005 returnee fish, kept at the facility for spawning purposes. We'll visit the holding ponds and runs and also a terrific vernal pool with salamander egg masses and spotted turtles since it is very cool and right on-site.

Program will take place rain or shine. Bring a supper or some hotdogs to grill at the picnic area at the end of the tour. Everyone of every age is welcome.

I remember well the day the great oak came down.

Gram, I remember, brushed away what she remarked was dust in her eyes with a corner of her apron and went inside. She had known and loved that one great tree since she had come to the farm as a bride of sixteen. She had seen it under all conditions and through eyes colored by many moods. Her children had grown up under its shadow and I, a grandchild, had known its shade.

Its passing was like the passing of an old, old friend. For all of us there seemed an empty space in our sky in the days that followed.

~ Edwin Way Teale in *Dune Boy, The Early Years of a Naturalist*

Big Trees - Ice Glen and Bullard Woods, *Stockbridge*

Date and Time: Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m. till 3 p.m.?

Leader: Art O'Leary (789-7274)

Meeting Place: Information Booth on Main Street/Route 102 in Stockbridge.

Directions: Mass. Pike Exit 2, Route 102 to Stockbridge center

Registration: None required

Bring a creative picnic lunch/beverages for sharing, tree field guides, optics/cameras, and rain gear.

According to Robert T. Leverett, co-founder of the Eastern Native Tree Society, Bullard Woods, owned by the Stockbridge Bowl Association, is the big-tree place to see in Massachusetts. Advancing in age, the big trees are falling, and the magic and history found within these woods will eventually be lost. Climax stage red and white oaks, very large white pines, a white ash 111 feet high and 12 feet in circumference, scattered birch, large old sugar maples, a couple of tulip trees, and a "Blish Tree" shagbark hickory 115 feet tall and 10 feet in circumference ~ all easily break the 100-foot threshold. The sole trail at Bullard Woods, leading from the road to the shore, has a footbridge and well-placed picnic tables.

Gould Meadow, owned and managed by the town of Stockbridge, has no trails. Plans exist for a lakeside trail (Lake Mahkeenac) connecting to Bullard Woods. The higher land of Gould Meadow offers a remarkable view of the glacially created Stockbridge Bowl and also has excellent picnic sites.

Ice Glen was described by Nathaniel Hawthorne as "the most curious fissure in all the Berkshires." Ice lasts in this stony crevasse longer than anywhere else around, so be prepared. This area is known for towering ash trees, including one 140 feet tall, and an exceptional 132-foot tall Eastern hemlock with a 10-foot girth.

EARTH DAY "ROCKS"!



Date: Saturday, April 29

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Leader: Richard Little

Directions: Take I-91 to Exit 26, go west on Rte 2 and immediate RIGHT (Colrain Rd), then one mile to Greenfield Community College entrance on left. Park in Lot E. Walk up the roadway to the Rock Park at the rear of the Main Building. Signs to N301 (Geo Lab) will be posted. Bring a bag lunch.

Cost: Naturalists' Club and Pioneer Valley Institute members \$5, others \$10. Child with adult, free.

Registration: Call 413-527-8536 or email rdlittle2000@aol.com

What better way to appreciate and celebrate Earth's amazing wonders than exploring the exciting geologic history of our Connecticut Valley? Join GCC geologist Richard Little with a journey through **D E E P T I M E** as we travel through 500 million years of geologic history, visiting sites where continents collided and split, where dinosaurs walked along Mesozoic lakeshores, where lava oozed into lakes, where armored mud balls were born, and where glaciers, Lake Hitchcock, and old waterfalls shaped our landscape. There will be abundant opportunities to collect rocks and take some great photos.

At 10:30 we will meet in the Geology Lab, N301, at GCC for a fast-paced 45-minute introductory program on local geology. Then a bring-your-own brown-bag lunch and tour of the Rock Park at GCC, followed by a field trip, with stops along Route 2 from Greenfield to Erving. The trip will feature short walks and roadside exposures. The program will end at the French King Bridge in Erving about 3:30.

There will be opportunity to purchase the 3rd edition of **Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents** by Richard Little as well as DVD's on regional geology. Visit www.earthview.pair.com for more information on publications.

MAY MEETING:

OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Wednesday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: Dan Conlon

In this presentation Dan Conlon will explore how political decisions, environmental conditions, and invasive species have impacted and changed our landscape. From the 1600's to the present, human activity and land use have been a driving force for change in our Massachusetts environment and habitat, determining in large part the animals, insects, and plants that dominate in our surroundings. This talk, presented with slides, is intended to introduce listeners to many factors that continue to influence our landscape. Questions and insights from club members are encouraged.

Dan Conlon is a professional beekeeper, an apiarist. Bonita and Dan Conlon operate more than 400 bee colonies in Western Mass. and are committed to preserving habitat for native pollinators as well as to sustainable land use aimed to conserve and protect our natural resources. After the presentation Warm Colors Apiary honeys will be available for the group to sample. Visit www.warmcolorsapiary.com for additional information.



Lost Towns of The Quabbin: A Natural History and Historic Field Trip, *Hardwick*

Date and Time: Sunday, April 30, at 9 a.m.

Leader: Dave Gallup (525-4697)

Meeting Place: Crystal Springs Plaza, Belchertown (at intersection of Routes 9 & 202)

Join Dave Gallup on this hike, as we step back into the 19th century to discover the once thriving community of Dana – one of four towns lost when the area was flooded to form the Quabbin Reservoir. This all-day adventure has been expanded and will include spectacular views of Quabbin Reservoir, en route to Quabbin Cemetery, where we will examine artifacts from the four lost towns (Enfield, Prescott, Greenwich, and Dana), before moving on to Hardwick, a town resembling Dana as it was in the early 1900's.

On this two-mile walk (four miles round trip) you will journey on an old road through the open forest, with stops along the way to reflect upon the history and wildlife of the region. Once at Dana Commons, you will inspect the fascinating cellar holes, stone walls, sidewalks and streets of a town frozen in time. Dave has many surprises, including rare photographs of the beautiful Dana homes that stood here one hundred years ago, before being dismantled to make way for the reservoir project.

Bring your lunch, beverage and a camera. Due to ecological concerns, this hike is limited to 25 participants.



Spring Bird Walk in Mittineague Park, *West Springfield*

Date and Time: Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Leaders: Dan Russell, Dietrich Schlobohm (788-4125)

Meeting Place: At the entrance to Mittineague Park (by Santa's House) on Route 20 (Westfield Street) in West Springfield

Registration: Not needed

May is the time of year when many birds pass through our area on their annual journey north. Some of the birds reside here until the fall, while others move on. On this walk we may be able to see or hear warblers, finches, grosbeaks, orioles, swallows, sparrows, and possibly the park's resident pileated woodpeckers. Red-tailed hawk, wild turkeys, and the great horned owl also frequent the park. Along the river walkers may spy ducks, herons, kingfishers, and even cormorants. This trip is open to anyone interested in birds, ranging from beginner to seasoned veteran.

Our two-hour walk will be led by Dan Russell, a professor at Springfield College. Dan is an amateur ornithologist and lifelong birding enthusiast. He has had a curiosity about birds since the age of eleven, when he received a bird book from a relative.

(continued...)

(Bird Walk...continued)

Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, beverage, and snack. Comfortable footwear should also be worn. The walk will be conducted despite any light rain or drizzle. Heavy rain will cancel, but Sunday, May 7th will be a rain date (same time: 9 till 11 a.m.). For any additional information, contact Dietrich Schlobohm at 788-4125.

Mount Tom Wildlife Viewing Area Maintenance Picnic Party, *Holyoke*

Date and Time: Sunday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leader: Nancy Condon (564-0895)

Meeting Place: Route 5 entrance to Mt. Tom State Park Reservation. Later arrivals, meet us at the overlook.

Registration: It is helpful to know you are coming, but drop-ins are welcome.

For many years now, the Naturalists' Club has maintained an area at the Goodreau Memorial Overlook on Mt. Tom Reservation. Twice yearly, members pitch in to remove invasive trees, thus encouraging the growth of berry-producing shrubs and other wildlife-sustaining foliage. The superb vista afforded by our wildlife area, high on the mountainside, 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.

To complete our morning of work, picnic fixings will be provided. 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.

Mid-Week Nature Hike: Ludlow Reservoir, *Ludlow*

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (788-4125)

Meeting Place: To be arranged.

Registration: Please call Dietrich

Winter has receded and the human community is enjoying the arrival of Spring. Nature is moving through its never-ending cycle. Our first trip will be to the Ludlow Reservoir, just off Route 21. We will focus

on the sounds and signs of nature's rebirth. Let's celebrate the arrival of spring by observing the debut of new birds (warblers in particular), trees leafing out, flowers, insects and wildlife.

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

A Writing Walk, *West Springfield*

Date and Time: Saturday, May 13, 2 to 4 or 4:30 p.m.

Leaders: Susan Middleton (628-4039) and Julie Schlobohm (788-4125)

Meeting Place: Main entrance to Mittineague Park in West Springfield (off Route 20)

Registration: Call Susan before 9 a.m. Saturday, May 12. Limited to 12 participants..

Rain date: Sunday, May 14, same time and place.

As promised in the winter newsletter, Susan Middleton and Julie Schlobohm are leading another Writing Walk, this time in West Springfield. Whether or not you consider yourself a writer is irrelevant. Come try this fun, creative way of engaging with nature.

During the first hour, we'll walk around Mittineague Park, stopping several times for about a minute each time to write about what we're experiencing at that place. The goal is not to try for finished pieces, just quick verbal sketches. Then we'll spend the second hour sitting comfortably in nearby shelter, reading aloud what we've written. After each person reads, others will have a chance to express what they like about that person's writing. (Because this is the tender, first-draft stage of writing, the group avoids giving criticism or ideas for improvement. Also, nobody will be forced to read aloud if he or she doesn't want to, though we may gently cajole you into giving it a try.)

Depending on size of the group, the whole outing will last somewhere between two and two and a half hours. Participants should wear footwear appropriate for walking outdoors and bring a notebook to write in while standing up. Also bring insect repellent and a snack if desired, but leave pets at home. Precipitation on Saturday postpones the event until Sunday; if it rains on Sunday, then we'll postpone the walk until a future date. Everyone who participated in the September Writing Walk at Stump Sprouts enjoyed the process, so we hope more people join us.

Great Falls Discovery Center, *Turners Falls*

Date and Times: Saturday, May 27, 12:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Leader: Art O'Leary (789-7274)

Meeting Place: Main parking lot at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Directions: Interstate 91 to Exit 27, Route 2 East to the traffic lights in Gill. Turn south, toward Turners Falls and Deerfield, over the river on Avenue A. Take the second right, into the main parking lot.

Registration: None required

Sue Cloutier, outreach specialist for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, will lead a tour and discussion of the exhibits at the Great Falls Discovery Center. These exhibits highlight various habitats and key species found in the Connecticut River watershed. Timelines between the exhibits put into perspective current views of threats to each habitat and what we can do to safeguard them.

The Center, housed within a complex of old mill buildings, is fully accessible and includes open habitat exhibits, fish tanks, and a multipurpose program room. The four-acre park that surrounds the Center has butterfly gardens, native plantings, views of the canal and river, as well as a safe play and picnic areas. A booklet, available at the Center, can guide you on a walking tour of the historic buildings in downtown Turners Falls. After the tour we can visit the nearby bike path, the power canal that runs behind the center, the fish ladder (if open), and the "watchable wildlife" areas of Barton Cove. Bring rain gear, optics, water, and snacks.



"Nobody knows exactly where spring begins. The season has no starting point like a sprinter on a track. Somewhere south of Lake Okeechobee, in the watery wilderness of the Everglades, it comes into being, swells, gains momentum. Its arrival becomes more abrupt, more striking, its line of demarcation more evident as it progresses north. Here, in this southernmost part of the United States, there is no dramatic spring awakening as there is in some New England valley, suddenly rich with bloodroot and hepatica. Here, changes are gentle. The pendulum of the seasons moves slowly and the arc of its swing is restricted. Here we were, in a way, south of spring."

~ Edwin Way Teale, *North With With the Spring*

Spider Hunt, *Westfield*

Date and Time: Sunday, May 28, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Leader: Nancy Condon (564-0895)

Meeting Place: Stanley Park, by the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife area trailhead.

Registration: Call Nancy

Spiders are fascinating creatures. Were it not for them, our world would be overridden with insects. Come learn a little bit about these invertebrates and participate in a hike to find a few. We will stop in a couple of different spots along the trail to perform a variety of collecting techniques: Armed with vials, we'll sift through the leaf litter, tap branches to see who falls out on a collecting tarp, and perhaps set up a Burlese funnel to temporarily collect specimens for inspection. We'll check the critters out with hand lenses and microscopes, to get a close look at the eight eyes or the combs on the end of the tarsi. Armed with guides and keys and Nancy's limited but practiced aptitude, we'll figure out who we've found and gain a higher respect for these crafty little fellows.

Come dressed for the weather and for getting down on hands and knees. Gloves may make you feel better about handling spiders, but are not really necessary. An adventurous spirit is all that is required!



An Evening with Naturalists, *Hampden*

Date and Time: Saturday, June 3, starting at 7 p.m.

Hostess: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

Registration: Space is limited. Please call.

This is the eleventh year in a row for a gathering of naturalists, though this time around a summer backyard campfire rather than the customary fireplace in winter. We will set our sites on the macroscopic (astronomic) and microscopic aspects of our world, all in a friendly social setting for sharing our varied natural interests. There will be desserts and refreshments ~ please let us know if you'd like to bring something along. Directions will be provided when you call to register. Rain will not cancel.

Deerfield River Canoe Trip, *Deerfield*

Date and Time: Sunday, June 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please call 564-0895 to register, so if bad weather forces cancellation we can contact you.

Meeting Place: Barnes & Noble parking lot in Holyoke

The Deerfield River is one of the most pleasant early summer paddles in Western Massachusetts. Starting at the Bardwell Bridge in Shelburne, the river meanders through northern forests and picturesque valleys as it makes its way to the Connecticut River in Montague. This twelve-mile trip is divided nearly in half by the character of the river: The first six miles flows at a comfortable pace, with occasional waves as the river drops over or around small rapids. These rapids offer new paddlers an opportunity for a bit of fun and a new challenge. The second six miles is a more bucolic paddle as the river enters the floodplain of the Connecticut River. The river twists and flows gently past high banks, leading toward agricultural fields.

It is not necessary to be an experienced canoeist to join us for this pleasant canoe trip. Space is limited so please call early. Venture Crew 872 of Southwick allows us to use their canoes, paddles, and life jackets for a mere \$5 per person, so even if you do not own a canoe, you can still join us. Participants should bring water and a lunch. Small dry bags will be available in each boat to keep electronics, such as cameras and cell phones, dry even in the unlikely event of a capsized boat.



Happy Pappy Camping Weekend, *Washington*

Dates and Times: from 7 p.m. Friday, June 16, till around 3 p.m. Sunday, June 18,

Leader: Arthur Joseph O'Leary III (789-7274)

Meeting Place: At the pavilion, Summit Hill Campground, 34 Old Middlefield Road, Washington.

Directions: Route 8 to Washington. Turn onto Summit Hill Road and follow the signs to Summit Hill Campground. Old Middlefield Road is a right off of Summit Hill Road.

Registration: Participants must register and pay directly (mention The Naturalists' Club) to Marilyn Delaney, owner of Summit Hill Campground (623-5761)

Bring complete, self-sufficient tent, camping equipment, supplies/food, and money for store items. This Father's Day weekend, take the family camping at the wonderful, all-inclusive Summit Hill Campground. Twenty-six remote, wooded tent sites, each with a fire pit, picnic table, parking, and nearby piped-in water, await your discovery. A short walk leads to a comfort station with free hot showers, sinks, and flush toilets. Down the hill, in the open field, you'll find the recreation hall, an adult lounge, a playground and sports court, the pavilion, and a store (camping supplies, ice, food, and firewood).

There will be plenty of downtime at the campground, between the plethora of naturalist outings by day and nighttimes under the lights, leaving ample opportunity to play basketball, bocce, shuffleboard, badminton, horseshoes, volleyball on the grounds, as well as to swim in the heated pool and enjoy a bonfire.

Nearby naturalist outings (for groups or individuals - directions available upon request) include the Appalachian Trail, Washington Lake, October Mountain State Forest, Hinsdale Flats Wildlife Management Area, Waconah Falls, Astemere Daylily Farm, Rice Wildlife Sanctuary, Dream Away Lodge, Berkshire Berries, and Historic Becket Quarry and Forest Preserve.

Nature Bike Hike, *Easthampton*

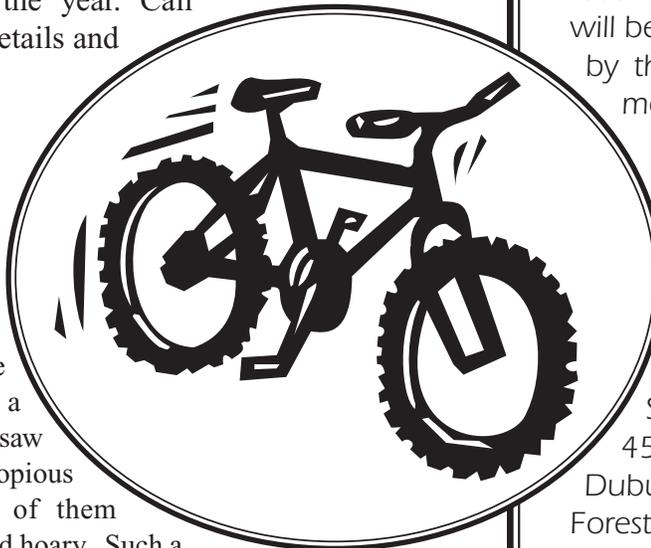
Date and Time: Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (788-4125)

Meeting Place: Meet at the bike trailhead kiosk at the intersection of East Street and Route 5 in Easthampton. Have your bike with you.

Registration: Please call Dietrich to register.

By June nature has come into full bloom, with lots of warm, sunny days. Join Dietrich for an exploration of the new Easthampton Bike Trail, which passes close by Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Our bike trip will focus on the signs and evidence of late spring and early summer, including the migration of birds. We will also explore the different habitats along the trail. Participants will have a chance to explore the feast that nature presents to their senses ~ the sights, smells, and sounds of this beautiful time of the year. Call Dietrich for more details and information.



"I jot this mem. in a wild scene of woods and hills, where we have come to visit a waterfall. I never saw finer or more copious hemlocks, many of them large, some old and hoary. Such a sentiment to them, secretive, shaggy—what I call weather-beaten and let-alone—a rich underlay of ferns, yew sprouts and mosses, beginning to be spotted with the early summer wildflowers. Enveloping all, the monotone and liquid gurgle from the hoarse impetuous copious fall—the greenish-tawny, darkly transparent waters, plunging with velocity down the rocks, with patches of milk-white foam—a stream of hurrying amber, thirty feet wide, risen far back in the hills and woods, now rushing with volume—every hundred yards a fall, and sometimes three or four in that distance. A primitive forest, druidical, solitary and savage—not ten visitors a year—broken rocks everywhere—shade overhead, thick underfoot with leaves—a just palpable wild and delicate aroma."

~Walt Whitman,, "The Waterfall," *Specimen Days*

Stump Sprouts Weekend, *West Hawley*

Date: Friday, September 8 through Sunday, September 10

Time: Dinner on Friday evening through a Sunday luncheon

Leaders: Dietrich and Julie Schlobohm (788-4125)

Registration: All-inclusive cost for two nights' lodging and six meals is \$129 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. 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 ninety-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

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** ~ Nancy Condon
- **Treasurer** ~ Dave Lovejoy
- **Recording Secretary** ~ Sonya Vickers
- **Corresponding Secretary** ~ Suzanne Gallup
- **Directors** ~
 - > Tom Condon
 - > Jack Megas
 - > Bill Fontaine
 - > Dietrich Schlobohm

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

- >Karen Daniels (413-786-8228)
- >Delores Gentile (413-783-6113)
- >Colette Potter (413-786-1805)

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

Tea & Lavender

Plan on taking part in a field trip at Warm Colors Apiary and surroundings.

Date : Sunday, July 9

Leader: Joan Presz (413-569-6663) after 8 p.m.

Registration: Call to register and get directions. We need to know how many people will attend. and you will need to prepay \$10 for optional tea party.

Back in 1981 on a bus trip to Longwood Garden and Norris Arboretum, the lyrics to a song for the Naturalists' Club were composed by Jane Hazen, Dottie Wheat, Isabel Demmon, Dee Girard, Norm Carr, and Virginia Johnston. It was sung on the bus by Jane Hazen, to the tune of "Stout-Hearted Men." Here are the lyrics:



Naturalists, we are naturalists
Walk or ride to the sites we adore.
Snails and right whales and cottontails,
Nothing is too much to explore.
Younger and older,
Some faster, some slower,
Sharing the love of outdoor.

[Refrain:]

Naturalist, oh naturalist,
All nature is our thing,
Snakes, frogs in the lakes,
Stalking bird calls in the spring.

2005
2006

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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 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, Biology Dept.
Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086-1630.
Include your mailing address and phone number.

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.



FROM THE TREASURER:

Any member current with payment of dues will see a "05-06" or "06-07" on their mailing label. For those with an "04-05" on the label, please make your payment as soon as possible if you wish to continue as a member. Next fall, we will send a final reminder letter to 04-05 former members; paying now will save the Club the expense and time of sending these reminders. And special thanks to the increasing number of members who have renewed at the Supporting or Sustaining level.

Please note: Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list, so direct all address changes to him.



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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Requests for programs/trips _____

Please send information per the above form to Club Treasurer Dave Lovejoy, Biology Department, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086-1630.