

The NATURALISTS' CLUB Newsletter

2009

APRIL — JUNE

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

APRIL

- 5 Sunday McLean Wildlife Refuge, *Granby, Conn.*
- 11 Saturday Atlantic Salmon Fry Stocking, *Granby, Mass.*
- 11 Saturday A Waterfall Journey to Sanderson Falls, *Chester, Mass.*
- 12 Sunday Astronomy Walk Series: Observing Basics, *Easthampton, Mass.*
- 15 Wednesday APRIL MEETING: The Singing Life of Birds
- 18 Saturday Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 - Rattlesnake Hill, *Orange, Mass.*
- 23 Thursday Spring Walk, *Longmeadow, Mass.*
- 25 Saturday Intro to Sea Kayaking: Paddling your way to a natural world!! *Westfield, Mass.*
- 25 Saturday *Nature Reclaims History, Stanley Park, *Westfield, Mass.**
- 26 Sunday Spring Ephemerals Above the Farmington, *East Granby, Conn.*

MAY

- 7 Thursdays Stained Glass Training ~ Floral Panels!! (4 weeks) *Westfield, Mass.*
- 10 Sunday Astronomy Walk Series: Back to the Moon ~ The NASA Constellation Program, *Easthampton, Mass.*
- 14 Thursday A Half-Day Walk, *Westfield, Mass.*
- 16 Saturday Conway State Forest, *Conway, Mass.*
- 17 Sunday *Spring Wildflowers, Stanley Park, *Westfield, Mass.**
- 20 Wednesday MAY MEETING: The Changing Climate: Implications for Sensitive Ecosystems
- 23 Saturday Hike at High Ledges, *Shelburne Falls, Mass.*
- 24 Sunday Ocean Kayaking on Lower Connecticut River: *Old Saybrook to Essex, Connecticut*
- 24 Sunday Birds and Flowers Hike at Noble View, *Russell, Mass.*
- 24 Sunday *Enjoying the Birds of Spring, Stanley Park, *Westfield, Mass.**
- 30 Saturday Volcanic Hike - A Climb Up Mt. Tom, *Holyoke-Easthampton line*

JUNE

- 1 Mondays Stained Glass Training ~ Nature in Glass! (4 weeks) *Westfield, Mass.*
- 6 Saturday Benedict Pond, Beartown State Forest, *Monterey, Mass.*
- 7 Sunday *Studying Nesting Birds, Stanley Park, *Westfield, Mass.**
- 13 Saturday Grassland Birds at Westover, *Chicopee, Mass.*
- 14 Sunday Astronomy Walk Series: Chinese Sky Myths & Legends, *Easthampton, Mass.*
- 18 Thursday Quabbin Reservoir
- 20 Saturday Ocean Kayaking at the Barn Hill Wildlife Preserve, *Stonington, Conn.*
- 27 Saturday *Invasive Plant and Animal Species, Stanley Park, *Westfield, Mass.**



* You'll find the five Stanley Park Nature Series walks listed above described on page 12.*

“I like to play indoors better, ‘cause that’s where all the electrical outlets are.”

~ Fifth grader in California, speaking to Richard Louv.

Remember when you spent the days of your youth outside in reckless play in a nearby park or wooded area, or organized Tag and Red Rover on the backyard of a friend, or shot marbles in the dirt? Remember the creek you floated the leaf and bark boat down, watching as it rippled over the rocks? Remember how invigorated you felt when you finally had to come in to dinner, full of fresh air, exploits and stories? Then remember how soundly you slept after such a day. Now fast-forward to today when you have just come in from watching a spectacular sunset, full of pinks, oranges and reds, or taken a spirited walk around the neighborhood or, better still, an extended hike into the wild, or perhaps simply felt the wafting breeze of a spring day on your face.

Still in present tense..... Today some little girls are giggling up in the branches of a tree, and a man walks by, looks up and scolds them, telling them to come down from that tree! It’s not a tree on his property and he doesn’t even know the girls, but they may harm the tree, he says. Another scenario: A mother who screams at rambunctious boys playing and splashing in a pool of water, “Get out of there right now! You’re going to get all wet!”..... And yet one more: Local boys and girls come dragging home after being told that the vacant lot in their neighborhood, heretofore the location of their ballpark, their fort and the home ground of all their favorite bugs and creatures, has been sold and that yet another McMansion is to be built there. What children glean from these experiences is that nature is to be experienced only through organized sports, on a manicured playing field.

Sadly, there is a great shortfall today of natural outdoor experience and opportunity for children, so much so that author Richard Louv in his book Last Child In the Woods coined a phrase describing the phenomenon ~ “nature-deficit disorder.” Schools are abandoning recess and physical education class. The scouting program, so long known for getting kids outdoors, is in dire straits, primarily due to litigation concerns. Even the government is proposing legislation in response, making federal money available to organizations, parks and cities for outside activities and programs called The No Child Left Inside Coalition.

How has this come about? Some obvious reasons would be technological stimuli all around us, ranging from dangerous games to brilliant learning devices. Other factors are “stranger danger,” a powerful argument for keeping children indoors, and lack of open space accessible to children without transportation. There is no denying we are not going to give up our technology, but some studies have found that children don’t need to be exposed to such vast numbers of online games and learning programs before upper elementary, and even then moderation should come into play. “Stranger danger” is on every parent’s mind, but if you look at the statistics rather than the nightly news, these incidences are rare although certainly devastating for the families and communities experiencing them. Children who are confident, aware of their surroundings and able to problem-solve are the least likely to be victims. These skills can be honed in the outdoors with confident, caring adults as their guides. Access to “green” areas is an issue that needs to be addressed by communities through city and land planning by designers, architects, and/or urban leaders.

~ continued



DO WE NEED A NATURE/CHILD REUNION? *continued*

Extensive studies are examining innovative programs at schools, parks and communities, aimed at exposing children to their natural surroundings in a meaningful encounter. Faber Taylor, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Illinois, recruited parents of students with ADHD to report about activities conducted in various settings ~ indoors, in parking lots and downtown areas, and in parks, tree-lined streets or backyards. It was consistently found that activities in an open field with a surrounding wooded area or in a green open space resulted in marked reduction of ADHD symptoms. These children exhibited marked benefits from the “green” experience: Upon returning to the classroom, they were quieter, more focused and disciplined. Wouldn’t this be a tremendous breakthrough, to find a cure for our ADHD youth in a regular “green” fix?!

Not only this study in Illinois but studies are in all over the country. The data has been analyzed and the conclusions drawn: Children do better physically, emotionally and academically when exposed to natural surroundings. We in the Naturalists’ Club have a distinct advantage: We know how our love of nature and frequent exposure to it has the power to enhance our lives beyond measure. We are poised, ready to take on this challenge to help our own communities grapple with the dilemma, using our personal and professional skills, enthusiasm and great knowledge. We stand ready to empower the next stewards of the earth. What an exciting time for us!

“Experience has its geographical aspect, its artistic and its literary, its scientific and its historical sides. All studies arise from aspects of the one earth and the one life lived upon it.”

~ John Dewey, advocating immersing students in the local environment, in his book The School and Society, 1889.

Contributed by Emma Hayward. After her brother, a special agent for the E.P.A., alerted her to this recent trend and having herself conducted a very successful hands-on science camp at Stanley Park last summer, Emma, a retired teacher and children’s librarian, started doing some research into what is happening in the lives of the next generation of naturalists.



McLean Wildlife Refuge, Granby, Conn.

Sunday, April 5, starting at 1:30 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy (413-572-5307)

Meeting Place: Refuge parking lot just off Route 10/202, on the west side of the highway a little south of Granby center.

Come along on an easy walk in the woods, focusing on the early spring flora. We'll see what is blooming in addition to skunk cabbage and at least enjoy a walk through the various habitats the refuge provides. Reservations are not necessary. Heavy rain cancels.

Atlantic Salmon Fry Stocking, Granby, Mass.

Sunday, April 11. Call for times.

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

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

Meeting Place: Westfield State commuter parking lot.

For over 30 years, dedicated national and state fishery biologists have been working to re-establish a population of Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River watershed. Nearly 6 million eggs are fertilized, hatched, and released as fry into the tributaries of New England's largest and most important river system. These efforts are beginning to pay off. For the past three years, the number of adult salmon returning to the river has increased. More than 200 returned this past year.

Now you too can share in the opportunity to assist these magnificent creatures in their struggle to return to our backyard. Join us and help stock the fry back into Dickenson and Munn Brooks in Granby, Mass. Come prepared to walk short distances over rugged riverbanks. If you have waders, bring them along. Bring a lunch and plenty of water to drink.

A Waterfall Journey to Sanderson Falls, Chester, Mass.

Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (413-525-4697)

Meeting Place: Westfield State College commuter parking lot

Join us for a leisurely walk to one of the most enchanting waterfalls in Western Massachusetts. Hiking to the falls, along the way we may see early spring wildflowers and enjoy

a beautiful mixed hardwood/hemlock forest. These magnificent waterfalls should be roaring after our long snowy winter! We will have lunch near the crystal pools at the base of the falls. After lunch, for hardy climbers, we will be able to explore the upper waterfalls. Bring your lunch and sturdy footwear. Rain cancels.

Astronomy Walk Series

Observing Basics, Easthampton, Mass.

Sunday, April 12, from 6:30 to 9:00PM (Walk #1)

Leader: Chris Lyons, Astronomy Educator (e-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740)

Fee: \$5 Naturalists' Club members, \$8 others (*Fee covers auditorium use.*)

Meeting Place: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon), Main Building

Would you like to learn more about stars, constellations, and the night sky? If so, please join astronomy educator Chris Lyons for a detailed review of the important things you need to know to get started. We'll review some of the main viewing targets (i.e., SIGNPOSTS), look at navigation techniques, talk about the myriad of vocabulary and terminology, take a walk through star charts (i.e., maps of the sky!) and computer-based viewing programs, review binocular basics, and take a peek at some of the astronomical targets available to you. If you have been thinking about getting involved in the series, this is a perfect time to start! If you are a loyal follower, don't worry, this session will help you fine-tune your observing arsenal and I guarantee there will be something new to learn!

This is a fun active-learning indoor/outdoor program for adults (16 and up), with a presentation given in the Arcadia auditorium each month, followed by outside sky observing with eyes and binoculars (weather permitting). No need to attend all sessions. Topics are continually reviewed to help keep everyone up to speed, so please join us whenever you are available. Please dress appropriately, bring binoculars if you have them (several pair will be available if you don't), and be ready to *take a walk through the universe!* Please contact me if you have any questions.

Please see page 10 of the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available online) for more information about the 'Astronomy Walk Series.'



The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.

~ from Fisherman's Luck by Henry Van Dyke

APRIL MEETING

THE SINGING LIFE OF BIRDS

Wednesday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m.
Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium
Speaker: Donald Kroodsma

Join us as Don Kroodsma, Professor Emeritus from UMass-Amherst, returns to share his knowledge and passion for the songs of our backyard feathered friends. In 2003, he received the Elliott Coues Award from the American Ornithologists' Union, recognizing him as the "reigning authority on avian vocal behavior." Since his retirement he has written four popular birding books and field guides (with recordings), which will be available for autograph. He will use PowerPoint for this presentation, as well as bird call recordings from his books.



Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 - Rattlesnake Hill

Orange, Mass.

Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine (413-533-2153)

Registration: Please call Bill.

Meeting Place: Florence Savings Bank parking lot at the Stop & Shop Plaza on Route 9 in Belchertown.

This walk will take us along a gated, paved and level road, through a variety of habitats on the northern end of Quabbin Reservoir. This area features abandoned fields and orchards, a hand-laid keystone arch bridge, and is home to yellow-rumped and Canada warblers, eastern towhees, American kestrels, and red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks. We'll begin with an interpretive walk, keyed to numbered posts, along the first part of the paved road. Afterward, we'll continue toward the shore of the reservoir some 2.5 miles away. Bring sturdy footwear and something to drink.



Spring Walk, Longmeadow, Mass.

Thursday, April 25, at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (413-786-1805)

A pleasant spring walk at Fannie Stebbins, looking for early wildflowers and early migrant birds. No snow, no ice, we hope! Just a nice leisurely walk. Call to register.

Intro to Sea Kayaking: Paddling your way to a natural world!! Westfield, Mass.

Saturday, April 25, from noon to 3 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Sea Kayaker and Naturalist
(e-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740)

Registration: REQUIRED by 4/21/09. Please contact me directly.

Meeting Place: Wilson Hall, Room 116, Westfield State College. Park in the commuter parking lot, from which you can see Wilson, a large brick building with an attached greenhouse. Room 116 is on the first floor, in the wing

adjacent to the greenhouse. A campus map can be found at www.wsc.ma.edu.

Have you ever wanted to get into the sport of Sea Kayaking but had no idea where to start? Or do you own a kayak and/or have a bit of experience but really would like to learn more? If so, then this program is for you! I will be covering everything you need to know about Sea Kayaks (and most flat-water kayaks) and the sport in general, including:

- Why kayaks are great boats for general paddling and nature observing!
- Basic kayak design information (which features you really need!).
- Boat recommendations and pricing info.
- Equipment information (i.e., kayaks, paddles, paddling clothes, dry bags, deck bags, general and safety gear, car racks, etc.).
- All about paddles and paddling techniques.
- Safety issues and techniques.
- The art of assisted and self-rescues.
- Navigation strategies and how to use marine charts.
- Finding places to paddle (i.e., rivers, ponds and lakes, ocean).

The first part of the program will be held indoors. In addition to reviewing general kayaking information, I will also review the 2008 trips and outline the planned trips for 2009. When we meet, we'll pick a date (before the first club trip on Sunday, May 24) to do some on-water paddling on local protected waters, to allow people to see some of the presented techniques in action and get some basic paddling experience for themselves. Come join me to find another fabulous way to experience the great outdoors!

* Please note that completion of this introductory program (or evidence of experience) is required for anyone wishing to participate in any of my upcoming club kayak trips. If you've paddled with me previously, you are not required to attend but I'd enjoy seeing you! **Please review Series Introduction on page 10 of the Spring 2008 club newsletter (also available online), for more information on club kayaking activities and necessary experience.**

Spring Ephemerals Above the Farmington

East Granby, Conn.

Sunday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leaders: Debbie and Dave Lovejoy (413-848-2047)

Meeting Place: In the center of Granby, Conn. take Rt. 10-202 south from its junction with Rt. 20, quick left onto Rt. 189/Hartford Avenue. Starbucks is in the plaza on the left.

The floodplain along this stretch of the Farmington, just upriver from its run through the Tariffville Gorge, sure seems a likely spot to make a leisurely search for spring ephemerals. Then if mounting the 200-foot gradual ascent to the ridgeline of Hatchet Hill doesn't take our breath away, the views of the Farmington River and Valley below certainly will. We'll continue walking northward on the blue-blazed Metacomet Trail along the ridgetop before turning round and heading in. This is deer country. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather. Bring along water and a light lunch.

Stained Glass Training – Floral Panels! Westfield, Mass.

Four weeks - Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21, and 28, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

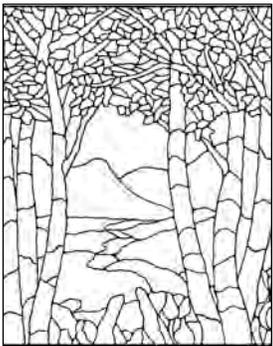
Leader: Chris Lyons, Stained Glass Artist (e-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740)

Fee: \$45 (plus glass & supplies for your project - you can bring your own or purchase from me with discount)

Registration: REQUIRED by 4/24/09. Please contact me directly. Class is limited to 5 students max. However, if more people are interested, I will open additional dates.

Meeting Place: Westfield Studio (Glass Visions) - 79 Hawks Circle, Westfield, Mass. (I'll provide directions on registration)

This is an intermediate stained glass class, open to anyone who has taken my beginner's class (or has sufficient stained glass experience). The colors, textures, and overall beauty of nature-inspired stained glass creations are simply awesome! In this class we will discuss larger floral stained glass projects (up to 24" x 30") and we will work together to select an appropriate pattern for your class project. The direction you want to go in with your project will be pretty much up to you, so bring your ideas to the class, and I will work with you to help get it built. We'll review the construction process for larger panels, and I'll provide all necessary training (if you've taken my Beginner's class, please bring your handbook). Come stretch your stained glass knowledge and put together a beautiful floral project to grace your home! Discount packages will also be available for those wanting their own stained glass tools & supplies.



You're only here for a short visit. Don't hurry. Don't worry. And be sure to smell the flowers along the way.

~ by Walter C. Hagen

Astronomy Walk Series

Back To The Moon - The NASA Constellation Program

Easthampton, Mass.

Sunday, May 10, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Astronomy Educator

(e-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740)

Fee: \$5 Naturalists' Club members, \$8 others (*Fee covers auditorium use.*)

Meeting Place: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon), Main Building

The current NASA *Constellation Program* provides the roadmap for our return to the Moon before 2018 and the steppingstone for our exploration of Mars and beyond. This is really exciting stuff!! Our original push to the Moon back in the 1960's and 70's provided major benefits in almost all areas of our lives, and all indications are that *Constellation* will yield even more important advancements for humankind. We'll take a detailed look at this program and discuss how it is progressing to date. We'll also look at how *Constellation* fits in the current NASA *Exploration Systems Architecture*, which provides the big roadmap for space travel in the coming decades. Please join astronomy educator Chris Lyons for a fun and fact-filled look at the next human exploration experience on the Moon!

This is a fun active-learning indoor/outdoor program for adults (16 and up), with a presentation given in the Arcadia auditorium each month followed by outside sky observing with eyes and binoculars (*weather permitting*). No need to attend all sessions. Topics are continually reviewed to help keep everyone up to speed, so please join us whenever you are available. Please dress appropriately, bring binoculars if you have them (several pair will be available if you don't), and be ready to **take a walk through the universe!** Please contact me if you have any questions.

Please see page 10 of the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available online) for more information about the Astronomy Walk Series.



A Half-Day Walk, Westfield, Mass.

Thursday, May 14, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (413-786-1805)

Stanley Park should be in bloom. Flowers, trees, birds, whatever we can see, hear or find. A nice time of the year to get out for a walk. Join me and call to register.

Conway State Forest, Conway, Mass.

Saturday, May 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (413-788-4125)

Registration: Required.

Meeting Place: Table and Vine parking lot, in West Springfield, at the intersection of Routes 5 and 91.

Take a trip back in time and explore a part of New England's past. See weathered rows of stone walls, haunting cellar holes, old sugar maples and a family cemetery. In addition, experience a beautiful forest, with beaver activity, spring birds and wildflowers. Our guide, Dietrich Schlobohm, is an environmental historian and amateur naturalist.

MAY MEETING

THE CHANGING CLIMATE: IMPLICATIONS FOR SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS

Wednesday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m.
Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium
Speaker: Jennifer Hanselman, Ph.D.

The media may warn us about the effects of climate change, but is there evidence to support such predictions? Tonight Dr. Jennifer Hanselman will present biological evidence for past climate change based on research conducted in Peru and Bolivia. The high Andes, a sensitive ecosystem, serves as a model which can provide data supporting predictions for future climate change. Dr. Hanselman will explore the cyclical nature of climate and how humans have influenced natural processes.



Jennifer Hanselman joined the faculty of the Biology Department at Westfield State College after completing her doctoral dissertation, "A 370,000-year record of vegetation and fire history around Lake Titicaca (Bolivia/Peru)," based on research focused on understanding the dynamics of vegetation change over three full glacial cycles. Join us in this final meeting of the year to hear one scientist's long-range perspective on this timely global environmental issue.

Hike at High Ledges, Shelburne Falls, Mass.

Saturday, May 23, starting at 9 a.m.

Leader: Dave Gallup (413-525-4697)

Meeting Place: Table and Vine parking lot, in West Springfield, at the intersection of Routes 5 and 91.

Enjoy the beauty of the forest and its wildflowers, which include rare yellow ladyslippers, on this moderate two-mile hike. The special treat is the breathtaking view from High Ledges, overlooking Shelburne Falls and the valley below. After the hike, we will visit the town of Shelburne Falls, a picturesque New England town known for its "Bridge of Flowers." If you like, you may take the afternoon to explore the town's unique shops and beautiful waterfalls. Wear sturdy footwear and bring a lunch. Rain cancels.



Ocean Kayaking on Lower Connecticut River:

Old Saybrook to Essex, Connecticut

Sunday, May 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Sea Kayaker and Naturalist
(e-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740)

Registration: REQUIRED by 5/20/09. Please contact me directly.

Meeting Place: 8:30 a.m. sharp at Springfield Basketball Hall of Fame parking lot (near Uno's Pizzeria). After getting a count of everyone and doing a quick gear check, we'll head out by 8:45 a.m.

The lower Connecticut River is a delightful place to start our paddling season! This trip will be in fairly well-protected areas and is appropriate for BEGINNERS. The put-in will be at the Baldwin Bridge ramp in Old Saybrook, and we will paddle north, up the river, towards Essex. We'll be a few miles from the mouth of the river, but tidal effects are in full force here so be prepared for some great paddling! Shorebird viewing is fantastic along the eastern side of the river, as we pass Calves and Goose Islands, Lords Cove, and Nott Island and explore the surrounding estuaries. We might stop in Essex and visit the Connecticut River Museum or continue paddling north along the river to Hamburg Cove. Plan on 6-12 miles of paddling at a medium pace with several re-group stops if/when paddlers get separated. Please dress appropriately, pack your camera and binoculars, and bring a lunch.

Each person must supply his/her own kayak, paddle, and associated gear. If you don't have your own kayak, they can be rented locally and car-topped down to our put-in. There may also be some rental options in the Old Saybrook area. If looking to rent, please contact me ASAP, and I'll provide you with contact information for the best rental outfitters.

The trip will run unless there is continuous rain or high winds forecasted. As with all paddling trips in my Kayak Series, you **MUST** have attended my *Sea Kayak Intro Course* or have met with me to discuss your kayaking experience and received approval for participation.

Please review the Series Introduction section in the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available on-line) for more information on my club kayaking activities and necessary experience.

If you have ANY questions, please contact me ASAP.

One attraction in coming to the woods to live was that I should have leisure and opportunity to see the spring come in.

~Henry David Thoreau, in Walden

Birds and Flowers Hike at Noble View, Russell, Mass.

Sunday, May 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

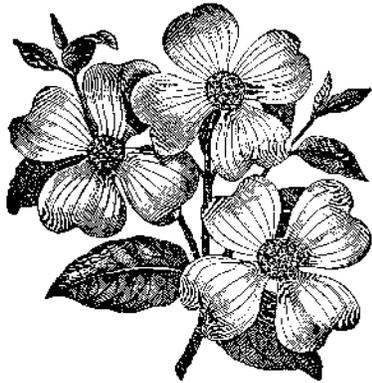
Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (413-564-0895)

Registration: Please call to register. Registration is limited.

Meeting Place: AMC Noble View parking lot on South Quarter Road in Russell.

Spring is a wonderful time to get out for a hike in the woods. Join us as we hike some back trails at the Appalachian Mountain Club's property in Russell. We'll be going up and down some hills, toward the Little River and back up, so the hike will be somewhat strenuous. On the way we will be looking for and learning about spring woodland wildflowers we come upon. Learn of their special properties and the histories and folklore surrounding them. Bring your binoculars along to discover some of the woodland birds we'll see and hear. Our hike will also take us past some big beautiful hemlock stands not accessible to loggers. This hike will be sure to leave you invigorated and refreshed.

Dress for the weather; wear sturdy hiking boots; a hiking stick might be helpful; bring plenty of water; pack a lunch. Heavy rain cancels.



Volcanic Hike - A Climb Up Mt. Tom

Holyoke-Easthampton line

Saturday, May 30, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers (413-566-3406)

Meeting Place: Take the Rt.141 exit off of I-91, and head uphill towards Easthampton. The trailhead is on the left on Rt. 141 on the Holyoke side of the town line, just below the Log Cabin restaurant.

Two hundred million years ago a huge lava flow covered the Connecticut River Valley. Basalt from this flow extended as far south as New Haven. Since then, the flow was tilted and then the softer rocks were eroded away, leaving the Mt. Tom and Mt. Holyoke ranges with spectacular cliffside views. Join us for a walk up to the top of Mt. Tom, and experience some of the geology that has shaped the Valley. Bring along something to drink and a lunch to enjoy at the top. We will be making frequent stops to learn about the geology that shaped this land.

Stained Glass Training – Nature in Glass! Westfield, Mass.

Four weeks - Mondays June 1, June 8, June 15, June 22, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Stained Glass Artist (e-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740)

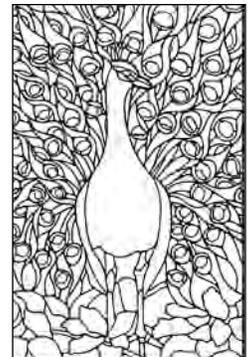
Fee: \$60 (includes instruction & all materials to make a small nature-inspired panel)

Registration: REQUIRED BY 5/25/09. Please contact me directly. Class is limited to 5 students max. However, if more people are interested, I will open additional dates.

Meeting Place: Westfield Studio (Glass Visions) - 79 Hawks Circle, Westfield, Mass. (I'll provide directions on registration)

Ever wanted to learn the art of stained glass? The colors, textures, and overall beauty of nature-inspired stained glass creations are simply awesome! And everything is much more beautiful and fulfilling when you do it yourself. This four-week class will show you everything you need to know, and you will build your own small stained glass project. You probably won't be challenging Tiffany at the end of this class, but you'll have all the necessary training to continue your artistic passions in glass.

No experience necessary and EVERYTHING IS INCLUDED in the price (i.e. instruction, class book, studio time, tool use, glass, foil, solder, etc.). Discount packages will also be available for those wanting their own stained glass tool set and glass & supplies for future projects. Come learn a great art form and have some fun in the process!!



Benedict Pond, Beartown State Forest, Monterey, Mass.

Saturday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Registration: Call Bill (413-533-2153)

Meeting Place: Town parking area behind the Otis Fire Department, at the junction of Rtes. 8 and 23.

Beautiful Benedict Pond in Beartown State Forest is undeveloped except for a boat launch and small beach. This area features diverse habitats, including a deciduous forest and a cattail marsh, and it is rich in wildlife, particularly birds. On this walk, we'll follow the Pond Loop Trail and a short section of the Appalachian Trail to complete our circuit of the pond. Trail length is about 2.5 miles, over fairly easy grades. For those who are interested, a short, steep half-mile detour leads to the Ledges, with attractive views westward toward Mount Everett and the Catskills beyond. Bring sturdy footwear and something to eat and drink.

Grassland Birds at Westover, Chicopee, Mass.

Saturday, June 13, from 7 till 11 a.m.

(Rain date June 20, same time)

Leaders: Drew Milroy and Dietrich Schlobohm

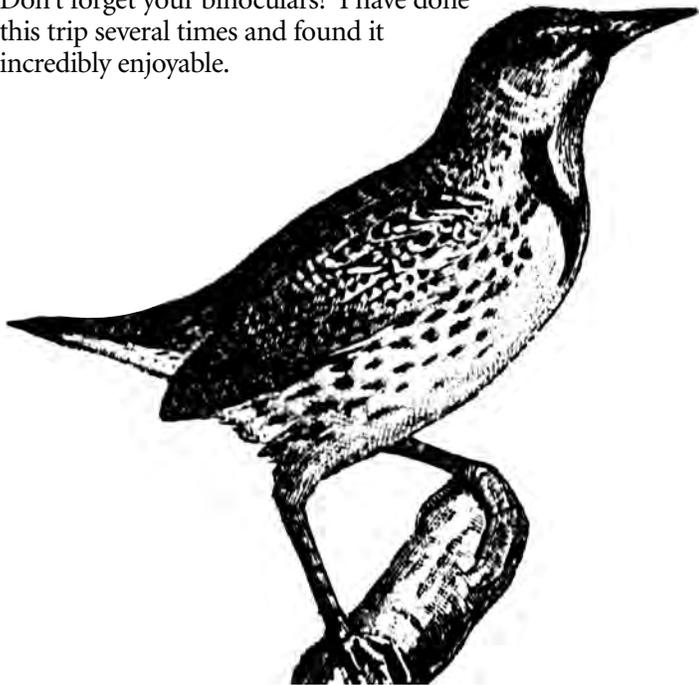
Registration: Call Dietrich (413-788-4125) to register.

Limited to 25 people.

Meeting Place: Parking lot of the 99 Restaurant in the shopping plaza across from the Mass. Turnpike Exit #5.

Did you know that the largest grassland bird area in New England can be found in our own Springfield area? Join us for an outing to Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee. This is a rare opportunity to view grassland birds. The chance of seeing grasshopper sparrows, bobolinks, meadowlarks, upland sandpipers and a host of other birds is quite high.

Our guide for this trip will be Drew Milroy, the Natural and Cultural Resources Manager at the base. Registration is a must and will require a driver's license or social security number one week in advance of our trip. We will meet in the shopping plaza on Memorial Drive across from Mass. Turnpike Exit #5. Gather in the 99 Restaurant parking lot. From there we will carpool a short distance to Westover's main gate for a short security check. The terrain for our bird walk is flat and the pace will be slow. Bring water and a snack. Don't forget your binoculars! I have done this trip several times and found it incredibly enjoyable.



Our first bobolinks rose with jingling songs from a meadow beyond a stone wall east of Ware. In quaint early natural histories, groups of creatures are given such picturesque designations as a waddling of ducks, a pride of lions, a spring of teals, an exalting of larks, and a charm of goldfinches. If there is a gaggle of geese and a clamor of rooks, why not a jingle of bobolinks? Or a flutter of terns? ~ from North with the Spring, by Edwin Way Teale, page 291.

Astronomy Walk Series

Chinese Sky Myths & Legends, Easthampton, Mass.

Sunday, June 14, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Astronomy Educator (e-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740)

Fee: \$5 Naturalists' Club members, \$8 others (*Fee covers auditorium use.*)

Meeting Place: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon), Main Building

The Chinese civilization has been around since at least 5000 BC, with a written history starting around 1500 BC, making it one of the longest active civilizations on Earth. So, the Chinese have been pondering and interpreting the majesty of the nighttime sky for a *very, very, very* long time! This head start combined with their very expressive and art-inspired history means they were prime candidates for creating exquisite myths and legends about the gleaming nighttime stars. Come join astronomy educator Chris Lyons for a fascinating look at Chinese culture and their interpretations of the many stars and constellations that grace our skies!

This is a fun active-learning indoor/outdoor program for adults (16 and up), with a presentation given in the Arcadia auditorium each month, followed by outside sky observing with eyes and binoculars (*weather permitting*). No need to attend all sessions. Topics are continually reviewed to help keep everyone up to speed, so please join us whenever you are available. Please dress appropriately, bring binoculars if you have them (several pair will be available if you don't), and be ready to *take a walk through the universe!* Please contact me if you have any questions.

Please see page 10 of the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available online) for more information about the 'Astronomy Walk Series.'

Quabbin Reservoir

Thursday, June 18, from 9 a.m. to noon

Leader: Colette Potter (413-786-1805)

A nice walk in the woods along a stream, looking for signs of nature. A great way to spend a morning! Call to register.



Ocean Kayaking at the Barn Hill Wildlife Preserve

Stonington, Conn.

Saturday, June 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Leader: Chris Lyons, Sea Kayaker and Naturalist
(e-mail: Programs@GlassVisions.biz; phone: 413-562-4740)

Registration: REQUIRED by 6/15/09. Please contact me directly.

Meeting Place: 8:30 a.m. sharp at Springfield Basketball Hall of Fame parking lot (near Uno's Pizzeria). After getting a count of everyone and doing a quick gear check, we'll head out by 8:45 a.m.

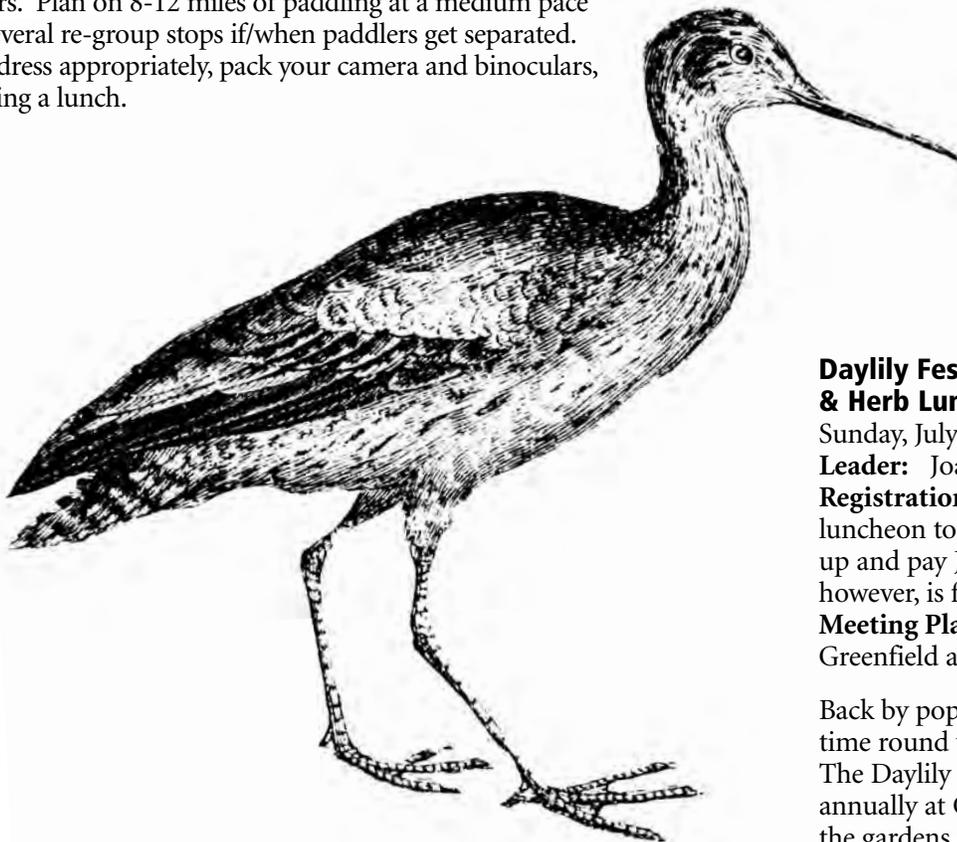
This trip will be exploring the Barn Hill Wildlife Preserve in Stonington, Connecticut. The put-in will be at the Barn Hill state ramp. This is a great tidal marsh area with plenty of birdlife and seaside wildflowers to get you close to all the beauty nature has to offer! Options include exploring Sandy Point Island, Napatree sand spit, and the Watch Hill, Rhode Island area. The Pawcatuck River empties into this area and provides a great venue for natural exploration. This trip will be in more open water and is appropriate for INTERMEDIATE paddlers. Plan on 8-12 miles of paddling at a medium pace with several re-group stops if/when paddlers get separated. Please dress appropriately, pack your camera and binoculars, and bring a lunch.

Each person must supply his/her own kayak, paddle, and associated gear. If you don't have your own kayak, they can be rented locally and car-topped down to our put-in. There may also be some rental options in the Stonington area. If looking to rent, please contact me ASAP, and I'll provide you with contact information for the best rental outfitters.

The trip will run unless there is continuous rain or high winds forecast. As with all paddling trips in my Kayak Series, you **MUST** have attended my *Sea Kayak Intro Course* or have met with me to discuss your kayaking experience and received approval for participation.

Please review the Series Introduction section in the Spring 2008 Club Newsletter (also available on-line) for more information on my club kayaking activities and necessary experience.

If you have ANY questions, please contact me ASAP.



One day in 1851, when Henry Thoreau was walking along this same stretch of track, he came upon a plant he had never seen in Concord before, blue-flowered chicory. That evening he recorded his discovery in his Journal and added a query: Might not this and other plants have been distributed along the Fitchburg Railroad, the seeds-mixed with grain or dirt-being blown from passing freight cars?

~from North with the Spring, page 311, by Edwin Way Teale

Daylily Festival and Edible Flowers & Herb Luncheon, Greenfield, Mass.

Sunday, July 12, starting at 11:30 a.m.

Leader: Joan Presz (413-569-6663)

Registration: Please call Joan to register. For luncheon to run, by end of June 20 must sign up and pay Joan \$20. The Daylily Festival itself, however, is free and will be held regardless.

Meeting Place: Mass. Information Center, Greenfield at 11:30 a.m.

Back by popular demand, though the menu this time round will be different from last year's. The Daylily Festival is an event that takes place annually at Glenbrook Gardens. People may tour the gardens, admire the blooms, and choose daylilies to purchase, and by the time lunch is done, the daylilies will be ready to go home. Mary Ellen and John Warchol, herb and flower flavor experts from Stockbridge Farm in South Deerfield (665-6918), will be guest chefs. There will possibly be a talk on daylily types and care, as well. Come and enjoy the pleasures of a summer Sunday in good company. Sign up early!

New England's hunger for profit collided with legal doctrines protecting the free passage of fish ... Justice Lemuel Shaw of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts considered the shad, considered the cotton mills, and ruled that the legislature had the power to decide "whether the public good expected from the fishery ... or the public advantage ... from building up a large manufacturing town ... should preponderate." A choice had to be made, and it was. Anadromous fish runs were a valuable resource, but if doing without shad, salmon, eels, and alewives was the price of progress, it was a price New England was eager to pay.

Fish runs were only the most obvious of the productive cycles ended by dams. Guiding a canoe down even so remote a river as the West Branch of the Penobscot, through alternating stretches of white and flat water, the contemporary voyager notices that the river has turned lazy. At the moment of realization, the Penobscot is narrow, there may be moose in the shallows and a bald eagle overhead, but the water is not wild anymore—it is scarcely moving. Miles upstream from the dam at Ripogenes Gorge that creates Chesuncook Lake, the demand for hydropower has stilled the wild river.

A lake is not a bad thing; it is only a different thing than a river. A fast river harbors brook trout; a lake, whitefish and bass. A rational society might swap brook trout for whitefish as the price of cheap power. But in spite of its name Chesunkook is not a lake. Like the myriad other bodies of water created by damming Yankee rivers, it is a reservoir.... A reservoir shore is a sterile thing; fluctuating waters prevent a dependable waterline and the development of a lakeshore community. The buttonbush, cattail, and pickerelweed of a natural shore harbor the young, anchor the egg sacks, and feed the larvae that feed the minnows that feed the great fish of the deep waters. Reservoirs—lakes without shores—contain different and fewer fish than natural lakes. Below the dam, the river contains no fish at all.

Once there were rivers. Now there are reservoirs alternating with dry riverbeds.... Downstream [from the dam is] something that looks like a river, except that it lacks a river's natural edges and a river's natural rhythm of spring flood and summer shallow. It lacks northern pike that spawn in spring-flooded meadows, and brook trout that swim in cold, constant waters. Intermittent spurts of power-company largesse struggle to make a river, with increasing success as distance from the power dam and the contributions of small tributaries unite to even the flow, until, far from sight of the dam and out of earshot of whirling turbines, the river slows in the backwater of yet another lake without a shore.

~ excerpted from "Spinning Cotton into Gold," pages 165-167 of Reflections in Bullough's Pond: Economy and Ecosystem in New England, by Diana Muir, .



STANLEY PARK NATURE
S E R I E S

Westfield, Mass.

All walks and workshops will meet at the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary and will cancel if there is heavy rain. Bring along your field guides, binoculars and camera. For more information call (413) 568-9312.

Nature Reclaims History

Saturday, April 25, starting at 2:00 p.m.

Leader: Arthur O'Leary

Take a walk back in time using an 1850 map to locate and identify manmade structures, and learn the rich history of industry, home life, and the stories behind the names. Travel old roads, trails, and bushwhack in the Wildlife Sanctuary. This little known portion of Stanley Park contains the remnants of a canal, dams, mill foundations, an old channel of the Little River, and footbridge abutments. Nature steadily reclaims these sites with successional growth, deposition, and weathering. Locate these disappearing sites in the remote reaches of the Wildlife Sanctuary, and learn about John Munn's "Newfoundland," the Ruinsville Mill, Cotton Cooley's boarding houses, Cyrus W. Field, Jebediah Clapp, traumatic amputations at the Saw Mill of Lucas Cowles, and other tales and verbal histories. Wear appropriate hiking attire, sturdy boots, bring water and camera/binoculars.

Spring Wildflowers

Sunday, May 17, starting at 2:00 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

This will be a casual walk through the various habitats in the Sanctuary in search of wildflowers in bloom. A mixture of native and naturalized species will be observed, with a total of more than thirty species likely. Bring a field guide if you like, but one is not necessary to enjoy the walk.

Enjoying the Birds of Spring

Sunday, May 24, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Janice Zepko

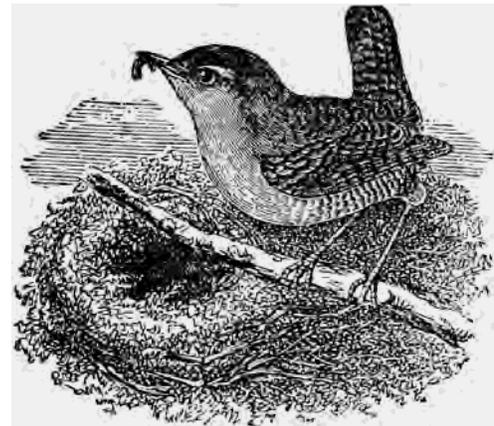
This workshop will focus on identifying birds by sight and sound. We will walk through a variety of habitats in the Sanctuary during the height of spring migration, stopping to enjoy both resident songbirds and tropical migrants as they feed and sing in the newly budding trees. We may encounter as many as fifty species, including warblers, scarlet tanagers, and Baltimore orioles. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them.

Studying Nesting Birds

Sunday, June 7, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Janice Zepko

This workshop will focus on the breeding behavior of resident birds. We will hear males singing on territory and observe other courtship behavior. We will identify signs of nesting birds and hope to study birds as they build nests and feed young. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them.



Invasive Plant and Animal Species

Saturday, June 27, starting at 2:00 p.m.

Leader: Arthur O'Leary

Call them alien invaders, invasive species, non-natives, non-indigenous, the Wildlife Sanctuary is being overtaken by plants and other species that lack local biological control and out-compete and displace native species, those that have been here since before Europeans arrived. Explore, identify, and map invasive plants such as oriental bittersweet, Russian olive, Japanese barberry, honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, and Phragmites. Learn how these plants, and some insects, affect the flora and fauna in the Sanctuary. Early detection, together with environmentally safe removal accomplished early on, is part of a winning strategic management plan.

NATURALISTS' CLUB
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominating Committee and Upcoming Elections

Elections for officers and board members will be held at the May meeting. Prior to the May meeting, club members may contact anyone on the Nominating Committee to make additional nominations. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the May meeting. Members of the committee are: Karen Daniels (786-8228), Delores Gentile (783-6113) and Colette Potter (786-1805).

President ~ Dave Gallup
Vice President ~ Nancy Condon
Treasurer ~ Dave Lovejoy
Corresponding Secretary ~ Suzanne Gallup
Recording Secretary ~ Sonya Vickers
Directors ~ Tom Condon, Bill Fontaine, Jack Megas,
Dietrich Schlobohm

Stump Sprouts Weekend, West Hawley, Mass.

From dinnertime Friday, September 5, through Sunday luncheon, September 7

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 your roommate preference in your registration. 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 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



40th Anniversary Celebration ~ Save the Date: October 2-4.

Where has the time gone? It seems like just the other day when Ed Piela and friends sat down to create our Club, but that was way back in 1969. Now it's time for us to come together and celebrate this wonderful thing we call the Naturalists' Club. We are working on reserving Appalachian Mountain Club's Noble View, up in Russell, to celebrate this special event. Arrangements are still shaping up, but we hope you'll make plans to join us for a weekend of fun and education. You can come for the day or the whole weekend, spending Friday and Saturday nights in a cabin. Hearty souls can plan on tenting. We will share meals, have a campfire, invite guest naturalists, enjoy stargazing, and offer an extensive schedule of hikes throughout the vast trail system at this beautiful location. Don't miss the celebratory dinner Saturday night.

If you would like to sign up or help with preparations, call Nancy Condon at 564-0895. Look for more detail in the next newsletter issue. Save the date!

The NATURALISTS' CLUB
2008-2009

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Dietrich Schlobohm
(413-788-4125)

The NATURALISTS' CLUB was founded in 1969 for the purpose of actively promoting knowledge, appreciation, and preservation of our natural environment. It is an all-volunteer non-profit organization.

Education is a main focus of The NATURALISTS' CLUB.

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

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

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FROM THE TREASURER

Members with '08-09 or '09-10 on their newsletter label are paid for the current year. If you have not yet paid for this year ('07-08 on label), this newsletter is the last one you will receive. If you wish to continue as a member, please send your check promptly to save us the expense of mailing final reminder letters in April. Make the check payable to the Naturalists' Club and mail to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086. Thanks.

Please note: Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list. Direct mailing address changes or copy requests to him.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

\$15 per year for Individual or Family Membership
\$25 per year for Supporting Membership
\$50 per year for Sustaining Membership
\$300 for Lifetime Membership



BECOME A CLUB MEMBER OR
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR
2008-2009

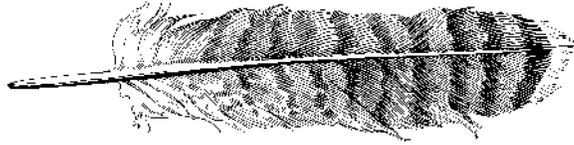
Name

Address

Phone Number

Requests for programs/trips

Please send information per the above to Club Treasurer Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086

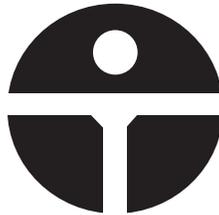


~ Thank you ~ *Naturalists' Club Board of Directors*

- share costs with your driver
- carpool to destinations

If possible, please:
Just a reminder.. please be mindful of the environment.

Newsletter Office
Department of Biology
Westfield State College
Westfield, MA 01086



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The NATURALISTS' CLUB Newsletter

Monthly meetings: Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Mass.
www.naturalist-club.org