



The Naturalists' Club - Dept. of Biology
 Westfield State University
 P.O.Box 1630
 Westfield, MA 01086-1630

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Westfield, MA
 Permit No. 18

This is the page set-up for online.

THE NATURALISTS' CLUB
 N E W S L E T T E R

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts
www.naturalist-club.org

2 0 1 2

JANUARY *to* MARCH SCHEDULE *of* ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

| | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 8 | Sunday | Poet's Seat Hike and Great Falls Discovery Center, <i>Greenfield</i> |
| 18 | Wednesday | JANUARY MEETING: The Forecast Calls for What?! - Weird Weather in Springfield |
| 19 | Thursday | Fannie Stebbins in Winter, <i>Longmeadow</i> |
| 28 | Saturday | Snowshoeing: Walking Through Winter, <i>Quabbin</i> |



FEBRUARY

| | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 5 | Sunday | Moonlight Cross Country Ski, <i>Granville</i> |
| 12 | Sunday | Eagle Watch, <i>Essex, Conn.</i> |
| 15 | Wednesday | FEBRUARY MEETING: Celebrating 75 Years of Astronomy Education |
| 16 | Thursday | Forest Park Ramble, <i>Springfield</i> |
| 25 | Saturday | Nature in Winter Walk, <i>West Springfield</i> |
| 26 | Sunday | Trees in Winter, <i>Westfield</i> |



MARCH

| | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 3 | Saturday | Dinosaurs and Edward Hitchcock, <i>Amherst</i> |
| 17 | Saturday | Skinner Mountain Hike, <i>South Hadley</i> |
| 21 | Wednesday | MARCH MEETING: Beavers: Creative Engineers or Nuisance Animals? |
| 22 | Thursday | Meet Me at Mittineague, <i>West Springfield</i> |
| 25 | Sunday | How Sweet It Is! Maple Sugaring Time in New England, <i>West Granville</i> |

NATURALIST'S CORNER

THE DEATH OF THE MIGHTY CHESTNUT

You are probably aware of the demise of the elm and of hemlock trees and the threat to ash trees just now crossing our borders here in Massachusetts. All this seems small potatoes compared to what happened to our forests right here in the beginning of the 20th century when all the giant American chestnuts died.

In the Eastern forest overstory of the 1800's, one of every three to five trees was an American chestnut. Due to its tough rot-resistant wood, it was a tree of economic importance in this country's first three centuries. Most barns and homes east of the Mississippi were built of durable chestnut lumber. The American chestnut bore small, sweet nuts, falling in profusion and providing food to both wildlife and humans. Growing to gigantic proportions, the majestic chestnut tree was sometimes referred to as the "redwood of the East." Its range extended from Maine to Florida and from the Piedmont west to the Ohio Valley. The American chestnut was planted in city parks, as well. Every town has a Chestnut Street, just like the street right next to the Springfield Museums.

Unfortunately, the chestnut blight hit this country at a time, the early 1900's, when forests were not scientifically monitored as they are today, so not much was known about diseases striking trees. Yet perhaps little could have been done to prevent the impact of such a virulent organism: Living up to its name, the blight killed four billion chestnuts in over 200 million acres of the Eastern United States during the first half of the 20th century. The demise of the American chestnut had resounding repercussions to wild land habitat, to the eastern ecosystem in general, as well as to the cultural landscape.

What causes the disease? Chestnut blight is caused by a tiny fungus that likely arrived from China or Japan on nursery stock at the start of the 20th century. Let's back up to consider this question from a broader perspective: Whereas plate tectonics separated the continents and species diverged, adapting to their own environments, mankind, through international trade and quick jet travel, has reunited Pangaea, bringing organisms together that have not seen their distant cousins for millions of years. The family reunions have not been peaceful events. Thus, from the Orient, the Chinese chestnut, resistant to the fungus yet a carrier all the same, introduced the disease to our native chestnut, which, never having been exposed, had no defenses. In our own lifetimes much the same sort of devastation struck populations of elm trees, defenseless against Dutch elm disease, and again, more recently, the Eastern hemlocks, who had never had to cope with the hemlock woolly adelgid from Japan.



Evil Tendencies Cancel

Will the blight end the chestnut?
The farmers rather guess not
It keeps smoldering at the roots
And sending up new shoots
Till another parasite
Shall come to end the blight.

~ Robert Frost ~

Walking through our forests today, you can find chestnut saplings, as the fungus only attacks the part of the tree above ground level, not the root system. So these saplings arise from the roots of the old trees, short-lived sprouting understory trees growing only a few feet high before the ever-persistent spores of the fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica* attack. Being taken down before sexual maturity leaves little chance for resistance to evolve. The fungal organism enters the trees through tiny pores or through wounds in the bark, grows amazingly quickly, and erupts as very small orange blisters, capable of spreading millions and millions more spores into the air. You probably breathed some in with that last breath you just took ~ but, don't worry, they won't grow in you.

Is there any hope that the chestnut may return? Concerned citizens and scientists, inspired by the lore of the chestnut in American history and at finding survivors in the wild, started the American Chestnut Foundation in 1983, challenging themselves with the goal of eventually restoring this icon to our eastern forests. Unfortunately, back when the chestnuts were dying off, loggers were encouraged to harvest all chestnuts, dead or alive. Later this was seen as a poor decision, as it created yet another hurdle in the way of restoration since trees that might have been resistant were eliminated from the available gene pool.

In undertaking development of a disease-resistant strain, the American Chestnut Foundation is exploring several methods. One is to cross the American chestnut with the naturally resistant but less statuesque Chinese chestnut. When these more resistant offspring grow up and thirty years later finally fruit, they are crossed back to American chestnuts. This is continued until the hybrid is fifteen sixteenths American chestnut, a process requiring more than a human lifetime. Another method involves bioengineering resistance, and yet another, finding a virus that attacks the chestnut fungus. Both these methods involve introduction of new organisms and genes into the environment, with unknown consequences. Yet another method involves finding the rare surviving trees and helping them reproduce by proxy: bringing the pollen from one tree to the flowers of another, hundreds of miles away. At least these trees will be 100% American chestnut and will not introduce any new genes or organisms into the already complicated picture.

At this time there are blight-resistant trees maturing, and perhaps one day they might repopulate our forests. The forests have changed, however, since the chestnuts have been gone, and whether they can survive with the different dynamics that exist today is even questionable.

~ continued on page 3 ~

JANUARY

Naturalist's Corner ~ continued from page 2

Is this scenario a lesson for the future? As tree species disappear, one by one, what will take their place, reaching for the sunshine and sequestering the carbon dioxide? Will humanity someday travel so much that the biota of the world will become homogenized? There have been five major extinctions of life on this planet in the last hundreds of millions of years, and right now we are in the sixth great extinction. Planet Earth is now losing 50,000 species a year, or 137 a day, or about one every ten minutes. The American chestnut is just one of these, yet one that was in everyone's backyard, here in New England.

As the holidays near and we hear refrains of "Chestnuts roasting by the open fire," we might remember what we have lost. If you would like to help in some way, you can contact the Massachusetts chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, "dedicated to restoring the keystone forest tree of the eastern U.S. by locating blooming remaining American chestnut trees ... and breeding blight-resistant trees from local native 'Mother (and Father!) Trees.'" Look for them at <http://masschestnut.org> ~ *Sonya Vickers* ~

Poet's Seat Hike and Great Falls Discovery Center, Greenfield

Sunday, January 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon ~ Please call to register.
 Meeting Place: Barnes and Noble parking lot, Holyoke

*Beside the River's dark green flow,
 Here, where the pine trees weep,
 Red Autumn's winds will coldly blow
 Above their dreamless sleep.*

Frederick Goddard Tuckerman was an American poet of some renown about the time of the Civil War. Although he graduated Harvard as a lawyer, he found the practice



Poet's Seat Tower on Rocky Mountain, northern Pocumtuck Range. 1915 postcard.

detestable and so retired to Greenfield to write. Join us to visit one of his favorite places, Poet's Seat, overlooking the Connecticut River. It's a short walk to the tower, with outstanding views of the area.

We'll then head on down to the Great Falls Discovery Center to explore their displays on the Connecticut River. This small museum has interactive displays addressing the issues that face the Connecticut River

Watershed, from its headwaters near Canada to the mouth at Long Island Sound. There are also exceptional dioramas of all the major ecosystems along the river.

JANUARY MEETING

THE FORECAST CALLS FOR WHAT?! ~ WEIRD WEATHER IN SPRINGFIELD

Wednesday, January 19, at 7:30 p.m.
 Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium
 Presenter: Meteorologist Adam Strzempko

Hurricane, tornado, freak snowstorm ~ What next? Why have we been experiencing these odd weather conditions? Are they truly out of character for Western Massachusetts? Come hear WWLP 22 News meteorologist Adam Strzempko address these memorable events from a weatherman's perspective.

A native of Westfield, Adam Strzempko grew up watching John Quill report the weather on 22 News and endeavored to do the same. Adam has worked at Channel 22 for ten years now, from behind the scenes in the news department to tending their website and now reporting the weather.



Fannie Stebbins in Winter, Longmeadow

Thursday, January 19, at 9:30 a.m.
 Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

The Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge, alongside the Connecticut River, contains the largest and highest-quality patch of floodplain forest known in Massachusetts. Join this hardy crew of walkers for a winter's morning stroll through the refuge. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

Snowshoeing: Walking Through Winter, Quabbin

Saturday, January 28, starting at 11 a.m.
 Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (525-4697)
 Registration: Please call to let us know you are going.
 Meeting Place: PCrystal Springs Plaza, Belchertown, junction of Rts. 202 and 9

Dave and Suzy will lead us on a snowshoe hike in beautiful Quabbin. Along the way we keep our eyes open for animal tracks in the snow, while learning something about the natural history of the area. Easy pace ~ about three miles round trip. It is great exercise and great fun for the entire family. If you can walk, you can snowshoe! If you don't have snowshoes, Dave has extra pairs.

Blue jay, or Cyanocitta cristata



Plowmen

A plow, they say, to plow the snow.
 They cannot mean to plant it, no ~ ~
 Unless in bitterness to mock
 At having cultivated rock.

~ Robert Frost ~

FEBRUARY

Moonlight Cross Country Ski, Granville

Tentative Date and Time: Sunday, February 5, from 7:30 p.m. till ? (Date may change: As of this printing, official moonlight ski dates had not yet been determined by Maple Corner Farm.)

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895)

Registration: Please call to register by January 29.

Meeting and Skiing Place: Maple Corner Farms, 794 Beech Hill Road, Granville

Cost: \$25/person with skis, \$30/person with rental

Meet us at this beautiful farm in Granville, to ski by the light of the nearly full moon (Tuesday the 7th is full moon). Maple Corner Farms is a working farm, doing sugaring in the spring (see March 25 write-up) and maintaining an extensive trail system for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Once per month they offer a special moonlight experience for those ready for a glorious moonlit outing.

As we ski in the darkness of evening, our path will be illuminated by moonlit snow, starry skies, and luminaries (candles in bags) lining parts of the trails. When in need of a warm-up, we'll go inside and have snacks and a warm drink while sitting by the crackling fire and listening to musicians entertain us.

Unlike most Naturalists' Club programs, there is a fee payable to Maple Corner Farms upon arrival for participation. Notify Tom or Nancy of your participation by Jan. 29th, as we will need to inform Maple Corners. Dress in plenty of layers since skiing in the evening will be colder than a daytime ski. Come join us for a memorable winter evening experience.

Eagle Watch, Essex, Connecticut

Sunday, February 12, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895)

Location: Miller tract of Peaked Mountain Registration: Please call ahead to let us know you're coming.

Meeting Place: Friendly's on Sumner Avenue in Springfield

From Friendly's, we'll carpool down I-91 to the town of Essex, Connecticut. In and around this area are a number of spots overlooking the Connecticut River, where we'll stop to scout for eagles. Bald eagles gather here during the winter months as the river doesn't freeze this close to the ocean making it possible for them to fish. Gillette Castle can be seen from across the river from one of our stopping spots. We'll foray into this quaint little town for lunch.

Bring binoculars and spotting scopes. Dress for the weather. We'll never be too far from the cars.

FEBRUARY MEETING

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF ASTRONOMY EDUCATION

Wednesday, February 15, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium and Seymour Planetarium

Presenters: Dave Gallup and Jack Megas

The Springfield Science Museum is the home of the historic Korkosz planetarium projector, the oldest American-made instrument of its kind in the world. "The Springfield instrument became operational on 2 November 1937. It was housed at the Museum of Natural History in Springfield, Massachusetts, and was America's sixth planetarium. Several years earlier, Frank D. Korkosz (1902-1987), the museum's technician, had proposed turning an unoccupied gallery space into a projection planetarium" (from *Theaters of Time and Space: American Planetaria, 1930-1970*, by Jordan D. Marche).

Korkosz, after seeing Halley's Comet as a child, had dreamed of bringing a close-up view of the stars to the public. Learn of the history of his invention and take a tour of the night sky with Dave Gallup and Jack Megas, who have been conducting astronomy programs, indoors and out, for the last thirty years.



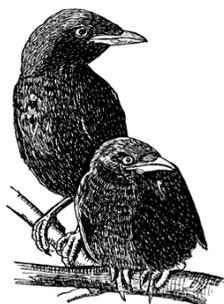
The Korkosz Projektor

Korkosz Projektor in Springfield, 1937: The first projector not manufactured by Zeiss was constructed by the brothers Frank and John Korkosz in Springfield, Massachusetts. It was a sphere of one meter and displayed 7150 stars down to the 5th magnitude but no planets. The star fields were arranged on 41 individual plates.

Dust of Snow

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

~ Robert Frost ~



Forest Park Ramble, Springfield

Thursday, February 16, at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Forest Park's 735 acres offer a variety of choices for a morning walk with friends. Depending on the weather, we'll see where's best to wander. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

Nature In Winter Walk, West Springfield

Saturday, February 25, from 10 a.m. to noon

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (413-788-4125).

Registration: Call Dietrich to register. Limited to 20 participants. Meeting Place: Bear Hole Watershed in West Springfield. We will meet at the "Four Corners" (the intersection of Prospect Ave and Morgan Road). For more detailed directions call Dietrich or use MapQuest.

Winter is a season when nature appears to slow down: leaves have fallen from the trees, plants are dormant and many animals appear to be hibernating. The familiar sounds of spring and summer are gone. How plants, insects, animals, and birds survive the challenges of winter will be one focus of our walk. In addition, we will try to detect patterns of life which are not clearly visible. Are bears really hibernating? Have all the insects died? Where are the snakes, frogs, and salamanders? Are plants as lifeless as they appear? And what's really going on

beneath that blanket of snow? We may be surprised to find that there's more life and vitality to winter than meets the eye.

Participants should dress warmly, wear good, warm footwear, and pack a snack. The outing will last about two hours. All ages are welcome. Pets should be left at home.

Trees in Winter, Westfield

Sunday, February 26, from 2 p.m. until approx. 3:30 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy (572-5307)

Meeting Place: The entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary in Stanley Park. Enter the Park at the entrance near the tennis courts and look for the sign on the right, near the end of the parking lot.

Learning a few traits such as leaf scar arrangement and bud and bark characteristics will enable the identification of most Massachusetts trees that grow in natural habitats. We'll walk at a leisurely pace on the Sanctuary's mostly level trails and learn a dozen or so native trees.

As of today (early Dec.), some of the trails may need some clearing as a result of recent snowstorms. If they are not open for this walk, we will still meet at the same place and walk somewhere nearby. Stanley Park is unlikely to have enough snow to require snowshoes; participants should use their own judgment on footwear. Extreme weather cancels.

Birches

When I see birches bend to left and right
 Across the lines of straighter darker trees,
 I like to think some boy's been swinging them.
 But swinging doesn't bend them down to stay.
 Ice-storms do that. Often you must have seen them
 Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning
 After a rain. They click upon themselves
 As the breeze rises, and turn many-colored
 As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel.
 Soon the sun's warmth makes them shed crystal shells
 Shattering and avalanching on the snow-crust
 Such heaps of broken glass to sweep away
 You'd think the inner dome of heaven had fallen.
 They are dragged to the withered bracken by the load,
 And they seem not to break; though once they are bowed
 So low for long, they never right themselves:
 You may see their trunks arching in the woods
 Years afterwards, trailing their leaves on the ground,
 Like girls on hands and knees that throw their hair
 Before them over their heads to dry in the sun....

~ Robert Frost ~

Dinosaurs and Edward Hitchcock, Amherst

Saturday, March 3, at 11 a.m.

Leaders: David Gallup and Richard Sanderson

Meeting Place: The Amherst College Museum of Natural History (formerly the Pratt Museum), near the corner of Routes 9 and 116 in the center of Amherst. Free admission. Call Dave for questions (525-4697).

Richard Sanderson, curator of physical science at the Springfield Science Museum, will give us an introduction to the life of geologist Edward Hitchcock and the discovery of dinosaur tracks in our valley. The rest of the day is yours to tour the impressive museum on your own. This museum has an extensive collection of dinosaur tracks collected during the 19th century by the great geologist and one-time president of Amherst College, Edward Hitchcock. If you haven't seen this museum, you've been missing a jewel in the valley!

Skinner Mountain Hike, South Hadley

Saturday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895)

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

Meeting Place: Barnes and Noble parking lot, Holyoke

What better place to be on St. Patrick's Day than overlooking the Irish Parish of Holyoke from the porch of the Summit House on Mount Holyoke. We'll be ascending the mountain from the south side on the Dry Brook Trail. This trail takes us up wooded ravines, past a small pond, and through forested glens. From the summit we'll get excellent views of the Connecticut River and America's first planned city, Holyoke. From farming to industry to high-tech computing, Holyoke has a rich history to share.

This quiet trail will take us up through forested hillsides to the summit in just two miles. The trail is rocky in places, so wear sturdy boots and bring along a pole (we have a few extras if needed). Dress for the weather, and bring along a lunch with plenty of water.

Meet Me at Mittineague, West Springfield

Thursday, March 21, at 9 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

As urban parks go, Mittineague's got a lot of wildness preserved: A river runs alongside its southern border. And on this second day of spring, as frost gradually loses its grip, documented vernal pools may well be apparent. What a great time to check out this gem of a park. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.



MARCH

MARCH MEETING

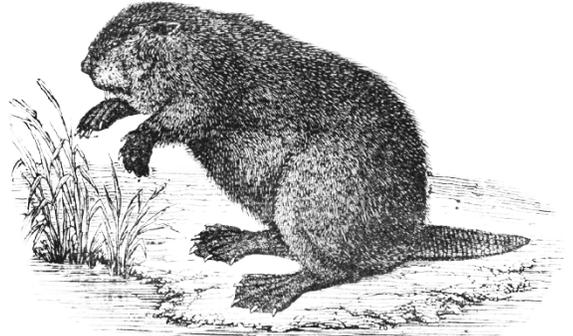
BEAVERS: CREATIVE ENGINEERS OR NUISANCE ANIMALS?

Wednesday, March 21, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium

Presenter: Skip Lisle

Skip Lisle, President of Beaver Deceivers International, will talk about the history and management of beavers in North America. His presentation will touch upon the behavior of these animals, the massive ecological and landscape changes that accompanied the fur trade, the long-term elimination of beavers and their recent, remarkable recovery. He will also discuss the highly effective methods ~ including the Beaver Deceiver and others ~ that he has developed to protect properties non-lethally. In addition, Skip will share his own views regarding the claims that beavers have become a nuisance animal.



Beaver, or Castor canadensis

How Sweet It Is! Maple Sugaring Time in New England, West Granville

Sunday, March 25, at 11:30 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (525-4697)

Meeting Place: Westfield State University commuter parking lot

Join us for a pancake brunch, with freshly made maple syrup, at Maple Corner Farms in West Granville, a farm that has been in the same family since 1840. Afterward, you will learn about the process and history of maple syrup production. Then we will hike to the maple forest (about one mile round trip) to see how sap is harvested from the trees. (Wear suitable footwear: the ground may well be thawing!)

This is a wonderful tradition every spring. Hope you can join us. For ages 8 and up. We need to know numbers, so please call and let us know if you wish to come along.



Spring Pools

These pools that, though in forests, still reflect
The total sky almost without defect,
And like the flowers beside them, chill and shiver,
Will like the flowers beside them soon be gone,
And yet not out by any brook or river,
But up by roots to bring dark foliage on.
The trees that have it in their pent-up buds
To darken nature and be summer woods ~
Let them think twice before they use their powers
To blot out and drink up and sweep away
These flowery waters and these watery flowers
From snow that melted only yesterday.

~ Robert Frost ~

Laughing Brook, Hampden

Laughing Brook is closed due to storm damage and will reopen in the spring of 2012.



Pussy willow, or Salix discolor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Great Smoky Mountains Naturalists Club Wildflower Pilgrimage ~ Sign up now

Saturday, April 14, to Saturday, April 21, 2012

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Nancy or Tom (413-564-0895). We've got to hear from you before January 7, 2012, in order to secure reservations.

Cost: Approximately \$1100, including airfare from Hartford, lodging, local transportation and program. This is an approximation.

Back due to popular demand and because the Smokies are just a great place to be in the spring, the Naturalists' Club Wildflower Pilgrimage will once again take place. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a world-renowned preserve of wildflower diversity. There are over 1500 species of flowering plants there, unrivaled for any temperate zone preserve of its size or larger in the world. Our trip is scheduled for the height of wildflower season.

Plans include hiking the best wildflower trails in the park, visiting the upper elevation spruce-fir forest, listening to Appalachian music and storytelling, touring historic Cades Cove, and much more. Emphasis is on learning about the wildlife, wildflowers and wonders of the southern Appalachians. Besides Tom and Nancy, we will have guest specialists share their expertise. It will be an active and full week.

Nancy is former Adult Program Director at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, the Smokies' environmental education center. She led wildflower classes and hikes for Tremont guests throughout the Smokies and also worked with botanists in the park on rare and endangered plants and pollination studies. Tom is a former National Park Service Ranger based in Cades Cove. For years he developed and conducted talks and hikes and evening presentations for park visitors. He also was instrumental in developing the Parks as Classrooms coursework for schoolchildren. He has co-authored two books about the park, *Hiking Trails of the Smokies* and *Wildflowers of the Smokies*. For seven years the park was the Condons' backyard.

Your fee will cover transportation (airfare from Hartford to Knoxville, Tennessee), van rental and gas, lodging in cabins, program fee for guest presenters, and your own wildflower guide, personally signed by the author! Fee is based on 10 participants. Must have at least 8 for the trip to go. Please call early to register so we can secure the best airfare rates. Come on along!

Amherst Orchid Society Show

Northampton, Saturday, February 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, February 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Smith Vocational School (adjacent to Cooley Dickinson Hospital on Locust Street). There may be an admission charge.

DOROTHY ANNE WHEAT and PHYLLIS WHEAT SMITH NATURALISTS' CLUB FUND

Dorothy Anne Wheat and Phyllis Wheat Smith's endowment to the Naturalists' Club have made it possible for the club to make donations in support of land acquisition, habitat protection, wildlife preservation and rehabilitation, and promotion of environmental education and awareness of the natural world. The Board of Directors and officers of the Naturalists' Club are proud to announce donations of \$1000 to each of the following worthy organizations.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Wildlands Fund

Contributions to this fund are designated for acquisition of wildlife habitat. Since the early 1990's a portion of fishing, hunting, and trapping license fees is designated for this fund. In addition, groups hosting a presentation by MassWildlife personnel, which we did last April with the talk on New England cottontail rabbits by Dave Scarpitti, often contribute to this fund (in lieu of payment to the speaker).

Environmental Center for Our Schools (ECOS), Springfield

This unique environmental education program has been conducted for forty years in the Springfield Public School District. Fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh graders learn life science, physical science, teamwork, and life skills on the trails of Forest Park while being awe-inspired by nature.

Surely as cometh the Winter, I know
There are Spring violets under the snow.

~ R.H. Newell ~

Spring Bulb Show Dates ~ A Breath of Spring

Smith College 2012 Spring Bulb Show, Northampton, opens Saturday, March 3rd, at the Smith Botanic Garden on campus and runs for two weeks, including the third weekend, through Sunday, March 18 2012. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, Friday evenings 6 to 8 p.m. There may well be a \$2 entry fee. This event takes place at the Lyman Conservatory, whose vintage glasshouses date from 1895, 1901, 1952, and 1981, located at the back of campus on College Lane. 585-2740

Mount Holyoke College Spring Bulb Show, South Hadley, often runs parallel with Smith's (in which case it would be from the first Saturday in March at Talcott Greenhouse on campus, running for two weeks); however, at press time, dates and times have not been published. Last year, hours were 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the event was free to the public. The Mt. Holyoke website says, "This horticultural event will showcase hundreds of spring-blossoming bulbs and plants, which will be displayed in the main Show House. Flower Show attendees may also expect to see fragrant favorites such as hyacinths, narcissus, pansies, freesia, primroses, canary broom, as well as tulips, anemones, ranunculus, crocus, scilla, muscari, cineraria and calceolaria or pocketbook plant." Call Talcott Greenhouse at 538-2116 or check online at http://www.mtholyoke.edu/botanic/flower_show.html closer to showdates.

THE NATURALISTS' CLUB 2011- 2012

FROM THE TREASURER

Those of you with an "11-12" (or later) on your newsletter mailing label are paid up for (at least) the coming year. Otherwise, your dues are owed for the year that started September 2011. You may renew by sending a check (payable to The Naturalists' Club) to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA 01086 or by giving the check to Dave at the next monthly meeting.

Note: If your address and email address contact information have not changed, the form below need not be completed. We would, however, like your email address if you haven't sent it previously. Thanks.

Please note: Since Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list, please direct special requests or changes to him.

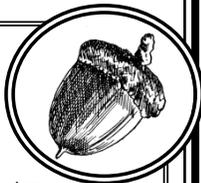
MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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

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

- carpool to destinations
- share costs with your driver

~ Thank you ~ Naturalists' Club Board of Directors



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.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President

David Gallup
(413-525-4697)
davesuzy5@hotmail.com

Vice President

Nancy Condon
(413-564-0895)
spiderwoman@russellma.net

Treasurer

Dave Lovejoy
(413-572-5307)
dlovejoy@westfield.ma.edu

Corresponding Secretary

Suzanne Gallup
(413-525-4697)
davesuzy5@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary

Sonya Vickers
(413-566-3406)
sonya.vickers@yahoo.com

Directors

Tom Condon
(413-564-0895)
science@condon.net

Bill Fontaine
(413-533-2153)
wlf07@comcast.net

Jack Megas
(413-782-3962)

Dietrich Schlobohm
(413-788-4125)

VOLUNTEERS

Publicity

Leo Riendeau
(413-739-5546)
NaturalistsNews@comcast.net

Webmaster

Tom Condon
(413-564-0895)
science@condon.net

Newsletter Editor

Debbie Leonard Lovejoy
(413-848-2047)
drleona@yahoo.com

Layout & Graphics

Loren Hoffman
(413-569-5689)
lkhgrdes@gmail.com

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Name

Address

Phone Number

Email

Requests for programs/trips

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