



The NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

2015

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts

January to March Calendar of Events

- JAN**
- 10 Saturday Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill, *Orange*
 - 17 Saturday Nature in Winter ~ Snowshoeing or Hiking, *Belchertown*
 - 21 Wednesday JANUARY MEETING: Stopping a New Invader – Efforts to Slow the Spread of the European Winter Moth
 - 24 Saturday Reading the Ways of Nature, *Monson*
 - 31 Saturday Life Under the Ice, *Westfield*
- FEB**
- 1 Sunday Cross-Country Ski at Maple Corner Farm, *Granville*
 - 7 Saturday Using the iPhone and iPad for Nature Study, *Westfield*
 - 18 Wednesday FEBRUARY MEETING: Balancing the Energy and Aesthetic Considerations of Wind Turbines – A Case Study in the Adirondack Park
 - 27 Friday Nighttime Owl Prowl at Nobleview, *Russell*
 - 28 Saturday Winter Wildlife Walk in Bear Hole, *West Springfield*
- MAR**
- 18 Wednesday MARCH MEETING: Life Underground
 - 21 Saturday Hiking Holland Glen, *Belchertown*
 - 22 Sunday How Sweet It Is: Sugaring Time at Maple Corner Farm, *Granville*
 - 29 Sunday Bus Trip ~ New York City's American Museum of Natural History



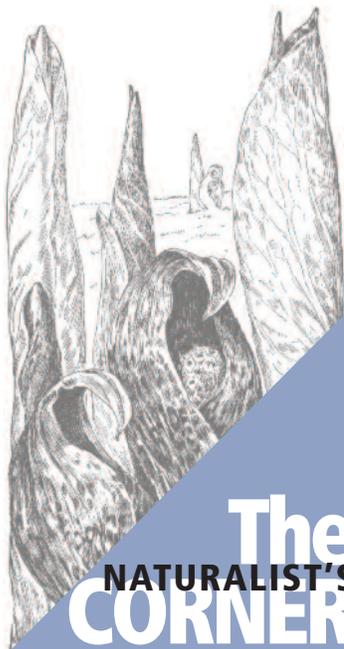
Groundhog Day
February 2

For information about events and trips sponsored by other groups, please see pages 6 and 7.

The days are short,
The sun a spark,
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.

~ John Updike

Learn to Know, Enjoy, and Keep our Natural World.



The NATURALIST'S CORNER

Skunk Cabbage – The Race to be First

Sometime in February, as the days begin to get longer, I change my route home to travel along a road behind Stanley Park in Westfield. Hidden beneath the dirty snow is a small wetland that starts to thaw in the strengthening sunshine. There, surrounded by beer cans, potato-chip bags, and the other detritus of thoughtless drivers, I will find the first flower of spring – skunk cabbage.

Skunk cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*, has remarkable adaptations that ensure its spot as the first bloom every year. In order to be the one and only blossom available to early pollinators, skunk cabbage, a perennial, has to prepare well ahead of time. Like many spring ephemerals, skunk cabbage stockpiles food in an underground stem called a rhizome, storing carbohydrates during the summer and fall and drawing on those stores as it prepares for re-emergence in the early spring.

Skunk cabbage takes great steps to protect this valuable rhizome. The plant has what are known as “contractile roots” that extend (grow) and then shorten, pulling the rhizome further underground. This mass of contractile roots pulls the rhizome away from the frozen soil above, making it safer every year from winter damage.

Even with the rhizome safely tucked away, how does the new plant manage to push through the frozen soil to become the first flower of spring? Take a brisk run around the block and you’ll come up with the answer: respiration. Like our cells, skunk cabbage cells have mitochondria that “burn” the chemical energy stored in carbohydrates to yield energy useful for growth and repair. Skunk cabbage then takes this process one step further, converting chemical energy to heat energy by a process known as thermogenesis, which then enables the plant to push through the frozen overburden.

Even after emergence through the frozen soil, skunk cabbage continues to use thermogenesis to give itself an advantage. The plant has a flowering stalk, or spadix, hidden inside a modified fleshy leaf, called a spathe, as does a close relative you’re familiar with, the Jack-in-the-Pulpit. Its generic name *Symplocarpus* refers to the form of its fruit: skunk cabbage has ovaries that are joined together to create a compound fruit, just as a *symphony* has sounds that are joined together to produce music. This compound fruit is surrounded by the spathe. With thermogenesis, the temperature inside the spathe can be maintained at 70°F.

Two theories attempt to identify factors that have driven the evolution of thermogenesis. The most obvious, of course, is that thermogenesis has been favored because generation of heat allows the plant to burn through the soil and so get the jump on other blooms competing for pollinators. If this were the sole function of thermogenesis, though, once above ground the bloom might very possibly succumb to frost.

Another theory suggests that thermogenesis evolved as a mechanism to attract pollinators. The spathe serves as a veritable warming hut for bugs, providing a place where they can be warm and active. When they visit this warming hut, flies, bees, and others pick up pollen and then transfer it to another plant, thereby facilitating pollination.

But there is a major problem with both of these theories: Thermogenesis is a characteristic of the Arum family, Araceae, a mostly tropical family. Biologists are not convinced that strategies fostering survival and reproduction in cold conditions evolved in the warm tropics. Instead, many botanists favor the idea that thermogenesis evolved as a means to disperse the plant’s noxious odor, thusly: The spathe acts as a chimney. Cold air is drawn in from below and warmed in the space around the spadix, then released at the top of the leaf. As air passes through the leaf, it picks up the smell of rotting meat – hence the specific epithet *foetidus*.

Now, imagine you are a carrion fly. You feast on the carcasses of the winter dead. You and your kin are the first insects of the season, and you’re seeking food. You catch a whiff of this dead animal, then you spot the small red, speckled “meat,” and in you go. But you’ve been tricked! There is nothing in this spathe for you. Before you have fully realized this, while scrounging around in search of a meal you have picked up some pollen. Off you go, only to be lured in by another skunk cabbage. You can at least thank your lucky stars that, unlike its cousin Jack-in-the-Pulpit, skunk cabbage is not fatal to flies, so although skunk cabbage is indeed toxic to humans and most other mammals you will be able to escape without harm.

Skunk cabbage’s deception with an end result of achieving pollination and its incredible metabolism beating the winter chill are indeed impressive feats. In addition to these little “tricks,” female flowers mature before male flowers, a scenario that helps ensure cross-pollination. So the next time you come across skunk cabbage emerging, stop to examine and marvel at these remarkable little plants. Skunk cabbage’s story of survival and its endeavors to be the first blossom of spring will warm your heart, yearning for spring as it surely will be.

~ Tom Condon ~

Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill,*Orange*

Saturday, January 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Registration: Call Bill (413-533-2153)

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, level, paved road, through a variety of habitats on the northern end of Quabbin Reservoir, an area featuring abandoned fields and orchards, wetlands, plantation plantings, cellar holes, and a hand-laid keystone bridge. We'll take our time as we wind our way toward the reservoir some 2.5 miles away. On our return, we'll skirt the eastern ledges of Rattlesnake Hill, home to soaring vultures, porcupines and bobcats. Total distance is approximately 6 miles. Wear appropriate footwear and bring along something to eat and drink. Bring poles, too, as it may be slippery.

The Old Year has gone. Let the dead past bury its own dead. The New Year has taken possession of the clock of time. All hail the duties and possibilities of the coming twelve months!

~ Edward Payson Powell.

To read a poem in January is as lovely as to go for a walk in June. ~ Jean-Paul Sartre

JANUARY MEETING**STOPPING A NEW INVADER: Efforts to Slow the Spread of the European Winter Moth**

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: George (Jeff) Boettner, Field Biologist/Lab Technician in the Elkhart Lab, Department of Environmental Conservation, University of Massachusetts-Amherst



Over the past century, Massachusetts has added an average of 3 new foreign insect species per year. Some introduced species have integrated into our ecosystem without causing problems; many others have gone on to become major pests. To learn more about invasive insects – and ongoing efforts to limit their spread – please join us for a talk by George (Jeff) Boettner, a Field Biologist/Lab Technician in the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts. Jeff has worked on three major invasive moth pests. The first was the gypsy moth, plus the fungus that helped make it scarce. The second was the brown-tail moth, an allergenic moth that killed three early entomologists. His talk will focus on efforts to understand the ecology of a third invasive insect: the winter moth, *Operophtera brumata*. Winter moth was discovered in Massachusetts in 2003 on a 40,000-acre plot in land, and has been spreading west at a rate of 6 to 8 kilometers per year. It is now found on close to 2 million acres in 6 states (MA, RI, CT, NY, NH, and ME). Winter moth threatens many fruit crops (apple, blueberry, cherry), plus the maple sugar harvest, and indirectly harms wildlife by damaging oak trees and thus limiting their acorn production. Winter moth caterpillars are generalists, and so can damage and kill a wide variety of forest and street trees. Jeff will explain current efforts to apply strategies, successful in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, to control the spread of the winter moth in our state. Jeff will be sure to share some comical photos of his work rearing 100,000 winter moth caterpillars in a British Columbia motel room. As Jeff himself points out, this is the kind of guy you report to the authorities!

Go to the winter woods: listen there, look, watch There is nothing in the world more beautiful than the forest clothed to its very hollows in snow. That...loveliness to which surely none can be insensitive.... wherein every spray, every blade of grass, every spire of reed, every intricacy of twig, is clad with radiance....is beauty so great and complex that the imagination is stilled into an aching hush. There is the same trouble in the soul as before the starry hosts of a winter night.

~ Fiona Macleod, *Where the Forest Murmurs*

Nature in Winter – Snowshoeing or Hiking,*Belchertown*

Saturday, January 17, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Dave Gallup

Registration: Please call Dave (413-525-4697)

Meeting Place: Crystal Springs Plaza near junction of Routes 9 and 202, Belchertown

Join us for a snowshoe, or for a hike if there is no snow. Dave has many extra pairs of snowshoes, so let us know if you need some. We will be exploring an upland hardwood forest and will then walk along old roads and trails. If there is snow, we may see tracks of deer, coyote, ruffed grouse, weasel, fisher, and many other species of animals and birds. Learn how these creatures survive in a cold, snow-covered landscape. Along the way, we will see stone walls and foundations of farms long abandoned. Dress for the conditions, bring snacks or lunch, and don't forget your binocs! Rain or bad weather cancels.



RUFFED
GROUSE

Reading the Ways of Nature, *Monson*

Saturday, January 24, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Leader: Kevin Kopchynski

Registration and Meeting place: Please call Kevin (413-267-4757)

Whether with or without snow, the landscape records the ways of wildlife. We will explore the Miller Forest Tract of Peaked Mountain, looking for the various stories the land tells us, from deep geologic history up to recent human and animal activity. Rain or poor driving conditions cancels.

Life Under the Ice, *Westfield*

Saturday, January 31, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Tom or Nancy (413-564-0895)

Meeting Place: McDonald's at 182 N. Elm Street, Westfield, MA

Have you ever stood along the shore of a frozen pond and thought about what's going on under the ice? If so, have we got a trip for you! Grab some ice grippers for your boots and come join us at Westfield Reservoir. This beautiful pond will be our living laboratory as we explore the ecology and physics of a freshwater pond in the winter. We will crisscross the pond, stopping to peer beneath the ice for signs of life, visit a stream with oxygen-rich waters, and step up into the surrounding forest to discuss how outside factors influence this ecosystem. If ice conditions are unsafe for travel across the pond, we will still be able to explore from its shoreline. Dress appropriately with layers of synthetics or wool blends. Bring a lunch, and plenty of water. You may wish to throw in a thermos of hot cocoa, too.

Cross-Country Ski at Maple Corner Farm, *Granville*

Sunday, February 1, starting at noon

Leader: Sabine Prather (413-949-3914)

Meeting Place: Maple Corner Farm, 794 Beech Hill Rd., Granville

Let's get outdoors! We can ski Maple Corner Farm Cross Country Ski Center, a working family farm since 1812, and take a break to enjoy sandwiches, soup, or chili at their snack bar. Located in the foothills of the Berkshires, the Center is at an elevation of 1,400 feet. A large skier warm-up area with beginner trails is located right behind the ski lodge. There are 20 km of marked ski trails from beginner to expert, machine groomed for traditional and skating styles. They also have 10 km of snowshoe trails. The scenic ski trails lead you through pastures and meadows, along mountain streams, through the current sugar bush, and into the forest and hills beyond. The rental shop has over 200 sets of skis and over 40 pairs of snowshoes for children through adults. Rentals are interchangeable at no additional charge. Ski lessons are at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and by appointment. Both group and private lessons are available as well as a special starter package. The Center has a cozy wood fire to warm up and relax by after a day's skiing. For more information and directions, visit www.maplecornerfarm.com.

Using the iPhone and iPad for Nature Study, *Westfield*

Saturday, February 7, starting at 10 a.m.

Westfield State University Natural History Museum

Leader: Sonya Vickers

Registration: Please call Sonya (413-566-3406)

Directions: Wilson Hall Room 223 (There are signs on campus pointing out the buildings.) On Saturdays parking is permitted anywhere on campus. The door to the building by the greenhouse will definitely be unlocked.

Did you know that you can use your iPhone, iPod touch or iPad to study and photograph nature? Sonya will lead a workshop where you can learn some neat tricks on these devices to take pictures of the things you see in nature. We will be utilizing some of the macro capabilities of these devices to capture extreme closeups. Once you take a picture, you will want to use the incredible editing features that are available on many apps – we'll discuss those features, too. We will also explore some of the apps that can help with identification of the things you photograph. Please be sure to bring your tablet, phone, or even a point and shoot camera.

FEBRUARY MEETING



BALANCING THE ENERGY AND AESTHETIC CONSIDERATIONS OF WIND TURBINES: A Case Study in the Adirondack Park

Wednesday, February 18, starting at 7 p.m.

Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium

Speaker: Erica Morin, Assistant Professor of History, Westfield State University

In recent years, wind power has become an increasingly viable source of renewable energy throughout the United States. As a result, wind power development firms have begun to consider more remote and non-traditional locations for the placement of turbines and large-scale wind farms. These potential sites have prompted a great deal of controversy as local, regional, and state residents, entrepreneurs, and policymakers debate the short-term and long-term consequences of these installations. While the promise of jobs and green energy is enticing, many believe that building wind turbines in environmentally pristine areas is unsightly and sets a dangerous precedent for other types of construction. Professor Erica Morin will discuss the dichotomy of "beauty vs. utility" in relation to a proposed wind farm in the Adirondack Park in northern New York State, as well as the issues surrounding other wind farms projects in the Northeast. She is originally from Ticonderoga, New York, between Lake George and Lake Champlain in the Adirondack Park. She studied history at SUNY Plattsburgh before earning her Ph.D. in history from Purdue University in 2012 with a specialization in U.S. environmental history and policy. Her research interests center on public participation in policy-making, the roots of environmental opinions, tension within local, regional, and interstate environmental politics, and the impact of parks and recreation on land use policy. She enjoys teaching a wide range of courses in modern U.S. history.

Nighttime Owl Prowl at Noble View, Russell

Friday, February 27, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Nancy or Tom (413-564-0895)

Meeting Place: AMC's Noble View Outdoor Center
635 South Quarter Road, Russell

Join us for a pleasant, leisurely nighttime walk through the forests of Noble View. Along the way, we will stop and call for barred, screech, and great horned owls. Many owls nest in late January and in February, and begin calling to one another as early as October, so hopefully, we'll receive some answers! We'll be alert, too, for other nighttime creatures like porcupine or flying squirrels. If weather permits, we'll enjoy a little star-gazing and some hot chocolate and goodies. Bring along a mug and flashlight and, if you wish, a favorite goodie to share. Sunset on this day will be at 5:37 p.m. and the moon will be waxing gibbous, so be prepared for fairly dark conditions. Dress for the weather.



SCREECH OWL

Winter Wildlife Walk in Bear Hole, West Springfield

Saturday, February 28, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm

Registration: Call Dietrich (413-788-4125)

Meeting Place: The "Four Corners" (the intersection of Prospect Ave. and Morgan Road), near the Mass. Turnpike.

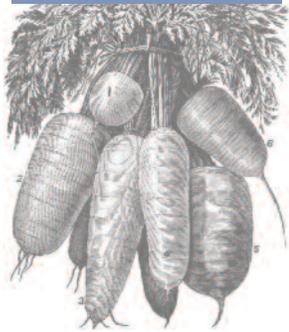
In winter, nature appears to slow down, and creatures large and small seek shelter from the harsh elements. While many of these animals seem to become less visible than in the warmer seasons, their presence can be more readily detected and studied through field signs such as the tracks and scat (droppings) they leave behind. The signs of deer, fox, coyote, squirrel, raccoon, beaver, otter and other animals are especially evident when Mother Nature blesses us with a blanket of snow. Our pace for this outing will be a slow walk, with frequent stops to examine, with the guidance of environmental historian and naturalist Dietrich Schlobohm, the tracks and other signs left by passing animals. Making sense of this left-behind evidence is like deciphering a good mystery – it's challenging and fun. If we don't have enough snow cover to observe tracks, we will focus on other aspects of animal activity. 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.

MARCH MEETING**LIFE UNDERGROUND**

Wednesday, March 18, starting at 7 p.m.

Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium

Speaker: Kevin Kopchynski



CARROTS

At first, the idea of life underground may seem impossible. It is dark, damp, and covered by dirt. Yet, many creatures – or parts of creatures – inhabit the underground for all or part of their lives. Tree roots interact with the soil and with other organisms, many cave-dwelling creatures live their entire lives without light, bacteria live inside of rocks, and more than 400 lakes in Antarctica are underground. We will explore these and other facets of the underground biosphere. Kevin Kopchynski, a Naturalists' Club member, grew up on Long Island, where he developed a deep interest in science and nature. He studied Marine Biology at the University of Rhode Island, and today works as a Planetarium Educator at the Springfield Science Museum and as a naturalist with Mass Audubon. Kevin's diverse interests include geology and photography. He shares his expertise in these and other areas through teaching in many settings, including UMass Extension, Springfield College, Berkshire Museum, through photography exhibits, and through volunteer work with The Trustees of Reservations.

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

~ R. H. Newell

Hiking Holland Glen, Belchertown

Date and Time: Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Tom or Nancy (413-564-0895)

Meeting Place: McDonald's on Route 9, South Hadley

This 3-mile hike will take us along the New England National Scenic Trail in Massachusetts' largest town, Belchertown. We'll stroll along an oak covered ridge that provides excellent views of the surrounding hills. We'll hike by abandoned farms marked by cellar holes and stone walls. Eventually, we will enter a dark, primeval hemlock forest.

The forest is home to Holland Glen Falls, a series of cascades that have carved a deep gorge through the grey bedrock. Hiking here in the spring should allow us to enjoy the falls at its thundering best. The trail is relatively flat, but has some short, steep rocky spots. Good footwear is essential; a walking staff may also be of assistance. We must cross a small creek two or three times to reach our destination. A wet crossing may be required, so be prepared. Bring a lunch, water, and camera or binoculars. Dress for the weather and come enjoy this wonderful spot hidden in the Belchertown hills!

How Sweet It Is! Sugaring Time at Maple Corner Farm, Granville

Sunday, March 22, starting at 11:30 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup

Registration: Call Dave and Suzy (413-525-4697)

Meeting Place: Westfield State University Commuter Parking

It's once again the time of the year when we visit Maple Corner Farm in Granville. This visit has become a Naturalists' Club tradition! The Ripley Farm has been in the family for over one-hundred years. Enjoy a breakfast or brunch with maple syrup from the Farm's maple forest. After brunch, we will learn about the process and history of maple syrup production. Then we will hike to the maple sugar bush (about one-mile round trip) to see how the sap is harvested from the trees, conditions permitting. For ages 8 and up. Rain or bad weather cancels.

You can't get too much winter in the winter. ~ Robert Frost

BUS TRIP NEW YORK CITY'S AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Sunday, March 29, from 7 a.m. to approximately 8 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy (413-572-5307)

Registration: Send check payable to the Naturalists' Club to Dave at Westfield State University, Department of Biology, Westfield, MA 01086.

Meeting Place: Home Depot parking lot, off Riverdale Rd. on Daggett Drive, West Springfield. Please park in the area of the lot between Home Depot and Costco. Be sure to arrive in time to be on the bus for 7 a.m. departure. No assigned seating on the bus – first come, first served.

It has been several years since we arranged a Club trip to the American Museum – truly one of the world's finest natural history museums. You'll find that a full day is hardly sufficient to see all of the permanent and special exhibits on natural history, anthropology, human evolution, and fossils, plus the high-tech planetarium and IMAX shows. The round-trip bus ride (including driver tip) is only \$30. We must have your payment in full by Saturday, March 14. Admission to the Museum is not included in the price quoted here; you may buy tickets online (www.amnh.org) at the suggested price of \$22, or opt to pay what you can at the door. Visit the Museum website to read about prices for extras such as special exhibits, IMAX shows, and the planetarium.

The bus will depart promptly at 7 a.m. with a 30-minute coffee stop and arrival at the Museum around 10:30 a.m. We depart the Museum at 4:30 p.m., with another 30-minute stop along the way and an anticipated arrival in West Springfield at 8 p.m. New this year is the option for a second drop-off for trip goers interested in visiting other parts of New York City, though everyone must make their way to the Museum for the 4:30 p.m. departure. I suggest that this stop be at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, located across Central Park from the American Museum. If you are interested in a drop-off at the Art Museum, please let me know when you register.

EVENTS offered by other organizations

Events at Laughing Brook, Hampden

These are programs offered by Mass Audubon and require registration. To register, contact Mass Audubon at Arcadia at 800-710-4550. For more information, please call Kevin Kopchynski at 413-267-4757, or visit the Mass Audubon website at www.massaudubon.org. Laughing Brook is located on Main Street in Hampden.

Snowshoe Nature Walk

Saturday, January 10, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Leader: Pete Vancini, Laughing Brook Caretaker

Bring your snowshoes and enjoy a winter hike at Laughing Brook. Learn about the history and different styles of snowshoes and their use during early American winters. Once we've got our snowshoes on, we will explore the trails looking for animal tracks and signs. Members: Adult \$6, Child \$6; Nonmembers: Adult \$8, Child \$8

Tracking and Animals Signs at Laughing Brook

Saturdays, January 17 and February 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Leader: Kevin Kopchynski, Naturalist

At one time, being able to read tracks was vital for survival. Tracking involves more than simply finding a trail and following it, and prints aren't always necessary to track an animal. The forest is full of signs that tell us about the wildlife within. Learn to read the tracks and signs left by animals. Members: Adult \$5, Child \$5; Nonmembers: Adult \$7, Child \$7

Spring at Laughing Brook

Saturday, March 21, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

According to the calendar, spring is still a few days away. However, the observant outdoor nature detective may have been seeing evidence for weeks. By this time of year, early avian species such as red-wing blackbirds and turkey vultures have returned to our area. We will look for skunk cabbage poking its leaves from beneath the snow or soil, warming the ground around it. We will also look for spring insects such as lightning bugs, and perhaps early frogs. Members: Adult \$5, Child \$5; Nonmembers: Adult \$7, Child \$7

LOOKING forward TO

Amherst Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale,

Northampton

The Society's 2015 show will take place at Smith Vocational High School, 80 Locust Street (Route 9, west of town), next to the Cooley Dickson Hospital, on Saturday, February 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, February 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit www.larchhillorchids.com/amherst_orchid_society.html.

LETTERS of THANKS

from those who received Naturalists' Club grants

From Stanley Park of Westfield

On behalf of Stanley Park of Westfield, thank you for your recommendation of the generous donations from the Phyllis Wheat Smith Foundation Naturalists' Fund in support of the Run Stanley 5K. We are thankful for your participation.

The purpose of the Run Stanley 5K is to raise funds for rebuilding and replacing Stanley Park Wildlife Sanctuary trails bridges damaged and washed away in recent storms in order to improve safety of and accessibility to trails, to build community among runners, hikers, dog owners, nature lovers and mountain bikers who have one thing in common: we all love Stanley Park.

The mission of Stanley Park is to perpetuate the dreams of its founder, Frank Stanley Beveridge, as a refuge of physical and spiritual beauty, where families and individuals may enjoy gardens, trails, educational, sporting, and cultural activities in secure and peaceful surroundings, and to retain a habitat for the wildlife of the area. Your support will help preserve this sanctuary to span generations of park enjoyment and helps fulfill our mission.

Robert C. McKean

P.S. We sincerely thank you for your kind support and assistance for Stanley Park. We hope you will visit us often and enjoy the legacy left to us 65 years ago.

From Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Facility

I would like to thank the members of the Naturalists' Club for recommending me for the grant from the Community Foundation. This donation will be put to very good use.

It has been a busy year, with over ninety raptors rescued, a total of fourteen different species, including five Bald Eagles.

One rescue was pretty interesting. At about nine p.m. I received a call from the State Police. I was told that a bald eagle had been struck by a car on the Mass. Pike in Chicopee. Upon arriving, I found that the eagle had been feeding on a dead deer when it was hit. It was quite a foot chase down the Pike (luckily, I had a young trooper with me – he did most of the running!). The bird suffered a broken wing. After three months of TLC, the eagle had healed well, and I was able to return it back to the wild.

I would like to say that I am honored to be associated with such a fine group of people, past and present, that make up the Naturalists' Club.

Sincerely,
Thomas Ricardi

Northeast Connecticut Kestrel Project

I recently gave a talk to your group on my work with the American Kestrel in Connecticut. I just had to write to tell you all that you are an amazing group of people. I was very impressed by your generosity, by the camaraderie evident in your membership, and by your passion for all aspects of the natural world around us.

Your support of my work is very much appreciated. Citizen scientists often work alone, which isn't always a bad thing, and our efforts are, at times, overshadowed by higher-profile, heavily funded efforts. Your appreciation of my work speaks to your keen awareness of what it really takes to make a positive impact on species in trouble, be they avian, aquatic, or terrestrial.

Have a great holiday season and thank you again for your support. You were a fun group to be with.

Tom Sayers

ANNUAL SPRING BULB SHOWS

Smith College, Northampton

The various glasshouses of Smith College's Lyman Plant House & Conservatory date from 1895, 1901, 1952, and 1981. Average temperature varies by house, with minima between 50°F and 70°F. Smith's Spring Bulb Shows opens the first week of March and runs for two weeks, including the third weekend of the month. 2015's show days are Saturday, March 7 through Sunday, March 22. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. most days, plus 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays. For further information about the show, please visit <http://www.smith.edu/garden/home.html>, or call 413-585-2740.

Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley

Mount Holyoke College's springtime horticultural event will showcase hundreds of spring-blossoming bulbs and plants, on display in the main Show House of Talcott Greenhouse. Scheduled to run Saturday, March 1 through Sunday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit https://www.mtholyoke.edu/botanic/flower_show, or call Talcott Greenhouse at 413-538-2116.

THE NATURALISTS' CLUB

2014 - 2015

FROM THE TREASURER

Those with a date of "14-15" (or later) on your newsletter mailing label have paid for this year. Otherwise, your dues are owed for the year that started in September 2014. You may renew by sending a check (payable to The Naturalists' Club) to Dave Lovejoy, Westfield State University, Department of Biology, 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 to have your email address if you haven't sent it previously. Thanks.

Please note: Please direct changes or inquiries to Dave Lovejoy, who maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list.

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 your destination and share costs with your driver. Thank you. ~ *Naturalists' Club Board of Directors*

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.



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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