



The

# NATURALISTS CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts

*July to September*

### Calendar of Events

#### JULY

- |    |          |   |
|----|----------|---|
| 11 | Tuesday  | Walk at Norcross Sanctuary, <i>Wales</i>        |
| 29 | Saturday | Paddling Beautiful Tully Lake, <i>Royalston</i> |

#### AUGUST

- |    |          |  |
|----|----------|--|
| 5  | Saturday | A Road Less Traveled, <i>Worthington</i>         |
| 13 | Sunday   | Stanley Park Summer Flora, <i>Westfield</i>      |
| 15 | Tuesday  | Registration Due for Stump Sprouts Weekend       |
| 21 | Monday   | View the Total Solar Eclipse, <i>Springfield</i> |

#### SEPTEMBER

- |      |               |   |
|------|---------------|---|
| 8-10 | Friday-Sunday | Stump Sprouts Weekend, <i>West Hawley</i>               |
| 17   | Sunday        | Hiking the Holyoke Range, <i>Amherst</i>                |
| 20   | Wednesday     | SEPTEMBER MEETING: Circling Gitche Gumees               |
| 24   | Sunday        | Trees and Shrubs at Stanley Park, <i>Westfield</i>      |
| 24   | Sunday        | Autumn Hike in Rattlesnake Gutter, <i>East Leverett</i> |
| 30   | Saturday      | Paddling Buckley Dunton Lake, <i>Beckett</i>            |

Summertime is  
always the best of  
what might be.  
~ Charles Bowden



# NATURALIST'S CORNER

## REMEMBERING OUR NATIONAL MONUMENTS

*March 1979.* Mike and I throw our camping gear into the back of his truck, then head across campus to pick up two other companions. We are heading across the Rockies from Fort Collins, Colorado to Mesa Verde National Park. With the exception of Mike, we are all Easterners who have yet to see the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde. We spend a couple of days exploring the spectacular area and then drive down to The Four Corners, another spot none of us but Mike has ever visited. On our way, we see a small sign along the highway, pointing down a gravel road to Hovenweep National Monument. *What the heck.* We take the turn.

The road is in dramatically poor shape, but being adventurous college students, we push on. Eventually, after crossing small arroyos, some of them dry, some muddy, and some running with spring snowmelt, we reach a cattle guard, a barbed-wire fence, and another of the small signs welcoming us to Hovenweep National Monument. That is it. Nothing else. No visitor center, no fee booth, nothing. The road continues, so we do too. We eventually come to a small trailer at the head of Hackberry Canyon. We park, knock on the trailer door, but still nothing. Must be the ranger's day off. A trail leads us a few hundred yards to the head of the canyon and an ancient stone structure called Horseshoe Tower.

To me, it was amazing to sit in a national monument essentially alone. Our small group sat down by the tower, looking down into the canyon. Who had built this tower? Was it the Ancient Puebloans (Anasazi) who had also built the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde? There was no interpretation at the site, so all was left to our imagination. I wondered, was the tower spiritual, for defense, or perhaps a navigational landmark? Whatever its purpose, it felt special to be here, especially alone, without a throng of tourists.

I have never been back to Hovenweep, but I think about it from time to time and thank the people who had the foresight to preserve this ancient landmark. I learned later that President Warren G. Harding had used the Antiquities Act in 1923 to establish the national monument. The Act was the brainchild of Congressman John F. Lacey of Iowa, whose Lacey Act prohibits the trade of illegally gotten plants and animals. He traveled out West with anthropologist Edgar Lee Hewett, who showed him how "pot hunters" were raiding sacred Native American sites.

Passed by Congress in 1906, Section 2 of the Antiquities Act states: "That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments." It goes on to say that the president may also accept private donations of land as national monuments as well. President Obama did this last year when he accepted 87,563 acres of land from Roxanne Quimby of Burt's Bees, who purchased land in Maine and then donated it with an endowment of \$40 million as the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

As a former Maine canoe guide, I can attest to the significance of the Maine Woods, but Henry David Thoreau is a much better writer than I, so I will defer to him. In *The Maine Woods*, he wrote: "The tops of mountains are among the unfinished parts of the globe." This national monument provides access to these mountains and to the rivers that run from them. Viewing logging operations as a conservationist, Thoreau went on to say, "The mission of men there seems to be, like so many busy demons, to drive the forest out of the country."

This is where I need to come back in. Thoreau is writing about the logging companies whose rich history I have interpreted for many groups. Thoreau talks of running logs down rivers, scouring the shore and beds. He meets with boatmen who hurtle themselves down waterfalls to save time on the drive to the mill. He talks about the destruction of the forest, the trout, and the moose. What Thoreau has not witnessed, however, is that by now logging companies are all but gone. The forests have been logged out and it will be 100 years before the trees are economical again. Moose and trout have come back and, with them, the tourists. So now the logging companies are selling land for second homes.

In the 70's I used to bring groups to a small northern lake called Round Pond. A campsite on its north shore gave us access to a trail leading to a fire tower atop Allagash Mountain. From there you could look out across thousands of acres of woods and water and see not a single home. In 2008, I took my scouts to Round Pond. We got up early and paddled up Ciss Stream in a light rain. There were half a dozen fishing cabins along the shore of the pond. Thoreau would have loved this paddle, for along the way we came across 27 moose grazing in the shallows.

Like many of you, I have been reading (thanks, Dave L.) and thinking about Teddy Roosevelt recently. He used the Antiquities Act to preserve 18 National Monuments, the first of which was Devil's Tower in Wyoming. Congress later turned 5 of these into national parks, including Grand Canyon National Park, which at the time was being explored for copper and other minerals. Roosevelt visited the canyon in May of 1903. Here is a bit of what he had to say:

*In the Grand Canyon, Arizona has a natural wonder which, so far as I know, is in kind absolutely unparalleled throughout the rest of the world. I want to ask you to do one thing in connection with it in your own interest and in the interest of the country to keep this great wonder of nature as it now is. I was delighted to learn of the wisdom of the Santa Fe railroad people in deciding not to build their hotel on the brink of the canyon. I hope you will not have a building of any kind, not a summer cottage, a hotel, or anything else, to mar the wonderful grandeur, the sublimity, the great loneliness and beauty of the canyon. Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it. What you can do is to keep it for your children, your children's children, and for all who come after you, as one of the great sights which every American if he can travel at all should see.*

*We have gotten past the stage, my fellow-citizens, when we are to be pardoned if we treat any part of our country as something to be skinned for two or three years for the use of the present generation, whether it is the forest, the water, the scenery. Whatever it is, handle it so that your children's children will get the benefit of it.*

On April 26, 2017 President Donald Trump signed an executive order asking Secretary Zinke to review national monument designations since 1996 that are over 100,000 acres or that the secretary deems did not have adequate public outreach or support (this includes Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters). Although no president has ever declassified a national monument and the Supreme Court has upheld the law whenever the size of a national monument was questioned, it seems that the Trump administration is willing to rethink the Antiquities Act. This law has helped preserve America's natural and cultural resources for all Americans, now and in the future. It needs our help. Please consider writing your senator or representative about this issue.

~ Tom Condon



Round Pond  
canoethewild.com

**Walk at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, Wales**

Tuesday, July 11, carpool from meeting place at 9:45 a.m.  
Registration: Please call Sonya at 413-566-3406  
Meeting Place: Meet at Hampden Mini-Mall, home of La Cucina Restaurant, for carpool to Norcross

Norcross Sanctuary is a unique place where you can travel between the limestone boulders holding a most incredible fern garden, a collection of holly trees, and various plants from the New Jersey Pine Barrens. This 8,000-acre forested area contains ponds, streams, and meadows and has a myriad of trails. Naturalists who work there will be guiding us through an area not usually open to the general public.

**Paddling Beautiful Tully Lake, Royalston**

Saturday, July 29th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Leaders: Nancy and Tom Condon  
Registration: Please call or e-mail Nancy (413-297-0778; [spiderwoman@russellma.net](mailto:spiderwoman@russellma.net))  
Meeting Place: Barnes & Noble, Holyoke

This beautiful lake is a pleasure for experienced and novice paddlers alike. Just north of the town of Athol, the 1,262-acre reservoir is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and hosts a number of recreational opportunities. We will put in on the main lake and paddle northward, through Tully River to Long Pond and back. The lake has a number of islands with sandy beaches, perfect to stop for lunch or to take a swim if the weather warrants, so don't forget to wear your swimsuit. This nice flatwater paddle will allow us to explore coves and wetlands, with the opportunity to view shorebirds, herons and other wildlife.

Bring your canoe or kayak. If you don't have one, you can rent one from Tully Lake Campground for a fee. Don't forget your life jacket, lunch, drink, camera, binoculars, hat, and sunscreen.

Hot July brings cooling showers,  
Apricots and gillyflowers.  
~Sara Coleridge



**A Road Less Traveled, Worthington**

Saturday, August 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Leaders: Nancy and Tom Condon  
Registration: Please call or e-mail Nancy to sign up (413-297-0778 [spiderwoman@russellma.net](mailto:spiderwoman@russellma.net))  
Meeting Place: Road's End Sanctuary, Corbett Road, Worthington

Robert Frost wrote, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." Join us as we explore an area less traveled by, Road's End Wildlife Sanctuary of the Mass Audubon Society. This small, 190-acre plot of land in Worthington was once a farmstead cleared of forest. But since its abandonment, nature has reclaimed her land. A second-growth forest has overtaken the fields, and beaver meadows have reclaimed the pastures. We'll explore the two short loop trails, and that should make all the difference. As always, dress for the weather, bring rain gear, binoculars, and a good lunch.

**Stanley Park Summer Flora, Westfield**

Sunday, August 13 from 1 to 3 p.m.  
Leader: Dave Lovejoy  
Meeting Place: Meet at the main entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Sanctuary located across from the recreational field.

This mid-summer trip will be a casual walk on some of the park's trails with some comments about how to recognize the different plant communities along the paths and their typical species of wildflowers, trees, and shrubs. Anyone with a field guide that they want to practice using should bring it along.

**Registration Due for Stump Sprouts Weekend**

Tuesday, August 15 —see page 5 for details!

In the summer, the days were long, stretching into each other. Out of school, everything was on pause and yet happening at the same time, this collection of weeks when anything was possible.  
~ Sarah Dessen

## Register by Tuesday, August 15 for . . .

### **Stump Sprouts Weekend, West Hawley**

Friday, September 8, through Sunday, September 10, from dinner on Friday evening through Sunday luncheon. Leaders: Dietrich and Julie Schlobohm (413) 788-4125.

Registration: All-inclusive cost for two nights' lodging and six meals is \$162 per person. Please indicate your roommate preference when registering. Reservations and 50% deposit, submitted by check written to the Naturalists' Club, should arrive by Tuesday, August 15, and be addressed to Dietrich Schlobohm, 52 Poplar Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089. This trip may be cancelled if fewer than 18 people have paid by that date. Please contact Dietrich or Julie for an update on the availability of spots.



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 meat or vegetarian fare.

### **View the Total Solar Eclipse, Springfield**

Monday, August 21, starting at 1 p.m.

Leader: Dave Gallup

Meeting Place: The Quadrangle at Springfield Science Museum

There will be a total solar eclipse across North America in mid-August with a path 65 miles wide and ranging from Oregon to South Carolina. A solar eclipse is a spectacular event when the moon passes in front of the sun, blocking its light at maximum. Birds go to roost and stars can be seen. Can't make it to the total path? Then watch from here in the Connecticut Valley, where we will experience about a 66% eclipse. If you plan to watch it, make sure to have solar glasses to protect your eyes!

Join Dave Gallup and other members of the Stars Club to view the eclipse from the Springfield Science Museum Quadrangle. Come on down – Hope it is clear!

### **Hiking the Holyoke Range, Amherst**

Sunday, September 17, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup

Registration: Please call Dave at 413-525-4697

Meeting Place: Notch Visitors' Center, Route 116, in Amherst

We will be hiking the New England Scenic National Trail to the top of Mt. Norwottuck, the highest mountain on the Holyoke Range. Along the way, we will discuss local geology and forests. After lunch on the summit of Norwottuck, we will hike to the "horse caves". There we will trace the steps of Daniel Shays. Legend proclaims that, in 1787, Shays escaped to the horse caves on the range after an ill-fated attempt to raid the Springfield Armory. From the horse caves, we will connect to the Robert Frost Trail on our way back to the Visitors' Center. We suggest that participants read about Shays' Rebellion (we recommend the entry at [www.encarta.msn.com](http://www.encarta.msn.com)) and bring a favorite Robert Frost poem to read. Please wear sturdy footwear and bring a snack/lunch and water. This is a 3-mile, moderately strenuous hike.



### **Glimpses of Gitche Gumee**

Speakers: Tom and Nancy Condon  
Wednesday, September 20, starting at 7 p.m.  
Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Born of the last great ice age, Lake Superior is the world's largest lake, as assessed by surface area. Gitche Gumee, the Ojibwa name for the lake, means means "the great ocean." This massive lake is the backdrop for fascinating geological features. Some of the oldest rocks on earth are found on its northern shore in The Canadian Shield, a great rift valley scars the landscape where once North America nearly split in half, and everywhere there is evidence of the glaciers that marched back and forth over the past two million years.

Join Tom and Nancy as they explore the places and people of Lake Superior country. We delve into the rich cultural history from the Native Americans, through the voyageurs, to the loggers and miners who shaped this land. And we will visit places like the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, as well as provincial parks in Ontario, Canada.

### **Trees at Stanley Park, Westfield**

Sunday, September 24, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: Meet at the main entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Sanctuary located across from the recreational field.

Many of the common trees and shrubs of southern New England can be easily seen along the trails in the Sanctuary along the Little River. We will focus on a dozen or so of these woody plants, learning how to recognize them and distinguish them from similar species. Some late season wildflowers will also be seen.

### **Autumn Hike in Rattlesnake Gutter, East Leverett**

Sunday, September 24

Leader: Carole Dupont

Registration: For meeting time and place, please call or email Carole (413-896-0124; [Carole0136@gmail.com](mailto:Carole0136@gmail.com))

Join us for an early fall hike to enjoy the brilliant colors Mother Nature bestows on us as she prepares the trees and bushes for winter slumber. Feel the crisp cool air and the crunching of the fallen leaves under your feet as we stroll among the enormous rock formations of this spectacular property. We will investigate old cellar holes from a bygone farm, winding brooks, wetlands, and other points of interest. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, hiking poles and boots, as well as weather-appropriate attire for this varied, interesting terrain.

### **Paddling Buckley Dunton Lake, Becket**

Saturday, September 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Leaders: Nancy and Tom Condon

Registration: Please call or e-mail Nancy to sign up (413-297-0778; [spiderwoman@russellma.net](mailto:spiderwoman@russellma.net))

Meeting Place: Buckley Dunton Pond put-in. From Route 20, turn onto Becket Road. Keep left on Yokum Pond Road. Watch for signs directing you left again, onto Buckley Dunton Road, to boat ramp.

Buckley Dunton Lake is a reservoir that lies mostly within October Mountain State Forest. This 161-acre lake is truly a gem in the Berkshires since there is very little development along its shores. We'll take a leisurely paddle around the lake watching for birds, beaver, bullfrogs, turtles, and other wildlife, so bring your binoculars. We will identify aquatic plants like bladderwort, spatterdock, and water lily growing up between the submerged stumps of this drowned forest. Colorful foliage will be twice as beautiful reflected in the still water.

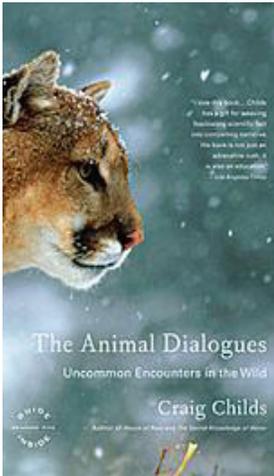
Bring your own kayak or canoe and gear if you have it. But you don't need to own your own boat! You can rent one from us for \$5 per person. We'll provide lifejackets and paddles and a small dry bag for electronics. Bring along a lunch, some water, and shoes you don't mind getting wet. Remember your sunscreen and hat. Bring your raincoat if there is slight drizzle. Heavy rain cancels.

*Visit us on Facebook!* <https://www.facebook.com/Springfield-Naturalists-Club-420275528018838>

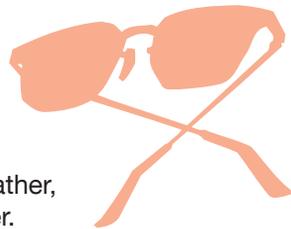
## Book Reviews

**Animal Dialogues**, by Craig Child

ISBN-13: 978-0316066471, 352 pp.



The book is a series of vignettes about a guy who has spent many years outdoors and the various encounters with animals that he has experienced. There is no particular order to the book; rather, the chapters, which are organized by animal, can be read in any order. The style is easy, very descriptive and fun to read. ~ Alex Robb



By all these lovely tokens  
September days are here,  
With summer's best of weather,  
And autumn's best of cheer.

~ Helen Hunt Jackson

## The Naturalists' Club Supports Community Programs

On Saturday, May 6th, The Naturalists' Club helped to sponsor Bird Days at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Visitors participated in bird banding, bird Olympics, a story walk, art activities, and more. We supported a raptor program presented by our friend Tom Ricardi.

From Patti Steinman, Arcadia's Director of Education: *Thank you so much for the donation from the Naturalists' Club for [our] bird festival. The event went very well, we had a few hundred people and all seemed to have a great time. I appreciate ... your efforts to make this possible.*

## Reminder: To receive electronic updates, please send us your email address

On occasion, information of interest to club members becomes available after our Newsletter has gone to press. Such information can include, for example, changes in speakers for upcoming meetings and late-breaking trip announcements. If you'd like to receive these electronic updates, please be sure to share your email address with Dave Lovejoy ([dlovejoy@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:dlovejoy@westfield.ma.edu)), who maintains the Club membership list.

## Events at Laughing Brook

### Intro To Digital Photography at Laughing Brook

Sponsored by Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries and Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary  
Sun., Sept. 17, 1 - 4 p.m.

Location: Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Hampden  
Instructor: Kevin Kopchynski, photographer & naturalist  
Audience: Adult Members: \$25

Nonmembers: \$30

Nonmembers can join today during checkout and take immediate advantage of member prices.

Learn the basics of nature photography just in time to photograph the beauty of fall in the Connecticut River Valley! We will discuss best practices for capturing an image, understanding exposure and focus, and using both manual and automatic exposure settings. Both digital and film users can benefit from this instruction, though when discussing equipment we will concentrate on digital photography and the special opportunities and challenges it offers. After the first session, participants are encouraged to take photos for review at the second session

Instructions and Directions: Please meet at the Melville Room, Hampden Town Hall, 625 Main Street, Hampden. Please park in the back of the building and enter via the back door. Please bring your camera and manual.

Autumn arrives, array'd in splendid mein;  
Vines, cluster'd full, add to the beauteous scene  
And fruit-trees cloth'd profusely laden, nod,  
Compliant bowing to fertile sod.

~ Farmer's Almanac, 1818

# THE NATURALISTS' CLUB

## MEMBERSHIP

September is the month for membership renewal for the year (September to August). Members who have opted for the electronic newsletter will receive an email indicating membership status. Members who receive the paper newsletter and have '17 -18 (or later) on the mailing label are paid up for (at least) the current year; a '16 -17 label indicates that renewal is due now.

To establish or renew membership, please send information/payment to:

Dave Lovejoy  
The Naturalists' Club  
Department of Biology  
Westfield State University  
Westfield, MA 01086

If your address and contact information have not changed, the form below need not be completed. But please do email us so that we can add your electronic address to our records. *Thank you!*

## 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

In summer the empire of insects spreads.  
~ Adam Zagajewski

## Renew your membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you opt for electronic delivery of the Naturalists' Club Newsletter? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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.

2017 JULY to SEPTEMBER

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