



**\* \* \* ANNOUNCEMENTS \* \* \***

**MEMBERSHIP DUES UPDATE**

The Club membership year runs from February 1<sup>st</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>. While this coincides with our actual founding date and corresponds with our annual meeting, it's an odd schedule. We don't blame you at all if you intended to renew but didn't keep track. Help is on the way! Anthony Costello has taken on the role of membership coordinator for the Club, and he will be in touch to remind you if your membership has lapsed. Annual dues are \$15 per individual or couple. Thank you for your support!

Please note that you do not have to remit dues to receive this newsletter. We hope that you nevertheless will benefit from the information and events and use them to promote the nature of central Massachusetts.

**PLEASE DO NOT USE NEONICOTINOIDS!**

The theme of our annual meeting was insects in all their complexity and their tremendous value to ecosystems. One important take-away message: neonicotinoid insecticides infiltrate entire plant systems, including their pollen and nectar. These chemicals keep killing and disrupting insect health beyond the point of their initial application. If you care about the health of our fragile ecosystems, stop using these toxins and/or buying plants and/or seeds from companies that use them. Many big-name home and garden stores apply the hazardous chemicals to their plants. Ask!

Here are two sites that list products containing neonicotinoids. These lists do not capture all products. If you are in doubt about a product, do an on-line search for details before purchasing.

[https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/pollinators/documents/pesticide\\_list\\_final.pdf](https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/pollinators/documents/pesticide_list_final.pdf)

[https://www.homedepot.com/hdus/en\\_US/DTCCOM/HomePage/Categories/Outdoor/Garden\\_Center/Docs/070314\\_Insecticides\\_and\\_Neonics.pdf](https://www.homedepot.com/hdus/en_US/DTCCOM/HomePage/Categories/Outdoor/Garden_Center/Docs/070314_Insecticides_and_Neonics.pdf)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY**

*Click on the link or scroll down for details.*

**Saturday March 7, 2020 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Ware River Nature Club LICHEN IDENTIFICATION WALK with Joe Choiniere , Rutland State Park, Rutland**

<http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/upcoming-events.html>

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7 p.m. Ware River Nature Club Monthly Program FOSTER PARROTS SANCTUARY—NO CAGE IS BIG ENOUGH with Rachel DeFronzo & Isaiah Duarte, Rutland Public Library 280 Main Street (Route 122A) Rutland**

<http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/upcoming-events.html>

Saturday, March 7, 2020 11 a.m. Ashburnham Conservation Trust Annual Meeting **ALL ABOUT BATS** by Jennifer Longsdorf, Bat Program Coordinator, MassWildlife Stevens Memorial Library, ASHBURNHAM

<http://www.ashburnhamconservationtrust.org> <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/masswildlife-calendar>

Sunday, March 8, 2020 2-3 p.m. DCR Office of Watershed Protection **THE NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY NETWORK: OPEN DATA TO UNDERSTAND HOW OUR AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS ARE CHANGING** by Kristin Godfrey Quabbin Visitor Center, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/quabbin-visitor-center-programs-winter-2020/download>

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 7- 9 p.m. ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB **EARLY SPRING IS FOR WOOD FROGS, PEEPERS, SALAMANDERS, SNAKES, AND TURTLES** by Dave Small <https://atholbirdclub.org/abnc-events/>

Thursday, March 12, 2020 6:30 – 8 p.m. East Quabbin Land Trust **BOOK DISCUSSION: PROTECTING POLLINATORS** by Jodi Helmer EQLT Office, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick [https://eqlt.org/?page\\_id=17](https://eqlt.org/?page_id=17)

Friday, March 13: 11:00 - 12:00 HARVARD FOREST SEMINAR-- **PUTTING BUGS INTO MODELS: FORECASTING THE ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS OF INSECTS AND PATHOGENS** by Jaclyn Hatala Matthes

<https://harvardforest2.fas.harvard.edu/asp/hf/php/admin/fees/seminar.php>

Saturday March 14, 2020 9 a.m. Princeton Open Space Committee/Princeton Hikes! **WACHUSETT MT. NORTHWEST HIKE** Princeton

<https://www.town.princeton.ma.us/open-space-committee/pages/princeton-hikes-schedule>

Sunday March 15, 2020 2-3 p.m. DCR Office of Watershed Protection **TICKS AND TICK-BORNE DISEASE IN MASSACHUSETTS AND ACROSS THE U.S.** Quabbin Visitor Center, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/quabbin-visitor-center-programs-winter-2020/download>

Wednesday March 18, 2020 10 -11:30 a.m. Wachusett Greenways **WALK ALONG THE STILLWATER TRAIL**

<https://www.wachusettgreenways.org/wordpress/greenways-news/events-2/>

Thursday, March 19, 2020 7 p.m. Forbush Bird Club **VOYAGERS, VISITORS AND HOME** with Dale Monette Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Worcester <http://forbushbird.org/text-calendar>

**\* \* \* UPCOMING EVENTS \* \* \***

**WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB**

**LICHEN IDENTIFICATION WALK**

**with Joe Choiniere**

**Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Whitehall Road entrance**

**Rutland State Park, Rutland**

**Come along with us to learn to identify some of the most common species. Joe will present some basic information about lichen biology, ecology, growth forms, and substrates. We'll learn a few identification features, including color and reproductive structures.**

**Meet at the end of Whitehall Road where the gate bars further entry. We'll be staying along the roadways and parking lots, doing some walking but not following a trail, so this field event is suitable for participants with limited mobility.**

**Dress for the weather. Bring magnifying glass if you have one and/or lichen specimens to share for ID discussion..**

**Contact [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com)  
for more information.**

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

# **FOSTER PARROTS SANCTUARY: NO CAGE IS BIG ENOUGH**

with

**Rachel DeFronzo & Isaiah Duarte**

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.

Rutland Public Library 280 Main Street (Route 122A) Rutland

Parrots are wild animals that have long suffered the consequences of pet trade exploitation and public misinformation. In this presentation, Rachel and Isaiah look into how parrots end up in captivity, why they are surrendered to the organization, and how a sanctuary housing over 400 parrots is managed. They will discuss the challenges of keeping these wild animals in a captive setting as well as offsite conservation efforts for wild parrots in South America. Come learn

why the Foster Parrots motto is

*No Cage is Big Enough!*

Rachel DeFronzo started her career in animal care as a zoo educator and bird trainer 5 years ago. It was in her position at the zoo that she learned about the plight of parrots in captivity and wanted to make a difference in the lives of abandoned and displaced parrots. Rachel has been working at Foster Parrots since 2017 as the Director of Adoptions and Education. Parrot rescue is her passion and working with Foster Parrots has been the most rewarding endeavor of her life. It has also led to the adoption of her own beloved birds, Max and Chuckie!

Isaiah Duarte is an Animal Care Specialist at Foster Parrots Ltd. and the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, where he works hands-on to help care for parrots and other exotic wildlife that have been abused, abandoned, neglected, and mistreated. From a young age, he has worked with all kinds of wildlife; from fish to reptiles to mammals and currently, parrots. His love for animals and wildlife has always been a strong passion that eventually bloomed into a career in rescue and conservation.

ASHBURNHAM CONSERVATION TRUST  
ANNUAL MEETING

# ALL ABOUT BATS

by

**Jennifer Longsdorf**

Bat Program Coordinator, MassWildlife

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m.**

**Stevens Memorial Library, 20 Memorial Drive, Ashburnham**

Bats are fascinating and unique creatures that play a critical role in many environments around the world. However, dramatic population declines have put bats in the spotlight recently. The Ashburnham Conservation Trust Annual Meeting will feature MassWildlife's Jennifer Longsdorf, Bat Program Coordinator. She will talk about the nine species of bats found in Massachusetts, common myths and facts, their ecological contributions, threats to their survival, and conservation efforts being made to protect bats. You will also learn all about bat houses and how to safely deal with bats in your home. For more details: ACT at 978-827-6427

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**EPIC JOURNEYS:  
FOLLOWING BIRD MIGRATION  
March 8, 2020  
*College of the Holy Cross in  
Worcester***

Bird migration is one of the most amazing phenomena on the planet. Millions of birds annually fly countless miles between their breeding and wintering areas in search of longer days, warmer climes, and abundant food. Discover some of the reasons why birds migrate, the technology behind the study of migration, and how to plan the best birding days to appreciate and observe migration in Massachusetts.

<https://www.massaudubon.org/news-events/special-events/general-special-events/birders-meeting>

**DCR OFFICE OF WATERSHED PROTECTION**

**NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY NETWORK:  
OPEN DATA TO UNDERSTAND HOW OUR AQUATIC  
AND TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS ARE CHANGING**

**by Kristin Godfrey**

**Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> 2-3 p.m.**

**Quabbin Visitor Center, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown**

Land use changes and habitat loss have resulted in an overall loss of biodiversity across much of the country. Kristin Godfrey, the Northeast Regional Manager for the project, will discuss how NEON collects and provides across the U.S. open data that show how our nation's ecosystems are changing. NEON hopes to contribute to a better understanding of how human activities impact ecology and how our society can more effectively address critical ecological issues.

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**ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB**

**EARLY SPRING IS FOR WOOD FROGS, PEEPERS,  
SALAMANDERS, SNAKES, AND TURTLES**

**by Dave Small**

**Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> 7 – 9 p.m.**

**Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol**

Join club president Dave Small for a spirited look at the reptiles and amphibians that will be emerging in the next few weeks. Late March with warm 40-degree+ rainy nights will bring the vernal pool migration into full swing. By day basking turtles and snakes can be found on any warmish sunny day. Learn where to look and ways you can discover how to find them.



# BOOK DISCUSSION

*PROTECTING POLLINATORS* BY JODI HELMER

## PROTECTING POLLINATORS

*How to Save the Creatures  
That Feed Our World*



JODI HELMER

THURSDAY

MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>

6:30-8:00 PM

120 RIDGE ROAD, HARDWICK

**Light refreshments provided.**

This fascinating book explains the science on environmental threats to pollinators and discusses inspiring and successful conservation efforts.

Limited supply of free copies are available! Contact Cynthia at [Chenshaw@EQLT.org](mailto:Chenshaw@EQLT.org)

## HARVARD FOREST SEMINARS

# PUTTING BUGS INTO MODELS: FORECASTING THE ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS OF INSECTS AND PATHOGENS

by

Jaclyn Hatala Matthes, Wellesley College

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m. – noon

Harvard Forest Seminars are held in the Harvard Forest Seminar Room and also can be joined online via webstreaming. Seminars are free and open to the public; no pre-registration is required.

<https://harvardforest.adobeconnect.com/hfseminar/>

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## PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

### Princeton Hikes!

## WACHUSETT NORTHWEST HIKE PRINCETON

Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.

Difficult 4-mile hike.

Meet at Bolton Pond trailhead on Bolton Road, Princeton. Hike to summit and back via North Road Lookout, taking in Balance Rock along the way.

Route details TBD.

The Open Space Committee is leading a series of hikes on the large number of trails around Princeton. The committee wishes to showcase Princeton area hiking trails, foster a community hiking group, and provide a safe way to explore Princeton and surrounding towns.

For more information, check Trail Around Princeton on Facebook or contact [TrailAroundPrincetonMa@gmail.com](mailto:TrailAroundPrincetonMa@gmail.com).



WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

**WALK ALONG THE STILLWATER TRAIL**

**Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 10 -11:30 a.m.**

**West Boylston/Sterling**

**Leader: Jeff at [jkeay23@gmail.com](mailto:jkeay23@gmail.com) or 508-353-1174**

Join Wachusett Greenways to hike the Stillwater Basin Trail. This 3.5-mile hike is rated moderate with a couple of steeper hills. The trail offers a lovely view of the Stillwater River and interesting terrain through majestic, young and old forest. Contact leader for more information and meeting place.

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FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

**VOYAGERS, VISITORS AND HOME**

with

**Dale Monette**

**THURSDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 p.m//Social hour 6:30**

**Mass Audubon Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center  
414 Massasoit Road, Worcester**

Dale's presentation will focus on birds that visit New England for a stopover during migration, birds that spend months here, and birds and mammals that are permanent residents and call New England home. Dale spent five years gathering images and stories of the animals in the Quabbin Watershed and New England, from Great Gray Owls to Red-backed Voles. Join us to see what, where, and who he found in his travels!

Dale Monette is an expert in the nature and history of the Quabbin Reservoir. An avid birder since his youth, he has lived within 2 miles of the Reservoir since the 1970's and spent 30 years with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation working at Quabbin as an educator and a naturalist.

DCR OFFICE OF WATERSHED PROTECTION

# TICKS AND TICK-BORNE DISEASE IN MASSACHUSETTS AND ACROSS THE U.S.

by

Paul Killenger

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2-3 p.m.

Quabbin Visitor Center, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown

The Laboratory of Medical Zoology based at UMass Amherst receives over 15,000 ticks from across the country and abroad, and tests those ticks for over twenty pathogens they may carry.

Join Paul Killenger to learn about the tick and pathogen passive surveillance the lab provides as well as tick infection rates and other risk factors that contribute to tick-borne disease in humans. He will also offer practical advice on preventing tick bites and follow-up steps in case a tick does bite.

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## FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

### BIRDING LAKE QUABOAG AND VICINITY

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m.

Leader: Rodney Jenkins (508-757-5010)

We'll look for the earliest migrants during our first all-morning trip of Spring 2020! Meet at the Lake Quaboag parking lot, Shore Road, Brookfield at 7:30 a.m.