

March 2022



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

**THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. . .**

. . .who took us up on the special projects celebrating our nine years as a Club! By now everyone reading this newsletter should have received the *Best Nature Experiences of 2021* edition of the newsletter. If you haven't received it, or have mislaid or deleted it, keep in mind that all of our newsletters published since February 2020 are archived on our web-site here: <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/newsletter-archives.html>

Congratulations to Christy Barnes and Doug Wipf who achieved top scores on the Mystery Photo Quiz. Christy had a slight edge because she identified some of the plants being used by the insects, but the overall scores were close. Christy wins a \$25 L.L. Bean gift card, and Doug was awarded a free one-year membership in the Club. The photo quiz is on the web-site as a slide show if you want to check it out:

<http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/mystery-photo-quiz-2022.html> Each mystery picture is followed by a slide with the correct answer. Have fun!

**ANNUAL DINNER MEETING & SILENT AUCTION—SAVE THE DATE!**

The Club's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, noon – 5 p.m. Featured speaker Tom Tynning will present *Hope For (some) Herps: The Twisting Saga of Conservation for Un-loved Species*. Special guests Natasha Nowick and Alexxia Bell of Turtle Rescue League will present *TURTLE 911* and be accompanied by some native turtles in their care.

In addition to a delicious meal and a chance to visit with fellow nature-lovers, attendees will have a chance to bid on an eclectic array of auction items.

We ask that you be "vaxxed to the max" if you plan to attend in person. We're also planning to offer remote viewing of the guest speakers.

Full details and reservation forms will be arriving in your Inbox soon! We hope you'll save the date and plan to join us for this special event.

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

**ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB**

**WILD YEAR: EXPLORE  
NORTH AMERICA THROUGH THE SEASONS**

with John Slonina

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

Miller's River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol

**OR via ZOOM**



Join John to explore some of the most beautiful places in the United States. We'll see the amazing scenery and wildlife of Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, Minnesota, Alaska, the Everglades, Washington State, Acadia, White Mountain National Forest, and more.

Experience the hidden beauty of wild America as an "armchair traveler."

John Slonina is an award-winning professional nature photographer, tour leader and writer devoted to the conservation of wild places and wild things. His goal is to portray natural events through elegant nature photographs and writings. John uses photographs and writings to educate and inform as many people as possible about nature and environmental issues.

To view the program remotely, register in advance:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_-Y3nnzcSiiT3KEV7uf8kA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-Y3nnzcSiiT3KEV7uf8kA)



*Red squirrel by Alan Rawle.*

PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – PRINCETON HIKES!

HIKE THE WOLF DEN LOOP TRAIL  
LEOMINSTER STATE FOREST  
Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.

This is an easy four-mile loop east of Paradise Pond.  
For more information or to register: [TrailAroundPrincetonMA@gmail.com](mailto:TrailAroundPrincetonMA@gmail.com)



*Sharp-shinned Hawk by Doug Wipf*



## Raptor Rapture: Research & Recovery

Online event--

# LIVING WITH URBAN RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS

with Cheryl Dykstra

Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Members \$15 Non-members \$20



Raptors were once known as creatures of remote places, intolerant of human presence and activities. However, in recent decades, some raptor species have moved into and occupied urban areas all around the world. What caused this change? Why are some species able to live in our cities and not others? How do urban raptors survive the threats that humans and human activities pose? And what can we do to conserve them? What scientists are learning may surprise you! Cheryl's research team has studied urban Red-shouldered Hawks for more than 20 years, and what they have discovered provides insight into both the ecology of urban raptors and the ability of humans to live alongside them.

Cheryl Dykstra is an independent researcher and consultant in West Chester, OH, a suburb of Cincinnati. She has worked as a researcher for the USFWS and USEPA, and has served as the Editor-in-chief of the Journal of Raptor Research since 2006.

[REGISTER](#)



Online event--

# CONSERVING THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK FROM CANADA TO COLOMBIA



*Photo by Dianne Cowan*

with Laurie Goodrich  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary  
Monday, March 14 th  
7 -8:30 p.m.

Members \$15 Non-members \$20

Broad-winged Hawks are one of the most celebrated raptors during migration across the northeastern United States, but increasingly they have shown range retractions and declines in certain regions of their historical nesting range.

Nest success, habitat use, and winter sites have been studied to understand the conservation challenges facing this iconic long-distance migrant. In this talk, Laurie will discuss the results of a satellite-tracking study of nearly 20 female Broad-winged Hawks from throughout the Northeast. She'll discuss migration behavior and maps, new discoveries pertaining to winter and nesting season ecology, and some of the threats increasingly facing these birds.

Dr. Laurie Goodrich works as Director of Conservation Science for the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association in Pennsylvania. She also co-leads land conservation efforts for the sanctuary.

[REGISTER](#)

FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

ZOOM program--

## THE BIRDS AND THE TREES— MASSACHUSETTS SPRING

with Dan Berard

Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>

6:45 p.m. Club Updates

7 p.m. Presentation



Each spring, the return of migratory birds is enjoyed by birders and non-birders as warblers, vireos and

flycatchers herald warmer weather. Have you ever wondered why Blue-headed Vireos arrive before Red-eyed Vireos? Why are Louisiana Waterthrushes back before Northern Waterthrushes? Why are Eastern Phoebe so quick to return?



In this presentation, you'll learn the WHY of when certain species return to Massachusetts based on food and habitat requirements and HOW you can use this information in your birding ventures.

Dan is a lifelong birder for whom birds were a gateway into a fascination with natural history. He enjoys teaching people how to identify birds and approach birding in a different way. Dan has led birding and natural history tours across

North America and many international destinations. He is a founding member and President of Octan State Bird Club. He currently works as a tour guide for Sunrise Birding and an arborist for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Click on the link to join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84782062112?pwd=VllxZHc2VFYxdGozZGoxajRuNzhEUT09>

MASS AUDUBON

## WOODCOCK WALK

with Alison O'Hare

Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> 6:15- 7:45 p.m.

Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, Princeton

Members \$15 non-members \$20



Learn about the timber doodle or Labrador twister, aka American Woodcock.

The distinctive call of the male American Woodcock and its dramatic flight display are among the earliest signs of Spring and coming soon to a field or meadow near you! After a brief presentation on the natural history of the species, a short walk into one of the meadows will set the stage to experience the elaborate courtship dance of this amazing bird.

Registration is required.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



## QUABBIN VISITORS CENTER

Online program--

### BUZZING OF THE BEES: THE LIFE OF POLLINATORS

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 2-3 p.m.

Pollinator species are vital to the majority of flowering plants throughout the world. Join DCR Interpreter Nancy Huntington for a fun, free program about pollinators and how DCR Quabbin is working to support habitat for them.

For more information, contact  
[QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov](mailto:QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov)

Space is limited.

Registration is required.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – PRINCETON HIKES!

## HIKE FROM LOVER'S LANE

## TO OVERLOOK ROAD

Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1 p.m.

An easy 3-mile walk from Princeton, past the Quinapoxet Reservoir, to Rutland.

For more information or to register: [TrailAroundPrincetonMA@gmail.com](mailto:TrailAroundPrincetonMA@gmail.com)



## EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST



# THE VALUE OF RECONNECTING OUR STREAMS

by Carley Przystac

Ecological Restoration Engineer, Mass Division of Ecological Restoration

Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6-8 p.m.

Barre Senior Center, 557 S. Barre Road, Barre



DER restores and protects rivers, wetlands, and watersheds in Massachusetts for the benefit of people and the environment. Carly provides engineering technical assistance to DER staff and partners for projects including culvert replacement, dam removal, tidal and freshwater wetland restoration, and other areas of mutual interest. Carley is a graduate from Mount Holyoke College and UMass Amherst. She earned a B.A. in Ecosystem Science and a B.S. in Civil Engineering, respectively. In her spare time, Carley volunteers with Save the Bay and University of Rhode Island's Watershed Watch to educate the public about climate change and aquatic habitats.

MASS AUDUBON



## NATURE WALK FOR ADULTS

with John Ryan

Wednesday March 23rd

10 -11:30 a.m.

Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, Princeton  
Members \$15 Non-members \$20

Explore Wachusett Meadow's beautiful trails during this guided, 1-2-mile relaxed-pace walk. The unfolding of spring brings vernal pools, migrating birds, and blooming wildflowers.

New topics and discoveries await each month!

Dress for the weather including sturdy walking shoes or boots.

Registration is required.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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## FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

## BIRDING LAKE QUABOAG AND VICINITY

Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m.

Leader: Rodney Jenkins (508) 757-5010



This is a half-day trip to look for the earliest migrants, our first spring field outing. Meet at the Lake Quaboag parking lot, Shore Road, Brookfield.

## WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB



# FLORA OF WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

by Robert Bertin

Distinguished Professor of Science  
Emeritus, College of the Holy Cross

Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup> 7 p.m.

Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation is known for its botanical richness. Join us to hear about Robert's three-year study of the plants of the Reservation and Minns Wildlife Sanctuary. In his talk he'll examine the native and the non-native, old records, new finds, rarities, and the mundane. We'll learn about contributions of the ski slopes to the floristic diversity of the mountain and the role of elevation and slope aspect in contributing to patterns of plant distribution.

Robert's research focuses on the flora of Massachusetts and how that flora has changed over time in relation to changing climate, introduction of non-native species, and changes in land use. Along with several colleagues, he has examined the floras of Worcester County, Franklin County and the City of Worcester in relation to historical floras documented by herbarium specimens and literature reports. His findings have been published in numerous botanical and science journals. With Thomas Rawinski he wrote *Vascular Flora of Worcester County,*

*Massachusetts*, a 2012 publication detailing the county's species and their occurrence.

*The library is now open for meetings!*

*This is a LIVE program in a spacious meeting room where participants are requested to wear masks.*

*We are also planning to offer remote viewing via ZOOM. This will be our first hybrid program effort!*

*To sign up for the ZOOM link, contact [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com)*

*The link will be sent to you several days before the program.*