

Mid-March 2022



* * * **ANNOUNCEMENTS** * * *

TECH UPDATE

If someone had told us a few years ago that we'd eventually be sharing programs and presentations with people watching on devices at home, we surely would have wondered just how that was going to happen. Now the option to view programs remotely via ZOOM has become an expectation. We have been on a fast-moving and steep learning curve and are trying to keep up! In an effort to ensure that the Club remains relevant and accessible, we're doing our best to cobble together the necessary technical devices and skills in order to offer a remote viewing of our in-person programs.

We'll launch our first hybrid venture on March 31st when Robert Bertin presents *The Flora of Wachusett Mountain* at the Rutland Library. We've done some trials, and it appears that the ZOOM live-stream should go smoothly. At our annual meeting in April, we also plan to offer remote viewing of the talks by the guest speakers.

If you're still not acquainted with ZOOM, you may wish to consider opening an account and trying it out. It's easy and a good option if you're unwilling or unable to attend meetings in-person. There is the option to sign in to watch a presentation without interacting with others—by keeping your microphone and camera turned off—or to include interactions on-screen or by typing in messages (chat). It's certainly not the same as being in a social setting, but it's a way to stay involved with the Club and enjoy our programs. Best of all, it's free!

Whether the Club will continue to offer hybrid programs after the pandemic runs its course remains to be seen. More volunteer effort is required to pull it off, and the remote programs are not without their unique problems. But in the spirit of the moment, we're happy to give it our best shot.

QUABBIN VISITORS CENTER

Online program--

BUZZING OF THE BEES: THE LIFE OF POLLINATORS

Sunday, March 20th 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

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 22nd 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

EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST



THE VALUE OF RECONNECTING OUR STREAMS

by Carley Przystac

Ecological Restoration Engineer, Mass Division of Ecological Restoration

Tuesday March 22nd 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.

FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

BIRDING
LAKE QUABOAG
AND VICINITY

Saturday March 26th

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.

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PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE—PRINCETON HIKES!

HIKE ALONG THE STILLWATER RIVER TRAIL
STERLING

Saturday March 26th 9 a.m.

This trail, with few little hills and about 4.5 miles in total, runs parallel to the Stillwater River and provides views of the river in two places.

The hike will include a portion of the Central Mass Rail Trail to Oakdale
For more information or to register: TrailAroundPrincetonMA@gmail.com



WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB



FLORA OF WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

by Robert Bertin

Distinguished Professor of Science
Emeritus, College of the Holy Cross

Thursday March 31st 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
warivernatureclub@yahoo.com
The link will be sent to you several days
before the program.*

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

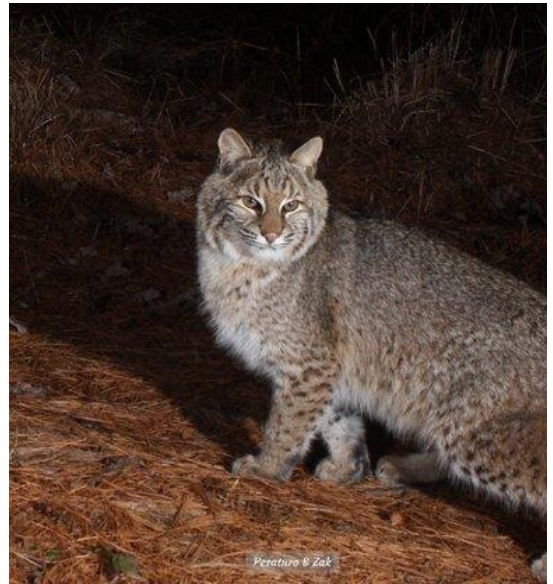
Special program! USING TRAIL CAMERAS TO STUDY WILDLIFE BEHAVIOR

with Janet Pesaturo

Saturday April 16th 10 a.m.

Rutland Public Library

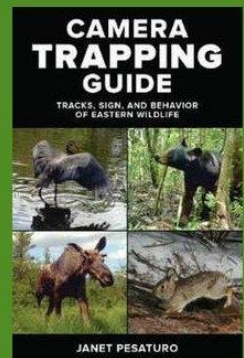
280 Main St. Rutland



Geared to the curious naturalist, this talk covers the basics, and then some. Janet will introduce trail cameras—how they work and how to set them up –and then discuss smart camera placement so that you too can capture photos and videos that reveal the secret habits of animals. These “camera traps” are taking wildlife research by storm because they’re a noninvasive way to literally shed new light on the private lives of wild creatures. But you don’t need to be a scientist. Anyone with curiosity, persistence, and an inexpensive trail camera can study cutting-edge animal behavior topics. Join Janet to learn how!

Janet is a conservation biologist by training, a certified tracker, and a writer who travels around the country tracking and camera trapping everything from mouse to moose. Her book *Camera Trapping Guide: Tracks, Sign and Behavior of Eastern Wildlife* was published in 2018.

Janet will have copies of her book available after the program, and she would be happy to sign copies, too. Cost of the book is \$25.00, payable by cash or check.



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.

To sign up for the ZOOM link, contact:

warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com

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



Annual Dinner Meeting & Silent Auction

Sunday April 24, 2022 12-5
Hartman's Herb Farm
1026 Old Dana Road, Barre

GUEST SPEAKERS

Tom Tynning, Professor of Environmental Science
Berkshire Community College

HOPE FOR SOME HERPS: THE TWISTING SAGA OF CONSERVATION FOR UN-LOVED SPECIES

In general, the study of amphibians and reptiles has lagged far behind that of other vertebrates, and even of many invertebrates. We still lack basic knowledge of the distribution of many of our species, not to mention their population levels, trends, or natural fluctuations. Yet despite regular setbacks, insights continue to unfold that provide some hope for conservation.



Natasha Nowick & Alexxia Bell
Turtle Rescue League

TURTLE 911: HELPING SAVE OUR MOST ENDANGERED NATIVE CREATURES

Spring is here, and our native turtles are on the move. Learn how we can all help our imperiled wildlife. Learn why turtles are endangered and how we can all play a role in their protection. The Turtle Rescue League is a nonprofit rescue and rehabilitation center dedicated to the protection of our native turtles. Learn how you can make a real difference in your community. Join us and learn to become a turtle Superhero!

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

12:00 p.m. SOCIAL HOUR with beverages and appetizers
SILENT AUCTION BEGINS! Ongoing throughout the afternoon
1:00 p.m. DINNER -- Table service/buffet
2:00 p.m. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
2:15 p.m. Presentation by TOM TYNING: HOPE FOR (SOME) HERPS
Short break
3:30 p.m. Presentation by TURTLE RESCUE LEAGUE: TURTLE 911
4:40 p.m. SILENT AUCTION ENDS!

DINNER & MEETING \$40 member \$45 non-member
PRESENTATIONS ONLY \$20 member \$25 non-member

DETAILS & RESERVATION FORM [HERE](#)

