



## \* \* \* **ANNOUNCEMENTS** \* \* \*

### **LITTLE BROWN BATS AT MOORE STATE PARK**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's newest bat biologist is Elise Stanmyer, and she has been monitoring the colony of Little Brown Bats at Moore State Park. The colony "is doing great," she wrote on August 25<sup>th</sup>. As of July 15<sup>th</sup>, there were over 900 bats present.

Boston University scientists began observing this bat colony in an old blacksmith shop at the park in 1979. In 1992, their current home--a special structure on the edge of Eames Pond--was built and the first successful relocation of a large bat colony was accomplished. A few years later, roost modules were added to make the house a maternity colony. It turns out that the roosting modules helped the colony of bats to survive White Nose syndrome. The late Tom Kunz, a professor of biology at Boston University and director of the Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology, said the roosts at Moore State Park provided spaces for the bats to keep warm during the winter, so that less energy is used for survival and more can be used to bear and care for offspring.

"The colony was decimated in 2008 to 2009," he said in 2011. "The population dropped by nearly 70 percent, but it has stabilized since then."

The 2011 bat numbers are unclear, as Professor Kunz estimated the number to be around 240, while another newspaper article the same month and year indicated that the estimate was 600 -900. At any rate, the bats are still being watched, and it's heartening to learn that the colony appears to be thriving.

When we touched base, Elise was planning another emergence count, which involves waiting at the bat structure until dusk when the bats come out to feed. As the summer progresses, the numbers decrease, since the juveniles disperse in mid-to-late summer.

Elise explained that, in general, it is better to have multiple observers to get a more accurate count. Having two observers seems to work well at Moore. However, it is sometimes difficult to find assistance as the counts tend to go until after 9 p.m. Elise plans to do 3-4 more emergence counts before cold weather sets in in October.

If you're interested in helping with counting the bats as they leave the bat shed, contact [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com).

## **JOINING FORCES TO PREVENT WINDOW COLLISIONS**

Where many of us live, the combined effects of changing sunlight angles, reduced daylight hours, and increased bird activity as our migrant species prepare to head south result in fatal window strikes by birds.

Caused by the reflective characteristics of glass, where the outside of glass reflects the environment around it, collisions are caused because the birds don't recognize it as a barrier. The birds see the reflected environment, such as trees and sky, and collide with the glass assuming it is a clear flight path. Any window, large or small can be a killer.

Normally we wouldn't promote particular products, but this is a serious matter. It is estimated that *one billion* birds die as a result of window collisions every year in the United States alone. We have had excellent results preventing these sad collisions by applying Collidescape film to high-risk windows. The product is pricey, so Ware River Nature Club proposes that we order a supply as a group. Large rolls provide a great deal of coverage. Why not purchase some of this beneficial window film cooperatively?

Visit <https://www.collidescape.org/> and check it out. There are other collision-prevention options on the market, some of which aren't truly effective. We can vouch for Collidescape!

Drop us a line at [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com) if you'd like to pitch in on a group purchase.

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

**FORBUSH BIRD CLUB**

**BIRDING AT WACHUSETT MEADOW  
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY  
PRINCETON**

**Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m.**

**Leader: Joan Gallagher**



Our Labor Day Weekend walk is a Club tradition! We will explore the fields, roadside, and ponds for resident birds and early migrants.

Meet-up is at the Sanctuary parking lot on Goodnow Road.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

To ensure safe social distancing, the trip is limited to 9 participants plus the leader.

To register, please email Joan by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 4th

[joan.snowbird@gmail.com](mailto:joan.snowbird@gmail.com)

Restrooms are open at Wachusett Meadow from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

*In accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines:*

- Group size is limited.*
- Participants must be symptom-free.*
- Face coverings must be worn when social distancing of 6-10 feet is not possible*

# WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB IN SEARCH OF WILD EDIBLES

with Russ Cohen

Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>

1 -4 p.m.

[Foul weather date: September 13<sup>th</sup>]

Hubbardston~~Location TBA



The Ware River Watershed is home to over 100 species of edible wild plants, including native species like Black Raspberry and Shagbark Hickory, non-native weeds like Burdock and Chicory, and exotic invasive species like Japanese Knotweed. The region is also home to dozens of species of edible mushrooms. Russ Cohen, wild edibles enthusiast and author of the book "Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten" will guide us on an identification and foraging exploration to learn about some of the surprising array of edibles in our own backyard.

Until retirement in 2015, Russ Cohen was the Rivers Advocate for the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration, where one of his areas of expertise was in riparian vegetation. In addition to leading over three dozen foraging walks and talks each year, Russ has now taken on a role as a "Johnny Appleseed" of sorts for edible native species. He has a small nursery where he grows plants that he propagates from seed, some of which he collected himself. He partners with land trusts, cities and towns, schools and colleges, state and federal agencies, and others to plant plants from his nursery in appropriate places on their properties.

Number of participants is limited.

Hubbardston residents and WRNC members served first.

Face masks and social distancing required.

Contact [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com) to register.



*This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hubbardston Cultural Council a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*

## **ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB**

### **FRIDAY MORNING EARLY-BIRD BIRDING**

**with Jeff Johnstone**

**September 4<sup>th</sup> ,11<sup>th</sup> ,18<sup>th</sup> ,25<sup>th</sup> and October 2nd**

**7:30 a.m.**

**Join Jeff to look for our local species and fall migrants.**

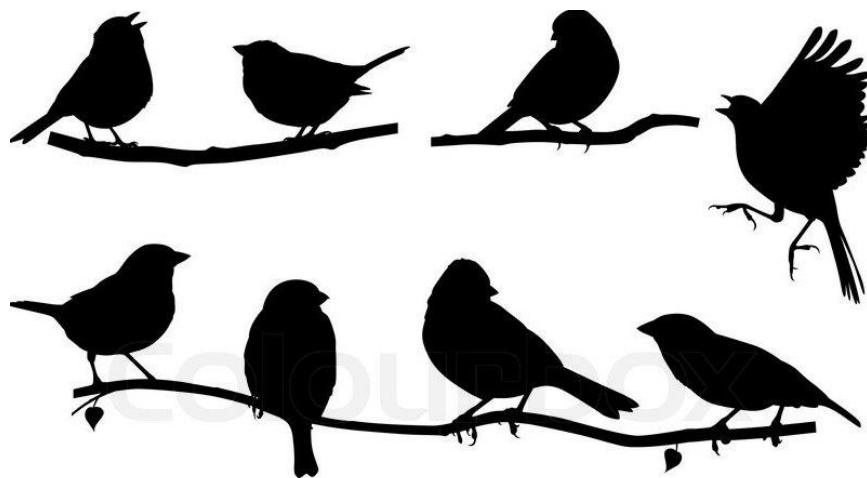
**Call Jeff 978-249-9052 to reserve your spot  
and provide your contact info.**

**Limited to 8 participants.**

**All participants must wear facial coverings, practice social distancing (at least 6 feet apart for non-family members), and bring their own hand sanitizer if needed.**

**No one shall share binoculars or scopes with non-family members.**

**The leader has the right to refuse participation  
to people who do not follow the policies**



## PRINCETON HIKES!

### CALAMINT HILL CONSERVATION AREA

**Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.**

This will be a NEW hike in Princeton, a moderate 3.5-mile hike of all the trails between two beaver ponds. Meet-up will be on Calamint Hill Road North.

Dogs ARE permitted on short leash.

Registration is REQUIRED. Please contact [trailaroundprincetonma@gmail.com](mailto:trailaroundprincetonma@gmail.com) if you plan to join, OR if you change your mind!

COVID rules require masks at all stops and 6 feet of distancing.



## PRINCETON HIKES!

### SENIOR HIKE

### WACHUSETT MEADOW SOUTH SIDE

**Monday September 21<sup>st</sup> 2 p.m.**

Easy 3-mile hike.

Registration is REQUIRED. Please contact [trailaroundprincetonma@gmail.com](mailto:trailaroundprincetonma@gmail.com) if you plan to join, OR if you change your mind!

COVID rules require masks at all stops and 6 feet of distancing.



## WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB



# *ZOOM MEETING* EDIBLE WILD PLANTS AND MUSHROOMS IN AND AROUND THE WARE RIVER WATERSHED with Russ Cohen

Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 7 p.m.

Join us for a PowerPoint presentation by Russ, in which he'll discuss a great number of the tastiest species the region has to offer. Keys to the identification of each species will be provided, along with info on edible portion(s), season(s) of availability and preparation methods, as well as guidelines for safe and environmentally-responsible foraging.

Please join us for this unique and fun exploration  
of the edibles in our neighborhood.

Sign up to receive the ZOOM link(s) for this on-line meeting by sending a message to [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com) with ZOOM NATURE in the subject line.

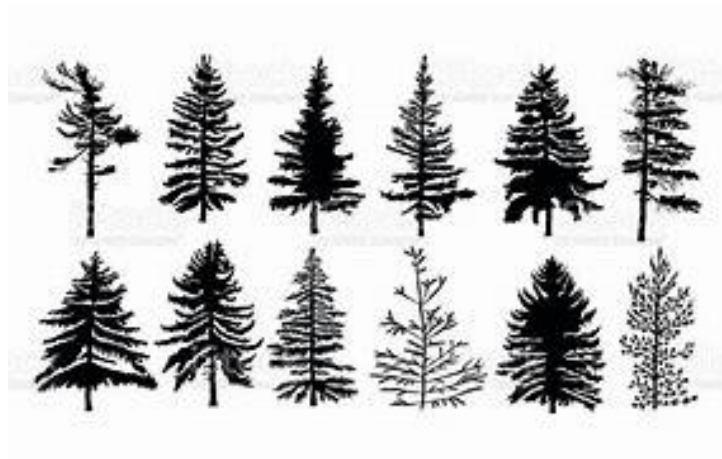
*This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hubbardston Cultural Council a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*



## EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST

### Saturday Work Days...

Join us from 9am-noon on the first Saturday of the month (usually) and volunteer to help with the maintenance of EQLT properties. Please contact Jess at [JCusworth@eqlt.org](mailto:JCusworth@eqlt.org) or at 413-477-8229 to confirm which location will be the work site.



### PRINCETON HIKES!

## WACHUSETT RESERVOIR SOUTH HIKE

**Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.**

Easy-to-moderate hike along the reservoir to Route 12 and back, about 4.5 miles. Off Route 140 in West Boylston.

Registration is **REQUIRED**.

Please contact [trailaroundprincetonma@gmail.com](mailto:trailaroundprincetonma@gmail.com) if you plan to join,

**OR** if you change your mind!

COVID rules require masks at all stops and 6 feet of distancing.





**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>**  
**GENERAL REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

**<http://northeastwildlifetrackers.com/>**

Trackers and would-be wildlife trackers are invited to join us for the 12th annual (and first- ever virtual) Northeast Wildlife Trackers Conference. In moving online, we are welcoming presenters and attendees from around the world to join us for a week of presentations and activities celebrating all aspects of animal tracking.

**Conference admission grants you access to all of the following live events (hosted on Zoom), as well as a library of recordings which will be available through the end of October.**

**October 13-17, 2020:**

Online Conference Presentations  
(recordings available until Oct 31)

**Saturday October 17, 2020:**

Main Conference Event and Keynote  
(10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

**Sunday October 18, 2020:**

Optional Regional Field Sessions  
([contact Pam Landry](#) to host a session in your area)

# MASS AUDUBON

## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS AREA

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS & WALKS in SEPTEMBER

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/results/central-mass/adults/exclude-camps-and-vacation-weeks>

*"After closing our sanctuaries in late March to help stop the spread of COVID-19, we are now happy to share that, after careful analysis and discussions with local officials, we've been able to safely open the trails at all of our wildlife sanctuaries for local visitation."*

- All buildings & most facilities remain closed (no water fountains available)
- Bathrooms are closed at all sanctuaries *except* Drumlin Farm, Long Pasture, Wachusett Meadow, & Wellfleet Bay
- All visitors should follow trail safety guidelines; dogs & bikes are *not* permitted; carry out anything you bring in



## MASS AUDUBON NATURE SANCTUARIES

[Broad Meadow Brook](#), Worcester → [trail map](#)

[Burncoat Pond](#), Spencer → [trail map](#)

[Cook's Canyon](#), Barre → [trail map](#)

[Eagle Lake](#), Holden → [trail map](#)

[Flat Rock](#), Fitchburg → [trail map](#)

[Lake Wampanoag](#), Gardner → [trail map](#)

[Lincoln Woods](#), Leominster → [trail map](#)

[Nashoba Brook](#), Westford → [trail maps](#)

[Pierpont Meadow](#), Dudley → [trail map](#)

[Poor Farm Hill](#), New Salem → [trail map](#)

[Rocky Hill](#), Groton → [trail map](#)

[Rutland Brook](#), Petersham → [trail map](#)

[Wachusett Meadow](#), Princeton → [trail map](#)



## THE TRUSTEES

All Trustees properties are once again open to the public. These include our most popular properties which have reopened their outdoor spaces on a controlled basis to provide more access to nature during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In central MA, Fruitlands Museum in Harvard is one of the properties that is open with a required timed or daily parking pass that will limit overcrowding and keep both visitors and staff safe by staying aligned with the state's social distancing guidelines.

Members can access these properties for free with a timed entry or daily parking pass. Timed and daily parking passes for all visitors, including Members, must be reserved online ahead of time for these properties. Visitors without these passes will not be allowed to enter. In keeping with the Governor's most recent order, all visitors above the age of two are required to bring and wear a face covering.

## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS PROPERTIES

When enjoying these newly reopened properties (below), The Trustees asks that visitors follow these social distancing guidelines for the health and safety of all, and to help keep properties open in these challenging times:

- Limit visits to open Trustees properties in your respective town or neighborhood;
  - Stay at least six feet from other visitors, including stepping aside on the trail to let others pass;
- Please keep dogs leashed and away from other visitors at all times;
  - If a parking area is full, please come back at a less busy time.

[Bear's Den](#), New Salem

[Brooks Woodland Preserve](#), Petersham

[Elliott Laurel](#), Phillipston

[Jacobs Hill](#), Royalston

[North Common Meadow](#), Petersham

[Redemption Rock](#), Princeton

[Rock House Reservation](#), West Brookfield

[Royalston Falls](#), Royalston

[Swift River Reservation](#), Petersham