



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

**NOTES ABOUT OUR FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

February brings Ground Hog Day, the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day, the Great Backyard Bird Count, and, last but not least, the Ware River Nature Club Annual Dinner Meeting & Silent Auction. Timed to coincide with the winter period when cabin fever is at its peak, this friendly and festive gathering helps us recharge and get ready for the burst of spring's energy. Learning about the vital role of insects will provide a backdrop for our spring nature experiences.

If you've never attended one of our annual meetings, consider making this the first year to do so. We're pleased to have spent our first five years growing and spreading the word about appreciating nature, wildlife, and the environment of the Ware River region and beyond. It's time to celebrate, and the more the merrier. Details are below in the Events section and at <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/2020-annual-meeting.html>.

We look forward to meeting you! Please join us for this event and more projects and activities in 2020.

**SILENT AUCTION: DONATIONS WELCOME & HELP WANTED**

Do you have any nature-theme (or *somewhat* nature-themed) items that you'd like to donate to our fundraiser silent auction? The auction is an entertaining and important feature of the annual meeting. Let us know what you have.

If you're thinking about attending and would like to pitch in to help tally auction results and bids, drop us a line.

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

## **WRNC DONATION TO THE PAINTIMALS PROJECT**

During January's monthly program by Duncan Irschick, *USING 21st CENTURY TECHNOLOGY TO RECREATE BIODIVERSITY IN 3D*, we learned about this unique project. The Paintimals Project is an education and outreach initiative created by the Irschick Lab in the Biology Department at UMass Amherst. Using 3D models of living animals developed by the Digital Life Project, collaborators develop 3D printed miniature life-like replicas for educational use. The goal is to provide Paintimals "kits" to at least 30 5th and 6th-grade classrooms in the Holyoke, Springfield, and Greenfield school districts. Each kit will contain 3D prints modeled after real sea turtles and sharks, paints and paint brushes, "trading cards" with fun facts about the different sea turtle and shark species, and educational resources for teachers. The goal is to provide local students with an engaging and hands-on learning activity that combines science and art, all at no cost to schools or teachers. Best of all, the kids can bring their painted turtles and sharks and trading cards home to share with their families!

The Digital Life team creates stunningly accurate, high-resolution 3D models of all kinds of living animals through a process called photogrammetry -- the practice of integrating 2D photographs to make 3D models. Learn more about the Digital Life project, the 3D modeling process, and the animals behind the Paintimals Project at <http://digitallife3d.org/>.

In gratitude for Professor Irschick's time and energy spent on his presentation, Ware River Nature Club made a donation to the Paintimals Project. If you would like to donate, go to: <https://minutefund.umass.edu/project/13128>

## **HUBBARDSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL FUNDS FALL PROGRAM**

We're pleased to announce that we've received funding from the Hubbardston Cultural Council so that we can share Russ Cohen's expertise with the community in September, 2020. Russ is a wild edibles enthusiast and author of the book *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*. A 3-hour outdoor foraging field trip early in the month will be followed by a 90-minute evening program later in September. Both activities will take place in Hubbardston.

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. 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. Stay tuned!

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

WACHUSETT GREENWAYS & GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

**POUTWATER POND HIKE**

**Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> 9:30 -11:30 a.m.**

**Leader: Christy Barnes**

*This 3-mile round-trip hike will ascend 300 feet in elevation through the North Sterling woods and traversing open fields owned by Sterling Land Trust, MassWildlife, and DCR. Come along and enjoy this isolated pond where few venture in winter.*

*Contact Christy to sign up and get details on where to meet /park.*

*508-688-7540 [christybarnes0706@gmail.com](mailto:christybarnes0706@gmail.com)*



MASS AUDUBON

Friday Night Speaker Series

**HOW BIRDS GET THEIR NAMES**

by

**Alison O'Hare**

**Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary**

**113 Goodnow Road, Princeton**

**MassAudubon Members: \$7.00 Non-members: \$10.00**

Registration is required.  
Register online or call 978-464-2712 to register by phone.  
For more information, contact: [wachusett@massaudubon.org](mailto:wachusett@massaudubon.org)

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MASS AUDUBON

# WILDLIFE TRACKING FOR BEGINNERS

with

**Cindy Dunn, Assistant Sanctuary Director**

**Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> 9 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary**

**113 Goodnow Road, Princeton**

**Mass Audubon Members: \$9.00 Non-members: \$13.00**

Tracking animals is one of the most satisfying outdoor hobbies, and snow offers the perfect opportunity to practice. This beginner class starts indoors with a one-hour introduction to tracking techniques and skills, and the basic print and pattern motifs for wildlife common to our region. An outdoor hike will follow, where you can practice putting your new skills to use.

Dress for the weather with waterproof shoes. Bring a drink and a snack.

Registration is required.

Register online or call 978-464-2712 to register by phone.

For more information, contact: [wachusett@massaudubon.org](mailto:wachusett@massaudubon.org)

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**EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST**

# WALK AT PATRILL HOLLOW PRESERVE

1015 Hardwick Road, Hardwick

Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.

Looking to get outside during the school February break? Join EQLT staff and volunteers for a guided hike through our extensive trail system at Patrill Hollow Preserve. All ages welcome!  
Information: [JCusworth@eqlt.org](mailto:JCusworth@eqlt.org)

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MASS AUDUBON

Friday Night Speaker Series  
**PROJECT DRAWDOWN  
& CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

by

**Paige Dolci**

Central/MetroWest Regional Coordinator

*Shaping the Future of Your Community* Program

**WACHUSETT MEADOW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

113 Goodnow Road, Princeton

MassAudubon members: \$7.00 Non-members: \$10.00

Registration is required.

Register online or call 978-464-2712 to register by phone.

For more information, contact: [wachusett@massaudubon.org](mailto:wachusett@massaudubon.org)

**WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB**

*Please join us!*

# **ANNUAL DINNER MEETING & SILENT AUCTION**

**Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 12-5**

**Hartman's Herb Farm**

**1026 Old Dana Rd Barre**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Sarah Haggerty**

**Conservation Biologist/GIS Manager, Maine Audubon Society  
presenting**

## **INSECTS IN DECLINE IN NEW ENGLAND? LET'S FIND OUT!**

Recent studies from around the world have been highlighting an alarming trend—  
insects have declined dramatically over just a few short decades. And this year  
there's a new, related headline about dramatic bird declines with some of the  
highest declines among insectivores. What is this all about?

Could these declines be happening here in New England as well?

Working with the Maine Entomological Society and the Maine Department of  
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Audubon has begun a project to try to  
determine the status of Maine's insect populations. Throughout 2020 they will be  
partnering with entomologists and ecologists across the state and the region to  
identify datasets that might offer a clue to insect population trends in Maine. By  
working with a biostatistician, Sarah and others will evaluate the datasets for  
usability in analyzing long-term trends and determine if we need additional data.  
Depending upon the identified needs, future additional data could be gathered by  
researchers, citizen scientists, students, or others interested in insects.

Sarah attended Bowdoin College for her undergraduate Biology degree, and received her Master of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she studied the effects of land management on rare moth species. Between her undergraduate degree at Bowdoin and her return to Maine, she worked with various government agencies and non-profits in the realm of wildlife and fisheries conservation. This included raptor surveys with the U.S. Forest Service in Washington State, fisheries work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and land protection with a local land trust in Massachusetts. Prior to her return to Maine, Sarah worked for a decade in a variety of capacities with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

## **Sam Jaffe**

**Founder and Director of The Caterpillar Lab**  
presenting

# **CATERPILLARS AND MORE: UNCOVERING THE WHOLE STORY**

Sam will present an original photograph and video packed talk that explores backyard pollinators, plants, parasitoids, and the many caterpillars that are positioned at the center of it all. He will introduce a “Whole Story” perspective of natural history study and appreciation that just might make you reconsider an herbivore's place in our world. The “Whole Story” is a celebration of caterpillars in all their incarnations and across all their ecological connections. Sam will also discuss his work growing The Caterpillar Lab organization and examine the lab’s mission and role here in New England.

Sam is a New England based naturalist, photographer, and educator who has been working with native insects since a very early age. Sam grew up in eastern Massachusetts chasing birds, mucking through ponds, and turning over leaves. For the last ten years he has been photographing and filming caterpillars and organizing programs to promote these special creatures to the public. In 2013 he founded The Caterpillar Lab, a non-profit educational outreach organization in Marlborough NH, and he now travels across the country working with museums, nature centers, schools, and individual teachers helping native insects find their place in our everyday lives. When he is not behind the camera or tending his zoo of caterpillars, Sam can invariably be found up to his waist in vegetation.

→SEE EVENT SCHEDULE AT <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/2020-annual-meeting.html>



Ware River Nature Club  
Annual Dinner Meeting & Silent Auction  
February 23, 2020  
Reservations/Membership Dues

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email or telephone \_\_\_\_\_

|                                        | <u>Amount</u>  |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Entire afternoon & dinner              |                |
| _____ Members @ \$35                   | \$ _____       |
| Entire afternoon & dinner              |                |
| _____ Non-Members @ \$45               | _____          |
| _____ Presentations only @ \$15        | _____          |
| _____ Membership dues 2/20-1/21 @ \$15 | _____          |
| _____ Donation ...Thank you!           | _____          |
|                                        | TOTAL \$ _____ |

Please make check payable to Ware River Nature Club (preferred)  
and mail to:  
WRNC, P.O. Box 76, Hardwick MA 01037  
or  
Remit via PayPal to [warrivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warrivernatureclub@yahoo.com)

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**WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB**

**LICHEN IDENTIFICATION WALK**

**with Joe Choiniere**

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

**Location TBA**



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.