



# May Public Programs

**Birding Walk at Assabet River NWR with David Lange, Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7am** Join David Lange for a birding and interpretive walk on the trails of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. Be prepared to walk! Sponsored by the Friends and the Brookline Bird Club. Meet at the Hudson Road entrance to the Assabet River NWR (on Rte 27, about 2.7 miles west of Sudbury Center just east of the Stow town line).

**Bird-A-Thon Kickoff at Great Meadows Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 6pm - 8pm Sponsored by Habitat**

**Instructor:** Bobbie Hodson - Experienced Birder **Audience:** Adult **Fee:** \$0 Bird-A-Thon is a 24-hour birding event to introduce new people to the pleasures of birding as well as improve the skills of those already involved at whatever level. It is also a major fund raising event to support Habitat or any other sanctuary you designate. You can make a donation, join a team and ask your family and friends to support your efforts, or participate in one of the programs described below. Join Mass Audubon to kickoff Birdathon 2010 at Concord Great Meadows NWR as we look for warblers, wrens, swallows, as well as marsh and aquatic birds. Free program, donations to Bird-A-Thon welcome. Meet at the parking lot on Monsen Road, off of Route 62, in Concord. For more information contact Roger Wrubel at Habitat, 617-489-5050, and [rwrubel@massaudubon.org](mailto:rwrubel@massaudubon.org). **Registration not required.**

**Sense of Place at Great Meadows NWR - Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> starts at 9am**

A continuing series of monthly walks exploring the landscape, plants, and seasonal wonders of Great Meadows NWR in Concord. Join us as we look for our spring migrants and explore the full swing of spring! Wear good hiking boots. No pre-registration required. A \$5/person voluntary donation will be gratefully accepted. Led by Cherrie Corey, local naturalist, botanist, and photographer. Co-sponsored by Musketaquid and the Friends of the Assabet River NWR. Meet at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord, MA. Take Monsen Road, off Rte. 62 to the driveway on left where the road curves right. Visit <http://sense-of-place-concord.blogspot.com/> for updated information on walks and events, rain/flood dates, seasonal photos, and reference links. For more information email [cherrie.corey@verizon.net](mailto:cherrie.corey@verizon.net) or call 978-760-1933.

**Turtle Walk with Bryan Windmiller on Sunday May 16th 10:30 am - noon**

Join Bryan Windmiller and The Nature Connection again this spring as we look for live turtles and enjoy the fascinating nature of Great Meadows NWR. A gifted teacher and professional wildlife ecologist since 1987, Bryan's research includes human impact on vernal pool amphibians, and the conservation of Blanding's turtles. This popular annual walk is free! Meet at Great Meadows, end of Monsen Rd. off Rte. 62. Call 978-369-2585 for information. The Nature Connection is a nonprofit based in Concord, Mass., that brings therapeutic and educational nature programs to at-risk youth, people with disabilities and elders. Visit [www.nature-connection.org](http://www.nature-connection.org) for more info.

**Monthly Meeting with talk by Amber Carr Combating Alien Invaders: Invasive Plant Removal Efforts in National Wildlife Refuges of Great Meadows, Assabet River and Oxbow on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Learn what an "invasive plant" is and find out the negative impact of these plants on the economy, environment and human health. Do you know the two dozen invasive plant species being targeted for control locally? Learn about the strategies and methods for early detection, mapping, removal and rapid response employed in the Wildlife Refuges. Initiatives to involve schools and communities in these efforts and the new inter-agency collaborative agreement for invasives control (CISMA) will be explained. Fresh seasonal specimens and herbarium specimens will be available for inspection to help you identify invasives occurring locally and tips for keeping invasives under control in your garden and neighborhood will be provided.

Amber Carr is the Invasive Plant Technician of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Eastern MA NWR Complex. For the past two years she has designed and coordinated the invasives plant removal efforts for the three refuges of Great Meadows, Assabet River and Oxbow. She organized over 50 invasives removal parties during the 2009 field season between spring and early winter. For background information see the following material from the New England Wildflower Society: *Invaders ... We're fighting back* and *Controlling Invasive Plants at Home*. The Friends' monthly meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, 73 Weir Hill Road in Sudbury (Google Map). Each meeting starts with a brief discussion of the Refuge status, followed by our featured presentation.

**SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE PROGRAMS**

**Monthly Meeting with talk by Bryan Windmiller - Blanding's Turtle Conservation: How Citizens and Schools can Help Save Rare Species on Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** Learn about the effort to save the rare Blanding's turtles considered "threatened" in Massachusetts and the critical role school children and citizens can play in conserving local populations of rare species. Together with US Fish and Wildlife Service biologists, Bryan Windmiller has been researching the ecology of these turtles in the Great Meadows NWR, Concord since 2003, protecting turtle nests and raising hatchlings through their critical first year. This conservation effort has been boosted by the participation of school children and their teachers from local schools.

Bryan Windmiller is a wildlife ecologist who specializes in rare species conservation, citizen outreach and education projects. He is the founder of the ecological consulting firm, Hyla Ecological Services, Inc. and he works as an independent consultant. His recent research includes the study of a fungal disease that has caused the extinction of amphibian species worldwide.

## Spring Birding Programs

**Birding with Alan** – Wednesdays May 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at the Concord Impoundments, Monsen Rd, Concord, MA: Bird walks led by Alan Bragg in partnership with the Friends of the Assabet River NWR and the Menotomy Bird Club. Meet by the tower in the parking lot at 7:30 am.

**Saturday, May 8 - Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge**, Harvard. We will walk 2-3 miles on easy paths through woodland as we search for migrant and breeding songbirds. Trip will be cancelled in the event of steady rain. Meeting place: Parking lot near the refuge gate at the end of Still River Depot Road (off Rt. 110), Harvard. 7 A.M. Leader: Jonathan Center. Sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club.

**Friday, May 14 - Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge**, Concord. Take Rte. 62 to Monsen Road in Concord. Meeting place: Refuge parking lot off Monsen Road. 7 A.M. Leader: Sabrina Hepburn. Sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club.

**Sunday, June 6 - Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge**, Concord. Meeting place: Refuge parking lot on Monsen Road (off Route 62). 6:30 A.M. Leader: Jason Forbes. Sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club.

**Wednesday, June 16 - Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge**, Concord. We will walk easy trails looking for birds and butterflies. Beginners welcome. Take Rte. 62 to Monson Road in Concord. We'll move on from there to Nine-Acre Corner with possible extension to Drumlin Farm. Meeting place: Refuge parking lot off Monsen Road. Sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club. 7 A.M. Leader: Clayton Swanson. Sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club.

**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> AS WE HOST RIVERFEST AT GREAT MEADOWS NWR WITH A FISHING EVENT, GAMES, CRAFTS, MUSIC AND INVASIVES SPECIES REMOVAL.**

For more information, call 978-443-4661 x34 or please visit <http://www.farnwr.org> or <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/easternmanwrcomplex>

