

**MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLY CLUB CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY
ASSOCIATION
2020 SCHEDULE OF FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS**

Please call ahead to confirm date, get directions to meeting place and rain date plans, and to let the coordinator know to expect you. In case of inclement weather, check “MassLep” Google Group the night before for postponement or rain date. All levels welcome!

Tips for an enjoyable experience: Bring binoculars, hand lens, field guide(s), sunscreen, water, hat, insect repellent, allergy medicines, snacks and/or lunch, pen/pencil & small pad for recording, camera. Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy walking shoes. Be prepared to have a really good time!

Club Guidelines for Field Trips and Events:

- Netting is not permitted.
- Be careful when exploring not to trample butterfly habitat, particularly the host and nectar plants.
- Photographers should allow everyone to see the butterfly before moving in to take pictures.
- Make every effort to share the butterflies that you find so others may see them.
- No dogs (except for service animals).
- No alcohol and illicit drugs.
- No loud music.

**** Covid-19 Guidelines for Mass Butterfly Club Trips and Counts ****

Leaders:

- Trips are up to leader’s discretion. If a leader isn't comfortable and an alternate isn't found, the trip may be cancelled.
- Trip leaders must be symptom-free.
- Trip leaders are responsible for the group following the property guidelines of the site. These may include one-way trails, face covering regulations, parking limitations, etc..
- Group size is limited to 10, including leaders. If parking or habitat constrains, leader may cap group at smaller size.

Participants:

- Group size is limited. Contact the leader by 5 pm the day prior to register and reserve your place on the walk. Leader contact information can be found in the trip/count description.
- Participants must be symptom-free.
- Bring a face covering and hand sanitizer. Face coverings must be worn when social distancing of 6-10 feet is not possible. Make every attempt to social distance, for example, taking turns to photograph butterflies.
- Respect property guidelines, e.g. one-way trails, face covering regulations, parking limitations, etc..
- Enjoy the socially-distanced butterflies!

Saturday April 4th 10:30 am - CANCELLED

Mt. Tom State Reservation in the heart of the Connecticut River Valley

We will search for Mourning Cloaks, Eastern Comma and Compton Tortoiseshell. Meet at the Bray Lake parking lot. Use the Route 5 entrance NORTH of Holyoke, opposite the old SKI OUTLET STORE. Rain date Sunday, April 5. Leader: Tom Gagnon. Contact Tom at (413) 584-6353 or tombwhawk@aol.com.

Sunday April 26th 11:00 am - CANCELLED

Arlington's Great Meadows Field Trip

This 183-acre wet meadow is the largest piece of undeveloped land in the Arlington/Lexington area. Target species: Henry's and Brown Elfins. We'll continue to Horn Pond Mountain in Woburn for more Brown Elfins and other butterflies. Meet in parking lot at Golden Living Center, 840 Emerson Gardens Road, East Lexington (off Maple St). Please park at far end of lot. Contact Tom Whelan at tom@whelanphoto.com or 781-915-9988

Saturday May 9th 10:00 am - CANCELLED

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver

We will walk the gas pipeline cut through pine and scrub oak woods. The walking is fairly easy but expect some minor inclines. Target species: Eastern Pine, Hoary, Frosted and Brown Elfins and Dreamy, Sleepy and Juvenal's Duskywings. Meet at Forest Headquarters, 194 Cranberry Road, Carver, MA. Contact Steve Moore at barb620@theworld.com or 508-393-9251. Rain date is Sunday, May10.

Saturday May 16th 10:00 am - CANCELLED

Weir Hill Reservation, North Andover

Join Russ Hopping and Howard Hoople to look for Frosted Elfins and other early species at The Trustees Weir Hill Reservation in North Andover. Russ is particularly interested in having us help survey the area for Frosted Elfins, in support of recent efforts The Trustees have made in managing the habitat at Weir Hill. Meet at the parking area between the American Legion Beach and the electrical substation on Pleasant Street in North Andover (GPS to 535 Pleasant Street in North Andover will be just opposite the parking area). All participants welcome. Please contact Howard at hgh@hghoople.com or (978) 604-0454 if you can join us.

Saturday May 30th 9:30 am

Mt. Greylock State Reservation (Lanesborough) in search of EARLY HAIRSTREAKS.

Meet at the Mt. Greylock Visitors Center parking lot at 9:30 A.M. Be prepared to walk about 3 miles ROUND TRIP on a mostly level dirt road. Bring lunch and water. Afterwards, if time permits, we will try for Arctic Skippers in the town of Windsor, Massachusetts. Rain date Sunday, May 31. Leader: Tom Gagnon (413) 584-6353 or tombwhawk@aol.com.

Saturday June 27th 10:00 am - CANCELLED

Horn Pond Mountain, Woburn

Join Howard Hoople climbing Horn Pond Mountain, which rises only about 285' above sea level in Woburn but has a remarkable diversity of flora, birds, and butterflies! Easy trails at the top reveal as many as six different species of Hairstreaks at this time of year! Meet in the parking lot behind New England Rehabilitation Hospital (near employee parking lot "B") at 2 Rehabilitation Way, Woburn, MA. Contact Howard at hgh@hghoople.com or (978) 604-0454. All participants welcome.

Thursday July 9th 10:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area, Hardwick

MassWildlife has been working extensively on the west side of Patrill Hollow Road to restore the old pitch pine/scrub oak habitat that once existed here. Past tree-clearing and prescribed burning is starting to bring back the sandplain community that hosts rare and declining animals and insects. A portion of the brook and some more mature woods are also in the vicinity. No rest rooms. Bring beverage/snack/lunch. Directions: From Route 32A in Hardwick Center, turn west on Greenwich Road for a quarter mile, then turn left on Patrill Hollow Road. Continue for a quarter mile, then bear right to stay on Patrill Hollow Road. Continue for 1.2 miles, passing a MassWildlife parking area on your right, then crossing the bridge over Muddy Brook, then turn right up into the MassWildlife parking area on the west side of Muddy Brook. Leader: Wendy Howes curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737

Sunday July 12th 10:00 am

Westborough Wildlife Management Area Crane Swamp Trail, Westborough

This property, managed by the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, offers a combination of open fields, wooded sections and wet swampy areas. Target species include Northern Pearly-eye, Appalachian Brown, Eyed Brown, and Mulberry Wing. Insect repellent is recommended. Meet at Tatnuck Booksellers parking lot, Route 9 & Lyman St, Westborough, MA. Contact Barbara Volkle at barb620@theworld.com or 508-393-9251.

Saturday, July 18th 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Mass Audubon's Lake Wampanoag Sanctuary, Raymond Street, Gardner

Featuring a large expanse of open wildflower fields with mowed pathways. The fields are mowed once in the fall. The property also holds a small pond and a forest with red spruce and balsam fir. We can usually find a good assortment of butterflies here. Bring a lunch and beverage. Directions may be found at <http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/lake-wampanoag/about>. Plenty of parking at Raymond Street dead-end. No restrooms. Bring snacks/lunch/beverage. Leader: Wendy Howes curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737

Sunday July 19th 9:00 am

Birds & Butterflies with the Forbush Bird Club and the Mass Butterfly Club, Leicester

Join us on this joint walk with the Forbush bird club to look for butterflies AND birds. Last summer's trip yielded 17 butterfly species, with the usual summer beauties such as swallowtails, anglewings, azures, admirals and a pearly eye. Prior years' highlights have included surprises such as a common sootywing, Appalachian brown, and silver-bordered fritillary. Bird species always outnumber the butterflies having included notables such as bobolinks, veery, chestnut-sided warbler, and American kestrel. Meet in Leicester on the north side of Route 56 at the overlook to the back side of Worcester Municipal Airport. We will then drive over to Mulberry St. for a walk leading to the Quaker Cemetery (Spider Gates). Contact Dolores Price at (508) 887-3928 or price.dolores884@gmail.com

Wednesday, July 22nd 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Exploring Hubbardston Sites, Hubbardston

This trip will explore a variety of habitats, including one location where Silver-bordered Fritillary is likely present. We'll sample various trails, an old gravel pit, and shrubby landscape/hedgerows as well as small hayfields. We can also check a location where Bog Coppers usually occur. As with so many under-explored sites in Central Mass, we never know what we're going to find! Meet at large parking lot of town recreation fields on Route 68, a short distance north of Route 68-Brigham Road-Elm Street crossroads in Hubbardston Center, on the east side of the highway. Bring snacks/lunch/beverage. Restrooms available at Mr. Mike's or Pizza Palace on Route 68. Leader: Wendy Howes curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737

Saturday, August 1st 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

North Common Meadow, Petersham

We can expect a variety of butterflies at this Trustees of Reservations Property, although it can be hit-or-miss depending upon weather patterns earlier in the season. Refreshments, lunch, and restroom at The Petersham Country Store on Main Street. Parking is not available on-site; meet in front of the Petersham Library, 23 Common St. to arrange car-pooling or walk down to the Meadow. Leader: Wendy Howes curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737

Saturday August 8th - Virtual Event

13th Annual Barbara J. Walker Butterfly Festival, Worcester

Due to COVID-19, the 13th Annual Barbara J. Walker Butterfly Festival will be a virtual event. For more information on this virtual festival - <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/broad-meadow-brook/news-events/virtual-butterfly-festival>

Sunday, August 9th 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

High Ridge Wildlife Management Area, Westminster

On this property, MassWildlife has adopted a management plan that delays mowing of open fields and grasslands until August 15th. This WMA holds many other types of habitat, in addition to its many fields. It will be interesting to see what kinds of butterflies are using the area since the new mowing regime began in 2018. Westminster/Gardner Overlook Road (off Bacon Street). Parking lot with plenty of space is at the (gated) end of Overlook Road. Bring snacks/lunch/beverage. There are places to get out of the sun but no rest rooms. Leader: Wendy Howes curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737

Saturday August 22nd 10 am

Nasketucket Bay Reserve, Mattapoisett

[Nasketucket Bay State Reservation](#) has almost 400 acres of coastal forest, set on some of Buzzards Bay's clearest, healthiest waters. We will take an easy hike along the Bridal Trail and part of the Shaw Farm Trail to explore this property in search of Little Yellows. Meet at Nasketucket Bay State Reservation parking lot at 94 Brandt Island Road. Coordinator- Lauren Miller-Donnelly; (508) 636-2437, email laurenmiller@massaudubon.org. PLEASE CONTACT LAUREN IF YOU CAN HELP LEAD THIS TRIP.

Saturday, August 22nd 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Wendemuth Meadow Preserve, North Brookfield

Owned and managed by the East Quabbin Land Trust, Wendemuth Meadow Preserve is a 30-acre property in the town of North Brookfield. It's a pastoral property featuring a diversity of habitats including hayfield, wet meadow, and stream surrounded by patchy woods and shrubland. The property is actively farmed and hay is harvested in July after Bobolinks and other birds have completed their nesting cycle. Baltimore Checkerspot usually put on a good show here.

Parking is along Bates Street. No restrooms on-site. Bring beverage/snacks/lunch, and we'll take a lunch break in the barn. Leader: Wendy Howes curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737

Saturday, August 29th 10:00 am - CANCELLED due to weather

Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, Worcester

We will look for Leonard's Skipper and other late flying butterflies. Meet at the Sanctuary's Visitor Center at 414 Massasoit Road, Worcester. A fairly long hike along the Cardinal and Powerline Trails. Leader: Steve Moore (508) 393-9251 or barb620@theworld.com.

Saturday, September 5th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Mass Audubon's Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, Westport

Savor the last remnants of summer, enjoy some time outdoors and learn about butterflies at the annual Allens Pond Butterfly Census!

This free annual event welcomes butterfly watchers of all ages and skill levels to help census as many areas of Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary as possible. Members of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club will lead teams into different areas of the Sanctuary and provide expertise in identifying butterflies. After lunch we census Sylvan Nurseries (last year we had long-tailed skipper!). **Rain date will be Sunday** September 6.

Meet at the Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary field station parking lot, located at 1280 Horseneck Rd., Westport, MA at 10am to divide into census teams. Participants should wear long pants, sunscreen and bring water and a snack or lunch. Leader Lauren Miller-Donnelly.

If you have any questions, please call the Sanctuary at (508) 636-2437 or email

laurenmiller@massaudubon.org

please provide full contact information in case of inclement weather *Census repeats September 12*

Sunday September 6th 10:30 am

Northampton Community Gardens, Northampton

We will search for late migrants at the Northampton Community Gardens and then drive over to the Florence Community Gardens in Florence. We hope to find Fiery Skippers, Common Buckeye, Variegated Fritillary, and maybe a Common Checkered Skipper. Leader: Tom Gagnon (413) 584-6353 or

tombwhawk@aol.com

Monday, September 7th 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain

Target species, based on the last three years of observation are Red-banded Hairstreak, and the possibility of all five Swallowtails. Visit four especially nice spots in the Arboretum. Walking route is over grassy and paved paths, in a field, and over a few hills. If anyone would like to stay longer to explore more butterfly locations at the Arboretum, Lucy has offered to walk you over to Peters Hill and give you a general description of where to look. Directions: Park on Walter Street in Roslindale and meet at the Bussey Street Gate. The Arboretum website has directions, search 'Bussey St. Gate' on

<https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/> Leader: Lucy Merrill-Hills at lucymerrillhills1@gmail.com

Saturday September 12th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Mass Audubon's Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, Westport

Savor the last remnants of summer, enjoy some time outdoors and learn about butterflies at the annual Allens Pond Butterfly Census!

This free annual event welcomes butterfly watchers of all ages and skill levels to help census as many areas of Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary as possible. Members of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club will lead teams into different areas of the Sanctuary and provide expertise in identifying butterflies. After lunch we census Sylvan Nurseries.

Meet at the Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary field station parking lot, located at 1280 Horseneck Rd., Westport, MA at 10am to divide into census teams. Participants should wear long pants, sunscreen and bring water and a snack or lunch. Leader Lauren Miller-Donnelly. Rain date September 13.

If you have any questions, please call the Sanctuary at (508) 636-2437 or email

laurenmiller@massaudubon.org.

please provide full contact information in case of inclement weather

Saturday September 26th 10:00 am

Appleton Farms, Ipswich MA

This trip looks for Silver-Bordered Fritillaries, Bronze Coppers and other late season butterflies. Meet at the farm store parking lot, The Trustees of Reservations, Appleton Farms 219 County Road, Ipswich. Russ Hopping and Howard Hoople, co-leaders. Contact Howard Hoople at hgh@hghoople.com or (978) 604-0454. All participants welcome.

Sunday September 27th 10:30 am

Northampton Community Gardens, Northampton

We will search for late migrants at the Northampton Community Gardens and then drive over to the Florence Community Gardens in Florence. We hope to find Fiery Skippers, Common Buckeye, Variegated Fritillary, and maybe a Common Checkered Skipper. Leader: Tom Gagnon (413) 584-6353 or

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