

**MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLY CLUB
CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION
2021 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 held at the discretion of the leader. If a leader isn't comfortable and an alternate leader isn't found, the trip can be cancelled.
- Leaders must be symptom-free and must not have had COVID-19, or contact with anyone with or suspected of having COVID-19, in the past 2 weeks.
- Leaders must wear a mask.
- Leaders are responsible for the group following the property guidelines of the site. These may include one-way trails, parking limitations, etc.
- Group size is limited to 15, including leaders. Leaders can choose to set a smaller group size, especially if site parking is limited.

Participants:

- Group size is limited. Contact the leader by 5 pm the day prior to register and reserve your place on the walk or count and to learn the meeting location. Leader contact information can be found in the trip/count description.
- Participants must be symptom-free and must not have had COVID-19, or contact with anyone with or suspected of having COVID-19, in the past 2 weeks.
- Wear a face mask and bring hand sanitizer. Make every attempt to keep a social distance of 6+ feet and take turns to photograph butterflies.
- If you need a mask break or a water break, move to a location that's far away from the group.
- Do not share rides with anyone who isn't part of your household group or quarantine pod.
- Respect property guidelines, e.g. one-way trails, parking limitations, etc.
- Enjoy the socially-distanced butterflies!

Saturday April 3rd 10 am - CANCELED

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. For meeting location, contact leader Tom Gagnon at (413) 584-6353 or tombwhawk@aol.com.

Saturday May 1st 10 am

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. **Rain date is Sunday, May 2.** For meeting location, contact leader Barbara Volkle at barb620@theworld.com or 508-393-9251.

Sunday May 2nd 11 am

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. For meeting location, contact leader Tom Whelan at tom@whelanphoto.com or 781-915-9988.

Saturday May 15th 10 am

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. All participants welcome. For meeting location, contact leader Howard Hoople at hgh@hghoople.com or (978) 604-0454.

Friday May 21st 10 am

Dinosaur Footprints and Little Mt. Tom, Holyoke

Join Julie Richburg of Trustees of Reservations in exploring The Trustees Dinosaur Footprints property in Holyoke. From the Dinosaur Footprints property we will drive about 2 miles to explore Little Mt. Tom, looking for Juniper Hairstreaks. Walking distance should be about 1 to 1 1/2 miles. For meeting location, contact leader Tom Gagnon at (413) 584-6353 or tombwhawk@aol.com.

Sunday May 30th 9:45 am

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

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. For meeting location, contact leader Tom Gagnon at (413) 584-6353 or tombwhawk@aol.com.

Wednesday June 2nd 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Wendemuth Meadow Preserve, Bates Street, 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 Checkerspots usually put on a good show here. Parking is along the road. Restrooms and food at nearby Hannaford's Supermarket. For meeting location, contact leader Wendy Howes at curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737.

Saturday June 5th 10 am

Montague Sand Plains

The Montague Plain is a Sand Barren in the Connecticut River Valley maintained as a sand barren by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Cobweb and 5 other skipper species, Hoary Edge, E. Pine Elfin, Cloudywing and Duskywing, and Northern Pearly-eye were among the 26 butterfly species observed there in the two-week period surrounding our field trip date. For those seeking a longer day we will visit another nearby habitat to add to the possibilities. For meeting location and details contact organizer Jeremy Coleman at jcolemanarch@gmail.com.

Sunday June 6th 10 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. Food, including take-out, and restroom at The Petersham Country Store on Main Street. For meeting location, contact leader Wendy Howes at curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737.

Saturday June 12th 10 am

Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Worcester

We will look for Hoary Edge skipper and possibly Harris checkerspot. A fairly long hike along the Cardinal and Powerline Trails. **Rain date is Sunday, June 13.** For meeting location, contact leader Martha Gach at mgach@massaudubon.org or 508-981-8833.

Wednesday June 30th 10 am

Horn Pond Mountain, Woburn

Join Howard Hoople in 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! All participants welcome. For meeting location, contact leader Howard Hoople at hgh@hghoople.com or (978) 604-0454.

Sunday July 11th 10 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. For meeting location, contact leader Barbara Volkle at barb620@theworld.com or 508-393-9251.

Wednesday July 14th 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Mass Audubon's Lake Wampanoag Sanctuary, 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. Plenty of parking at Raymond Street dead-end. No restrooms. Bring snacks/lunch/beverage. For meeting location, contact leader Wendy Howes at curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737.

Friday July 16th 10 am

Noquochoke Wildlife Management Area, Dartmouth

This property, managed by the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, offers a combination of open fields, wooded sections and some mildly wet swampy areas. Target species include: Mulberry Wing, Black Dash, Variegated Fritillary, Monarch, and various skippers and hairstreaks. Well-managed trail with opportunity to venture off into high grass/wooded areas. Insect repellent highly recommended. **Rain date is July 18.** For meeting location, contact leader Andrew Griffith at agriffithone@comcast.net or home: 508-291-6091 cell: 774-766-9880.

Sunday July 18th 9 am

Birds & Butterflies with Forbush Bird Club and 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, including such notables as bobolinks, veery, chestnut-sided warbler, and American kestrel. For meeting location, contact leader Dolores Price at 508 887-3928 or price.dolores884@gmail.com

Saturday July 24th 10 am - 2:30 pm

Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Resources Area, South Hadley

We'll explore the Connecticut River side of this property, walking a large field that is part of a power-line easement, along shrubby hedgerows and on trails through mixed woods. Among the unique features of this property are two of Massachusetts' best examples of small floodplain forests. [A map of the area is here.](#) Restrooms and food, including take-out, may be found at Tailgate Picnic, College St. For meeting location, contact leader Wendy Howes at curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737.

Wednesday August 4th 10 am - 2 pm

Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Resources Area, South Hadley

Depending on weather effects earlier in the season and the mowing schedules for various parcels, we'll choose a few fields to explore. A variety of habitat management strategies has resulted in a patchwork of fields, shrubby hedgerows, and woods. The many wetland areas and dirt roads attract butterflies when conditions are right. [A map of the area is here.](#) Restrooms and food, including take-out, may be found at Tailgate Picnic, College St. For meeting location, contact leader Wendy Howes at curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737.

Saturday August 7th 10 am - 2 pm

Cass Meadow North Conservation Area, Athol

This walk is co-sponsored by Athol Bird & Nature Club. Cass Meadow is being maintained as an example of early successional habitat – grasses and wildflowers that provide a home for butterflies, dragonflies, birds, and animals with a yen for the sun. Parking is on-street. No restrooms. Take-out food options nearby. For meeting location, contact leader Wendy Howes at curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737 or leader Dave Small dave@dhsml.net.

Sunday, August 15th 10 am

Nasketucket Bay State Reservation, 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. For meeting location, contact leader Lauren Miller-Donnelly at laurenisquax@gmail.com.

Sunday, August 15th 10 am - 2 pm

Jewell Hill, Ashby

A recent acquisition by The Trustees, this 296-acre property, formerly a dairy farm, features a variety of habitats including hayfields and meadows, forested and open wetlands, streams and seeps, and hardwood and hemlock-dominated forests. Let's explore and see what we can find! For meeting location, contact leader Wendy Howes at curiousbooks@verizon.net or 413 967-4737.

Saturday, August 28th 9 am - 11 am

Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, Worcester

We will look for Leonard's Skipper and other late flying butterflies. **Rain date is Sunday, August 29.** For meeting location, contact leader Martha Gach at mgach@massaudubon.org or 508-981-8833.

Saturday, September 4th 10 am - 2 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. **Rain date is Sunday, September 5.** Meet at 10 am to divide into census teams. Participants should wear long pants, sunscreen and bring water and a snack or lunch. For meeting location, contact leader Lauren Miller-Donnelly at laurenisquax@gmail.com.

Monday September 6th 10 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. For meeting location, contact leader Tom Gagnon at (413) 584-6353 or tombwhawk@aol.com.

Saturday, September 11th 10 am - 2 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. **Rain date is Sunday, September 12.** Meet at 10 am to divide into census teams. Participants should wear long pants, sunscreen and bring water and a snack or lunch. For meeting location, contact leader Lauren Miller-Donnelly at laurenisquax@gmail.com.

Saturday September 25th 10:00 am

Appleton Farms, Ipswich MA

This trip looks for Silver-Bordered Fritillaries, Bronze Coppers and other late season butterflies. Co-leaders are Russ Hopping and Howard Hoople. All participants welcome. For meeting location, contact Howard Hoople at hgh@hghoople.com or (978) 604-0454.