

**MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLY CLUB
CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION
2023 SCHEDULE OF FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS**

Check back as trips may be added throughout the season.

Attending a trip? Please contact the leader to let them know to expect you. In case of inclement weather, contact the leader to find out about postponement or rain date. Everyone is welcome, whether you're new to butterflying or an old hand!

Tips for an enjoyable experience: Suggested materials include binoculars, sunscreen, water, hat, insect repellent, any allergy medicines, and a camera. Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy walking shoes. You may also want field guides, a hand lens, pen/pencil & pad for recording, and snacks and/or lunch.

Club Guidelines for Field Trips and Events:

- Butterflies will be enjoyed without netting them.
- Take care when exploring not to trample butterfly habitat, particularly host and nectar plants critical to caterpillar and butterfly feeding.
- Be courteous to fellow participants. Allow everyone to see the butterfly before moving in to take pictures.
- Respect property guidelines, e.g. one-way trails, parking limitations, etc.
- No dogs, service animals excepted.

Leaders:

- Trips are held at the discretion of the leader. If for any reason a leader isn't comfortable and an alternate leader isn't found, the trip can be cancelled.
- Leaders are responsible for knowing and following the property guidelines of the field site. These may include one-way trails, parking limitations, etc.

Participants:

- Contact the trip leader at least one day before to let them know you will be participating.
- Participants are welcome to mask if they prefer.
- Please attempt to socially distance of 6+ feet and take turns to photograph butterflies.

Friday, March 31, 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. **No rain date.** Leader: Tom Gagnon. Contact Tom at (413) 584-6353.

Saturday, April 22nd 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, April 23.** For meeting location, contact leader Barbara Volkle at barb620@theworld.com or (508) 393-9251.

Sunday, April 23rd, 11 am - CANCELED

Arlington's Great Meadows Field Trip, Arlington & Woburn

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, April 29th, 10 am

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver

Walk the gas pipeline in search of duskywings, elfins, mourning cloaks, and American ladies. This walk is targeted to beginning butterfly enthusiasts and other interested folks, all levels of butterfly enthusiasts are welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Friday, May 19th, 10 am

Dinosaur Footprints, Holyoke

Join Julie Richburg of the Trustees of Reservations in exploring the Trustees Dinosaur Footprints property in Holyoke. (The footprints are some of the best in the country.) Meet at the Dinosaur Footprints property on Rt. 5. We will drive about 2 miles to explore Little Mt. Tom. Walking distance should be about 1 - 1.5 miles. Leader: Tom Gagnon (413) 584-6353.

Saturday, May 20th, 10 am

Weir Hill Reservation, North Andover

Join ecologist Russ Hopping looking for Frosted Elfins and other early species at The Trustees Weir Hill Reservation in North Andover. We're looking for Frosted Elfins to support continuing efforts The Trustees are making to manage the habitat at Weir Hill. All participants welcome. For meeting location, contact leader Russ Hopping at rhopping@thetrustees.org or (978) 390-4218. Rain date 5/21.

Sunday, May 28th, 9:30 am

Mt. Greylock State Reservation, Lanesborough

Target species is early hairstreaks, a rare butterfly in Massachusetts. Meet at the Mt. Greylock Visitors Center parking lot at 9:30. 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 is Monday, May 29. Leader Tom Gagnon (413) 584-6353.

Saturday, June 3rd, 11 AM

Myles Standish, Carver

Walk the Bentley Loop, looking for hairstreaks (including Edwards and possibly red-banded), eastern-tailed blues, pearl crescents, monarchs, American ladies. Suitable for beginning butterfly enthusiasts. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Sunday, June 11th, 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. For meeting location, contact leader Martha Gach at mgach@massaudubon.org or (508) 981-8833.

Sunday, June 11th, 10 am

Ward Reservation, Andover MA

Meet at the Prospect Road parking lot. All skill levels and ages welcome! Over 50 different butterfly species have been seen in both meadows and woods at the Ward Reservation! We hope to find some of them. Join leader Howard Hoople in exploring gentle trails leading to the top of Holt Hill and a beautiful view of the Boston skyline. Contact Howard at howard.hoople@gmail.com or (978) 604-0454 if weather is uncertain.

Saturday, June 24th, 10 am

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver

Visit several relatively unexplored fields rich in blooming milkweed. We'll seek a variety of skippers, hairstreaks (including Edward's), and more. Rain date is Sunday, June 25. Meeting location is at the headquarters building at 10am. Contact leader Andrew Griffith at andrewphoto@comcast.net or cell (774) 766-9880.

Saturday, June 24th, 10 AM

Appleton Farms, Ipswich

This splendid 1,000 acre Trustees property offers opportunities to find Bronze Coppers, Silver-bordered Fritillaries, Baltimore Checkerspots and more! All participants welcome. *This trip also serves as the North Essex 4th of July Count. Leaders are Russ Hopping and Howard Hoople. Contact Howard at hgh@hghoople.com or (978) 604-0454 for meeting location and details. Rain date 6/25.

Saturday, July 1st, 10 am

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver

A relatively slow-paced walk, suitable for beginning butterflies. Look for lingering hairstreaks from spring, pearl crescents, monarchs, wood nymphs. There should also be plenty of great dragonflies as well. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Saturday, July 1st, 10 am

Horn Pond Mountain, Woburn

Horn Pond Mountain offers a rich diversity of plants, birds and of course butterflies! Join leader Howard Hoople in ascending Horn Pond Mountain, which rises only about 285' above sea level in Woburn. Gentle trails lead to the top of the hill, but many interesting species can be found on the broad, level paths at the bottom. All participants welcome. For meeting location and other details, contact Howard at hgh@hghoople.com or (978) 604-0454. Rain date 7/2.

Saturday, July 15th, 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 Volke at barb620@theworld.com or (508) 393-9251.

Sunday, July 16th, 9 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. We will meet at the Route 56 overlook to Worcester Airport in Leicester at 9:00 a.m. We will also drive over to Mulberry St. to walk the wooded trail to Kettle Brook/Manville St. Prior years' highlights have included fritillaries, monarchs, swallowtails, Black Dash skipper, and Appalachian Brown. Contact leader Dolores Price at pricedolores884@gmail.com or (508) 887-3928.

Saturday, August 12th Noon-4pm

15th Annual Barbara J. Walker Butterfly Festival, Worcester

The Annual Barbara J. Walker Butterfly Festival is a celebration of butterflies at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester. Look for details on Broad Meadow Brooks' site and on masslep in early August.

Saturday, August 19th, 10 am

Nasketucket Bay State Reservation

Mattapoissett 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 and several other species. Rain date is Sunday, August 20. Meet in the parking lot off of Brandt Island Road at 10am. Contact leader Andrew Griffith at andrewphoto@comcast.net or cell (774) 766-9880.

Sunday, August 27th, 9 am - 11 am

Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, Worcester

We will look for Leonard's Skipper and other late flying butterflies. For meeting location, contact leader Martha Gach at mgach@massaudubon.org or (508) 981-8833.

Saturday, September 23rd, 10 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 leader Howard Hoople at hgh@hghoople.com or (978) 604-0454. Rain date. 9/24.

Sunday, September 24rd, 10 am

Northampton Community Gardens, Northampton

We will search for late and rare migrants at the Northampton Community Gardens. Contact leader Tom Gagnon at (413) 584-6353. No rain date.