



## CHIPMUNK REVELATIONS

By Margaret Gillespie, Illustration by Cheryl Johnson

How many chipmunks are there in New Hampshire? This student question may first bring a chuckle as we contemplate an answer of “many” or perhaps, “too many!” Underlying this innocent question is a sense of curiosity that we don’t want to lose in ourselves or in the children in our lives. We see this interest too in visitors from Great Britain and other parts of Europe who come to see New England fall colors and become captivated by chipmunks running freely about the trails at the Science Center. Are we missing something? In this article, I am taking the challenge to uncover facets of chipmunks that may not be common knowledge and could perhaps cause us to turn our heads the next time a chipmunk scampers by.

Take stock of your CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) skills or, more precisely, check your observation skills. *Tamias striatus* is the scientific name for the eastern chipmunk, meaning “striped storer.” From memory, can you describe the stripes on a chipmunk’s back? Here is



the answer – there is a long dark central stripe and then a white stripe on each side flanked by two dark stripes. In one of my favorite Native American stories, a chipmunk is collecting woodland berries on a bush but stays out after dark against his grandmother’s instructions. Along comes an owl walking through the leaves. This owl encourages him to jump down to him and the owl covers his eyes with his wings. Although the owl promises not to look, of course he secretly peers through the feathers. Leaping quickly, the chipmunk manages to escape but takes with him stripes along his back from the owl’s talons!

In the *Tamias* part of the chipmunk’s scientific name, this rodent of the squirrel family is referred to as a “storer.” Speaking of gathering and storing food, how do those cheek pouches work? It is not only a question of skin stretching to make room for acorns and other nuts. These pouches are actual storage cavities with an opening close to the lips on each side. When it is discharge time, chipmunks use

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## FORGING TRAILS

### OF MOOSE AND MEN

You can’t believe everything (perhaps anything) on the web. A couple years ago one of our staff circulated some photos that she had received via email from a friend. The photos were of a group of three moose feeding in an alder thicket in deep snow. What was remarkable about the photo is that one of the moose was pure white. The person who forwarded the photos claimed that they were taken in Boscawen right here in New Hampshire.

There was one serious flaw in this claim. In one of the photos, there is a black and white bird perched on an alder. The bird in question is a Black-billed Magpie, Magpie; a species never recorded in New Hampshire -- indeed—indeed not found anywhere east of the Mississippi and only common in western states and western Canada. Clearly someone was spinning a little yarn.

Jump forward two years. The photos appeared in my inbox again, forwarded from a board member. In addition to the original photos, there were additional shots of a pair of white moose standing by a highway. The surrounding vegetation shows that the photos were taken in the fall. This time the original sender claimed all the photos were taken in Michigan.

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**FORGING TRAILS** *continued from page 1*

Over the intervening years, the tale of the albino moose has spread as various people “claimed” the photos and then forward them to others. I did a little Google search and found the photos everywhere. There was even a discussion group speculating on the geographic origin of the photos and whether they were real white moose.

My conclusion is that they are real leucistic moose – not true albinos, but having increased white pigment in their hair -- from two different locations (neither being New Hampshire). Turns out these photos have been claimed or declared to be not only from Michigan and New Hampshire, but also British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Maine, Idaho, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming. It’s amazing to me that people would claim the photos as their own – a downside of digital media. I’m sure the same happens with UFOs, Bigfoot tracks, and lake monsters. These photos keep circulating the virtual globe – someone else forwarded them to me last week!!

Speaking of moose: we had one visiting here in Holderness in January. This guy was first spotted right next to the town hall. He was there almost daily and seen by a lot of people. He was not white; he was a perfectly normal moose. He did seem unusually lethargic and sedentary, rarely straying from an area of a few hundred square yards. During his time by the town hall, he dropped his antlers. Males, of course, do this every year. The antlers grow during the summer and reach their maximum size by the fall, just in time for the rut. During the winter they drop off and by late spring the cycle starts all over again. Our moose was a young guy with just a small rack, but I wonder whether the trauma of losing the antlers explained his behavior. I imagine that the hormonal shifts which cause the antlers to drop might be a little intense. Perhaps he needed some “quiet time” to get his bearings again. I snapped this photo of him – honest I really did – just before he vanished back into the woods. You can clearly see one of the healing stems where his antlers had been. Maybe I should do a little alteration on the photo and add some pink spots to his coat or the head of a chipmunk peaking out of his ear and send it out into the world wide web to see what kind of virtual life it leads . . . or maybe not.



*Forging Trails is written by Executive Director Iain MacLeod.  
You may contact Iain at 603-968-7194 x 23 or iain.macleod@nhnature.org.*

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**SQUAM LAKES NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER**

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Squam Lakes Natural Science Center is a non-profit educational institution incorporated in 1966 as a charitable organization under statutes of the State of New Hampshire with its principal place of business in Holderness. Our mission is to advance understanding of ecology by exploring New Hampshire’s natural world. Tracks & Trails is a regular publication of Squam Lakes Natural Science Center distributed to all members. Comments are welcomed by newsletter editor Janet Robertson at 603-968-7194 x 12 or [janet.robertson@nhnature.org](mailto:janet.robertson@nhnature.org).

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## MEMBER PROFILE



### MOLLY WHITCOMB

#### *Tell us about your background*

I grew up in Sandwich, attended Holderness School, and then left the area for college. I never thought I would end up back in the Lakes Region. However, once my husband and I had children and started looking for schools, we realized there was no better place

than Holderness to raise our children. We had been coming to the area on weekends and were tired of the weekend commute. In 2005, we moved here full time and this past year my husband moved his office from Concord to Holderness.

*When was your first visit to the Science Center? What about it inspired you to become more involved?*

I visited the Science Center as a child and became a frequent visitor after my son was born in 2001. The trails are the perfect place to introduce children to hiking and nature. Children never realize how far they walk because there is always something to look at and talk about. The Science Center has taught all of us so much about nature. The little things my children remember after visits to the Science Center inspire me to become more involved with the Science Center and other nature-orientated organizations.

*Do you have a favorite animal or exhibit?*

Every time we visit we have a new favorite. Once, the bears were playing in the water so they were the favorite. On a winter visit, the coyote won our hearts when we saw

a staff member taking him for a walk. Another time, the mountain lions were jumping at the glass and snarling at us.

*Why do you think it's important for children to have a strong connection to nature?*

A strong connection to nature encourages children to spend more time outside. Last weekend my children noticed fox prints while cross country skiing on Squam. They wanted to know more about the fox and ended up following the tracks for two hours and finding otter tracks, too. What a great way for a 6- and an 8-year-old to spend their weekend.

*Do you have a favorite childhood memory that involves nature?*

I remember camping in the White Mountains and having mice slide down our tent at night; and canoeing with otters.

*In your opinion, what are some changes the Science Center needs to make in order to be successful in the future?*

The Science Center must continue to nurture bonds between children and nature despite fierce competition from electronic devices, indoor lifestyles, and organized sports.

## NEWSBRIEFS

◆ We bid farewell to Maintenance Assistant **Frank Brewster** at the end of November 2009. After nearly five years, Frank left to pursue a career in music. We wish him all the best.

◆ In January, we welcomed new Facilities Assistant **Dean Smith**, who was born and raised in South Africa, on a small family farm outside Johannesburg. Dean grew up loving the outdoors, playing a variety of sports including soccer and rugby, as well as hiking, climbing, and backpacking. Following high school Dean worked in the television and broadcast industry as a multimedia specialist. After a period traveling, he ended up in New Hampshire where he met his wife Taaron. Dean and Taaron have a baby boy and live in Holderness.



*Facilities Assistant  
Dean Smith*

◆ **Margaret 'Peggy' Conver** was elected to the Board of Trustees to fill an unexpired term at the December 2009 meeting of the board. Peggy has expertise in finance and strategic planning and will serve on the Finance and Buildings and Grounds Committees. Peggy is the daughter of past trustee Helen Mathieson; she recently retired from Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia.

◆ The Elaine Conner Center for Wildlife hosted a Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference here in October. All three animal care staff attended; topics included baby mammal care and bird care. In November, Animal Care Assistant **Tom Anderson** traveled to San Francisco to attend a Bear Care Group conference called

Advancing Bear Care '09. Development and Communications Director **Janet Robertson** attended the New England Museum Association conference in Nashua in November.

◆ Education Program Director **Amy Yeakel** is part of a task force focused on completing an environmental literacy plan (ELP) for New Hampshire. States are required to have an ELP in order to receive federal environmental education funding from pending No Child Left Inside legislation. Even if the law is not enacted as currently written, an ELP for New Hampshire is still a critical step forward in advancing state environmental literacy.

◆ The 2010 Annual Fund raised a total of \$276,524 from 584 donors, exceeding our goal of \$260,000. Generous support from returning and new donors alike resulted in a strong finish. Many thanks to our generous and loyal supporters! We project that we will end the year in the black, pending the audit this spring. Expenses in 2009 were \$12,059 below budget with savings in the areas of energy, animal care, postage, and supplies all helping to hold the bottom line.

◆ In 2009, 360 volunteers contributed 7,806 hours in multiple areas. More than 15,725 school children and teachers from across the state attended a program or visited in 2009 versus 18,300 in 2008) while 46,935 public visitors toured the trails (versus 39,973 in 2008), 23,962 participated in programs, special events, and courses, and 10,494 people enjoyed a cruise.

◆ G4 Communications of Manchester donated equipment to allow us to begin distance learning (web-based) programs. We will soon connect remotely with our colleagues at the Seacoast Science Center, Mount Washington Observatory, and McAuliffe-Shepard Discover Center.

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## CHIPMUNKS continued from page 1

their paws to push against their cheeks and the contents emerge. Chipmunks will transport bedding in their cheek pouches too – I’ve observed chipmunks stuffing in dried leaves to take to their dens for winter comfort or for their young’s nest in spring.

When walking through the woods, I listen for animals alert to my presence. Blue jays may be making their “jay” calls or red squirrels chattering a warning. Chipmunks too show their alarm but with a repetitive single note “chuk” sound that is often taken up by neighboring chipmunks until the whole hillside is spreading the news. In another call, chipmunks are said to “sing” with a series of chips uttered rapidly over several minutes – a call which may help define territory. Take time to listen to the chipmunks! See if you can interpret what they are announcing.

Have you ever watched a chipmunk run across the lawn and abruptly disappear? Upon closer observation, you notice a 1.5 to 2-inch hole hidden in the grass with no evidence of any excavated material. How do they engineer that feat? The hole you are observing is actually the end product! The chipmunk started some 30 or 40 feet away by digging a tunnel and a roomy living chamber. With its nose, this rodent plowed the discarded earth above ground where it dispersed the soil in all directions. The chipmunk then continued with the final tunnel, packing the soil in the old tunnel and sealing the original hole. When the chipmunk reached the surface with its new tunnel, there would be no stray soil to betray the entrance to predators! Watch a feeding chipmunk closely and it may show you its den entrance as it descends to store food.

Fall is the chipmunks’ busy season as they gather and stow away acorns, beechnuts, and sunflower and other seeds under the leaves in their sleeping chamber or in storage chambers of their burrow. These striped rodents respond to winter quite unlike groundhogs that hibernate and rely on accumulated fat to sustain them. Chipmunks, on the other hand, alternate between a torpid state and wakefulness. During torpidity, the chipmunks’ body temperature and respiration decrease as they conserve energy. Periodically they wake up to feed on their bounty.

Are you ready for spring to arrive? Chipmunks reward us with some of the earliest signs of warming weather as they emerge and dance along the stone walls, their brown streaked bodies highlighted against the remaining patches of snow. Later, young chipmunks about six weeks old will be cavorting around the den’s entrance. More clumsy, tentative, playful, and inquisitive than adults, these youngsters are about two-thirds grown and this family time is fleeting. In a week or two they will be off to find their own places. Like these young chipmunks, let us take advantage of the fresh sights and sounds of spring. After all, spring comes only once a year!

renew your membership online at  
[www.nhnature.org](http://www.nhnature.org)

## NATURALIST'S CORNER

### A FLEETING NEW HAMPSHIRE SPRING

By Eric D'Aleo

Spring ....will it ever arrive? No matter how patient I try to be, it always seems to take longer than it should. Even when the snow begins to loosen its hold upon the land and brief warm spells tease us about the arrival of spring, the chill, damp air reminds me that winter hasn't retreated...yet. However, as I walk down the old railroad bed near the river in boots, across the melting snow and muddy landscape, I am always surprised at the hardy number of plants that grow out of the bleak, lifeless ground despite the harsh conditions. Of all of these early bloomers, Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), is one of my favorites.

This member of the poppy family is native to New Hampshire and is found throughout the eastern United States and Canada. Bloodroot is a low herb, about 6-8 inches tall, with broad, deeply lobed leaves and is found in relatively moist woodlands and thickets and often on flood plains, near shores or streams and on slopes. The inch-wide showy white flowers with their yellow reproductive structures in the center bloom before the foliage unfolds and gives me the impression that the ground is in blossom.

Bloodroot gets its name from the color of the orange-red juice that stains skin and clothing when the stem or rhizome is broken. Over the years, rhizomes can form many clones that will give rise to a dense bloom of flowers in the spring that is spectacular to behold. However, the display of Bloodroot in bloom is short-lived, lasting only two or three weeks. Once the flowers are pollinated by small bees and flies, the petals will drop off within a day. The foliage continues to grow until mid summer when the plant becomes dormant. Ants help disperse the seeds of Bloodroot by carrying them underground and eating the fleshy part, disposing of the actual seed in their nest debris underground where it will germinate the following spring.

Keep an eye out for this ephemeral but early harbinger of spring. It's well worth it.



# GARDENER'S NOTEBOOK



## STOP IN FOR A DRINK!

*By Brenda Erler*

Your garden can be designed to attract a number of nectar-drinking birds including orioles, mockingbirds, grosbeaks, and some warblers, but the most well-known nectar drinker in the east is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Not only does high-calorie nectar (and an

occasional insect) provide these birds nutrition, but the birds, in turn, may carry pollen from plant to plant for valuable cross-pollination. Plus, it's just plain fun seeing them in your yard! How can you put out the welcome mat?

## GREEN FACT

Here is one small thing that will make a big difference!

### NATIONAL DARK-SKY WEEK

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) seeks to raise awareness about the harmful effects of light pollution on the night sky and the environment and to promote better lighting. IDA estimates that unnecessary outdoor lighting costs more than \$10 billion dollars each year and millions of tons of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Light pollution has been linked to changes in the migration, mating, and predation of several species of animals, including frogs, sea turtles, birds, and fireflies.

The World Wildlife Fund is sponsoring Earth Hour for the third year. It takes place on March 27 at 8:30 p.m. local time. Earth Hour is the largest climate event in history – in 2009, more than 4,000 cities in 87 countries went dark. Here in the United States, an estimated 80 million Americans participated, along with 318 cities and 8 U.S. states.

For more information about dark skies, visit these websites:

**International Dark-Sky Association:**  
[www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)  
**Earth Hour:** [www.myearthhour.org](http://www.myearthhour.org)

First, make sure you provide a complete habitat that offers food, water, shelter, and nesting places. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are naturally attracted to forest clearings and edges, so they are drawn to suburban and rural gardens that offer a variety of trees, shrubs, flowers, and grassy areas. Their tiny nests are usually located in the fork of small stiff tree branches. Their nests are highly camouflaged by lichens “glued on” with spider silk. If you have no trees, consider putting a small dead tree or a few branches close to a flower bed to provide perching spots. A small water feature such as a shallow bird bath, garden mister or pump-fed waterfall may prove irresistible.

Artificial feeders are often used to attract these little gems, but a more natural way of providing food for hummingbirds is to use flowering plants in your garden. Certain flowers have co-evolved with hummingbirds to enable their mutually beneficial relationship. You don't need a large flower bed to attract these birds. Small flower beds, hanging pots, window boxes or trellises may all bring hummingbirds to your yard. However, you do need to choose your plants wisely. Here are a few considerations:

1. **Choose bright red, pink, or orange flowers that are tubular in shape. The nectar is found at the base of the tube, luring hummingbirds to probe with their beaks. Since most birds have a poor sense of smell, it is the color and shape, not the fragrance, that will attract hummingbirds.**
2. **Plant flowers that bloom at different times throughout the season so a food supply is always available. Try to find some flowers that start blooming in early spring when the birds begin to migrate through.**
3. **Plant flowers in large groups of three or more to provide more nectar.**
4. **Provide a few plants that produce soft fibers. Hummingbirds often use the fluff from cinnamon fern stems, pussy willow catkins, thistles, or even dandelions to line their nests.**
5. **Avoid pesticides. Let the birds take care of insect pests for you.**

A few of the best nectar plants for this area include bee balm (Monarda), Columbine (Aquilegia), Coralbells (Heuchera spp. with red or pink flowers), Cardinal Flower (Lobelia), Hyssop (Agastache), Jewelweed (Impatiens spp.), Salvia, and Honeysuckle (Lonicera). Visit Kirkwood Gardens this summer to get even more ideas for hummingbird-attracting plants. Look for red dots on maps located throughout the garden. These dots designate plants that are especially attractive to hummingbirds.

*Gardener's Notebook and Kirkwood Gardens are sponsored by the Belknap Landscape Company, Inc.*  
[www.belknaplandscape.com](http://www.belknaplandscape.com)



# NATURAL ADVENTURES



## COYOTE CAPERS

**Saturday, April 10**

10-11:30 a.m.

Families, age 6 and up

Are “wily coyotes” really that clever? Why do they howl and where do they live? The eastern coyote is a relative newcomer to New Hampshire and so we will delve into some of the mysteries about them. Join us to learn about coyotes with plenty of information, story-telling, and a visit with our new one-year old coyote.

*Cost: \$7/member; \$9/non-member*

## LIFE UNDER LOGS

**Tuesday, April 20**

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Families

Snag trees and fallen logs provide homes for more types of wildlife than you might expect. Join us to explore the forest floor.

*Cost: \$7/member; \$9/non-member*

## ALL FROM A SEED

**Thursday, April 22**

10-11:30 a.m.

Families, age 4 and up

As you look around, you see lots of different kinds of plants, but have you ever wondered how those plants got there? Celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and learn about seeds and plant life cycles in this adventure-filled program. You will take home a seed so you can watch it grow!

*Cost: \$7/member; \$9/non-member*

## SPRING WILDFLOWERS

**Saturday, May 8**

9:30-11 a.m.

Families, age 10 and up

The sun is out, the snow has melted, and the natural world is starting to burst forth with new growth. Now is the time to get out and search in fields and forests for transient spring wildflowers. Join naturalist Eric D’Aleo for a morning of exploration and identification as we look for the spring wildflowers in our area.

*Cost: \$7/member; \$9/non-member*



## NORTH COUNTRY MOOSE AND BEAR EXCURSION

**Saturdays in May 8, 15, 22, 29, and**

**June 5, 12, 19, 26**

6 -10:30 p.m.

Age 10 and up

Travel to the North Country for an evening of moose and black bear watching. Meet at the Science Center and journey together (by van) to visit a special place where mother black bears graze on a salad of flowers and berries while their cubs frolic nearby, then as dusk approaches we’ll visit a moose ‘hot spot’ in hope of sighting these giants as they feed on roadside mud. Minimum group size is three and maximum group size is six.

*Cost: \$18/member; \$22/non-member*

## COLDWATER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE’S LARGE LAKES

**Tuesday, June 1**

7 p.m.

Adults

Join us for a presentation on landlocked salmon, rainbow trout, and lake trout fisheries management by NH Fish and Game Fisheries Biologist, John Viar. Stocking strategies, historical perspectives, and the key role of forage fish will be discussed. No reservations required.

*Cost: free*

## ANNUAL BREEDING BIRD CENSUS

**Saturday, June 5**

6 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Ages 10 and up

The Science Center’s annual breeding bird population census has been a tradition for over 30 years. Join Senior Naturalist Dave Erler and learn to identify some of the area’s resident birds. Early risers meet us at 6 a.m. to help scan the skies or join us at 8 a.m. to complete the census. No reservations required.

*Cost: free/members; \$4/ non-members*

## MINDS IN MOTION SERIES

**Wednesdays: June 2, July 7,**

**August 4, September 1**

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Age 3 and under

The mind and body of a young child are constantly on the move. Foster your child’s “natural curiosity” and explore motion from an animal’s perspective – jump like a frog, swim like a fish, crawl like a caterpillar, and fly like a bird. Shared experiences you have with your child will build foundations for a lifetime.

*Cost: \$5/member child;*

*\$7/non-member child*



## BIRD ID SERIES

### BOREAL FOREST BIRDS

**Sunday, June 27**

7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Age 16 and up

Join Iain MacLeod for an in-depth workshop focusing on the boreal birds of northern New Hampshire’s forests. We will meet at the Science Center and travel (by van) to Trudeau Road in Twin Mountain, Pondichery Wildlife Refuge in Whitefield/Jefferson, and perhaps Cannon Mountain in search of spruce and fir specialties such as Black-backed Woodpeckers, Boreal Chickadee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and northern forest-dwelling warblers. Minimum group size is three and maximum group size is six.

*Cost: \$30/member; \$40/non-member*

*Limited space available; reservations and advance payment required unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to cancellation if minimum enrollment is not met.*



# SPECIAL EVENTS



## Kirkwood Gardens Day

**Saturday  
June 12, 2010**

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Gain inspiration  
from Kirkwood Gardens and add  
beautiful additions for your own.**

- ✿ Fine perennials from a prestigious New England nursery
- ✿ Silent Auction of desirable plants and garden-related items
- ✿ Plants from knowledgeable local gardeners
- ✿ Garden collectibles and treasures
- ✿ Expert opinions and advice
- ✿ Drinks, sandwiches, and baked goods available
- ✿ Exceptional vendors, including:  
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Herbs, Earth Jewelry

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## SCIENCE CENTER LAKE CRUISES

### EXPLORE SQUAM

May 22-June 30 ■ Daily at 1 p.m.

July 1-October 17

Daily at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.

### EAGLE CRUISE

June 8-June 29 ■ Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

### LOON CRUISE

June 18-August 20 ■ Fridays at 3:00 p.m.

### NATURE OF THE LAKES

July 1-October 14

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 4 p.m.

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Church Island wedding, or charter a private cruise.*

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Tom Klein at 603-968-7194 x 10 or  
tom.klein@nhnature.org for reservations.

## SQUAM BIOBLITZ II

**Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22**

### FAMILIES

Squam BioBlitz II will be held in partnership with Squam Lakes Association and Squam Lakes Conservation Society. This bio-inventory of the Squam Range will give you a chance to be a 'citizen scientist' and learn from experts as they identify as many different living things as possible in one 24-hour period! This event is generously sponsored by Rockywold-Deephaven Camps. Reserve your spot by contacting us at [ain.macleod@nhnature.org](mailto:ain.macleod@nhnature.org) or 603-968-7194.

**ANNUAL MEETING  
AND SUMMER GALA**  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 14



# SPECIAL EVENTS



**CLEAN  
UP DAY**  
**Sat., April 24**

SEE AD ON  
BACK PAGE

## **New Hampshire Day** **Saturday, May 2**

**\$3 Admission**

for New Hampshire residents

New Hampshire residents will enjoy discounted admission of \$3 per person. Howling Coyote Gift Shop items will be on sale. Visitors can enjoy special pre-season Up Close to Animals presentations at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1 p.m. Last admission is at 3:30 p.m.

*Save the Date*

**COME PLAY**  
**THE ANIMAL WAY**  
**ANIMAL ENRICHMENT DAY**  
**Wednesday, July 14**



## **SHARE THE DISCOVERY: DOCENT AND FIRST GUIDE TRAINING.**

### **2010 Docent Training**

Saturday, June 5, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, June 10, 4-8 p.m.

Sunday, June 13, 12-4 p.m.

Age 18 and up

Docents are volunteers trained to interact with guests on the Gephart Exhibit Trail and often bring a live animal with them. Docents also travel to off-site programs to assist naturalists, serve as mentors to First Guides, help with animal enrichment, and represent the Science Center at local fairs.

Cost: \$45 (financial aid available)

### **First Guides**

#### **Teen Volunteer Training**

#### **Level I**

Wednesday, July 7, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 8, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Ages 14-17

First Guides are teen volunteers who demonstrate natural artifacts on the Gephart Exhibit Trail, accompanied by adult volunteer docent mentors. First Guides also assist with Guided Discoveries courses for children.

Cost: \$45 (financial aid available)

**For more information or to register for First Guides or Docent Training, contact Carol Raymond, Volunteer Coordinator, at 603-968-7194 x 22 or [carol.raymond@nhnature.org](mailto:carol.raymond@nhnature.org).**

## **NEWSBRIEFS**

*Continued from page 3*

- ◆ In December, we renewed our reciprocal admission agreement with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for 2010 at the 50% level. Guests from participating AZA organizations will receive a 50% discount for up to two adults and two children when they visit here. Science Center members will receive 50% discounted admission at other participating organizations, typically for a family of four, although members should verify each organization's discount.
- ◆ Facilities staff are busy with infrastructure and exhibit improvements. Renovations of the Gordon's Children Center are underway with new siding on the front, a new outside seating area, and updated exhibits including a new spider web in the works – hopefully to be completed by May 1. The Holderness Inn has a new handrail on the porch and safety barriers on the windows and doors. Kirkwood Cottage has a new metal roof.
- ◆ Our vehicle fleet was upgraded thanks to donations from The Common Man (Alex Ray) and Tashia and John Morgridge. In November, we purchased a used 2008 Dodge Grand Caravan to replace our 2001 minivan. In January, the Morgridges donated their 2000 GMC

Safari van. These join the 2003 Windstar minivan used for education outreach, errands, and travel to meetings. We also purchased a 2004 Dodge Ram 4x4 truck to replace the old Ford truck.

- ◆ The Wetlands Walk "Build a Boardwalk" project was a great success, with only 40 boards still available for inscriptions. Any donations received now will be carved on the boards but won't be installed outside until the snow melts. Thank you to everyone who supported this project.
- ◆ First Guides, the new volunteer program begun in 2009 for teens, was a big success! There will be training for both First Guides and docents (adult volunteers) this summer. See page \_\_ for details for both.
- ◆ The historic Holderness Inn next to Kirkwood Gardens will feature Kirkwood Café and Squam Lakes Artisans Gallery again this year. Squam Lakes Artisans, a gallery specializing in unique and locally crafted New Hampshire gifts, opens in late May. The gallery showcases unique arts and crafts by juried local artists. Kirkwood Café, opening on June 26, serves snacks, sandwiches, and beverages. See [www.nhnature.org](http://www.nhnature.org) for details.





# NATURE TOURS

LED BY IAIN MACLEOD



## SCOTLAND'S NORTHERN ISLES: ORKNEY AND SHETLAND

June 2-11

Join Iain MacLeod for a spectacular trip to Scotland's northern lands – the remote islands of Orkney and Shetland. This 11-day trip explores the wildlife and history of these beautiful islands. Highlights will include spectacular seabird colonies – including Puffins, Otters, Grey Seals, a night-time excursion to the island of Mousa to watch Storm Petrels, and a visit to Skara Brae, Europe's most complete Neolithic village. View an illustrated itinerary at [www.nhnature.org/nature\\_tours](http://www.nhnature.org/nature_tours).

Cost: \$4,500 (includes roundtrip airfare from Boston to Aberdeen, accommodations, meals, ferry, and van)



## NORTH COUNTRY WEEKEND AT THE BALSAMS

July 17-18

Join Iain MacLeod for a weekend in the Great North Woods. The trip includes a pontoon boat tour of Lake Umbagog and the Magalloway River, evening Moose viewing around Errol, and a morning of birding for northern forest specialties, such as the Black-backed Woodpecker. Of course, there are also delightful meals at the Balsams Grant Resort. View an illustrated itinerary at [www.nhnature.org/nature\\_tours](http://www.nhnature.org/nature_tours).

Cost: \$550 per person (includes van transportation, pontoon boat ticket, lunch on Saturday and Sunday, Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, overnight accommodations, and leader fees). Does not include purchase of alcohol with meals or hotel gratuities.

## NEWFOUNDLAND ADVENTURE

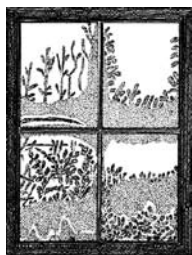
August 1-8

Executive Director Iain MacLeod will lead an exploration of Newfoundland and Southern Labrador. Experience the world's largest gathering of humpback whales, a fabulous diversity of marine wildlife, and giant landscapes. Wildlife highlights include murrens, puffins, razorbills, gannets, eagles, moose, and caribou. Guests will also enjoy eastern Newfoundland's museums, lighthouses, trails, wildflowers, songbirds, flavors, and local folks.

Cost: Iain is still working out final details, but expects the trip to be close to \$3,100 per person (not including flight to St John's). Price does not include evening meals.



**All tours require a minimum of six participants and the maximum group size is 10.  
For details on any of these tours, contact Iain at 603-968-7194 x 24 or [iain.macleod@nhnature.org](mailto:iain.macleod@nhnature.org).**



## OPENING A WINDOW TO THE NATURAL WORLD

We changed our membership structure and benefits as of January 1, 2010 and all new and renewing memberships must now choose a new level. Current memberships will be honored with the previous benefit structure until they expire. Current members may choose to convert to the new structure at any time (to a corresponding level, matching the equivalent dollar value).

These changes eliminated the Individual, Family, Family & Friends and Family & More Friends levels and added One-Person, Two-Person, Four-Person, Six-Person, and Eight-Person levels. Details are described on our website, at [www.nhnature.org](http://www.nhnature.org). We hope these changes will give you greater flexibility and faster service. Except for the One-Person membership, members will now have the flexibility of bringing guests free for every visit, not just family members. Members may bring different guests for each visit; family one week, friends the next, and clients or co-workers the next time. All members may also purchase extra guest admission tickets at the discounted price of \$7 per person at each visit (instead of paying regular trail admission fees as in the past). Members may also pay the member rate for guests attending programs and cruises. The free transferable trail and cruise passes have been removed for most membership levels.

If you have questions, consult the Membership FAQ on our website or contact me. Thanks for your membership support!

*Opening a Window to the Natural World is written by Development and Communications Director Janet Robertson. You may contact Janet at 603-968-7194 x 12 or [janet.robertson@nhnature.org](mailto:janet.robertson@nhnature.org).*

## WISH LIST

Lockable file cabinet

Electric tea kettle

Infant and child Personal Flotation Devices

Electrical outlet and wall plate insulators

Food processor for animal care

Little Tyke or Playskool plastic toys for animal care

Answering machine for staff residence

New (energy star) refrigerator

York rake and winch for tractor

Used or new garden-related "treasures" for Kirkwood Gardens Day

We are grateful for these memorial and honorary gifts received from October 1 through December 31, 2009:

*In memory of Dr. and Mrs. L. Betts Copenhaver*  
**Marcia and Dick Barrere**

*In honor of Helen and Peter Hiam's 50th wedding anniversary*  
**Susan and Tom Stepp**

*In honor of Elizabeth and Thomas Kelsey*  
**Harry Beauchamp**

*In memory of Elwin Melanson*  
**Gale Melanson and children Christine Patridge, Steve Melanson, Tommy Melanson, and Mary-Jane Melanson**

*In memory of Gilbert Merrill*  
**Susie Merrill**

*In memory of Barbara Nash*  
**Hank Clow**  
**Country Village Quilters Guild**  
**Stephen Nash**  
**Natalie Parsons**  
**James Zanes**

*In memory of Donald Parsons*  
**Priscilla and Wayne Fletcher**  
**Nancy Parsons and James McDermott**  
**Natalie Parsons**  
**Susan Parsons**

*In memory of Betty Schoonmaker*  
**Eva Karcher**  
**Elaine Melquist and Kurt Schroeder**  
**Elizabeth Rowe**

*In memory of Greg Smith*  
**Ann and Richard Chalmers**  
**James Talcott Fund**  
**of the New York Community Trust**  
**Gail Smith and Frances Chalmers**

*In honor of Pam and Bill Simonds*  
**Bonnie M. Hunt and Robert Maloney**

*In honor of Dick and Sammie Wakefield*  
**Julie Broussard**

# TRAIL'S END

## IMPLEMENTING THE FUTURE

The deadline for writing this Trail's End column seems to come round ever faster. So, if it's short and bitty you'll understand why!

First off, thanks to all of you for so nobly supporting the Annual Fund in 2009. I know there are many calls on your resources and all of us at the Science Center are particularly pleased that we "make the cut." As I wrote this time last year, we were concerned that 2009 might be worse than 2008 when you all pulled so strongly to enable us to meet our obligations and end up that year only just in the red (from an operating perspective). This year, 2009, we are in the black by a few thousand dollars (again, from an operating perspective – and unaudited); thanks to all of you for pulling through and the Science Center staff for holding the line on expenses. We hold our breath through the last few days of December to see if the Annual Fund will enable us to make budget, which is always tightly controlled to "what we expect to take in." 2009 we made it, so huge THANKS to all of you who dug so deeply.

Second, I wrote in the last issue about how the staff and trustees (especially the committees) were wrestling with the strategic options to determine "what the Science Center can do better." I am pleased to say that progress is being made on all fronts. At its January meeting the Board of Trustees gave the go-ahead to real time experiments over the next few months, carefully devised by the staff, designed to prove out the concepts behind a nature pre-school, a "walk through time," and an underwater Squam exhibit. You can expect to see tangible evidence of these initiatives by 2011, and perhaps in the summer of 2010. The fourth initiative, making better use of the Inn, is very active, with many ideas being tossed around, but it will have to wait until the summer or fall issues before I can report tangible progress.

Finally, thanks to Bruce Whitmore's able leadership of the Finance Committee, Brian Eaton's slaving uncomplainedly through many iterations, and the persistence of Bob Snelling, we have an Operational Business Model for the Science Center. While this will be primarily a tool for staff use for planning purposes it will show us the impact on operating revenues and expenses of changes in any significant aspect of the Science Center operations. It will enable us to address the "what-if" questions that have plagued us so often, though as always; it will only be useful once those questions are carefully formulated!

*Trail's End is written by Peter M. Wood, Chairman of the SLNSC Board of Trustees.  
You may contact Peter at 603-968-7194 x 27 or peter.wood@nhnature.org.*



## SPONSOR A SPECIES

Sponsor a Species is an educational experience. Once you have chosen a species and submitted the form, you will receive a certificate, information about your species, a natural history word game, and a photo postcard. You will also be satisfied knowing that you are helping the Science Center teach its visitors about wildlife. **Your name will be listed on a poster in the Trailhead Gallery from May 1- November 1.**

Yes I want to Sponsor A Species!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

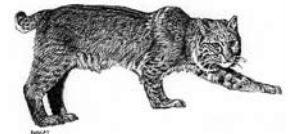
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name to be listed in Trailhead Gallery: \_\_\_\_\_

Select the species you would like to sponsor for this season for \$50 each. All gifts are tax deductible.

- |  |                                       |  |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Bear        | <input type="checkbox"/> Saw-whet Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver        | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed Deer | <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Lion | <input type="checkbox"/> Bobcat           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> River Otter       | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Fox      | <input type="checkbox"/> Striped Skunk | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl |



Enclosed please find a check in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a Gift for: \_\_\_\_\_

MC/Visa/Amex/Discover # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on the card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Send certificate to me  
 Send certificate to recipient

## BLUE HERON SCHOOL

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center is planning to open Blue Heron School, a nature-based Montessori early learning center. The school will combine a child-focused Montessori approach with daily outdoor experiences in a stimulating learning atmosphere. Children will have freedom to explore their own interests, particularly outdoors, and will become independent and self-confident. Children will learn to be responsible for their environment and to treat others with respect, forming a close and supportive community. The school will run Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., starting in September. We are not taking registrations or payment at this time. For more information and to be added to a mailing list, please contact Education Program Director Amy Yeakel at amy.yeakel@nhnature.org or 603-968-7194 x 14.

# CLEAN UP DAY



**Saturday,  
April 24  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Spring and our annual Clean Up Day will be here soon! Celebrate Earth Day by helping staff clean up the trails and grounds for our May 1 opening day and wake up Kirkwood Gardens. Most work is outdoors and there are staining projects too, so dress appropriately. Extra leaf rakes, metal rakes, and work gloves are helpful too. A complimentary picnic lunch will be provided at noon. Groups welcome.

**Contact Volunteer Coordinator Carol Raymond to sign up at 603-968-7194 x 22 or carol.raymond@nhnature.org.**



## THE HOWLING COYOTE GIFT SHOP

AT SQUAM LAKES NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

Open May 1

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APPAREL \* TOYS**

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