

**MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLY CLUB
CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION
2024 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! These gatherings are fun social occasions and often involve post-trip gatherings over lunch or a nearby ice cream shop.

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.

Note for website: Watch FB/MassLep for pop-up walks during the butterfly season. Participants are welcome to bring lunch/snacks for socializing after the walk.

Sunday, April 21st, 11 am

Arlington's Great Meadows Field Trip, Arlington

leader Tom Whelan at tom@whelanphoto.com or (781) 915-9988.

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 27st, 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. For meeting location, contact leader Barbara Volkle at barb620@theworld.com or (508) 393-9251.

Sunday, May 5, 10 am

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver, MA

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

Friday, May 17th, 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 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 25, 10 am

Great River Preserve, Bridgewater, MA

Walk through the fields in search of late spring flying butterflies - hairstreaks, eastern-tailed blues, pearl crescents, monarchs, American ladies. This walk is targeted to beginning butterflyers and other interested folx, all levels of butterfly enthusiasts are welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404

Saturday, June 1st, 9 am

Mt. Greylock State Reservation (Lanesborough) in search of Early Hairstreaks.

Meet at the Mt. Greylock Visitors Center parking lot at 9:00 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. In case of rain, we will try the next day, Sunday, June 2. Leader: Tom Gagnon (413) 584-6353

Saturday, June 15th, 10 am

Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Worcester

We will look for Hoary Edge skipper and possibly Harris checkerspot along the powerlines. 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.

Saturday, June 15th, 10 am

Peter Oliver House and Picone Farm, Middleborough, MA

Explore the estate grounds and neighboring conservation area for Red Admiral, Eastern Comma, Least Skipper and more. The terrain is relatively flat, but the woods path may have some fallen trees to step over or around. Directions: Meet in the parking lot just past 445 Plymouth Street in Middleborough. Leader: Andrew and Lauren Griffith. Contact Andrew Griffith at andrewphoto@comcast.net or cell (774) 766-9880. Rain date Sunday, June 16th.

Saturday, June 22nd, 11am-1 pm

Breakneck Hill, Southborough

Join us as we explore this grassland property to see what butterflies we can find. Past visits at this time of year have yielded such species as Silvery Blue, Eastern-Tailed Blue, Viceroy, Northern Cloudywing, Zabulon Skipper, Little Wood Satyr, Red-Spotted Purple, and Black Swallowtail. Meet at the parking lot across from 75 Breakneck Hill Road, Southborough. Overflow parking available nearby at Community Gardens parking lot. Contact leader Dawn Vesey at dawnvzp@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 22nd, 10am

Appleton Farms, Ipswich

*This trip is also part of the North Essex July 4th Count

This splendid 1,000 acre Trustees property offers opportunities to find Bronze Coppers, Silver-bordered Fritillaries, Baltimore Checkerspots and more! All are welcome. Leader is Russ Hopping. Contact Russ at rhopping@thetrustees.org or (978) 390-4218 for meeting location. Rain date is 6/23.

Saturday, June 29th, 10 am

Mountain Meadow Preserve, Williamstown

We will walk about a mile along mowed paths through fields of Milkweed, Bergamot, Dogbane, Joe-pye weed, Goldenrod and New England Asters. We might find Monarchs, assorted Skippers, Wood Nymphs, Pearl Crescents, Swallowtails and Sulphurs.

Waterproof shoes are advised as some places may be wet. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Mason Street parking area. (From the intersection of Rts. 2 and 7 in Williamstown, take Rt. 7 north for 1.7 mi. Bear right onto Mason St. which is a steep dirt road uphill and follow to entrance). Rain Date June 30th.

Leader: Tom Tynning (413) 236-4502 or ttyning@berkshirecc.edu

Saturday, June 29th, 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 6/30.

Saturday, July 6th, 10 am

Camp Edwards Training Site, Bourne

Join the MA Army National Guard's Natural Resources Manager Jake McCumber in a search for Acadian Hairstreaks in a diverse barrens habitat mosaic. As many as six different hairstreaks may be seen along with a wide variety of other butterflies and moths. *Camp Edwards is an active military training installation with restricted access so registration and background check are required.* **To register, please send an email to: emily.d.kelly2.nfg@army.mil** with your name and telephone number. A confirmation email will be sent with further information including directions, base access, meeting place and parking. For additional information please contact trip leader Jake McCumber at jacob.c.mccumber.nfg@army.mil or 339-202-9343. Rain date is July 13th.

Sunday, July 7th, 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.

Saturday, July 13th, 10 am

Great River Preserve, Bridgewater

Walk through the fields in search of silver-bordered fritillaries, pearl crescents, and broad-winged skippers. This walk is targeted to beginning butterflyers and other interested folx, all levels of butterfly enthusiasts are welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404

Sunday, July 14th, 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.

Sunday July 28th, 10 am

Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield

Explore the area around Bartholomew's Cobble, a Trustees of Reservations property, in search of Giant Swallowtails, Hackberry Emperors, Tawny Emperors, and American Snouts. Meet in the parking area at 105 Weatogue Rd, Sheffield, MA.

Leader: Tom Tynning (413) 236-4502 or ttyning@berkshirecc.edu

Saturday August 3rd, 10 am

South Amherst Meadows, Amherst

Explore grasslands near Andrews Greenhouse, Atkins Flat and nearby Brookside Trail. Abundant Joe-pye weed with recorded sightings of Silver-bordered Fritillary and several other species. After the greenhouse area, we will drive to Atkins Flat. Bring water and lunch. Wetlands-appropriate footwear is strongly advised. Rain Date is August 4. Meet at Andrew's Greenhouse Parking Lot, 1184 S East St, Amherst.

Leader: Harvey Allen at (413) 207-7272 (preferred) or harveyallen979@gmail.com

Saturday, August 10th, 12-4 pm

16th 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 17th, 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 and several other species. Meet in the parking lot off Brandt Island Road at 10am. Contact leader Andrew Griffith at andrewphoto@comcast.net or cell (774) 766-9880. Rain date is Sunday, August 18th.

Saturday, August 17th, 10:30 am – needs leader

Fannie Stebbins Refuge, Longmeadow and Forest Park, Springfield

These locations have traditionally yielded Hackberry and Tawny Emperors and Zabulon Skippers, but a leader is needed for 2024. Please contact Carol Duke (carol@massbutterflies.org) if you can help. Meeting point at Fannie Stebbins at the end of Bark Haul Road — Off Route 5 in Longmeadow at 10:30. Later we will go to Forest Park in Springfield.

Sunday, August 25th, 9 am

Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, Worcester

We will look for Leonard's Skipper and other late flying butterflies. The powerline may be under construction this summer and we will tailor the search to appropriate habitat. Meeting at the Nature Center, 414 Massasoit Road. Leader Martha Gach at mgach@massaudubon.org or (508) 981-8833.

Monday, September 16th, 10 am

Northampton Community Gardens, Northampton

Meet at the Northampton Community Gardens on Burts Pit Road in Northampton in search of LATE or rare migrants. No rain date. Leader Tom Gagnon at (413) 584-6353.

Saturday, September 28th, 10 am

Appleton Farms, Ipswich MA

This trip looks for Silver-Bordered Fritillaries, Bronze Coppers and other late season butterflies. All participants welcome. For meeting location, contact leader Howard Hoople at hgh@ghhoople.com or (978) 604-0454. Rain date. 9/29.