

MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLY CLUB (MBC)
CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION (NABA)
2025 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.

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

Saturday, April 12, 10am Canceled

Mt. Tom, Holyoke

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

We will search for Mourning Cloaks, Eastern Comma and Compton Tortoiseshell. We will look for Broad-winged Hawks as well. 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

Monday, April 28, Noon Date & Time changed

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.

Monday, April 28, 10am Date changed

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

Saturday, May 10, 10am

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver

(Gas pipeline: intersection of Bare Hill Rd with 3 Cornered Pond Rd)

We will walk the gas pipeline in search of duskywings, elfins, mourning cloaks, and other **early spring** species. This walk is slow paced and friendly to all levels of butterfly watching. Beginners welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Saturday, May 17, 10am

Dinosaur Foot Prints, 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. Leaders: Bill Benner (bill@massbutterflies.org) and Joe Wicinski (joe@massbutterflies.org) (413) 320-4422.

Sunday, May 25, 10am - NEW

Shaw Farm, Sutton

Explore this former farm and town-owned property with fields ablaze with ragged robin, yellow rattle, and grasses. Common Ringlets, American Coppers, Spring Azures, Red Admirals, Little Wood Satyrs, Pine Elfin, Mourning Cloaks, Swallowtails, and Skippers have all been sighted in the past. Bird lovers may catch a glimpse of nesting bobolinks. Park by the barn down Shaw Lane off of Putnam Hill Road (not the Central Turnpike parking entrance). Tick repellent suggested, although trails are usually mowed low. Bring water. Trail map is online for any wishing to later explore the woods. Contact leaders: RoseAnne LaBarre, RLaBarre130@gmail.com, or Dolores Price, 508-887-3928.

Saturday, May 31, 9am

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

Meet at the Mt. Greylock Visitors Center parking lot at 9am. 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.

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

Saturday, Jun 14, 10am

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver
(Bently Loop)

We will walk through the fields in search of hairstreaks, eastern-tailed blues, pearl crescents, and other **late spring** species. This walk is targeted to beginning butterflyers and other interested folks, all levels of butterfly enthusiasts are welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Saturday, June 21, 10am

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. Leaders: Andrew and Lauren Griffith. Contact Andrew Griffith at andrewphoto@comcast.net or cell (774) 766-9880. Rain date: Sunday, June 22. Small donations to the Middleboro Conservation Commission are welcome on this trip, but not required.

Sunday, June 29, 10am

Erwin S. Wilder Wildlife Management Area, Norton

More information will be provided closer to the date.

Leaders: Andrew and Lauren Griffith. Contact Andrew Griffith at andrewphoto@comcast.net or cell (774) 766-9880.

July – Date tbd – Leader Needed

Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield

Explore the area around Bartholomew's Cobble, a Trustees of Reservations property (105 Weatogue Rd, Sheffield, MA), in search of Giant Swallowtails, Hackberry Emperors, Tawny Emperors, and American Snouts. Leader needed. (Past leader: Tom Tynning)

Sunday, July 6th, 10am

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 12, 10am

Camp Edwards Training Site, Bourne

Join the MA Army National Guard's Natural Resources Manager Jake McCumber in a search for numerous species of Hairstreaks and other butterflies in a diverse pine barrens habitat. As many as six different hairstreaks - including Acadian, Coral, and the appropriately named Edwards - 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.McCumber@mass.gov or 339-202-9343.

Saturday, July 12, 10am

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver, MA
(Bently Loop)

We will walk through the fields in search of monarchs, hairstreaks, and other **mid-summer** species. This walk is targeted to beginning butterflyers and other interested folks, all levels of butterfly enthusiasts are welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Sunday, July 13, 9am**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 August 3, 10am**South Amherst Meadows**

Explore Grasslands near Andrews Greenhouse, Atkins Flat and Brookside Trail. Abundant Joe-pye weed with recorded sightings of Silver-bordered Fritillary and several other species. These are wetlands so proper shoes helpful. Meet at Andrew's Greenhouse Parking Lot (1184 S East St) at 10am. Later we will drive a couple of minutes over to Atkins Flat and after surveying that area, we will walk about 500 feet across a field to Brookside Trail. Bring water and lunch. Rain date: August 10. Leader: Harvey Allen at (413) 207-7272 (preferred) or harveyallen979@gmail.com.

Saturday, August 9, 12-4pm**18th Annual Barbara J. Walker Butterfly Festival, Worcester**

Enjoy educational fun for all ages at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester, where butterflies fly free in their natural habitats. Festivities include naturalist-led walks, live caterpillars, children's activities, garden tours, local vendors and exhibitors, a native plant sale, and more. Stop by or help at MBC's outreach table while you're there! Look for more details on [masslep](#) later in the summer.

Saturday, August 16, 10am**Butterfly Gardening tour and workshop, West Whately**

Joe Wicinski, MBC Treasurer, and Bill Benner, MBC journal editor, will host this workshop at their home and garden in the Connecticut River Valley. We will look at a variety of planting schemes and plants, native and non-native, that they use to attract local butterflies and provide both nectar and caterpillar food. Hummingbirds and hummingbird gardening tips will be an added bonus! Rain date: August 17. Contact Bill or Joe at (413) 320-4422, or see the website contact page for address.

Sunday August 17, 10:30am – Co-leader Needed**Fannie Stebbins Refuge, Longmeadow, and Forest Park, Springfield**

We will search for Hackberry and Tawny Emperors and Zabulon Skippers. Meet 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. Leader: Moe O'Connor 413.732.3296 moe.oconnor7@gmail.com

Sunday, August 24, 10:30am

Arlington Reservoir Habitat Garden & Private Backyard Garden

Search for butterflies in the Arlington Reservoir's Habitat Garden, planted with native shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers to provide shelter and food for wildlife, including butterflies, bees, and dragonflies. Parking is available in the lot from Mass. Ave via Drake Road. More info on "the Res": arlingtonreservoir.org. Then we'll take a short drive, or an uphill walk, to Sara's pesticide-free, backyard butterfly garden planted with milkweed and other natives. Sara typically releases over 200 monarchs a year and, with luck, we may witness eclosions during our visit. Expect lemonade and three friendly dogs in this backyard oasis. Contact leader, Sara Alfaro-Franco, for rsvp and address: malta123saf@gmail.com or 781-643-0895.

Saturday, September 13, 9:30am - 2pm

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 14.** Meet at 9:30am at the Allens Pond parking lot at 1280 Horseneck Road. Participants should wear long pants, sunscreen and bring water and a snack or lunch. If you would like to participate, contact leader Lauren Miller-Donnelly at laurenisquax@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 20, 9:30am - 2pm

Mass Audubon's Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, Westport

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Saturday, September 20, 10am

Northampton Community Gardens, Northampton

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