

**MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLY CLUB (MBC)
CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION (NABA)
2026 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 25, 2026 10am

Mt. Tom, Holyoke - **CANCELED**

Mt. Tom State Reservation is 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 Needed:

Sunday, April 26, 10am

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) 410-6017.

Sunday, April 26, Noon

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.

Sunday, May 3, 11am

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver

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

Part 1 of 3 walks focused on phenology in MSSF. Attendance of other parts is **not** required. Come learn about the ecology of the forest as it is just waking up in early spring. Walk down the paths in search of duskywings, elfins, mourning cloaks, and other **early spring species**. This walk is designed to be slow-paced and friendly to all levels of butterfly watching. Beginners welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Sunday, May 10, 10am

Horn Pond Mountain, Woburn

Horn Pond Mountain offers a rich diversity of plants, birds and of course butterflies! Ascend 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 leader, Peter Loshin at peter@massbutterflies.org or (617) 549-4514.

Saturday May 16, 10am

Dinosaur Foot Prints, Holyoke

Join Dan Castriotta 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: Contact Bill Benner or Joe Wicinski at 413-320-4422

Sunday, May 17, 10am

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 Peter Loshin at peter@massbutterflies.org or (617) 549-4514.

May 22 - June 10, TBA when/if Harvesters appear

Lower Mystic Lake, Medford – NEW location

Renee LaFontaine has spent years observing Harvesters at Lower Mystic Lake in Medford, finding their favorite "resting places," often at eye level on a leaf, and documenting their presence and behavior. She notes that their numbers are far fewer now, but when/if they appear this season, Renee will happily lead a group to see them. This trip is dependent on what the butterflies do, so please check back often for date, time, and location, which will also be posted on our website, as well as the masslep listserv. Leader: Renee LaFontaine. Contact information will be provided when the trip date is announced.

Saturday, May 23 (rain date May 24), 10am

Beaver Brook, Haydenville, MA – NEW location

Join us as we explore this new, 250 acre property, just acquired by The Trustees in July, 2025. This former 9-hole golf course is being slowly transformed, with the intention of restoring the diverse habitats within the site. Already it is a beautiful, open space, with meadows, wetlands, and forest, a cold-water stream, and lots of edge habitat. Expect to find new species for the site that will assist The Trustees with their re-wilding goals. Bring lunch or snacks. Address: 183 Main Street (Rt. 9), Haydenville, MA; park in the lot by the buildings. Contact Bill Benner or Joe Wicinski at 413-320-4422 to register or for more details. You can read more about the place here: [Rewild Beaver Brook](#)

Sunday, May 31, 10am

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, June 6, 9am - RESCHEDULED

Mt Greylock

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.

Leader: Tom Tynning (413) 236-4502 or ttyning@berkshirecc.edu Rain Date: May 31.

Saturday, June 6, 10am

Soule Homestead

46 Soule Street, Middleborough 02346

Soule Homestead is an agri-ecology learning center located in Middleborough. The area consists of farm land adjacent to protected woodlands. Butterfly species seen in the past have been silver-bordered fritillaries, American ladies, cabbage whites, sulphurs, eastern-tailed blues, and monarchs. This walk is designed to be slow-paced and friendly to all levels of butterfly watching. Beginners welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Sunday, June 14, 10am – NEW Date

Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Worcester

We will walk through woodland, wetland, and meadow to explore the new-ish Wilson Link Trail and Wilson Meadow. The route is less than 2 miles round-trip. The first half is accessible, but the second half includes some uneven footing. Possible butterflies include Mourning Cloaks, Azures, and Swallowtails. If time and interest, we can then take a longer hike along the Cardinal and Powerline Trails to look for Hoary Edge skippers and possibly Harris checkerspot. All welcome! Meet at the Sanctuary Visitor Center, 414 Massasoit Road. Sanctuary admission is free for Mass Audubon members, seniors 65+, and Worcester residents; \$4 for non-members. Contact leader: Kristin Steinmetz, kristin@massbutterflies.org or 508-831-7044.

Saturday, June 13, 10am

Myles Standish State Forest, Carver
(Bentley Loop)

Part 2 of 3 walks focused on phenology in MSSF. Attendance of other parts is **not** required. Come learn about the ecology of the forest as it transitions into late spring. Walk through the fields in search of hairstreaks, eastern-tailed blues, pearl crescents, and other **late spring** species. This walk is designed to be slow-paced and friendly to all levels of butterfly watching. Beginners welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Saturday, June 20, 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. Small donations to the Middleboro Conservation Commission are welcome on this trip, but not required.

Sunday, June 21, 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.

Saturday, June 27, 10 am

Mountain Meadow Preserve in Williamstown

We will walk about a mile along mowed paths through fields of Milkweed, Bergamot, Dogbane, Joe-pye weed, Golden Rod and New England Asters. We might find Monarchs, assorted Skippers, Wood Nymphs, Pearl Crescents, Swallowtails and Sulphurs. Meet at parking lot off of Mason Street. (From the intersection of Rts. 2 and 7 in Williamstown, take Rt. 7 north for 1.7 mi. Bear right onto Mason St. (steep dirt road uphill) and follow to entrance and parking (10 cars)). Some places may be wet so waterproof shoes a good idea. Bring water and lunch.

Leader: Paul Seaman (978) 471-2802 or paul.seaman048@gmail.com.

Saturday June 27, 10am

Francis Crane Reserve in Falmouth – **NEW location**

Survey butterfly diversity at the Crane Reserve. Look for Monarchs, Spicebush and Tiger Swallowtails, Baltimore Checkerspot and Gossamer Wings along with Skippers. Possibly Hummingbird Moths. Off Cape— Rt. 495 to Bourne Bridge then turn South on Rt 28. Eventually take Rt 151 East to Francis Crane Reserve in North Falmouth. Go straight on dirt road about 1/4 mile and park next to Model Airplane Airfield. Bring lunch and water. Trails are easy walking. If wet-bring water proof shoes or boots. Leader: Tor Hansen (413) 663-1767 or torhansen1946@gmail.com. Contact Tor if attending, by phone or email.

Sunday, June 28, 10am

Sedge Meadow Conservation Area, Wayland – **NEW location**

Explore this 93.1 acre Conservation area which borders the Sudbury River and is home to many grassland birds. Our butterfly species list will assist the Wayland Conservation Commission in their ongoing restoration efforts at the site. Begin at the Black Cat Farm parking area, 46 Glezen Lane, Wayland to search for butterflies in the first large field, which includes an area that has been under active restoration with native plants. Then we'll drive a short distance to the second parking lot, 48 Moore Road, Wayland to explore a second large field. More information on Sedge Meadow and a map is available [here](#). From there, we will visit a private property managed for a variety of mini-habitats, including a small front meadow, a wet meadow in progress, a native-weeds-friendly mini-forest, and a cottage pollinator garden. Contact leader, Peter Loshin at peter@massbutterflies.org or (617) 549-4514.

Sunday, July 5th, 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, and Mulberry Wing. Insect repellent is recommended. For meeting location, contact leader Barbara Volkle at barb620@theworld.com or (508) 410-6017.

Saturday, July 11, 10am

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

Part 3 of 3 walks focused on phenology in MSSF. Attendance of other parts is **not** required. Come learn about the ecology in full summer bloom. Walk through the fields in search of monarchs, skippers, hairstreaks, and other **summer** species. This walk designed to be slow-paced and friendly to all levels of butterfly watching. Beginners welcome. Contact Blake Dinius, BDinius@PlymouthCountyMA.gov or 774-773-3404.

Saturday, July 11, 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.

Sunday, July 19, 9am-12noon

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 (phone call or text preferred).

Saturday, July 25, 9:30am to mid-day – NEW Date

Birds & Butterflies – Mt. Jefferson Conservation Area, Hubbardston

This conservation area features several roadside fields and wooded paths and trails. We can usually expect a good variety of butterfly and bird species. We'll initially look and listen for late-summer breeding bird species and their fledglings, as well as unexpected birds that may already have dispersed from their usual nesting areas. If/when the sun warms the landscape, we should start to see butterflies foraging in the fields. There are opportunities to use shaded areas if it becomes uncomfortably hot. If there is interest, we'll visit a nearby DCR-owned property in search of Silver-bordered Fritillary. Bring water/beverage, snacks. If needed, please use natural insect repellent only. Restrooms at Mr. Mike's on Main Street.

Please pre-register by contacting leader Wendy Howes at warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com.

** Butterfly watchers may choose to arrive later than 9:30 a.m. Just let Wendy know. **

Sunday July 26, 10am

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

Sunday August 2, 10am - NEW Trip

Cranberry Bog, Carlisle

The Cranberry Bog in Carlisle has not been commercially active since 2016, but it is a good place to look for insects while walking the flat, graveled trails. Possible species include Silver-bordered and Variegated Fritillaries, Broad-winged Skipper, Appalachian Brown and Viceroy. We'll also check out some of the 70+ species of dragonfly and damselfly recorded at this site. Co-sponsored by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation. Meet at the parking area next to the Bog House, 750 Curve Street. No need to rsvp, but for more information, contact leader Alan Ankers alankers@comcast.net.

Sunday August 2, 10:30am

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 10:30am. 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. Leader: Harvey Allen at (413) 207-7272 (preferred) or harveyallen979@gmail.com

Saturday, August 8, 12-4pm (tentative date)

19th 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 15, 10:30am

Fannie Stebbins Refuge in Longmeadow and Forest Park, Springfield

Searching 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. Rain date: Sunday August 16.

Contact Leaders: Moe O'Connor 413.732.3296 moe.oconnor7@gmail.com or Steve Moore and Barbara Volkle at barb620@theworld.com or (508) 410-6017.

Sunday, August 16, 9:00am to afternoon

Birds & Butterflies – Mass Audubon Lake Wampanoag Sanctuary

This property features a large expanse of open wildflower fields with mowed pathways. The fields are mowed once in the fall. The property also includes a small pond and a forest holding red spruce and balsam fir. We can usually find a good assortment of birds and butterflies here. While the birds are quiet at this time of year, they may be found taking advantage of the seed crop and the cool forest.

Birders may wish to leave at mid-day. Butterfly-watchers may wish to arrive later and stay later. Raymond Street, Gardner - Directions may be found at <https://www.massaudubon.org/places-to-explore/wildlife-sanctuaries/lake-wampanoag>. Parking at the end of Raymond Street. No restrooms. Bring snacks/lunch/beverage if you wish.

Please pre-register by contacting leader Wendy Howes at warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com.

Saturday, September 5, 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 6.** 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 12 (rain date Sept 13), 10am

Beaver Brook, Haydenville, MA – **NEW location**

Join us as we explore this new, 250 acre property, just acquired by The Trustees in July, 2025. This former 9-hole golf course is being slowly transformed, with the intention of restoring the diverse habitats within the site. Already it is a beautiful, open space, with meadows, wetlands, and forest, a cold-water stream, and lots of edge habitat. Expect to find new species for the site that will assist The Trustees with their re-wilding goals. Bring lunch or snacks. Address: 183 Main Street (Rt. 9), Haydenville, MA; park in the lot by the buildings. Contact Bill Benner or Joe Wicinski at 413-320-4422 to register or for more details. You can read more about the place here: [Rewild Beaver Brook](#)

Saturday, September 19, 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 20.** 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.

Sunday, September 20, 10am

Northampton Community Gardens

Meet at the Northampton Community Gardens in search of LATE or rare migrants.

No rain date. Leaders: Steve Moore and Barbara Volkle at barb620@theworld.com or (508) 410-6017.