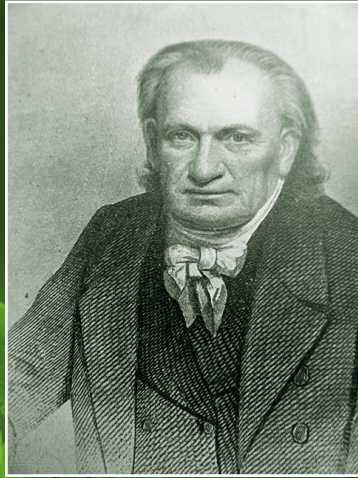
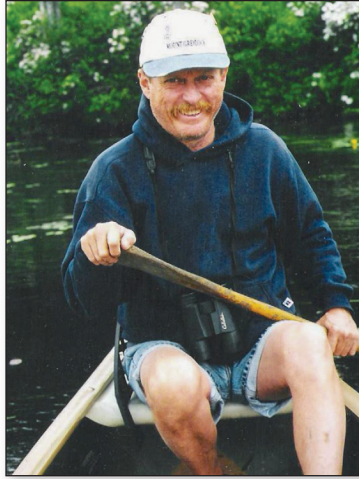


SECOND ANNUAL
Berkshire Natural History Conference



Amos Eaton: Botanist, Geologist, Educator 1776 - 1842

Saturday, November 5, 2016
MCLA's Church Street Center



In Honor of Dave St. James and all the past Berkshire Naturalists

In the summer of 2014 we lost another one of our noted field naturalists, Dave St. James.

He was a biologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and an indefatigable recorder of the plants and animals that live in remote corners of the Berkshires.

An avid reader of historical text, an ardent chronicler of natural events, and a truly selfless sharer of knowledge, Dave was one of a long line of great Berkshire naturalists.

A well-attended gathering in his memory, held in 2014 at the historic barn at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, was the impetus for the idea of an annual conference celebrating Berkshire natural history and the past naturalists who have made large and small contributions to current efforts to preserve and protect our little corner of the planet.

Thanks, Dave, for all you have contributed and to all the past, current, and future Berkshire naturalists!



SECOND ANNUAL
Berkshire Natural History Conference

November 5, 2016

Hosted by: MCLA, North Adams, MA

EXHIBITS & EXHIBITORS

Orion Magazine

Near Registration in Science Center

MCLA Bookstore-Brickman's Books, et al

Venable Gym at lunch (12:30 only)

Downstairs - Church Street Center

One-World Conservation -Bennington, VT.

MassWildlife

Robin Brickman, Artist and Author

Lauren Stevens - Book Signing

Peter Alden - Binos and Books

Mass Audubon - Berkshire Sanctuaries

B.E.A.T.

Jay Cordeiro - Bookseller and Naturalist

Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Ctr.

Dept. of Cons & Recreation - Alec Gilman

The Nature Conservancy

Housatonic Valley Association

Housatonic River Revival

Lisa Provencher – Bioblitz

Valeri Carrigan – Artwork

The First and Great Silent Auction

Near the Registration Table (Science Center Atrium)

Take the Berkshire Natural History Quiz

- AND WIN!

Lab Room FCSI 117 (Behind Registration Table in Science Center)

Berkshire Natural History Conference Committee

Dan Shustack, Tom Tynning, Laura Saldarini, Matt Kelly, Charlie Kaminski, Christopher Nye, Ed Neumuth, Gina Foley, Audrey Werner, Elena Traister, Rene Wendell, Becky Cushing, Morgan Bulkeley, Tim Hickey, Bruce Winn, Chip Blake, Kim Seward, Jonathan Pierce, Pam Weatherbee, Eleanor Tillinghast, Jane Winn, Drew Jones, Anne Goodwin, Steve McMahon.

A Message from the Committee:

Amateur and professional naturalists have long noted the rich biological landscape that makes Berkshire County unique in the state and the region. For about two centuries, European explorers, biologists, and today's homegrown naturalists have continued to add to the wealth of information that confirms the almost dizzying combination of geologic history and ecological succession that has brought the Berkshires to the biologically rich condition seen today.

The Berkshire Natural History Conference will be moved around Berkshire County each year, hosted by various organizations and planned by a group of dedicated field naturalists and others interested in developing educational opportunities for people of all ages. Berkshire Community College is a major player, as are MCLA and various environmental groups throughout the region. Initial support originated from a 413 Stem-Ready grant (BCC), Orion magazine, and Green Berkshires, Inc.

The BCC Foundation has set up an easy to use page for donations — please consider supporting the Berkshire Natural History Conference: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=berkshirecc&id=9>.

This Year's Berkshire Natural History Conference

is sponsored by:

Berkshire Community College <http://www.berkshirecc.edu/>
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts . . . <http://www.mcla.edu/>
Green Berkshires <http://www.greenberkshires.org/>
Orion Magazine <https://orionmagazine.org/>
Berkshire Environmental Action Team . . . <http://www.thebeatnews.org/>
Hoffmann Bird Club <http://www.hoffmannbirdclub.org/>
Berkshire Sanctuaries (MAS) [http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/
wildlife-sanctuaries/pleasant-valley](http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/pleasant-valley)
Hoosic River Watershed Association <http://hoorwa.org/>
Williams College Center
for Environmental Studies <https://ces.williams.edu/>

With further support from:

Your True Nature <http://www.yourtruenature.com/>

SECOND ANNUAL Berkshire Natural History Conference

Saturday November 5, 2016 🦋 Speaker Bios & Comments

Feature: Pam Weatherbee

Who Was Amos Eaton: The Man and His Legacy

The Berkshires most ardent field botanist, Pam Weatherbee grew up on a Williamstown farm where she and her brother explored the forest, fields, brooks, and rivers of north Berkshire. She became interested in plants along with butterflies, using the few books available at that time. Pam received her B.A. in Botany at Radcliffe and regained her fascination with plants when she returned to Williamstown. The recently created Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program had a need to rediscover many plants, some which had not been recorded for nearly 100 years. Her fieldwork led her to a MS from the University of New Hampshire where she began to write her Flora of Berkshire County (published in 1996) an unparalleled update of previous floras.

Michael Jones

Wood Turtles in Massachusetts

Mike Jones is the state herpetologist for MassWildlife, where he facilitates conservation programs for the Commonwealth's 24 species of native, nonmarine reptiles. He has studied New England's wonderful but imperiled wood turtles for 13 years and is co-chair of the Northeast Wood Turtle Working Group, an NGO which represents thirteen states and is dedicated to identifying and protecting significant wood turtle habitat from Maine to Virginia. Mike is a co-founder of American Turtle Observatory, a 501(c)3 dedicated to landscape conservation for at-risk North American freshwater turtles. Mike has studied turtles, amphibians, plants, and natural communities in Baja California, Arizona, Yucatan, Florida, Quebec, Newfoundland, and Labrador but he is most fond of Massachusetts. Who wouldn't be?

Steve Tilley

Mimicry in Berkshire Salamanders

A field biologist from an early age, Steve grew up in Columbus, Ohio where he spent countless hours catching butterflies, watching birds, finding snakes, and recording wildflowers. He did his undergraduate work at Ohio State and received his Zoology Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. His entire professional career was spent in Western Massachusetts as the Myra M. Sampson Professor of Biological Science at Smith College. Most of his research has been on the systematics of



southern Appalachian dusky salamanders, a center for their evolution. An active field naturalist and photographer, Steve has been involved with studying mimicry in our local Redback salamanders.

Paul Karabinos

Berkshire Geology and Landscape

Dr. Karabinos is the Charles L. MacMillian Professor of Natural Sciences at Williams College where he has taught Geology since 1983. His research specialty is plate tectonics and the evolution of mountains. Although Paul has mostly worked in the Appalachian Mountains, he has also worked in Arizona, Idaho, California, Minnesota, and Japan. His outdoor interests include hiking, cycling, Nordic skiing, and photography.

Feature: Alyssa Bennett

Cave Bats of New England

Alyssa Bennett is the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Small Mammals Biologist. She specializes in the management, conservation, and recovery of Vermont's nine bat species. Alyssa has a master's degree in behavioral neuroendocrinology from Smith College. She has a rich background in the sciences, including as an adjunct professor at Berkshire Community College.

Drew Jones

Migrant Northern Saw - Whet Owls in Berkshire County

Drew Jones is Manager of Williams College's Hopkins Memorial Forest, where he oversees educational, research, maintenance and outreach activities. He has a master's degree in forestry and has worked as a wildlife biologist and naturalist from the Southern Appalachians to the North Woods. His active public programming, including the autumn operation of a Saw-whet Owl banding station in Williamstown has reached thousands of researchers, educators, students, and the general public.

Kelly Nolan

Bugs on the Bottom - What They Tell Us About the Hoosic

J. Kelly Nolan is a senior aquatic taxonomist and the Director of Environmental Services at Watershed Assessment Associates (WAA) in Schenectady, NY. He manages all environmental field operations and oversees taxonomy services for the company. Mr. Nolan holds multiple taxonomy certifications from the Society for Freshwater Science, and is the course coordinator and an instructor for WAA's Aquatic Benthic Macroinvertebrate Identification Program. He has more than 18 years of aquatic biology and taxonomy experience.



Feature: Elizabeth Farnsworth

Go Botany: Learn about the Berkshire Flora

Elizabeth Farnsworth, Ph.D. is Senior Research Ecologist with the New England Wild Flower Society, and a biologist, educator, and scientific illustrator. She is currently directing a project to develop the Society's first online courses for teaching botany. She co-directed a National Science Foundation-funded project to develop the award-winning Go Botany web application: a comprehensive guide to all of the plants of New England. She is co-author or illustrator of seven books, including the Peterson Field Guide to the Ferns and the Flora Novae-Angliae. She has served on the science faculties of Smith College, Hampshire College, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the University of Rhode Island, and the Conway School of Landscape Design. She has conducted biological research in many ecosystems around the world, from mangroves to salt marshes to forests, with a focus on plant physiological and evolutionary responses to climate change and the conservation biology of rare plants.

Feature: Joan Edwards

A Flower's Eye-View of Pollination

Joan Edwards is a field ecologist with special interests in botany. Her research focuses on plant-animal interactions from pollination to herbivory. Her early work was on the impact of moose on plants in the boreal forests of Isle Royale National Park. Her current work focuses on pollination, a mutualism between flowers and their pollinators, which is critical to understand in the face of global pollinator decline and loss of species worldwide. Her recently developed technique, which records near-complete records of visitors to flowers, is changing the way we look at pollination systems. She has a special research interest in understanding the biomechanics and adaptive significance of ultra-fast plant movements—plant actions that are so quick they occur on the order of milliseconds. She uses high-speed video (up to 100,000 fps) to study the biomechanics of fast movements including the trebuchet catapults of bunchberry dogwood, the vortex rings of Sphagnum moss, and the splash cups of liverworts.

Joan is Professor and Chair of the Biology Department at Williams College where she has been a faculty member since 1979. At Williams she teaches courses in Ecology, Plant Systematics and Conservation Biology. She completed her Ph.D. in Botany at the University of Michigan where she also did her undergraduate studies. She is the Washington Gladden 1859 Professor of Biology and is also a faculty member in the Environmental Studies Program at Williams.





SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

Save the Date!

Saturday, October 14, 2017 AT BCC!