

Thornton Burgess Nature Club - 2018

The Green Briar Nature Center is excited to announce a new adult program starting in April that will explore a variety of naturalist topics through all seasons. The Thornton Burgess Nature Club draws its inspiration from Burgess's passion for natural history and learning. In the first half of the 20th century, Burgess authored 172 nature based children's books, produced a syndicated natural history newspaper column and radio show, and founded the Green Meadow Club, an environmental education and conservation club for children and families that heralded a new understanding of the delicate interrelations between species, as well as a new attitude towards conservation. To Burgess, nature was the universal teacher. Much has changed in the more than 100 years since Burgess began his environmental efforts, but the need to understand the natural world is greater than ever. Gone but not forgotten, the Thornton Burgess Nature Club breathes new life into Burgess's passion for naturalist studies and field observation.

Just as Burgess's interests were as broad and diverse as the landscapes and wildlife he chronicled in his stories, so too will this program explore a wide range of natural history topics. Join us on monthly expert-led walks with topics ranging from entire habitats down to individual species. With monthly meetings spanning April through December, this program is designed not only to allow participants to delve deeper into subjects of interest, but also to help them recognize and observe seasonal changes in our local ecosystems. The only requirement is a curiosity for the natural world.

Program:

May 5 - **Salt Marsh** led by Nancy Wigley

We will explore the salt marsh habitat surrounding Scorton Creek. The walk will focus on the history (geological story, depth of peat and how formed, salt works, staddles, etc.), the plants, and the animals (marine algae, birds, invertebrates, etc.) of the salt marsh. Foot-wear that can get wet is encouraged to be able to get into the creek and explore.

June 2 - **Wildflowers** led by Janice Dill

We will use the Wild Flower Garden at Green Briar as the main component of our classroom and incorporate Thornton Burgess's connection to wildflowers. June is a transition month between spring and summer in the garden. We will examine the various stages of a wildflower's life - from budding to bloom, to seed setting and dying back - from shade loving to full sun. We will engage all our senses in our learning experience. We will hike Smiling Pool and see what remains of spring ephemerals in the forest. And in the end, get a little dirty and be better for it.

July 7 - **Butterflies** led by Marjorie Williams

We will be using the Butterfly House and Pollinator Path at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History to start things off. Then there will be a presentation about pollination with questions and answers in the museum auditorium followed by a 'Walk and Talk' of various gardens around the museum. This will focus on plants that make for some of the best butterfly and pollinator plants and how they can be used in various garden settings, large and small.

August 4 - **Beach Walk** led by Elise Leduc

We will explore Town Neck Beach at low tide to allow us to examine the rocky intertidal shore and the tide pools that form. We will search for various invertebrates, such as crabs, mollusks and echinoderms, as well as various seaweeds and other attached biota. We will also examine the wrack line for interesting marine biofacts, as well as discuss the impact of beach dynamics and coastal

processes, and various management actions coastal municipalities can take to preserve and restore natural habitats.

September 8 - **Birding** led by Gretchen Moran Towers

We will be exploring the grounds and trails that encompass both Green Briar Nature Center and the Smiling Pool, before heading over to the Cape Cod Canal. While we hike the woody trails, we will observe and identify bird species we encounter. This walk and talk will also include discussions along our way that touch on Birdwatching For Beginners, an interactive presentation designed with key points to be conscious of while outdoors, with birds as the focus. Dressing in layers is encouraged, with long pants and appropriate footwear a must. Binoculars, bug spray and a hat are highly recommended.

October 6 - **Wild Food** led by Rachel Goclowski

We will begin the morning with an introductory presentation inside the Education Building focusing on foraging basics. This introduction will cover foraging Safety, "how to", identifying edibles, foraging throughout the seasons, collection, preparation and preservation, and foraging ethics. From there, before we will set out on the Green Briar grounds to forage, applying all the things we learned during the briefing while we collect.

November 3 - **Insects in Winter** led by Hannah Nadel

We will gather at Talbot's Point and familiarize ourselves with a few examples of wintering stages and signs of insects, present and gone. We will then walk slowly through mixed woodland to find insects and their galleries, galls, and pupal chambers in living and dead plants, leaf litter, soil, and other feeding and hiding places. Our focus this time will be on the terrestrial environment. Hand lenses or binoculars (to view "backwards") are encouraged for exploring this miniature world.

December 1 - **Migrant Winter Birds** led by Gretchen Moran Towers

With the changing of the seasons, there is a changing of the migrants as well. Enjoy a bird walk focusing on discovering where the migrants spend their winter. Walk along the Cape Cod Canal and travel to a fresh water kettle pond to observe the birds we only get to enjoy during the colder months on Cape Cod.

Instructor Bios:

Gretchen Moran Towers

Gretchen Moran Towers is the Education Coordinator at Green Briar Nature Center and has taught lessons in forest ecology, salt marsh ecology and pond ecology through Project LIFE and the Thornton W. Burgess Society. She is a naturalist and educator at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, presenting Birdwatching For Beginners, leading bird walks; Tuesday Tweets, and is a KidSummer Counselor at the museum, leading the Birding 101 course for several years. The lure of creatures has always drawn Gretchen to nature and birds are an ideal connector while hiking on a woody trail, a sandy beach, or a flowering meadow. She has served as a volunteer at Cape Wildlife Center and the New England Aquarium. Also known as the Cape Cod Bird Nerd, Gretchen documents bird lists from bird walks along with photo documentation on her blog: capecodbirdnerd.com

Nancy Wigley

Nancy Wigley is retired from the Falmouth School System and for the past 10 years has taught forest ecology and salt marsh ecology through Project LIFE (lessons in field ecology) to public school students on the Upper Cape. Nancy has long had a strong interest in botany and is an active member

of the Botanical Club of the Cape and Islands the New England Botanical Club, and has served as a rare plant monitor for the New England Wildflower Society. She has also led field walks for the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. While at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, she also wrote two books, *Trailside Treasures - Plants of Cape Cod* and *Looking at Lichens - A Journey of Discovery Beginning on Cape Cod*.

Janice Dill

Janice Dill is the manager of the Shirley G. Cross Wildflower Garden at the Green Briar Nature Center, overseeing the care of many rare and unique plants. Before this position she worked for a landscape architect, developing her understanding of dynamic garden scapes. Later she worked for the Town of Weymouth Park Department as an assistant administrator to urban park management. For the past ten years she has been growing much of her family's food, beverages, herbs and remedies with wildflowers scattered in between. A recent joy has been co-organizing the Environmental Challenge Group for children and adults to better understand ones impact on the natural environment, as consumers of resources, and how to live more sustainably. Finally, as a part of the Project LIFE team, Janice had the opportunity to teach local ecology to young children and worked along side many of Cape Cod's esteemed naturalists.

Marjorie Williams

Marjorie Anne Williams works for The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History as the Animal Care Coordinator. She is responsible for over two hundred animals at the museum year round and during the summer the Butterfly House and the Pollinator Gardens. Marjorie also teaches at the museum and as an outreach speaker on a variety of topics. Marjorie graduated from The New York Botanical Garden's School of Professional Horticulture in 1985. She had her own business, 'A Wild Idea!' for 30 years where she specialized in native plant restoration, formal and informal gardens, wetland, vegetable, fruit and mixed woodland environments.

Elise Leduc

Elise Leduc is a Coastal Scientist at the Woods Hole Group, where she regularly performs coastal habitat assessments, and eelgrass and shellfish surveys and is certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist. Prior to working at Woods Hole Group, she served as an educator at a coastal North Carolina facility and the New England Aquarium. In the last five years, she has also served as a volunteer monitor for MassAudubon, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance.

Rachel Goclowski

Rachel Goclowski is a Massachusetts Certified Educator, Foraging Instructor, Programming Partner with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and Scouts of Eastern MA. For her "day job," she is a US Army Information Technology Specialist. You can find lots of wild food postings and tips on her web page, <http://www.facebook.com/cookingwithmrsg>

Hannah Nadel

Hannah Nadel is one of several research entomologists working on prevention, detection, and control of invasive insects at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Otis Laboratory on Joint Base Cape Cod. Among her current projects is determining which exotic wood-boring forest pests are being transported into the U.S. in wood used to manufacture pallets and crates. She has led several nature trips and walks in the U.S. and Canada, focusing on insects, mushrooms, birds, and the ecology of southern Florida. She has yet to meet an insect she doesn't like.