

Northern Woodlands Field Day Program

Saturday, August 20, 2022

Thetford Academy, 304 Academy Road, Thetford, Vermont

Special Thanks to our Sponsor: The Bailey Charitable Foundation

8:30 – 9:15 am Registration – *Tent A*

9:15– 10:15 am Welcome & Keynote Plenary Session | *Theater, Anderson Bld.*

Telling the Bald Eagle’s Story: A Narrative of Nature, History, and More, with Jack E. Davis

“Why write about bald eagles?” This and many other questions will be addressed as the presentation trowels into the challenges and rewards of writing about a symbol and species. Doing so required pulling together science, history, and popular culture into a narrative that appeals not only to a broad audience but also a politically diverse one.

10:15 – 10:30 am Break

10:30 –12:00 pm Workshop Session A

A1. Forestry Woods Walk with Ethan Tapper

Tent A & Trail | Limit: 15

Take a walk in the woods with Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper. Ethan will discuss the history of Vermont’s forests and how we can manage them using ecological forestry techniques for wood, water, carbon, biodiversity and climate resilience.

A2. Setting Up Your Own Seasonal Nature Journal with Clare Walker Leslie

Outdoor Classroom | Limit: 25

Participants will learn simple techniques for setting up an ongoing Nature Journal for where they live. Simple notations for plant, tree, bird, animal, even landscape shapes will be shown. Clare Walker Leslie has been teaching Nature Journaling for many years and has published 14 books about connecting with nature using writing and drawing. Bring something to draw with and on. No previous drawing or writing skills necessary.

A3. Everyday Wild: How Common Wildlife Connects Us to Place with Susie Spikol

Science Bld #112 (Science 4) | Limit: 20

There are wild animals all around us every moment of every day. Whether it’s hearing the chickadees or holding a worm, these are the everyday creatures waiting to wake up our curiosity. Start with the small things in nature and discover how everyday wild can ignite compassion and move us towards stewardship.

A4. Fungi & Community Science: A Woodland Mushroom Walk with Meg Madden

Main Tent & Trail | Limit: 15

Are you fungi-curious? Do you see interesting mushrooms in your travels and wish you knew more about these fascinating organisms? This workshop will explore the woods and learn about the mushrooms we find along the way including what they are, how to identify them, and the essential roles that these fungi play in woodland ecology. We will also talk about the importance of community science, learn tips and tricks for taking research grade mushroom photos, and go over the basics of how to upload high quality observations to iNaturalist. Wear comfortable walking shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and bring your questions and curiosity! Please bring a smartphone equipped with the iNaturalist app.

A5. Writing the Outdoors: It's Not Just About Nature with Kateri Kosek

Tent B & Trail | Limit: 12

The most compelling writing that takes the natural world as its setting is rarely just about nature. How does one spice up so-called "nature writing?" Bring a notebook; we'll walk, observe, reflect, and write about the immediate surroundings and places you already know. We'll try to tap into various components and layers of the landscape, while also projecting our emotions, experiences, and subjectivity onto the landscape. We'll look for elements that create tension, attempt different ways of seeing, and deepen our powers of rendering the outdoors memorably, while steering clear of the clichéd.

A6. Design, Construction and Maintenance of Non-Motorized, Recreational Trails with John Morton

Science Bld #111 (Science 5) | Limit: 15

The first half of this session will include a power point presentation covering the design, construction and maintenance of recreational trails illustrated by photos, maps and diagrams. The second segment of the presentation will be a short, inspection walk on Thetford Academy's Dan Grossman Woods Trail to illustrate some of the topics covered in the power point.

12:00 – 1:00 pm **Lunch – Main Tent**

1:00 – 2:30 pm **[Workshop Session B](#)**

B1. Woods Walk with Scott Ellis: Come on a Quest

Tent A & Trail | Limit: 15

In this workshop participants will embark on a Valley Quest to learn about the rich history of the Thetford Academy and Thetford Hill State Forest. Questing is a place-based education model of creating and exchanging treasure hunts in order to collect and share your community's distinct natural and cultural heritage.

B2. Forest Bathing with Susie Spikol and Marilyn Wyzga

Tent B & Trail | Limit: 12

Come ready to immerse yourself in nature, slow down, and spend some time recharging your spirit and reconnecting with the natural world. Join Harris Center naturalist, Susie Spikol, and certified yoga instructor and environmental educator, Marilyn Wyzga, to explore the practice of shinrin yoku/forest bathing, sensory tuning, gentle outdoor yoga, and moving meditation.

B3. Introduction to Ornithological Illustration with Liz Wahid

Science Bld #112 (Science 4) | Limit: 12

Join Certified Science Illustrator Liz Wahid in this workshop which will introduce you to the world of Ornithological Illustration. Participants will learn the basics of illustrating birds with guidance on navigating their tricky anatomy and see how drawing birds can enhance the birding experience. Follow along with the live demo to create an accurate bird illustration of your own. No previous drawing experience needed!

B4. Don't Call It Majestic: A Writing Workshop with Jack E. Davis

Outdoor Classroom | Limit: 12

In this interactive workshop, we will talk about the writing process as an idiosyncratic endeavor that, like developing a writing voice, needs to be discovered. Next, after discussing elements integral to style and presentation, we will saunter outside to observe the surroundings with all our senses, and each participant will then use those senses to write a short descriptive passage that will be shared with the group.

B5. Beyond Trail Cameras with Janet Pesaturo and Robert Zak

Science Bld #111 (Science 5) | Limit: 15

In this combined indoor presentation and outdoor demo, we take you beyond the trail and beyond the standard game camera. Bob will cover the technology of both trail cameras and DSLR camera traps, and Janet will discuss smart camera placement based on reading landscape features and interpreting animal tracks and sign. After the presentation we will go outdoors and set up both a game camera and a DSLR camera trap.

B6. Climate Resilience and Adaptation for Vermont's Forests with Dr. Alexandra Kosiba

Theater, Anderson Bld.

Climate change is impacting forests in many complex ways, and these threats are creating an uncertain future for our forests and forest economy. In this workshop, Dr. Kosiba will provide the latest information about climate change's impacts on our forests, and what actions can be taken by landowners and practitioners to make our forests and forest economy more resilient to climate change, as well as to ensure that they remain healthy and productive for the future. Dr. Kosiba will also solicit feedback from attendees about a new collaborative project underway to provide resources for improving resilience and adaptation in Vermont's forests and the people that depend on them.

C1. Forestry Woods Walk with Ethan Tapper

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C3. The Social Black Bear with Ben Kilham

Theater, Anderson Bld.

Black bears, thought to be solitary, have a type of social behavior that possibly parallels early human behavior. They show evidence of reciprocal altruism, matri-linear hierarchy, and a mix of intentional and emotional communication. Bears can live as long as forty years, which allows them long-term benefits from forming relationships with fellow cooperators.

C4. Saving the Endangered Lady's Slippers of Northern New England with Dr. Peter Faletra

Tent B | Limit: 15

In this workshop you will learn about the three endangered species of lady's slipper orchids that are related to the rather common pink lady's slipper you have likely seen. We will learn about their habitats, their life cycles, how to recognize them, some places to find them, and most of all how we are figuring out how to grow them. There is a hands-on component where we prepare the slipper seeds for introduction to a sterile medium. All participants will take home their cultures and if you are lucky, you can have rare slippers in your garden.

C5. The Latest on Jumping Worms with Dr. Josef Görres: Why Do We Care and What Can We Do?

Science Bld #112 (Science 4) | Limit: 20

Jumping worms are invasive earthworms. They cause damage to forest soil structure and subsequently to forest vegetation. The talk will describe the damage, how to prevent the spread of these earthworms, and the results from the latest research on biocontrol.

C6. Woods Walk with the Caterpillar Lab

Main Tent & Trail | Limit: 15

While The Caterpillar Lab's tables will be full of their munching critters and offer lots to explore, the real story is the one going on outside where these creatures are living out their strange lives in the wild. Join a caterpillar expert on a walk around the Thetford Academy campus exploring for native caterpillars and other insects. Learn how The Caterpillar Lab finds all of their caterpillars, learn about host plants and parasitoids, and get all of the caterpillar-finding secrets from one of the foremost caterpillar hunters in New England! This walk is appropriate for naturalists, gardeners and explorers both young and old.

4:30 – 5:30 pm **Caterpillar Social** – *Main Tent*

Come meet The Caterpillar Lab as they set up a mini version of their own lab space, located in Keene, New Hampshire. This drop-in program will feature a huge variety of New England caterpillar species and there will be plenty to see and touch! Educators from The Caterpillar Lab will teach you all about metamorphosis and tell incredible but true stories about the creatures' strange and surprising adaptations. Some caterpillars may be camouflaged to look like twigs or snakes. Some may have stinging spines or brightly colored baubles. Check out some little-known native critters munching on their food plants right in front of you. Stay for a few minutes or for an hour; you're sure to see something new!