

TREASURES OF WHATELY

Friends of the Whately Library Spring Lecture Series

*Whether you live in town or have just passed through, you know there are treasures in the fields, woods, wetlands, and old buildings, and may be curious to know more. The **Friends of the Whately Library** is offering a series of free talks and a walk with chances to look, listen, and bring questions to experts in nature and history*

Wildflower Treasures of Whately Monday April 6, 7:00 p.m at the Whately Library

Whately's floodplains, swamps, forests, and fields harbor diverse wildflowers ranging from tiny shrubs like mayflower and wintergreen to giant herbs like great Solomon's seal and cow parsnip. Information about wildflowers, the history of botanical study, and how to use field guides to identify plants in the field will accompany photographs of spring wildflowers.



photo courtesy of cacaponriver.org

Presented by Connie Parks who leads walks for Mass Audubon's Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries and for the Smith College Botanic Garden. She is a freelance editor, a former Whately resident, who is also involved in the New England Wild Flower Society's Plant Conservation Volunteer program, putting into practice her Smith and UMass degrees in plant science.

Amphibians of Massachusetts Wednesday April 22, 7:00 p.m at the Whately Library

As spring settles in for good and the vernal pools and other wetlands are full of water, there is no better time observe frogs and salamanders. This talk will focus on the emergence of vernal pool breeding amphibians such as wood frogs, Jefferson and spotted salamanders. You will learn how to find pond breeders like the bullfrog, green and pickerel frogs, and red-spotted newt and the three species of salamanders that prefer stream environments.

Scott Jackson is a wildlife biologist who serves as Program Director for the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He has taught courses and workshops on conservation, biodiversity, and many aspects of New England natural history. He also serves as a member of the Whately Conservation Commission.



Photo by Marly Klein marlykleinart.com

Spring Naturalist Walk Saturday May 9, 9:30 am to noon meet at the Whately Library to carpool.

Enjoy an exploration in search of signs of the spring season. Birds and their calls, spring blooming flowers and shrubs, salamanders and frogs ... we'll search for whatever we can find. Learn to identify your discoveries and share details about the lives of our local plants and



Photo by Louise Griffin Burns

animals. Meet at the Library parking lot to carpool to the trail head. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. The hike is appropriate for adults and young people aged ten and up.

Ted Watt, naturalist and educator with the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst for over 25 years, enjoys observing nature and seeing connections in the natural world. His approach is fun, casual and accessible.

Historical Treasures Monday May 11, 7 pm at the Town Hall

Neil Sanderson, who grew up near Quonquont Farm, and delivered milk for Fairview Farm, will discuss the history of local dairy farms and orchards. Fred Bardwell will talk about the early mills along West Brook and how the first Northampton reservoir brought about a loss of water power which affected both mills and family farms. Lois Bean will take us through time to the early 1800s, when about twenty potters were established in Whately, not only busily making containers for beer and corned beef, but also teaching other potters who set up kilns across New England. All speakers are long-time residents and dedicated members of the Whately Historical Society.



All events are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served at the talks. For more information, or to check out nature guides or books on local history, please visit the Whately Library, open Monday & Wednesday: 10 am to 8 pm and Saturday: 9 am to 3 pm Or call the library at 665-2170 or Sara at 665-0537.