

Natural Selections

The Penobscot Valley Audubon Newsletter



June – August 2026

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

Connection, Conservation, and New Beginnings

BY SEAN TRAHAN, PRESIDENT
PENOBSCOT VALLEY AUDUBON

Summer will soon be in full swing, offering many opportunities to connect with nature and with one another. We recently concluded our annual May Bird Walk series. It was a wonderful success thanks to the dedication of our board members, community volunteers, and all who participated. Fields Pond Audubon Center is bustling with summer activities, and I encourage members to explore their many upcoming programs and events at maineaudubon.org/events and in this newsletter. Whether hiking the trails, paddling Fields Pond, or attending a summer program or field trip, there are many ways to enjoy and appreciate spending time in nature with your wildlife community this season.

I'd like to personally invite all chapter members and prospective members to attend Penobscot Valley Audubon's Annual Meeting on Friday, June 12. It kicks off with a potluck supper starting at 6 p.m., followed by a short business meeting and then the featured program. Our guest speaker is the 2025 winner of the Inez Boyd Environmental Scholarship Award (IBERA), University of Maine Ph.D. candidate Holland Haverkamp. He will present his research using eDNA to identify the amphibians and other vertebrate species that use vernal pools on Sears Island, and discuss how existing populations, species diversity, and habitat suitability are likely to be affected by a proposed development of an offshore wind port on the island.

Summer also brings new beginnings for our statewide Maine Audubon organization. We extend our best wishes and gratitude to Andy Beahm in his retirement, and warmly welcome Judy Camuso as the new President of Maine Audubon. Judy brings more than 25 years of wildlife conservation and leadership experience to the position, most recently as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. We look forward to working with her in the years to come.

I hope you will take time this summer to enjoy the outdoors, participate in local programs, and share in the beauty of Maine. For questions or more information about Penobscot Valley Audubon, please contact me at Sean. Trahan@gmail.com.

WELCOME TO PVC NEW & REJOINING MEMBERS!

Patti Betters, Brewer
Jessica Black, Veazie
Joe Caso, Winterport
Molly Crouse & Everett Ottinger, Newburgh
Michael Curtis, Orrington
Annie & Bob Cutler, Bangor
Amy Damboise, Belfast
Katherine Darling & Sara McFarland, Bangor
Danielle D'Auria, Orrington
Lindi Donovan, Hampden
Heather Keslin-Sharbaugh & Matthew Sharbaugh, Bangor
Sharon Lindale, Bucksport
Rob Mocarsky, Bucksport
Holly & Dan Nessly, Orrington
Sigrid Noack, Bangor
Kristi Potter, Glenburn
Leslie Ranta-Watt & Craig Watt, Greenville
Abigail Rice & Mariana Calderon, Orono
Johanna Richlin, Orono
Jennifer Riefler, Verona Island
Samantha Sutton, Holden
Diane Tennies, Bangor
Diane Vatne, Old Town
Kathryn Walker, Holden
Cassandra & Joshua Wallace, Hampden
Maureen Walsh, Bangor
Qian Zhang & Hao Hong, Bangor

Black & White Warbler
Photo credit: Ron Logan

MAINE AUDUBON

Penobscot Valley Audubon

Natural Selections

Natural Selections is published four times a year by Penobscot Valley Audubon. Maine Audubon members living in the Penobscot Valley region automatically become chapter members and receive *Natural Selections* at no additional charge. Membership in Maine Audubon costs per year:

\$50 household; \$40 individual
\$30 senior/volunteer

Membership benefits include a discount on programs and purchases at all Maine Audubon stores as well as a subscription to the quarterly periodical *Habitat*.

The chapter offers a weekly email service to remind members about upcoming events in our region plus electronic delivery of this newsletter upon request. Please email Jim Zeman, PVCAudubon@gmail.com to sign up for these services.

Chapter Officers

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Vice President.....Vacant
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Chapter Committee Chairs

Programs & Field Trips.....Bob Milardo

Natural Selections

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Design & Layout.....Donne Sinderson
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Visit us on the Web

<https://pvc.maineaudubon.org>
www.facebook.com/penobscotvalleyaudubon



FIELDS POND JOURNAL

Collaboration in Conservation

By David Lamon

Director, Northern Programs & Operations

The work we do to conserve Maine's wildlife can be even more impactful when we collaborate with organizations that support our mission. This summer, Maine Audubon is embarking on a new partnership with Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC), a nonprofit land conservation organization in Downeast Maine. FBC has conserved more than 6300 acres of land since the late 1980s. In 2023, FBC purchased the former Bar Harbor Golf Course along the Jordan River in Trenton, Maine. This 183-acre preserve features tidal salt marsh, wetlands, grasslands, and forested areas.

Over the past few years, FBC has focused on restoring tidal salt marshes that were dammed and flooded to create a pond hazard for the golf course. Once this project is complete, the restored habitat will support at least 39 coastal-dependent and migratory bird species identified as high conservation priorities, plus nine diadromous fish species, some of which are considered rare and highly vulnerable to climate change. Habitat restoration efforts are still underway, and the preserve will not officially open to the public until 2027. As that important work continues, FBC has invited Maine Audubon to organize a limited series of themed, guided walks to explore the Jordan River Preserve this summer. These walks will serve as a pilot program for continued future collaboration in developing public programming, interpretative signage, and access guidelines for the preserve. The lessons learned over the course of this summer will help both organizations evaluate the potential for ongoing education and conservation assistance from Maine Audubon at this special site. Space will be limited on these naturalist-led walks, and pre-registration is required. We hope you can join us for one or all of them!

FPAC wish list: please keep us in mind for donations of older child-size (or small adult) life vests in good condition, as well as any hand tools you're no longer using. We especially need wrenches and socket sets!



Newly installed Cliff Swallow nesting ledge at Jordan River Preserve. Cliff Swallows have nested for years on the abandoned golf clubhouse. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife installed an artificial nesting ledge in early spring to encourage the swallows to relocate before the clubhouse gets demolished. Photo credit: Frenchman Bay Conservancy

A Summer Ode to Wrens

BY BOB DUCHESNE

I present an ode to wrens. While most songbirds quiet down in summer, wrens remain delightfully vocal.

Wrens are chatty, down-to-earth birds, shunning the treetops. Although they are generally a nondescript streaky brown, their dull colors fail to conceal their vibrant personalities. Wrens are universally bold, inquisitive, and noisy. Their vocalizations can be quite complex. Wrens have the distinctive habit of cocking their tails. It makes them look even more sassy.

Five species of wren breed in Maine. The Winter Wren is the most abundant, spanning all of Maine's forestland. It forages close to the forest floor in cool, moist, thickly wooded areas with lots of downed logs and branches, virtually unnoticeable to humans except when it sings. This tiny wren belts out the most powerful, melodious tune in North America. It's not just a song, it's an aria.

In 2010, experts determined that Winter Wrens in the Pacific Northwest were actually a separate species, a taxonomic split that created the Pacific Wren. They sing a slightly different melody, and refuse to interbreed with their Winter Wren cousins. But their song has that same operatic quality.

The House Wren is a familiar suburban bird, quite comfortable living around people. It's the common backyard fussbudget in Bangor-area neighborhoods. The broad range of the House Wren extends from Canada to the southern tip of South America. In fact, its range is so broad that it was split from a single species into eight separate species in 2024. Our Maine-breeding species is now officially called the Northern House Wren.

Northern House Wrens use cavities and nest boxes if available, but they aren't picky. They will nest in

anything that offers a bit of cover, including flowerpots, boots, and watering cans. Like most wrens, they are more likely to scold humans than fear them.

The Carolina Wren is a southern bird that has expanded its range northward as the climate warms. It's already a common species in southern Maine, and increasingly familiar in other parts of the state. This species has a loud, easily recognizable "teakettle-teakettle-teakettle" song, plus a wide array of other vocalizations. It's larger than most wrens, with a distinctive white eyebrow. Carolina Wrens are barely migratory, and likely to overwinter if conditions allow it. This is one of the few wren species that will visit birdfeeders, especially in winter.

Marsh Wrens are tiny songbirds that breed and forage in cattail wetlands. They flit secretively through the reeds, and their bubbly, chattery song is noisy and incessant. They will sing day and night during the breeding season, and continue to vocalize boisterously all summer. Their numbers have dwindled due to habitat loss, but you'll still find them in dense cattail stands throughout eastern Maine.

Sedge Wrens are even smaller than Marsh Wrens, but equally vocal. They skulk around in wet meadows and sedge-grass marshes rather than cattails. More often heard than seen, Sedge Wrens are nomadic and often shift their nesting locations from year to year, making them annoyingly difficult for birders to find and for wildlife biologists to track and count. This species reaches its northeastern range limit in Maine, and habitat loss has led to precipitous declines in their numbers. They are currently classified as State Endangered, with only an estimated 50 pairs remaining.

All wrens enjoy a variable diet, gleaning insects, spiders, and invertebrates, but also feeding on seeds and berries. Their foraging habits keep them near the ground. The only time I have seen a wren high in a tree was when it was singing on territory.

These perky little birds, with their cocked tails and big, big voices, never fail to make me smile as they continue to boldly challenge me throughout the summer. Keep your eyes and ears open for them, and you'll see what I mean.



Northern House Wren
Photo credit: Bob Duchesne

FIELDS POND AUDUBON CENTER SUMMER PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise noted, all programs will be offered in-person at Fields Pond Audubon Center. Please pre-register for all programs at <https://maineaudubon.org/events>.

Maine Audubon Summer Day Camp at Fields Pond

Weekly sessions, starting June 22-August 19; no camp July 20-24
Open to students entering Grades 1-6 this fall. Each week's program of activities introduces a new theme to promote deeper knowledge and appreciation of Maine's ecosystems. Partial scholarships available. For more information and a full schedule listing, please visit <https://maineaudubon.org/education/day-camps/>.

Who Lives Along the River?

Thursday, June 4, 12-2 p.m.
FREE

Join us for an easy, family-friendly stroll along the Kenduskeag River Trail to discover and learn more about the wild creatures thriving in our own backyard. This walk will be fun and fascinating for nature-loving adults and curious kids of all ages. Bring your sense of wonder, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Co-sponsored with Bangor Beautiful.

Nocturnal & Crepuscular Creatures

Wednesday, June 10, 7-8:30 p.m.
FREE, online only; pre-register for Zoom link
This webinar will shed some light on common animals that lurk in the dark. Learn about the secret lives of our night-dwelling neighbors.

Bi-weekly Bird Walks

Fridays, June 12 & 26; July 10 & 24; August 14 & 28, 8-9:30 a.m.
FREE

Join a staff naturalist for this casual Friday morning walk series on the Fields Pond sanctuary trails. Open to all experience and ability levels.

Native Plant Workshops and Walks

Fridays, June 26, July 31, August 28, 1 p.m.
FREE

Join us this summer for workshops and walks exploring how native plants can support wildlife habitat in your local landscape. In June we'll repot our overwintering native seedlings. You can bring in the ones you started this winter, or help staff repot our inventory. In July we'll hike the sanctuary to see what's in bloom. In August we'll explore the relationship between host plants and the insects that depend on them, with tips for cultivating host plants in your own garden.

Twilight Nature Walk at Fields Pond

Saturday, July 11, 8:30-10:00 p.m.
FREE member/\$5 nonmember
Enjoy a guided tour on the sanctuary grounds, at a time when visitors are normally prohibited. Discover the sounds and sights of nature at midsummer on this quiet twilight stroll.

Night of the Nocturnal Insects

Friday, July 17, 8-10 p.m.
FREE member/\$8 nonmember
Join us for an evening of close-up insect identification and photography. We'll be setting up an insect "light trap" sheet to attract moths and other insects. Help us document new species to add to the Fields Pond sanctuary list, while getting a hands-on insect experience! Appropriate for all ages.

Birds Love Bugs!

Friday, July 31, 8-9:30 a.m.
FREE member/\$8 nonmember
This program will be held at the West Penjajawoc Grasslands, a preserve jointly managed by Bangor Land Trust and Maine Audubon. Join us to learn about Maine's aerial insectivores, such as swallows and flycatchers. Birds that catch insects on the wing are of high conservation concern, since their numbers have declined dramatically in recent decades. Meet in the WPG parking lot at the end of Fox Hollow Lane, off Essex Street in Bangor.

Annual Butterfly Festival!

Saturday, August 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
FREE
Come join us for a day of butterfly-themed fun to celebrate these beautiful pollinators! Adults and kids of all ages are encouraged to pre-register for this free family-friendly event. Tentative schedule at press time:
10-2 (all day): Insect Bioblitz, Face Painting, Crafts, and 10% discount in the Nature Store for butterfly-related merchandise and native plants – a butterfly's favorite food!
Noon: Butterfly Parade – Come dressed as your favorite butterfly, and join the parade! Music provided through a PA system.

"Whooo" Lives in the Maine Woods?

Saturday, August 15, 8:30-10 p.m.
FREE member/\$8 nonmember
Who gives a hoot at Fields Pond? Participants will learn more about the owl species that live in Maine and their adaptations, then take a short stroll to look and listen for owls on our sanctuary.

Summer Paddle Series

Marsh Birding Paddle

Sunday, June 14, 10 a.m. to noon

\$10 member/\$15 nonmember

Join us for this BYOB(oat) program to explore the Sedgeunkedunk Marsh at the outflow of Fields Pond. Immerse yourself in the habitat of some of Maine's most secretive birds with the help of a naturalist guide. Cartop your own canoe or kayak to the new Sedgeunkedunk Fishway, a town-owned park in Orrington.

Lake Ecology Paddle

Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. to noon

\$10 member/\$15 nonmember

Paddle Fields Pond to learn about the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics that make up a healthy lake ecosystem. Participants will get hands-on experience with taking water samples to assess lake health indicators. Cartop your own canoe or kayak to the Fields Pond boat landing. Canoes are also available for rent from FPAC; please call 207-989-2591 to reserve in advance.

Aquatic Plant Paddle

Saturday, July 23, 5-7 p.m.

\$10 member/\$15 nonmember

Head out onto Fields Pond to explore the world of aquatic flora. We'll get a close-up view of these unique aquatic species, many in bloom, that make Fields Pond their home. Cartop your own canoe or kayak to the Fields Pond boat landing. Canoes are also available for rent from FPAC; please call 207-989-2591 to reserve in advance.

Look out for Loons!

Wednesday, August 5, 10 a.m. to noon

\$10 member/\$15 nonmember

Paddle the pond with a naturalist to learn more about loons, common threats to their survival, and ways we can help them survive and thrive. Cartop your own canoe or kayak to the Fields Pond boat landing. Canoes are also available for rent from FPAC; please call 207-989-2591 to reserve in advance.

Summer Artist Series

Anthotypes: Explore the Darkroom in Your Garden

Saturday, June 20, 1-2:30 p.m.

\$25 member/\$40 nonmember

Appropriate for adults and children ages 8 and older. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. All materials provided.

Inspired by Malin Fabbri's book of the same name, Melissa Gallagher will introduce participants to the anthotype, a process for creating images using plant dye and the power of the sun. Learn how to capture the ephemeral charm of native plants through this form of alternative photography, which takes advantage of the fragility of plant pigments under strong sunlight to create colorful impressions of foliage and flowers. What better time to try it than during the longest and sunniest days of the year? We'll explore the science behind plant pigmentation, and become better acquainted with the ecologically vital species used in our artworks. Each participant will take home their original anthotype print, plus a second canvas prepared for a future print.

Kirie: Paper Cut Art

Tuesday, July 14, 5-9 p.m.

\$30 member/\$45 non-member

Shizuka Snyder will introduce participants to the ancient Japanese

art of Kirie, creating stencils using intricate papercutting techniques to produce colorful works of art. Participants will take home their own creations of 5x7 folded notecards, featuring native plant designs. All materials provided. Please pre-register early, as this workshop has a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 participants.

Painting Wildflowers in Watercolor

Saturday, August 8, 10 a.m. to noon

Location: Fields Pond Audubon Center

\$40 member/\$55 non-member

Cassie Sano will guide participants in capturing the essence of native wildflowers through watercolor. We will venture outdoors to select vibrant blooms, then return inside for immersive lessons and coaching in watercolor painting techniques. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist, this program offers a harmonious blend of skill-building and creativity, ensuring an enriching experience for all levels. Please pre-register early, as this workshop has a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 participants. Note: participants must provide their own art supplies. A detailed list of the tools and materials required for the class, along with Cassie's personal recommendations, will be provided at pre-registration.

Great Blue
Heron Colony
Photo credit: Ron Logan



NEW! **Jordan River Preserve Series**

All events will take place at the new Jordan River Preserve, formerly the site of the Bar Harbor Golf Course in Trenton. The property is now being managed as a tidal river nature preserve by the Frenchman Bay Conservancy, our collaborator in offering these FREE programs.

Breeding Bird Walk

Saturday, June 6, 8-9:30 a.m.

With many resident bird species defending territories and looking for mates, June is a great time to meet Maine's resident avifauna. Birding by sight and by ear, this program is accessible for beginners but provides learning opportunities for the more experienced birder as well.

Biodiversity Naturalist Walk

Thursday, June 25, 10-11:30 a.m.

Maine Audubon naturalists and participants will work as a team to identify the plants, animals, and fungi that inhabit the preserve. Sharpen your naturalist skills and document your observations to help build a biodiversity baseline inventory for this new nature preserve!

Habitat Diversity Naturalist Walk

Tuesday, July 21, 3-4:30 p.m.

Explore the different habitats that make this new Downeast Maine preserve special, while learning what plants and animals call each of them home. Discover how the interconnectivity between different habitats and ecosystems creates diverse and fascinating natural spaces that allow native plants and wildlife to survive and thrive.

Migration Season Bird Walk

Saturday, August 29, 9-11 a.m.

Join local bird guides Bob and Sandi Duchesne for a late summer bird walk, focusing on species that are preparing for migration



Jordan River Preserve
Photo credit: Frenchman
Bay Conservancy

or already en route to their winter destinations. We'll scan the skies for early southbound raptors, and check the grasslands for lingering Bobolinks, Cliff Swallows, and Northern Harriers. Then we'll

head toward the shoreline on the rising tide to look for wading birds and waterfowl on the river, and shorebirds feeding on the intertidal mud flats.

JUNE 12 ANNUAL MEETING & PROGRAM

The Penobscot Valley Audubon Annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 12 at Fields Pond Audubon Center. We'll start with a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. At 6:45 p.m., we'll hold a short business meeting to elect chapter board members and officers, followed by a presentation from the 2025 recipient of the Inez Boyd Environmental Research Award (IBERA). Holland Haverkamp, a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology and Environmental Science at the University of Maine, will present findings from his research project, entitled "Environmental DNA Reveals Vernal Pool Biodiversity in a Contested Coastal Landscape." Holland used eDNA sampling to detect the presence and concentrations of amphibians and other vertebrates in vernal pools on Sears Island. He will discuss how existing populations, species diversity, and habitat suitability could be affected by the proposed development of an offshore wind port on the island, and vice versa. Many chapter members support using Maine-produced offshore windpower to replace carbon-based energy sources but also support wildlife habitat conservation on Sears Island. While Maine's plans for offshore windpower development are currently stalled for political reasons, balancing human needs with wildlife habitat protection on Sears Island continues to merit careful consideration and continued public discussion. We hope you will join us!

PENOBSCOT VALLEY AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS – SUMMER 2026

Penobscot Valley Audubon field trips are fun ways to meet like-minded people, while learning more about the rich natural heritage of our region. Unless otherwise noted, all trips are FREE and open to the general public, although we hope you will join our Maine Audubon wildlife community if you are not already a member. Your membership dues support science-based education, conservation, and advocacy to protect native wildlife and wildlife habitat throughout Maine, including right here in the Penobscot Valley.

CITY FOREST WILDFLOWER & FERN WALK

Leaders: Laura Lewis, Tyler Kidder, & Dilly Hill
Saturday, June 6, 9-11 a.m.

Rain date: Saturday, June 13

Join three Maine Master Naturalists for a leisurely walk to view and identify some of the common wildflowers and ferns that thrive in our region. We'll start with an overview of basic botany, followed by a quick tutorial on how to spot the key differences between various types of ferns. From there we will venture down the trail, and see what flowering plants and ferns we can find in the forest. Meet at the Bangor City Forest main parking lot, at the end of Tripp Road.

BIRDS OF BANGOR CITY FOREST & ORONO BOG BOARWALK

Leaders: Nathaniel Austin and Bob Milardo
Saturday, June 13, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Join Maine Audubon Naturalist Nathaniel Austin and Maine Master Naturalist Bob Milardo for an easy, slow-paced bird walk. Over 10 species of warblers plus many other species are possible here, including bog specialties like Canada Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Suitable for all levels of birding experience. Meet in the main parking area in the Bangor City Forest at the end of Tripp Road. Co-sponsored by Orono Bog Boardwalk.

WHIP-POOR-WILL AND NIGHTHAWK PROWL

Leaders: Bob Milardo and Stephanie Lindsell
Sunday, June 28, 8-9:30 p.m.

Rain date: Monday, June 29

The ethereal sounds of American Woodcock, Hermit and Wood Thrush, Common Nighthawk, and Whip-Poor-Will can be heard after sunset within the Walden Parke Preserve, a Bangor Land Trust property. Join Bangor Land Trust Executive Director Stephanie Lindsell and Maine Master Naturalist Bob Milardo for an evening walk to look

and listen for them, along with other crepuscular species. Mosquitoes enjoy warm evenings too, so please come prepared with insect repellent, a hat, and appropriate clothing to prevent bites. Co-sponsored by Bangor Land Trust. Directions: From Essex Street heading north toward Orono and Pushaw Lake, turn right onto Walden Parke Way. Take another right onto Tamarack Trail, and drive to where the road dead-ends at the Bangor Land Trust kiosk.

SEAL ISLAND PUFFIN CRUISE

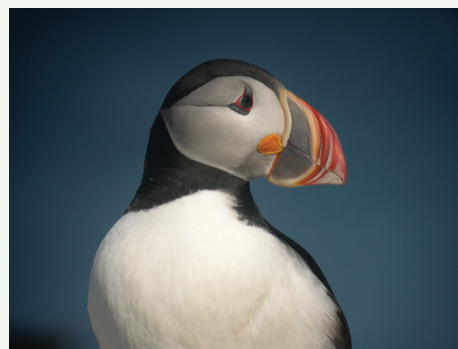
Sunday, July 12, 12:30-5:00 p.m., rain or shine

Leaders: Sandi and Bob Duchesne

Cost: \$80 adults/\$45 under 12

Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge hosts the second largest colony of Atlantic Puffins in Maine. Razorbills, Common and Arctic Terns, Great Cormorants, and Common Eiders also nest here. Other seabirds and raptors are often spotted on or near the island, and we typically get great views of harbor seals and gray seals with their pups. Check in at the ticket booth, prior to gathering at the ferry terminal in Stonington at 12:30 p.m. The boat leaves promptly at 1:00 p.m. Dress in warm layers, and don't forget your binoculars and/or camera!

Note: Space is limited, and this trip often fills quite early. Paid parking on the wharf is limited as is nearby free public parking, so allow extra travel time to secure a legal parking spot and make your way down to the boat. Make your prepaid reservations (online only) through the Isle Au Haut Boat Services website, <https://www.isleauhaut.com/>. The trip is unlikely to cancel for bad weather, since the boat has an enclosed cabin with large viewing windows in addition to plenty of open-air deck space. However, if the trip is canceled by the Captain for any reason, you will be notified promptly and receive a refund.



Atlantic Puffin
Photo credit:
Bob Duchesne

MAINE AUDUBON

Penobscot Valley Audubon
c/o Fields Pond Audubon Center
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Mission of Penobscot Valley Audubon:
*Conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat by
connecting people to our regional natural heritage,
through enjoyable and meaningful activities
that educate and promote greater environmental
awareness.*

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

FIELDS POND BOOK GROUP

The Fields Pond Book Group meets monthly on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m., in-person at the Orono Public Library and online via Zoom, facilitated by professional librarian Joyce Rumery. Please contact Joyce directly at rumery@maine.edu to sign up for the Zoom link, which she will send out shortly before each meeting. Here is the selected title for June, available through most public libraries:

June 11, 2026

Lewis, Daniel. *Twelve Trees: The Deep Roots of Our Future*. 2024. 304pp.

Scientists, ethnobotanists, indigenous peoples, and collectives of all kinds are closely studying trees and their biology to understand how and why trees function, individually and collectively, in an era of climate change and deforestation. Lewis takes us on a journey around the Earth, journeying into the deserts of the American west and the jungles of Peru, to offer perspectives on the crucial impact trees have on our entire planet. When a once-common tree goes extinct in the wild but survives in a botanical garden, what happens next? How can scientists reconstruct lost genomes and habitats? How does a tree store thousands of gallons of water, or offer up perfectly preserved insects from millions of years ago, or root itself in muddy swamps and remain standing? How does a 5,000-year-old tree manage to live, and what can we learn from it? To study the science of trees is to study not just the present, but the story of the world, its past, and its future.

After the June meeting, the Fields Pond Book Group will take a summer break and resume meeting in September.