



# Athol Bird and Nature Club

*Spring '04 Newsletter*

Volume 40, Number 2

## President's Letter

Signs of spring are everywhere. Returning Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks take advantage of the receding ice fields while flocks of Redwing Blackbirds and Grackles can be observed in the evening sky. The sound of the Timberdoodle (American Woodcock) has returned over Cass Meadow. For many of us, spring is a time of anticipation as we wait each morning for the next new organism to migrate through or awake from the long winter. Now, with plans for the spring and summer finalizing, the stage is set for a great season in the outdoors.

A kickoff to the warm season ahead will be the 1st Annual New England Odonate Conference to be hosted by the Club. Scientists and dragonfly enthusiasts from around New England and New York will converge for this exciting conference. Athol was chosen for the event for the enthusiastic participation of our members in the Ode Institutes and field trips as well as our central New England location. Deadline for registration is March 31. Volunteers are needed to help before, during, and after the event. Please contact us if you can help.

The Environmental Center has become a major component of ABNC with our annual budget at almost \$120,000. The prolific grant writing by Executive Director, Sue Cloutier, combined with the generous donations of both time and money by our friends and members has allowed us to continue to develop into a first class facility servicing the North Quabbin Region. There is still more to do and we are in need of additional donations to make it through the fiscal year ending in September. Please consider a donation in any amount in support of our Center.

As you read on, you will see reference to the many who have been instrumental in the continued success of our organization. From trip leaders and program speakers to our friends, Nick and Tim, who are moving on in their careers; our cheerful and efficient office manager, Lisa, who designed this newsletter and organizes event registrations; and Bruce Wilson lurking behind the computer screen continues to be innovative in linking our membership over the internet and pitching in to design our conference pin. I thank you all for your enthusiasm and support.

Dave Small

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## Our Programs

ABNC is fortunate that over 90 percent of the funding for **school** and **stewardship** programs is from foundation grants. Our **community** programs primarily rely on support from individuals and businesses. Administrative expenses account for 20 percent of our costs which include building utilities and staff at the for Center three or more days a week to manage programs, coordinate room use, and guide visitors as they view the natural history collection. Please consider making a generous contribution to the Center to support our programs. If you are already a member, we would appreciate it if you would pass the membership form on the back of this newsletter along to a friend to broaden our base of support.

## Share your adventures

If you have an interesting tale to tell about your adventures with wildlife, books you would recommend others to read, or wildlife photographs, please share it with us by sending them for inclusion into future newsletters. Email to [abnc@millersriver.net](mailto:abnc@millersriver.net) or mail to the Athol Bird and Nature Club at 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

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### UNDERWINGS - by Ted Sargent

She harbored the souls of the dead,  
Hiding up under the eaves;  
Seemingly innocent beasts-  
But, oh, how the Devil deceives!

For under the cover of night,  
At stroke of the midnight bell,  
These sinister insects take flight,  
Revealing the fires of Hell!

They are a witch's familiars,  
Obeying the woman inside,  
Conveying the curses she renders-  
Returning at daybreak to hide.

Would you be free of these demons?  
Would you feel sage in your sleep?  
Then suffer not an enchantress,  
She is a wolf among sheep.

So were the victims selected-  
Gifted, eccentric, and mad;  
So were the punishments levied-  
Terrible, senseless, and sad.

Maybe we need a new legend,  
Another account of design,  
Where moths are really the witches-  
Shades, as before, but benign.

Gentle, sensitive creatures,  
Bearing the sign of their fate,  
Searching for tender companions,  
And waiting for them at the Gate.

September 1, 1999

#### Officers and Directors of the Athol Bird and Nature Club

**President:** Dave Small **Vice President:** James Mallet **Treasurer:** Robert Coyle

**Membership Secretary:** Susan Bredesen **Office Manager:** Lisa M. Divoll

**Directors:** David Caldwell, Barbara Coyle, Lula Field, Susan Heinricher, Rick Magee, Robert Mallet, Kathy Morris, Jacob Morris-Siegel, John O'Keefe **Directors Emeritus:** Jane O'Regan, Laurencia Rousell

#### Millers River Environmental Center

**Executive Director:** Sue Cloutier

100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 WEB: [www.millersriver.net](http://www.millersriver.net) PHONE: (978) 248-9491

## **Program Updates: from the Millers River Environmental Center**

### **Schools**



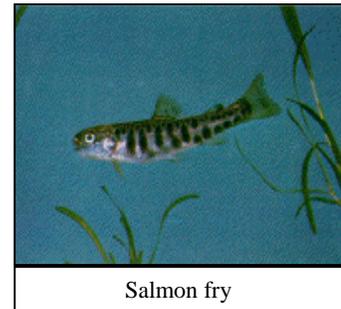
Bob Coyle with the students at the Warwick Community School.

Mr. Robert Coyle, founder of the Athol Bird & Nature Club, and expert mineralogist, uses a topographic map to show the location of local mineral deposits to students at the Warwick Community School. The display, on loan from Mr. Coyle, is an educational tool to be used by teachers and their science classes, and will be available for viewing in the school lobby through the month of March. The presentation and display are part of an educational collaboration between the Warwick school and the Millers River Environmental Center.

Staff and volunteers continue to work with the Orange Elementary Schools and we are developing programs with the Athol Schools.

### **Stewardship**

There are many projects organized by the Club and our partners at the Center that are available for members and friends to participate in that enhance the environment for wildlife and people of all ages. Don't hesitate to call the Center if you are interested in assisting us.



Salmon fry

The Salmon eggs and fry have been dropped off to Butterfield school for Mr. Kovacevic's 5th grade class to watch and record growth before letting them go in the river in the Spring. Classes from the Butterfield school look forward to eel monitoring once the eel pass is installed.

Check the events calendar for Millers River Watershed Advisory Committee meeting on March 24th. This will be an enjoyable opportunity for members and friends to learn how to protect and restore the river. On Wednesday, May 5, we start our volunteer watershed monitoring programs and invite the public to participate in this kick off event.

### **Community**

Everyone can contribute to our sense of community when it comes to natural history. Our favorite hobbies, whether it's bird watching or finding minerals, can be more fun when we share discoveries with others. For example, this winter a Varied Thrush visited the Quabbin headquarters in Belchertown and was viewed by bird watchers from around New England. Mary Schneider, a budding wildlife photographer took this picture at Quabbin Lookout in February. This bird's normal range is on the pacific coast north to Alaska.



Varied Thrush

We hope that club members will keep their eyes open and report unusual sightings of wildlife and plants to our discussion board at [www.millersriver.net/community](http://www.millersriver.net/community).

## Discussion Board posting - by Joan Duprey



March 5, 2004

Nine participants enjoyed another great owl adventure on Wednesday night with Bill Fregeau... The weather was mild and clear with a bright full "Worm Moon"...

We were rewarded with the appearance of a Saw-whet Owl which responded to Bill's calls. It flew in close over our heads and landed in a tree about 20 feet up along side of the road where we were standing...

Later, as we experienced the familiar odor of skunk, Bill explained that that was the favorite food of the Great Horned Owl. Just about that time a very large bird flew over the road. Very probably the owl who had just had or attempted to have his favorite supper.

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## Recipes for Wildlife

The Athol Bird and Nature Club is starting a new book project, "Recipes for Wildlife". We are looking for contributions to this project from members and friends. The book will include helpful hints on: feeding birds, butterflies and moths; gardening and planting ideas for wildlife; plans for nest boxes and shelters; and designs for bird baths, fountains, and ponds.

Your contributions to this project will benefit the Club's school, stewardship, and community projects. Please send your helpful hints and recipes to the Athol Bird and Nature Club, 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 or email to: [abnc@millersriver.net](mailto:abnc@millersriver.net). Please include contact information with your submissions.

The article below is a selection from this book that illustrates how we can easily attract wildlife to our own backyard.

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## The Jug Nest - by Paul Whitney

A number of years ago I read how you could make a bird feeder out of a 1 gallon plastic jug, so I made one I filled it with sunflower seeds and the chickadees came right away. Some titmice also joined in for an easy meal. After a few years using the same jug, when I started to take it down in the spring, I looked into it and what did I see but a chickadee setting on a nest, so I hung the jug back up. Later on the birds started bringing in worms to feed the young. This went on and soon the young birds were sticking their heads out. When the time came, we watched 4 babies come out and fly to the trees nearby. The next morning 6 more flew to the trees. We didn't see them any more until fall when we think some of the chickadees born in the jug came back to feed there. Chickadees have used that jug for a nest 8 times in 10 years. Once the wrens kept taking out the nesting materials and putting sticks in. The other time, the nest was built and eggs laid but after a few days we saw feathers on the deck, only one chickadee came back calling and looking in the jug, so I checked the jug. There were 5 eggs but no chickadee setting. I left the jug there but no birds came back so I took it down. I still use the same jug and am looking forward to a new family of chickadees this spring.



# ABNC 2004 Events

Most club programs and events are free and open to the public.  
Reasonable accommodations available upon request.

New events or changes to existing events are indicated by [\*\*]

*For information on program additions, changes due to weather, or to register;  
call (978) 248-9491, visit our web site [www.millersriver.net](http://www.millersriver.net), or email [abnc@millersriver.net](mailto:abnc@millersriver.net)*

## **March 18, Thursday, 7 pm, "Quabbin: A History and Explorers Guide" \*\***

Michael Tougias, author of "Quabbin: A History and Explorers Guide", will have a narrated slide show featuring the lost towns, construction of the reservoir, and the Quabbin today. Meet at the Athol Public Library.

## **March 20, Saturday, 6 pm, Neighbors Night: Pot Luck & Show**

Join us at the Center for a Pot Luck Dinner and presentations by members and friends who will be bringing us their nature slide shows. Please call the Center at (978) 248-9491 to volunteer your short presentation before March 10. Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

## **March 20 and 27, Saturday, 1 pm to 4 pm, River Rat Parade Puppets \*\***

Come make puppets of local creatures for the Annual River Rat Parade. Mark Dannenhauer of Ninots will provide the tools and techniques. You supply the personal experience with local creatures and the imagination. Together we will make parade puppets celebrating the Millers River watershed! Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. (3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to be announced)

## **March 21, Sunday, 1 pm to 3 pm, Birding for Everybody \*\***

Beginner and expert birders use sight, sound, and knowledge together and separately to identify birds. We will explore tools and techniques that can make birding accessible to anyone. This meeting is free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the Athol Bird and Nature Club. Meet at the Center, West Room, 100 Main Street, Athol.

## **March 24, Wednesday, 7 pm to 9 pm, Millers River Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting \*\***

Join us as we develop an Action Plan for the Millers River Watershed. Participate in a simple and fun picture-taking assignment to document the watershed's pros & cons. The pictures should reflect the general themes of the Watershed Action Plan, which are: water quality/quantity; open space & growth; habitat; recreation; and public education/outreach. For more information, contact Kimberly Noake MacPhee at the FRCOG at (413) 774-1194 ext. 103 or Sue Cloutier at the Center (978) 248-9491.

## **March 25, Thursday, 7 pm, "Someday" - Reading and Discussion**

Join in a discussion of the book "Someday", lead by Anne Cutler-Russo, Athol Librarian. We will consider this region's history and our sense of place and home. This program is funded through a LFTA grant from the Board of Library Commission. Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. Other events in this series are held at the Athol Library on 3/18, 4/8, 4/28, and 5/10.

## **March 27 & 28, Saturday & Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm, Athol Home Show \*\***

Volunteers needed to help manage tables at the annual Home Show in Athol. Our focus theme for the display is making a sanctuary for wildlife on your own property. Please call the Center at (978) 248-9491.

**April 8, Thursday, 7 pm to 8 pm, Birds of Prey Program \*\***

Naturalist/Artist Zack Zdinak from Flagstaff, AZ. will share his knowledge and stories related to these powerful birds of the skies. Zack's hands-on and interactive style will make this presentation an enjoyable event for the whole family. (Learn more about Zack [www.lifedraw.com](http://www.lifedraw.com))

**April 8, Thursday, 7 pm, "The Accidental Wilderness" \*\***

Thomas Conuel, author of "The Accidental Wilderness", will have a discussion of his book and research. Meet at the Athol Public Library.

**April 14, Wednesday, 7 pm, Club Meeting: Saving Special Habitats**

Join us at ABNC's meeting with guest speaker, Tim Simmons, the Restoration Ecologist from the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Tim will update us on efforts to understand the role of crickets, grasshoppers and beetles in early successional habitats. Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

**April 17, Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm, New England Odonate Conference \*\***

Join us at the Center for our first annual New England Odonate Conference where dragonfly enthusiasts from throughout the region will gather to compare notes and ideas. Speakers will talk about New England odonates and odonate study - past, present, and future. This promises to be a fun and enlightening day. *Register by March 31*: \$20 (includes lunch) is payable by check or online at: <http://www.odes.millersriver.net/>. This conference is Co-sponsored by the Millers River Environmental Center, the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, and Ode News.

**April 24, Saturday, 12 Noon to 3 pm Radio Club "SkyWarn" \*\***

Mark Kimmel, of the Mohawk Amature Radio Club, will hold a SkyWarn training class. The purpose of this class is to train people to be observers for hazardous weather conditions and damage assessment. This class is co-sponsored and led by the National Weather Service. For additional information regarding this course, e-mail Mark Kimmel at [n1zyg@msn.com](mailto:n1zyg@msn.com). To sign-up for this program, please call (978) 248-9491 or email: [admin@millersriver.net](mailto:admin@millersriver.net). This program is free and open to the public.

**April 25, Sunday, 1:30 pm, Geology Field Trip, Beryl Hill, Royalston \*\***

Chet Hall has invited the club to visit his famous Beryl Hill Mine lead by Bob Coyle. This mine has produced the famous blue beryl that is probably the most spectacular Massachusetts mineral. Its blue color is very rare for beryl and the crystals (hexagonal) are much prized by collectors. We will meet at the Center and leave at 1:30pm sharp, or meet us in Royalston Center at about 1:45pm. Bring geological hammer, safety glasses and bags for collecting. Pre-registration required. (978) 248-9491 or email: [admin@millersriver.net](mailto:admin@millersriver.net).

**April 28, Wednesday, 7 pm, "The Eagles of the Quabbin" \*\***

Dale Monette of the Quabbin Visitor Center--slide show on eagles. Meet at the Athol Public Library.

**April 30, May 7, 14 and 21, Fridays, 7 am, Spring Bird Walks with Jeff Johnstone**

Join Jeff on any or all of these bird walks to find the hot spots in our region for spring migrants. Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

**May 1, Saturday, 7 am, Herkimer Mines, NY**

Travel to the Ace of Diamonds Mine near Herkimer, NY searching for the famous quartz crystals known as Herkimer Diamonds. In this active mine it is relatively easy to find some great specimens. Bring a lunch, sledgehammers (14 lb. or less is the maximum allowed), rock hammers, gloves, safety glasses, collection bags, and buckets. Fee: \$10 per person. Tools are available to rent. Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, at 7 am. For information call Joshua Morris-Siegel at 978-249-4260.

**May 5, Wednesday, 7 pm to 9 pm, Volunteer Watershed Monitoring Public Meeting \*\***

Interested in exploring the Millers River and its tributaries? Find out more at this meeting at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

**May 6, Thursday, 7 pm, Athol Historical Society Meeting-Birds, Butterflies and Beyond \*\***

Introducing the jewels of our backyards and gardens. Presented by Dave Small president of the Athol Bird and Nature Club and Millers River Environmental Center. This program will focus on the many colorful birds, butterflies, and dragonflies found in and around Athol and discuss creating or improving your own backyard wildlife habitat. Meet at the Athol Historical Society, 1307 Main Street Athol. This event is free and open to the public.

**May 10, Monday, 7pm, "Letting Swift River Go" \*\***

Jane Yolen is the author of "Letting Swift River Go" and many other children's books. Meet at the Athol Public Library for discussion with the author.

**May 12, Wednesday, 7 pm, Club Meeting: Everglades**

Join us at ABNC's meeting with guest speaker, John Green, expert photographer and tour leader. John's slide presentation will take us on an Everglades adventure. Highlights include wading bird behavior, the role of the alligator in this complex ecosystem and the many habitats of the "Glades". Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

**May 15, Saturday, 6:30 am, Northfield Trip**

Join Bob Coyle on this annual birding trip to Northfield. Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, at 6:30am or the Northfield Country Club and Golf Course at 8:15am. Please bring a lunch.

**May 22, Saturday, 9 am, Wildflower Walk**

Spring wildflowers hide in special North Quabbin habitats. Join Noah Siegel to discover where they grow. Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

**May 27, June 3, 10, 17 and 24, Thursdays, 7 pm to 9 pm, MBC/ABNC Lep Insititute**

Carl Kamp, President of Mass. Butterfly Club, will run these classes and field trips to discover the diversity of Butterflies found in Massachusetts. Field trips will generally be the weekend following the class. The first field trip is Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 12noon. Call (978) 248-9491 for additional information or to register. Fee: \$50 for members of MBC or ABNC and \$60 for non-members.

**June 4, Friday, 6:30 pm, Nightjars \*\***

Join Dave Small on an accessible outdoor adventure. Learn about Nighthawks and Whip-Poor-Wills and listen and look for them in nearby habitats. Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

**June 5, Saturday, 8 am, Swanzey Heron Rookery**

Earl Baldwin will lead us on this trip to Craig Lougee's property in Southern New Hampshire to view nesting Great Blue Herons and other wetland wildlife. Meet at the Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

**June 6, Sunday, 8 am to 3 pm, Quabbin Trip**

Join Dave Small on this annual trip into Quabbin Reservation. This will be a naturalist's trip looking for birds, butterflies, dragonflies and whatever nature has to offer. Bring a lunch, snacks, water, field guides, dragonfly net and binoculars. Pre-registration required: Call (978) 248-9491 or email [dhsml@gis.net](mailto:dhsml@gis.net).

***Club Anniversary Weekend Celebration \*\****

**June 12, Saturday, ABNC Day at Tully**

A day at the Tully picnic area with the Athol Bird and Nature Club. BBQ, bird, butterfly, and dragonfly walks, a canoe exploration of the lake and maybe even some Frisbee and disc golf. Please join us.

**June 13, Sunday, 9 am to 3 pm, Breeding Birds & Biodiversity on the Tully River, Royalston**

Join us for a leisurely canoe trip up the Tully River and onto Long Pond as we seek out the resident birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. This trip is co-sponsored with the Brookline Bird Club, Athol Bird and Nature Club and the Trustees of Reservations.

To reserve a tent camping site, kayak or canoe rental contact: TTOR at 978-840-4446 (HQ) or 978-249-4957 (campground) and mention ABNC for boat discount. Participants are required to make their own arrangements for boats, personal safety equipment and lunch. Meeting Place: 9:00 am, TTOR Tully Lake Camp Ground off route 32 in Royalston, MA. For more details, contact: Dave Small, Athol (978) 413-1772 [dave@dhsml.net](mailto:dave@dhsml.net) or Eddie Giles (508) 378-3370 [emgiles@juno.com](mailto:emgiles@juno.com)

**June 16, July 7 and 21, Wednesdays, 7 pm to 9 pm, Ode Institute**

Dave Small, Club President, will run this series of classes and field trips to discover the diversity of Dragonflies and Damselflies found in Massachusetts. Trips will be the Saturdays following the class (June 19<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>). Call (978) 248-9491 for additional information or to register. Fee: \$40 for members of ABNC and \$50 for non-members. Call for space availability on weekend field trips.

**July 1, Thursday, 5 pm to 9 pm, Odonate Field Trip \*\***

Join Researcher, Fred Saint Ours for a search for the elusive Shadow Dragons in North Quabbin. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

**July 2-Newton Reservoir, 9-Harvard Pond, 16-Long Pond and 23-Riceville Pond, Friday Walk-a-bouts, 9 am to 11 am**

Join Earle Baldwin on these comfortable walks with rewarding sights. Discover more about this beautiful region we call home, in a relaxed way. We will find new places to walk, picnic, fish and explore in the future with friends and family. Opportunity for additional exploration will be available.

## New England Odonate Conference



April 17<sup>th</sup> 2004  
Millers River Environmental Center  
100 Main Street Athol Ma  
[www.millersriver.net](http://www.millersriver.net)



Ode News



Don't forget to join the Athol Bird and Nature Club and the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Programs for their first annual New England Odonate Conference on Saturday, April 17, 2004. Registration is required. Please check the enclosed calendar or events on our website: [www.millersriver.net](http://www.millersriver.net) for registration or more detailed information, such as the agenda, motels and B&Bs of the North Quabbin area, directions to the Center, etc..

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**Our summer calendar will be out in late May/early June. The following events are planned with details to follow in our next newsletter.**

*Save these dates:*

### **July 18, Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm, Garden Tour**

Visit Gardens in Orange and Warwick. This is a fundraiser for the Center. Details to follow.

### **July 23, Friday, 7 pm, Monarchs, Royals and other Nobility \*\***

This is one of many events in its second year that are jointly planned by The Trustees of Reservations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Athol Bird and Nature Club. Join Dave Small for this presentation at Tully Lake.

### **August 14, Saturday, 9 am, Insects by Canoe/Kayak**

Join Dave Small and Lynn Harper to explore new water habitats in search of dragonflies, damselflies and other aquatic insects. Pre-register: [admin@millersriver.net](mailto:admin@millersriver.net) or call (978) 248-9491.

### **September 4, Saturday, 9 am, Odes on the Millers River**

Join Dave Small on our second fall search of the Millers for damselflies and dragonflies. Pre-register: [admin@millersriver.net](mailto:admin@millersriver.net) or call (978) 248-9491.

### **September 11, Saturday, 8:30 am, Odes on the Green River**

Join Dave Small and Lynn Harper to look for Ocelated Darner and Snaketails. Pre-register: [admin@millersriver.net](mailto:admin@millersriver.net) or call (978) 248-9491. Meet at the Center at 8:30am or the Tourist Information Center on the Rte 2 rotary in Greenfield at 9:30am.

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## **Nature Store—Now open**

Stop by the Center's Nature Store during open hours on the following days and times:

**Tuesdays** - 1 PM to 4 PM, **Wednesdays** - 10 AM to 4 PM, and **Thursdays** - 10 AM to 12 Noon.

Now available, we have the Odes Conference pin and the Common Dragonflies and Damselflies DVD.

Feel free to donate second copies of books or natural history items that you may have at home for fundraising to support the Center and Club programs.





Members from the Athol Rotary Club working together to enhance the beauty of the Center.

**Thank you** to Club members and partners at the Center for ongoing support. The Center keeps its doors open to hundreds of people with the support from participants, foundations, members and donors.

Nick Wisniewski is leaving us after 2 years of dedicated service. We wish him well in his search for full-time employment. Nick started with us tabulating biodiversity day data and grew to be a core member of our team working with schools and on watershed protection. He will continue on as a volunteer doing field work for the Center programs as his time permits.

Tim Silva of The Trustees of Reservations will also be moving on to another position and we welcome his replacement. We thank Tim for his efforts in keeping the Center grounds well trimmed during the summer and accessible during this winter. Also, we apologize for spelling his name incorrectly in our previous newsletter.

Ann Marie Pilch started her work with us during the Summer EIC Institute 2003 and teamed with Susie Mosher to plan and implement schoolyard studies. This spring they will plant a garden as wildlife habitat for insects.

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#### **Wish list:**

- The Center is in need of a good vacuum cleaner and an industrial size dry mop for the newly refinished floors in the new Community Room.
- Volunteers are needed for our next improvement project: upgrade bathroom and entry ways.
- Display committee members needed to work with Bob Coyle, Dave Small, and M.E. Kane on new exhibits for the Center.
- Volunteers needed to help with displays at the Athol Home Show on March 27 & 28 in 2 or 4 hour shifts.
- Please consider giving gift memberships to friends and family.

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### **Help Conserve Endangered Species**

REMEMBER NATURAL HERITAGE CHECK-OFF WHEN DOING YOUR TAXES! As you start to do your taxes this year, remember that you can make a voluntary donation to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Fund. It's especially important because of the reduced funding for NHESP and the changes that have been made to its funding mechanism to help protect and restore rare and endangered wildlife, plants and their habitats. Money from the tax check-off may well be the ONLY funding NHESP will receive in FY2005. On your Mass. state tax return, it's Box 32B on the rear of Form 1.

For more information, visit Natural Heritage on the web at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org) or email them at [natural.heritage@state.ma.us](mailto:natural.heritage@state.ma.us).



# ABNC FUN PAGE

CAN YOU NAME THESE INTERESTING BIRDS?

1. A crazy bird? \_\_\_\_\_
2. A very fast bird? \_\_\_\_\_
3. A regal angler? \_\_\_\_\_
4. A baby bird? \_\_\_\_\_
5. That might eat mice? \_\_\_\_\_
6. A thieving bird? \_\_\_\_\_
7. A gimpy bird? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Most poetic night bird? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The bird of peace? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Bird who makes small talk? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Bird that squeals? \_\_\_\_\_
12. The bird that took last place? \_\_\_\_\_
13. That complains a lot? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Was a V.P.? \_\_\_\_\_
15. A warlike bird? \_\_\_\_\_
16. A pear tree rooster? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Might give milk? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Could give a hoot? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Bags big game? \_\_\_\_\_
20. A church prince? \_\_\_\_\_

RBC 2/2004



# THE SPLICE PLANT

How many species were grafted together to make our "SPLICE PLANT"? See how many you can list. Find one plant name and then work in a counter clockwise direction to identify the others.

GOOD LUCK!



Can YOU fill in the INVERTEBRATE ANIMAL that was used in these common expressions?

1. "Tell the truth or a \_\_\_\_\_ will sew up your mouth!"
2. "A \_\_\_\_\_ in the ointment!"
3. "Don't \_\_\_\_\_ me!!!" (Annoy)
4. "Moving at a \_\_\_\_\_'s pace"
5. "A \_\_\_\_\_ in his bonnet."
6. "\_\_\_\_\_, the national sport of England."
7. "The early bird catches the \_\_\_\_\_."
8. "\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ fly away home!"
9. "Don't \_\_\_\_\_ up on me!" (Refuse to talk.)
10. "Like a \_\_\_\_\_ to a flame!"





**www.millersriver.net**  
**We're on the Web!**

Email: [abnc@millersriver.net](mailto:abnc@millersriver.net)

Fax: 978-248-2020

Phone: 978-248-9491

Athol, MA 01331

100 Main Street

**Athol Bird & Nature Club**

U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 7  
Athol, MA

### Athol Bird and Nature Club Membership Application 2003 – 2004

Please mark all that apply \_\_\_\_\_ New Member or \_\_\_\_\_ Renew

Name: _____	_____ Student/Senior	\$ 5.00
Address: _____	_____ Individual	\$ 10.00
Town: _____	_____ Family	\$ 15.00
State & Zip+4: _____	_____ Contributor	\$ 25.00
Phone: _____	_____ Patron	\$ 50.00
E-mail: _____	_____ Benefactor	\$100.00

Send membership gift card with your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Gift from: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **Athol Bird and Nature Club**

Club Decal for:



100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

\_\_\_\_\_ outside of window \$ 1.00

\_\_\_\_\_ inside of window \$ 1.00

\* Donation to the Millers River Environmental Center \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Dues in excess of \$10.00 and all donations are tax-deductible*

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Athol Bird and Nature Club manages the Millers River Environmental Center. Your additional donation allows us to exhibit the ABNC natural history collection, collaborate with other environmental and community groups, and host natural history programs and activities.

**ABNC membership year is from September through August.**

Please renew if your mailing label indicates your membership has expired. Thank You!