



New England Botanical Club

Schedule of Events Nantucket Island Away Meeting 11-13 September 2015 Nantucket, MA

NEBC is offering an Away Meeting to explore unique, botanically interesting habitats on the island of Nantucket. As usual, we have a speaker lined up for an evening talk and field trips will highlight Nantucket's plant community diversity. The Registration Form explains fees for the trip. **Please register by September 4th and note that space is limited.**

It is recommended that attendees travel to Nantucket via Ferry. The Steamship Authority and Hy-Line Cruises provide ferry services from the mainland and both dock at Steamboat Wharf on the northern side of the island.

NEBC has made reservations for affordable overnight accommodations for Friday and Saturday at the UMass Field Station— a camp with bunkhouse accommodations, primarily used by the University for teaching and field research— located at 180 Polpis Road, 4.5 miles east of Steamboat Wharf. More limited apartment type lodging is also available at UMass's Goulin Village Apartments (20 Vesper Lane), ±1.2 miles south of Steamboat Wharf.

This exciting weekend has been scheduled as follows:

FRIDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING:

We can check-in at the Field Station at any time. However, recognizing the Friday workday and long distance travel, we primarily anticipate evening arrivals. Please be sure to specify your travel plans on the top of the [Registration Form](#). A vehicle will pick you up at Steamboat Wharf for transport to your UMass accommodations at the designated times of 6pm, 7pm, and 8:30pm. Additional pick-ups may also be possible; otherwise you can rely on a taxi service (see the Traveling to Nantucket section below).

Once you arrive, settle into the Field Station and familiarize yourselves with the scenic UMass property (see UMass Field Station [Property Map](#)). You'll be on your own for dinner, but see the Meals Information below. Meet and mingle with other botanists at a reception at the Field Station with snacks and beverages starting at 7:45pm.

SATURDAY BREAKFAST (7:15-8:30 am):

We'll leave the Field Station for the day at 7:15am and breakfast at a cash-only, family-owned diner: [The Downy Flake](#), 18 Sparks Ave, Nantucket, MA 02554, 508.228.4533 (**credit cards not accepted**). Plan on being back at your van at 8:30am to depart for our first field trip.

SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIP (~9am-12:30pm): [Sanford Farm & Ram Pasture](#)

We'll explore the [Nantucket Conservation Foundation's](#) (NCF) exemplary coastal heathland and sandplain grassland communities, interspersed with wet meadows. These habitats were established by early agricultural practices and the vast open landscape supports ecologically significant concentrations of rare plants (and animals), including New England blazing star, sandplain flax, bushy rockrose, and sandplain blue-eyed grass. These species can be found interspersed amongst Pennsylvania sedge and little bluestem, alpine reindeer moss, numerous aster species, and false heather or poverty grass and low-growing shrubs such as black huckleberry, lowbush blueberry, and bearberry. Overall we'll walk roughly 3 miles over flat to rolling terrain. Be prepared



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to get wet from condensation on tall grasses and as the trail passes through wet meadows. The group will depart from West Gate parking area at 9am. [Ram Pasture Field Trip Map](#)

SATURDAY BOX LUNCH (~12:30- 1:00pm):

We'll re-energize with a sandwich of your choice and fruit and snacks from Something Natural. Lunches will be distributed at the Sanford Farm/Ram Pasture parking area.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS (~1:30-4:30 pm):

After lunch, we'll resume botanizing within [Windswept Cranberry Bog's](#) anthropogenic wetland habitats and the coastal plain pond shores of Almanack Pond. In addition to its native wild plants, this 241-acre NCF property grows commercially available organic cranberries.

If time allows, we'll continue on to the [Masquetuck](#), a very diverse NCF property supporting hardwood forest, a freshwater bog, and salt marsh habitats, all within a 13.5-acre parcel.

SATURDAY DINNER (~5:00-6:30 pm):

We'll quickly swing by the UMass Field Station and Goulin Village Apartments to do a tick check and swap out any poison ivy clothes. Then you'll be dropped off and set free to experience the Island's exquisite cuisine near Nantucket Center. Whether you crave pizza, need a quick seafood fix, or opt for premier, upscale dining, Nantucket has it all. You're on your own for dinner, but we encourage you to coordinate with other attendees in the spirit of camaraderie and to facilitate transportation to restaurants. The following establishments were recommended by local NEBC members and our Nantucket trip liaisons:

[Centre Street Bistro](#), 29 Centre St, Nantucket, MA, 508.228.8470

[Kitty Murtagh's](#), 4 West Creek Road, Nantucket, MA, 508.325.0781

[Sayle's Seafood](#), 99 Washington Extension, Nantucket, MA, 508.228.4599

[Brotherhood of Thieves](#), 23 Broad Street, Nantucket, MA, 508.228.2551

Plan on being back at your van no later than 6:30pm in order to be back to the Field Station in time for the Presentation at 6:45pm.

SATURDAY EVENING PRESENTATION (6:45- 7:45pm):

Dr. Ernie Steinauer, well-known naturalist and Director of Mass Audubon's Sesachacha Heathlands Wildlife Sanctuary, will be presenting a talk at the Field Station entitled, *"The Challenges of Managing Nantucket's Sandplain Habitats to Promote Native Diversity."* Afterward, mingle with other botanists at a reception at the Field Station with snacks and beverages.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST (7:15-8:30 am):

We'll leave the Field Station for the day at 7:15am and breakfast at [Island Kitchen](#), 1 Chin's Way, Nantucket, MA, 508.228.2639. Plan on being back at your van by 8:30am if you intend to attend one of the Sunday field trips.

SUNDAY FIELD TRIP OPTION 1 (~8:45-12:45 pm):

Some of the attendees will continue to explore Nantucket's habitat diversity. The destination of this trip is presently undecided, but the Island offers extensive protected open space. We may venture into the marshes, coastal plain ponds, dunes and beaches, or more sandplain grasslands. Stay tuned as the details of Sunday Field Trip 2 unfold.



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SUNDAY FIELD TRIP OPTION 2 (Limited capacity; ~8:45-12:45 pm):

Some of the attendees will venture to [Coatue](#), a 1,117-acre barrier beach peninsula via boat from the UMass Field Station (~10 min boat ride). This beautiful landform contains beach, sandy dunes, marshes, and tidal pools. Be prepared to get your feet wet when boarding and unloading from the boat and carry your own lunch. This trip can accommodate a total of 21 people (i.e., first 21 to register) and includes an addition charge for boat transportation.

SUNDAY BOX LUNCH (~12:45- 1:00pm):

We'll re-energize with a sandwich of your choice and fruit and snacks from Something Natural. Lunches will be distributed at the parking area or boat before you embark on your trip. Snack as needed during the foray and finish your lunch on the return car/boat ride or back at the UMass facilities.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON:

Please be sure to specify your travel plans on the top of the [Registration Form](#). A vehicle will pick you up at your UMass accommodations at 7:15am, 1:00pm, and 3:00pm for transport to Steamboat Wharf for boat departures at 7:45am, 1:25pm, and 3:30pm. Additional pick-ups may also be possible; otherwise you can rely on a taxi service (see the Traveling to Nantucket section below).

Traveling to Nantucket

We expect that most will opt to take a ferry to the Island; however, you can also fly to Nantucket via Cape Air. Airport pick-ups may also be possible; otherwise you can rely on a taxi service.

Give yourself plenty of time to get to your parking area and to be shuttled to your ferry or airport. Cape Cod is a major tourist destination and traffic is notoriously bad on weekends.

Ferry schedules with NEBC times highlighted: [Steamship Authority](#) and [Hy-Line Cruises](#)

Steamship Authority

Parking costs \$15/day (~10 minute free shuttle ride from lot at 30 Brooks Road, Hyannis, MA to the ferry). For more information, visit their website: <https://www.steamshipauthority.com/> or call 508.477.8600.

Hy-Line Cruises

Parking costs \$17/day (~5 minute free shuttle ride from lot at 220 Ocean Street, Hyannis, MA to the ferry). For more information, visit their website: <https://www.hylinecruises.com/> or call 508.778.2600.

The following designated pick-up and drop-off times have been scheduled to shuttle attendees from and back to ferries:

Designated Friday Ferry Pick-ups
6pm (Steamship Authority High-speed Ferry)
7pm (Hy-Line Cruises High-speed Ferry)
8:30pm (Steamship Authority High-speed Ferry)

Designated Sunday Ferry Drop-offs
7:45am (Hy-Line Cruises High-speed Ferry)
1:25pm (Hy-Line Cruises High-speed Ferry)
3:30pm (Steamship Authority High-speed Ferry)

Please do your best to target these times as special trips at other times may not be possible. Several taxi services are also available: <http://www.nrtawave.com/onisland/taxis.php>

For anyone renting or ferrying their own vehicle, please see the [Directions from the ferry to Goudin Village and UMASS Field Station](#)



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See the [Additional Nantucket Travel Resources](#) for additional information.

Meal Information

The group will have breakfast together at a dinner/restaurant. Lunches will be provided for those that pre-order. You are on your own for dinner. Van transportation will be provided for breakfast and dinner. Also note that the UMass Field Station and Goulin Village Apartments have full kitchens open to those staying there. Charcoal grills are available (bring charcoal, lighter fluid, matches, etc.) Please be prepared to clean up after yourself and be respectful of others using the kitchen.

Lodging Information

Bring your own sleeping bag or twin bedding, towels etc. to UMass's Field Station and Goulin Village Apartments. Before you arrive, please review the Goulin Village and [UMASS Field Station Rules](#).

Field Trip Information

All trips are rain or shine. Van transportation will be provided for each trip. Please expect ticks and poison ivy and be prepared for all weather conditions (appropriate footwear and clothing, rain gear, bug repellent, sunblock, etc.). Trips have the potential to pass through wet habitats. Bring your own water.

Important Phone Numbers

Brett Trowbridge, Trip Coordinator, NEBC Vice-President: [518.573.2487](tel:518.573.2487)

Sarah Oktay, UMass Field Station Manager: [617.438.5370](tel:617.438.5370)

Sarah Bois, Director of Research and Education Linda Loring Nature Foundation: [508.560.0683](tel:508.560.0683)

Ernie Steinauer, Director of Mass Audubon's Sesachacha Heathlands Wildlife Sanctuary: [508.560.0057](tel:508.560.0057)

Kelly Omand, Nantucket Conservation Foundation Research Technician/Field Supervisor: [603.767.3488](tel:603.767.3488)

Emergency: [911](tel:911)

Trip Coordinator Thanks

This trip would not be possible without help from Nantucket locals Sarah Oktay, Sarah Bois, Ernie Steinauer, and Kelly Omand. In addition to formulating the NEBC trip described above, these individuals devote themselves to local conservation and research. Please take some time to thank them and connect with them during the trip. Also, please visit their organization websites and provide any support you can.

University of Massachusetts: <https://www.umb.edu/nantucket>

Linda Loring Nature Foundation: <https://www.llnf.org/>

Nantucket Conservation Foundation: <https://www.nantucketconservation.org/>

MassAudubon: <http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/sesachacha-heathlands>