



New England Botanical Club

**“Away Meeting” – June 1st & 2nd, 2018 in western Massachusetts
Hosted by Smith College, Northampton, MA
Registration Deadline is Monday, May 28th**

On Friday June 1st and Saturday June 2nd, the New England Botanical Club will convene an “Away Meeting” hosted by Smith College in Northampton, MA. The meeting will include field trips and workshops, as well as an open house and light buffet dinner on Friday afternoon (4:00-6:30 PM). At 7:00 PM, Dr. Gretel Clarke (Smith College) will present on the biogeography and invasiveness of exotic plant species in New England.

**All activities are free and open to NEBC members and others,
but a completed registration form must be emailed to Jesse Bellemare (jbellema@smith.edu)
by the deadline of Monday, May 28th.**

Please register to receive a parking pass for the Smith College Parking Garage on Friday-Saturday and to secure a space on field trips or in workshops (described below). These activities have limited capacity (10-15) and may fill quickly, so please indicate soon your top choices. Activities will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once you have submitted your registration, we will contact you with further information on meeting times and locations for the workshops and field trips.

Registered attendees can park for free in the Smith College Parking Garage on West St/Rt. 66 if displaying a parking permit (emailed to you when we receive your registration). There are also metered spaces along Green St., just south of the Lyman Plant House and Botanic Garden on the Smith College campus.

In terms of lodging in the Northampton area, many hotels and motels are available at reasonable to modest rates. We can also host a limited number of camping guests at a beautiful hilltop site at Smith College’s MacLeish Field Station in Whately using their own tents or the site’s lean-to structure. However, space for camping is limited, so – please email Jesse Bellemare (jbellema@smith.edu) directly if you are interested in this option.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 1st:

- Noon-3 PM** **Field trip** led by Karen Searcy to forests on south-facing slopes near Mt Toby above Bull Hill Rd. in Sunderland, possibly including foray to Greene Swamp area on Mt Toby. Terrain uneven with some steep slopes. Please wear appropriate footwear and plan for a moderate hike.
- 2:00-4 PM** **Plant identification [Biothon 2018](#) event** led by Laurie Sanders to explore plant communities along the Mill River near Smith College's campus in Northampton, MA. The Biothon is an annual fundraiser for programs at the Hitchcock Center (Amherst, MA) and this year's effort is dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Farnsworth, former Hitchcock Center Board member, Biothon organizer, NEBC *Rhodora* Editor-in-Chief, renowned field biologist, educator and illustrator. Participants in this event are encouraged to make a gift or pledge toward the Biothon at their [Donation](#) website. This outing will convene at the front entrance of the Lyman Conservatory at Smith College Botanic Garden at 2:00 PM. [Smith College Map](#)
- 4:00-6:30 PM** **Open House and Light Buffet Dinner** at the Smith College Botanic Garden's [Lyman Conservatory](#), 16 College Lane, Northampton, MA. A free, buffet-style selection of appetizers, grilled vegetables, and salads, plus drinks and dessert, will be available for meeting attendees. Please register so that we can get an accurate head count for catering. Meeting attendees can explore the greenhouses, sit in the outdoor gardens, or bring their picnic-style meal down to the shore of Paradise Pond. [Smith College Gardens Map](#) [Brochures-Maps-Online Garden Tour](#)
- 7:00-8:00 PM** **Presentation:** "*Invasiveness of Intra- versus Inter-continental exotic plants in New England: Implications for Assisted Migration*" – Dr. Gretel Clarke, post- doctoral scholar at Smith College, Dept. of Biological Sciences. Location: McConnell Hall, Room 103.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd:

9:00 AM **WORKSHOPS (pre-registration required, because space is limited):**

Bryophyte Identification with Sue Williams – This workshop, based at Smith College's [MacLeish Field Station](#) in Whately, MA, will provide an introduction to the basics of bryophyte ecology and identification. The workshop will begin with an overview of moss morphology and ecology, followed by a short hike through an old hemlock and sugar maple forest area with a diverse assemblage of bryophytes. Samples will be collected for later observation and identification at the Bechtel Environmental Classroom building at the MacLeish Field Station; dissecting microscopes will be available. This workshop will run until about 4:00 PM. Please bring a bagged lunch and drinks. Wear boots for moderate terrain with some wet spots and crossing a small stream.

Herbarium Skills with Roberta Lombardi – This workshop, based at the [University of Massachusetts-Amherst Herbarium](#), will focus on the techniques involved in collecting, pressing, mounting, and preserving plant specimens for herbarium collections. The workshop will start with a short field foray, after which participants will return to the UMass Herbarium to work with plant specimens, walk through the steps involved in mounting and labelling specimens, and get an overview of how large herbarium collections are organized and managed. This will be a valuable workshop for those interesting in formally documenting their local flora or for those planning to prepare voucher specimens of plant species documented in their research. Please bring a bagged lunch and drinks.

9:00 AM FIELD TRIPS (pre-registration required, because space is limited):

Field trips will run until mid-afternoon. Please bring a bagged lunch and water.

Montague Sandplain and Will's Hill

This field trip will be led by Peter Grima in Montague, MA. The trip will begin with a walk through the pitch pine-scrub oak communities of the Montague Sandplain, with huckleberry, chokeberry, sand cherry and others in flower, and passing through a well-managed population of native blue lupine. Next, we will traverse a powerline corridor over Will's Hill, with species of "rich & rocky" sites, like yellow star-grass, red columbine, and perfoliate-leaved bellflower, plus a healthy population of American bittersweet. As time & interest permit, we may also visit a few rich seepy sites on the forested portion of the Hill, with abundant spicebush, nodding trillium, and others. Also be prepared for incidental reptiles and birds! Plan on 2.5-3 miles walking on level to gentle slopes. Please bring a bagged lunch and drinks.

Historical Land Use Patterns and Forest Vegetation at the MacLeish Field Station

This field trip will be led by Jesse Bellemare and will explore land use patterns in the upland forests of Smith College's MacLeish Field Station in Whately and Conway, MA. We'll focus in particular on how 19th century agricultural land use patterns continue to affect plant species distributions and vegetation patterns in 21st century forests. We will explore old farm sites, see evidence of 19th century plow lines, and visit a remnant area of primary forest with increased plant diversity. Please bring a bagged lunch and drinks.

Botanical Foray with members of the Franklin County Flora team

This field trip will be led by Glenn Motzkin and Matt Hickler, key contributors to the Franklin County Flora project. They will lead a field trip exploring sites showcasing some botanical highlights documented by the Franklin County Flora project. Please bring a bagged lunch and drinks.