

NEBC Field Trip at the Middlesex Fells Reservation Suburbs North of Boston 17 September 2011

Date and Times: On Saturday, September 17, 2011, arrive at Bryan Hamlin's home at 56 Wyman Street, Medford, MA, between 9:15 - 9:45 AM or 12:00 - 1:00 PM for various morning and afternoon field trip choices. Field trips will end about 5:00 PM. NOTE: Heavy rain date will be Sunday, September 18. Check NEBC website at 8 AM for Saturday cancellation.

Location: The Middlesex Fells Reservation is a largely natural woodland area of over 3,000 acres in the suburbs north of Boston (Malden, Medford, Stoneham, Melrose, Winchester). "Fells" is the Saxon word for rocky, hilly tracts of land - an apt name for this scenic area which has many rocky outcrops and other interesting habitats leading to surprising biodiversity. Set aside in 1894, the Fells was the keystone in the creation of the Metropolitan Parks system. The plant survey of the four original parks became known as the Deane Flora report of 1896 and led, through the needed cooperation of amateur and academic botanists, to the creation of the NEBC that same year. Four NEBC members have recently concluded a follow-up survey, which will be published in *Rhodora*. The Fells is also rich in local history. Within the Fells is Spot Pond first explored and named by Governor Winthrop in the winter of 1632. More information about the Fells below.

Field Trip Logistics: Leave for the nearby Fells at 10:00AM and/or 1:00 - 1:30 PM. There will be a choice of two morning and afternoon hikes exploring special habitats and unusual species.

Parking: At Bryan's house, at 56 Wyman Street, Medford, MA. Carpool from there.

Lunch: From 12:30 - 1:15 PM there will be a "semi-potluck" style lunch at Bryan's house, so please bring a contribution. A variety of beverages and nibbles will be provided.

Please RSVP to Trip Coordinator: To ensure sufficient trip leaders, lunch beverages, parking space, etc. please RSVP to Bryan Hamlin at bryanthamlin@gmail.com or 781-395-7722. Also for more information, please contact Bryan.

Links to Additional Information:

FELLS MAPS and RECENT PLANT SURVEY:
www.foundinthefells.com

FRIENDS OF THE FELLS: <http://www.fells.org/>

MIDDLESEX FELLS RESERVATION – DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION – more information and maps, including natural resources map

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/fells.htm>

