

NEBC "away" Meeting & Field Trip to Rhode Island Richmond, Wyoming, and Hope Valley, RI 22-23 September 2012

Participants should send Registration Form no later than 8 September 2012 and make 'base camp' in the tri-town area of Richmond, Wyoming and Hope Valley, RI. These three towns are small, seem to run together, and conveniently straddle Interstate 95 at RI exit # 3, which is about a 75-minute drive south of Boston. The recommended accommodation is the **Stagecoach House Inn**, 1136 Main Street (Route 138), Wyoming, RI 02898. Toll free telephone: 1 888-814-9600. www.stagecoachhouse.com Across the road is the **Wood River Inn**, a restaurant opening for breakfast each day at 7:00 AM. There are also three campgrounds in this area: Wawaloam, Oak Embers, and Whispering Pines.

22 September 2012

Saturday morning: Some people, especially those coming from NH, ME, and VT, may choose to spend Friday night in Rhode Island. In any case, we will assemble in the parking lot of the Stagecoach Inn at 9:00 AM for a 9:30 AM departure, car-pooling to our morning destination: the salt marsh at **Succotash Marsh** in Jerusalem on RI's south coast. There we can see a good variety of sandy shore and saltmarsh plants: e.g. *Hudsonia*, *Limonium*, *Iva*, *Baccharis*, and *Solidago sempervirens*.

Return to Wyoming for lunch where along Route 138 close to I-95 is a choice between all the usual fast food places, plus the above mentioned Wood River Inn.

Saturday afternoon: After lunch, again car pooled (this time it will be very important), we head west on Route 138 to the **Ell and Long Pond Preserve** near the border with CT. http://www.thebackpacker.com/trails/ri/trail_486.php Here we can walk through a large expanse of *Rhododendron maximum* and also see splendid Atlantic White Cedars, *Epigaea repens*, and carnivorous bog plants.

Saturday evening: Dinner with a botanical presentation at the Wood River Inn.

Dr. Keith Killingbeck, Prof. of Biological Sciences, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI
"Autumn leaves in New England: How nutrient conservation fuels a kaleidoscope of color"

23 September 2012

Sunday morning : 9:00 AM departure from the Stagecoach House Inn, never to return. We head east on Route 138 to Jamestown Island and **Beavertail State Park** at the southerly tip. Here are two different habitats to observe: the rocky seashore, and, 200 yards back up the road, a moist sandy and peaty area containing colic-root (*Aletris farinosa*) and other plants of interest.

Then an early lunch in the town of Jamestown further back up the road, followed, according to people's travel needs, by the option of visiting a saltmarsh on the island at **Marsh Meadows Wildlife Preserve**, containing, amongst other plants, New England's native *Hibiscus*.

Departure for home: Take Route 138 west off the island to Route 1 which goes north to MA or south to CT, soon connecting with I-95.