

Registration Procedures for Junior Naturalists and Home School classes for 2017-2018

To register for **Junior Naturalists, (5 years old)** and **Home School** programs (**6-13 years old**), please call Dan McCullough at 617-489-5050 x7206. These programs are filled on a first come basis. Full payment is due at the time of registration. Please note that we have changed to a once-a-year registration. Please inquire to discuss payment plan options. Parents may only register their own children. Mass Audubon **membership is required** for all weekly programs. Programs begin the first week of October.

Refund Policy: Withdrawal from a program prior to the first class will result in a refund minus a \$50 registration fee. Withdrawal from a program after the start date will result in a prorated refund minus a \$50 registration fee.

Programs do not meet the following weeks: Nov. 20, Dec. 18, 25, Feb. 19, Mar. 19, and Apr. 16.

Junior Naturalists

For children age 5 by December 31, 2017

Erika Whitworth

Dates: 26 Thursdays, Oct 5–May 10, 1:00-3:00pm

Fee: \$650

Erika is looking for 5-year-olds who love to play and explore and learn outside. Slugs in the garden, bugs in the pond; lots to discover in the meadow and beyond! Come spend one afternoon a week learning about our natural world and have a great time doing it! *Program is designed for children who miss the kindergarten cut-off in September or who are being homeschooled.*

Home School Naturalists

Habitat will be our classroom as we observe seasonal changes throughout the year. Classes meet once a week and have indoor and outdoor time. We'll spend time in the meadows and woods and at the pond. Topics include insects, plants, mapping, maple sugaring, and a whole lot more.

Session 1: (For children ages 6-7 by Fall 2017)

Chris Casolaro

Dates: 26 Fridays, Oct 6-May 11, 10:00-noon

Fee: \$650

Session 2: (For children ages 8-9 by Fall 2017)

Barbara Tarrh

Dates: 26 Tuesdays, Oct. 3-May 8, 10:00-noon

Fee: \$650

Session 3: (For children ages 10-11 by Fall 2017)

Boot Boutwell

Dates: 26 Thursdays, Oct. 5-May 10, 9:30-11:30 am

Fee: \$650

Home School @ Habitat

For children ages 12-13 by Fall 2017

All units taught by Dan McCullough

This program is a series of 2-4 week units on a variety of topics throughout the year. Each two hour class will spend time inside and out exploring the natural world. Some homework will be required. Units can be signed up for separately.

Slime Molds**Dates:** 3 Wednesdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 10:00-noon**Fee:** \$75

Myxogastrids, commonly known as slime molds, are fascinating half fungus-like, half animal-like organisms. From panic-inducing sightings in 1973 to a recent robot controlled by a slime mold, they provide plenty of opportunities for study.

Using Microscopes**Dates:** 4 Wednesdays, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 10:00-noon**Fee:** \$100

Using a variety of microscopes we will examine their importance in allowing us to see an entirely new world beneath their lenses.

Anthropomorphism**Dates:** 3 Wednesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 10:00-noon**Fee:** \$75

We will explore how certain animals are seen in different cultures. We will also look at how animals have been anthropomorphized in our culture, including advertising.

Observational Journaling**Dates:** 3 Wednesdays, Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 14, 10:00-noon**Fee:** \$75

Many great naturalists have expressed themselves through words and sketching. Using winter as a backdrop, we'll combine these activities as we produce our own journals.

The Key to ID**Dates:** 3 Wednesdays, Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, 10:00-noon**Fee:** \$75

Winter is a great time to sharpen our ID skills. From minerals to mushrooms, bones to buds, we'll study one of the most overlooked features of a field guide—the key!

Up Close: Vernal Pools**Dates:** 3 Wednesdays, Mar. 28, April 4, 11, 10:00-noon**Fee:** \$75

When winter's snow and ice melt away, Habitat's vernal pool is in full swing. Water boatmen, fairy shrimp, and wood frogs are just a few of the inhabitants we will look at. We'll also discuss requirements for certifying a vernal pool.

Backyard Birds**Dates:** 3 Wednesdays, April 25, May 2, 9, 10:00-noon**Fee:** \$75

As spring arrives, different species of birds will be at Habitat to build nests and breed. We will study bird behavior, anatomy, and nesting habits. We'll end by competing in our own version of Mass Audubon's annual Bird-A-Thon.

About our home school teachers:

Roland "Boot" Boutwell earned a Certificate in Native Plant Studies from the New England Wild Flower Society in 2000. He teaches and leads guided walks for a variety of nature and conservation organizations including NEWFS, Appalachian Mountain Club, Friends of Middlesex Fells, and Mass Audubon. He has been a Teacher/Naturalist with Habitat since 1997. He is also been seen on many an occasion leading his groups in a song on his guitar.

Chris Casolaro is a full time Teacher/Naturalist at Habitat where he teaches a number of programs including Coyote Club, Outreach school programs, and camp. He graduated from Boston College in 2013 with a BS in Biology and Minor in Italian. Chris is looking forward to bringing his knowledge of New England wildlife and gardening to our home school community.

Dan McCullough is Training Coordinator for Habitat. He graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington with a BS in Education. When not teaching he can often be found scouring the Habitat property for mushrooms and slime molds. A published poet, he brings a love for both words and wildlife to his home school units. He has been with Habitat since 2001.

Barbara Tarrh received a BS in Education from Salem State University but detoured into the fields of publishing and manufacturing before taking time to raise three sons. She was delighted to discover Habitat through a New England Wildflower Society course, and enthusiastically completed teacher/naturalist training in 2004 to resume working with children. She occasionally translates her love of plants and wildlife to fabric and thread in the form of art quilts.