

RHODE ISLAND WILD PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 414
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office@riwps.org

PRESS RELEASE FOR SPRING PROGRAMS AND WALKS
April through May

April Programs & Walks

SHADBUSH STROLL (co-listed with USFWS)

Trustom Pond Wildlife Refuge, South Kingstown

Sat., APRIL 25, 2009 ~ 1-3 pm (new date) (Weather Date: Sun., May 3)

Leaders: DAVID & NANCY CLAYTON, USFWS Volunteer Naturalists

Spring in southern RI is marked by the bloom of the Shadbush. Dave's guess for this year is that on Saturday, the 25th, we will be rewarded with some in bloom, maybe even the allee out to Osprey Point will oblige. He points out there are other reliable wild flowers on the refuge which we will find in early bloom. Come celebrate the real arrival of spring with Dave and Nancy! Easy walk.

Fee; \$5 members, \$7 non-members

HOW HISTORY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE MIX OF PLANTS AT CANONCHET FARM

Friends of Canochet Farm, Ann Hoxie Lane, Narragansett

Sun., APRIL 26, 2009 ~ 1-3 pm

Leader: FRANCES TOPPING

Explore the habitats of this area and learn how history has combined to produce a varied landscape, with a mixture of native, non-native and invasive plants. Early spring sees trees and shrubs leafing out and some early spring flowers emerging. Join Frances Topping, a member of the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, on a leisurely walk through the property identifying and discussing these plants.

FREE. NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Questions? friendscanochet@aol.com; Phone: Kathy, Secretary of FCF, 783-3951; map on web: <http://canochet.org>

May Programs & Walks

HIKE A NEW TRAIL! (co-listed with Richmond Land Trust)

Richmond, RI

Sun., MAY 3, 2009 ~ 10 am to 12 noon (new date)

Leader: DENISE POYER

This new trail, developed by the Richmond Land Trust, is short and easy. It has some interesting wild flowers, which will be shared with us by Denise Poyer, the Program Director of the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association and board member of the Richmond Land Trust. Easy walk.

Fee: standard for each organization. Pre-registration required. Call RLT office 401-539-9017

MAY 10-16, 2009 ~ RHODE ISLAND WILD PLANT WEEK

SPRING WILD FLOWERS ON THE BEN UTTER TRAIL

Exeter

Sat., MAY 16, 2009 ~ 1-3 pm

(Weather Date: Sun., May 17)

Leader: DOUG McGRADY

This scenic trail is a wonderful spot for seeing a variety of woodland wild flowers. May is a great time to go because many of the plants bloom before the leaves come out. Along the river there are rich, moist areas with Marsh Marigolds, Anemones, Bellworts, Dwarf Ginseng and Canada Mayflower. We will detour to a rocky, upland Sugar Maple forest, where the soils are richer and less acidic, not typical for Rhode Island. There we will see some unusual ferns, including Maidenhair and Rattlesnake, along with some uncommon Violets and Bellworts. Moderate walk.

Fee: \$5 members, \$7 non-members

LATE SPRING BLOOMS AT TRUSTOM POND NWR (co-listed with USFWS)

South Kingstown

Sat., MAY 23, 2009 ~ 1-3 pm

(Weather Date: Sun., May 24)

Leaders: DAVE & NANCY CLAYTON, USFWS Volunteer Naturalists

Join experienced naturalists Dave and Nancy in searching for wild flowers in bloom, such as Wood Betony and maybe, if we are lucky, a species of "Concern", the *Arethusa bulbosa*. Easy walk.

Fee: \$5 members, \$7 non-members

WE WELCOME people of all botanical abilities at our events. Beginners or experts, amateurs or professionals ... we all come to enjoy and learn about wild plants.

WALK NOTES & GUIDELINES

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for all events with fees (and sometimes for those without fees). Register by contacting the RIWPS office at 401-789-7497 or office@riwps.org, or on occasion, the person listed as a contact. Registration closes 48 hours before the walk, so please register early.

STANDARD FEE for members is \$5, for non-members, \$7. Payment must be made 48 hours prior to the walk. Send check to RIWPS, PO Box 414, Exeter, RI 02822.

CONFIRMATION: Registered participants will receive directions to the site and more details by e-mail or telephone.

DIFFICULTY: For your guidance, our walks are rated *easy*, *moderate*, or *strenuous* for healthy people of average physical ability. Our leaders are volunteers with no special training in first aid; therefore, participants assume full responsibility for their own well being.

CANCELLATION: If you must cancel, please notify the person with whom you registered as soon as possible so that we may notify those on the waiting list. Leave a message if no one answers. If you cancel within 24 hours of an event, or on a weekend, call the RIWPS office at 401-789-7497 and leave a message.

DRESS AND EQUIPMENT FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS: Dress appropriately, usually in long pants and sturdy shoes and socks (for protection from poison ivy, briars and ticks). Equipment options might include insect repellent, hat, rubber boots, field guides, hand lens, small notebook, and/or hiking stick.