



**September – November
2010
Walks & Programs**

Visit our website at www.riwps.org

Pre-registration required at least 48 hours in advance, except where noted. Our programs fill up fast so be sure to send in your payment to secure your spot.

To register and for more information please contact the **RIWPS Office:**

Email: office@riwps.org | **Voicemail:** 401-789-7497

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

Mailing Address: RIWPS. PO Box 414, Exeter, RI 02822



**VEGETATION OF THE SUCCOTASH SALT MARSH
South Kingstown, RI
Saturday, September 18, 1 to 3 pm**

Rain date: Sunday, September 19, 1 to 3 pm

Come and explore the diverse plants of the tidal marsh habitat. Many of the species are found only in this ecosystem where some have adapted to daily inundation by saltwater in the low marsh, and others to the sandy, dry conditions of the upland border. We will visit the marsh at low tide; however expect footwear to get muddy. So plan to wear old shoes or rubber boots that won't be ruined by the mud and salt water.

Leader: Carl Sawyer

Moderate

Pre-registration required at least 48 hours prior.

Fee: Members \$5, Non-members \$10.

Minimum 8, maximum 15

Directions and meeting place will be sent to those who have registered.

SEED COLLECTING, SAVING, AND SHARING

Portsmouth Library

2658 East Main Road

Portsmouth, RI

Saturday, September 25, 9:30 – 11 am

Fall is a grand time to plan for changes to be made in your garden. Collecting and saving the seeds from your favorite plants is a good way to begin and can be a rewarding experience. Sharing your extra seeds will help someone else expand their garden pallet.

Come to this lecture to learn how to collect seeds, what storage treatment they may need and to find out when to start planting the seeds so they will be just the right size when spring arrives again. The presenter, Marty Fisher, enjoys blooming plants along with ripening seed heads in her garden. All of her plants have been grown from seeds that she has saved, collected, or bought. The fun of propagating seeds continues year after year. Attendees are invited to bring seeds to share.

Leader: Marty Fisher

Pre-registration required at least 48 hours prior.

Minimum 8, maximum 30

Fee: No fee



Asclepias tuberosa L.
butterfly milkweed



**TOUR OF HARVARD FOREST AND FISHER MUSEUM
Petersham, MA**

**Sunday, September 26, 12 noon (on site)
to 3:00 p.m.**

This will be a memorable afternoon, spent with John O'Keefe, co-author of *New England Forests Through Time*, and long-time Coordinator of the Fisher Museum. The tour will begin with a video and discussion of the history and mission of Harvard Forest, followed by an interpreted tour of the Museum's main exhibit, the internationally acclaimed dioramas portraying the history, conservation and management of central New England's forests. Finally, we will take a walk into one of the most intensively studied tracts in North America, the 3,000-acre site for Harvard Forest studies and long term ecological research. We will see a variety of woodland communities and the different species composition patterns resulting from 270 years of varied land use.

Leader: Garry Plunkett

Moderate

Pre-registration required at least 48 hours prior.

Fee: Members \$10, non-members \$20.

Minimum 8, maximum 15

Directions and car pool arrangements will be sent to those who have registered.

MUSHROOM WALK AT ALTON JONES

Alton Jones Education Center

West Greenwich, RI

Tuesday, October 5, 3 – 5 pm

Rain date: Wednesday, October 6, 3-5 pm

Fungus is everywhere but mostly we only notice it when it decides to send out its spore producing fruit, the mushroom. At the Nettie Marie Jones Nature Preserve the variety of habitats, from the mixed hardwood forest to streams and old fields, should give us a diversity of mushrooms to look for and learn about. We will pick one of each type and try to identify it to a major group. There is NO collecting on this foray. You are advised never to eat a wild mushroom unless you are positive of its species. Many mushrooms look alike, but some are deadly.



Leader: Noel Rowe, experienced amateur Mushroom Enthusiast

Easy

Pre-registration required at least 48 hours prior.

Fee: Members \$5, non-members \$10

Minimum 5, maximum 15

Directions will be sent to those who have registered.

FALL FOLIAGE IDENTIFICATION

Pulaski State Park

Western Gloucester, RI

Sunday, October 17, 1 to 3 pm

Rain date: Sunday, October 24, 1 - 3 pm

This program is the fourth and final event in the Paul Dolan Tree Identification series for the 2009-10 season. This time he will take us to Pulaski Park in northwestern RI -- one of the best areas in the state to see fall color. The kaleidoscope of changing leaf colors contrast with the woods around Peck's Pond to remind us how fortunate we are to live in this part of New England. Access for most people will be via Route 44.

Leader: Paul Dolan

Moderate

Pre-registration required at least 48 hours prior.

Fee: Members \$5, Non-members \$10.

Minimum 5, maximum: 15

Directions and meeting place will be sent to those who have registered. Leave plenty time to get there!

Save the Date RIWPS General Meeting November 13, 2010

Guest Speaker: **Scott Ruhren, Ph.D.**

Senior Director of Conservation at the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

Location tbd

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.

CONTACTING THE RIWPS OFFICE: The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society is, for the most part, a volunteer run organization. Email and voicemail messages are checked Monday through Friday in the morning and again in the evening. The most efficient and timely way to get a response is to contact the office by email whenever possible.

WALK NOTES & GUIDELINES

Most of our programs can accommodate only a limited number of participants, so we ask that you do the following to secure your spot:

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 (if you leave a message, we'll get back to you on the next business day, or office@riwps.org). Registration closes 48 hours before the walk or as soon as the maximum number of people register, so please register early.

FEES: Members pay \$5, Non-members, \$10. Some programs have a higher fee; others may be free. We appreciate receiving your payment in the mail prior to the walk. This reserves your place in the program. Send check to RIWPS, PO Box 414, Exeter, RI, 02822.

WAITING LISTS: If an event is full when your registration is received, you will be asked if you wish to be on the Waiting List.

CONFIRMATION: Registered participants will receive directions to the site and more details by e-mail or telephone. Please be sure we have your email address, if you have one, as this is both the quickest and most efficient way to receive a quick response. Remember we often have a waiting list for the walks and programs, so it is to your benefit to complete your registration as soon as possible.

CANCELLATION: If you must cancel, please contact the office via email or leave a voicemail message (401-789-7497) as soon as possible so that we may notify those on the waiting list.

REFUNDS: No refunds unless RIWPS cancels.

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; participants assume full responsibility for their own well being.

DRESS AND EQUIPMENT FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS: Dress appropriately, usually in long pants, socks (for protection from poison ivy, briars and ticks) and sturdy shoes. Other options depending on the season, weather, and subject: insect repellent, hat, rubber boots, during hunting season an orange vest, field guides, hand lens, small notebook, hiking stick.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Most events are held regardless of the weather. In case of cancellation or postponement you will be notified.

PLEASE HELP US PROTECT OUR NATURAL AREAS: No smoking, no collecting, and no pets at our events.