

Conservation Matters

A monthly column focused on conservation education, as the result of collaboration among several area conservation commissions and organizations. If your town's commission or conservation organization would like to contribute articles, please contact Jessica Tabolt Halm jess_tabolt@hotmail.com

Title: Come Explore Quincy Bog Natural Area This Summer

Submitted by: Pemi-Baker Land Trust

New England's long tradition of nature education by local centers and associations enters high gear as the weather warms. In the Pemi-Baker region, the Quincy Bog Natural Area, off Quincy Bog Rd, Rumney, hosts a series of summer talks and workshops, in addition to its popular 1-mile loop trail around an active beaver pond. The area has two parking and kiosk areas with newly updated maps and visitor guides. It is open from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year, and free of charge. Nearby, Quincy Pasture Forest offers visitors a more rigorous 2-mile hike, with nice views to the south. Two loop trails there introduce visitors to best practices in woodlot conservation, starting at a kiosk and parking area off East Rumney Rd (across from mailbox #340).

Quincy Bog's free Wednesday Evening Series runs every two weeks from June-August, at the Nature Center. It includes presentations by NH Humanities Council artists, and local scientists and naturalists. This year the series starts off June 10, 7:00 p.m. with music by Two Old Friends.

The Weekend Walk series is another free, group activity, offered monthly. These volunteer-led walks around the Quincy Bog and Quincy Pasture Forest have a different focus each week, including birds, wildflowers, and nighttime ecology and fall foliage. The first walk of the season is "Birding for Beginners" on May 17. Hosted by Iain MacLeod, Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, in Holderness, it leaves at 7 a.m. from the Quincy Bog Nature Center and runs to about 9:30 a.m.

Quincy Bog also offers two summer workshops, one for children and one for the general public. These events are very popular, and space is limited, so registration is required. This year, Rumney artist Pat Giebutowski offers a free Children's Art Workshop on July 18, from 9-11:30 a.m. At summer's end, on September 6, Rick Van de Poll will again offer his daylong Fabulous Fungi Workshop to 20 participants. This mushroom identification and use workshop has a \$20 registration fee. Additional information and registration for these events can be found online (www.quincybog.org; Nature Walks and Workshops).

We're always looking for new volunteers in our Bog Host Program, to serve three hours a week, in July and August. These volunteers make the Nature Center available to visitors, walk the trail to chat with hikers and offer guests insider information about animal sightings and activities. For more information, visit the website (www.quincybog.org), or on Facebook (Quincy Bog Natural Area), or contact Betty Jo Taffe at 786-2553 or bjtaffe@gmail.com.

To find Quincy Bog Natural Area, navigate to 131 Quincy Bog Rd, Rumney, NH. From Plymouth, take Tenney Mt Hwy, to Smith Bridge Rd. After the covered bridge, veer left onto Quincy Rd. Quincy Bog Rd will be on the right. If you reach East Rumney Rd, you've gone too far.

Figure: Photo of Le Conte's Sparrow by Susan Buttrick (by permission), taken at Quincy Bog on April 14, 2015, only the 3rd time this species has been noted in New Hampshire.

