

The Stebbins Splash

May 2026

Contact us at friendsofstebbins@gmail.com
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Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge is 75!

Celebrate at our exciting seasonal programs and events for all ages.
Enter our bird challenge or photo contest. (information below)

Beginner Bird Walk with the Allen Bird Club



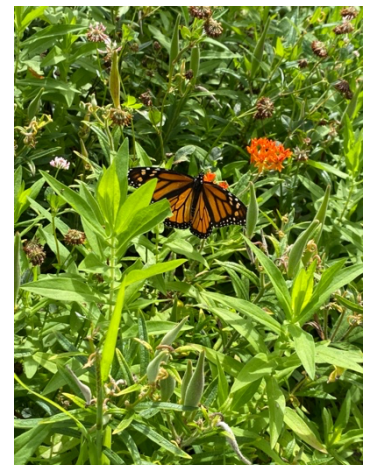
Saturday, May 2, 8:00 - 10:00 AM, meet at the corner of Bark Haul and Pondside Roads

Learn the basics to identify beautiful, common birds of Fannie Stebbins, including migrating warblers. Bring binoculars if possible. We'll have some available to borrow. Please wear shoes or boots appropriate for watery, muddy areas and use tick and bug defense. All are welcome free of charge. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This program will take place drizzle or shine; hard rain cancels. For more information, please call (860) 539-8777.

Pollinator Garden Spring Spruce Up

Thursday, May 7, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Come when you can and bring gloves, tools, and kneeling pads if you have them. We have some tools to lend. Insect repellent, sunscreen, and drinking water are recommended. The pollinator garden is located at the corner of West and Birnie Rds. Rain date May 8th at 9am. For questions contact Cynthia: casom@comcast.net



Emerald Ash Borer Biological Control Walk

Saturday, May 16th at 10:00 AM



Learn about how scientists are currently managing the invasive insect, emerald ash borer, using biological control with PhD student and forest entomologist Mitchell Green. Mitchell will lead a walk to find ash trees and identify signs of emerald ash borer and discuss how biological control can protect our native ash trees. Meet at Bark Haul and Pondsides Rd. Wear boots and be prepared to walk on muddy trails. Severe weather cancels. Approximately 1 hour duration. For questions please contact Mitchell: mitchell.green@unh.edu

75 Bird Challenge with Refuge Checklist

Saturday, May 30 through Sunday, May 31

In honor of the 75th anniversary of Stebbins and our long-standing relationship with the Allen Bird Club we are excited to announce a 75 Bird Challenge over the weekend of May 30th and 31st. Pick up a free copy of our brand new refuge-specific bird checklist, available in refuge kiosks starting that weekend. Then try to identify 75 of the 260 species listed on the checklist over the course of the two days. Top observers will be publicly recognized. For questions contact Vince: vg54@aol.com



2026 Refuge Photography Contest

May 1st through September 1st

Friends of Fannie Stebbins is sponsoring a Photo Contest in celebration of the Refuge's 75th Anniversary. Any photographer may submit their recent photos by going to mycameraclub.com, registering for free, and searching for "Friends of Fannie Stebbins 75th." Rules and regulations are listed there. The 20 best photos will be featured in an exhibit at the Longmeadow Adult Center for the month of October. For questions contact Lucille: lbrindisi@gmail.com

Friends of Fannie Stebbins Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 5:00PM

245 Porter Lake Drive, Springfield (Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield)

You're invited to meet up with other refuge supporters and celebrate all things Stebbins. Our featured speaker is Bill Ardren of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Project Leader of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. A light sandwich and sides buffet will be available. Please RSVP by May 18 to friendsofstebbins@gmail.com.

Watch Out for Turtles

In April, visitors saw a few lifeless snapping turtles floating in the pond near the viewing platform on Pondsides Road. The [Turtle Rescue League](#) came out to investigate and found that they were three males who didn't survive the winter's extreme weather. During the winter, snapping turtles try to stay in water that doesn't freeze, burying themselves in the leaves or mud at the bottom of ponds where they enter a state of brumation. As the temperature drops, their metabolism slows down and they conserve energy, absorbing oxygen from the water. The males will often place themselves on top of the females and are more likely to be affected by significant ice, which we had this year. As the water warmed, the dead turtles floated to the top, but they will sink back down and decompose, adding to the nutrients in the pond.

As turtles become more active, you may see one trying to cross the road. If so, please pull over and help it cross safely in the direction it is going; never turn it around. If you find an injured turtle with a cracked shell or evidence of blood, put it in a cardboard box or a contained area, note the location, and contact the Turtle Rescue League for instructions. They are licensed wildlife rehabilitators located in Massachusetts. More information on helping turtles in different situations is available on their [Emergencies](#) web page.

The Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow, Massachusetts is one of the best walking, birding, and photography locations in the greater Springfield area. If you have friends and family who would enjoy learning about nature programs and volunteer days at the refuge, please share this newsletter and invite them to join our mailing list by emailing friendsofstebbins@gmail.com. The Friends of Fannie Stebbins does not share your email.