



# Northfield Mountain

RECREATION & ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Spring/Summer 2011

Phone: (800) 859-2960

[www.firstlightpower.com/northfield](http://www.firstlightpower.com/northfield)

## Spring/Summer Updates

### Inside this issue:

Fishways	2
Trails	2
Camping	2
Riverboat	3
Canoe & Kayak	3
School Programs	4 - 6
Public Programs	7 - 11
Pavilion & Yurt	12

### Northfield News:

- *This paper Newsletter is available by mail for a fee of \$10 per year.*
- *Free monthly electronic updates about happenings at Northfield Mountain are available by registering online at our website.*

### Photo Contest Great Success!

Thanks to all the talented folks who submitted amazing images for our winter photo contest. We received 188 submissions! At the time of this writing, the judges are pouring over photos, trying to pick which best meet the contest criteria. There are so many great shots to choose from it's going to be incredibly difficult to decide, but ultimately a first prize winner in each category will receive either a pair of skis or snowshoes and second prize winners will earn a season pass for skiing in 2012. Everyone wins in this contest because the quality and variety of images in Northfield publications will be improving – so readers will be able to see

what a magical place the Mountain really is in winter.



### Trails to Open at End of Mud Season

Northfield Mountain's carriage-width trails were designed for cross country skiing. The wide, flat trails that skiers love hold the groomed snow base in an icy form much later

in spring than other trails. After the ice melts, they hold water well, too. The result is a very tender, mushy surface into which people can easily sink – making for both muddy boots and large holes in the trails. In order to keep trails in great shape for summer and fall hikers, bikers and horseback riders, and skiers next winter, we have an extended spring closed season which is completely weather dependent. Some years hikers, walkers and runners are welcome on the trails in mid-April, other years in early May. Bikes and horses always need to wait longer – sometimes late into May. The best way to know whether trails are open is to check the trails report on the website.

## Visitor Center

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center is the hub of local facilities, and programs owned and operated by FirstLight Power Resources. It's the place to make reservations, pick up riverboat tickets, get information and attend many programs. The

Center's exhibits depict historic and modern uses of the Connecticut River.

### Visitor Center Schedule

**April** — Monday thru Friday

**May** — Monday thru Friday, bathrooms open most Saturdays & Sundays.

**June** — Tuesday thru Saturday, bathrooms open most Sundays.

**July—September** - Wednesday thru Sunday.

**Center Holidays — Closed:**  
Memorial Day — May 30  
Independence Day — July 4  
Labor Day — Sept. 5



A young shad fan

## Turners Falls Fishway

Spring on the Connecticut River offers an unrivaled opportunity to witness the migration of shad, sea lamprey and other anadromous fish. These fish migrate from the ocean and head upriver to spawn in the rivers of their birth.

A visit to the Turners Falls Fishway provides an opportunity to learn about these

amazing journeys. Admission is free. The Turners Falls Fishway will **open Saturday, May 14 and close Sunday, June 19**. The facility is open **Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** The Fishway is located on First Street, off Avenue A. For information please visit our website or call: (800) 859-2960.

For information on Holyoke Gas and Electric's Robert E. Barrett Fishway visit their website at [http://www.hged.com/html/hadley\\_falls\\_fish\\_lift.html](http://www.hged.com/html/hadley_falls_fish_lift.html) or call (413) 536-9474.

Campgrounds open  
May 27

For reservations call  
(413) 863-9300  
beginning —  
April 6, 2011

## Trails, Mountain Bikes, Horses, and Dog Walking

Trails are open seven days a week for hiking after the trails begin to dry. **Horses and mountain bikes are welcome only after the trails have completely dried out from mud season, typically in May.** Check trail conditions before leaving home by reading our **trails report at: [www.FirstLightPower.com/northfield](http://www.FirstLightPower.com/northfield) or calling the Visitor Center (800) 859-2960.**

### Mountain Biking

Enjoy 25 miles of double track trails and three state views. A helmet and tires at least 1.5 inches wide are required.

### Horseback riding:

A helmet or hard hat is required and riders must check in at the Center for parking and trail information. For the comfort of all our visitors, we require all riders to clean up

the area around their trailers.

### Dog walking :

Please make sure your dog remains on a leash at all times. Leashes are required by long-standing town ordinances. For the comfort and benefit of all our visitors, we also require all dog walkers to clean up after their pets. Thank you for helping keep our properties clean and open to all users.

## Camping

### Barton Cove

Located on a rocky peninsula jutting into the Connecticut River, Barton Cove is an ideal place to take a day trip or camp for the week. With a day-use picnic area, bathrooms, tent camping and minimal auto access, it is a peaceful place for families. There are also two group sites and two sites suitable for pop-up trailers or class C camper vans. All sites are rustic, with no

hookups. Barton Cove will be open for camping Friday, May 27, through Labor Day Monday, September 5.

Tent Sites/night.....\$22  
Group Site 1/night .....\$60  
Group Site 2/night.....\$40  
Munns Adirondack Shelter...\$30

Call for reservations:

**(413) 863-9300**

Reservations will be accepted by phone beginning April 6.

### Munns Ferry (Boat Access)

Campers may access the campground **by boat only. Reservations are required.** Camping is limited to two nights (except for three day holiday weekends). **The boat dock will not be installed before June 15.** Tent sites are \$22 per night and the Adirondack shelter is \$30 per night. Munns is open from Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day. **Potable water is not available** on site.



Limited car access makes Barton Cove a delightfully quiet camping area.

## Quinnetukut II Riverboat

The French King Gorge is one of the most scenic stretches of the Connecticut River in Massachusetts. Climb aboard the charming 60-seat Quinnetukut II Riverboat and enjoy a relaxing and informative journey down New England's great river. This 12-mile narrated cruise takes one-and-a-half hours. Riverboat tickets are sold at the Visitor Center.

### Riverboat Schedule

Departing Riverview  
Picnic Area

**June 25 – October 16**

**Friday through Sunday  
11 a.m. 1:15 p.m. 3 p.m.**

**Riverboat Holidays — Closed:**  
Independence Day — July 4  
Labor Day — September 5

### Ticket Fees

Adult ..... \$12.00  
Senior (55+) .....\$11.00  
Child (14 -).....\$6.00  
Group (15 or more) ....\$10.00  
School Group.....\$6.00

Reservations strongly recommended by calling:

**(800) 859-2960.**



**Cruising on the QII**

## Riverboat Charters

### Riverboat Charters

Looking for a unique social outing for a business or family event? Let us schedule a relaxing cruise through the magnificent French King Gorge on the Quinnetukut II Riverboat. Private charter prices begin at just \$375. Cruises can accommodate up to 60 passengers and can be scheduled to meet your needs. We can even recommend caterers for your cruise.

### Pavilion & Charter

Plan this beautiful combination for your special event. The riverside post-and-beam pavilion structure is the perfect picnic location and a short walk brings picnickers to the Riverboat dock for their private adventure on the River. It will turn your party into a memorable occasion.

Cost: **\$525 Friday**  
**\$575. Saturday & Sunday**

### High Water Warning

Weather conditions or river flows may require us to cancel riverboat cruises, canoe and kayak rentals, and upriver shuttles in the interest of safety. Since sometimes the decision must be made at the last minute, Riverboat passengers should call (800)-859-2950 to confirm cruise departures before traveling. Canoe and kayak customers should call (413)-863-9300 before traveling.

## Canoe & Kayak Rentals

### Shuttle Service

Enjoy paddling on the scenic Connecticut River this summer. Paddle out from Barton Cove or use our shuttle service which offers three convenient drop off points for trips ranging in length from three hours to two days. Bring your own kayak and canoe or rent one of ours and enjoy the pastoral settings of the Upper Pioneer Valley. In addition

to family outings, these trips make excellent excursions for church, school, summer camp, or scout groups. Rentals will be available 7 days per week beginning May 28.

Call for reservations:  
**(413) 863-9300.**

Reservations will be accepted by phone beginning April 6.

### Rental and Shuttle Fees

Canoes/kayaks 2 hours....\$25  
Canoes/kayaks daily.....\$40  
Canoes/kayaks 3 day.....\$80

### 6 Mile Upriver Shuttle

With canoe rental.....\$55  
With your own canoe.....\$20

### 14 Mile Upriver Shuttle

With canoe rental.....\$60  
With your own canoe.....\$25

### 20 Mile Vernon Shuttle

With 2 day canoe rental...\$90  
With your own canoe .....\$30



**Canoeing Barton Cove**

## Spring School Programs: Environmental Education



**We welcome schools & groups for fun, educational field trips.**

Please join us this spring for one of the many field trip opportunities offered for schools and organized groups. Our goal is to provide quality learning experiences that are both educational and engaging, using the outdoors as the classroom. Our experienced educators allow learners the opportunity to explore subjects and habitats through

focused, hands-on programs. Please note that our fee waiver policy sets aside limited funds for individual students.

**Please call (413) 659-3714, or (800) 859-2960 to schedule a field trip** for your students this spring. Most programs are offered from mid-April through mid-June. Please see specific program

description as availability may vary.

*All environmental school programs support the Massachusetts Science Frameworks. For more information contact Kim Noyes, School Environmental Programs Coordinator: (413) 659-4462*

### Where the Sidewalk Ends

This program is designed specifically for the open and curious minds of young children. Using the outdoors as the classroom, young children discover the colors, shapes, textures, sounds and smells of this season of rebirth. Hands-on activities and sensory exploration take place in a safe and playful environment.

Join us in exploring the fields and forests during this exciting season of change.

*Grades Pre-K and K*

*Time Allowance: 1 hour for Pre-K, 1 ¼ hours for K*

*Group Size: 22 (groups up to 33 on limited days)*

*(6/1 student/adult ratio)*

*Availability: Thu. and Fri.*

*Fee: \$5/student; minimum \$50/class*

*Science and Technology Standards Applicable:*

*Earth Science (PreK-K) #1,*

*Life Science (PreK-K) #1, #6, #7, #8*

**Register for our school programs by calling:  
(413) 659-3714 or  
(800) 859-2960.**

### Pond Probe

This is one of Northfield's most popular programs. Explore the amazing world of a pond in spring. From aquatic insects to salamanders to microscopic invertebrates, this program provides a unique opportunity to observe live animals up close. Students examine the underwater world of a small pond using collecting nets, field guides and magnifiers. Environmental ethics, pond ecology, observation skills, and adaptations of the unique inhabitants of a pond are the

focus of this program. Children collect, observe and release their aquatic animals back into the pond. Pre- and post-visit curriculum materials are provided.

*Grades 1 and above*

*Time Allowance: 1 ¾-2 hours depending on grade*

*Group Size: 30 (groups up to 40 on limited days)*

*(10/1 student/adult ratio)*

*Availability: Wed., Thu. and Fri. April—August*

*Fee: \$6/student; minimum \$90/class*

*Science and Technology Standards Applicable:*

*Earth Science (Grades 1-2) #1, (Grades 3-5) #10*

*Life Sciences (Grades 1-2) #1, #3, #6, #8, (Grades 3-5) #3, #4*



**Look! A salamander!**

## Signs of Spring

Soon to come alive and awakened with signs of spring, the forests and fields at Northfield provide an exciting outdoor classroom for students to discover the world around them. A variety of hands-on activities are used to explore signs of spring with a focus on birds and wildflowers. The emphasis for 1st and 2nd grade is

sensory exploration and discovery. For grade 3 and above, the emphasis is on ecology and adaptation.

*Grades 1-6*

*Time Allowance: 1½-2 hours depending on grade*

*Group Size: 25 (groups up to 36 on limited days)*

*(10/1 student/adult ratio)*

*Availability: Thu. and Fri.*

*Fee: \$6/student; minimum \$60/class*

*Science and Technology Standards Applicable:*

*Earth Science (Grades 1-2) #1*

*Life Science (Grades 1-2) #1,#3,#6,#7,#8, (Grades 3-5) #2,#3*



**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Incredible Insects

Join us and explore the six and eight-legged wonders that abound in our fields. Students will have the opportunity to collect, observe, draw and release insects and spiders. A variety of activities will introduce the amazing adaptations, life cycles and ecology of one of the most successful groups of animals on earth – incredible insects.

*Grades 2 and 3*

*Time Allowance: 2 hours*

*Group Size: 25 (groups up to 36 on limited days)*

*(10/1 student/adult ratio)*

*Availability: Thu. and Fri.*

*Fee: \$6/student; minimum \$60/class*

*Science and Technology Standards Applicable:*

*Earth Science (Grades 1-2) #1,*

*Life Science (Grades 1-2) #1,#3,#6,#8, (Grades 3-5) #3,#4,#7*

**“As always the program beautifully fit the standards and developmental stages of the learners”**  
1st grade teacher,  
Hatfield Elementary

## Orienteering

Opportunities are available for teachers to *lead their own orienteering program* using the permanent course at Northfield Mountain after teaching the necessary skills in their classroom. **Guidelines for teachers interested in leading their own orienteering program using Northfield’s permanent orienteering course:** The course is available Wed.- Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. beginning mid-April and must be reserved in advance. Northfield Mountain staff will assist in planning logistics for your

group’s use of the orienteering course; however, **we will not be available to instruct your students.**

Students must be accompanied by an adult chaperone while using Northfield Mountain’s orienteering course. Organizing your students into groups (3 to 5 students working together) creates a small group activity which is effective for learning orienteering

Orienteering maps are available for \$2.00 per map. Compasses may be rented for

\$1.00 per compass while your group is at Northfield Mountain .

**Indoor classroom space is not available so please plan instructional units accordingly.**

We will continue to support teachers interested in leading their own orienteering program. An instructional activity packet designed to help teach map reading and orienteering skills at your school is available for \$6.00 (plus \$3.85 postage & handling.)



**Orienteers search for “control point” posts hidden in Northfield’s woods & fields.**

## Fishway School Programs: Fins and Ladders



American shad by Sherman Denton, 1904

Visit the Turners Falls Fishway for a watchable wildlife experience. This program focuses on migratory fish of the Connecticut River and the fish ladders that help these fish bypass the dam. A variety of activities will introduce anadromous fish and the challenges of their upstream journey. These fascinating fish are born in the river or its tributaries, migrate to the ocean and return as adults to spawn in freshwater. American Shad

and sea lamprey can often be seen swimming by the viewing windows. Hands-on activities and an opportunity for possible wildlife viewing make this an exciting program for all ages. Pre- and post-visit curriculum materials provided.

*All Grades*  
*Group Size: 30*  
*(15/1 student/adult ratio)*  
*Available: Wed., Thu., Fri.,*  
*May 18-June 17*

*One hour programs at 9:30, 10:45 or 1:00 Free*

*Science and Technology Standards Applicable:*  
*Earth Science (PreK-2) #1, Life Science (PreK-2) #1,#3,#6,#8, (Grades 3-5) #3*

*To schedule a program at the Barrett Fishway in Holyoke please call 413-536-9474.*

A visit to the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls is a wonderful complement to "Fins and Ladders."  
 Phone: 413-863-3221

## Professional Development: Growing Up Wild; Exploring Nature with Young Children

*Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children* is a brand new early childhood education activity guide that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature. The activity guide is written for educators of children ages 3-7 and includes crafts, art projects, music, science, reading and math connections and much more. Educators will participate in a variety of interactive, hands-on, fun-filled activities and gain experience and skills helpful for taking children outside to explore the natural world. Explore early spring on a seasonal scavenger hunt, learn about MA

frogs and toads, meet Herman the Worm and learn simple ways to bring live animals into your teaching while composting. This professional development workshop is great for teachers, camp counselors, child care providers, home school parents and other educators. The workshop will take place both inside and outside and will be taught by Northfield Mountain's Kim Noyes and Beth Bazler and Karen Eldred, a Pre-School Teacher at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary. *Growing Up Wild* is correlated to the National Association for the Education of

Young Children (NAEYC) Standards and the Head Start Domains.

*Sat., April 9; 9 – 3:30 p.m.*

*For Educators of Young Children ages 3-7*

*Fee: \$40, includes activity guide*

*Pre-registration required by April 1st — 800-859-2960*



*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder; he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in"*

**Rachael Carson**

## Public Program Registration

Call 800-859-2960

1. Register by phone with your Visa or MasterCard.
2. Register by mail with a check made out to Northfield Mountain. Please send a separate check for each program.
3. Include program names, dates and participant names, address, telephone and email.
4. Mail to:  
99 Millers Falls Road,  
Northfield, MA, 01360
5. If unable to attend a program for which you are registered, please call as soon as possible so that others can take your place.
6. Refunds will be made if we are notified at least one week in advance of the program date.
7. Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult on all programs.



Many programs meet at the Northfield Mountain Visitor Center

## Fairy Fun at Barton Cove

*“It’s so wonderful to be outside,*

*To swing on daisies and daffodil slides;*

*Of all the enchanted games to play,*

*Which are the ones we’ll choose today?”*

by Marla Schram Schwartz

This should prove a magical morning--spent on the Barton Cove Peninsula in early spring. The afternoon includes a craft (making fairy dust), reading fairy stories, playing games, building woodland fairy houses, and concludes with fairy snacks. The fairies never worry about a little dirt on their wings or a little light

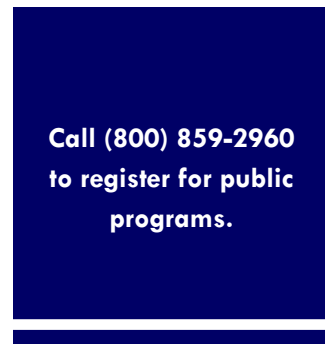
rain, so please wear clothes that can get messy, raincoat and boots if required, and bring a water bottle. Heavy rain cancels.

*Fri., Apr. 22; 2 – 4:30 p.m.*

*For ages 4 and older*

*Fee: \$6 per child*

*Register by calling 800-859-2960*



## Spring Sunset Supper Hike

Spring should be starting to crescendo with leaves swelling on the tree, birds migrating along the ridge and wildflowers peaking out along the trail. It’s the perfect time to cure your spring fever with an evening immersed in nature. The “high point” of the evening will come atop nearby Crag Mountain where we’ll enjoy a picnic supper in the sunset. Participants should be in moderate condition and comfortable with a

small amount of rock scrambling on steep slopes. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy and bring supper, water, and flashlight.

*Sat., May 7; 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.*

*For ages 8 and older*

*Fee: FREE*

*Register by calling 800-859-2960*





Cascading brook along  
Rose Ledge trail

## Senior Hike to Rose Ledge

Rushing streams, stunning rock ledges, valley views and the camaraderie of other active seniors will make for a perfect spring morning. The group will take a leisurely pace on this three mile hike to Rose Ledges, one of the most picturesque and popular places on Northfield Mountain. The ledges have been used by quarrymen, porcupines and rock climb-

ers and all have left signs of their presence for the group to explore. Wear sturdy shoes and bring along water and a hearty trail snack for our break below the ledges.

*Fri., May 13; 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.*

*For ages 50 and older*

*Fee: FREE*

*Register by calling 800-859-2960*

**"If there is magic on  
this planet, it is  
contained in water."  
- Loren Eiseley**

## Underwater Organisms: Amazing Diversity

The pond at Northfield Mountain contains organisms that can both swim and fly, breath through their hind end and later use the same water for jet propulsion, and even one nymph that was used to help design the creature for the "Aliens" movies. Adults often find these organisms fascinating and this program will give them the opportunity to collect, observe and learn survival strategies and life cycles of their favorite spe-

cies. Opportunities will be provided to use magnifiers from bug boxes to projecting microscopes and, if desired, sketch features observed. Favorite resources for researching and identifying animals from amphibians to insects will be shared and used so participants will be able to return to ponds in their own neighborhoods and discover the amazing diversity hidden within.

*Sat., May 21; 2 – 4 p.m.*

*For ages 12 and older*

*Fee: FREE*

*Register by calling 800-859-2960*

## Tracks and Signs of Insects with Noah Charney and Charley Eisman



**Search for signs of  
invertebrates at  
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary  
during this special  
Program.**

Expand your naturalists skills and join Charley Eisman and Noah Charney, authors of the groundbreaking, award-winning reference book "Tracks & Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates: A Guide to North American Species" for this day of immersion into insect world. In the morning they will present a slide show, sharing stories from their travels while working on the

book and highlighting some of their favorite invertebrate signs. After lunch we'll head out into the field in search of galls, webs, eggs, cocoons, droppings, and other signs of invertebrates. Charley and Noah will be selling their book, which contains nearly 1000 color photos and describes signs of about 2000 species. This book is clearly a must for all naturalists and one of a kind! Please bring a

lunch and dress for an afternoon spent outdoors.

*Sat., June 4; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

*For ages 16 and older*

*Fee: \$35*

*Register by calling 800-859-2960*

*Programs meets at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton*

## Kayak the Cove

Start the weekend quietly paddling on the water as the changing light shows the beauty of the Cove on a warm spring evening. Will we hear the warble of the wood thrush, see the beavers paddling around, or watch a majestic bald eagle flying overhead?

We won't know until we paddle into every nook and cranny and immerse ourselves in what this particular evening has to offer. Bring along hors d'oeuvres to share and the drink of your choice. Tandem kayaks available.

*Fri., June 10; 6:30 – 9 p.m.*

*For ages 12 and older*

*Fee: free with own kayak;*

*\$30/boat with kayak rental*

*Register by calling 800-859-2960*



Enjoy a peaceful evening kayaking the cove.

## Busy Bluebirds with Rachel Roberts

. Join educator Rachel Roberts for this exciting program about Eastern Bluebirds. Together we will do a variety of hands-on science and art activities connected to nesting and raising young of a few local birds. This class will reinforce participants' understanding of animal behavior with emphasis on the Bird Kingdom and the cycles of nature around us in the spring and summer. Weather permitting, there will be time to investigate

the bluebird boxes located around Northfield Mountain and see the stages of bluebird nesting first-hand (so dress appropriately). This workshop is free and intended for families.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Northfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

*Sat., June 18; 10 – 11:30 a.m.*

*For ages 6 and older*

*Fee: FREE*

*Register by calling 800-859-2960*

**“When nature made the blue-bird she wished to propitiate both the sky and the earth, so she gave him the color of the one on his back and the hue of the other on his breast.”**  
**John Burroughs**

## Introduction to Dragonflies

*Co-sponsored with Massachusetts Audubon Society's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary*

Join David McLain for a two-part indoor/outdoor introduction to the dragonfly and damselfly families of our area. An evening slide show at Arcadia on Tuesday will introduce field marks, identification techniques, resources, and netting techniques. The Saturday field session provides the oppor-

tunity to explore damselflies and dragonflies in more depth and learn the field marks in hand, perched, or on the wing.

David McLain is the Conservation Coordinator at Arcadia and Dave has conducted research and for birds, muscels, snails, odonates, butterflies, fish, herps and plants, both locally and internationally.

*Tues., July 12; 7-9 p.m.*

*Sat., July 16; 9 a.m.-12 p.m.*

*For ages 16 and older*

*Fee: \$15 members,*

*\$25 for nonmembers*

*Both programs meet at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton*



**Twelve Spotted Skimmer**

**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

## Exploring Barton Cove Ferns by Boat and Foot with Elizabeth Farnsworth



Learn about ferns from  
Author and Illustrator  
Elizabeth Farnsworth

Who better to explore Barton Cove with than Elizabeth Farnsworth, co-author of both the [Connecticut River Boating Guide](#) and the [Peterson Field Guide to the Ferns of Northeastern and Central North America](#)? Please bring lunch and drinks to enjoy along the way. Program co-sponsor, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, is a non-profit membership organiza-

tion dedicated to celebrating and protecting the four-state watershed. Their updated Boating Guide (co-authored by Elizabeth) was published in 2007. Program also co-sponsored by New England Wild Flower Society who's mission is to protect the region's native flora.

Elizabeth Farnsworth is Senior Research Ecologist with the New England Wild

Flower Society. Her unique background as a botanist, professor, illustrator, author, boat builder and kayaker provide her with a wealth of information to share during this exploration of the Cove.

*Sat., July 23; 9 a.m. - 1p.m.*

*For ages 12 and older*

*Fee: \$25 per person includes canoe or kayak rental*

*Register by calling 800-859-2960*

## Dragons of the North; Ecology, Identification and Research Co-sponsored with Massachusetts Audubon Society's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

Join Dr. Kirsten Martin at Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center for an afternoon immersed in dragonflies and damselflies. We will begin indoors with a brief introduction and overview of these amazing insects then head outside to explore two different habitats. By visit-

ing a pond and the banks of the Connecticut River we will have the opportunity to observe and identify a variety of species. Kirsten will update us on her recent research on emerging dragonfly nymphs along the riverbank. Dr. Kirsten Martin is a Professor at Bay Path College, Asnuntuck Commu-

nity College and Springfield Technical Community College. Bring binoculars and dress for a summer afternoon outdoors. Registration deadline July 21.

*Sun., July 24; 1-4 p.m.*

*For ages 16 and older*

*Fee: \$10.00*

*Register by calling 800-859-2960*

Deep in the sun-  
searched growths the  
dragonfly  
Hangs like a blue  
thread loosened from  
the sky.  
Dante Gabriel Rossetti

## Paddling and Plant Pulling around Barton Cove

Help save the Connecticut River from a plant invader. Water chestnut is a pretty, but serious plant pest that can take over shallow waterways, obstructing boating and other recreational activities and crowding out native plants and the wildlife that depend on them. Staff from the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Northfield Mountain are organizing a

"plant-pulling day" in and around Barton Cove in Gill, MA. Participants will canoe to a couple of locations where plants have been found in previous seasons and look for new infestation locations. The plants, which are easily recognizable from their floating leaves, will be carefully pulled and put in trash bags for removal by truck to a place where they cannot do any more damage. After pulling, there will be a gathering in the Great Hall

of the Great Falls Discovery Center from 12 to 12:30 p.m. where participants can enjoy air conditioning, relaxing, and desserts! A confirmation email with what to wear and bring will be shared with registered participants.

*Sat., July 30; 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.*

*For ages 12 and older*

**FREE**

*Register by calling Great Falls Discovery Center 413-863-3221*



U. S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service

## Space-tacular: Starry Night with Rachel Roberts

Join educator Rachel Roberts for this exciting program about constellations. Together we will do a variety of hands-on science and art activities connected to the viewing, science, and mythology of stars. There will also be time to look at books about space, constellations, and mythology. This class will reinforce participants' understanding of the vast and beautiful outer-

space that surrounds us! You'll be able to use your new constellation knowledge to view stars on a clear summer night. This workshop is free and intended for families and is supported in part by a grant from the Northfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Sat., August 20; 6– 7:30 p.m.  
For ages 7 and older  
Fee: FREE  
Register by calling 800-859-2960



Altair, one of 3 brightest stars of the summer triangle is said to be the head of Aquila the Eagle.

## Astronomy Conjunction

Northfield Mountain will host the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut River Valley Astronomer's Conjunction. Enjoy the camaraderie of amateur astronomers learning and observing together at Northfield Mountain. Held during the dark of the moon, the weekend will be jam-packed full of slide pres-

entations, talks, and Friday and Saturday night sky viewing through telescopes of all shapes and sizes. Check out the conjunction website at: <http://www.philharrington.net/astroconjunction/>. registration forms available from Richard Sanderson at RSander-

son@springfieldmuseums.org or by writing Jack Megas, Astronomy Conjunction, 311 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118

Fri. & Sat., Aug. 26 & 27  
For ages 12 and older



## Welcome to the New Beth

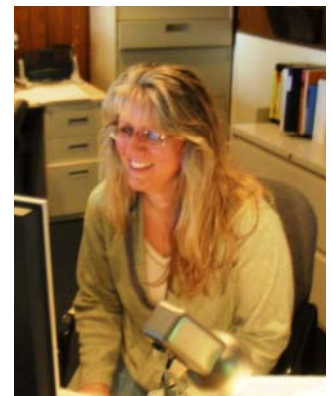
Beth Pelton began working at the Visitor Center Front Desk a few months ago and has already mastered ski shop and front desk responsibilities. Beth's varied background includes a degree in Natural Resources Education from the University of Wyoming and a position as the Director's Assistant at the Wyoming Children's Museum and Nature Center in Laramie. She also spent time in Michigan teaching Zoo School in Lansing and

Identifying and cataloging native flora in Alma. Locally, Beth assisted a UMASS doctoral candidate with bird behavior research and has notable memories of using a bird blind to observe Kingfishers feeding young in their riverbank nest holes in Sunderland.

In addition to her field and education work, Beth has experience working in office environments and a background in graphic design.

Beth has already updated our e-news layout and has a goal of getting the word out electronically on a monthly basis.

The Front Desk is an important place for visitor contact at Northfield Mountain and Beth's background and commitment make her the perfect person to communicate effectively with you. Please help us make the new Beth feel welcome.



Beth Pelton

## Spring and Summer Program Calendar

### April

- 9 9am - 3:30 pm Professional Development: Growing up Wild; Exploring Nature with Young Children
- 22 2 - 4:30 pm Fairy Fun at Barton Cove

### May

- 7 5:30 - 8:30 pm Spring Sunset Supper Hike
- 13 8:30 - 11:30 am Senior Hike to Rose Ledge
- 21 2 - 4 pm Underwater Organisms: Amazing Diversity

### June

- 4 10am - 3 pm Tracks And Signs of Insects with Noah Charney & Charley Eisman
- 10 6:30 - 9 pm Kayak the Cove
- 18 10- 11:30 am Busy Bluebirds with Rachael Roberts

### July

- 12 7 - 9 pm Introduction to Dragonflies indoors
- 16 9 am -12 pm Introduction to Dragonflies in field
- 23 9 am -1 pm Exploring Barton Cove Ferns by Boat & Foot with Elizabeth Farnsworth
- 24 1 -4 pm Dragons of the North: Ecology, Identification and Research
- 30 9:30 am - 12 pm Paddling and Plant Pulling around Barton Cove

### August

- 20 6 -7:30 pm Space-tacular: Starry Night with Rachel Roberts
- 26 6 pm - ?? Astronomy Conjunction
- 27 9 am - ?? Astronomy Conjunction

## Pavilion, Yurt Rentals



### Pavilion

A lovely 70 seat pavilion is available for rental at Riverview Picnic Area, adjacent to the riverboat launch in Northfield. It's a great spot for wedding parties, company outings, and reunions—with large grills, electricity and tables sheltered beneath a post-and-beam structure. Rental Fee: \$200 plus

\$100 refundable cleanup deposit.

### Yurt

Looking for a unique meeting space or terrific site to hold your child's birthday celebration? Why not try Northfield Mountain's unusually cozy yurt. Our yurt is a round, canvas-covered structure, with rustic tables and

chairs that will hold up to 40 people. It is lighted, and has electrical outlets, as well as a pellet stove to keep guests comfortable. Located behind the Visitor Center adjacent to the pond and Northfield's trails, the yurt is available during business hours. Rental Fee: \$100 plus \$100 refundable cleanup deposit.



Northfield Mountain  
Recreation & Environmental Center  
99 Millers Falls Road  
Northfield, MA 01360

Phone: 413-659-3714  
Fax: 413-659-4460  
E-mail: [northfield@gdfsuezna.com](mailto:northfield@gdfsuezna.com)