Cambridge Entomological Club | 150th Anniversary



1874-2024

Above: White Mountain fritillary; photo: Heidi Holman

Anniversary Celebration at Mt. Washington

July 12-14 and August 16-18, 2024

THE CAMBRIDGE ENTOMOLOGICAL CLUB celebrated its beginnings in 1874 with a trip to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. In 2024, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the club with a return to the mountains. This July and August, at two locations on Mount Washington, the club will offer presentations, field trips, and discounted accommodations.

JULY 12 PRESENTATION

Insects of the Presidential Range Why are they so interesting for New England?

Donald S. Chandler, Professor Emeritus, University of New Hampshire Introduction by Scott Smyers

THE PRESIDENTIAL RANGE OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS has been the focus of biodiversity studies since the mid-1800's due to the recognition of its relictual flora and fauna—an "Arctic Island" in the Temperate Zone (Alexander, 1940). Though other Northeastern states (New York, Vermont, and Maine) also have mountains with arctic/alpine mountain tops that are recognized as refugia left after the last glacial retreat.

AUGUST 16 PRESENTATION

Investigating the Status of NH's Endemic White Mountain Butterflies

Heidi Holman, Wildlife Biologist with NH Fish and Game Introduction by Scott Smyers

NH FISH AND GAME HAS BEEN LEADING EFFORTS to monitor the populations of both the White Mountain arctic and White Mountain fritillary. Conservation breeding has been undertaken to learn more about their life history including host plant diet and reproduction.

See next page for related field trips, accommodation options, and details

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Field trip options, July 13-14

From Pinkham Notch

- Tuckerman Ravine Trail to Hermit Lake and Tuckerman Ravine (3 mi hike)
- Wetlands Near Lost Pond (0.2 mi hike)
- Huntington Ravine (forested with cliffs)
- Gulf of Slides (forested with slides)
- Lights out at small field next to Joe Dodge Lodge (Pinkham Notch) and possibly along Mt. Washington AutoRoad (*permission pending*)

Above: White Mountain fritillary; photo: Heidi Holman

Field trip options, August 16-18

From Highland Center

- Cherry Pond Wildlife Management Area in Jefferson
- Saco River
- Frankenstein Cliffs
- Mt Willard/Mt. Avalalon
- Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail to Lakes of the Clouds (3 mi hike)
- Night Lights at Highland Center, Cog Railway, Mt. Washington Hotel (*Permission pending*)

Accommodations

July 12-14 Pinkham Notch Joe Dodge Lodge

August 16-18 Highland Center in Crawford Notch

Speaker Bios

Donald Chandler was appointed as Curator of the Insect Collection and Professor at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) in 1981. Besides conducting research on the beetle groups Anthicidae (ant-like flower beetles) and Pselaphinae (ant-like litter beetles), his focus for New Hampshire has been on documenting the insect biodiversity of the state, and in particular targeting twelve unique/natural terrestrial areas for intense season-long sampling of different ecological habitats through the length of the state. Through regional bioblitzes and workshops (primarily through sponsorship of the Maine Entomological Society and the Seacoast Science Center (NH), intense if brief sampling has continued to increase knowledge of the fauna of New Hampshire and New England. The insect collection now holds about 13,000 species of NH insects and other arthropods.

Heidi Holman has been implementing recovery efforts for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly for several decades. She runs the Karner Blue Lab in Concord, NH which has expanded its scope to conduct research on other rare and at-risk lepidopteran species. Recently Heidi has worked with partners across the state to launch the NH Butterfly Monitoring Network in an effort to engage more people in the conservation of butterflies and collect data to ensure that we protect rare species and keep common species common.

Scott Smyers serves on the Executive Committee of the Cambridge Entomological Club. He has organized many field trips for the CEC and related organizations and presented his research on the history of the Club at a recent CEC meeting. He is a professional biologist and part-owner of Oxbow Associates, Inc. where his focus is on wetlands, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. He is interested in the ecology of the White Mountains and has been studying amphibians and aquatic insects from six different alpine and subalpine ponds in the White Mountain National Forest since 2007.