

Spring in the Adirondacks!

Field Trip & Presentation at Intervale Lowlands

The New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) will have a field trip to Intervale Lowlands Preserve (intervalelowlands.org) in Lake Placid the weekend of May 16-17, 2015. Intervale's 135 acres and 700 feet of frontage on the West Branch of the Ausable River were purchased by Larry and Nancy Master six years ago. Since their purchase, the property has been protected through a conservation easement, some of the fields and wetlands have been restored, and an intensive monitoring program has begun in conjunction with staff of the Wildlife Conservation Society and Adirondack Research. The preserve is private but birders, naturalists, and scientists are encouraged to visit with permission. Over 170 species have been observed on the property in the past five years, including 109 species during the third week of May. Thus, seeing more than 100 species on the May 17 field trip is quite possible if conditions are favorable. More than 75 bird species nest on the preserve including 17 species of warblers (including Mourning), Black-backed Woodpecker, Lincoln's Sparrow, American Bittern, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and three pairs of Kestrels.

The weekend will begin with an optional bird walk at Bloomingdale Bog on the morning of 16 May, where such boreal species as Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee are often observed. On the afternoon of May 16, Larry will give an illustrated presentation about the Intervale Lowlands preserve where he will discuss efforts to protect and enhance the preserve for native species and to monitor potential effects of climate change on local species and ecological communities. He will also discuss the successful construction of a "net zero" LEED Platinum residence and a "net positive" guest house on the property and give a tour of the main residence. The presentation will be open to the public. The weekend culminates on the morning of 17 May with a guided bird walk on the extensive trail network through the preserve.

After doctoral and post-doctoral studies at the University of Michigan, Larry spent 20 years with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and 6 years with NatureServe, most of that time as Chief Zoologist. NatureServe is an offshoot of the Conservancy and is the umbrella organization for the network of natural heritage programs in every U.S. state and Canadian province as well as in many Latin American countries. NatureServe provides the scientific basis for effective conservation action throughout the Western Hemisphere. Larry oversaw the development of TNC's and NatureServe's central zoological databases, and also served on EPA's Science Advisory Board. Larry conceived and co-authored *Rivers of Life: Critical Watersheds for Protecting Freshwater Biodiversity*. He has also authored numerous other publications as well as chapters in several books (e.g., *Precious Heritage, Our Living Resources*). Today he serves on boards of NatureServe, The Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter, the Adirondack Council, the Adirondack Explorer, the Ausable River Association, and the Northern Forest Atlas Foundation, as well as on the Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Advisory Group, the Advisory Group of the Biodiversity Research Institute, the Science/Recovery Advisory Board of Living with Wolves, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies Science Advisory Council, and the Mirror Lake Watershed Association. Larry lives in Lake Placid. He has been photographing wildlife and natural history subjects for more than 50 years.

Pre-registration is required for the field trip, and preference is given to NYSOA members on a first-come, first-served basis. 20 participants will be accepted. Please contact MaryBeth Warburton at 315-268-0150 or msmarybeth.warburton@gmail.com for more information and to register; if e-mailing include "NYSOA trip" in the subject line of your message. Plans for field trip participants to gather for dinner at the Cascade Inn, Lake Placid are being finalized and start times for the various events will be announced after registration begins, on April 1, 2015. Numerous hotels are available in Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Wilmington. Please make reservations as soon as possible as this weekend can be busy in Lake Placid because of the Canadian Victoria Day holiday.

The Adirondacks are spectacular in spring!