



Alice Chandler of Wilnot, a faithful Beacon subscriber, sent this photo from around 1992 of Jo Crisp and the Andover kindergarten class on a visit to Chandler Farm. Jo is the adult in the back left. Alice's husband Earle, who died in 2005, is seated at the right. Can you identify any of the other children or adults? Please contact the Beacon by e-mail, phone, or letter if you can! Photo: Alice Chandler

Andover Naturally

Take A Spring Walk

By Lee Carvalho
Beacon staff

Ah, the joys of home ownership! All over Andover, residents are raking, repairing, digging, patching, and generally restoring their places after the effects

Take A Spring Walk

Once the yard work is under control, why not treat yourself to a quiet walk in one of the area's special places set aside to allow you to slip into the natural world? An ideal place to start is at the AE/MS



Christmas fern fiddleheads.

Photo: Larry Chase

Nature Loop, which begins and ends on the rail trail near the ball field on Lawrence Street. This local treasure, which was constructed in 2009-2010 by students of science teacher Ryan Murphy, is a short path through the floodplain forest.

At each end of the trail is a mailbox where you'll find a four-page nature guide, with entries written by students on topics ranging from tree identification to vernal pools – all keyed to lettered stations along the way. Walking there recently, I spent some time watching a red-winged blackbird at work on its nest in the cattails.

The Ester Currier Wildlife Management Area at Low Plain (more commonly called Low Plains) is another nearby gem with a self-guiding nature trail. There's no better place to see an esker and understand

of winter. Similarly, our avian friends have returned from their winter vacations and are starting or redecorating nests or looking for new cavities to fix up.

Just consider the variety of nesting styles! Great blue herons construct a huge platform made of large sticks, usually atop a snag in a pond, while the Baltimore oriole weaves her deep, water-resistant pouch at the tip of a tree branch. A belted kingfisher pair excavates a long hole in the bank along a river, while a wood duck requires a cavity



Beaver dam at Low Plains.

Photo: Lee Carvalho

how this large gravel ridge was formed by the movement of glaciers.

As you drive toward New London along Route 11, look for the entrance to Low Plains on the left, opposite the Elkins Cemetery on your right. Stop by the signboard at the start of the trail for a map and brochure as well as a regularly-updated poster about what's new or not-to-be-missed.

Davis Trail takes the visitor close to a most impressive beaver dam, and side trails lead to an observation blind and a walkway over a quaking bog.

If time is limited, turn right after the gate and follow the trail to the overlook. On a recent visit, I went directly to the overlook and saw a dozen turtles sunning on their favorite log, a hooded merganser, several geese, and – in the distance – a beaver making its way across the pond.



Marsh marigolds.

Photo: Lee Carvalho

Our human outdoor work connects us to these birds as we take a break from our chores, lean on the rake, and watch the local phoebe bringing in more moss for her muddy nest under the eaves.

Andover Loons

The loons are back. Frank Baker saw a pair on Highland Lake within days of See Naturally on page 27

Summer Theater Camp Comes To Andover

Halfway to Broadway press release

Does your child like to act, dance, or sing? Are they the best comedian you know? Do you need affordable child care for the summer that promises to keep your child active and have them learn in an exciting hands-on atmosphere?

Then Halfway to Broadway's Summer Camp is for you!

Halfway To Broadway is offering a summer day camp here in Andover for students ages six to 17. Summer day camp will run Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 3 PM throughout July. Daily, students will partake in physical activities, games, assemblies, and several performing arts sessions. All students will work towards the goal of performing a production of *The Wizard Of Oz*.

If your child is not an actor, that's OK. Halfway To Broadway will offer a technical theater program for students

who like building things, painting, and learning about lighting. It is our goal to make each child feel like a star!

The Halfway To Broadway team prides itself on keeping your child safe and happy. We have hired our staff of 11 from across the country. All camp counselors have at least one year of college for education or theater. All staff members have legal background checks performed prior to contract signing and are required to take basic first aid.

Camp tuition is \$150 weekly (scholarships available) to help cover the cost of insurance, royalties, and supplies. For more information or to enroll your child in this exciting summer experience that is guaranteed to be full of fun, contact us at HTBsummercamp@gmail.com or 848-7979. We are only accepting 30 students for our opening summer, so be sure to contact us quickly!



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