

Bald Eagles Seen in the Andover Area

Seems there are more than there were

By Lee Carvalho, for the Beacon

Several Beacon readers reported seeing a bald eagle in the area this past summer. Swimmers at Highland Lake, fishermen on Webster Lake and the Merrimack River, and hikers on Ragged Mountain are among those spotting the huge raptors.

The distinctive white head and tail of the adult eagle, along with an impressive six- to seven-foot wingspan, make its identification relatively certain. Younger eagles, in contrast, are easily confused with other large birds of prey.

First prize in reactions to a local bald eagle sighting goes to a wedding party staying at the Bluewater Farm lodge. Spotting an eagle gliding over Bradley Lake, they were inspired to break into a spontaneous version of the national anthem.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Officer Heidi Murphy concurs that there has been increasing bald eagle activity over the past couple of years. "I can't scientifically say whether there are more in the area, but it does seem that way. Certainly if there is a proper food source and good habitat, the eagles will stick around."

I asked New Hampshire Audubon's eagle expert, Chris Martin, if we are all seeing the same eagle or if there could be many in the area. He explained that it could be just one pair, as their territory is about 100 square miles, but there might be more.

New Hampshire is experiencing a period of steady growth – approximately 20% annually – in our bald eagle population. Just 20 years ago, due to the effects of DDT, there was only one confirmed nesting pair. Now experts estimate there are 40 territorial pairs; you can expect to see eagles anywhere in the state.

Chris mentioned that so far, New Hampshire Audubon has had no luck finding a nest in this area, and we have a chance to help. If you see an eagle flying overhead with sticks or similar material in its bill, please take time to notice the direction of flight and contact

Chris in Concord at 224-9909 with that information.

Shopping for Nature Lovers

It's that time of year when we find ourselves looking for good presents for family and friends. If there is a young person (three to seven years) on your list, you might want to consider Mary Holland's new book, Ferdinand Fox's First Summer. This nonfiction account of the first summer in the life of a red fox kit is told with lovely full-page photographs and text explaining each scene.

Readers of Mary Holland's book Naturally Curious already know what a terrific photographer and naturalist she is. It is no surprise that her new children's book has won two awards: "Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12" by the National Science Teachers Association and the Children's Book Council and a 2013 Children's Moonbeam Award.

Any adult who spends time in our local forests probably already has a copy of Tom Wessels' Reading the Forested Landscape, which explains how clues can help woods walkers understand prior land use, fires, or storms. That same person might value a smaller, more portable version: Forest Forensics: A Field Guide to Reading the Forested Landscape. Here Wessels supplies photographs to illustrate those clues and a key to help interpret details. A reference chart at the back of the book summarizes the key and the visual clues.

East Andover Hike

As part of the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsage Greenway's winter season, there will be a hike in East Andover on Saturday, January 25. Frank Baker has agreed to join me on a snowshoe walk of about five miles to secluded Weeks Pond. If conditions are right, this will be a good opportunity to learn some tracking skills from an experienced outdoorsman. E-mail me if you would like to be included in updates about this event.

Please remember to contact me with your questions, suggestions, observations, and photographs concerning Andover's natural world at AndoverNaturally@gmail.com.

Pine Hill Ski Club 2014 Schedule

Press release

Here's our calendar of events for the coming season. Pine Hill Ski Club grooms 15 miles of cross country trails in New London. More information as available at PineHillSkiClub.com, or 381-8685, or JSchloss@tds.net

Saturday, January 11, is Family Ski Day. Free trail use. Free ski lesson for any age skier, from noon until 2:30 PM. Must pre-enroll for lesson by Thursday, January 9, at 381-8685 or JSchloss@tds.net. Ski rentals available at Village Sports, New London, 526-4948

On **Saturday, January 18**, Robb's Hut opens for the season. When weather permits, it is open every Saturday

from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Hot drinks, snacks, hot dishes, fab company.

Saturday, February 15, is the Moonlight Ski Tour at 7 PM. Bring a headlamp if you have one. Free to members, \$15 to non-members.

Sunday, February 23, is the annual Pancake and Blueberry Brunch from 11 AM to 2:30 PM at Robb's Hut, four miles by ski from the parking center. \$7 donation.

Saturday, March 1, is the barbecue at the trail head. We provide the fire and the hot chocolate – you bring the wieners and the "fixins." Or veggie burger! Noon until 1:30 PM. Picnic tables there.

LAURIDSEN AUTO BODY

Collision Specialists
Computerized 4-Wheel Alignment
Windshield & Auto Glass Installation



7 AM to 4:30 PM Weekdays or by appointment
728 King Hill Road, New London – at Exit 11 off I-89 526-6267

Proven Tree Care... SERVICING HOMEOWNERS, CONTRACTORS & MUNICIPALITIES

Well Equipped • Owner Operated • 22 Years Experience

Guillemette Tree Service

Ken Guillemette
Biologist - UMass
735-5829
(C)398-0221

SEUFERT, DAVIS & HUNT, PLLC

- Personal Injury
- Civil Litigation
- Family Law
- Workers Compensation
- Divorce
- Bankruptcy
- DWI/ALS
- Commercial Litigation
- Lead Paint Poisoning
- Criminal Defense

Christopher J. Seufert
Brad C. Davis
Robert D. Hunt

facebook www.seufertlaw.com twitter
59 Central Street, Franklin, 934-9837 • Concord, 224-8672

WE'LL GET YOU THROUGH IT®

Let No Woman Be Overlooked

BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER PROGRAM

FREE

Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening for Eligible Women Ages 18-64

Call 800 852-3345 x4931

A program of NH Health and Human Services Division of Public Health Services

Andover Service Club Thrift Shop

Fall and winter clothing for the whole family

We are located behind the Andover Town Hall and welcome your donations, your consignments, and you!

Our Hours

Tuesday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday 3 - 5 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Family Owned & Operated for Four Generations

Complete Automotive Service & Repair on Foreign and Domestic Vehicles

- Expert Repairs by ASE Certified Technicians
- State of the Art Equipment and Training

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

330 Elkins Rd. • New London, NH • (603) 526-6231



WINTERIZE SERVICE

Prepare your vehicle for the inevitable

\$10 OFF
ANY SERVICE OR REPAIR OVER \$100
with coupon thru 1-31-14



FREE LOANER CARS AVAILABLE
marshallsgarage@gmail.com
www.marshallsgarage.com

