

Bearnstow Announces
A Naturalists' Week — An Informal Investigation
Sunday, August 26–Saturday, September 1

Two biologists to open Naturalists' Week at Bearnstow—New York City Ecologist Pete Warny, and Invertebrate Biologist Alene Onion, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



Pete Warny, a former ecologist with the Nature Conservancy and National Audubon Society, travels extensively across America, focusing on wetlands habitats and documenting changes in the food webs composed of aquatic insects, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. Peter will lead nature walks around the camp to examine plants, animals, and the geology of rocks and minerals. During evening presentations, Peter will speak about recent field surveys to Louisiana marshes and the Florida Gulf of Mexico as well as current eco-phenomena in the Northeast, in both urban and rural landscapes such as New York City, Cape Cod, and Pennsylvania.

Pete will arrive on Sunday afternoon and will lead nature walks throughout Monday and on Tuesday morning. Join us for Sunday dinner and an evening presentation and for Monday nature walks, an evening presentation, and Tuesday morning nature walk (see schedule below).

Alene Onion is the coordinator of the New York State WAVE program, which stands for “Wadeable Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators” and harvests the effort of numerous volunteers to define the water quality in New York State. Aquatic macroinvertebrates are small invertebrates visible by eye that live solely in aquatic ecosystems. Scientists and habitat managers use these organisms as bioindicators—“canaries in the coal mine”—to tell us if the water body has been impacted by a pollution event. Healthy water bodies will have an abundant diversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates, whereas polluted systems will have only the most robust creatures. Join us as we explore the rocky shoreline of Parker Pond to find and identify these organisms for an informal water quality assessment.

Alene is an employee of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. She lives in Albany, New York, with her daughter and husband and frequently travels to her family’s home on Parker Pond. As a child she regularly attended day camp at Bearnstow.



Planned Schedule:

Sunday, August 26:

8:00 p.m.—Evening presentation by Pete Warny

Monday, August 27:

10:00 a.m.—Nature walk led by Pete Warny,

1:30 p.m.—Nature walk led by Pete Warny

4:00 p.m.—“Macroinvertebrates as Water Quality Bioindicators” by Alene Onion

8:00 p.m.—Evening slide presentation by Pete Warny

Tuesday, August 28:

10:00 a.m.—Nature walk led by Pete Warny

A contribution is requested for nature walks and presentations. Sunday evening dinner, Monday lunch and dinner, and Tuesday lunch are available: lunch: \$10, dinner \$15.

Call 207-293-2280 for reservations. For more information and to register for more days or for the entire Naturalists' Week (including meals and overnight accommodations), see www.bearnstow.org/natureweek.htm.