



Bearnstow

On Parker Pond, Mount Vernon, Maine

A Natural History Week at Bearnstow

June 22–26

Program for Monday, June 22

MORNING SESSION: 10:30 A.M.

“Amphibians and Reptiles of Cape Cod National Seashore”

**Bob Cook, Wildlife Ecologist, National Park Service,
Cape Cod National Seashore**

Cape Cod is a peninsula composed of relatively recent glacial deposits, extending 60 miles into the Atlantic Ocean in south-east Massachusetts. The “outer cape,” where the National Seashore is located, is a narrow “sand scape” that is rich in freshwater wetlands, supporting a diverse community of amphibians and reptiles, including a number of sand-loving species that thrive there. This talk will provide an overview of the species present, with emphasis on life history, habitat use and needs, and what is known of species distribution and abundance.



AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:30 P.M.

“Exploring the Aquatic Environs of Bearnstow”

On this walk we will look for wildlife and wildlife signs along the Clyde Walton Trail, Uncle Daniel’s Brook, and Parker Pond, with particular emphasis on amphibians and reptiles. Topics we will cover will include field identification, life history and behavior, habitat use, and conservation issues affecting species we encounter.



Bob Cook is from Queens, New York and, in spite of growing up nature-deprived, somehow ended up majoring in wildlife biology. He has worked as a wildlife biologist for the National Park Service since 1979. During this time he conducted inventory and monitoring, research, and management projects on freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, and a variety of birds. Bob spent 16 years at the Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City, concentrating on wildlife inventory and population restoration projects. He also spent a couple of years at National Park of American Samoa, working on stream surveys, terrestrial snail surveys, and feral pig management. He currently works on wildlife inventory and monitoring projects at Cape Cod National Seashore.

Bob has a BS in wildlife biology from State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, an MS in wildlife biology from University of Massachusetts in Amherst, where he conducted field studies of acid rain and embryonic salamander mortality, and a PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from City University of New York, where he studied turtle translocation.

Admission is free, but contributions from daytime guests for the nature walks and presentations are greatly appreciated. Please reserve for any event by calling 293-2280 after June 15. Lunch is also available (\$10) during the full-day programs. Bearnstow is located at 84 Bearnstow Road in Mount Vernon. See www.bearnstow.org/contact.htm for directions to Bearnstow. Please visit www.bearnstow.org/natureweek.htm for additional program information.