



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Flanders to Host Bird Hikes & Botany Walks

WOODBURY - Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust will host two series of nature walks in May. Guided strolls along the award-winning Botany Trail will be held on Sunday afternoons May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. Each program will begin at 2 PM and will be led by an experienced naturalist.

Flanders Botany Trail meanders through woodlands and fields and features more than 250 species of native perennials, trees, shrubs and ferns. It is at its loveliest in the spring when many wildflowers are in bloom. Some spring ephemerals, such as bloodroot, may apple and Dutchman's breeches, disappear after their flowering and seed production cycle is complete. Bug spray is recommended. Sponsored by the Pomperaug Valley Garden Club volunteers.

In addition, bird enthusiasts are invited to participate in a four-session series of *Spring Bird Walks*. Accomplished birders will lead these early-morning hikes through various natural habitats at the Van Vleck Farm Sanctuary. These walks will begin at 7 AM on Sunday May 3, 10, 17, and 24. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars. Greg Hanasek, naturalist and nature writer for the Waterbury Republican will lead the May 3rd walk.

Both series are offered free of charge as a service to the community. No registration is necessary, and donations are welcome. All walks take place on gentle terrain and are suitable for any age level. Participants in both series will

depart from the Sugar House parking lot, which is located off Church Hill Road (1/4 mile east of the intersection of Flanders and Church Hill Roads in Woodbury). For further information, call Flanders at 203-263-3711, ext. 10.

Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that focuses on environmental education; and on the acquisition, conservation, and stewardship of open space. Through its land trust initiatives, Flanders works to protect important natural sites and the area's landscape character and quality of life. Flanders manages over 2,000 acres of preserved land in Woodbury and neighboring towns. Educational programs for children and adults are offered at the Van Vleck Farm Sanctuary, Flanders's main campus in Woodbury. Trails at its major nature preserves are open to the public at no charge from dawn to dusk. Flanders's Welcome Center is located at the corner of Church Hill and Flanders Roads in Woodbury.

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Blue Bird at Flanders



Trillium found on the Botany Trail