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...learning comes naturally!

As usual, we have more news to share than we can possibly fit into one newsletter, but we hope you enjoy some of the highlights of the important work ongoing at this globally-rare preserve. You can delve deeper by following us on Facebook, Twitter and on our website.

The 2nd Annual Pine Bush Student Research Symposium and Silent Auction -

Please join the Friends of the Pine Bush and the Farnsworth Middle School's (FMS) Pine Bush Project on June 4th from 7PM-8PM at the Discovery Center for an evening of enjoyable presentations and a chance to bid on some fabulous silent auction items. Students from Farnsworth's Hiawatha 7 Team will share the results of their work and that of the FMS Pine Bush Project spanning more than 15 years of restoration work in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. The silent auction will feature a variety of choice items with all proceeds going to support the FMS Pine Bush Project and the FMS Organic Garden.



Don't miss your chance to support the kids at this free event, and hopefully pick up some silent auction bargains at the same time.

The Ants Go Marching...

We are delighted to be hosting one of the world's premier ant experts as part of our ongoing Science Lecture series. Dr. Aaron M. Ellison is the Senior Research Fellow in Ecology at the Harvard Forest, and an Adjunct Research Professor in the departments of Biology and Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and on June 19th at 6pm he will present "The ants of the Northeast: to know them is to love them." (Cont. on p. 2)



Does Blake look familiar? She also stars in our prescribed fire video in the Discovery Center.

Staff Spotlight: Blake Etchison

Blake has been with the Commission since the spring of 2008. She graduated from Earlham College with a BA in Biology. (Cont. on p. 3)

EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEERS

The Ants Go Marching... (Cont. from p. 1) Ants are the little things that run around your kitchen and backyard while they are running the world. Ants are everywhere, they are beautiful, and they are important to us in many ways. Without ants, plants would not grow as well as they do; ants turn over soil, disperse seeds, and even farm fungus and tend



This ant is a Dolichoderus taschenbergi, they can be seen in large numbers (sometimes forming a dense mat on the ground around their colony entrance), tending aphids on scrub oak and brambles along the Preserve trails in the spring. Photo by G. Barber

micro-livestock. Ants also have a lot to teach us about the evolution of behavior and sociality. Join Dr. Aaron Ellison, Senior Ecologist at Harvard University's Harvard Forest and the lead author of the new *Field Guide to the Ants of New England* for a lecture and discussion about the diversity of ants in the Northeast's forests, fields, gardens, and homes, and learn more about how important ants are to us and to the world around us.

Dr. Ellison received his B.A. in East Asian Philosophy from Yale University in 1982 and his Ph.D.

in Evolutionary Ecology from Brown University in 1986. After post-doctoral positions at Cornell and with the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica, Aaron taught at Swarthmore College before moving to Mount Holyoke College in 1990, where as an Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor, and then as Associate Dean for Science, he taught biology, environmental studies, and statistics until 2001. In 1992, Aaron received the National Science Foundation's Presidential Faculty Fellow award for "demonstrated excellence and continued promise both in scientific and engineering research and in teaching future generations of students to extend and apply human knowledge." Following a sabbatical year at Harvard in 2001-2002, Aaron assumed his current position at the Harvard Forest - Harvard's 1500-hectare outdoor classroom and laboratory for ecological research. There, he studies food web dynamics and community ecology of wetlands and forests, evolutionary ecology of carnivorous plants, the response of plants and ants to global climate change, and the application of Bayesian statistical inference to ecological research and environmental decision-making. He has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific papers, dozens of book reviews and software reviews, and the books *A Primer of Ecological Statistics* and *A Field Guide to the Ants of New England*. Aaron is the Editor-in-Chief of *Ecological Monographs*, and in 2012 he was elected a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America.

Signed copies of the Field Guide will be available for purchase. Book Signing and Refreshments will follow the lecture.

Science Lecture Series: "The ants of the Northeast: to know them is to love them"

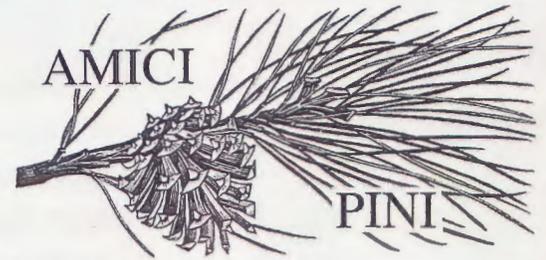
Wednesday June 19, 2013 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Field visit and ant specimen collection along the trails of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve

Wednesday June 19, 2013 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Pre-registration is required for all events. Please sign up by calling 518-456-0655 or visit AlbanyPineBush.org and click on "Events Calendar".

Fee: FREE



FRIENDS OF THE PINE BUSH COMMUNITY

Become a member of Friends of the Pine Bush Community

Friends of the Pine Bush Community, Inc. is a 501(c)3 membership organization formed for the charitable and educational purpose of supporting the activities of the Commission. The Friends work cooperatively with Commission staff to further conservation and education within the Preserve, especially through organized activities and programs at the Discovery Center. Supporters can become a member by picking up a membership form at the Discovery Center or through www.AlbanyPineBush.org