



Discover Durham's Trails

Weekly Scavenger Hunts

May 1, 2020



IT'S MUD SEASON and with the desire to get outside in spring--magnified this year due to COVID-19--our trails are turning muddy in places. To alleviate some of the pressure on trails, this week's Scavenger Hunt features:

Backyard Birding and Scouting for the Invasive Garlic Mustard

Find the previous scavenger hunts [HERE](#).

<p>Backyard Birding</p> <p>The month of May is the peak period for observing songbirds that migrate from their wintering grounds farther south to breed here or farther north. Many of these birds are colorful or have beautiful songs and often visit our yards and neighborhoods as they pause their migration to search for insects or linger to find a nest site. Spend an hour or a two counting the types of birds you see or hear from your yard or within a specific distance of your home. Here are some resources to help you get started.</p>		
<p>Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds</p> <p>An amazing resource about birds, including recordings of their songs</p>	<p>eBird</p> <p>Find out what other birders have seen in your area and start posting your own observations</p>	<p>Vermont Center for Ecostudies</p> <p>Learn about their Backyard Birding Quest</p>
<p>Scouting for the Invasive Garlic Mustard</p> <p>Garlic mustard is an aggressive invader in woodland edges; its seeds remain viable in the ground for more than 5 years. The plant is allelopathic, emitting chemicals that prevent the growth of other (native) plants. First year plants have clusters of kidney-shaped leaves with scalloped edges. The second-year plant sends up a tall flower stalk with triangular-shaped leaves—its these plants during the month of May that are easiest to pull and dispose of. This year the Garlic Mustard Challenge in New England sponsored by Nature Groupie is encouraging people to look for and report any sightings in your yard, neighborhood or on other wanderings. If you find plants in Durham that you think are garlic mustard, please contact Land Stewardship Coordinator, Ellen Snyder, and she can help id the plant and guide removal.</p>		
		