

[<Back](#) [Print](#)Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)**APRIL 2010**

Easton is blessed with a great many natural resources and almost 3,000 acres of dedicated conservation land. With this in mind, the Ames Free Library, the Town of Easton, local educational and cultural institutions are connecting with each other to promote a community-wide dialogue on the importance of exposing increasingly wired children to the joys of the natural world.

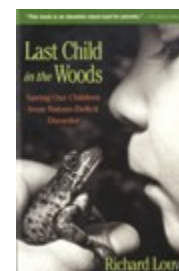
Easton Reads Together is a program that encourages everyone to read the same books and to engage in wide-ranging discussions. For this inaugural session, the selected books are [Last Child in the Woods](#), by Richard Louv, and [A Walk in the Woods](#) by Bill Bryson. Both books are available at the library.

Community members are invited to join book discussions and special events being presented for all ages over the next six months. These events are sponsored by the library and also by other organizations in Easton that have a mission to promote nature awareness and enjoyment. Programs will be hosted by the NRT, Easton Children's Museum, Easton Historical Society, Activate Easton, Borderland Park, Easton's Cultural Council, and others. Nature related storytelling and crafts programs will be listed weekly in local papers and the [library website](#).

BOOK SELECTIONS

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder
Richard Louv

Thought-provoking and full of anecdotes about unfettered play and discovery of nature. The book makes a strong case that a bond with nature contributes to good health, spiritual growth, stress reduction, creativity and the reduction of attention disorder symptoms.



A Walk in the Woods
Bill Bryson



Charming account of the author's 2,100 mile trek on the Appalachian Trail. Part gentle comedy and part plea for conservation, the book inspires awareness of the immense joys of the natural world, even as it sensitizes us to its inherent fragility.

PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR APRIL AND MAY

Mother Nature

Tuesday April 20, 2:00 PM

Oakes Ames Hall, 3 Barrows Street

Ages 4 and up are invited to a not-to-be-missed hour of storytelling, poems and puppetry that will enhance their awareness and appreciation of the natural world that is around them. This program has been funded through a **Target Stores Early Childhood Reading Grant**.

***Sponsored by the Library**

Scavenger Hunt at Borderland State Park

Friday April 23, 10 AM - 12:00 PM

Visitors Center, Borderland State Park

Please get your Scavenger Hunt List at the visitor's center and bring a bag if you wish to collect your items. This activity is offered during National Turn off TV week to provide families an opportunity to explore the outdoors together and promote active living.

***Sponsored by Activate Easton**

Arbor Day Tree Planting at Library

Friday April 30, 10 - 11 AM

Queset Garden (behind library at 53 Main Street)

Celebrate Arbor Day with tree plantings at the charming Queset Garden behind the library. Join Wayne Southworth, Director of Public Works; Colleen Corona, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen; and Tree Warden Paul O'Neill, as they plant two Liriodendrons (tulip trees) to mark the entrance to the garden.

***Sponsored by the Easton DPW**

Farm & Fun Day at Sheep Pasture

Saturday May 1, 10:00 - 2:00 PM

Sheep Pasture, 307 Main Street

Come enjoy the new baby animals, 4H exhibits, art shows, kids' activities, wonderful grounds, and more at Sheep Pasture! A great opportunity to get everyone in the family outside and having a great time.

***Sponsored by the Natural Resources Trust**

Panel Discussion - Last Child in the Woods

Tuesday May 4, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Main Library, 53 Main Street

Lively discussion on the role of nature in the life of children, featuring Stonehill professor emeritus and author, Chet Raymo, Stonehill professor and Director of Environmental Studies, Sue Mooney, and Natural Resources Trust (NRT) Executive Director, Jen Cummings.

***Sponsored by the Library**

Bird Watching at Sheep Pasture

Sunday May 9, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Sheep Pasture, 307 Main Street

Take a walk with Mom on Mother's Day or just join us and enjoy the great outdoors! Bring your binoculars and your interest in local birds and join us for a great spring birding walk. All are welcome.

***Sponsored by the Natural Resources Trust**

Film - Where Do The Children Play
Tuesday May 11, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Main Library, 53 Main Street

This one-hour documentary made for public television examines how restrictive patterns of sprawl, congestion, and endless suburban development impact children's mental and physical health and development. Film followed by discussion.

*Sponsored by the Children's Museum in Easton

Sheep Pasture Weekend Nature Walks
Saturdays, May 15, 29
1:00 - 2:00 PM

Sheep Pasture, 307 Main Street.

They're back! A new season of the ever- popular Nature Walks has been scheduled for everyone to enjoy. Join Ed Hands for themed nature walks that are a joy for naturalists of every age.

*Sponsored by the Natural Resources Trust

Keynote Speaker
Lecture on Childhood and Nature by David Sobel
Thursday May 20, 6:30 PM
Main Library, 53 Main Street

Richard Louv has helped us see that children are becoming alienated from nature and that this "nature-deficit disorder" is unhealthy for kids and communities. David Sobel will summarize some of the research highlighted in *Last Child in the Woods*, and then tell a series of stories about parenting children from early childhood through adolescence that suggest healthy ways to engage children in feeling at home in the natural world.

*Sponsored by the Library



Keynote speaker Dave Sobel of Antioch University of New England Graduate School, will present the essential messages of Louv's book as well as his experiences exploring nature with his own sons.

Sobel, an authority on 'place-based education,' is the author of [Childhood and Nature](#), [Mapmaking with Children](#), and [Children's Special Places: Exploring the Role of Forts, Dens, and Bush Houses in Middle Childhood](#).

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Easton Reads Together is presented by the Ames Free Library, in coordination with community organizations. Library programs are primarily funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with federal funds provided by the Libraries Services and Technology Act. All programs are free and open to all. Be

a vital part of Easton's conversation!

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