

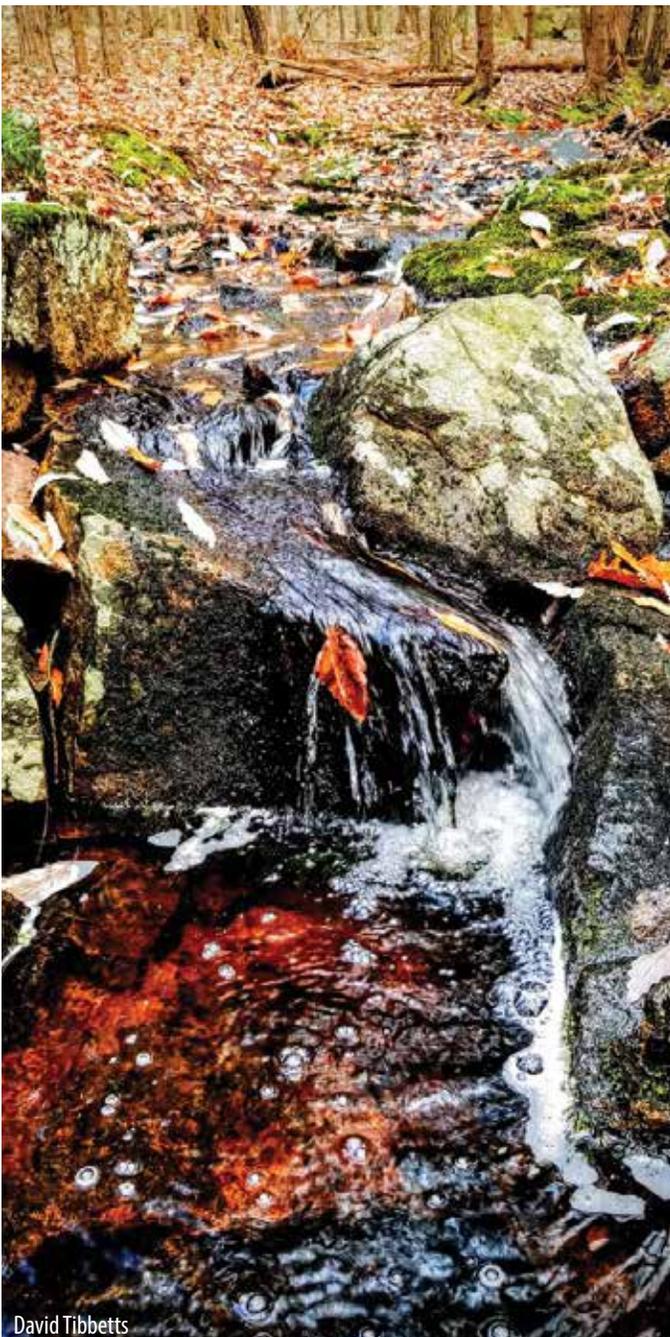


SUMMIT VIEW

The Newsletter of the Friends of Mt. Agamenticus

Fall 2025

“Marion’s Brook” is officially named!



David Tibbetts

It is a great honor to announce that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Board on Geographic Names, has voted to name the brook that flows around Mount Agamenticus “Marion’s Brook” in honor of the late Marion Fuller Brown.

Marion was a former State of Maine Representative from York and served on many Boards in State and local government as well as Non-Government Organizations.

It was through her efforts that more than 15,000 acres of land surrounding Mount Agamenticus, recognized as the most bio-diverse region in the State of Maine, are now protected.

This is truly a fitting tribute to a visionary who spearheaded the conservation and environmental movement at Mount Agamenticus that started over 50 years ago and continues today. We wish to thank Marion’s family for their support and also, to extend our gratitude to all of those who wrote letters to the USGS backing the naming proposal.

The name has been added to the Geographic Names Information System with the Feature ID 2832990. Federal maps will show the new name in the next revision cycle.

- David Tibbetts, *Marion’s Brook Project Manager, Friends of Mount Agamenticus*

Fawn near Marion’s Brook.



David Tibbetts

Ninth Annual Mt A Trail Challenge



Nicole Kerr

We were thrilled to host the 9th Annual Mount Agamenticus 5K and 1 Mile Trail Challenge Saturday, September 20th!

This event is put on by the York Parks & Recreation Department in partnership with the Friends of Mount Agamenticus and the York Cross Country Team. All proceeds benefit the Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program!

This challenge is timed the good ol' fashioned way with stop watches and a marker board, thanks to our local York High School Cross Country Team.

This year 87 people registered for the 5K with a record 47 people for the 1-mile course, bringing in a total of 134 participants.

Shout out to Rog Clements who spearheaded the idea for this event many years ago and for being our Race Director each year and to Ted Hutch for organizing and overseeing the timing for this event. And special thanks to Friends of Mount A's Denise Johnson, for reaching out to businesses seeking raffle prize donations and support for this event and Mount A!

Sponsors: Anthony's Food Shop

Race Day Support:

Green Leaf Holistic Massage Therapy, When Pigs Fly Breads

Raffle Prize Donors:

AutoSpa, Bell Farm Shops, Marathon Sports, State Line Lobster, Webhannet River Tackle Shop, York River Landing

**THANK YOU TO ALL SPONSORS,
PARTICIPANTS AND SUPPORTERS!!**



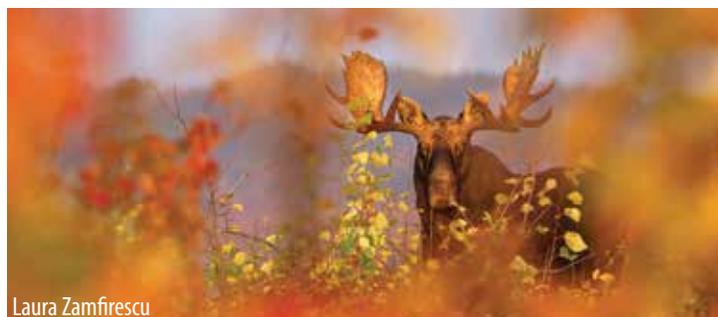
Laura Zamfirescu

White-tailed Deer - *Odocoileus virginianus*

"Maine is near the northern extent of the white-tailed deer range, and they live in many habitats here, from deep woods to farmland to suburban backyards.

Bucks annually produce antlers, which are made of bone. Triggered by day length and maintained by hormone production, antlers begin growing in April, and are nurtured by a velvety outer network of skin tissue and blood vessels. Velvet is shed when growth is complete in late August and September. The hardened, polished antlers remain until they are shed in late December to early March."

- www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/species-information/mammals/deer.html



Laura Zamfirescu

Moose - *Alces alces americana*

"An icon of the Maine woods, Maine is home to the highest moose population in the lower 48 states. The scientific name for moose is *Alces alces americana* – origin of the word moose comes from the Algonquin word 'moosu' meaning 'bark stripper.'" - www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/species-information/mammals/moose.html

"Survival: The average life expectancy is eight years for a cow and seven years for a bull. Moose may live into their late teens, but rarely live past 20. Natural predation for moose in Maine is low, because predators aren't capable of killing adults, however, young newborn calves can be vulnerable to predators such as bear. Moose can also perish from legal and illegal harvest, road kills, other accidents (drowning, falls, etc.), disease, starvation, and old age. Harvest and road kills account for 2,000 to 3,500 moose a year.

Threats: In recent years, moose have been impacted by new threats due to a changing environment and climate. As climates continue to warm, parasites and diseases are able to expand in range and have a greater impact on the moose population. White-tailed deer are hosts to brain worm but are not impacted by it – however, it easily spreads to moose and causes neurological deficits and often death. Winter ticks are also threatening Maine's moose population. Unlike deer ticks, winter ticks do not spread disease. The problem is that they attach by the thousands and stay attached for five or six months, causing moose to experience life-threatening blood loss, hair loss, and even behavioral change."

Trees At Risk

By David Tibbetts

There are more trees on earth than stars in the Milky Way Galaxy, by far. An estimated 3.04 trillion trees provide roughly 30% of the oxygen in our atmosphere and remove 16 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) annually. But some trees are under attack from pathogens, fungus, insects and climate change. If you have recently taken a walk in the woods, you may have noticed yellow and shriveled leaves on beech trees and in some places, more sunshine reaching the forest floor where leaves have fallen during the summer. The latest tree species to be affected in our area is the American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) with a disease called Beech Leaf Disease that appears to be spread by wind. Beech leaves are being eaten by nematodes (*Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*) that cause leaves to turn yellow, preventing photosynthesis, and draining the trees of energy. Currently there are no known cures for this disease and tree mortality of infected trees is expected within 3-6 years.



David Tibbetts

Researchers are looking for disease resistant beeches to study that appear healthy among diseased trees. There is something you can do to help. If you see what appears to be a healthy tree amongst infected trees, you can report your finding in an app called "TreeSap" (<https://treesnap.org/>). Your information will be forwarded to researchers who are working to protect our forests. If you need help identifying beech trees, you can go to "Go Botany": (<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/fagus/grandifolia/>) for ID help.

NATURE HIAKUS

Nature I love you
Birds, trees, bees, beautiful views
Oh, you're the best

- By Luci, Xavi, kinda Mom

Air like a warm hug
Bird songs travel up and down
Trails in early June

- By Moony

Goat, Nubble, Boon, White
Each one hard to find but still
A view with delights!

- By Jimmy

Broad-winged Hawk - *Buteo platypterus*

ORDER: Accipitriformes; FAMILY: Accipitridae



Dan Gardoqui

Broad-winged hawk.



www.allaboutbirds.org

Broad-winged hawk "kettle".



Broad-winged hawk migration.

"One of the greatest spectacles of migration is a swirling flock of Broad-winged Hawks on their way to South America. Also known as "kettles," flocks can contain thousands of circling birds that evoke a vast cauldron being stirred with an invisible spoon. A small, stocky raptor with black-and-white bands on the tail, the Broad-winged Hawk is a bird of the forest interior and can be hard to see during the nesting season. Its call is a piercing, two-parted whistle."



Dan Gardoqui

THE BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

While exploring Mt. A, make sure you stop now and then and listen. Why? Because you're more likely to hear this fascinating bird making its distinctive soft "cu-cu-cu" song, rather than see one. Cuckoos are not particularly flashy and often sit quite still for long periods. Our Tip: Search for cuckoos wherever you find a bunch of caterpillars - their favorite food!

This cuckoo prefers deciduous woodlands with secondary growth, much like our Mt. A shrubland habitat. Look for a medium (dove size) bird with a white chest and plain brown wings. The tail of a cuckoo is long and slender with distinct white spots; and the bill is curved and all black. The black-billed cuckoo heads south for the winter, but then returns in Spring.

Cuckoos are a bit controversial because they're a "nest parasite" species - meaning they frequently deposit an egg in the nests of other birds who then raise their babies until they're big enough to fly the nest!

For the cuckoos who decide to make a nest and raise their own young, they often nest in shrubs or low dense trees, and move about through the lower vegetation for feeding. The males feed the females during courtship. The cuckoo chicks grow quickly, reaching fledgling stage in under three weeks.

On your next visit to Mt. A - if you listen, look and have luck - you might find yourself amongst the Cuckoos. GOOD LUCK.

Maine Foliage Forecast 2025

At Mount Agamenticus, in the southern part of Maine's York County, we have experienced an unusually dry hot summer, as well as numerous hazy days caused by wildfire smoke from surrounding areas and even from Canada. You may be wondering if or how the foliage season's timing and colors will be affected this year? The information below from the FAQs page at MaineFoliage.com (State of Maine website) might help:

How do dry conditions affect color change?

Even in dry years, Maine's varied landscapes and tree species ensure plenty of beautiful scenery to enjoy. A mix of warm, sunny days and cooler nights heading into September and October is ideal for producing stunning fall colors.

Which colors do Maine trees display in the fall?

Here's a guide to the species of trees and the color they produce during autumn:

Yellow: Green and black ash, basswood, beech, birches, butternut, and



elm. In the maple species - boxelder, mountain, silver, striped and sugar. And don't forget mountain ash, poplar, serviceberry, willow, and witch hazel;

Red and Scarlet: Red, mountain, and sugar maples; black, red, scarlet and white oak; hornbeam, sumac and tupelo.

Brown: White and black oak.

Purple: White ash, flowering dogwood and virginia creeper.

Visit the Maine Tree Guide for more about Maine trees and coloring book pictures of Maine tree leaves! https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/projects/fall_foliage/kids/treeguide.html

For detailed information, photo tips and foliage maps, you might also find this page from Yankee Magazine helpful: <https://newengland.com/travel/new-england/new-england-fall-foliage-forecast-2025/>

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Programs and Events at Mt A

Giant Mushroom Paper Craft Party!

2:00 - 6:00 PM (drop-in) on October 16, 17, or 22.

Help create an enchanted forest faerie ring for this year's Festival of Frights Trunk or Treat event! We'll be using paper recyclables to craft our giant mushrooms. More info: agamenticus.org/mushroom-craft-party/



Scan To Like Mount Agamenticus Conservation Region on Facebook!

Volunteer Community Work Day

Saturday October 18, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The focus of the day will be to maintain management of the 15-acre shrubland habitat atop Mount A. Early successional forest in New England is decreasing and certain species need this habitat to thrive. Specific sections of the summit are cut on a five-year rotation. Volunteer work will involve hauling brush to various locations, and stacking for wood chipping. Chips will be saved for future use as mulch in Mount A's plant beds. Email bjankowski@yorkmaine.org to register.