

# RARE BUT RESILIENT:

## Endangered moth found in Hardwick

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HARDWICK – Wildlife experts say the recent discovery of an orange swallow moth at the Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area is an example of animals and plants responding favorably to habitat restoration work.



Courtesy Photo, MassWildlife

**A rare orange swallow moth has recently been found at Muddy Brook WMA.**

sent for decades—began to emerge from the seedbank and become established, wildlife officials said.

“After a few growing seasons, long-absent insects and birds were observed making use of the restored habitat,” MassWildlife released.

The most recent marker of success was discovered in the summer of 2023, when MassWildlife biologists observed the orange swallow moth (*Pyrrha aurantiago*) at Muddy Brook WMA. This is the seventh MESA-listed moth species recorded in the valley since the habitat restoration work began.

The orange swallow moth is listed as a “Species of Special Concern” in Massachusetts. The moth’s larva (caterpillar) feeds exclusively on the flowers, seeds, and leaves of false foxglove plants, according to reports.

“False foxglove grows in areas with occasional fire. Surveys show that false foxglove was not growing in the Muddy Brook Valley in the years leading up to the restoration work,” MassWildlife released. “Following initial canopy thinning and the introduction of prescribed fire, a small patch of fern-leaved foxglove emerged from the seedbank in 2019. By 2023, more than 1,000 foxglove plants were counted, and in August the orange swallow moth was discovered at this foxglove patch.”

The false foxglove plants at

Muddy Brook likely originated from seed that had been dormant since the late 1950s, wildlife officials added.

“Habitat restoration allowed sunlight to reach the soil and re-introduced fire where it had been absent for decades. The nearest orange swallow population is about five miles away,” wildlife experts said. “The moths detected the growing patch of foxgloves (likely signaled by the fragrant flowers) and set out to colonize this new habitat.”

In a press statement, MassWildlife described this orange swallow at Muddy Brook as “just one of many amazing examples of the resilience displayed by fire-adapted plants and animals.”

“Less than a decade after restoration work began, Muddy Brook WMA now supports over 20 MESA-listed species, including whip-poor-wills, rare bees, and Endangered plants. All of these have similar stories to the orange swallow that show how their highly specialized adaptations allow them to re-emerge and flourish following long periods of time.”

Additionally, Muddy Brook WMA is showing what wildlife officials described as “an impressive ecological response to MassWildlife’s habitat restoration work,” including: the emergence of 28 fire-influenced plants not observed prior to restoration, including four Endangered, one Threatened, one Special Concern, and five Watchlist species; the return of the eastern whip-poor-will bird to the site following a documented 30-year absence; a significant increase in early successional breeding birds, including the American woodcock, prairie warbler, field sparrow, and eastern towhee; an increase in bee species from 36 to 150 species (including one Threatened); and a growing list of specialized moths and butterflies that includes several state-listed species.

## Odyssey Bookshop announces upcoming events

SOUTH HADLEY – The Odyssey Bookshop has announced several upcoming events this month.

**Tuesday, September 12, at 7 p.m. – J. Vanessa Lyon**

Lyon will talk about her new novel, “Lush Lives.” Lyon is the author of “The Groves” (an Audible Original) and “Meet Me in Madrid,” under the pseudonym Verity Lowell. She is an art historian, former appraiser, and occasional curator who teaches at a New England liberal arts college.

**Wednesday, September 13, at 7 p.m. – Loretta Ross**

Contributor Ross will present the new oral history, “Women Who Change the World.” Ross is a Professor at Smith College in Northampton, in the program for the Study of Women and Gender.

She teaches courses on white supremacy, human rights, and more. She has taught at Hampshire College and Arizona State University.

**Thursday, September 14, at 7 p.m. – Poetry Reading**

Holly Mitchell will read from her new collection, “Mare’s Nest.” She will be joined by poets Matt Donovan and Sara London, who will read from their latest work. Mitchell is a poet from Kentucky, now based in New York. Her debut collection, “Mare’s Nest,” was published by Sarabande Books in Spring 2023.

**Tuesday, September 26, at 7 p.m. – Madeleine Blais**

Blais will present her new book, “Queen of the Court: The Many Lives of Tennis Legend Alice Marble.” Blais was a report-

er for the Miami Herald for years and won a Pulitzer Prize before joining the faculty of the School of Journalism at the University of Massachusetts. She is the author of “To the New Owners,” “In These Girls,” “Hope is a Muscle,” “Uphill Walkers,” and “The Heart is an Instrument,” a collection of her journalism. She lives in Amherst.

**Wednesday, September 27, at 7 p.m. – 50 Years of Ms.**

Celebrate the new anthology “50 Years of Ms.,” the best of the “pathfinding magazine that ignited a revolution,” and engage in conversation with Ms. contributors Carrie Baker, Lenore Palladino, and Jackson Katz about what the future of feminism and movement journalism demands: vision that is bold, imaginative and collaborative.

### GARDEN from page 4

The color on cabbage and kale will intensify as the weather gets colder, and the plants will continue to look good well into December, provided we don’t get an early long-standing snow- it will eventually make the leaves mushy. While it’s tempting to leave them in your

containers and add greenery and such for the holidays, it’s not recommended unless the planters are in a protected spot.

Plant now for your garden’s last hurrah of the season- you’ll be glad you did!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of

Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

## Public Notice

### TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING Housing Production Plan (HPP) Update

The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss the draft Housing Production Plan update.

The public hearing will be conducted online using the Zoom Webinar platform and persons may join the meeting by either joining Zoom Webinar or by phone. The log-in information is as follows:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84479765864?pwd=SGpYORpWSs0a0FIa1NrK0g3aFlBdz09>

Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656

Webinar ID: 844 7976 5864 Passcode: 616858

The draft plan and related documents can be found online here: <https://southhadley.org/1372/Housing-Production-Plan>. Alternatively, hard copies of the documents may be viewed at the South Hadley Senior Center, the South Hadley Public Library, the Gaylord Memorial Library or the South Hadley Planning and

Conservation Department office.

Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. This meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which extends the March 2020 Governor’s Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL Ch. 30A Sec. 20 until March 31, 2025.

Joanna Brown, Clerk  
South Hadley Planning Board  
09/08, 09/14, 2023

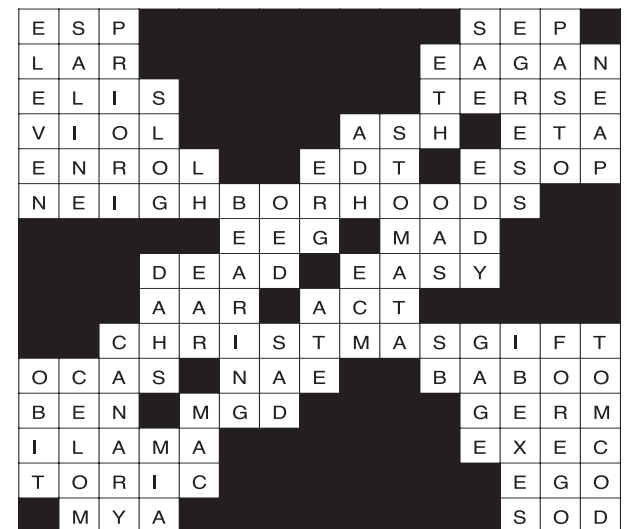
**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

[visit www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



### Town Reminder OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.