

# April

April is spring in the natural world, with leaves coming out and flowers blooming in the still-cool spring air—the water all around us is slow to warm. A walk to the **Punch Bowl\*** through the greening woods is a pleasure, as is a stroll at **River Bend\*** or **Bartolomei\*** along the Coonamessett River. And this is a good time to visit **Sea Farms\*** and watch the **Ospreys** on their nesting platform. Wherever you go, here are some things to look for in April:



**Spring Peepers** chorus in the evenings from wetlands all over town. If you don't live near a wetland it is worth a special trip some evening to find one. Many wetlands are hidden in woods or behind houses, so that seeing them is difficult. At this time of year, however, the peeper chorus makes them audible.

**Elm, alder, birch, maple, and willow trees** all bloom before the leaves open. They are mostly pollinated by the winds, which spread the pollen more easily with no leaves to get in the way.

**Trailing Arbutus** is the first of the spring woodland flowers to bloom. Look for the small, pale pink or white flowers, like tiny snapdragons, on south-facing slopes in woodlands. They grow along the edges of many paths in Beebe Woods and around Long Pond.

The first of the migrating land birds arrive: **Pine Warblers** and **Palm Warblers** and **Phoebes**. The Pine Warblers often draw attention by singing loudly from tree branches overhead.

The average date of **last frost** is the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

Once the ice melts and the sun gets stronger, many **ponds** turn green or greenish-brown as algae reproduce in their first spring "bloom".

**Red Fox kits** and **Coyote pups** are born in dens, hollow logs, and other sheltered spots.

**Terns** return from the south and fish noisily in bays and salt ponds.



*Flicker. Photo by Craig Gibson  
Calendar by Beth Schwarzman*

**Flickers** claim their territories by drumming noisily on branches, tree trunks, downspouts, and other resonators.

Tightly coiled **Fern "fiddleheads"** push up through the dead leaves in damp areas in woodlands.

Migratory **Striped Bass** begin to return to the waters of Vineyard Sound and Buzzards Bay, following the Herring; they are often preceded by the fishermen who avidly await their return.

\*trail maps at [www.300committee.org](http://www.300committee.org)

## Preserving Open Space for Falmouth

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