

# FEBRUARY

## MONTHLY MOSAIC



Berkshire Natural  
Resources Council

### OWLS CALL MORE FREQUENTLY

February nights are filled with hoots from owls like the barred owl. Their calls carry farther through leafless woods and cold air.

### SNOW FLEAS ARE VISIBLE

On mild winter days, tiny black specks may suddenly dot the snow's surface. These are snow fleas, a type of springtail that emerges during thaws.

### ICE BEADS ON BRANCHES

During freeze-thaw cycles, melting snow refreezes on twigs and grasses, forming tiny beads and sheaths of ice that sparkle in low winter light.

### MOSSES BRIGHTEN

When snow melts, mosses and liverworts appear suddenly vivid green against the brown forest floor, absorbing moisture and light during winter thaws.

#### EXPLORE

Take a walk at dusk at **The Boulders** in Dalton or **Clam River** in Sandisfield. Be sure to bring a source of light and let someone know where you are!

#### FUN FACT

Snow fleas contain a natural antifreeze protein that allows them to stay active in freezing temperatures.

#### EXPLORE

Along riversides and boardwalks like **Old Mill Trail** in Hinsdale and **Parsons Marsh** in Lenox and in higher elevations like **Hoosac Range** in North Adams.

#### FUN FACT

Mosses can photosynthesize at temperatures just above freezing.

1



2



3



4



[bnrc.org](http://bnrc.org)

Photos by Robert Watroba & Taylor Staubach