

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center

Vol. XXVIII No. 3
Summer 2010

Museum Hours:

Monday - Saturday 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

For Information

Phone: 860-567-0857
E-Mail: info@whitememorialcc.org
Website: www.whitememorialcc.org



Lily Pads at Miry Brook Photo credit: Gerri Griswold

Aquatic Plants in Bantam Lake

by George W. Knoecklein, *Northeast Aquatic Research*

Aquatic plants are an important part of lake systems. They are home to a diverse community of organisms, mostly invertebrates such as insects, that are the foundation of the food chains in lakes. This rich assemblage of organisms creates the perfect habitat for spawning and nursery areas for young fish. The foliage of the plants provides the cover for young fish to avoid predation, while at the same time the plant structure give predators ample places to lay in ambush. Aquatic plants produce dissolved oxygen required by all aquatic animals to survive life in the water. The plants store nutrients by building them into the plant tissues, and stabilize bottom sediments. The growth of plants over the bottom also serves as a buffer between the bottom sediments and the water. Shoreline aquatic plants intercept runoff and stabilize the near shore areas from wave turbulence.

They tell me that evolutionarily speaking, terrestrial plants only recently returned to the aquatic environment. This is a short amount of time for land plants to become truly aquatic plants. An aquatic plant is one that can live under water. It is far easier to get an aquatic plant to grow on land than a land plant to grow in the water. Because all lakes in New England are younger than the last ice age, 12 000 years ago or so, the aquatic plants in our area haven't finished figuring out how to make the best of their new homes. Scientists are still trying to figure out what plants are in which lakes, what names they should have, and maybe more importantly, how to tell them apart. The closer we seem to get to parsing out which species is which, give them names, and determine which characteristics are unique to which species, plants show up that don't fit the criteria for any one species but instead appear to be a blend of two. These hybrids, as

they are called, are turning up all over the place, maybe because more people are looking for lake plants. Within the last several years scientists have begun using sophisticated DNA sequencing to get fingerprints used to identify each species. But, only a few of the many genera of confusing aquatic plants, like milfoil, have been worked out in this way. With these hybrids showing up it seems as if the aquatic plants are still experimenting with the best set of traits that will give them the most advantage in their new world. This is happening right now, today, under the surface of the waters of Bantam Lake.

Perhaps the plants were attempting to overcome some of the obstacles of growing on the land. Land plants are constantly battling between getting enough carbon dioxide and retaining precious water. The two processes occur together; the same openings in the leaves of land plants – stomata – used to obtain carbon dioxide from the atmosphere also allow water vapor to escape. Land plants have adapted several strategies for dealing with this problem but they are constantly plagued by it. However, in returning to the aquatic environment plants no longer have to worry about losing water vapor, nor do they need to be concerned about carbon dioxide. Growing in the water also removed any need to make wood in order to stand up right, the water gives them all the support they need. However aquatic plants face two problems that their land growing cousins don't worry too much about, getting enough light and getting enough nutrients. In the water, getting enough light is really a problem. The deeper you go in the water the darker it gets until it is black. Aquatic plants can only grow where there is enough light reaching the bottom, so they are restricted to living in shallow waters, typically

no deeper than about 20 feet. Although some plants can grow to deeper depths, most species occur between the shoreline and about 10 feet in Bantam Lake.

Aquatic plants grow in many different forms that boil down to three general types, Emergent, Floating-leaved, and Submersed. Emergent plants are those rooted in shallow water, between 0.5 and 4 feet of water, but have a majority of stems and leaves out of the water. These plants grow along wetland shorelines where the soils are saturated. Rarely do emergent plants grow in water past about 1 foot of depth. Species in this group include cattails, bulrush, pickerelweed, burreed, and phragmites. Some of these species do grow to deeper depths but only as a sterile form, that is it doesn't produce flowers. Floating-leaved plants are a small group including only the water lilies, small water shield, and a few of the pondweeds. These plants produce primarily only floating leaves with little or no underwater leaf development. Floating-leaved plants are restricted to shallow waters of less than about 6 feet, the large conspicuous beds of water lilies in areas like the outlet of Bantam Lake are growing in water depths between 0 and 4 feet deep. Submersed plants are those that grow entirely underwater (sometimes terminal flowers may become aerial). The submersed plants can grow out to deeper waters of the lake. Most aquatic plants in Bantam Lake grow out to about 6 or 7 feet, although a few species are more common in 8 – 10 feet of water.

Now enter two huge complicating factors, 1) human development of the drainage basin causing an increase in the influx of plant nutrients to the lake, and 2) globalization of the planet bringing non-native invasive species.

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With the influx of plant nutrients, plants grow better, quicker, and more luxuriantly. There may not be any limit to how much plant growth you can get by continually adding more and more nutrients. But it's not just increased plant growth that is the concern. Higher nutrient content, mostly in the mud on the bottom, causes certain species to grow much better than all their neighbors. These plants become nuisances that interfere with human uses. This interference is almost always due to luxuriant plant growth reaching the water surface. We tend to consider the surface of a lake as our domain. When plants grow to the surface they get in the way of boating, fishing, and swimming, and they can be visually unappealing.

When non-native species quickly proliferate in lakes they are called invasive. These plants are native to some other part of the world, not here. Non-native plants may or may not have an edge over the natives when they get into our lakes. A few have an edge and they easily dominate over the natives becoming invasive. Species such as Eurasian Milfoil, Fanwort, and Water Chestnut are spreading rapidly throughout lakes in New England. These invasive plants grow faster, form canopies that shade out natives, and can tolerate a wider range of habitat conditions. For instance, they can grow in both low light and high light, or in both rocky and mucky

sediments. The invasive nature of these plants means that they can crowd out the natives, quickly grow to the water surface (a condition we refer to as "topping out"), and generate large amounts of plant vegetation that can fill up the water column leading eventually to water quality problems.

Bantam Lake is experiencing these issues. There is luxuriant growth of a handful of native plants. Although we know that at least 37 species of aquatic plants inhabit Bantam Lake, only about 5 of the natives become problems. There are 6 non-native aquatic plant species in Bantam Lake, although others are at the gates:

- 1.) Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*),
- 2.) Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*),
- 3.) Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*),
- 4.) Curly-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*),
- 5.) Minor Naiad (*Najas minor*),
- 6.) Water Clover (*Marsilea quadrifolia*).

The level of invasiveness is different for each, with Eurasian Milfoil and Fanwort being extremely invasive and highly problematic. Eurasian Milfoil has been in Bantam for many years. The large dredging operation of the 1980's was mostly to reduce abundance of extensive milfoil beds. Fanwort is an

extremely invasive plant that was first found in Bantam Lake in 2002. It now infests several miles of the lower Bantam River, and small areas of the lake. A full-scale removal operation is under way to combat this Fanwort invasion. Water Chestnut was found in Bantam Lake in 2002. Water Chestnut is a highly invasive plant that possibly has transport vectors that the other plants don't. At Bantam, a very successful hand-pulling operation has been used to keep Water Chestnut under control and so far the plant has not shown up anywhere else in the lake. Curly-Leaf pondweed is highly invasive, having spread around the country years ago. Most lakes seem to have this plant. It has probably been in Bantam Lake for years since there are no significant beds in the lake and it usually dies back by mid-summer, it has not caused a problem. Minor Naiad is a recent invader showing up in Bantam only a few years ago. Since that time, only a few plants have been observed but without persistence. Water Clover was first found in Bantam Lake in 1860, since that time the plant has been spread to other locations in North America. Water Clover doesn't present much problem in the lake, growing in small pockets along the shore, probably in the same places it was first discovered in the 1800's.



Make a Difference

In her continuing series, Zoë Greenwood helps you find small ways to help the environment

I hate hot, humid weather. When it is sticky, I have no energy and don't feel like moving. I much prefer cooler temperatures, because I can always add a layer or two. Not much you can do for excessive heat except sit in front of a fan or go somewhere air conditioned. As I sit writing this, spring is rushing headlong into summer in the northeast. It was nearly 90 today. I wore a coat and gloves to work earlier this week. Such is the nature of spring.

I don't have air conditioning where I live and I don't have it where I work. That got me thinking about how I am going to survive at work if it is already nearly 90 and we haven't yet reached May Day? That thinking led to fans.

Fans have been used since at least 1235 B.C. Frescoes on the temple of Medinet-Hahun represent Ramses III and feature princes with fans. Early fans were typically palm leaves or feathers. Regardless, they have been around for a

long time. My grandmother always carried a folding fan in her pocketbook. I remember her sitting in a rocker on a hot summer day fanning herself.

There are all kinds of ways to use fans in your home. One way is a ceiling fan. By moving the air around you, the surface of your skin is cooled and you feel cooler as a result. If you have air conditioning, ceiling fans will allow you to raise the thermostat because moving air feels about four degrees cooler.

Attic fans make your home cooler by moving hot air through attic gable vents. Cooler air is drawn into the attic through the soffit vents. Making your attic cooler helps keep the whole house cooler. Attic fans come in both solar and electric models. Whole house fans bring cool outside air inside through open windows and the warmer air is vented out through the attic. Be sure to use exhaust fans in the bathroom and kitchen to draw warm moist air out, too. Maybe it's more your style to have

several oscillating floor fans. We have fans in the upstairs windows of our home that we use to bring cool night air in and to exhaust hot air during the day. In fact, we open all the windows in the house at night and close them during the day, letting the cooler night air in and keeping it in during the morning. Don't forget to draw the curtains on windows where the sun shines into your home. Sunshine will add several degrees to a room.

Fans are a low cost way to keep cooler during the hot summer months. Fans will make a difference in your comfort level when it is stifling. Anything will help if you just keep the air moving. Or maybe we should all just take a tip from my grandma and get a folding fan for our pocket.

It is easy to **make a difference** one air puff at a time.



Playing The Numbers Game; The Evolution of a Bird Bander

by Gordon Loery, former WMCC Director of Research

At the beginning of my freshman year in college I was assigned to a faculty adviser. At his first meeting with his advisees he emphasized three recommendations: (1) Decide on a career choice about which you care passionately, (2) Prepare yourself for such a career, (3) Finally, go out and find an employer in the field of your choice. Too many students, he warned, prepare themselves for a secure, good-paying job – corporate executive, lawyer, physician – with the idea that they can do what they really care about in their spare time. What they do not realize is that once you have a full-time job and are part of a family of your own you will probably have very little spare time.

I was impressed. However, what I did not fully realize at the time was that my adviser had over simplified things. For example, the career choice in my case was not made overnight. It had evolved over a long period of time and was still not completed at my age of 18. And of course, there were major obstacles that would have to be overcome before I could prepare myself for the career I was in the process of choosing.

(A) Listening To The Heart:

The process of a career choice for me began in earnest when I first went off to a summer camp at the age of 8. This was not an ordinary camp. The director, Mr. Holmes, was also the headmaster of a school in Cleveland, Ohio during the winter months. He wanted to make the camp as different as possible from a typical school. So instead of a rigid schedule – one hour for activity A, a second for activity B, etc. – his camp would offer a policy of individual choices. Every morning after breakfast and every afternoon after lunch each camper could choose the activity he wished to participate in for the rest of the morning or afternoon. Most of the activities were held on the camp grounds but there were also short and long trips up to the White Mountains or down to the ocean shore. If a camper continued to chose the same activity day after day he would be encouraged to try something different but that did not happen very often. The staff was more school-like, however. All the counselors were mature

men, many of them teachers. None of them were students earning some money to help pay for their college expenses. In general, the camp was operated in such a way as to minimize its impact on the environment. For example, the food was refrigerated with ice cut from nearby lakes by local farmers in the winter. The ice was stored all summer long covered by saw dust in a simple wooden icehouse.



The Author in his Youthful Prime!

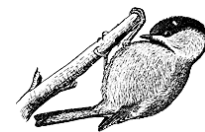
From the beginning my favorite activity was natural history. We did not have binoculars and the Peterson bird guides had not yet been written, but we did have insect pins, nets, and good insect guides so I started collecting beetles. It was a good choice. I found just about every available niche was occupied by a species of beetle. It has been reported * that a group of theologians once asked the British biologist J.B.S. Haldane what he could tell them about the nature of the Creator based upon his field of study. He is said to have replied He must have had “An inordinate fondness for beetles”. In the camp shop I made some wooden box traps with which I could live trap small mammals. Unfortunately I was unable to tag them before releasing them but the results did give me some idea of the relative numbers and distributions of the different species.

In collecting reptiles and amphibians I noticed that the great majority of the toads belonged to one species *Bufo americanus*. But occasionally I would find individuals of a second species

B. fowleri. According to the books we had in our small library the latter was a southern species not to be found as far north as Maine and New Hampshire where our camp was located. I was curious about this and so wrote a letter to the curator of reptiles and amphibians at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. He wrote back congratulating me on my contribution to our records of species distribution. It made my day. Many years later a friend of mine came across my letter in the files of the museum.

But not all of my camp time was spent as a budding naturalist. The second most attractive activity for me was, strangely enough, rifle shooting. The counselor in charge of the rifle range, Mr. Cunningham, was the science teacher at the school I went to on Staten Island and the man who recommended the camp to my parents. At the rifle range we worked for medals distributed by the National Rifle Association, shooting at targets mounted at a prescribed distance away. Everyone began shooting from the prone position, then graduated to the sitting position and finally ending in the standing position if you stuck with it long enough. I was one of the few at the camp who did just that, winning the top Distinguished Rifleman medal.

I have never since been interested in the use of guns. I was proud not to have ever had a gun in my hands during the three years I spent in the U. S. Navy in World War II. I am not a supporter of many of the lobbying activities of the N.R.A. What I did take away from my time spent rifle shooting was an appreciation of the value of perseverance which I later found valuable in my career. We Americans are typically restless and impatient for results. When an ornithologist applies for financial support of a research project, the supporting organization will not usually be willing to wait 50 years. And so we find articles in the scholarly journals entitled “Long Term Study”. The “long term” turns out to be 5 years.



Continued on page 6


Summer Calendar of Events

For more information on any of our programs, please call us at 860-567-0857 or visit www.whitememorialcc.org

JUNE

- 29 - July 5 **Museum Kids Free Week***
In Memory of Louise W. Willson

JULY

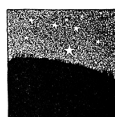
- 3 **Bats: Earth's Allies**
 Bats need friends now more than ever! Gerri Griswold gets you started by introducing you to her charming friend, Theo. At dusk, step outside and watch our bats emerge from the Green Barn. Pre-registration required. 7:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room


- 5 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
Museum Closed 

- 6 - 12 **Museum Kids Free Week***
Courtesy of the J. Denis O'Toole
Family honoring Helen Ryan Donnelly

- 10 **Tree Identification Walk with Lukas Hyder**
Meet in the Museum parking lot. 10:00 A.M.

- 11 **Children's Forest Survival Skills Workshop with Andy Dobos**
See page 7 for details.

- 16 **Star Gazing!**
Monthly astronomy program organized by Litchfield Hills Amateur Astronomy Club and the Mattatuck Astronomical Society. 8:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room 


- 17 **A Fair with Iceland: Iceland Affair**
 Get to know your closest European neighbor a whole lot better! Live animals, documentaries, food, and more! 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. A.B. Ceder Room, Activity Shed

- 21 **What You Need to Know About Rabies**
Randall Nelson, a senior epidemiologist with the State Department of Public Health answers your questions. 6:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room

- 24 **Evening at Little Pond**
Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen leads a dusk walk in search of herons, frogs, beavers, and more. Ages 10 and up. Meet at the South Lake St. entrance to Little Pond. 6:00 P.M.


- 28 **Traprock Ridge: A Photographic Journey**
Eric Larson shares pictures from his new book as well as other photos he has taken along this geological wonder in central Connecticut. 6:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room


* Free admission to Children ages 12 and under when accompanied by an adult

- 31 **Soap Making from Scratch**
With Roxann Lovall
See page 7 for details 

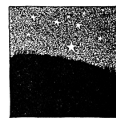
AUGUST


- 3 - 9 **Museum Kids Free Week***
Courtesy of Joan and Jack Benham
honoring Brianna R. Parcell


- 7 **Things That Go Bump in the Night**
 Learn to identify all of those insect, owl, and frog voices that lend such a beautiful ambience to a summer night. Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen leads the way. Meet in front of the A.B. Ceder Room. 6:30 P.M.

- 13/14 **A Celebration of The Bantam River**
See page 7 for details. 

- 17 - 23 **Museum Kids Free Week***
Courtesy of Tara and Arthur Diedrick
honoring Ann and Arthur Diedrick

- 20 **Star Gazing!**
Monthly astronomy program organized by Litchfield Hills Amateur Astronomy Club and the Mattatuck Astronomical Society. 8:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room 


- 21 **Nature, Creativity, and Your Inner Muse with Marlow Shami**
 See page 7 for details.

- 27 **Conservation Inspiration Dinner and Fireside Reading of Leopold, Thoreau, Carson, and others with David Leff**
 See page 7 for details.

- 28 **Walk to Duck Pond**
Gerri Griswold leads a general nature walk to Duck Pond. Learn about native plants and animals along the way! 2:00 P.M. Meet in front of the Museum.


SEPTEMBER

- 4 **Reptile and Amphibian Walk**
Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen leads a walk around Ongley Pond in search of our cold-blooded friends. Meet in front of the A.B. Ceder Room, 2:00 P.M.

- 6 **LABOR DAY**
Museum Closed 

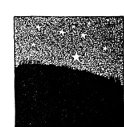
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- 11 **Jae Wolf on Apple Hill**


Spend this day of reflection surrounded by the beauty of Nature and the music and gentle spirit of this talented musician. Concert is at 2:00 P.M. on Apple Hill. Bring a picnic! Meet at 1:30 in the Museum parking lot. Call 860-567-0857 to pre-register. 

- 15 **The Role of Taxidermy in Society**
James Fischer and Gerri Griswold explore how taxidermy influences the way we understand and appreciate the natural world. 6:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room

- 14 - 20 **Museum Kids Free Week***
In Memory of Louise W. Willson

- 17 **Star Gazing!**
Monthly astronomy program organized by Litchfield Hills Amateur Astronomy Club and the Mattatuck Astronomical Society. 8:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room 

- 18 **Hawk Watch and Other Fall Migrants**
Park yourself at the picnic tables in front of the Ceder Room and help Dave Rosgen count the flurry of migrating hawks and songbirds above your head! 2:00 P.M.

- 24 **Full Moon Reflections**
 Kayak Paddle with Robyn Dinda Bring dinner and a flashlight! 5:30 P.M. Meet at the bridge on White's Woods Road. For more information call Robyn at 860-567-0738.


September 25, 2010
29th Annual Family Nature Day

Wingmasters
Magic Wings Butterfly Conservancy
Mortal Beasts and Deities
The Bat Lady
Music by Nancy Tucker

See back page for information!

- 28—Oct. 4 **Museum Kids Free Week***
Courtesy of Joan and Jack Benham
honoring Wesley D. Parcell

OCTOBER

- 2 **Packing in Five Ponds**
Picnic and llama walk with Debbie Elias from Country Quilt Llama Farm
Details soon! 

Community Service at White Memorial

by Lukas Hyder, Forest Superintendent

This spring has been a busy time at White Memorial. Several groups and individuals dedicated many hours of their time and labor helping where needed.

Regular ongoing help came from Wamogo and Marvelwood Schools. The Wamogo VoAg students regularly come once a month helping to control invasive plants in the main area. In April, a group from Marvelwood School in Kent started coming every Wednesday morning and have completed various tasks including timber harvest cleanup and drainage maintenance.

On two Saturdays this spring, National Honor Society students from Crosby High School led by John Ryan, uprooted and cut non-native invasive honeysuckle, barberry and bittersweet plants from the woods near the Mott Van-Winkle area.

Braden Benge of Litchfield High School also spent a Saturday morning in April doing invasive plant removal near the Garden of the Senses, and is scheduled to return with his class.

On April 3rd Alec Donna started his Eagle Scout project doing trail improvements at the Ongley Pond trail. He moved the northern section of the trail away from the pond, added gravel, and planted native shrubs to block off the former trail location. On the 17th, Evan Smith of Troop 75, another Eagle Scout candidate, completed his project at White Memorial. Work included brushing two wildlife openings in the Beaver Pond area, as well as erosion control and maintenance to the Plunge Pool Trail. We wish these Scouts the best of luck in achieving their Eagle Scout Badge, the highest rank in Scouting.

On April 24, Boy Scouts from Troop 102 of Naugatuck donated many hours at the Windmill Hill campground cleaning up the campsites of leaves, sticks, and trash.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated time and talent to make White Memorial a better place.

SOLAR POWER UPDATE

As of March 9, 2010, White Memorial's 11,050 watt photovoltaic system has been online for one year, with excellent results. During that time the system produced 13,702 kilowatt hours of electricity to power our Museum. This is 7% above what was estimated!

Thanks to our solar power system and a number of energy conservation initiatives, we used 15,700 less kilowatt hours of electricity at the Museum last year, compared to an average of the previous two years. This works out to a savings of about \$3,300/year.

To view past and current output visit:

www.sunpowermonitor.com/residential/kiosk.aspx?id=998E52F8-5AFA-471C-929F4C934DD5A32A&type=address#

Volunteer Spotlight: Dorothy Ferguson

Photo and Story by Gerri Griswold, Director of Development

Dorothy Ferguson was born to be a musician. Whether she is playing the organ, singing in a choir, or orchestrating a group through the museum as our "First Chair" for Guided Museum tours, music appreciation and theory dominate her world.

Ferguson is a born and raised Watertown native. She has the distinction of owning the very home she grew up in which was purchased by her parents in the 1920's. From very early on, Dorothy gravitated towards music taking piano lessons and ultimately pursuing a degree in music from Smith College. 1942 was a very good year as Dorothy received her degree and married her husband John, a dashing Yale educated economist. They made beautiful music together for 65 years and composed two masterpieces: daughters, Alice and Gretje. John lost his battle with colon cancer three years ago.

For many years Dorothy was the organist and choral director for Christ Church in Watertown. During those years she staged elaborate productions of *Gilbert and Sullivan* light operas, *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore*, and *Pirates of Penzance*...all starring children! In the 1960's Dorothy and seven other singers formed the group *Catch and Madrigal Singers* performing those musical genres all over Waterbury and Watertown.

Music and nature are symbiotic.

Ferguson grew up loving birds and became fascinated by hawks, especially the Broad-winged Hawk. When White Memorial was seeking to train volunteer guides to lead nature walks, Dorothy jumped at the opportunity. Outdoor work quickly became indoor work as she found serving the Conservation Center as a museum guide particularly gratifying. Ferguson loved the challenges of interpreting the Museum for third, fourth, and fifth graders and sought out better ways of capturing their interest and igniting their curiosity. A simple idea to make children understand the ice harvest industry which once thrived on Bantam Lake and Lake Waramaug eventually became Ferguson's signature trademark. Using a tiny iron "icebox" taken from a dollhouse, she helped children understand the concept of early refrigeration. She had her charges crawl from the glacial exhibit to the icehouse. The Apple Hill exhibit was her stage as Ferguson mobilized groups of twenty children through the fields, the taxidermy display, along the Boardwalk, through the marshes, and around Catlin Woods. She rallied her groups together and introduced them to "Jackie the Black Rat Snake". Then on to the Bee Tree. She finds teaching children particularly gratifying but, "You don't know how well you are doing!" That is... until the end of the tour when a chorus of youngsters enthusiastically bellows, "Thank you, Mrs. Ferguson!"

Currently, when she is not singing in Waterbury's St. John's Episcopal Church Choir, dynamic Dorothy Ferguson immerses herself as a devoted student of genealogy. In White Memorial's genealogy, Dorothy Ferguson is absolute royalty.



Nature is to be found in her entirety
nowhere more than in her smallest creatures.

Pliny the Elder



WHITE MEMORIAL AWARDED GRANT TO CONTROL PHRAGMITES

White Memorial has received a three year Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to control Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), otherwise known as Common Reed, in our wetlands. A non-native invasive plant, Phragmites has made significant inroads in our wetlands and in wetlands throughout Connecticut. There is a native variety of Phragmites, but that plant is not invasive.

Non-native Phragmites, if left to its own devices, will form thick stands which degrade wildlife habitat and crowd out native plants. These changes have a significant adverse effect on biodiversity.

Phragmites populations at White Memorial have exploded over the last 10 years. It has been estimated that from 2000 to 2008 the acreage of Phragmites increased by 50%. Areas that just a few years ago were filled with cattails and sedges are now solid stands of Phragmites. We estimate that there are now about 40 acres of Phragmites on the property. We will be using WHIP funds to treat 32 acres over three years.

We have contracted with the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Wildlife Habitat and Mosquito Management Program (WHAMM) to do the work, which was started in September 2009. The first phase called for herbicide spraying the plants and it is anticipated that this first spraying will decrease the number of plants by 80%. That treatment was followed up with mowing down the plants this winter. During the spraying we found it necessary to close certain sections of our trails. These closures were temporary and most areas were re-opened within 24 hours.

If all goes as planned, late this summer the WHAMM staff will be on site spraying any plants that were not killed with the first treatment, and again this will be followed by mowing and one more spraying and mowing in 2011-2012. For comparison we have also begun a small project where we are mowing Phragmites several times over the summer to see if that may also be an effective method to reduce the plants occurrence. This project will also be ongoing for several years.

Based on results from other areas WHAMM has treated, we can expect native plants to begin recolonizing the treated sites, with the corresponding improvements in wildlife habitat. Even with what we hope will be very positive results from this initial program, Phragmites is very aggressive and we know future work will be needed to continue to reduce its presence in White Memorial's wetlands.



Bantam Fuel * Winvian * C&L Plumbing
First National Bank of Litchfield
Litchfield Hills Audubon Society * Woods Pit BBQ & Mexican Cafe
Executive Auto Sales, Inc. / Litchfield Ford * Litchfield Bancorp
Ericson Insurance Services, LLC
S.H. Smith & Company * Webster Bank
Frank E. Fisher & Sons, LLC * Torrington Savings Bank
Litchfield True Value / Just Ask Rental

WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER, INC. ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 7, 2010

The Annual Meeting of the White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc. was called to order by President Diedrick at 3:32 pm., on May 7, 2010, at the White Memorial Foundation office.

The minutes of the May 1, 2009 Annual Meeting were approved upon motion of Mr. Morosani and second by Ms. Pollock.

Mr. Plunkett presented the report of the Nominating Committee. For members of the Board of Directors for terms of three years: Susan Hamilton and Guy Weik. For members of the Education and Activities Committee for terms of three years: Sue Carpenter, Andy Dobos, Debbie Goepel, Tracy Keilty, Ella Knox, and Alisa Wright. Upon motion of Mr. Ching and second by Ms. Pollock the Secretary was authorized to cast one ballot for the slate as presented.

Center staff Gerri Griswold, James Fischer, and Jeffrey Greenwood reported on accomplishments for 2009 and plans for 2010.

As there was no further business, upon motion of Mr. Plunkett and second by Mr. Ching, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.



Evolution of a Bird Bander : Continued from page 3

I attended the same 2 month long summer camp for 10 years starting as a midget camper and ending as a member of the junior staff. I later in life accumulated a 50 year capture-mark-recapture data set of birds banded at the same location.

One final seed in my preparation for a career was planted in my pre-college years at my boyhood home on Staten Island. Our house was located on a side street a block away from the main thoroughfare running from the St. George Ferry terminal to Port Richmond. As a young boy I was confined to my bed by a since forgotten illness for about a week. There was no T.V. in those days so I had to amuse myself. At the time the main thoroughfare was being repaired. So its buses were detouring on our side street. From my bed I could watch them going back and forth. I noticed that each bus was labeled with a unique number so I could keep track of each individual bus. How long did it take to make a round trip? Were the same buses on that route day after day or did they rotate, etc. I had learned to play the numbers game.

So, by the age of 18 I knew I wanted to be an outdoor naturalist. I had found a technique for exploring my field. And I had learned the value of perseverance. I was ready to move on. But my timing was bad. I graduated high school in June, 1942. In December 1941 Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. As Robert Burns put it "The best laid schemes o' mice and men Gang aft a-gley".

*G. E. Hutchinson, The Enchanted Voyage and Other Studies (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1962)



SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

Some Classes Still Have Openings!



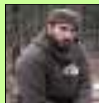
Various, fun, and worthwhile nature experiences for children await their discovery this summer. We have weekly story hours for the youngest, Wee Discoverers for ages four and five.

Nature Adventurers is for children entering grades one and two. Youngsters spend time outdoors making discoveries and learn how to help the Earth by practicing recycling and reuse of

non-recyclable items.

The Natural History Explorers, for children entering grades three through nine, offers participants the chance to go beyond the boundaries of White Memorial to learn about unique environments in northwest Connecticut. Call 860-567-0857 for more information or visit www.whitememorialcc.org.

Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Workshops: Summer 2010



Children's Survival Skills

July 11, 2010, 10:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.
Ages 6 and up. Meet in front of the Museum.
Members: \$45.00 Non members: \$50.00

Andy Dobos helps to keep your child safe and, more importantly, comfortable in the woods. You and your children will gain an understanding of the real hazards that can be found in the forest and your backyard, dispel myths, and learn what we should really be worried about. Every child will leave with a wilderness emergency kit. Parents and Guardians attend free.



Soap Making from Scratch

July 31, 2010, 2:00 P.M., A.B. Cedar Room
Members: \$30.00 Non members: \$35.00

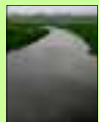
Roxann Lovell, owner of "Aerie Mountain Garden, Gift, and Floral Shop" in Barkhamsted, shows you how easy it is to make lovely, fragrant soaps from scratch using natural materials! Each participant will leave with a soap recipe and a minimum of two bars of homemade soap.



Campfire Cooking with Caitlin!

August 7 & August 28, 2010
11:00 A.M - 1:00 P.M. Ages 10 and up
Members: \$10.00 Non members: \$15.00

Environmental educator, Caitlin Loftus stokes up the Kienholz Firepit and demonstrates simple cooking techniques for preparing a delicious lunch! Make your own Pita Pizza, Pot o' Gold Soup, Dough Boys, and Orange Cake. Please bring an appetite and a sharp knife for peeling bark off of a stick. Class sizes are limited to 12. The menu for both classes is the same. Meet in the Museum.



A Celebration of the Bantam River

August 13 at 6:30 P.M. A.B. Cedar Room
August 14, 6:30 A.M. on the Bantam River and Litchfield Town Beach
Members: \$15.00 Non members: \$20.00

Friday evening enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres and a glorious pictorial tribute to the Bantam River presented by Washington Chef, Photographer, and Adventurer, Horst Antosch. Saturday morning at 6:30 A.M. meet at the boat launch on Whites Woods Road for an early morning interpretive paddle down the Bantam River ending at Litchfield Town Beach where you will be treated to a delicious breakfast prepared for you by Gerri Griswold. Call for more information.



Nature, Creativity, and Your Muse

August 21, 2010, 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
A.B. Cedar Room
Members: \$10.00 Non members: \$15.00

Calling all visual artists, photographers, writers -- anyone interested in deepening their connection with the creative forces of Nature! Marlow Shami, nature-based visual artist and writer presents a morning designed to deepen access with your innate creativity. Outdoor nature based activities, meditation, and group dialog will inspire and stimulate new thinking and fresh experience. Bring your: camera, sketch pad, pen and paper, or simply an open heart and mind.



Conservation Inspiration

Fireside Reading and Dinner with David Leff
August 27, 2010, 7:00 P.M.
Kienholz Firepit and Meeting Barn
Members: \$15.00 Non members: \$20.00

A collage of energizing and restorative readings from the works of Aldo Leopold, Henry David Thoreau, Rachel Carson, E.O. Wilson, and others interpreted at the fireside by author and former Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, David Leff. Mr. Leff's performance will be preceded by a delicious dinner in the Meeting Barn next to the firepit. Copies of Mr. Leff's work will be available for purchase. Don't miss this unique event!

Clip & Mail

___ Children's Survival Skills Workshop.....	Member: \$45.00	Non Member: \$50.00
___ Soap Making from Scratch Workshop.....	Member: \$30.00	Non Member: \$35.00
___ Campfire Cooking: August 7 August 28	Member: \$10.00	Non Member: \$15.00
___ Celebration of the Bantam River	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$20.00
___ Nature, Creativity, and Your Muse.....	Member: \$10.00	Non Member: \$15.00
___ Conservation Inspiration with David Leff.....	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$20.00

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Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please circle one: member non-member

Payment enclosed:

Program fee: \$ _____ Membership fee: \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Make check payable to White Memorial Conservation Center and mail to:
White Memorial, P.O. Box 368, Litchfield CT 06759.

Become a member of the White Memorial Conservation Center and take advantage of the member discount, along with free admission to the Nature Museum, a discount in the Gift Shop, and receipt of the quarterly newsletter and calendar of events. Your tax-deductible fee will help sponsor programs like these. A family membership is \$50.00 per year and individual is \$35.00.

CEUs available



For more information call 860-567-0857

www.whitememorialcc.org

29TH ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

ADMISSION: \$6.00... CENTER MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE



WINGMASTERS



MAGIC WINGS BUTTERFLY CONSERVANCY



MORTAL BEASTS & DEITIES

PLUS!!!!!!!

KAYAK RAFFLE

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WALKS**

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FOR KIDS**

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EXHIBITS**

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SALE**

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FOOD

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WAGON RIDES**



THE BAT LADY



NANCY TUCKER

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