

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial Conservation Center
Vol. XXXIII No. 3
Summer 2015

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
www.whitememorialcc.org



Misty Morning at Little Left Photo credit: Leo Kulinski, Jr.

The Fisher

by Paul Rego, Wildlife Biologist, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Ahead I saw the orange surveyor's flagging flitting in the breeze on the birch sapling a few feet above the fresh snow. I tied the flagging a week earlier to mark the location of tracks left by a fisher dashing across the logging road. I stopped the snowmobile and got off to assess the tracks that disturbed the otherwise smooth snow. Fisher, again! I was in a remote area of Maine in the 1980s trying to live-trap fishers for a research project. I found it remarkable that this fisher, which might travel over ten square miles of the surrounding forest, chose this exact crossing again. Some old woodsmen believed that fishers traveled on circuits, but maybe this was a case of topography and cover "funneling" the fisher to this spot.

In the years since that day most of my time afield has been in northwest Connecticut. I have encountered fisher tracks on a number of occasions. Yet the encounters are rare enough to be memorable. I've glimpsed a fisher only once in the wild. Why is seeing a fisher so rare? Predators naturally have lower population densities than herbivorous prey species. Fishers prefer forest cover and shun open habitats where they would be more visible. Further, fishers have made a comeback in Connecticut only in the last few decades.

What is a fisher? The fisher is a medium-sized member of the weasel family. It shares many of the weasel characteristics; a long thin body, short legs, five toes per foot, similar dentition and anal scent glands (most famously developed in the skunk). The fur is a

uniform chocolate brown to black, although there may be white markings on the chest and groin. Adult males weigh 8 to 12 pounds and range from 36 to 48



*Fisher (Martes pennant)
Photo credit: Paul Fusco*

inches long. The long, bushy tail accounts for one third of the total length. Females are about half the size of males, weighing 4 ½ to 6 pounds and measuring 30 to 38 inches long. In fact, fishers display one of the largest levels of sexual dimorphism among our terrestrial mammals. Scientists have pondered how and why this species developed such a

difference between the sexes. One theory is that the size difference would lead to diet differences between the sexes and reduce competition for food.

Theoretically male diets will include larger prey and female diets smaller prey. Despite their name fishers show no particular fondness for fish or water. They are skilled tree climbers and may pursue prey in trees. The maternal dens are located in tree cavities.

The fisher's diet was not well studied prior to the mid-1900s. Early observations of diet came from evidence left in the snow or specimens typically trapped in winter. Many foods from plants are not available during the winter months. The fisher diet was thought to be almost exclusively carnivorous. Later diet studies, including samples from throughout the year, found a broader variety of foods which showed fishers are omnivores. Fishers rely heavily on small and medium sized mammals such as mice, voles, hares, and rabbits. Deer are too large to be prey but deer dying from other means are scavenged. Regional differences in diet reflect the availability. In the northern extent of their range, fishers prey on snowshoe hares, while in the southern range gray squirrels and cottontail rabbits are staples. The plant-derived foods also reflect availability. Beechnuts are used in the north. I found apple and winterberry in the stomachs of trapper-caught fishers in Maine.

(continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)

A California study found that fishers ate mushrooms. Connecticut fishers dine most frequently on gray squirrels which are abundant in our forests. But one regular diet item has garnered more interest than any other – the porcupine.

Fishers regularly prey on porcupines but suffer no ill consequences. The shield of quills protects porcupines from most other predators. Historic speculation on just how fishers overcome the defense included the idea that fishers flip porcupines on their backs, exposing the unprotected underside. Others suggested that fishers attack porcupines in trees, climbing underneath the porcupine and slashing the belly. Researchers using penned animals found that fishers subdue porcupines with repeated attacks to the face, weakening and eventually killing them. Fishers are quilled in these encounters. The quills pass through the skin but lodge benignly in the connective tissue covering the muscles. Fishers, especially the larger males, from regions with established porcupine populations frequently carry quills from past porcupine encounters beneath the skin of their front legs and neck. In Connecticut porcupines are not widespread. We examined dozens of vehicle-killed fishers in the last decade and found only one with evidence of porcupine use.

The historical relationship between fishers, porcupines and the northern forest they inhabit has undergone dramatic fluctuations. Prior to European settlement the range of fishers and porcupines coincided with the range of the northern hemlock-hardwood forest in the East. In the Midwest fishers ranged throughout the boreal and in the West the occurred in the western mountain forests. Settlement dramatically decreased the amount of forest land in the East. In southern New England forests were cleared for farming, fuel and wood products. Forest cover declined from nearly 100 percent prior to European arrival to 20 to 30 percent by the mid-1800s. In the Midwest deforestation peaked later in the early 1900s. The period was also marked by unregulated killing of wildlife. Habitat loss and overexploitation led to the extirpation of beavers, bears, turkeys and fishers from Connecticut and decreased populations over much of their former range. The remarkably high value of fisher pelts encouraged excessive trapping and hunting through the first half of the twentieth century. Average prices per pelt in today's dollars were in the hundreds, prices for the best pelts surpassed a thousand dollars. Tracking a single fisher for days for a pelt worth more than a week's

wages was a worthwhile endeavor. Dramatic habitat reduction and heavy trapping and hunting pressure reduced fisher range to the most remote and inaccessible remnant forests. Some thought fishers were a wilderness species but wilderness was the only place they could survive.

In Connecticut and in much of the Northeast a long process of declining agriculture and forest regrowth started in the mid to late 1800s. Regrowth began later in the Midwest where logged-over area returned to forests. With improving habitat and their primary predator absent porcupine populations flourished. Timber damage from porcupines increased. Protective measures allowed remnant fisher populations to increase in localized areas. Where fisher populations



Adept Climber: Fisher up a Tree
Photo credit: Paul Rego

persisted reduced numbers of porcupines were noted. Foresters and wildlife managers from numerous states and provinces believed they could control porcupine numbers by reintroducing their predator and at the same time restore a native species. Fisher reintroductions occurred in Nova Scotia, Maine, Vermont, New York, West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Montana, Oregon and Idaho.

In Connecticut, we conducted winter track surveys in the 1980s to determine where fishers occurred in the state. Fishers were first documented in northern towns of eastern Connecticut. At that time fishers were common in central Massachusetts but rare further west. Northwest Connecticut had suitable habitat but was isolated from a source population. Fishers live-trapped in Vermont and New Hampshire were released to that portion of the state in 1989 and 1990. The released fishers survived and reproduced. Fishers have been present in the area in subsequent years but never became abundant. In contrast the range expansion from

Massachusetts seemed to be supplying eastern Connecticut with fishers every year. In the east fishers became more common and their spread was only limited by the Connecticut River and Long Island sound. Each year brought more reported sightings, complaints and instances of road-killed fishers. Fishers were doing so well that a limited, regulated trapping season was initiated in 2005.

The fisher's return began twenty-five years ago and they have been common, especially in eastern Connecticut, for more than a decade. Yet most people are not familiar with them, or worse, have serious misconceptions. Perhaps their reputation as a big, fierce predator is connected to their unique ability to kill porcupines. I regularly talk to people that believe they've seen or heard a fisher and are worried about their pets, livestock or children. Fishers may prey on unprotected poultry but they pose little danger to dogs or larger livestock. They may rarely kill an outdoor cat but coyotes are a much greater threat in this regard. Although fishers are not very vocal I can count on many calls every year from worried people believing they've heard fishers screaming in the night. The true source of the screams usually turns out to be red foxes. This mistake is so common that I've kept an audio clip of fox screams on my computer to share with callers. I distinctly recall one person's belief that fishers weigh ninety pounds and they wait in trees to drop on any animal or person that walks underneath.

The opportunity to encounter a fisher or find fisher tracks in Connecticut is better now than it has been in over 100 years. Our state will never see the extensive deforestation that occurred in our past. We will never see the overexploitation that drove many species from our state. Fishers need forest habitat but they can adapt to settings that are not wilderness. The species is now found near farmland and occasionally near residential areas. After all, many of our houses and neighborhoods are intermingled with forest. To set out and see a fisher is an unlikely proposition. Trail cameras are now commonly used by hunters and others and sometimes capture images of fishers. To find fisher tracks is more probable but still a challenge. On a rare occasion, for some of us, we can see one by simply looking out the back window.



Make a Difference

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

Hubby and I are blessed to have a plethora of friends of all ages and backgrounds. We have friends in town and friends far and wide: Arizona; Connecticut; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; New Hampshire; Rhode Island; Vermont and Virginia, to name a few. One and a half hours ago we got home from a long needed, much anticipated four day trip to see our Maryland friends. It had been far too long between visits. I wanted to write my article right away while the trip and its experiences were still fresh in my mind. The laundry can wait! We've known Jack and Alverta for more than forty years, starting when Jack and Hubby taught Science together in Colorado. Technically, these folks are older than we are by a bit, but that was really hard to fathom. I'm not sure I've ever had as much energy for living as both of them have. They are very dear to us and an inspiration to us on *so many* levels. Often that is what friends are.

While we were visiting, we took two hikes: one in Pemberton County Park and one in Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. The Pemberton County hike was an opportunity to observe the Wicomico River and its lowlands and wetlands and the cypress trees and their knees. It was a great hike in a lovely area. The Chincoteague hike was to hopefully see the endangered Delmarva Fox Squirrel and maybe catch a glimpse of the Chincoteague Ponies of Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry fame. I had always wanted to travel to Chincoteague Island and see the ponies. Along the way, we also observed no fewer than fifteen American Bald Eagles; a Bald Eagle nest with two young; a dozen Ospreys; five Delmarva Fox Squirrels; Snowy Egrets; Common Egret; Willet; Laughing Gulls; Herring Gulls; Ring-Billed Gulls; Terns; Sandpipers; Yellow Legs; four Chincoteague ponies; Boat-tailed Grackle; Cardinals; three Sika Elk; eight White-tailed Deer; Red-tailed

Hawk; Mergansers; Black Ducks; minnows of all types and Cormorants.

Of course, our evening discussions of the hikes and the events of the days resulted in the observation that there is just so much to see right outside our various doors. So much to see right outside nearly *everyone's* door. Jack and Alverta have several bird feeders where we observed dozens of Red-winged Blackbirds, Mourning Doves, Grackles; Goldfinches; White-throated Sparrows; Purple Finches; Bluejays; Downy Woodpeckers; Cardinals and Mallard Ducks. Yes, ducks. You see, Jack and Alverta live on a fresh water pond and the ducks waddle up from the shore for a free handout. Each morning we were greeted with a cacophony of bird songs (for you, Jack). We also saw Gray Squirrels; Great Blue Herons; bats and Canada Geese. In the past, they have observed otters and beavers, all from their back yard or looking through their large picture windows. These wonderful people are avid snow-shoers and cross country skiers as well as canoe and kayak enthusiasts. There is rarely a day when they are not outside hiking or walking or working in the yard or sitting by the pond. Theirs is a life made richer with the observation that there is just so much to see out-of-doors and that it is always changing. Even last summer when Jack was picking blueberries for the yummy homemade pie and muffins we were treated to, there was lots to see, smell, taste, feel and hear.

When Jack was teaching in Colorado, a favorite activity of his was to take his students to the Cherry Creek Reservoir and have each student do a "solo"...a time to sit and observe and write or draw what they were experiencing. It was a mandatory activity and it happened many times during the school year, in all seasons and in all kinds of weather. I think what Jack was trying to convey to each of those young people is that

"Science is all around you" and nature can be observed in all kinds of weather under all kinds of conditions and that each experience will teach you something about the world around you and/or about yourself. Nothing stays the same day to day in nature and yet its essence is always the same. The nuances of change are sometimes difficult to see or hear. It is in the reflecting at a later date that you sometimes see what was right outside your door. It is in the *getting up and getting out* that you can discover a world unknown and yet often very familiar. There is so much to see and do and learn and hear and taste and feel. Notice the way the clouds move across the sky on a breezy day. Notice what the wind does to the trees and the leaves. Notice the individual drops on a plant leaf just after a rain storm. See the way the sun reflects off the newly fallen snow. Watch the Goldfinches turn from khaki green to brilliant yellow. Feel the sun on your face. Catch a snowflake on your tongue. Smell the just-scratched bark of the Sassafras tree. Listen to the call of the Pileated Woodpecker. Hear the chickadee change its song from the winter "chickadee" to the springtime two-note call, which my grandmother always told me was the chickadee saying, "spring-time". Taste the nectar in red clover flowers. Get yourself a journal or a notebook and spend twenty minutes outside each day just watching and listening and being. Jot down or draw what you see or jot down your feelings. Observe. Just be. *Make a difference in your life and in the lives of people you love.* Go and visit and share outdoor experiences with them the way Hubby and I did with Jack and Alverta. And as Alverta reminded me, "Don't forget to tell them to be sure to check for ticks." Thanks, Jack and Alverta for reminding us that what is just outside our door is special and important. *You've made a difference for us.*



White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc.

51st Annual Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2015



The 51st Annual Meeting of the White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc. was called to order by President Diedrick at 3:34 pm., on May 1, 2015 at the White Memorial Foundation office.

The minutes of the May 2, 2014 Annual Meeting were approved upon motion of Ms. Pollock and second by Ms. Perrault.

Mr. Samponaro presented the report for the Nominating Committee. For members of the Board of Directors for terms of three years: Gerald W. Gault and Henry Perrault. For members of the Education and Activities Committee for terms of three

years: Gail Berglund, Lisa Cook, Morgen Fisher, and Heather Perrault. Upon motion of Mr. Morosani and second by Mrs. Hamilton the Secretary was authorized to cast one ballot for the slate as presented.

Center staff Gerri Griswold, Carrie Szwed, and James Fischer reported on accomplishments for 2014 and plans for 2015.

As there was no further business, upon motion of Mr. Samponaro and second by Ms. Skilton, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm.

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 Children Free Week***
In Memory of Louise W. Willson

JULY

June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28
Wee Discoverers Summer Nature Program
Visit www.whitememorialcc.org
for more information.

1 **Hiking and Healthful Eating**
with Gerri Griswold
See page 5 for details



3 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
Museum Closed



3 - 31 **Yoga in the Garden**
with Judith Erhman-Shapiro
Tuesdays and Fridays in July
8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.
Call 860-309-9489 for more information.

4 **Morning Walk to Apple Hill**
and Cat Swamp with Gerri Griswold
7:00 A.M.
Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.

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

6 - 31 **Nature Adventurers**
Summer Program
Weekdays only!
Visit www.whitememorialcc.org
for more information.



6 - 31 **Natural History Explorers**
Summer Programs
Weekdays only!
Visit www.whitememorialcc.org
for more information.



10 / 11 **A Celebration of the Bantam River**
Honoring Robyn Dinda
See page 5 for details.



15 **White Memorial's Earth Worms**
with James Fischer
6:30 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

17 **Star Party!**
8:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room



18 **Movie Night! Feature Film: Kes (1969)**
A fifteen year old miner's son bonds with a wild kestrel. 8:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

19 **Summer Family Fun with**
Andy Dobos and Deneen Bernier
See page 5 for details!



25 **A Walk Through Catlin Woods**
with Marlow Shami
11:00 A.M.,
Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.

AUGUST

1 **A Lovely Stroll to Duck Pond**
with Marlow Shami
10:00 A.M.,
Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.

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

12 **Hiking and Healthful Eating**
with Gerri Griswold
See page 5 for details.



15 **Bantam Lake Day!!!**
Celebrate Connecticut's largest natural lake in
this day-long event sponsored by the
Bantam Lake Protective Association!
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Museum Open House!
10:00 A.M. Lake Trail and Ice House Ruins
2:00 P.M. Old Camp Townshend Walk
2:00 P.M. Lake Trail Walk
Walks meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.
Visit : www.bantamlakeect.com
For more information as this wonderful day
continues to evolve.



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

21 **Star Party!**
8:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room



22 **Journaling in Watercolor**
with Betsy Rogers-Knox
See page 5 for details!



29 **Moonset / Sunrise Hike Up Apple Hill**
with Leo & Gerri
Meet at the Apple Hill trailhead at 5:00 A.M.
Pot Luck breakfast to follow.
Pre-register: 860-567-0857

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

22 **Movie Night! Feature Film:**
Ring of Bright Water (1969)

A man, woman, and an otter on an incredible
journey. 8:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

SEPTEMBER

5 **Loving Haight: A Walk through the Haight**
Parcel with Gerri Griswold
2:00 P.M., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

5 **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.
Gerri Griswold leads the way. Limited
to 20 QUIET people! 8:00 P.M. Call
860-567-0857 to pre-register.



7 **LABOR DAY**
Museum Closed



9 **Hiking and Healthful Eating**
with Gerri Griswold
See page 5 for details



11 **Let Freedom Ring: 9/11 Memorial**
Music and falconry atop Apple Hill.
11:30 A.M.
Please call 860-567-0857 to pre-register.

12 **Late Summer Wildflower Walk with**
James Fischer
10:00 A.M., Meet in front of
the A. B. Ceder Room.



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

18 **Star Party!**
Weather permitting, star gazing begins at
8:00 P.M. in the Sawmill Field.

19 **Thirty-seven Trips to Iceland**
with Gerri Griswold
2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room.



September 26, 2015
34th Annual Family Nature Day



Sky Hunters in Flight,
Meet the Porcupine,
Creature Teachers,
The Bat Lady, Riverside Reptiles,
and Music by Robert Messoro and
Switch Factory

See back page for information!

28 - Oct. 4 **Museum Children Free Week***
Courtesy of Joan and Jack Benham

Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Workshops: Summer 2015



Hiking & Healthful Eating

July 1, 2015, 6:00 P.M.

A. B. Ceder Room DINNER!

Members: \$15.00 Non Members: \$25.00

Join Gerri for an evening devoted to health, wellness, nature, and delicious food. Take a hike. Learn how to use herbs and spices to make delicious healthful food. Tuck into a simple to prepare healthful meal that you can create at home. Tonight we'll indulge in a grilled chicken with fresh peach salsa, fiesta corn and black bean salad, and more!



A Celebration of the Bantam River

Honoring Robyn Dinda

July 10, 2015, 6:30 P.M.,

A. B. Ceder Room

July 11, 2015 6:30 A.M. on the Bantam River and Litchfield Town Beach

Members: \$20.00 Non Members: \$30.00

The festivities begin Friday evening with a presentation of photographs remembering The Queen of the Bantam River, Robyn Dinda, who passed away last year. Nibble hors d'oeuvres, sip wine, and enjoy breathtaking images of Robyn and the river contributed by her legions of admirers. Saturday morning meet at the boat launch on Whites Woods Road for an interpretive paddle down the Bantam River with kayak enthusiast, Dave Faber. Breakfast awaits you at Litchfield Town Beach. This event is rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather the breakfast will be moved to the A. B. Ceder Room.



Summer Fun with Andy Dobos and Deneen Bernier

July 19 2015 10:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.

Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$25.00 Non Members: \$30.00

Fees are per child.

Adults attend at no charge.

Join Andy and Deneen of Three Red Trees School of Natural Living for an afternoon of getting in touch with Nature. Families will learn about the world around them through games, exploration, and adventure. Designed to connect both young and old to plants and animals, these fun activities will open your senses to the mysteries of the natural world. Bring water, good shoes, and clothing for the weather and playing outside! You will leave filthy, fabulous, and fulfilled!



Hiking & Healthful Eating

August 12 2015 6:00 P.M.

A. B. Ceder Room DINNER!

Members: \$15.00 Non Members: \$25.00

Join Gerri for an evening devoted to health, wellness, nature, and delicious food. Take a hike. Learn how to use herbs and spices to make delicious healthful food. Tuck into a simple to prepare healthful meal that you can create at home. Tonight we salute tuna prepared in a variety of tasty salads, grilled vegetables, and more!



Journaling in Watercolor

with Betsy Rogers-Knox

August 22, 2015, 1:30 P.M.

A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$35.00 Non Members: \$45.00

Put away that electronic device and capture your thoughts and impressions of the world around you in this beautiful art form taught by internationally acclaimed artist Betsy Rogers-Knox! Step-by-step instruction with plenty of demos provided. For kids 8 to 84! All materials included!



Hiking & Healthful Eating

September 9 2015, 6:00 P.M.

A. B. Ceder Room DINNER!

Members: \$15.00 Non Members: \$25.00

Join Gerri for an evening devoted to health, wellness, nature, and delicious food. Take a hike. Learn how to use herbs and spices to make delicious healthful food. Tuck into a simple to prepare healthful meal that you can create at home. Tonight's menu features tastes from the Mediterranean!

Clip me!

_____ Hiking and Healthful Eating: July 1	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$25.00
_____ Celebration of the Bantam River	Member: \$20.00	Non Member: \$30.00
_____ Summer Fun with Andy and Deneen	Member: \$25.00	Non Member: \$30.00
_____ Hiking and Healthful Eating: August 12	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$25.00
_____ Journaling in Watercolor	Member: \$35.00	Non Member: \$45.00
_____ Hiking and Healthful Eating: September 9	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$25.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please circle one: member non-member

Payment enclosed:

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

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 an individual membership is \$35.00.

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



I like this place and could willingly waste my time in it.

~ William Shakespeare



Community Service at White Memorial

by Lukas Hyder, Forest Superintendent



It has been a busy year for community service at White Memorial with many groups and individuals participating in numerous projects. I extend great big "thank you" to all who contributed, and you can see the listed the projects completed with the entity responsible below:

Summer and Fall 2014

- ◆ Explorations Charter School- continued their weekly service during school year
- ◆ Yale Alumni, Yale Day of Service- installed the numbered posts on the Ice House Ruins interpretive trail
- ◆ Students from Cheney Tech worked on clearing around the Ice House foundation
- ◆ Matthew Logue, a Gunnery student, helped us with maintenance around the main area as well as invasive control
- ◆ Two AmeriCorps teams assisted in replacing boardwalk sections, as well as work at the Ice House ruins
- ◆ John Spaziani-a regular, came twice weekly for any task that needs doing
- ◆ Sean Gannon-assisted in the stone wall inventory
- ◆ DCF Wilderness School-conducted trail maintenance and work at the Ice House ruins

- ◆ Jeff Mills assisted in phragmites control
- ◆ Joseph Sefcik, a Boy Scout from Troop 35, constructed 3 wildlife brush piles
- ◆ Washington Montessori middle school students removed invasive burning bush plants at the Beaver Pond trail head

Spring 2015

- ◆ Regulars included Explorations Charter School and John Spaziani
- ◆ Family Campers and RVer's-Point Folly Campground pre-season work including; site cleanup, raking sites, fire ring maintenance, staining outhouse and observation platform
- ◆ Boy Scout Troop 102-completed a pre-season cleanup of all the Windmill Hill campground sites and road edges

As you can see the volunteers who contributed time and effort to White Memorial are quite varied and the work they completed important to the upkeep of the property. The jobs done are a great benefit and we are able to have things done that the staff is not able to do. As you travel the property, you will see the results of all their labors. Thanks again to all for a job well done.

SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

Some Classes Still Have Openings! Call 860-567-0857 or visit www.whitememorialcc.org for registration form!

Tuesdays, June 30, July 7, 14, 21, & 28 **"Wee Discoverers" Summer Nature Program**

This weekly story-hour series for 4 & 5 year-olds also features songs, crafts, games, and outdoor adventures. What better way to introduce young ones to the wonders of nature!

Sign up by day or for all 5 days.

9:30 - 11:30am

Nature Museum Children's Corner

Members: \$15/day

Non-members: \$20/day

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.



July 6-31 (weekdays only) **"Nature Adventurers" Summer Program**

Kids entering grades 1 & 2 can join us for four weeks of outdoor discovery, games, books, songs, and crafts that help them learn more about the natural world around them.

Sign up by week or for all 4 weeks!

9:30am - 1pm each day,

Meet in the Museum parking lot.

Members: \$100/week

Non-members: \$125/week.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.



July 6-August 7 (weekdays only) **"Natural History Explorers" Summer Program**

Kids entering grades 3 - 9, join us for all-day discovery programs both on and off White Memorial property. Immerse yourselves in nature! Activities include collecting rocks and minerals, investigating aquatic life, exploring different ecosystems, learning to identify wildlife, climbing mountains, hiking trails, and so much more.

9:30am - 3:30pm each day

A.B. Cedar Room,

Members: \$140/week

Non-members: \$165/week.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

Grades 3 & 4: July 6-10 & 13-17

Grades 5 & 6: July 20-24 & 27-31

Grades 7, 8 & 9: August 3-7



Arethusa Farm Dairy * Iffland Lumber Company
Sunset Views, LLC * Ryan Specialty Group, LLC
Litchfield Hills Audubon Society
Woods Pit BBQ & Mexican Cafe

Executive Auto Sales, Inc. / Litchfield Ford
Ericson Insurance Advisors * Litchfield Bancorp
Bantam Home and Energy * Winvian Farm, LLC
The Woodhall School, Inc.

Krummi Travel, LLC * Torrington Savings Bank
Litchfield True Value / Just Ask Rental
Geoff's Equipment Services

BANTAM LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

RECIPIENT OF THE 2015 WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION CONSERVATION AWARD

Story and Photograph by Keith Cudworth

The White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award was established in 1964 to honor an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to the environment. To date, 18 organizations and 28 individuals have received this recognition. Each year the award, a bronze rendering of a beaver, White Memorial's symbol, which was created by the late Peggy Reventlow, is presented at the Foundation's annual dinner. This year's recipient is the Bantam Lake Protective Association.

Accepting the award for the Bantam Lake Protective Association was their president Connie Trolle. In presenting the award to Mrs. Trolle, White Memorial's President Arthur Diedrick remarked on the history and work of the Association. Established in 1925, the Association has been the principal advocate for the conservation and preservation of Bantam Lake for 90 years. This has taken many forms over the years with arguably the most important being the control of invasive aquatic plants. In 2006 they spearheaded, in cooperation with the local towns, White Memorial and the state DEEP, work to

address lake issues of which the control of invasive plants was on top of the list. Now in its 10th year this project has reduced the prevalence of invasive plants and

overall watershed, promoting best practices for all lake shore residents, and the control of invasive fanwort in the Bantam River.

The Association was also instrumental in the 2006 designation, by the State of Connecticut, of Bantam Lake as a "Heritage Lake" a lake considered to be an environmental asset of statewide importance. With the lake so designated and the tireless work of the Association's Board, State funding has been made available to address some of the lake's environmental issues: funding that would likely have not been possible without the Heritage lake designation.

The work of the Bantam Lake Protective Association has helped preserve the quality of life in northwestern Connecticut and has performed an outstanding service to conservation. It is with great pleasure that we award the 2015 White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award to the Bantam Lake Protective Association.

For more information about the Bantam Lake Protective Association, be sure to check out their web site at www.bantamlakect.com



WMF President and CEO Arthur Diedrick (L) presents Bantam Lake Protective Association President Connie Trolle (R) with the 2015 White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award.

improved lake conditions. Most recently their work has extended to the entire Bantam River watershed. This has included studying the



Volunteer Spotlight: Naomi Robert

Story and Photograph by Gerri Griswold

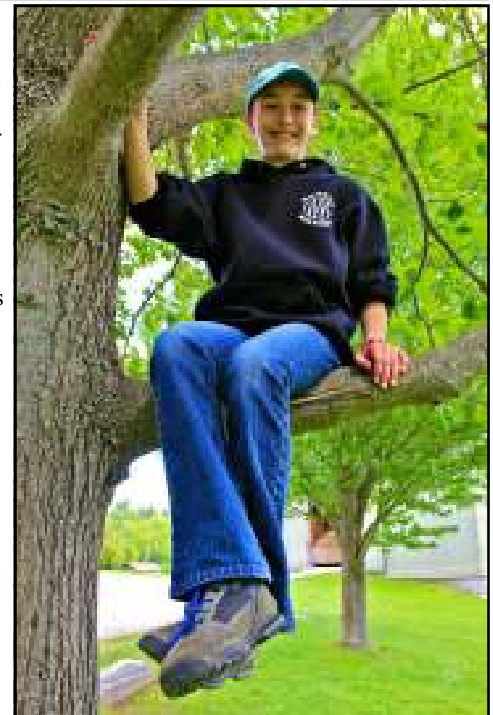
Sixteen year old Naomi Robert settled into a volunteer position in animal care here at White Memorial and has been making big waves in these parts ever since. This quiet young woman, a Junior at Wamogo Regional Vocational High School, only appears to be a mouse. Inside Naomi is the heart of a lion.

Robert is a local girl having spent the first years of her life in Watertown but the bulk of it in Morris where she lives today. All her life she remembers loving the outdoors, "We always went for a walk every day, first in a stroller. When my brother and I could walk we came to White Memorial. I just liked being outside seeing nature." Naomi attended James Morris School and then Wamogo. She knew she wanted to work with animals. Her mother suggested she come to White Memorial to volunteer.

Robert devoted nearly two years giving our animal ambassadors top notch care but was eventually wooed by James Fischer into research because she had the calling to work in the field collecting data. She attended UCONN's Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) doing field studies involving fish, tracking animals, studying soils. The

objective was to return to the community and create a project. Once completed the project would be presented to the community and then at UCONN. Fischer suggested Robert get involved in his earthworm study. He taught Naomi to collect earthworms which she did for several weeks, measure and document them, and make a poster about her findings. Her data was enlightening. The correlation of invasive Japanese Barberry, earthworms, and how they affect the forest floor was compelling. "Worms are good for the garden but not for the forest floor." For her efforts, Naomi received the award of Best Project and an \$8000 scholarship to UCONN (which happens to be one of her top picks for college).

In what little spare time she has, Robert enjoys riding horses, hiking, running (this year she will compete for the first time in the Litchfield Hills Road Race), and skiing and snowboarding. She is hoping to pursue a major in environmental science / environmental engineering when she graduates in 2016. We are thrilled that she will continue being an "A-List" volunteer until she graduates! Thanks, Naomi for the great work you have done and will continue to do for White Memorial!



Nature Nurturer: Naomi Robert

34TH ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

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

ADMISSION: \$6.00

CENTER MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE



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What's Inside This Edition of SANCTUARY

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.....	3
ANNUAL MEETING.....	3
CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....	4
SUMMER WORKSHOPS.....	5
COMMUNITY SERVICE.....	6
SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS.....	6
CONSERVATION AWARD.....	7
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT.....	7

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