

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial Conservation Center
Vol. XXXIV No. 3
Summer 2016

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



With Ticks, It is Not Just Lyme Disease Anymore!

by Kirby C. Stafford III and Goudarz Molaei, Center for Vector Biology & Zoonotic Diseases
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

This year both people and adult blacklegged ticks (a.k.a. deer ticks) were enjoying the beautiful weather in early March, while snow still blanketed the ground the previous year. It wasn't long before reports of tick bites and ticks removed from folks started coming into the Tick Testing Laboratory at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) for testing. With the summer, we are in the season with the highest risk for Lyme disease (LD) when the less easily detected nymphal stage of the blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, is most active and people spend more time outdoors. To paraphrase an old saying, the ticks really are out to get you!

While Lyme disease, caused by the spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*, continues to be the principal tick-associated disease in Connecticut and the United States, our "deer" tick also carries at least four other human pathogens here in our state that cause babesiosis, anaplasmosis, hard tick relapsing fever, and Powassan virus disease. Nationally, there are at least 14-20 human pathogens or diseases associated with various tick species.

Of course the main story continues to be Lyme disease with over 33,000 cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2014. However, it is estimated that only around 10% of the diagnosed cases get reported and there are actually around 300,000 cases of Lyme disease each year in the United States. Here in Connecticut, there were 2,299 reported human cases of LD in 2014 and

the number of reported cases appears to be declining in the state over the past five years. It is not clear why. Nevertheless, there is still a lot of Lyme disease in Connecticut and tick infection rates remain relatively high. In 2015, there were 3,084 blacklegged ticks submitted to CAES for identification and testing. Of the 2,503 tested, 31.5% were positive for



Nymph of *Ixodes scapularis*
(Photo courtesy Scott Bauer, USDA-ARS)

B. burgdorferi. Multiple infections from one tick bite are possible (see Table).

The hard tick relapsing fever *Borrelia* was first described from blacklegged ticks in Connecticut in 2001, but it wasn't recognized as a human pathogen until 2011. A number of human cases in this state have been described, presenting as a viral-like illness with fever, chills, sweats, headache, fatigue, neck stiffness, and muscle pain. A new Lyme *Borrelia* (provisionally *B. maynonii*) was described from Minnesota and Michigan in

February 2016. Unlike our regular Lyme spirochetes, this one seems to be detectable in the blood and characterized by a more diffuse rash, nausea, vomiting, and high fever. The prevalence of infection in *I. scapularis* that were tested was 2.9%. It is not yet known if this new *Borrelia* is present in our blacklegged ticks here in Connecticut. A new "strain" or lineage of Powassan virus called the deer tick virus has been detected in some of our blacklegged ticks (see Table). Symptoms of Powassan neuroinvasive disease can include fever, headache, vomiting, weakness, paralysis, and progress to meningoencephalitis with confusion, loss of coordination, speech difficulties, and seizures. Approximately half of survivors have permanent neurological symptoms. Fortunately, cases of Powassan meningoencephalitis are relatively uncommon. There were 12 cases reported in 2013 nationally, and most have been from Michigan, Minnesota, and New York, although a recent report described 8 cases from Massachusetts and New Hampshire between 2013-2015. There hasn't been a case of Powassan encephalitis documented yet in Connecticut.

What are the chances of getting one of the other diseases from a blacklegged tick? Less than for Lyme disease, but there are around a couple of hundred reported cases each year for babesiosis and < 100 for anaplasmosis. Nonetheless, the true incidence of these diseases is unknown.

Continued on page 2

(continued from page 1)

Reported number of cases of tick-borne disease in Connecticut in 2014 and the prevalence of infection in *I. scapularis* for various tick-associated pathogens in 2015

Disease/agent	Reported human cases, CT 2014 ^a	Percent Infection in <i>I. scapularis</i> , 2015 ^b
Lyme disease <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	2,299	31.5%
Babesiosis <i>Babesia microti</i>	170	11.0%
Anaplasmosis <i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i>	76	4.9%
Multiple Infections <i>Borrelia</i> , <i>Babesia</i> , <i>Anaplasma</i>	ND	6.3%
Hard Tick relapsing fever <i>Borrelia miyamotoi</i>	ND	2% nymphs 11% adults
Powassan virus “deer tick virus”	0	2.0% (range 0-4.2%) adult ticks

^aConfirmed and probable cases, data CT Department of Public Health. There have been no documented human cases of Powassan virus in Connecticut. ND = no data.

^bData for *B. burgdorferi*, *B. microti*, *A. phagocytophilum*, Tick Testing Laboratory, CAES. It includes both nymphal and adult *I. scapularis*. Prevalence of infection for *B. miyamotoi* and Powassan virus are values reported in the published literature.

The greatest risk for a tick bite is around the home for most people. Roughly three-quarters of the ticks are estimated to be encountered by people playing, gardening, or doing yard work in comparison to another 21% of the ticks experienced in activities away from the home. Lyme disease prevention starts with personal protection measures, which include appropriate clothing, use of repellents, and tick checks after returning indoors. Repellents meant for skin or clothing use such as DEET, picaridin, or the clothing-only products containing the insecticide permethrin may be used. Several companies market clothes pre-treated with permethrin that can provide

long term protection through multiple washings. Tick checks are important in reducing the risk of pathogen transmission from an infected tick. Clothes can be thrown in the dryer as the tick will not survive an hour in a hot dryer.

There are a number of approaches to reduce the risk of tick exposure around residential properties. These include certain types of landscaping, deer fencing, spraying for ticks with conventional ornamental-turf pesticides, a fungus-based biopesticide and a select few natural products, and the use of rodent-tick boxes. Research at the CAES is ongoing on integrated pest

management approaches to tick control, including new oral rodent Lyme disease vaccine bait. Currently, we are seeing an increased distribution of ticks and tick-borne diseases; Lyme disease case numbers are increasing nationally, and there is no “magic bullet” for disease prevention. Nevertheless, awareness, tick bite prevention, and early diagnosis and treatment can help you and your family avoid the full consequences of tick-borne illness.



**White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc.
52nd Annual Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2016**



The 52nd Annual Meeting of The White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc. was called to order by President Diedrick at 3:32 pm., on May 6, 2016 at The White Memorial Foundation office.

The minutes of the May 1, 2015 Annual Meeting were approved upon motion of Mr. Victor and seconded by Mr. Plunkett.

Mr. Samponaro presented the report for 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: Deneen Bernier, Melissa Brutting, John Markelon, Chrissy Steward, Guy Weik, and Carol Williams. Upon motion of Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Schoelzel 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 2015 and plans for 2016.

As there was no further business, upon motion of Mr. Schoelzel and seconded by Mr. Victor, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Make a Difference

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

Norway Maple. Goutweed or Bishops Weed. Garlic Mustard. Common Barberry. Oriental Bittersweet. Winged Euonymus. Six types of Honeysuckle. Multiflora Rose. So, what do all of these plants have in common? They, and ninety more, as of this writing, appear on the Invasive Species list for Connecticut. Ninety-eight different plants! Some of them are quite lovely, some smell wonderful. Some were at one time promoted to bring wildlife and birds into your yard. They did just that, and the birds and animals did their part by delivering the seeds through their droppings or attachment to every nook and cranny of Connecticut. A huge case of "be careful what you wish for." To be fair, we didn't always know the ramifications of what we thought would be a good idea. But, we do now.

These are NOT plants that you want, no matter how they are promoted. Not from your mother-in-law, a kindly neighbor or the local big box store. They push out our native species by crowding or hogging the sunshine and water. Some of them, like the Norway Maple, leaf out sooner and stay leafed longer than our

native maple trees. They, and others like them, are like nasty, pushy shoppers who shove and wrestle the last bit of a "good deal" in the dress department. Think Black Friday shopping at its worst.

So, now that they are already in your yard, how, on earth, do you get rid of them? Some respond to aggressive yanking. Digging sometimes works. Boiling water has been known to slow them down, at least in our yard. Herbicides (yes, I said it) can also be used. Just be sure, if you are going that route that you spray *ONLY* on the plants that you *don't* want and FOLLOW DIRECTIONS and the LIST OF WHAT the chemical WILL KILL. More is not better. More is wasteful and unnecessary and expensive. Hubby wants a blow torch for his birthday for eliminating said problems. He has also been caught, more than many times, weeding someone else's garden or planter. He was even once caught, by his mother, no less, of ripping up Euonymus and Oriental Bittersweet that she had just planted. Anything for the natives, even at Mom's.

After you have removed the baddies from your garden, don't just compost

them and assume that the problem will go away. It might not. Some of the woodier plants, after they are dead and dried, can be made into brush piles for wildlife. Just DON'T put them too near your home because mice and ticks love them, too. Don't compost plants that are fruiting or flowering. Be careful of rhizomes and seed heads. Bag them and leave in a sunny location for a few weeks to rot. Then, compost or add them to the brush pile. Small seedlings can be pulled and left. The roots will dry out and they can be composted afterwards.

If it seems like a lot of work, it is. Just don't get discouraged and give up. It can take several seasons of vigorous removal for the invasives to be gone. Then, you *MUST* make sure that they don't come back. Check out your property several times a year to root out (pun intended) any new volunteers.

Make a difference for our area and get rid of invasives in *your* yard.



Thank You Corporate Members!

Arethusa Farm Dairy * Chainsaws Unlimited
Iffland Lumber Company * Camp Awosting
Litchfield Hills Audubon Society * O&G Industries
Woods Pit BBQ & Mexican Café * Litchfield Ford
R-T Specialty, LLC * Ericson Insurance Advisors
Litchfield Bancorp * Winvian Farm, LLC
Bantam Home and Energy * Litchfield Lions Club
Krummi Travel, LLC * Torrington Savings Bank
Litchfield True Value / Just Ask Rental
Patty's Restaurant * Litchfield Catering Company & Deli
Lawrence Jeffrey Estate Jewelers
Petricone's Torrington Pharmacy



Quarterly Art Shows in the A. B. Cedar Room Launch with Works by Betsy Rogers-Knox

Beginning this summer, area artists will be able to showcase their appointment made with a Center staff member.

their abundant talents each quarter in the A. B. Cedar Room. Our first show will feature the works of internationally acclaimed botanical artist Betsy Rogers-Knox. Her series of watercolors featuring the unique relationship between the Monarch Butterfly and Milkweed will grace the Cedar Room walls from July 16 through the end of September. The paintings can be viewed before and after Saturday programs or by



An opening reception with Betsy Rogers-Knox will be held in the Cedar room on Saturday afternoon, August 6 from 5:00 P.M. until 6:30 P.M. Light refreshments will be served.

The works of Leo Kulinski, Jr. will be on display during the autumn quarter. For more information about exhibiting at White Memorial please contact Gerri Griswold via email: gerri@whitememorialcc.org

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 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26

Wee Discoverers Summer Nature Programs
See page 6 for details.



2 **Film: DamNation**

Powerful odyssey across America explores change in attitude from pride in big dams as engineering wonders to growing awareness that our future is bound to the life and health of our rivers. 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Museum Closed



3 - 27 **Yoga in the Garden** with **Judith Erhman-Shapiro**

Wednesdays in July

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Call 860-309-9489 for more information.

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

July 7, August 8, September 8
Nature's Nursery Series
See page 6 for details.

15 **Dragonfly and Damselfly**
Mini-BioBlitz with James Fischer
10:00 A.M., A. B. Ceder Room
Call 860-567-0857 to pre-register.

11- 29 **Nature Adventurers**
Summer Programs
Weekdays only!
See page 6 for details!



11 - August 12 **Natural History Explorers**
Summer Programs
Weekdays only!
See page 6 for details.



16 **Dawn Chorus with Fran Zygmunt**
4:00 A.M., (YES, that's right)
A. B. Ceder Room
Call 860-567-0857 to pre-register.



16 **6th Annual Celebration for the Bats**
7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room
Pre-register: 860-567-0857



22 **Fireside Reading**
The Nature of Icelandic Poetry
with **Gerri Griswold**
See page 5 for details!



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



23 **Make Your Own Walking Stick with the**
Connecticut Woodcarvers Association
See page 5 for details.



29 / 30 **A Celebration of the Bantam River**
See page 5 for details.



30 **Snakes of Connecticut**
with **Brian Kleinman**
See page 5 for details.



AUGUST

6 **Monarch Butterflies in Watercolor**
with **Betsy Rogers-Knox**
See page 5 for details!



6 **The Monarch and the Milkweed**
Art Show Opening Reception
with **Betsy Rogers-Knox**

5:00 P.M.

A. B. Ceder Room.

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

13 **Bantam Lake Day!!!**
Morris Town Beach

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 Walk

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

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

20 **Connecticut's Notable Trees**
with **Gerri Griswold**
ROAD TRIP, 8:00 A.M.,
Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.
Pre-register: 860-567-0857

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



27 **Loving Haight: A Walk through the**
Haight Parcel with Gerri Griswold
10:00 A.M., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

27 **Exploring Spruce & Schermerhorn Hill**
with **Gerri Griswold**
2:00 P.M., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

SEPTEMBER

3 **An Evening at Little Pond**
with **Gerri Griswold**
6:00 P.M., Meet at the trailhead on Whites Woods Road. Pre-register: 860-567-0857

5 **LABOR DAY**
Museum Closed



10 **Radical Raptors with Carrie Szwed**
Family friendly bird of prey program.
10:00 A.M., A. B. Ceder Room

10 **Count Me In! How to Become a**
Hawk Counter with James Fischer
11:30 A.M., A. B. Ceder Room

11 **Let Freedom Ring: 9/11 Memorial**
Music and falconry atop Apple Hill.
2:00 P.M.
Please call 860-567-0857 to pre-register.

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

17 **Black Ash Splint: Tree to**
Basket with JoAnn Kelly
Catsos and Steve Catsos
See page 5 for details!



23 **Star Party!**
Star gazing begins at 8:00 P.M. in the Sawmill Field, weather permitting.

September 24, 2016
35th Annual Family Nature Day

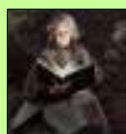


Sky Hunters in Flight
Creature Teachers
Riverside Reptiles
Horizon Wings Raptor Center
Music by The Zolla Boys
See back page for information!

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

Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Workshops: Summer 2016

You can now register online: www.whitememorialcc.org



Fireside Reading:

The Nature of Icelandic Poetry

Friday, July 22, 2016, 7:00 P.M.

Kienholz Fire Pit

Members: \$10.00 Non Members: \$15.00

Join globetrotting Gerri Griswold for a cozy reading of poetry dedicated to the glory of Icelandic Nature! The presentation is richly illustrated with photographs of Iceland by Griswold and others. Homemade pie and coffee will be served. You might even be tempted to buy a raffle ticket or two for a chance to win a trip for two to Iceland with Griswold. The winner will be drawn on Family Nature Day, September 24!



Make Your Own Walking Stick

Saturday, July 23, 2016, 10:00 A.M.

A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$10.00 Non Members: \$15.00

Members of the Connecticut Woodcarvers Association bring their expertise to White Memorial! These award winning wood artists will share their knowledge by providing tips and techniques about the art of carving walking sticks. Every participant will leave the program with their very own work of art! All ages are welcome!



A Celebration of the Bantam River

Friday, July 29, 2016, 6:30 P.M.,

A. B. Ceder Room

Saturday, July 30, 2016, 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 celebrating the beauty of the Bantam River and its surroundings. Nibble hors d'oeuvres, sip wine, and enjoy breathtaking images. Saturday morning meet at the boat launch on Whites Woods Road for an interpretive paddle down the Bantam River with like-minded nature-loving kayak/canoe enthusiasts. 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.



Snakes of Connecticut

With Brian Kleinman

Saturday, July 30, 2016, 7:00 P.M.

A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$20.00 Non Members: \$25.00

Our favorite herpetologist, Brian Kleinman, delivers the skinny on our most misunderstood native allies. A thirty-minute powerpoint presentation begins the program. Live specimens will be introduced including a Northern Copperhead! The program is geared for adults and children ages 12 and up.



Monarch Butterflies in Watercolor

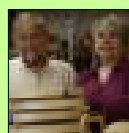
With Betsy Rogers-Knox

Saturday, August 6, 2016, 1:30 P.M.

A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$35.00 Non Members: \$45.00

Learn about the fascinating story of the Monarch Butterfly with noted botanical artist and Conservation Center favorite Betsy Rogers-Knox. You will be drawing and painting the unique lifecycle of the butterfly, including its host plant the Milkweed. No experience necessary. For ages 10 and up. All supplies are included!



Black Ash Splint: Tree to Basket

With Steve and JoAnn Catsos

Saturday, September 17, 2016, 2:00 P.M.

A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$35.00 Non Members: \$45.00

Steve and JoAnn begin in the classroom with a presentation covering the harvesting and processing of black ash splint into basketry material. A demonstration of weaving a traditional cathead basket on a wooden mold follows with completed baskets to handle. The weaving of your own bookmark will also be demonstrated. In the Activity Shed will be a demonstration of splitting and ponding a log. All materials are provided! Look at their beautiful baskets: <http://www.joannkellycatsos.com/>

Clip me!

<input type="checkbox"/> Nature of Icelandic Poetry	Member: \$10.00	Non Member: \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Make Your Own Walking Stick	Member: \$10.00	Non Member: \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Celebration of the Bantam River	Member: \$20.00	Non Member: \$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Snakes of Connecticut	Member: \$20.00	Non Member: \$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Monarch Butterflies in Watercolor	Member: \$35.00	Non Member: \$45.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Ash Splint: Tree to Basket	Member: \$35.00	Non Member: \$45.00

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 \$60.00 per year and an individual membership is \$40.00.

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



The Ticks

by Douglas Florian

Not gigan-tic. Not roman-tic. Not artis-tic.

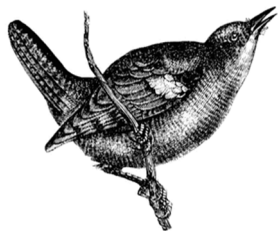
Not majes-tic. Not magne-tic.

Nor aesthe-tic. Ticks are strictly parasi-tic.



SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

Some Classes Still Have Openings! Call 860-567-0857 or visit www.whitememorialcc.org to register online!



Thursdays, July 7, August 25, September 8 **Nature's Nursery Series**

Join us on one Thursday per month for an hour-long program designed just for children 3-6 years old. Every session will include a story, an encounter with a live animal, and an activity or craft. Bring your young nature lovers out to White Memorial for a jam-packed hour of hands-on learning. Parents, we ask that you stay for the duration of the program. Meet in the A.B. Cedar Room.

4:00pm-5:00pm.

Members: \$7/child per session

Non-Members: \$12/child per session

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

Tuesdays, June 28, July 5, 12, 19, & 26 **"Wee Discoverers" Summer Nature Program**

This weekly series for 4 & 5 year-olds features songs, stories, crafts, games, and outdoor adventures. What better way to introduce young ones to the wonders of nature! Sign up by session or for all 5 sessions.

9:30am - 11:30am

Nature Museum Children's Corner

Members: \$15/session

Non-members: \$20/session

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Parents, this is a drop-off program.



July 11 - 29 (weekdays only) **"Nature Adventurers" Summer Program**



Kids entering grades 1 & 2 can join us for three 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 3 weeks!

9:30am - 3:30pm each day (note the longer time frame)

Meet in the Museum parking lot.

Members: \$120/week

Non-members: \$145/week

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

July 11 - August 12 (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 11-15 & 18-22

Grades 5 & 6: July 25-29 & August 1-5

Grades 7, 8 & 9: August 8-12



"Rest is not idleness,
and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a
summer's day,
listening to the murmur of the water,
or watching the clouds float across the sky,
is by no means a waste of time."

~ John Lubbock, The Use of Life

RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 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, 19 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 Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.

Accepting the award for the Rivers Alliance was their president Eileen Fielding and Executive Director Margaret Miner. In presenting the award to Rivers Alliance, White Memorial's President Arthur Diedrick remarked on the history and work of the Alliance. Established in 1992 by the State's leading river and watershed organizations, the Alliance's mission "is to protect and restore our state's invaluable and imperiled waters". They accomplish this mission by coordinating the efforts of Connecticut's river and watershed groups; supporting and educating the public by providing



WMF President and CEO Arthur Diedrick (L) presents Rivers Alliance President Eileen Fielding (C) and Executive Director Margaret Miner (R) with the 2016 White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award.

resources and conferences; and working at the State level on programs regarding water allocation, watershed planning and river protection. Alliance programs include the Connecticut Watershed Conservation Network, Water Trails Program, and the Alliance administers the State's Watershed Assistance Small Grants Program.

Their work has been acknowledged and award-

ed. The Alliance received the "Outstanding River Advocate Award" from American Rivers; the "Environmental Champion Award" from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; in 2015 Executive Director Margaret Miner received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission; and most recently Margaret Miner received the 2016 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Lifetime Merit Award.

The work of the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut has helped preserve the quality of life throughout Connecticut and has performed an outstanding service to conservation. It is with great pleasure that we award the 2016 White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award to the Rivers

Alliance of Connecticut.

For more information about the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, be sure to visit their web site at www.riversalliance.org.



Volunteer Spotlight: Amber Andrews Story and Photograph by Gerri Griswold

All of our volunteers are special but for me, Amber Andrews has an edge. I have known this dynamo since she was an infant. I observed her entrepreneurial skills and over-the-top work ethic evolve at Winsted Feed and Supply her grandparent's feed store in Winsted. She could not have been any more than four or five years old peddling lemonade on a sweltering summer day....her idea alone. "I never understood when people gave me money that I had to give them back change! They never asked for it back! I wanted to save for a car. I'm sixteen now and still no car!" It matters not as this young woman is driving her way towards an extraordinary future. For years she worked at the store without pay. Amber's social skills and communication skills were clearly honed in retail. She chose Wamogo Regional High School for agricultural science because she loves animals and its environmental program but soon she was wooed by natural resources. "We went on a couple of field trips. I really started leaning towards wildlife." Andrews and a handful of her Wamogo colleagues were chosen to spend some time last spring at Yellowstone National Park. Actually seeing wolves made a huge impression. So did the geysers, hot springs, and an opportunity

to go wildlife tracking.

Amber approached me for a volunteer opportunity as part of her SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) at Wamogo. Students in the program are required to give 200 hours of community service each school year. In addition to all of those hours which she divides between animal care at White Memorial and helping with Sunday school programs at her church, United Methodist in Torrington, she is a member of Wamogo's Envirothon Team which studies all aspects of natural resources and competes statewide. Andrews is also very active in school softball and works at her grandparent's feed store while managing to maintain high grades as a member of the National Honor Society.

"White Memorial is an awesome place. I didn't know much about wildlife before I came here. Volunteering at White Memorial has clearly pointed me in the direction of wildlife." Andrews is considering colleges with strong programs in child psychology and natural resources. "I want to protect wildlife and teach kids." In all of her spare time she enjoys photography, horse-back riding, and dancing. Wherever Amber lands will undoubtedly be a better, happier place.



Perfect Pitch: Amber Andrews

35TH ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

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

ADMISSION: \$6.00

CENTER MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE



CREATURE TEACHERS

GUIDED NATURE WALKS

NATURE CRAFTS FOR KIDS

BOOTHS AND EXHIBITS

BAKE SALE + CRAFT FAIR

YUMMY FOOD

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES

WIN A

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