

SANCTUARY

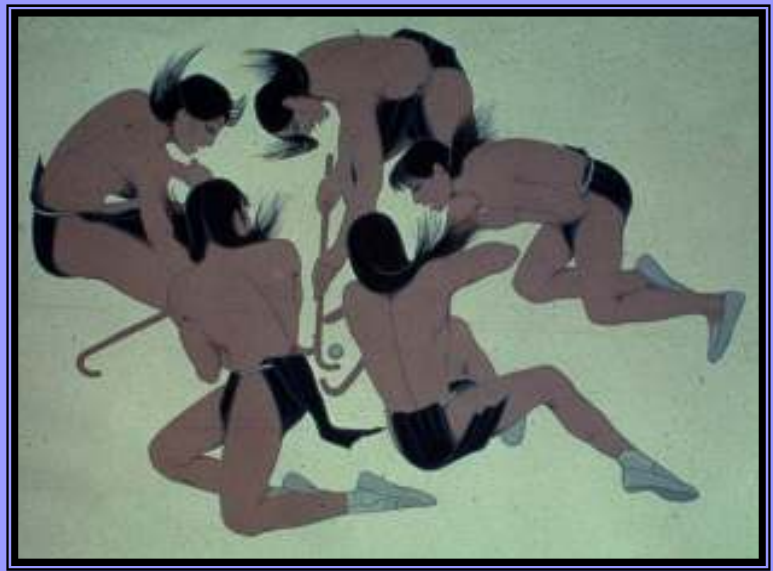
Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center
Vol. XXXIV No. 1
Winter 2016

Museum Hours:

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

For Information

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



Ball games like Shinny were popular winter pastimes for Native Americans.

A Native American Winter (Papone)

By Lucianne Lavin, Ph.D., Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington, Connecticut

If you were a Native American living 500 (or 1000 or 5000) years ago, likely you would look forward to the winter season. Connecticut's indigenous communities were outdoor peoples. They spent most of their lives in the open air. During warm weather people slept outdoors. *Weetoos* and *wigwams* (the Eastern Algonquian word for houses) were used for storage and as shelters in inclement weather. They were pole frame structures covered with bark or mats woven from grasses, cornhusks, and the bark of trees.

In northern Connecticut, at least, tribal communities had two semi-annual villages, a summer village and a winter village, located near forests that could supply ample cordwood to heat each house. About each of these villages were a myriad of smaller settlements that members would visit for a few hours, a few days or even a few months. They included various food collecting camps; stone quarries and workshops for collecting and working stone into tools; maple sugaring camps; camps that yielded wood for dugout canoes, brooms, woodsplint baskets, wooden bowls and utensils; and sacred/ceremonial spaces such as cemeteries, dance grounds, areas where vision quests and puberty rituals were held, as well as other ceremonial spaces. All were connected to the village through a series of paths. The community villages and those of other communities were connected by pathways. Many of these paths are now part of Connecticut's highway system.

Seventeenth century English

chroniclers tell us Indian homes were well-made, warm and comfortable, with plenty of storage for foods and natural resources for the repair and maintenance of household objects. Good quality colored and decorated mats covered the interior walls. The Reverend Daniel Boardman, a minister in early 18th cc. New Milford who visited the home of Weramaug, the great Grand Sachem of the local Weantinock tribe at Lovers Leap, described its interior walls as artfully decorated with drawings and paintings of birds, fish, insects and deer by famous Indian artists from distant places.

Native American winter clothing, made from the fur and skins of animals, protected them from frost and snow. Their capes of turkey tail feathers were waterproof, as were their deerskin stockings and moccasins.

*"Within their skin or coat they
creepe contentedly, by day or
night, in house, or in the
woods, and sleep
soundly..." (Roger Williams,
Puritan minister, 1973: 186,
writing in 1643).*

Our museum primitive technologists (who make objects the indigenous way) confirm the clothing is quite warming. I have often seen one of them removing his fur hat and jacket while re-enacting Native American maple sugar production during our annual (February) Maple Sugar Festival. Maple sugar was an important

commodity. It provided a sweet flavoring and a beverage with fewer calories than cane sugar and far more health benefits. Maple syrup, for example, contains 54 antioxidant compounds that act as anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory agents. It also contains the following minerals and vitamins: calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus sodium, potassium, zinc, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, and B6. Maple sugar was stored in large bark containers and traded to other communities where maple trees did not grow.

Traditionally, winter was a time for fun and socializing -- a time for visiting relatives and friends, playing games, and storytelling. Indigenous peoples believed that socializing was necessary for the community's well-being, and social gatherings were frequent. One important festival was a giveaway ceremony/dance called a *Nickommo*, which according to the English minister Roger Williams was often held during the winter. It consisted of feasting, dancing, and the giving away of one's material goods.

*"He or she that makes this
Nickommo Feast or Dance,
besides the Feasting of
sometimes, twenty, fifty, an
hundredth, yea I have seene
neere a thousand persons at
one of these Feasts, they give
I say a great quantity of
money, and all sort of their
Goods" (Roger Williams
1973:193).*

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Roger Williams did not appear to understand the underlying basis for the giveaway, namely the redistribution of wealth throughout the tribal community to ensure that all had enough food and material goods to prevent indigence.

Often the festivals and gatherings included games of skill and of chance. Games strengthened bodies and minds. They taught tribal members how to cooperate. Various ball games were played in winter, sometimes using a frozen lake as the playing field. Snow snake was a popular winter sport played with a five to nine foot maple branch smoothed into the shape of a snake and treated with "secret" oils to make it glide fast and far. The object of the game was to throw your snake the longest distance in the shortest time along a specified track. Games that could be played both indoors and out were the cup and pin game, the object of which was to get the pin into the cup; wooden straws, played like the western game of pick-up sticks; various kinds of dice games; and dolls.

Storytelling was also an important



The popular game of Snow Snake!

event of the winter season. Native societies are based on oral tradition. Traditionally, the season for storytelling began at the first frost, when the *Hageota* (storyteller) travelled from village to village and weetoo to weetoo. It was a time of great excitement, and everyone gathered to hear stories about when the world was new. Storytelling is still an important part of indigenous life. Stories are important tools for teaching the young, for passing down cultural histories and values from one generation to the next, and



19th Century cloth pouch embroidered with glass beads.

for showing everyone how to get along with their fellow tribal members and with all members of the plant and animal kingdom.

Winter was also a time for producing crafts that could be bartered or sold, or gifted during a Nickommo. Traditional craft items included birchbark containers embroidered with dyed porcupine quills or moosehair; painted and embroidered bags and baskets, wood and stone carvings. After European settlement many of

these craft items were sold to whites to provide their makers with much needed cash income.



Porcupine quill work

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Much of this article was excerpted from the author's book *Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples: What Archaeology, History, and Oral Traditions teach us about their Communities and Cultures*, published in 2013 by Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History and Yale University Press, New Haven and London.

The citations for Roger Williams come from the 1973 edition of his *A Key into the Language of America*, edited by John J. Teunissen and Evelyn J. Hinz, Wayne State University Press, Detroit.

A big "thank you!" to my boss, Assistant Executive Director Lisa Piastuch, for photographing/locating many of the attached images.

Most images courtesy of the Institute for American Indian Studies

<http://iaismuseum.org/>

WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER ANNOUNCES ANNUAL YEAR-END APPEAL

For us, there could be nothing better than the gift of open space, be it for birdwatching, recreation, or meditation. Alain and May White's forward thinking vision, conceived over a century ago, of preserving these 4,000 acres will make an impact on our children and their children's children in perpetuity. We do hope YOU are as inspired as we are by this astonishing piece of property.

Offerings in our 2015 calendar were so diverse. Our *Hiking and Healthful Eating* series drew a consistent crowd of regulars. *Nick of Time* addressed the alarming effects of DDT usage and the success stories which rose after it was banned. We watched the moonset and sunrise over Apple Hill and hiked the Lake and Butternut Brook Trails on a snowy day heralding in the new year. In front of a cozy fire, David Leff gave us the chills with his

Supernatural Tales of Connecticut. Brian Bradley's cavalcade of owls rolled into the Cedar Room for another enlightening program and MaryBeth Kaeser's *Vulture Culture* introduced us to some less glamorous but very important species. Dave Paton taught us about the *Fungus Among Us*, certainly a program which will be offered several times during the year!

We offered many classics! What would April be without the *Woodcock Cocktail Party* or July's *Celebration of the Bantam River* or the ever popular *Cranberry Pond Walk* which rewards guests on a chilly November afternoon with a thick slab of Crimson Pie smothered in ginger crème anglaise?

Our newly anointed Education Director, Carrie Szwed, put her spin on time-honored programming and added to our list of compelling children's workshops with selections like

the wildly popular *Nature's Nursery* series!

If there is something you would like to see on our calendar or in children's programming simply give us a call or email:

info@whitememorialcc.org

Enclosed in this newsletter is a contribution envelope. A donation, no matter how small, will indicate that we are serving your interests in the best possible way.

You can also support the Conservation Center throughout the year with **Planned Giving**. Information is available through our website or call for details!

The Center Staff is very grateful for your support. We wish you happy holidays and hope to see you and your family frequently in 2016!

SIMPLY SPECTACULAR..... THE 34TH ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY!

We couldn't have asked for anything more! As one of the driest Septembers on record came to a close, Mother Nature granted us one more perfect day to celebrate families and the wonders found in our backyards! Nearly 1300 guests stormed through the gates of White Memorial making the 34th edition of Family Nature Day the second highest attended in history!

The Ceder Room lawn buzzed with bee keepers, bird enthusiasts, snake charmers, astronomers, puppeteers, zoo keepers, native plant purveyors and so much more. Traffic through our craft tent was non-stop with beautiful take-aways for children to create. Music filled the air and an abundance of animals and their presenters kept folks conflicted over what to see and what would have to wait until perhaps next year! Our second Annual Turtle Race was a huge hit with young and old alike. Fred Bunnell's horse-drawn wagon rolled by an office lawn chock full of vendors selling everything from wildlife photography to pottery to soaps and alpaca yarns.



Lisa and Greg Connell were the first prize winners of a trip for two to Iceland donated by Krummi Travel!

Tummies were cooing from the delicious fare offered by the Litchfield Lions and AmandaBakes. Our Bake Sale and Silent Auction, moved to a new location this year, proved fruitful.

The most anticipated moment of the day was seeing who would win a trip for two to Iceland as first prize in our raffle. The trip was donated by Krummi Travel LLC and Lisa and Greg Connell from Winsted walked away with a chance to see the Northern Lights this January. 924 of 1000 tickets sold! The trip will be offered again in 2016.

The Conservation Center Staff and the Education & Activities Committee are deeply grateful to ***Northwest Community Bank, Litchfield Bancorp, Krummi Travel LLC, Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, and an anonymous donor*** as well as our force of volunteers for their generous contributions of time and talents which define our beautiful festival.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR THE KIDS



Nature's Nursery Series

Second Thursday of Every Month
Ages 3–6 years
4–5pm

Members: \$7/child per session
or \$25 for the whole series
Non-members: \$12/child per session
or \$45 for the whole series

Every session includes a story, a live animal, and an activity or craft.
Parents, we ask that you stay for the duration of the program. Meet in the Ceder Room.



After-School Adventures

Grades 1-3: Wednesdays in March (except the 30th)
Grades 4-6: Tuesdays in March (except the 29th)
3:45–5pm

Members: \$8/child per session
or \$28 for the whole series
Non-members: \$13/child per session
or \$48 for the whole series

Go on a new adventure! Learn about local wildlife and have fun at the same time! *Parents are welcome to stay, but it is not necessary. Meet in the Ceder Room.*

"Sense-sational" Spring Break Camp

Monday, April 18–Thursday, April 21
Grades 1-3: 9:30am-12:30pm
Grades 4-6: 1:30pm-4:30pm
Members \$20/session or \$70/week
Non-Members \$30/session or \$110/week

Compare your senses to those of wild animals while playing games, making crafts, and exploring WMF property. Meet live animals too! *No parents allowed. Meet in the Ceder Room.*

26th Annual Museum Sleep-In

Friday, April 29, 5:00 P.M.
to Saturday, April 30, 12:00 Noon
For Kids in Grades 4-6
Members \$55.00
Non-Members \$85.00

Take part in a real-life "Night at the Museum!" Go on a night hike, sit by a campfire, meet live animals, and sleep by your favorite exhibit.
No parents allowed. Meet in the Ceder Room.

Advanced registration is required for all programs. Please call 860-567-0857 or visit whitememorialcc.org.

Earthworm Inventory, Distribution, Plant and Black-legged Tick Interactions at White Memorial

by James Fischer, Research Director

I would like to update you on our most recent work with earthworms on the property. We initiated this project in the summer of 2014 with the primary goals of inventorying the species. We also wanted to see if our observations of earthworms interacting with the plants and soils concurred with observations made in other regions (Sanctuary, Fall 2014). We expanded the work this past summer to see how earthworms are interacting with other soil dwelling organisms, primarily Black-legged Ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*), a common vector for a variety of tick-borne diseases such as Lyme Disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*).

We tallied a total of 14 earthworm species during our inventory project of summer 2014, of which only one species is known to be native to North America. More than 1000 earthworm specimens were collected throughout the property using a variety of methods, including searching under woody debris but mostly by mustard solution to extract earthworms from randomly selected locations (Sanctuary, Fall 2014). We observed a strong positive relationship between the number of earthworms and soil pH. Generally, earthworms were more abundant in more neutral soils than in acidic soils (Figure 1). Connecticut's forest soils are generally acidic which is primarily due to the bedrock that dominates New England. Gardeners regard less acidic soils as desirable; unfortunately, the forest vegetation appears to be negatively impacted by earthworms. We usually observed more invasive plants and fewer native plants at sites where we observed more earthworms (Figure 2). Our observations between the plant community and earthworms conform to other published observations.

I advised several Wamogo Region #6 High School students and we presented two posters at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources at UCONN in March 2015. Naomi Robert's project explored if vegetation management, controlling Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) or managing the forest canopy, impacted the abundance and growth of earthworms. Managing the tree canopy impacts the growth of earthworms more than controlling the Japanese Barberry. Naomi was awarded first place for her poster, which included a \$8000 scholarship to UCONN.

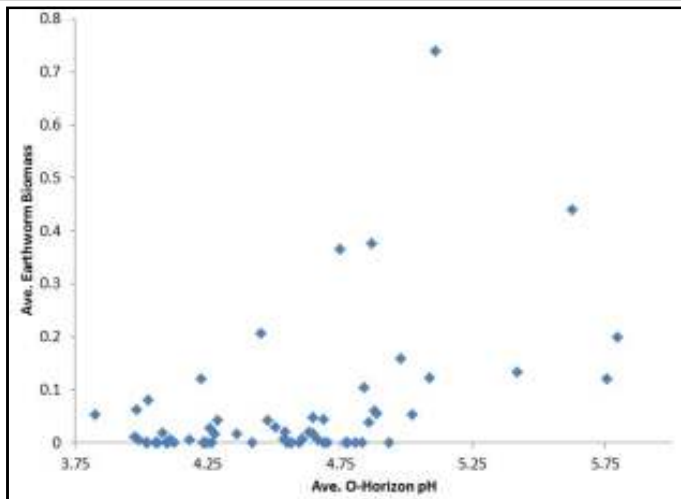


Figure 1: An increasing relationship between Soil pH and Earthworm Biomass

Wamogo's A.P. Environmental Science class taught by Alyse Sylvia investigated the earthworm abundance living in certain invasive plant incursions versus just outside the incursion. We observed a greater abundance of earthworms living under single stands of Japanese Barberry, Goutweed (*Agopodium podagraria*), and Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), while the opposite

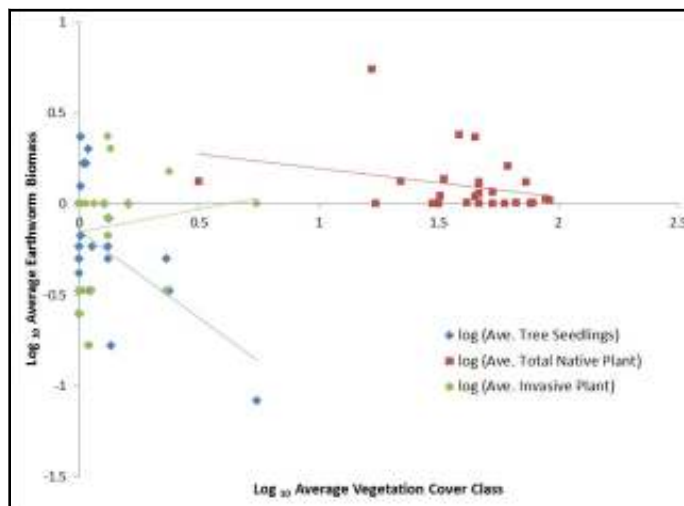


Figure 2: Relationships between vegetation and earthworms at White Memorial, lines show the direction of relationship.

was observed under a stand of Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*). Both projects produced some promising results which we will continue to explore at White Memorial.

We made an anecdotal observation that suggested earthworms were having a profound impact on the leaf litter layer. We observed several areas where the leaf litter disappeared by early September 2014. The area of this disturbance included several contiguous acres and corresponded to sample plots where we observed abundant worms. Less leaf litter could have important implications. We are investigating how the changes to the leaf litter

and upper soil horizons by earthworms impact the soil-dwelling organisms. This includes an important species that impacts many people's lives, the Black-legged Tick (a.k.a. Deer Tick). Ticks spend most of their lives inhabiting the soil microhabitats, even though we often associate ticks with feeding on warm-blooded hosts. We have initiated several projects exploring how earthworms are changing the soil conditions and if this has any implications on the tick population biology and thereby extend to influencing the patterns of tick-borne diseases.

The life cycle of Black-legged Ticks includes 3 different active stages: larva, nymph, and adult; each of which is active at different times of the year (Figure 3). Larvae are active in the late

summer and early autumn, nymphs are active in spring and early summer, and adults search for hosts in late autumn and early spring, but can be active in winter when we experience slightly warmer temperatures. We flagged ticks using white fabric attached to a wooden dowel rod that is dragged on the ground for a prescribed distance. The ticks were tallied by life stage and we observed an interesting pattern. We observed that the abundance of ticks was strongly negatively associated with earthworm abundance (Figure 4). This might appear as good news initially, but we continued monitoring for ticks during the season. We observed nymphs feeding on white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) as late as September, which is much later in the season than expected, in areas with abundant earthworm populations. The primary implication of this observation could have important consequences on the dissemination of the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease between white-footed mouse (the primary reservoir) and black-legged tick (the vector).

White-footed Mouse and Black-legged Ticks are naïve or uninfected when they enter the population (born and hatched, respectively). Mice are infected when they are parasitized by an infected tick and ticks become infected when they feed on an infected mouse, or other warm-blooded host that is a reservoir for the bacteria. Lyme disease is prevalent in this region primarily because almost all of the mice are parasitized by at least one infected nymph each spring. The mice survive the rest of the summer and reproduce, giving birth to juveniles that enter the population in late summer.

(Continued on page 7)



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: EUGENE AND SUZANNE NEWELL

STORY AND PHOTO BY GERRI GRISWOLD

Eugene (Gene) and Suzanne Newell are just about the busiest retired folks you'll ever meet! Gene shed his teaching position at Brookfield High School and Suzanne her Social Worker position at Danbury Hospital in 2011. It has been life on roller blades ever since. If being married for 40 years with children and grandchildren is not enough, the Newells have been A-Listers in many of Research Director James Fischer's projects. In addition they are Master Wildlife Conservationists, Master Gardeners, and monitor a four mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail south of Bulls Bridge (Kent) for the National Park Service. Their job is to ensure the trail stays well blazed and the monuments (markers) are exposed. "There is only one park ranger for the entire 2000 mile Appalachian Trail system," says Gene.

They moved to Goshen from New Milford just four years ago. Before the move, Gene and Suzanne frequently kayaked the Bantam River but never took advantage of White Memorial's hiking trails or Museum. Once settled in Goshen their son gave Gene a membership to

the Conservation Center for Father's Day. It was like opening up a chest full of buried treasure!

They sought out volunteer opportunities with Fischer: Bluebird Nesting Box Survey, Vernal Pool Monitoring, Hawk Migration, and Fischer's greatest, most labor intensive project to date: the Earthworm, Plant, and Tick Study (see page 4). Gene even has an idea for a tee shirt, "One side says *I Dig Worms* and the other *I'm Ticked Off!*" "Since retiring, we can do everything! We love the outdoors!" They find all of the opportunities fascinating, "What is interesting about nature is to feel the connectedness," says Gene. They gush over Fischer's contagious enthusiasm.

The words of Also Leopold inspired the Newells, "That we are stewards not owners of the animals." Gene concludes, "You keep hearing about thinking globally and giving locally. But on a global level things become political. Locally we have met incredible people at White Memorial; people with whom you really want to spend time."



Gene and Suzanne Newell with Bradley

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

Hi There. I'm baaack. Thank you for the many phone calls, emails and grocery store comments to both me and Hubby about how much you love my column and how much you don't want me to stop. I can feel the love from here. I love you and I love this silly round ball we all live on so much. So, hey, let's get started on what this is really about!

Water. It's everywhere. It's nowhere. Water. It is cool. It is clean. It sparkles in the sun. It is refreshing. It is in short supply. What? Short supply? What are you talking about?

We have had an unprecedented year of water woes in this country and in the world. The entire earth is made up of 97.5 per cent water. However, only 2.5 per cent of that water is fresh water...the kind that you can drink or bathe the baby or water the garden. The lack of water has contributed to the thousands of acres of wildfires in our National Forests and surrounding areas. It has contributed to the severe droughts in the west. This is a huge problem for obvious reasons. Much of our food stuffs are grown in the west and in the south. Lack of water affects wildlife of all kinds, forcing bears out of the mountains because there was not enough snow pack and water to grow their food and they are starving and coming into town to forage. Men and women who rely on lawn care have had to shut down that service early because the lawns were just not growing. No need to cut if there is no growth. No cutting means lack of money. Lack of money leads to ...

In other areas, there has been *too much* water. So much in fact that severe flooding

has occurred and people have lost everything. The thousand year floodplain that we learned about in Social Studies has come to fruition in our lifetimes, in our homeland. Teachers told us what might happen, but like so many things, we just didn't realize until we saw it with our own two eyes. Floods cause too much water in too small a space in too little a time span. Floods cause a lack of fresh water for drinking and cooking. That's right, too much water of one kind, causes too little water of another. That raises flood insurance premiums. It causes lack of tourism. No tourists and higher premiums means lack of money. Lack of money leads to...

Even in Connecticut. Many of you reading this piece have wells. Your water comes from an underground cistern called an aquifer that fills with water when it rains. No rain, no water. No water=no tubby; no gardens. No ponds=no frogs; no frogs=more bugs and on and on and on. This has been going on for a number of years, now. Even if you have "city" water, you still are in trouble. Many Connecticut reservoirs are down by fifty percent. 50%! Just think if that happened to your pay check. Could you get by? Severe droughts and floods. Where will it end? We have no idea, but we can help stem the tide. It is all inter-connected, like everything in the environment, like everything in life. We can call the plumber and finally have that drip repaired in the back bathroom. We can put rain barrels and catch the rain that DOES fall from the sky. Consider connecting your rain barrels to one another, finally ending in a kiddie pool. Consider washing the dishes that you must do by

hand in a dishpan and throwing that water on your flower gardens. You are already using biodegradable soap, right? No harm then. Change your lawn size and let some of it go "wild"- good for wildlife and good for your pocketbook because you have a smaller lawn to have mowed or good for your time because it takes you less time and therefore less gas or electricity to mow your own lawn. Shut off the water when you are brushing your teeth or washing your hands. If it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down. Shorter showers. Full washing machines and dishwashers. Native plantings that can thrive without tons of water.

I know that we are coming into winter. I know that you can't count on rainwater now because it comes as snow. But, winter is the perfect time for *planning*. Get out there now and measure where the rain barrels will go and how many you can connect and where the kiddie pool can go. Then when everything is covered in white, you have the facts and figures to help you plan. You can research and get your supplies before the whole world wakes up and wants the same five rain barrels that you want or the same hose. If you don't have a place to store your goods, at least do the planning and make a list so that during the first hint that winter is over, you can run to the store and get what you need to make a difference, which is what this is really all about, *changing your lifestyle* and seeing the inter-connectedness of it all and




making a difference.




Winter Calendar of Events

For more information on any of our programs, please call us at 860-567-0857






JANUARY


- 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Museum Closed 2016!
- 2 **Winter Walk Along Butternut Brook and Lake Trails with Marlow Shami**
1:00 P.M., Meet at the A. B. Cedar Room.
- 3 **Wildlife Tracking at White Memorial**
 Three Red Trees School of Natural Living instructors Andrew Dobos and Deneen Bernier take you wildlife tracking through the winter woods. Meet in front of the Museum. 10:00 A.M.
- 9 **Winter Twig ID with James Fischer**
Explore the characteristics of deciduous trees and shrubs sans foliage. Dress for the weather! 10:00 A.M., A. B. Cedar Room

- 12 - 18 **Museum Children Free Week***
Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. John Morosani
In Memory of Remy Edmund Morosani
- 14 **Nature's Nursery Series: See page 3**
- 16 **Family Ice Fishing Workshop**
CT DEEP Fisheries experts teach you everything about water, fish & fishing, how to think like a fish and have some safe fun! An outstanding opportunity to learn from the best in the classroom and on the ice! Bring a lunch and dress for the weather! **FREE admission.** Pre-registration required. 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
A. B. Cedar Room and Bantam Lake

- 18 **Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
Museum Closed
- 23 **Winter Walk to Little Pond**
Join early bird Gerri Griswold for a brisk walk to our most popular destination! 8:00 A.M., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.
- 30 **Cut It Out! The Local History and Practice of Ice Harvesting**
Ice once harvested from Bantam Lake was used throughout the year! Visit the Museum display on ice harvesting, walk to the old ice house ruins, and watch Jeff Greenwood and James Fischer demonstrate ice cutting the old fashioned way! Gerri Griswold mans the canteen! **Dress for the weather!** Please pre-register. 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.

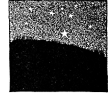
* Free admission to Children ages 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.

- 30 **Birds in Winter: Watercolor Workshop with Betsy Rogers-Knox**
See page 7 for details and registration.


FEBRUARY

- 6 **Ice Skating at Beaver Pond**
Bring your skates and a mug for hot chocolate! 1:00 P.M. Meet at the intersection of Routes 61 / 63.

- 7 **Wildlife Tracking at White Memorial**
Three Red Trees School of Natural Living instructors Andrew Dobos and Deneen Bernier take you wildlife tracking through the winter woods. Meet in front of the Museum. 10:00 A.M.

- 11 **Nature's Nursery Series: See page 3**
- 13 **Become a Bona fide Backyard Bird Counter with Carrie Szwed**
Learn to identify birds commonly found at our feeders in preparation for the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 12 - 16!
10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M., A. B. Cedar Room

- 13 **Meet the North American Porcupine**
The world's third largest rodent needles her way into your heart! 2:00 P.M., A. B. Cedar Room.

- 15 **Presidents Day**
Museum Closed 
- 16-22 **Museum Children Free Week***
Courtesy of The Laurel Ridge Foundation
In Memory of Francesca M. Thompson, M.D.

- 20 **Nevermore: Remembering the Passenger Pigeon with Gerri Griswold**
See page 7 for details.








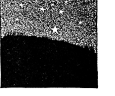


- 26 **Star Party!**
Program and star gazing.
7:00 P.M., A. B. Cedar Room. 

- 27 **Winter Tree Identification with WMF Forest Superintendent Lukas Hyder**
Meet in the Museum parking lot. 10:00 A.M.

The days are short
The sun a spark
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.
~ John Updike



MARCH

- 2 - 8 **Museum Children Free Week***
Courtesy of Arthur and Tara Stacom Diedrick
in Honor of Claire and Matthew Stacom
 **After School Adventures!!!!**
Tuesdays and Wednesdays in March
See page 3 for details.
- 5 **Winter Walk through Catlin Woods**
Gerri Griswold leads the way!
10:00 A.M., Meet in front of the A. B. Cedar Room.
- 6 **Wildlife Tracking at White Memorial**
Three Red Trees School of Natural Living instructors Andrew Dobos and Deneen Bernier take you wildlife tracking through the winter woods. Meet in front of the Museum. 10:00 A.M.

- 10 **Nature's Nursery Series: See page 3**
- 12 **An Evening of Music and Wildlife Photography with Gary Melnysyn**
See page 7 for details and registration. 
- 19 **Nevermore: Remembering the Great Auk with Gerri Griswold**
See page 7 for details and registration.  
- 23-29 **Museum Children Free Week***
In Memory of Louise W. Willson
- 25 **Good Friday**
Museum Closed 
- 25 **Star Party!**
Program and star gazing.
7:00 P.M., A. B. Cedar Room. 
- 26 **Easter Bonnet Dog Walk**
Gerri and Bradley lead the way!
10:00 A. M., Meet in front of the A. B. Cedar Room. Pre-register: 860-567-0857
- 26 **Stone Cultural Features and Ceremonial Landscapes with Lucianne Lavin, Ph.D**
See page 7 for details and registration.

- 27 **Easter Sunday**
Museum Closed 

Coming Soon!
Online registration for all of our programs!
www.whitememorialcc.org

Adult Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Workshops: Winter 2016



Birds in Winter Watercolor Workshop with Betsy Rogers-Knox
Saturday, January 30, 2016
 1:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. A. B. Ceder Room
 Registration Fee: Members: \$35.00 Non-Members: \$45.00



Nevermore: Remembering the Passenger Pigeon
Saturday, February 20, 2016...LUNCH INCLUDED!
 1:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room
 Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$25.00



An Evening of Music and Wildlife with Gary Melnysyn
Saturday, March 12, 2016...DINNER INCLUDED
 7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room
 Registration Fee: Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$25.00



Nevermore: Remembering the Great Auk
Saturday, March 19, 2016...LUNCH INCLUDED
 1:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room
 Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$25.00



Stone Cultural Features and Ceremonial Landscapes with Dr. Lucianne Lavin, Institute for American Indian Studies
Saturday, March 26, 2016...LUNCH INCLUDED
 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room
 Members: \$20.00 Non-Members: \$30.00

Create a simple step-by-step winter scene of local birds on a branch using several different watercolor techniques. All levels are welcome. All materials included. The class is appropriate for ages 10 and up.

2013 marked the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon and the creation of the White Memorial Foundation. Gerri Griswold leads you through the history and demise of the bird. See our own Passenger Pigeon specimen up close. A light meal will be served. Bring a soup bowl and place setting.

An evening of art, music, and food. Gary will tickle your senses with beautiful images taken during his tenure as a Park Ranger at Yellowstone. He'll sing your favorite songs to boot! Chili and cornbread supper before the show! BYOB and your own place setting!

The Great Auk was a substantial sea bird whose extinction was entirely the work of humankind. Gerri Griswold tells the story through pictures and the words of extinct species expert and author Errol Fuller. A light meal will be served. Bring your own place setting including soup bowl.

The topic is part of Dr. Lavin's new and ongoing research! The idea of Native American built stone features and ceremonial landscapes is fairly new to Northeastern archaeologists who traditionally thought all were the result of Euro-American farm clearing. Some of it is and some is not! Bring your own place setting!

Clip & Mail

___ **Birds in Winter Watercolor Workshop**.....Member: \$35.00 Non Member: \$45.00
 ___ **Nevermore: Remembering the Passenger Pigeon**.....Member: \$15.00 Non Member: \$25.00
 ___ **An Evening with Gary Melnysyn**.....Member: \$15.00 Non Member: \$25.00
 ___ **Nevermore: Remembering the Great Auk**.....Member: \$15.00 Non Member: \$25.00
 ___ **Stone Cultural Features & Ceremonial Landscapes**..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 \$60.00 annually. An Individual membership is \$40.00 annually.

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For more information
call 860-567-0857.

Earthworm Inventory, Distribution, Plant and Black-legged Tick Interactions at White Memorial (continued from page 4)

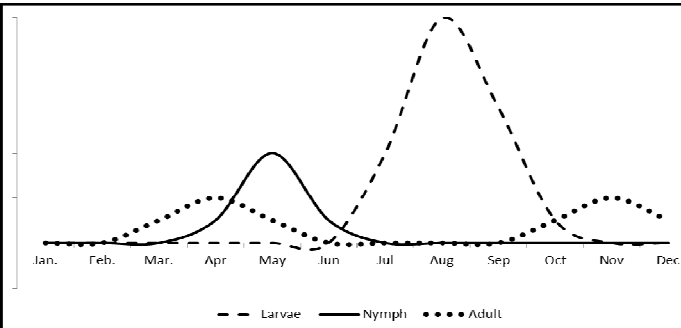


Figure 3: Black-legged Tick Seasonal Activity

This sets the stage for next spring's projects. We'll be measuring the proportion of infected nymphs in areas with low and high earthworm abundance. If this hypothesis is supported then we are left with a

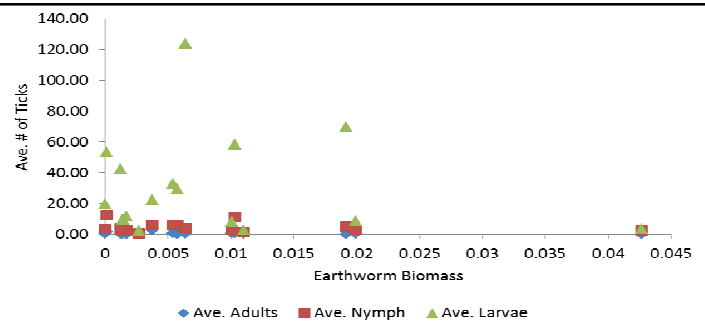


Figure 4: Decreasing relationship between Earthworm abundance and Black-legged Tick abundance.

paradox. There are fewer ticks in areas with abundant earthworms but there might be a greater proportion of infected ticks. We'll continue to update you in future columns as to our project's progress.

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What's Inside This Edition of **SANCTUARY**

Annual Appeal.....	2
Nature Day.....	3
Children's Programs.....	3
Research.....	4
Volunteer Spotlight.....	5
Events Calendar.....	6
Adult Nature and Saturday Workshops.....	7

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Calendar of Events

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The Tail End Video

Happy Picture of the Day and more!

info@whitememorialcc.org



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