

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center
Vol. XXVI No. 4
Fall 2008

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



Hello Neighbor! Black Bear in Connecticut
Photo Credit: Paul J. Fusco / CT DEP-Wildlife

The Challenge of Bears in Connecticut

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

Black Bears undoubtedly occurred throughout the extensive forests found in Connecticut prior to European settlement. The settlers began clearing forests, largely for agriculture but also for fuel, building materials and later, charcoal. The landscape changed from almost entirely forested to only 20 to 30 percent forested by the mid 1800s. Bear habitat had dwindled.

Most early Nutmeggers were farmers raising crops and livestock. Bears were seen as a threat to ones way of life and broadly persecuted. Laws and regulations to protect and manage wildlife were largely absent until the 1900s.

The loss of habitat combined with unregulated killing resulted in bears being extirpated by the mid 1800s. Jim Cardoza, a wildlife biologist in Massachusetts, in his extensive review of historical accounts of bears in Massachusetts and surrounding states, found that the last reference to bears in Connecticut was of one killed in 1840.

From the mid 1800s through the 1960s the habitat changes moved in the other direction. Agriculture declined and industrial employment rose. Forests started to reclaim abandoned farmland. By 1960 nearly two-thirds of the state was forested. Today, stone walls in the forest show where pastures and fields once stood over a century ago.

The rise of the conservation movement in the early 1900s marked a changed attitude toward wildlife and

included efforts to protect and enhance wildlife populations. Bear populations responded to the expansion and aging of forest habitat and to less persecution. But, because of their low reproductive rate, the growing population of bears to our north in

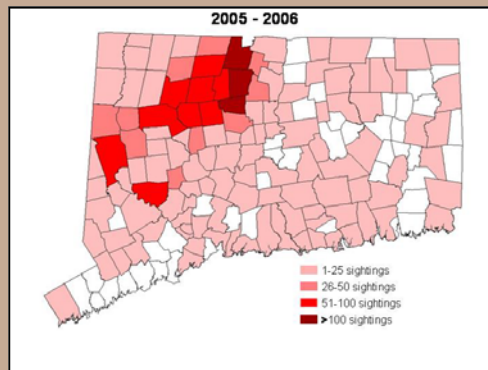


Figure 1: Distribution of Black Bear sightings reported to the Wildlife Division from October 2005 through September 2006

Massachusetts spread slowly. Not until the 1970s to 1980s was there evidence of a resident bear population in Connecticut. Towns in the northwest were the first to see bears and bear

are most common there today (Figure 1).

Bear sightings reported to the Wildlife Division have increased dramatically over the past two decades reflecting a rapidly growing bear population (Figure 2). In 2002, the Division initiated a research project to obtain better information on the bear population. The research involves trapping and tagging bears to follow their movements, reproduction and survival. Over one hundred bears have been tagged and over 40 winter dens of radio-collared sows (females) have been examined.

Bears provide an excellent example of what biologists call a K-selected species, one with low reproduction but high survival. (R-selected species, like mice, have the strategy of high reproduction but low survival.) We have found sows to start breeding at 3-5 years of age and to have litters of one to three cubs. Cubs stay with sows until they are nearly one and a half years old. Therefore, sows breed every other year. We have found that 80 percent of cubs survive their first year and adult females have annual survival rates greater than 90 percent per year. Black bears have been documented to live longer than 30 years in the wild. The reproductive and survival rates that we've seen show that the population can likely grow 15 percent per year. In addition, we have documented impressive movements by male bears. At least 2 have traveled to Vermont and one was struck by a vehicle near Albany.

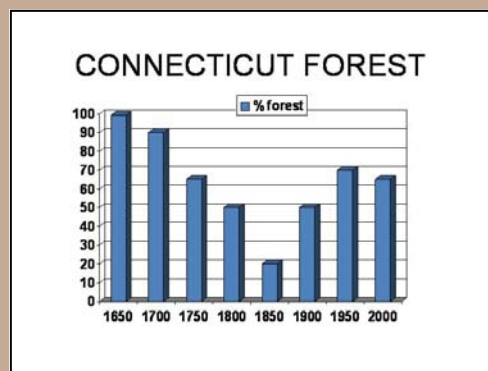


Figure 2: Yearly totals of Black Bear sightings reported to the Wildlife Division.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Bears are driven to eat. They must store enough calories as fat during 7 to 9 months to sustain them during 3 to 5 months in a winter den. Their omnivorous diet includes some plants, insects, berries, fruit, mast (such as acorns and beech nuts) and occasionally animals they kill or scavenge. Plant based foods make up 80 to 90 percent of their diet. Predation by Black Bears appears to be opportunistic.

The present-day forest in which they quest for calories is interspersed with numerous houses and associated food temptations. Birdfeeders, poorly stored garbage and choice scraps in compost draw bears close to houses. Nearly all conflicts between humans and bears are food based. Like many wild animals bears have shown surprising adaptability. What many may think of as a "wilderness species" can grow comfortable around houses and people. Many residential conflicts can be reduced by removing the attractants. Residential conflicts are not likely to decrease soon because enough people are unwilling, unable or uninformed about precautions coupled with an increasing number of bears. The slogan "A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear" used by many states and provinces will probably

be applied more often in Connecticut.

Conflicts also occur in nonresidential settings. Bears damage beehives, damage fruit trees and eat corn. Bears have killed livestock in Connecticut every year for at least fifteen years. Attacks on cats and dogs are uncommon but they will prey on domestic rabbits. There is no single solution to these problems because of many variables involved. Electric fencing is one tool available to beekeepers and farmers.

How dangerous are Black Bears to humans? It is very rare for Black Bear to be aggressive to-



Black Magic: Photo Credit: Paul J. Fusco / CT DEP - Wildlife

wards people. Black Bears occur over most of North America including areas with human development. Yet, reports of attacks on humans are very rare. Although the chances of an attack are low, attacks have occurred and Black Bears have killed humans. One step to decrease the chance of a bear attack is to not encourage close contact between bears and people and this is best accomplished by removing food attractants around homes. Managing the conflicts between humans and a growing bear population will be an increasing challenge.

More information on bears can be found on the DEP's website - www.ct.gov/dep/wildlife

Make a Difference

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

I spent an entire day last week cleaning my aunt's attic. It is not a very big attic, but there sure was a lot of stuff! Among the boxes of Christmas and Easter decorations, amid the boxes of old report cards and family pictures, there were MANY magazines, newsletters and catalogs. We brought bag after bag of them down two flights of stairs to the recycling bin. We had missed the recycling pick up by a day, so after I went home, she will have to cart those same magazines, newsletters and catalogs one more time. This time will be to the curb, where they will be picked up by able bodied people and *finally* recycled.

Don't get me wrong, I am glad she is recycling them. They will serve a far greater purpose being disposed of in that fashion, rather than in the landfill. What bothered me was the fact that they were there at all.

Do you have a similar situation in your home or the home of a loved one?

Why not consider sharing magazine subscriptions with a friend or family member? My husband and I share several magazines this way. Sure, they are not always up to the minute, but it is fun to read about harvesting veggies when there is still snow on the ground. I have planned many projects for the next summer while snuggled up to the woodstove.

Sometimes hospitals and senior centers will take used magazines. Get creative. Call and ask. Share with a neighbor.

As for newsletters, that is another situation all together. In this day and age, there is simply no good reason to have a "hard" copy of a newsletter delivered to your door if you have a computer. What do you do with them after they are read? They are too time sensitive to pass on to someone else. Nobody wants to read about a really interesting meeting that has already happened *last* month. Contact all of the organizations

(including this one) from whom you receive newsletters. Ask them if they have their newsletters available on line. *Pressure* them to do so, if they don't. *Tell* them about the resources they would save. *Implore* them to consider. The same holds true for catalogs.

Let's see if we can't all make a difference and use our resources more wisely. Then none of us will have to spend a day in the attic lugging around old magazines, newsletters and catalogs. As for old report cards and Christmas decorations, well some things just belong in an attic.

***Make a difference.
It's easier than you think.***



Editor's Note: Sanctuary is now available online. If you would like to receive your newsletter via email call Gerri at 567-0857

RESEARCH FORUM

by James Fischer, Research Director

White Memorial currently examines its bear population with an interesting perspective. We know that bears are frequently observed throughout the property and its vicinity. These observations indicate that the property is home to several individuals and bears frequently visit our neighbors' yards. These observations range from observing an individual crossing a road or trail to seeing scat with remnant food items showing that the bears are consuming



Bear Scat Found on WMF Property

Photo Courtesy of Leo Kulinski

natural food sources (berries, cherry pits, acorn hulls) to food sources related to human neighbors (birds seed shells). What is interesting is what we have not observed on the property, yet. No cubs have been recorded on the property. This critical piece of information indicates the reproductive activity of adult females on the property.

So, what do females look for when they are raising their cubs? Research performed by Paul Rego, CT DEP Wildlife Division Furbearer

Biologist, indicates that females with cubs do not require any unique resource or feature from the other bears in the woods, but rather it is how the female uses these features. Adult females with cubs tend to stay away from things that might harm their cubs, especially when the cubs are very young and still nursing. When the mother bear is near food that she needs to eat but is also near something that she thinks could harm her cubs (i.e. dogs, cars, etc.), the mother bear instructs her cub to climb a tree that provides them a temporary shelter while the mother is away. White Memorial's Winter Track Monitors were introduced to these special trees by Susan Morse, Keeping Track, Inc. during the trackers training workshop this past winter. Our trackers were shown what these "nursery trees" look like and how the mother bear communicates her presence to other bears in the area by biting or wounding smaller trees near the "nursery trees". This insures that her cubs will not be disturbed by the other bears in the area.

Observing this evidence requires keen observational skills, which our Winter Trackers have through their training with Susan Morse, so we can increase our chances of observing adult female black bears with cubs on the property. White Memorial's challenge with managing the black bear population is to ensure that people's interaction with black bears are positive. People's activities jeopardize our black bear population more by attracting bears into scenarios that



Making a Boo Boo:

Photo Credit Francis Zygmunt

condition them to be less wary of things that could harm them. The following is a list of activities that visitors and neighbors should follow as often as possible to avoid having a negative interaction with black bears. Visitors need to keep their dogs on a leash at all times. Our campers need to place their food and all containers/utensils that contact food in their vehicles when not in use. Homeowners who lease property or neighbor the property need to secure their garbage, store barbecues after each use, and feed the birds only during the season when bears are not active (November 1 – April 1). Encourage your neighbors and other visitors to the property to do much of the same thing. We have new neighbors and we should introduce ourselves properly so that the benefits of having them can be perpetuated for future generations, so please do your part.



Photo Credit: Erin Victory

Research Staff Focuses on Future Strategies with New Positions

In an era where conservation issues are expanding into wider arenas, strategic planning requires focused research on specialized topics. White Memorial Conservation Center's Board of Directors approved the decision to focus David Rosgen's position as Wildlife Biologist and to expand James Fischer's role as Research Director. This position change will give the Research Program an opportunity toward focusing efforts on long-term monitoring programs such as the Breeding Bird Census plots that have been monitored since 1966 and stands as one of the longest running plots in North America. Several new initiatives have been started recently, which still require help from volunteers. Please contact James Fischer for more information regarding volunteer opportunities in research. (860-567-0857)



Photo Credit: Erin Victory

THE WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER
PRESENTS THE 27TH ANNUAL

FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2008 11AM - 5PM

ADMISSION \$5.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
CENTER MEMBERS FREE



FEATURING

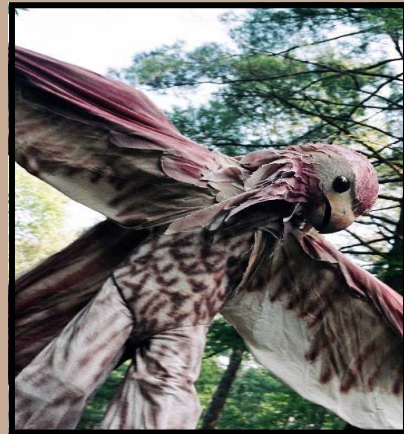
*SIRIUS COYOTE MUSIC OF THE AMERICAS

SPONSORED BY
NORTHWEST COMMUNITY BANK &
LITCHFIELD BANCORP



*WIND OVER WINGS LIVE BIRDS OF PREY

SPONSORED BY
AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS



*RIVERSIDE REPTILES & STILT WALKERS: MORTAL BEASTS AND DEITIES

SPONSORED BY
WALMART



CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN + GUIDED WALKS + HAYRIDES
DEMONSTRATIONS + BOOTHS & EXHIBITS + FOOD
LOCAL ARTISANS + SILENT AUCTION + USED BOOK SALE
BAKE SALE + MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE + KAYAK RAFFLE

80 WHITEHALL ROAD LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT
LOCATED OFF ROUTE 202 BETWEEN LITCHFIELD AND BANTAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

860-567-0857 WWW.WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG

Smell, Touch, Taste, Feel, Hear Nature
October is Art Beyond Sight Month at WMCC

Helen Keller said, "To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug."

Throughout the month of October, Saturday visitors are invited to experience nature using all senses (see our Fall Calendar on page 6) during "Art Beyond Sight Month".

In 2001, Jenny Kate Lyon, a New Hartford teenager blind since birth, approached Joan Barry, then Director of Administration at WMCC, with an unusual proposal. Lyon, 14, wished to catalog the WMCC Nature Museum in Braille. The idea was conceived when Jenny was only eleven years old. Barry and Lyon worked tirelessly to realize the goal. A grant from The Norcross Foundation covered expenses. Two years later the fruits



Helen Keller

their labor appeared in a two volume set of books which is available to all guests by request.

The Nature Museum is only one of a handful of museums in Connecticut accessible to the blind (visit www.artbeyondsight.org for a list of others worldwide).

of To further celebrate the visually impaired, WMCC is currently embarking on a campaign to raise ten thousand dollars for the installation of a Braille Trail (bronze signs in Braille) along the existing *Trail of the Senses*. Funds are being raised to install sixteen permanent bronze plaques in Braille which echo the existing plaques. Bay Bronze Company, Inc. of Roseville, California is creating the signs. Each sign costs \$425. Lion's Clubs from New Hartford, Watertown, and Terryville have already signed on as donors. The names of each club will appear on their chosen plaques.

If you would like to become a part of this worthy project targeted for completion in the Summer of 2009, please contact Gerri Griswold, Director of Administration.



HOLIDAY NATURE CRAFTS

FOR GRADES 1 & 2 - WEDNESDAYS, LATE NOVEMBER
FOR GRADES 3, 4, 5, & 6 - TUESDAYS LATE NOVEMBER
AND EARLY DECEMBER

3:15 - 4:45 P.M.

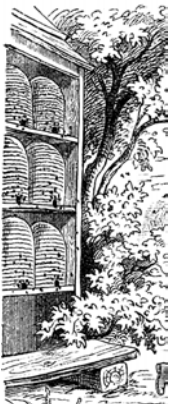
DATES AND DETAILS AVAILABLE IN EARLY NOVEMBER 860-567-0857
WWW.WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.

Nature's peace will flow into you
as sunshine flows into trees.

The winds will blow their own freshness into you...
while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

.....John Muir



**We Thank
Mark Moorman
of
Sprain Brook Apiary
in Woodbury
for installing and
overseeing
our
Honey Bee
Observation Hive
this summer**

WHITE MEMORIAL THANKS

**Northwest Community Bank
Litchfield Bancorp
Walmart
American Eagle Outfitters**

for making our
27th Annual
Family Nature Day
possible



Fall Calendar of Events

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

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 27th
27th ANNUAL

FAMILY NATURE DAY
Sirius Coyote, Wind Over Wings, Riverside Reptiles, Mortal Beasts and Deities
11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



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

OCTOBER

4 **Take a Hike! with Diane Smith, from WTIC Newstalk 1080 and "Positively Connecticut" on CPTV.** Diane will lead hikers along the Little Pond Boardwalk on a nature scavenger hunt. Pre-registration required. Meet at 10:00 A.M., in the Museum lobby.

4 **Fly Fishing 101 with Dr. Frank Schildgen from Trout Unlimited** Beginning and advanced fly casters of all ages are invited. Classroom instruction then head outdoors! Fly rods provided. 10:00 A.M., Mott - Van Winkle Classroom

Mattatuck Astronomical Society

will be holding public observing sessions at the observatory behind the WMCC Museum on the following dates: October 11, 18, November 8, 15 and December 13

Arrive just before sundown!

For information call 203-575-8236 or visit their website

www.mastransit.org

11 **Kaleidoscope of Color. Kayaking Tour of the Bantam River with Robyn Dinda.** 9:30 A.M. For more information or to register call Robyn at 860-567-0738.

11 **Tactile Nature Walk with Joan Barry.** Joan will demonstrate that Nature can be enjoyed through all senses. Blindfolds provided. Meet in the parking lot 10:00 A.M.



13 **COLUMBUS DAY**
Museum Closed



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

16/17 **Adult Workshop**
Introduction to Moss Identification and Other Flora of the Small World
see page 11 for details

18 **Birding By Ear with Wildlife Biologist, Dave Rosgen.** Dave will teach guests to identify birds by their calls. Blindfolds provided. Meet in the parking lot. 10:00 A.M.

Primitive Living and Survival Skills Series :
Some Basics to Build on... with Andy Dobos
October 25: Shelter Building
November 22: Primitive Fire Making
December 13: Cordage and Fire as a Tool
see page 10 for details

25 **Tibetan Singing Bowls: Refuge for Mind, Body, and Soul with K. T.** Owner of *Beautiful Things Boutique* in Barkhamsted shares traditions, background and many benefits and plays her own magnificent crystal bowls. 10:00 A.M., A. B. Ceder Room

NOVEMBER

1 **Tree Identification Walk with WMF Forest Superintendent, Lukas Hyder,** 10:00 A.M., Meet in museum parking lot.

1 **Earth Loom with Ginger Balch**
A collaborative experience. Children, ages 5 and up learn to weave using elements from Nature. 10:00 A.M. A. B. Ceder Room, Members \$8, Non Members \$10

8 **Bears of North America: A Virtual Trip into their World**
Wildlife Photographer Gary Melsyn shares images taken throughout North America. Ages 12 and up.
see page 11 for details.



9 - 15 **Museum Kids Free Week***
in honor of Louise W. Willson.

11 **School Vacation Day Programs**
Call Museum in October for details!

15 **Adult Workshop**
Beauty and Rescue in Lechuguilla, the Deepest Cave in the United States
See page 11 for details

22 **Autumn Bird Walk with Wildlife Biologist, Dave Rosgen**
Museum Lobby, 10:00 A.M.

22 **Adult Workshop**
Beaver Pelts for Brass Kettles & American Indian Communities & Anglo-Indian Relations in Connecticut's Northwest Corner
see page 11 for details

27/28 **THANKSGIVING**
Museum Closed



29 **Wreath Making using Natural Materials.** Floral Designer Bonnie Pederson helps you create a beautiful holiday wreath for your home. Pre-registration required. Ages 16 and up. 10:00 A.M., A. B. Ceder Room.

DECEMBER

6 **Reaching the Top of New England.** Torrington resident and photographer Don Kenney returns to WMCC with a pictorial celebration of his numerous hikes up Mount Washington. 10:00 A.M., A. B. Ceder Room.

The First National Bank of Litchfield
presents

THE SNOW QUEEN
December 13
See article on page 8



14 **Litchfield Hills Audubon Christmas Bird Count.** To volunteer, email Dave Rosgen : dave@whitememorialcc.org

20 **A Day at the Movies: Realms of the Russian Bear.**
Six part series begins at 10:00 A.M. A. B. Ceder Room. Snacks provided.

21-27 **Museum Kids Free Week ***
Courtesy of Tara and Arthur Diedrick
In honor of Adele and Joseph d'Assen.

25/26 **CHRISTMAS**
Museum Closed



27 **Owl Pellet Workshop** with Dave Rosgen. Ages 10 and up. 10:00 A.M. A. B. Ceder Room

29-31 **School Vacation Programs**
Call Museum in November for details

JANUARY

1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Museum Closed

3 **Megalithomania: Travels in the UK with Gerri Griswold** There's more to life than Stonehenge! Call for details.



Pack Leaders: American Eagle's Laura Seavey (Row 1 far right) with James Fischer and Lukas Hyder (Row 2 far right) mobilize volunteers..

The Eagle has Landed! ***American Eagle Outfitters Feathers Our Nest!*** *Photo and Story by Gerri Griswold, Director of Development*

On August 14, forty employees from American Eagle Outfitters stores as far away as New London, Groton, and Stamford participated in a day of giving to White Memorial. Spearheaded by Manager Laura Seavey (daughter of WMCC uber volunteer and member, Jill Seavey), the volunteers spent four hours removing invasive plants. In addition, American Eagle Outfitters presented WMCC with a check to sponsor Hope Douglas' (Wind Over Wings) Bald Eagle at Nature Day on September 27th. AE Foundation's "Better World" initiative believes that charity begins at home. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Laura and her enthusiastic team for a job well done!

Max Out!

On August 16, WMCC bid adieu to one of its most dedicated volunteers sending him off to, of all things, COLLEGE! Max Erhman-Shapiro grew up at White Memorial. As a teenager, he became a treasured volunteer. Recently he acclimatized our new Barred Owl, whom he named, Shakespeare, to captive existence. We have no doubt that Max will pursue environmental education at a higher level. His love of nature is infinite. Max is truly a child of the forest.. Congratulations, Max.



Community Service at White Memorial by Lukas Hyder, WMF Forest Superintendent

Once again the community has donated many hours of labor to White Memorial. During May and June, Litchfield High School was well represented by several groups as well as individuals who donated their time. John Markelon and his horticulture class helped out for 3 hours and removed non-native invasive plants from the eastern wood-line of the Activity Field. Dean Birdsall and his AP science class came for three days to weed and mulch the plantings in the Garden of the Senses. Several other students also helped by completing their 12 hour Civics Class community service requirement at White Memorial. Jordon Fisher, Eric Capuano, Brian McKernan, Ian Russell and Tim Chase assisted us by removing invasive plants and completing several trail projects. Since May, Oliver Loud-Stubbs, a student from Wamogo, has become a fixture here. He has been helping out 3 days a week on invasive removal and control, trail work on the Apple Hill Trail, as well as assisting in the museum.

On August 14th, a group of 40 volunteers from all but one of the *American Eagle Outfitters* stores in Connecticut came for a work day. They removed a large patch of invasives from the woods between the Lake Trail and Ongley Field. They put in a total of 160 hours of work, and did a great job. (*see article above*).

We are extremely grateful to all who work to make this place more biologically diverse and assist White Memorial in reaching our management goals.

Volunteer Spotlight: Debbie Goepel

Photo and Story by Gerri Griswold, Director of Development

Debbie Goepel's White Memorial roots run as long and deep as a mighty oak. When asked how long she has been a volunteer, this Watertown native stared blankly at the floor. She simply couldn't recall. White Memorial has always been a part of Debbie's life. Her transition from student to teacher was as natural as the transition from tadpole to frog. In the 1960's, she participated in Windmill Hill summer programs with Gordon Loery. As a teenager she painted a stunning visual of the CT Trail Riders Association sleep in at White Memorial. A hundred horses and riders marching to Litchfield from all corners of the state, sleeping under the stars in the activity field and meandering the bridle paths that blanket the foundation. Debbie's love of animals, particularly horses, and love of the outdoors made for frequent visits. Through the years she has familiarized herself with ninety-five per cent of the Foundation's trails.



Frog and Tadpole: Debbie Goepel (left) and Annie Marino at Ongley Pond

Today, Debbie lives in Morris, having recently started a job as a remedial aide at the James Morris School. Her three children have all come through our programs. (from little acorns....). When Debbie isn't volunteering at Family Nature Day, giving spring pond programs and nature walks, serving as a member of the Education and Activities Committee, or participating in vernal pool monitoring and mammal tracking research programs, you might find her enjoying her other passions: biking and gardening.

After countless years as one of our most active volunteers, Debbie's quest for knowledge has not been sated, "Every time you go outside or drive up the driveway (at White Memorial) you are given an opportunity to learn something."

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK of LITCHFIELD PULLS STRINGS THE SNOW QUEEN and SANTA CLAUS COME to WMCC DECEMBER 13

Q: What do you get when local artist and puppeteer Robin McCahill, Santa Claus, homemade hot chocolate, cookies, and The First National Bank of Litchfield collaborate?

A: Just about the most magical event of the holiday season!



The Reindeer!

On December 13, the Carriage House at White Memorial will come alive with McCahill's whimsical performance of *The Snow Queen*.

The 2 one-hour performances tell the Hans Christian Anderson tale about two friends, Kay and Gerta. Kay goes missing and Gerta decides she must search for him. Everyone else has



The Hobgoblin!

given up on Kay as lost forever. Gerta's belief that he is still alive (or could he have been kidnapped?) brings her to visit distant lands, travel through changing seasons, and meet people and creatures along the way as she relentlessly searches. So who is the Snow Queen? And what has a hobgoblin to do with the Snow Queen? And why has Kay gone missing? Does Gerta find him? All this will unfold as puppets tell the story.

McCahill has adapted the story for her puppet troupe. Many of the characters are constructed out of wool and brought to life with a felting technique that she taught and demonstrated at

White Memorial Conservation Center earlier this year.

Santa will take time out of his busy schedule to visit during the shows. Homemade hot chocolate and cookies will be on hand to fortify the crowds.

WMCC deeply thanks the First National Bank of Litchfield for embodying the true meaning of the holiday season by making this special day free for all families.



The Snow Queen!

The Snow Queen

Saturday, December 13
10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

The Carriage House at White Memorial.

Admission is free

Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS - GET IN TOUCH WITH NATURE

Grades 1 & 2 : Wednesdays in October 3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Grades 3 & 4 Tuesdays in October 3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Dates and details available in mid-September. Call 860-567-0857

www.whitememorialcc.org



Uh Oh!

Photo by Leo Kulinski

2008 BIRD SEED SALE GOES SOUTH

THE COST OF EVERYTHING HAS SKY ROCKETED. EVERY ONE OF US FEELS IT.
DUE TO AN ALARMING INCREASE IN THE COST OF BIRD SEED,
WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER IS CANCELING ITS
2008 ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE. OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS REQUIRE FOOD
REGARDLESS OF CURRENT CONDITIONS. FEEDING THE BIRDS INVOLVES AT LEAST
\$1200 ANNUALLY. LAST YEAR YOUR GENEROSITY PAID FOR A YEARS WORTH OF
SEED. WILL YOU HELP US MEET OUR GOAL FOR 2009?
A GIFT IN ANY AMOUNT WOULD BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

Yes! I'd like to help fill the bird feeders at the White Memorial Conservation Center with my gift of:

() \$5 () \$10 () \$20 () \$50 () \$100 () Other \$ _____

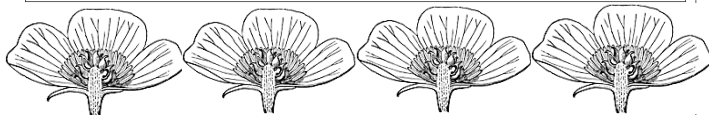
Please make your check payable to WMCC, 80 Whitehall Road, P.O. Box 368, Litchfield, CT 06759

WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER RECEIVES GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA ZONE II AWARD

At the Annual Meeting of the *Garden Club of America Zone II* in Fairfield Connecticut on May 28, 2008, the White Memorial Conservation Center received the *Garden Club of America's Zone II Conservation Commendation*. Zone II includes garden clubs throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island. The *Litchfield Garden Club*, a member of the *Garden Club of America* and the *Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut*, sponsored the Conservation Center for the award. The award is given out to an organization or person who shows exceptional effort in the conservation area. The citation reads "For decades of dedicated service, providing an invaluable community resource and instilling environmental values in generations of Litchfield youth."

Over the past twenty-five years the *Litchfield Garden Club* has sponsored a six week environmental program for all sixth grade students at the *Litchfield Middle School*. Jeff Greenwood, WMCC Director of Education, has been in charge of this worthwhile science program and the final week is a day trip to the White Memorial Conservation Center to enjoy many exhibits at the museum and also explore the many trails at White Memorial Foundation.

The Center is very appreciative and thanks the *Garden Club of America* for this honor, which highlights our long standing commitment to conservation and environmental education.



Help White Memorial and the Earth by Enrolling Your Home and Business with Sterling Planet, CT Clean Energy Program.

Sterling Planet provides energy produced from renewable resources and provides energy to Connecticut's homes and businesses. White Memorial signed up all of its accounts last year and is benefited by each new account that signs up with Sterling Planet. Mention your support for White Memorial when you decide to switch your home or business energy production with Sterling Planet (phone # 1-877-457-2306). Green energy consumers support energy that produces less pollution, helps decrease our dependence on foreign oil, and supports sustainable economic development. Sterling Planet uses wind and hydroelectric to produce the energy delivered to participating homes and businesses. A small premium of \$0.015 per kilowatt hour is paid to support production of cleaner power generated by these renewable energy resources. Help White Memorial and the planet by contacting Sterling Planet (www.sterlingplanet.com) to

TAKE A HIKE SERIES MARCHES INTO FALL!

The summer sun may be fading but fear not! The trails of White Memorial are illuminated with stars.

Lovely **Teresa LaBarbera** from WFSB Channel 3 and *Better Connecticut* visits Wheeler Hill on September 6. Traffic Icon **Rachel Lutzker** from Fox 61 and 105.9 The River leads us to Memorial Rock on September 13. The Queen of Connecticut Broadcasting, **Diane Smith** (WTIC Newstalk 1080 and *Positively Connecticut* on CPTV) heads out on the Boardwalk October 4. Please call 567-0857 to pre register.



Shark Sighting: Mark the Shark (2nd human from right) NBC 30, 96.5 TIC FM

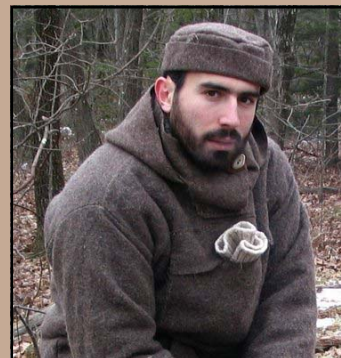


Apple of Our Eye: Desiree Fontaine (top right) WTNH News Channel 8



Fairest in the Forest: Allison Demers (holding walking stick), Lite 100.5 WRCH

**PRIMITIVE LIVING &
SURVIVAL SKILLS SERIES:
SOME BASICS TO BUILD ON
BY ANDY DOBOS,
PRIMITIVE SKILLS INSTRUCTOR
MAINE PRIMITIVE SKILLS SCHOOL**



Shelter Building

October 25, 2008, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Meet in Museum Lobby

Ages 10 and up (under 16 accompanied by an adult).

Sign-up Early. Limited to 15 Participants!

Registration Fee: Member \$35.00 Non-Member \$45.00

We will learn the principals behind wilderness shelters and build a primitive survival shelter using no modern tools or materials while building confidence in our ability to adapt to the natural environment. These techniques can be utilized with the addition of modern materials such as small tarps or wool blankets to allow one to comfortably lessen their dependence on synthetic equipment, carry less gear, and in the long run leave less impact on nature by choosing to build a shelter over buying (and eventually disposing of) another nylon tent, sleeping pad or bag.

Primitive Fire making

November 22, 2008, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Meet in Museum Lobby

Ages 13 and up (under 16 accompanied by an adult).

Sign-Up Early. Limited to 8 Participants!

Registration Fee: Member \$45.00 Non-Member \$55.00

"Matchless fire making" is something that has captured many people's imaginations as "the survival skill". Though that is mostly a myth, as a good shelter is a better way to keep warm and dry, fire is important in the woods and not only keeps us warm but can be used as a tool to do all sorts of other work for us (including purify our water). In this workshop we will be using the friction of wood spinning against wood to create fire. If you have never performed this elusive skill before we can give you everything you need to know to do it and if you have gotten fire from friction before we can challenge you to perfect your technique. Materials to be provided; bring a sharp knife.

Cordage and Fire as a Tool:

December 13, 2008, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Meet in Museum Lobby

Ages 10 and up (under 16 accompanied by an adult).

Sign-Up Early. Limited to 8 Participants!

Registration Fee: Member \$45.00 Non-Member \$55.00

"Cordage (or string) is what tied the primitive world together," is how one primitive technologist described the importance of one of the two skills offered in this workshop. And we have all heard of how the Native peoples of this region used fire to create their dugout canoes. Learn how to take some very common plants, often thought of as a nuisance or worse, and gain a new appreciation for them while learning to make your own string. Whether you wish to use it in the back country for a survival snare or to bundle your recyclables together this is a handy skill. We will also practice the use of fire as a tool, using it to create wooden vessels for eating and cooking. Materials to be provided; bring a sharp knife.

Clip & Mail

_____ **Shelter Building** Member: \$35.00 Non Member: \$45.00
 _____ **Primitive Fire Making** Member: \$45.00 Non Member: \$ 55.00
 _____ **Cordage and Fire as a Tool** Member: \$45.00 Non Member: \$55.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please circle one: member non-member

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

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

Become a member of the White Memorial Conservation Center and take advantage of the member discount, along with free admission to the Nature Museum, a discount in the Gift Shop, and receipt of the quarterly newsletter and calendar of events. Your tax-deductible fee will help sponsor programs like these. A family membership is \$45.00 per year and individual is \$30.00.

CEUs available



For more information call 860-567-0857.

Adult Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Workshops: Fall 2008



An Introduction to Moss Identification and Other Flora of the Small World

October 16, 2008 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and October 17, 2008 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, A. B. Cedar Room

Registration Fee: Members: \$30.00 Non-Members: \$45.00 Limited to 15 participants so register early!

Have you ever walked through the woods to observe a carpet of mosses? Upon closer inspection you notice that there are such a wide variety of patterns, shapes, and colors within such a small amount of space. "A forest under your feet" you think to yourself. Now you can explore this world, while Jessica Budke instructs you how to identify and explore mosses.

Jessica Budke is a PhD student in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut.

Her research focuses on moss plants. Specifically she studies how different moss species grow and develop during their lifetime. Mosses have become her passion and focus. She enjoys introducing others to the natural wonder of mosses and teaching about these fascinating plants.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.



Bears of North America—A Virtual Trip into their World

November 8, 2008, 10:00 AM, A. B. Cedar Room

Registration Fee: Members: \$8.00 Non Members: \$10.00

Gary Melnysyn will share images of bears photographed on a variety of trips throughout North America. Along with images Gary will share some interesting "bear" facts and stories of his travels. Gary will also include both Brown and Black Bear images and share his most recent adventure in search of the rare Spirit Bear off the coast of British Columbia. This experience will prove to be visually stimulating as well as educational journey into the world of these magnificent creatures.



Beauty and Rescue in Lechuguilla, The Deepest Cave in the US

November 15, 2008, 1:00 PM Lunch 2:00 PM Lecture, A. B. Cedar Room

Registration Fee: Members: \$20.00 Non-Members \$35.00

Emily Davis will take you on a tour to one of the worlds last discovered regions, Caves! Emily has been a member of the National Speleological Society for over 34 years, her career includes exploring caves in 7 countries and 35 states in the US. She has aided the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation Bat Monitoring Program for the past 15 years.

Emily has mapped caves throughout the world including the Lechuguilla, a part of the Carlsbad Cavern cave system in New Mexico. During this expedition Emily was injured and her rescue took 4 days, all the while being taped by a crew from the National Geographic Society. Emily's presentation will include 80 award winning slides, in addition to 35 slides detailing her rescue!



Beaver Pelts for Brass Kettles; Am. Indian Communities and Anglo-Indian Relations in CT's Northwest Corner

November 22, 2008, 1:00 PM Lunch, 2:00 PM Lecture, A. B. Cedar Room

Registration Fee: Members: \$25.00 Non Members: \$40.00

Dr. Lucianne Lavin, Dir. Of Research and Collections at the Inst. for American Indian Studies in Washington, CT, will introduce you to the history and culture of American Indian communities in northwestern Connecticut. She will introduce you to the context of Anglo-American and Native American culture contacts and social relationships through the historic period (ca. AD 1650-the 20th century). Native American artifacts from the Institute for American Indian Studies' collections will be exhibited and how archeologists determine the use of some archaeological objects through their wear patterns will be discussed.

Clip & Mail

☐ **Moss Identification**.....Member: \$30.00 Non Member: \$45.00
☐ **Bears of North America**.....Member: \$ 8.00 Non Member: \$10.00
☐ **Cave Exploration**.....Member: \$20.00 Non Member: \$35.00
☐ **American Indian Communities of CT**.....Member: \$25.00 Non Member: \$40.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please circle one: member non-member

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

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CEU's available



For more information call 860-567-0857

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