

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center

Vol. XXX No. 3
Summer 2012

Museum Hours:

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

For Information

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



"Pinned Emerald Ash Borer", Photo credit: Philip Careless

The Smokey Winged Beetle Bandit: Using a Native Wasp to Find Invasive Beetles **By Claire Rutledge, PhD, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station**

On July 7th 2011, nine White Memorial volunteers stood in a cemetery, insect nets at the ready, waiting to steal the prey from a native wasp nesting in the dirt road. They were learning a new technique to detect one of the most destructive invasive insects to hit North America, the Emerald Ash Borer. An invasive organism, be it insect, mollusk, plant or pathogen, is a non-native species that is introduced to an area and out-competes the native species. Non-native species that become established do not always pose a threat, but invasive species distinguish themselves by their aggressiveness, rapid spread, and disruption of the local ecosystem. Familiar examples for New Englanders are the gypsy moth, oriental bittersweet, and the chestnut blight that all but pushed the American chestnut into extinction.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a beautiful bright green beetle in the Jewel Beetle family, was accidentally introduced to Detroit MI sometime in the mid-1990's and was discovered in 2002. The Emerald Ash Borer feeds on ash trees. In its homeland, far eastern Asia, the beetle is part of the natural ecosystem causing little problem, and known only to taxonomists. In North America, the beetle has been an ash-killing machine. The major difference between here and Asia appears to be a lack of resistance to the beetle by native North American species of ash. The beetle is able to

attack and kill healthy trees, something it can't do to Asian species of ash. The larval stage of the beetle, which is called a flat-headed borer, feeds on the cambial layer of the ash tree's trunk. The larvae effectively girdle and kill the tree within



Purple Prism-trap set in an ash tree
Photo credit: USDA

3 -5 years. Since its introduction, EAB has killed millions of trees. The ash population in Michigan has dropped to 5% of its original level. There is serious concern that American ash could follow the chestnut to the brink of extinction. The borer has spread to 19 states and 3 Canadian provinces. Most of the spread seems to be anthropogenic with the major culprit being firewood. This spring it was discovered to have crossed the Hudson, and is now established in Rhinebeck NY, just 20 miles from Connecticut's border.

One of the major hurdles to managing EAB has been the difficulty of detecting new infestations. The initial symptoms of

decline are subtle, branch die-back, small exit holes, cracking bark, and new infestations are typically not discovered until the beetle has been present for years. The adults stay in tree canopies, the larvae are under the bark. Hard work by researchers at a number of Universities and the USDA has led to the development of a trap for the EAB. These traps, called the purple prism traps, have been deployed by the thousands in an effort to locate new infestations while they are still small and management efforts are still relatively inexpensive and effective. Some 940 traps will be deployed across Connecticut this summer. The traps are inexpensive, easy to maintain and do a fairly good job of detecting beetles. But they have a mixed record of detecting beetles which exist at very low population densities.

In 2003, Doctor Bruce Gill, an entomologist with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, had an idea for a whole new approach to detecting Emerald Ash Borers, **biosurveillance**. Instead of having passive traps which depended on having beetles fly to them, why not have an active agent, one that could seek out the beetles in the tree canopies, capture them, and bring them back to a surveyor waiting on the ground? The agent? A native, solitary digging-wasp the Smokey Winged Beetle Bandit (SWBB). Mother SWBB wasps stock their burrows with living, paralyzed Jewel Beetles.

(continued on page 2)

By waiting at a wasp colony, a surveyor could have EAB brought directly to them. Dr. Gill shared his idea with Dr. Stephen Marshall at the University of Guelph, who in turn enlisted master's student Philip Careless to test out its feasibility.

Philip Careless showed that SWBB colonies in areas infested with EAB, were bringing the beetles back to their nests along with the native Jewel Beetles. He worked out the best ways to collect beetles from the wasps. He also determined how many beetles you had to catch to ensure that you had adequately sampled the area surrounding the colony. And, importantly, Philip spread the word. In a remarkably short time, thanks to Philip's enthusiastic and able dissemination of the technique, and to critical financial support from key people within the US Forest Service, biosurveillance has gone from an interesting idea to an USDA-approved survey technique for EAB and other potentially invasive Jewel Beetles.

(continued from page 1)

One of the important components of that success has been the participation of 'citizen scientists', which brings us back to our nine volunteers standing in the



Specimen of the Smoky Winged Beetle Bandit
Photo credit: Philip Careless

cemetery next to the White Memorial Conservation Center. They were learning how to capture wasps returning to their nests, relieve them of the prey, and properly bag and notate them. Dr. Claire Rutledge from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station was showing them how to spot nest holes, how to treat the wasps when they were carrying prey, and reassuring them that

the wasps don't sting people. These volunteers were well on their way to becoming "Wasp Watchers" and becoming part of a network of watchers covering Connecticut and the rest of New England. White Memorial volunteers collected over 90 beetles from wasps last summer, verifying that several areas in and around Litchfield do not yet have EAB.

The "Wasp Watchers" will be on the lookout for EAB again this summer. And you too can join in on this important, and fun, survey. Participation requires attending a training session, and then a willingness to spend at least 3 sunny afternoons during the summer monitoring a colony of the wasps. The wasps tend to nest in hard packed earth along dirt roads and baseball fields, and several colonies have been located in the Litchfield area. The White Memorial watchers are coordinated by Jamie Fischer. To volunteer contact Jamie at (860) 567-0857 or email him at james@whitememorialcc.org.

Make a Difference

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

Don't you hate it when you use the bathroom in a public place and try to dry your hands with those dinky paper towels? Then, you end up wiping your hands on your shirt anyway because they are still not dry. It makes me long for the days when ladies wore slips. I can still see my mother and grandmother drying their hands on their slips because the endless cloth towel in the ladies room was too dirty or too wet to help.

According to the daily green from GoodHousekeeping.com, Americans use the most paper per capita in the world. Not surprised? Me either. Consider: Forests are very important "carbon sinks". They hold the carbon dioxide from transportation, factories, etc. A whopping 42% of the wood harvested is used to make paper and the paper industry is the fourth largest contributor to greenhouse gases in the U.S. If that's not bad enough, it's said that paper accounts for 25% of the landfill waste, contributing to municipal landfill waste and upping the methane emissions. At least some of that waste paper is in the form of paper towels.

So, what to do? Well, you can begin by watching the following short clip that my good friend Cathy just sent to me.

http://www.ted.com/talks/joe_smith_how_to_use_a_paper_towel.html

Okay, so what else can you do to diminish your use of paper towels? There are several options on the market. Scotch Brite by 3M, for example, makes sponges that are made from agave plant fibers and come in 100% recycled packaging. I like them a lot. Don't forget to recycle the recycled packaging. If you want to shy away from purchasing anything, and want, instead, to use something reusable, consider dish clothes and plain old rags. Hubby's old worn out undershirts make perfect, long lasting rags for any number of uses. If you go the dishcloth route, consider one for use on counter tops and one for use with dishes - two different colors or patterns, perhaps. Old towels that have seen better days are wonderfully absorbent and you don't have to throw them away when they are finished. Storing stacks or baskets of reusable rags and towels will take no more space than storing several rolls of paper towels. Our family uses one small roll of recycled paper towels *per year*. When I want to drain bacon, for example, I put a small stack of newspaper on the counter

and cover it with ONE SHEET of paper towel. Then, I recycle the newspaper.

Compared to using virgin wood, paper made with 100% recycled content uses less energy, produces less greenhouse gas emissions, less particulate emissions, less wastewater, less solid waste, and less wood. Consider using recycled paper for all your paper needs. Recycled tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, writing paper, notebooks, etc. have all come a long way since their inception.

The Forest Stewardship Council's certification of sustainable forestry practices is growing, with about 50% of the paper product market share. Advocates (like me) say the *demand* for recycled paper and sustainably harvested pulp from consumers, advertisers and magazine makers will yield the fastest reforms of the industry. As usual, the consumer drives the market. The industry producers of paper and anything else, actually, will bow to the consumer demands, in time. It just means keeping on the track. Don't waiver. Buy only recycled and reuse as much as possible.

In the meantime, shake and fold and ***make a difference.***



Amphibian Cover Board Experiment Update

by James Fischer, WMCC Director of Research

***A tool is only as good as how well it works
or as well as we know how it works.***

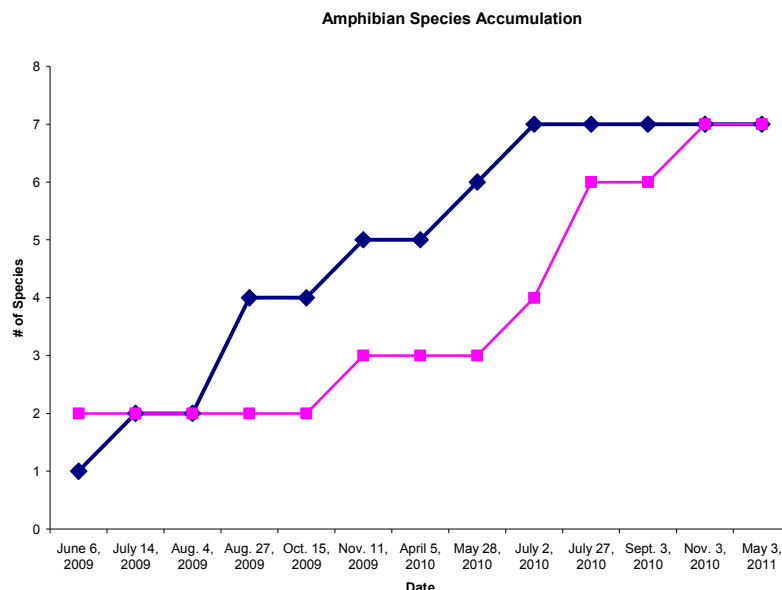
Amphibians are important species for monitoring the quality of critical habitats that help us clean the air and water we depend on everyday. Amphibians are important indicators of critical habitat quality because they breathe through their skin, some more than others because these species do not have lungs. Local and broad habitat changes can often be detected in the amphibian populations first. There are many threats to our critical habitats and these disturbances threaten the quality and quantity of our air, water, and soil.

We use cover boards to understand the diversity of amphibian species that can be found near or in critical habitats. A cover board is a piece of wood that is laid flat on the ground and is periodically checked by lifting up the board and observing the amphibians found under it. A volunteer noticed an important observation early on in the project. She observed that softwood cover boards detected more

amphibians. Over the next couple of seasons we corroborated that there appeared to be a difference between hardwood and softwood cover boards in detecting amphibian species. But we did not have enough observations to confirm it with any confidence. We were left with a question. *Is there a difference between wood type and the rate of accumulating species when using cover boards as a tool for surveying amphibians?*

We developed an experiment to answer this question, as well as other questions associated with it. We placed pairs of softwood and hardwood cover boards in a grid of 132 plots in the forest. The pairs would offer the amphibians living close by an opportunity to select which board

suitied their requirements. Softwood tree species like pines, spruces, and other conifers are softer wood than hardwood tree species like oaks, maples, locust, and black cherry. The pairs were checked every month for the past three warm seasons (frost free). A lot of data was collected by many volunteers. It was quite fun spending time in the woods lifting up the boards to see what we could find. Every board was like unwrapping a gift to reveal a surprise. We observed many species of amphibians including Redback Salamanders, Spotted Salamanders, Four-toed Salamanders, and Northern Two-lined Salamanders.



Softwood cover boards accumulate amphibian species faster than hardwoods.

These species are quite common throughout the region and their presence indicates to us that our study site is a healthy forest stand.

We observed an interesting pattern in the data after the first two seasons (See Figure). The softwood cover boards detected amphibian species faster than the hardwood cover boards. The softwood boards detected two more species at the end of the first season and as many as three more species by the middle of the second season than the hardwood boards. There was no difference observed between the two wood types by the end of the second season. Those of you who work with wood know that softwood rots or decomposes faster than hardwood.

This difference could explain the difference that we observe under the cover boards. A rotten log is the usual place where you find amphibians in the forest; therefore it would suggest that a wood type that rots faster would yield more amphibians faster.

The amount of time that you can invest into a project is usually the most important factor to insuring the success of the project. Softwood cover boards could make the difference between a project's performance when there is limited time to assess amphibian diversity.

Alternatively, what if your project was interested in the long term changes of amphibian populations? What wood type would be a better choice? Maybe you should select hardwood tree species because they would last longer as a tool and still provide the benefit of assessing the amphibian diversity just a little bit later in the study. How long do the boards ultimately last and still detect amphibians? The cover boards are still out in the woods and salamanders continue to use them. We are

continuing the project to see what happens.

As I intimated earlier, there are many questions that we are trying to answer with this project including how the size of the boards and the micro-habitat around the boards affects the boards' performance. You can learn more about this project and its development at our weblog *Wildlife Monitor* at <http://wmrcp.blogspot.com>.



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

4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
Museum Closed



6 **Jimmy Griswold in Concert!**
RED, WHITE, & BLUES
See page 7 for details.

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

7 **Exploring the Boulder Loop**
with Gerri Griswold
10:00 A.M., Meet in front
of the Museum.



7 **Early Evening Kayak Adventure**
with Robyn Dinda

Let the beavers lead the way! 5:00 P.M. Meet at
the bridge on White's Woods Road. Bring a
flashlight and dinner. For more information call
Robyn at 860 567 0738.

Stress Reduction and Restoration
with Nature with Marlow Shami
July 8, August 19, September 9
See page 7 for details.

14 **Third Annual Iceland Affair**
featuring
Icelandic Recording Artists
Lay Low and Svavar Knutur!



See page 7 for details.

15 **Fly Casting with Dr. Frank Schildgen**
from Trout Unlimited
1:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room Lawn

18 **WNS in Bats: A Conservation Horror**
Story with Jenny Dickson
6:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room



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



21 **A Tisket a Tasket Make a Berry Basket**
See page 7 for details.

21 **Edible Plant Walk and Identification**
with Andy Dobos and Deneen Bernier
See page 7 for details.



28 **Evening at Little Pond**

Gerri Griswold leads a dusk walk in search
of herons, frogs, beavers, and more. Ages
10 and up. Meet at the South Lake St.
entrance to Little Pond. 6:00 P.M.

AUGUST

3 - 9 **Museum Kids Free Week***

Courtesy of Joan and Jack Benham
honoring Brianna R. Parcell

3/4 **A Celebration of the Bantam River**
See page 7 for details.



11 **Things That Go Bump in the Night**

Learn to identify all of those insect,
owl, and frog voices that lend such a
beautiful ambience to a summer night.
Fran Zygmunt leads the way. Meet in
front of the A. B. Ceder Room.
6:30 P.M. S'mores after the walk!



12 **Simple Summer Landscape in**
Watercolor with Betsy Rogers-Knox
See page 7 for details.

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

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



18 **Exploring Ongley Pond**
Marlow Shami arms you with a net and
helps you identify your
findings! 2:00 P.M. Meet in
front of the A. B. Ceder Room.



19 **Old Fashioned Haying with Horses**
Members of the Northwest Connecticut
Draft Horse Association show us how it
was done in the good old days!
10:00 A.M., North Shore Road.

19 **Fly Casting with Dr. Frank Schildgen**
from Trout Unlimited
1:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room Lawn

25 **Exploring Camp Townsend**

Put on your clam diggers, pack a
picnic, and help Gerri Griswold
create the perfect summer
afternoon! 11:00 A.M.



Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.

SEPTEMBER

1 **Meet the North American Porcupine**

You haven't met Pacer yet? She'll needle
her way into your heart! Get to know one
of our least understood mammals.
2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

3 **LABOR DAY**
Museum Closed



7 **Conservation Inspiration**

Dinner and Fireside Reading of
Leopold, Thoreau, Carson, and
others with author David Leff.
See page 7 for details.



8 **The Wonderful World of Lichens**
With Barbara and Peter Rzasz
See page 7 for details.

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

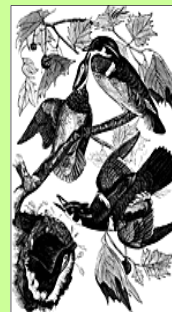
15 **Seeing the World in Macro**

Bring your smart phone, iPad, or
conventional camera. Fran and Liz
Zygmunt will acquaint you with nature's
tiniest building blocks and help you to
appreciate this miniature world. For all skill
levels. 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room.

21 **Star Party!**

Weather permitting, star gazing begins at
8:00 P.M. in the Sawmill Field.

September 22, 2012
31st Annual
Family Nature Day



Atka the Wolf
Sky Hunters in Flight:
Brian Bradley, Falconer
Pacer the North
American Porcupine
Riverside Reptiles
The Bat Lady
Music by Andes Manta
And
Jennifer Moncuse
See back page for
information!

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

29 **Exploring Camp Columbia and the**
Solnit Parcel with Gerri Griswold

Observe interesting rocky outcrops. Visit a
research site where salamander species are
studied. End the walk with a sweet
reward. 10:00 A. M. Meet in the Museum
parking lot.



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

Community Service at Point Folly

Story and Photo by Lukas Hyder, Forest Superintendent

This past winter, we were approached by Donna Dains with a proposal that the camping group she is part of would like to do volunteer service at the White Memorial Point Folly Family Campground. She is the Conservation Director of the Connecticut chapter of the Family Campers & RVers, which is a non-profit volunteer family camping organization. We became quite interested as we learned that they would supply a lot of labor over one weekend, in order to help us get ready for the next camping season. Prior to this year the group had spent the past 30 years helping out at Rocky Neck State Park.

Naturally we (and especially John Grabowski the Campground Manager) were happy to have them here and their mission was to get the Point Folly campground in shape before the season. We met with them prior to the weekend and as we went over the work list, Donna kept asking "Is that it? What else can

we do?"

They spent the last weekend in April at Point Folly, just before our official opening



Family Campers and RVers in front of the WMCC Museum .

date of the first weekend in May. A few campers came in on Thursday, with the remaining campers arriving throughout the day on Friday. They worked throughout the

weekend and left on Sunday. In all, there were over 15 families, and a total of 36 people. The weather was cool, but sunny and they got an amazing amount of work done, and almost had too much fun doing it.

Some of the tasks that were tackled and completed include; cleaning out all the fire rings, picking up any litter they found, painting the floors in all three outhouses, as well as the walls and stalls in the large outhouse. They repaired and stained the lattice around the pump house, raked and cleaned up all the sites, cut bittersweet vines, and clipped brush growing into the road. They also cleaned up site 38, made it larger and cut and moved brush and dug out many roots.

It was a great weekend's worth of work that was accomplished and we hope to have them back next year. We will now start the year ahead of schedule, with many of the maintenance tasks completed. Many thanks to the FCRVrs!

Volunteer Spotlight: Lee Swift

Story and Photo by Gerri Griswold, Director of Administration and Development

It's only natural that Lee Swift would gravitate as an adult to volunteerism! She was brought up in a family of uber volunteers! Swift's parents were extremely active in their community. Lee's father was a personnel manager for Southern New England Telephone and her mother had her hands full staying at home raising Lee and her three younger brothers. The family was involved in swimming and tennis clubs. Mom gave her time to the League of Women Voters and both parents became involved in the Cheshire Community Theater. Swift's father even wrote a book called "Community Groups and You". Family time was spent on trips to museums and just spending quality time outdoors. "Dad always took us outside!"

Swift received a degree from the University of Connecticut in Physical Education and a Masters Degree from the University of Rhode Island in Library Science, an obvious influence of her mother who served on a library board. Teaching brought Lee to Litchfield where she taught gym briefly at Litchfield High School but found her true love was among books and eventually worked at both the Taft School Library and the Oliver Wolcott Library and eventually became the

Director of The Morris Public Library where she spent ten years before retiring.

She was a fierce competitor in tennis and golf at the Litchfield Country Club where she



Lee Swift in her element at the ice house ruins on Bantam Lake.

excelled at singles, doubles, and mixed doubles in tennis and was a two time golf champion!

Swift became a Conservation Center member in 1982 when she volunteered to help out cataloging the Nature Library. She also served on the Education and Activities Committee. Where she really found her niche, however, was serving as a local historian assisting Education Director Jeff Greenwood

on his walks to South Farms Inn, Camp Columbia, and Swift's personal favorite...her absolute darling...ice harvesting and her beloved ice house ruins. "I would love to see

the ruins exposed so that people can get a vision of just how big it was." Today she continues to toil in our library putting our books onto a database. Lee also works part time as Assistant Curator of Library and Archives at the Litchfield Historical Society!

In her spare time, Lee enjoys playing tennis, researching Morris history, genealogy, and on the rare occasion when she finds herself twittling her thumbs...she settles into her artistic gear and makes the most splendid creations. Swift has crafted her own Christmas cards since sixth grade. She moved on to jewel-like decorated boxes and needlepoint embroidery pillows but thought "how many pillows can you make?" Now she focuses her talents on delicately crafted greetings cards and charming felt ornaments (both available in our gift shop!)

She's cerebral, she's crafty, she's a kicker on a hike, and THOUGHTFUL, and above all she is one of our most coveted and multi-faceted Conservation Center volunteers. Thanks Swift! Hats off to you for all you do!



Bantam Fuel * Sunset Views, LLC
 Union Savings Bank
 Litchfield Hills Audubon Society * Woods Pit BBQ & Mexican Cafe
 Executive Auto Sales, Inc. / Litchfield Ford * Litchfield Bancorp
 Ericson Insurance Services, LLC
 S.H. Smith & Company * The Woodhall School, Inc.
 Frank E. Fisher & Sons, LLC * Torrington Savings Bank
 Litchfield True Value / Just Ask Rental

WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER, INC. ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 4, 2012

The Annual Meeting of the White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc. was called to order by President Diedrick at 3:44 pm., on May 4, 2012, at the White Memorial Foundation office.

The minutes of the May 6, 2011 Annual Meeting were approved upon motion of Mr. Ching and second by Mr. Samponaro.

Mr. Samponaro presented the report of the Nominating Committee. For members of the Board of Directors for terms of three years: Henry Perrault and Gerald Gault. For members of the Education and Activities Committee for terms of three years: Deneen Bernier, Melissa Brutting, Peni Clark, Guy Weik, John Markelon, and Heather Shirlock. Upon motion of Ms. Pollock and second by Mr. Gault the Secretary was authorized to cast one ballot for the slate as presented. Center staff Gerri Griswold, James Fischer, and Jeffrey Greenwood reported on accomplishments for 2011 and plans for 2012.

As there was no further business, upon motion of Ms. Pollock and second by Mr. Perrault, the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 pm.



The day, water, sun, moon,
 night —
 I do not have to purchase
 these things with money.

- Plautis



SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS Some Classes Still Have Openings!



This coming summer promises to be another great one for our summer programs for children since all of last year's staff are coming back! The Wee Discoverers program (story-hour type series for preschoolers ages 4 and 5) will retain its expanded form of two hours led by Bunny Mosakowski. It will be held on five Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. The good news for Nature Adventurers is that our veteran leaders Jane Dickinson and Debbie Goepel are returning this summer to conduct the programs starting on June 25 and running until August 3. This series runs from 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and is

offered to children entering grades 1 and 2 in the fall. The Natural History Explorers programs for children entering grades 3 through 9 will again be handled by Jeff Greenwood with Sarah Carpenter returning to assist. Explorers I will begin on June 25 with weekly sessions running until August 10. They meet daily from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

At this point there are many openings for registration in all three programs. However things often move fast, so don't wait too long to get registered or you might miss the boat!



White Nose Syndrome Update Reprinted from the U.S. Geological Survey



The appropriately named fungus *Geomyces destructans* is the cause of deadly white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats, according to research published in the journal *Nature*. The study by U.S. Geological Survey scientists and partners, conducted at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisc., provides the first direct evidence that the fungus *G. destructans* causes WNS, a rapidly spreading disease in North American bats. "By identifying what causes WNS, this study will greatly enhance the ability of decision makers to develop management strategies to preserve vulnerable bat populations and the ecosystem services that they provide in the U.S. and Canada," said Anne Kinsinger, USGS Associate Director of Ecosystems. During the study, 100 percent of healthy little brown bats exposed to *G. destructans* while hibernating in captivity

developed WNS. Additionally, the study demonstrated that *G. destructans* can be spread through contact between individual bats. "While our study confirmed that *G. destructans* is spread bat-to-bat, it is also important to note that virtually all pathogens, especially spore-producing fungi, are spread by multiple routes," Blehert said. "This is the reason that in an effort to further control the spread of WNS, resource management agencies have implemented universal precautions, including limiting human access to sensitive environments occupied by bats, decontaminating equipment and clothing moved between these environments, and restricting the movement of equipment between sites."

Insect-eating bats provide economically valuable ecological services that are estimated to save the U.S. agricultural industry alone

billions of dollars each year in insect pest-control expenses. However, U.S. bat populations have been declining at an alarming rate since 2006, when white-nose syndrome first appeared in New York State. Since then, the fungus *G. destructans* has spread southward and westward and has now been found in 19 states and 4 Canadian provinces. Bat declines in the Northeast, the most severely affected region in the U.S., thus far have exceeded 80 percent. This study was conducted by scientists from the USGS, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Bucknell University.

Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Workshops: Summer 2012



Jimmy Griswold: Red, White, & Blues!
July 6, 2012, 7:00 P.M.,
Activity Shed
All Tickets: \$10.00

Winsted native Jimmy Griswold blazes into town with his blistering brand of bionic blues. Griswold has released 4 national and internationally reviewed cd's (available in our gift shop!). He has opened for musical royalty: Johnny Winters, Robert Cray, and Jimmy Vaughn to name a few. If you relish the blues, don't miss the Jimmy Griswold experience!



Stress Reduction & Restoration with Nature
July 8, August 19, September 9, 10:00 A.M.
A. B. Ceder Room, Price per session:
Members: \$15.00 Non members: \$20.00

Marlow Shami will teach you to talk like a river...or think like a tree! Experience a creative mix of meditation and nature-inspired activities with a group of like-minded people. No meditation experience required. Bring your journal and an open mind. Each gathering will be different.



Iceland Affair!
July 14, 2012 12:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M.
FREE

Sample Icelandic foods. Meet Icelandic Horses, dogs, sheep, and chickens. Enjoy a presentation by renowned Icelandic ornithologist Johann Oli Hilmarrsson. Tom Alena from the Talcott Mountain Science Academy will discuss Iceland's geology and frequent flyer Gerri Griswold will deliver a travelogue showcasing the natural wonders of this spectacular nation. **THIS EVENT IS FREE!** The day will be capped off with a concert by Icelandic recording artists Lay Low and Svavar Knutur. Lovisa and Svavar are two of Iceland's most acclaimed recording artists. Pre-payment for the concert is required. Tickets can be picked up at the Conservation Center or will be held at the door. **SEATING IS LIMITED!**

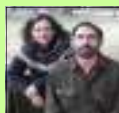


Lay Low & Svavar Knutur in Concert
July 14, 2012, 7:00 P.M.
Activity Shed
Suggested Donation: \$10.00



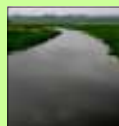
A Tisket a Tasket Make a Berry Basket!
July 21, 2012, 11:00 A.M.
Meeting Barn
Members: \$35.00 Non members: \$40.00

Learn the fine art of basket weaving from multi-talented Master Gardener Roxann Lovell, owner of *Aerie Mountain Garden, Gift, and Floral Shop* in Barkhamsted. Make a basic handled berry basket out of flexible rattan. Materials included but you must bring clothes pins and garden shears. Appropriate for ages 12 and up.



Edible Plant Walk
July 21 2012, 12:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Meet in the Museum.
Members: \$20.00 Non members: \$30.00

Andy Dobos and Deneen Bernier from Three Red Trees School of Natural Living will help you learn some common, easily identifiable edible wild plants and how to responsibly harvest and prepare them. Bring a notebook, camera, protection from the elements, and a cup or mug for tea at the end of the walk. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.



A Celebration of the Bantam River
August 3, 2012, 6:30 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room
August 4, 2012, 6:30 A.M. on the Bantam River and Litchfield Town Beach

Friday evening enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres and a glorious pictorial tribute to nature presented by Washington Chef, Photographer, and Adventurer, Horst Antosch. Saturday morning at 6:30 A.M. meet at the boat launch on Whites Woods Road for an early morning interpretive paddle down the Bantam River with Robyn Dinda and Dave Faber, owner of CT Outdoors LLC ending at Litchfield Town Beach where you will be treated to a delicious breakfast.



Simple Summer Landscape in Watercolor
August 12, 2012, 1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
A. B. Ceder Room
Members: \$30.00 Non members: \$40.00

Learn to paint a very simple step-by-step summer landscape with internationally celebrated botanical artist Betsy Rogers-Knox. This workshop is suitable for ages 12 and up. All skill levels are welcome. All supplies are included!



Conservation Inspiration
Fireside Reading and Dinner with David Leff
September 7, 2012, 7:00 P.M.
Kienholz Fire Pit and Meeting Barn
Members: \$20.00 Non members: \$25.00

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



The Wonderful World of Lichens
September 8, 2012, 1:00 P.M.
A. B. Ceder Room
Members: \$10.00 Non-members: \$15.00

Barbara and Peter Rzasas like lichens! Learn to recognize different lichen forms and structures, their ecology, habitat requirements, ancient and modern uses. When viewed under a hand lens one can observe beautiful pixie cups, disks, and coral-like shrubs.

Clip me!

_____ Jimmy Griswold.....	ALL TICKETS: \$10.00
_____ Stress Reduction in Nature... 7/8 8/19 9/9.....	Member: \$15.00 Non Member: \$20.00
_____ Iceland Affair: Lay Low and Svavar Knutur.....	Suggested Donation: \$10.00
_____ Make a Berry Basket	Member: \$35.00 Non Member: \$40.00
_____ Edible Plant Walk.....	Member: \$20.00 Non Member: \$30.00
_____ Celebration of the Bantam River	Member: \$20.00 Non Member: \$30.00
_____ Summer Landscape.....	Member: \$30.00 Non Member: \$40.00
_____ Conservation Inspiration with David Leff.....	Member: \$20.00 Non Member: \$25.00
_____ Lichens.....	Member: \$10.00 Non Member: \$15.00

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Address _____

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Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please circle one: member non-member

Payment enclosed:

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

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

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

31ST ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

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

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



RIVERSIDE REPTILES



JENNIFER MONCUSE



ATKA THE WOLF



ANDES MANTA



SKY HUNTERS IN FLIGHT



PACER THE PORCUPINE



THE BAT LADY

PLUS!!!!!!!

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