

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center

Vol. XXXVII No. 2
Spring 2019

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



The Old Ash,
Etching by Stanley Roy Badmin, 1929



*Ash Tree Fairy from Flower Fairies of the
Trees, Cicely Mary Barker, 1940*

SHADOWS ON CRAFT and CULTURE: The Loss of Ash is Felt Beyond the Forest

By David K. Leff, Reprinted with permission of *Northern Woodlands* www.northernwoodlands.org

With snow on the ground to mid-March, trees in Connecticut's Naugatuck State Forest presented a dense network of bare branches against a sky the color of faded denim. But I didn't need leaves to see that the largest tree in sight was dead. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection forester Jerry Milner told me that fewer than two years ago this grand white ash was alive and vibrant. Now bark was sloughing off the trunk, revealing an elaborate and deadly serpentine calligraphy of tunnels left by the emerald ash borer (EAB).

The metallic-green invasive insect, about the size of a fingernail, has killed tens of millions of trees since its discovery in Michigan in 2002. It's moving east, and the full brunt of the scourge is now being felt in much of New York and New England. Along streets and in the woods, lush canopies of delicate, pinnately compound leaves are thinning, and blond patches are appearing on infected trunks where woodpeckers have scraped off outer flakes of bark in their hunt for EAB larvae and pupae. In some places, dead, skeletal trees are literally falling apart, creating roadside and pedestrian hazards that strain local tree-maintenance budgets.



The Emerald Ash Borer leaves behind an "elaborate and deadly serpentine calligraphy of tunnels" that threaten traditionally relied upon ash. Photo: David Leff

Much has been written about the ecological consequences of the species' disappearance. But the cultural loss, and the utilitarian loss, will also be devastating.

"Ash is one of the greatest gifts with which nature has endowed man in the temperate regions of the planet over the course of human history," wrote British journalist Robert Penn, whose 2015 book *The Man Who Made Things Out Of Trees* describes myriad objects, from spoons to tables, that are crafted from a single mature ash.

While ash may not have the pizzazz of maple or cherry, it may be used in more iconic products than any other tree. Ash lumber is used in furniture, flooring, axe and shovel handles, shelving, and paneling. White ash has long been prized for snowshoes, toboggans, and baseball bats, as well as canoe gunwales, thwarts, and paddles. Black ash (called brown ash in Maine) is used to make baskets of all kinds – from packbaskets to fishing creels. Substitute materials for ash wood may be found and clever minds and skilled hands may discover workarounds to attain the properties that alternative materials lack, but in many cases, there will never be such a perfect marriage of natural materials to finished products.

NEW WOOD FOR THE BOYS OF SUMMER

No sound in sports so succinctly or beautifully conveys the spirit of a game as "the crack of the bat" when a hitter connects with a pitched baseball. For generations, that sound resonated from ash bats. Diamond heroes like Babe Ruth, Jo DiMaggio, Ted Williams, and Hank Aaron all swung ash bats.

But ash doesn't command the same market share it once did – a decline that predates the emerald ash borer. Just about the

time that EAB was making its first appearance in the US, maple bats were gaining popularity, and today, they have all but displaced ash bats among professionals. Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Joe Carter was the first to swing a maple bat in the Majors in 1997, though they really took off after San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds used maple to hit a record 73 home runs in the 2001 season. Hard maple has a tight grain structure that doesn't flex like ash, and proponents say the hardness transfers more energy to the ball, causing it to jump off the bat with higher velocity and greater distance. These claims have not been backed up by science, but regardless, ash has been abandoned by many pro ballplayers.



The Evolution of a Louisville Slugger

Until about 15 years ago, Hillerich & Bradsby, makers of the legendary Louisville Slugger, produced bats only from ash, according to Brian Boltz, general manager of Larimar and Norton, the company's forest products subsidiary. Now, roughly 80 percent of Major League bats are maple. Still, about 70 percent of Hillerich & Bradsby's total bat production remains in lower cost ash, primarily to satisfy the minor league and amateur markets. The price of ash is rising as it becomes increasingly scarce, and within 2 to 3 years, supply will not meet demand, said Boltz. The company is now experimenting with poplar, yellow birch, and soft maple as substitute materials.

(Continued on page 2)

Continued from page 1

As for the “crack of the bat” sound, some say maple has a crisper, louder pop. Kyle Murphy, wood bat products manager for sporting goods giant Rawlings, and a former minor leaguer, isn’t sure that maple rings louder. For players, he said, it’s the feel that matters, and they like maple’s “harder feel” on contact with the ball. Ash may be significant in baseball history and admired for its beautiful grain, acknowledged Seth Cramer, CEO of Ohio-based Phoenix bats, but it probably won’t be missed much in the long run.

THE FREEDOM TO ROAM

Snowshoes give the freedom to roam when snow lies deep. The tubular aluminum-and-neoprene models introduced in the 1980’s are now dominant; they’re effective in icy, steep terrain. But traditional hand-woven, steam-bent, ash-framed shoes cannot be beaten for traversing deep powder. They are quiet, and unlike their metal counterparts with solid decks, they do not accumulate ice and snow. Made in various shapes with alluring names like “bear paw” and “beavertail” that suggest their design, traditional snowshoes are beautiful, practical works of art.

Founded in 1956 and located in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, Iverson Outdoors is a major producer of wood snowshoes, including those sold by Main-based outfitter L.L.Bean. The company has yet to have a problem obtaining white ash, but within a few years, the supply will run out. Alternatives such as cherry and yellow birch are under consideration. Cherry has an attractive rosy tint and bends reasonably well, but it’s heavier and more expensive than white ash, according to Iverson’s co-owner and vice president Jim Baker. “The ash snowshoe goes back millennia,” he said wistfully, “and one of the main reasons we offer our products is in keeping with this tradition. Something significant will be lost.”

In business for nearly a quarter-century, Bill Novacek of Coos Canoe and Snowshoe in

Lancaster, New Hampshire, is a self-taught artisan who joyfully proclaimed that he’s still learning. “I love working with wood and other natural materials,” he told me. His snowshoes are made solely of steam-bent ash, and he weaves them with rawhide largely obtained from local hunters and farmers. Novacek admires ash for its strength and flexibility, but he’s ecstatic about its rich and well-defined grain. In canoes, he typically uses it for gunwales, thwarts, seats, and stems. There are substitutes like cherry or spruce, but nothing does everything that ash can. EAB is not yet affecting his supply chain, so getting material hasn’t been a problem, but sadly, he knows that the insect casts an ominous shadow on the future of his craft.



Bill Mackowski,
billmackowskitraditionals.com
Photo credit: Peter Demski
www.pressherald.com

Bill Mackowski, a former bush pilot in northern Canada, learned snowshoe-making over 25 years ago. It was “a truly life-altering opportunity,” he said. First mentored by a self-taught craftsman, Mackowski then visited as many Native American snowshoe-makers as he could while accumulating a collection of almost 200 pairs, many now on loan to museums and universities. They are “works of art,” he proclaimed.

Doing business as Mackowski Traditionals in Milford, Maine, he makes snowshoes in many styles, using both ash and the birch

favoured by peoples in the north where ash doesn’t grow. With contagious enthusiasm, he described ash as a wood of a hundred uses, admiring its sturdiness, strength, pliability, and beauty.

Mackowski also handcrafts baskets and creels from black ash, often for upscale outdoor retailer Orvis. The wood is “the most unique and durable of all natural or manmade materials,” he rhapsodized. “Nothing can compare with its texture, workability, and visual beauty. Even its smell has an unusual and inspiring quality.” With ash on the way out, birch, maple, oak, and tamarack are becoming popular alternative materials.

UTILITY AND BEAUTY

Many basketmakers speak of black ash with reverence, as though it has spiritual qualities. Unlike the widely distributed white ash, black ash grows in swampy pockets, mysterious-feeling places where most people don’t go.

Walking into a black ash swamp is like entering a separate room within a forest. Hummocky ground dotted with dark pockets of standing water and mounds of luxuriant moss exudes a singular, primal atmosphere. There’s a slight scent of muck and rotting leaves that’s rich and sweet. Visitors must climb over fallen trees and dance around pockets of water. Black ash trunks stand out among other species because of their gray, flaky, sometimes corky bark tattooed with blackish-green lichen. Many trees look stunted and grow at odd angles. It’s easy to become awestruck, lose track of time, and stay longer than anticipated. Black ash is perfect for basket making. It can be cut into long ribbons as thin and flexible as silk and as tough as metal. This remarkable quality occurs because the spring portion of a black ash’s annual growth rings contain large pores with lots of air pockets and little wood fiber between them, which allows the rings to be separated easily in a freshly cut tree.

(Continued on page 4)

The Connecticut Community Foundation Give Local Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills is a 36-hour online community giving event that encourages donors to lend their support to the nonprofit organizations that work every day to make our community stronger.

Every dollar donated to the Conservation Center from 7 a.m. on April 23rd to 7 p.m. on April 24th will help defray the cost of the **38th Annual Family Nature Day**, which takes place **September 28, 2019!** Your donations will be stretched with bonus funds provided by the **Connecticut Community Foundation** and generous **Give Local** sponsors. We are also eligible to win amazing cash prizes during the event!

Watch our website www.whitememorialccf.org or read your *Habitattler* for more details on how you can donate, or visit our personal *Give Local* page : <https://givelocalccf.org/npo/white-memorial-conservation-center>



We might not be able to stop EAB but we might be able to slow it down.

By James Fischer, Research Director, White Memorial Conservation Center

Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive insect that threatens all ash trees at White Memorial and has caused broad mortality ever since it was first discovered on the property in 2014. Ash trees are important for our natural ecosystems and local economy. Ash trees provide food for a variety of wildlife including seeds that are consumed by small mammals as well as insects living in the bark ridges and furrows that are consumed by songbirds. Ash trees shade our homes from the intense summer sun, which encourages us to use less energy to cool our homes. The loss of ash trees at White Memorial will be evident for many human generations and will be added to all of the stories that we've learned before (i.e. American Chestnut, American Elm, etc.). The majority of ash trees will die and succumb to the girdling effects of larvae feeding on the living tissue just under the bark. The peak rate of ash mortality on the property will occur over the next several years. One noticeable sign of the trees being undermined by larvae is the bark along the entire height of their bole exhibits a pattern referred to as "blonding." Ash bark flakes off easily and the freshly exposed cork is a light-tan color. Within a few days, entire ash trunks suddenly appear light brown or a blonde color. This sudden color change is caused by woodpeckers because they flake off the bark while searching for the larvae hidden underneath the bark. And when the tree is inundated with larvae chewing on the living tissue, woodpeckers methodically descend each trunk in search of food. Take a closer look at one of these ash trees the next time you encounter it during a walk and you will see two different small holes. The small circular, often nonsymmetrical holes were created by the woodpeckers, while the small "D" shaped holes are the primary evidence left behind as the EAB larvae emerge from under the bark as adults. You can see many blonded ash trees on the property.

Our forest management program has been targeting ash trees on the property to preemptively salvage trees that have high market value while leaving less marketable trees to produce seeds. Ash trees produced a higher than average amount of

seeds during the 2018 growing season. Hopefully these seeds will germinate and recruit a future cohort once most of the mature trees succumb to EAB.



Blonded Ash Tree



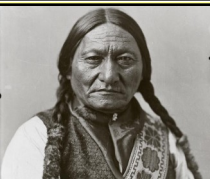
"D" Shaped Exit Hole

Dead or dying ash trees can also pose a risk to infrastructure and management activities. Some trees were identified as potentially hazardous due to their proximity to buildings so they were removed by local professional arborists. Many ash trees were removed near field edges and roads by our own logging crew to prevent them from blocking trails and mowing. These management activities are expensive and like many home owners, White Memorial had to absorb the cost of these activities, as well. Eversource Energy has been steadily cutting back dead or dying ash trees near utility right-of-ways, in addition to town maintenance crews clearing

trees along roads. These costs are passed onto the utility customers and taxpayers.

Preemptive removal of ash trees is important because we expect an overwhelming level of dying trees over the next several years, but the performance of other control measures needs to be evaluated. We continue to partner with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station on two projects, both of which use organisms to aid our monitoring and control efforts. We utilize *Cerceris* wasps to survey for Emerald Ash Borer population. *Cerceris* wasps are solitary ground nesting wasps that inhabit compacted sandy soils. Every July female wasps hunt for the family of beetles that EAB is related to and bring them back to the ground nest where the carcasses will serve as a source of food for the next generation. We take advantage of the relationship by temporarily capturing the female as she returns to the nest with a paralyzed Buprestid beetle. She drops the beetles she has preyed into our insect nets. The beetles are identified and we use this information to indicate how abundant EAB is in the area. We are currently at or near the peak abundance of EAB so *Cerceris* are preying lots of them. As ash trees decline then EAB abundance will decrease and *Cerceris* will use other beetles as their food. We have released two other parasitic insects that specifically targets EAB. One targets adults while the other species targets larval stages. The parasites have only been on the landscape for a couple years and the results look promising. One of the two species have been widely documented throughout the property which suggests it is capable of dispersing and is finding lots of EAB to parasitize.

Although we have yet to see the peak rate of ash mortality caused by EAB, White Memorial has engaged every resource at our disposal to monitor and control the impact of this invasive insect. These efforts are just getting warmed up and will likely not stop the eventual death of most of our ash trees, but hopefully they will slow the rate of ash mortality so that we can encourage the next generation of ash or other trees species to replace them.



"Behold, my friends, the spring is come;
the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun,
and we shall soon see the results of their love!"

~ Sitting Bull

After debarking, a harvested log is pounded with a blunt instrument, and the loosened growth rings are removed in lengthy strips. These strips can be split into even thinner ones. Scraped smooth, they are then ready for weaving. Native Americans have woven black-ash baskets for thousands of years. Originally used for gathering and transporting items, traditional potato baskets and backpack baskets have largely yielded to those designed as works of art. Loss of the tree is not just personal, it's cultural. "To most people," wrote Robin Wall Kimmerer, a botanist and Potawatomi woman, "an invasive species represents losses in a landscape, empty spaces to be filled by something else. To those who carry the responsibility of an ancient relationship, the empty niche means empty hands and a hole in the collective heart."

Black ash's unique qualities have attracted a wide circle of basket makers beyond Native American communities. Influenced by utilitarian shaker and traditional New England styles, award-winning basket maker JoAnn Catsos has increasingly been drawn to smaller, more intricate forms during her 30-year career. Her baskets are in private homes and public collections, including the Smithsonian's. Working from home on a quiet street in Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, she smiled broadly and talked with sheer delight about her craft. Baskets adorned shelves and nooks in every room of the house. They hung from ceilings, lamps, and other objects. Among the beautiful, complexly woven, and often colorful pieces in her workshop was a poster about EAB.

The marauding insect hasn't reached their Berkshire hamlet yet, JoAnn's husband Steve explained, but it won't be long. He'll be among the first to know since he harvests trees nearby. "There's more black ash out there than you'd

think, but most people don't walk through swamps in ankle-deep water," he laughed, running a hand through his close-cropped gray beard. Like many craftsmen, he's always on the lookout for trees.

Steve led us into his shop, which was once a garage. Surrounded by tools, wooden molds, and coils of material ready to be worked, JoAnn enthusiastically described weaving as



JoAnn & Steve Catsos
<http://www.joannkellycatsos.com>

meditative – a time to think and let the mind wander. Steve demonstrated a device he designed for more easily creating thin strips. Then, with a melancholy look, JoAnn told me that nothing can replace the flexibility, beauty and strength of black ash. "I'll find something else to weave," she said, "But it won't be the same."

Despite the rise of synthetic materials and mass production, the fate of the ash trees reminds us that our connection to nature is deeper than we might recognize – that some

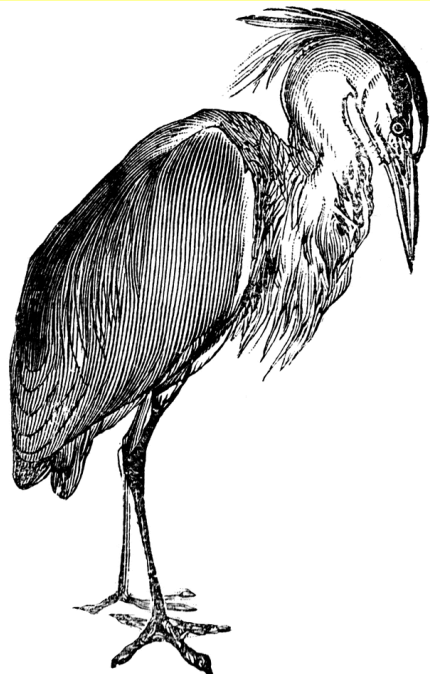
things cannot be replaced; that something is always lost with substitutes. Ash baseball bats may go the way of ash tennis rackets because other materials perform more desirably, but it's not merely nostalgic to miss the beautiful and unique qualities of the original. In some cases, as with baskets and snowshoes, performance and beauty are uniquely entwined, and nothing is better.

Seed banks and the release of EAB predators by scientists each provide some hope for the survival of the ash – or at least for a future revival. Stockpiling logs may allow certain crafts to continue a while longer. But even as we lose living specimens, we must cherish the objects created from them. Perhaps the ingenuity and craftsmanship of such things will inspire the hard work ahead. Twentieth-century naturalist Donald C. Peattie maintained that among the trees of our region, "white ash is Nature's last word." It'll take science that's not yet perfected, and more than a bit of hope, to avoid yet another sylvan dead language.

David K. Leff is an essayist, Pushcart Prize-nominated poet, the author of 10 books, and a former deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. In 2016, the National Park Service appointed him to a year-long tenure as poet-in-residence for the New England National Scenic Trail. For more go to www.davidkleff.com

Mr. Leff will give a presentation on June 29, 2019. Dinner is included.

See page seven for details.
Call 860-567-0857 or register at www.whitememorialcc.org



This program is conducted by the Conservation Center's Education and Activities Committee.

29th Annual Museum Sleep-In

April 26-27, 2019 5:00 p.m. Friday to 12:00 noon Saturday

Kids in Grades 4-6, join us for a real-life "Night at the Museum" experience! In addition to having a slumber party amongst the exhibits in the Museum, we'll embark on a night hike, gather around a campfire for stories and songs, make some special crafts, explore Ongley Pond, and so much more.

In the morning, you'll be treated to breakfast and a special program featuring live animals! No parents allowed!!! **Bring a friend and make new ones too.**

Cost: \$60/member, \$120/non-member
(Covers all materials, snacks, and breakfast)

Registrations must be received by April 20.
First come, first served.

DON'T DELAY! This program is limited to 25 participants. Confirmation will be sent along with a checklist of things to bring. Event will occur rain or shine.

For more information, please call us at 860-567-0857 or visit us at www.whitememorialcc.org

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ALEIGHA MASON

Story and Photo by Gerri Griswold

It may not be common knowledge that, without the help of devoted volunteers from Wamogo Regional High School, the Conservation Center would have fewer or possibly no birds of prey or reptiles. The students who come through our doors as part of the SAE program (Student Agricultural Experience), are the main caregivers for Navar, Shakespeare, Miss Piggy, Dotty, Corny, Sally, Gordon, Grandma, Jacob, and Rocky. Aleigha Mason, a senior at Wamogo, is one of these precious volunteers.

Aleigha was born in Waterbury, the youngest of three children. "I have two older brothers. I got picked on a lot!" They were raised by a tenacious single Mom who worked numerous jobs in order to indulge her children in regular camping escapades to Lone Oak Campground in East Canaan. "I never liked being inside. My brothers like their video games and couldn't stand being outside!" Aleigha's love of nature was also forged in Girl Scouts having participated in scouting from kindergarten through seventh grade.

Aleigha attended Lewis S. Mills High School, but found out about the abundance of animal-based learning opportunities at Wamogo. She originally wanted to



Care Package: Aleigha Mason

be a veterinarian but quickly gravitated towards wildlife and wildlife rehabilitation. "I love helping the animals but also helping the public understand their role in protecting them." White Memorial was a very good fit for Aleigha to engage her passion! "I love being with the animals.

I LOVE Veronica!" (the wild Red-tailed Hawk who has been freeloading mice from us for over fifteen years!)

Upon graduation, Aleigha will attend Northwestern Connecticut Community College to take basic college courses. From there she is unsure where the future and her ambitions will take her. She would love to travel. "Just EVERYWHERE...to the mountains. I'm not into beaches. I would love to hike the Appalachian Trail."

In her spare time, Mason focuses much of her energy on sports. She participates in both field hockey and tennis. She is very involved in natural resources at Wamogo. "It takes up a lot of time. There are lots of hikes and field trips and many projects."

She is especially fond of the other volunteers she works with at The Conservation Center. "People who volunteer here spend so much time and are so dedicated to the animals."

YOU are the company you keep, Aleigha. Thank you for your three years of dedication to our animals.



"Sense" sational Spring Break Camp

Monday-Thursday, April 15-18

Grades 1-3: 9:30am-12:30pm

Grades 4-6: 1:30-4:30pm

Members: \$20/child per session
or \$70/child for the whole week

Non-Members: \$35/child per
session or \$120/child
for the whole week



Kids in Grades 1-6: Looking for a great way to spend your spring break? Why not spend it in the classroom—the OUTDOOR classroom that is!

Compare your senses to those of wild animals while playing games, making crafts, and most importantly, getting outside!

Meet live animals too. Snacks will be served between adventures. *Parents are welcome to stay, but it is not required. Meet in the Cedar Room. Advanced registration is required.*

Summer Nature Camp

Wee Discoverers

Weekly 2-hour programs for children ages 4-5 featuring stories, songs, crafts, and outdoor adventures. Sign up by session or for all five. Dates: Tuesdays, July 9, 16, 23, 30, and Aug. 6

Nature Adventurers

Week-long sessions featuring outdoor discovery, games, books, songs, and crafts that help kids learn about the natural world around them. For children entering grades 1-2. Sign up by week or for all 3 weeks. Dates: July 8-26

Natural History Explorers

Week-long sessions for children entering grades 3-9 that immerse them in nature. All-day outdoor adventures both on and off White Memorial property. Dates: July 8-August 9 (dates dependent on grade level)

More details coming soon. Registrations begin April 1.
March 15 for members!

To register for these programs, please call 860-567-0857 or visit www.whitememorialcc.org

Spring Calendar of Events

For more information on any of our programs, please call us at 860-567-0857 or register online: www.whitememorialcc.org

APRIL

4 **Nature's Nursery** Call 860-567-0857 or register online: www.whitememorialcc.org

6 **CT DEEP CARE Family Freshwater Fishing Class**
A. B. Cedar Room & Ongley Pond
10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Pre-register: 860-567-0857 or register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org



April 6, 13, 20, 27

Mystery Animal Meet and Greet
Join us on Saturdays in April for a chance to meet one of our Animal Ambassadors!
Who will it be this week?
3:30 p.m. in the Museum, Members: FREE
Non-members: Admission to Museum

9 **Monthly Bird Walk with Kristi Dranginis**
Join Kristi www.BirdMentor.com on the second Tuesday of each month to explore the diverse habitats and bird species on our property. 8:00-10:00 a.m., Meet in front of the A. B. Cedar Room.



12 **Litchfield Tercentennial: White Memorial Through the Seasons**
Join us upstairs in the Museum for light refreshments and a reception celebrating the Town of Litchfield's 300th Anniversary and the legacy of Alain and May White. Following the reception, Gerri Griswold will present a dazzling pictorial of our Sanctuary through the seasons. 6:00 p.m., Meet in the Museum.

13 **Impressionist Spring Blossoms in Watercolor with Betsy Rogers-Knox**
See page 7 for details.



13 **Early Spring Jaunt to Apple Hill & Cat Swamp with Gerri Griswold**
10:00 a.m.
Meet in front of the A. B. Cedar Room.



15 - 18 **"Sense"tational Spring Break Camp**
See page 45 for details!

19 **Good Friday**
Museum Closed



20 - 26 **Museum Kids Free Week**
In Memory of Louise W. Willson *

20 **Spoon Carving Workshop Using White Memorial Ash with Andy Dobos**
See page 7 for details.



20 **Art Show Opening Reception: Nature Through the Eyes of Rebecca Melaragno**
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room
Please pre-register: 860-567-0857

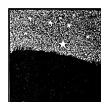
21 **Easter Sunday**
Museum Closed



23 / 24 **GIVE LOCAL! A Day of Giving!**
See page 2 for details!

25 **Charles Fergus Book Signing & Talk: "Make a Home for Wildlife: Creating Habitat on Your Land, Backward to Many Acres"**
6:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room
Reception and book signing to follow in the Museum. Please register by calling 860-567-0857

26 **Star Party!**
Astronomy program with stargazing to follow. 8:00 p.m., Mott - Van Winkle Classroom



26/ 27 **29th Annual Museum Sleep-In**
See page 4 for details.



27 **Turn Turn Turn: Road Trip to the Studio of Wood Turner Richard Heys**
Meet in front of the A. B. Cedar Room., 10:45 a.m. Call 860-567-0857 to pre-register.
Limited to 10 people.

MAY

2 **Nature's Nursery Series! May 2, June 6, August 22**
This one hour program is designed for children 3 - 6 years old. Advanced registration is required. Space is limited. Call 860-567-0857 or visit www.whitememorialcc.org

3 **WMCC Annual Meeting 3:30 P.M., Office**

4 **Tree Identification Walk with Lukas Hyder**
10:00 a.m., Meet in the Museum parking lot.

4 **A Springtime Stroll to Pine Island, Mallard Marsh, and Duck Pond with Gerri**
10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.

4 **Smart Phone Photography with Gerri Griswold**
2:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room.
Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$5.00

11 **Wild Edible Plants with Andy Dobos**
See page 7 for details.



11 - 17 **Museum Kids Free Week**
Courtesy of Tara and Arthur Diedrick *

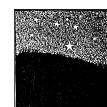
11 **Bobbing for Bobolinks: Hiking Apple Hill & Topsmead with Gerri Griswold**
8:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.



14 **Monthly Bird Walk with Kristi Dranginis**
Explore the diverse habitats and bird species on our property. 8:00 a.m., A. B. Cedar Room.

18 **Spring Awakening and Woods Walk with Marlow Shami**
10:00 a.m. A. B. Cedar Room
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

24 **Star Party!**
Astronomy program with stargazing to follow.
8:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room



25 **Concert: The Hartford Classical Guitar Ensemble with Christopher Ladd**
See page 7 for details.



25 - 31 **Museum Kids Free Week**
Honoring Helen Ryan Donnelly *

27 **Memorial Day**
Museum Closed



JUNE

1 **Celebrate Connecticut Trails Day! Five Ponds Geology Walk with Tom Alena**
10:00 a.m., Meet at the trailhead at the intersection of RT's 63 & 61 in Morris.

1 **Celebrate Connecticut Trails Day! Amphibian Amble with Marlow Shami**
2:30 p.m., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.

8 - 14 **Museum Kids Free Week**
In Memory of Louise W. Willson *

8 **Stroll to Little Pond with Marlow Shami**
10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.

9 **Litchfield Hills Road Race**
Museum Closed



11 **Monthly Bird Walk with Kristi Dranginis**
Explore the diverse habitats and bird species on our property. 8:00 a.m., A. B. Cedar Room.

15 **Dawn Chorus with Fran Zygmunt**
4:00 a.m., Meet at the A. B. Cedar Room.
Members: FREE, Non-members: \$5.00

15 **Impressions of Iceland with Gerri Griswold & Friends**
10:00 a.m., A. B. Cedar Room



22 **Catlin Woods Walk with Carly Borken**
10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.

28 **Star Party!**
8:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room



29 **Twilight for Ash Trees: Shadow on Craft & Culture with David K. Leff**
See page 7 for details.



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

SPRING 2019 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

YOU CAN NOW REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG



April 13 Impressionist Spring Blossoms in Watercolor with Betsy Rogers-Knox

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room
Members: \$35.00 Non-members: \$60.00

Create a colorful watercolor depicting spring blossoms. This workshop is designed for all levels. Step by step instruction. Plenty of demos. For ages fifteen and up. All materials are included.



May 18 Spring Awakening Meditation & Woods Walk with Marlow Shami

10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

Enjoy deep relaxation and renewal during this guided meditation and walk designed with this very beautiful season in mind. The forest is alive with an infinite variety of sensory attractions, all potential guides and healers for each of us.



April 20 Spoon Carving with Andy Dobos

10:00 a.m., Activity Shed, LIMITED TO 10!
Members: \$25.00 Non-members: \$50.00

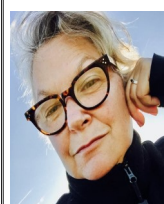
Spend a few hours learning to transform pieces of white ash from White Memorial's landscape into a spoon or ladle (or both if you're a quick study). Instruction will include how to use tools such as knives, chisels, hatchets and saws safely and effectively. This is a great introduction to woodcarving.



May 25 The Hartford Classical Guitar Ensemble

7:00 p.m., Carriage House
All Tickets: \$10.00

The ensemble was formed in 2011 by a group of classical guitar enthusiasts and is now conducted by award-winning classical guitarist Christopher Ladd, Chair of the Hart School Guitar and Harp Program. Be prepared for a wide variety of music. Bring a picnic supper and BYOB! The proceeds from the concert will be split between WMCC and HCGE.



May 4 Smart Phone Photography with Gerri Griswold

2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

Gerri does not consider herself a photographer. More often than not this world traveler will forsake her beautiful Canon SLR for an iPhone. She hopes you will leave the program looking at the world a little differently and feeling more confident about your ability to compose and execute lovely pictures with your smart phone.



June 15 Dawn Chorus with Fran Zygmunt

4:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

The dawn chorus occurs when birds sing at the start of a new day. Join The Bird Whisperer, Fran Zygmunt as he and early bird Gerri Griswold take you to some favorite birding haunts just before the crack o' dawn.



May 11 Wild Edible Plants with Andy Dobos

10:00 a.m., Meet in front of the Museum.
Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$30.00

Andy Dobos will help you learn some common, easily identifiable edible wild plants and how to responsibly harvest and prepare them. We will walk through field, forest and wetland edge, all almost within sight of each other.



June 29 Twilight for Ash Trees: Shadows on Craft & Culture with David K. Leff

6:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room
All tickets: \$35.00DINNER INCLUDED
BYOB and your own place setting.

Called "one of the greatest gifts with which nature has endowed man over the course of human history," ash trees are rapidly disappearing from our roadsides and forests. Why they are dying? How will this likely have a larger impact on culture than ecology?

Clip & Mail

_____ Impressionist Spring Blossoms in Watercolor.....	Member: \$35.00	Non member: \$60.00
_____ Spoon Carving with Andy Dobos.....	Member: \$25.00	Non member: \$50.00
_____ Smart Phone Photography with Gerri Griswold.....	Member: FREE	Non member: \$5.00
_____ Wild Edible Plants with Andy Dobos.....	Member: \$15.00	Non-member: \$30.00
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_____ Hartford Classical Guitar Ensemble	ALL TICKETS: \$10.00	
_____ Dawn Chorus with Fran Zygmunt.....	Member: FREE	Non-member: \$5.00
_____ Twilight for Ash Trees with David Leff.....	ALL TICKETS: \$35.00	

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

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



Become a member of the White Memorial Conservation Center and take advantage of the member discount, along with free admission to the Nature Museum, a discount in the Gift Shop, and receipt of the quarterly newsletter and calendar of events. Your tax-deductible fee will help sponsor programs like these.

A family membership is \$60.00 per year and individual is \$40.00.

Make check payable to WMCC and mail to:
P.O. Box 368
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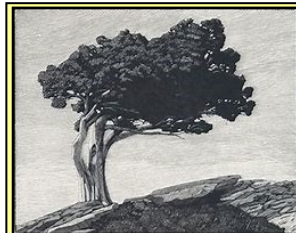
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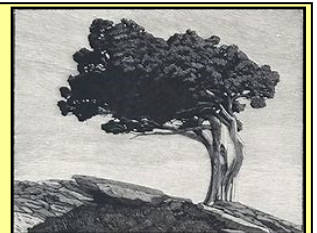
info@whitememorialcc.org

www.whitememorialcc.org



To some people a tree
is something so incredibly beautiful
that it brings tears to the eyes.
To others it is just a green thing that stands in the way.

~ William Blake



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