

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial Conservation Center
Vol. XXXVII No. 3
Summer 2019

Museum Hours:

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

For Information

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



Albertus Seba, (1665 - 1736), Cabinet of Natural Curiosities

A Place of Fascination and Education: Riverside Reptiles Education Center By Brian Kleinman, Owner, Riverside Reptiles

Animals have always fascinated me, from the miniscule to massive, but the “creepy crawlies” have always intrigued me the most. At a young age, I was finding, observing, and sometimes even catching amphibians and reptiles in my neighborhood. I soon learned the skills to safely handle and even temporarily keep some of my findings. I would set up small displays in the garage of locally caught Garter Snakes, Frogs, Toads, old hornet nests, bird feather collections, and the occasional dead squirrel I found in the road. I would invite my friends and other neighborhood children to see my collection and excitingly give educational lectures to those who visited my “Garage Zoo.”

Roaring Brook Nature Center (RBNC) was a home away from home for me. There I met my mentor, Jay Kaplan, who was, and still is, the Director there. By volunteering at RBNC, I learned how to care for a diverse collection of wildlife. When I was old enough, I taught summer naturalist camps and did live-animal presentations for the visitors of RBNC for over 14 years. Jay took me under his wing, and we’re still close friends some 30 years later.

After graduating from High School, I volunteered for the “Caretta Research Project” on Wassaw Island’s National Wildlife Refuge, off the coast of Georgia. I assisted in monitoring the nesting Loggerhead Sea Turtles by staying up all night to ensure that the nesting female sea turtles were tagged and measured, and to

mark their nest if they needed relocation. During the day, I searched for snakes and alligators on the island. Needless to say, I did not get a lot of sleep!



*Getting Snappy: Brian Kleinman
with an Alligator Snapper*

In the fall of 1994, I headed to college to pursue my interest in Biology. As a freshman, I took advanced classes in Zoology and impressed many of my professors with my knowledge of herpetology. In my senior year, I took a course on Tropical Ecology and spent 2 weeks in the rainforests of Costa Rica. I even led a group of my classmates through a flooded swamp to see and

photograph Red-eyed Tree Frogs. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to the group, the swamp was full of leeches and many were not as enthusiastic as I was to stay and look for the frogs.

In 1999, I was hired as Animal Curator at the Science Center of Connecticut (SCOC) (now called The Children’s Museum). At the SCOC, I was in charge of caring for their diverse collection of native and exotic species in their Wildlife Sanctuary. A pair of Mountain Lions would greet me every morning with their chirps and meows. The Bobcat enjoyed sitting on my shoulders and licking the top of my head. The Lynx greeted me with a head-butt upon entering his enclosure, and the Great-horned Owl would “Hoot” when he heard my voice.

In late 2000, I met the love of my life, Sara, and I made the very difficult choice to leave the SCOC for more financial security. I was able to fall back on my artistic capabilities and became a professional tattoo artist at Body Graphics. Although, after a few years, I started to miss working with animals. I began to apply to zoos all over the United States for curator or keeper positions. After a year of applying for zoo jobs, with no prospects that fit our needs, my wife suggested that I should start my own business to create my own “zoo job.”

Continued on page 2



(continued from page 1)

In July of 2003, I started *RIVERSIDE REPTILES*. I converted the 2nd bedroom in our apartment to a *reptile-room*. A 8-foot rescued Burmese Python, along with a small collection of lizards, turtles, frogs, toads, and a few Tiger Salamanders shared the apartment with us. The remainder of that year, I did 18 educational programs. The next year, which was Riverside Reptile's first full year of business, I did 62 programs, but little did I know that Riverside Reptiles was fast becoming one of the most popular live-animal programs in the area.

In the fall of 2004, we purchased our first home in East Granby. The basement had much more space than the apartment's second bedroom, so I was able to add more animals to my collection and create more program options for my business. In that same year, I was also contacted by Brendan Hanrahan of Perry Heights Publishing to help create and film some DVDs on amphibians and reptiles of Connecticut. The first film on amphibians, called *Between Land & Water*, was released in 2007, and the second film, *Connecticut Reptiles* was released in 2012. Both of these films helped me solidify myself here in Connecticut as the 'go to guy' for anything amphibian or reptile-related.

By 2007, Riverside Reptiles was averaging over 100 programs per year, and although this was great for Riverside Reptiles, I still had to tattoo and pick up other subcontract work to make ends meet. Thankfully I met Ed Pawlak, a soil scientist and owner of Connecticut Ecosystems LLC, in West Hartford. Ed needed someone who could locate, identify, and assess Connecticut listed/protected species for upcoming survey jobs. I occasionally still work with Ed, to this day assisting with bio-inventories.

In the same year, I was invited to appear on WFSB's new show *Better Con-*

necticut. I appeared on one of the very first episodes and immediately wowed the crowd with a small assortment of animals, including Percy, now a healthy 10-foot, 50-pound Burmese Python. I was invited to appear on *Better Connecticut* another five times to educate the public on amphibians and reptiles.



Snakes Alive! Children get hands-on with Kleinman's stunning Albino Burmese Python.



Snake Charmer: Quinn, Brian, and a Black Rat Snake

With the years to follow, Riverside Reptiles continued to gain in popularity, and by the end of 2011, Riverside Reptiles broke the 200/year program mark and never looked back.

We are now a family of five, with our three boys, Grant, Luke, and Caleb. In the spring of 2016, we moved a couple miles down the road to a larger home, which could better accommodate 3 boys

and more critters. With an even larger space, I was again able to add to and diversify my collection to keep the programs fresh for repeat clients and appeal to a wider audience. By the end of 2016, Riverside Reptiles had a record year, with 262 programs!

Since the beginning, the ultimate goal for Riverside Reptiles was to eventually open up a public facility where people can visit and learn and explore at their own leisure, The Riverside Reptiles Educational Center (RREC).

The RREC will be a facility dedicated primarily to amphibians and reptiles, the most curious creatures of the animal world. It will be a place of fascination and education, giving visitors a special opportunity to get up close and personal with diverse indigenous and exotic reptiles, amphibians, and other creatures.

RREC will offer a comfortable, colorful environment with plenty of room for single explorers and groups. An expansive room will be available for educational programs and birthday parties, etc. Plans also include a gift shop and snack area. Approximately 8,000 square feet of specific environmental design will house at least 100-120 species of amphibians, reptiles, and arthropods in naturalistic zoo-like settings, so visitors will observe the animal and the habitat in which it thrives.

The RREC will open its doors sometime in early fall. Our address is 132 South Road in Enfield. We hope to see you there!



Please follow Riverside Reptiles on Facebook for up to date progress on the RREC

www.facebook.com/riversidereptileseducation-center/

You can also contact Brian through his website www.riversidereptiles.com.



Thank You Corporate Members!

Fortune Kuki, LLC * Bicon Electronics * Goff's Equipment Services * Iffland Lumber Company
Bunnell Farm * Litchfield Hills Audubon Society * O&G Industries
Union Savings Bank * Academy of Medical Training, Inc. * Cricket Hill Garden
Woods Pit BBQ & Mexican Café * Litchfield Ford
A. N. Designs, LLC * Ericson Insurance Advisors * Litchfield Bancorp
Bantam Wesson LLC * Litchfield Lions Club * Krummi Travel, LLC
R-T Specialty, LLC * Torrington Savings Bank * Litchfield True Value / Just Ask Rental
DSE Security Systems, LLC * Patty's Restaurant * Litchfield Montessori School
Oak Tor, LLC * People's United Bank * Lawrence Jeffrey Estate Jewelers
Petricone's Torrington Pharmacy * A Healing Trail Wellness Center * Spectrum Design

YALE CLUB OF NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION CONSERVATION AWARD

The White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award was established in 1964 to honor an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to the environment. To date, 21 organizations and 29 individuals have received this recognition. Each year the award, a bronze rendering of a beaver, White Memorial's symbol, which was created by the late Peggy Reventlow, is presented at the Foundation's annual dinner. This year we honor the Yale Club of Northwestern Connecticut as the 50th recipient of the award.

In presenting the award to Yale Club Chapter President Malcom Forbes, White Memorial's President Arthur Diedrick remarked on the many projects the Club has completed at White Memorial. Their members installed White Memorial's interpretive trail signs on the popular Ice House Trail, they planted native trees and shrubs and removed invasive plants. Each year school children are guided along trails that they improved around Ongley Pond.

Yale's Northwestern Connecticut



WMF President and CEO Arthur Diedrick (L) presents Yale Club Chapter President Malcom Forbes with the 2019 White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award.

Club extend their support beyond their own labors by annually sponsoring a Yale student to intern with White Memorial's research program. These interns see how the work of conservation biology is done. The students who have come from as far away as California, Florida, and Texas wake before dawn so that they can launch a canoe into the Bantam River with hopes of calling and counting one of our elusive Virginia Rails or work along side White Memorial staff at night using ultrasonic microphones to monitor little brown bats. White Memorial Research Director James Fischer noted "the students learn from us and we learn from them, because scientific research is a collaborative endeavor where even the most fleeting observation can influence the direction of an investigation." Thanks to the Yale Club, White Memorial has had the opportunity to work with a great group of students.

It is with great pleasure that White Memorial presents its 2019 Conservation Award to the Yale Club of Northwestern Connecticut.

Volunteer Spotlight: Guy Weik Story and Photo by Gerri Griswold

Guy Weik's roots are firmly planted in the soils of Morris...and White Memorial. Throughout his childhood and teenage years he wandered the trails of the Foundation. Guy attended James Morris School when Education Director Gordon Loery visited, preaching the Gospel of Nature. "There has always been a connection to White Memorial."

Weik attended college in West Virginia. Upon finishing his elementary education degree, he accepted a teaching position on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Guy met and spoke to many Marines stationed at Camp Lejeune. From them he learned about civilian teaching opportunities abroad and found his way to Germany where he taught in an elementary school. The school offered an outstanding outdoor education program. "I became very involved...but that was because of White Memorial." Some of his favorite memories involved an Outward Bound type program based in the Alps. "I have always lived in great places."

Guy aspired to earn a Masters Degree so he returned to Washington DC and ultimately taught in the Fairfax County

School District where he met his wife, Laura. "I kept talking about Germany and how nice it would be to go back to Germany." Laura was game. The Weiks...now toting baggage (two sons...one an infant) lunged at an opportunity that serendipitously presented itself. The proximity of where they were living was very close to the Alps. Many happy hikes were taken in this beautiful region of the world.

Laura loved New England. When it was time to return home, Guy sent out applications and was hired by Region 6. His tour of the Region 6 school system took him to Goshen and Warren, where he met Zoë Greenwood (Remember her? Check out page 7). Zoë of course is married to former WMCC Education Director Jeff Greenwood. In 1995, Guy was cajoled into becoming a member of the Education Activities Committee. In 1997 Weik was asked to become a Trustee of the Conservation Center. What is most wonderful about Guy's journey is that he eventually made it back to James Morris School as a teacher and then, as its Principal. He retired in 2013, bought an Airstream Trailer and with his wife Laura, hit the road! *(continued on page 7)*



*Danke! Auf Wiedersehen!
Thank you and see you soon, Guy!
Guy Weik and Bradley soaking up the sun
on Chickadee Bridge.*

Summer 2019 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 - 12 **Museum Children Free Week***
Courtesy of the J. Denis O'Toole
Family honoring Helen Ryan Donnelly

6 **Ramble to Catlin Woods with Marlow**
10:00 a.m. Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

8 - 26 **Nature Adventurers
Summer Camp**
Weekdays only!
See page 6 for details!



8 - August 9 **Natural History Explorers
Summer Camp**
Weekdays only!
See page 6 for details.



July 9, 16, 23, 30, & August 6
Wee Discoverers Summer Nature Camp
See page 6 for details.

9 **Monthly Bird Walk with Kristi Dranginis**
8:00 a.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

July 10, 17, 24, 31 August 7, 14
Yoga in the Garden
with Judith Erhman-Shapiro
Wednesdays
8:00 am - 9:00 am
Call 860-309-9489 for more information.

12 **Duende:
The Works of Sarah Kushwara**
Art Show Opening & Reception
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
A. B. Ceder Room.
Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or online:
www.whitememorialcc.org

13 **Loving Haight with Gerri Griswold**
10:00 am, Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

20 **9th Annual Celebration for the Bats**
See page 5 for details.



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



27 **Tree Identification Walk**
with Lukas Hyder
10:00 am, Meet in the Museum parking lot.



AUGUST

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

3 **Things That Go Bump in the Night**
with Gerri Griswold
See page 5 for details



10 **Smart Phone Photography**
with Gerri Griswold
See page 5 for details!



10 **An Evening of Jazz Standards**
with South Lake
See page 5 for details!



13 **Monthly Bird Walk**
with Kristi Dranginis
8:00 a.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

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

17 **Animal Adaptations**
with Gerri Griswold
See page 5 for details!



22 **Nature's Nursery**
See page 6 for details.



23 **Star Party!**
8:00 pm, A. B. Ceder Room



24 **An Evening at Little Pond**
with Gerri Griswold
6:00 pm, Meet at the trailhead on Whites
Woods Road. Limited to 20 participants.
Pre-register: 860-567-0857 or register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org



31 **Contra Dance with O'Wryly**
See page 5 for details.



SEPTEMBER

2 **LABOR DAY**
Museum Closed



5 **Nature's Nursery**
See page 6 for details.



7 **Delve into Summer's Harvest**
with Marlow Shami
See page 5 for details.



10 **Monthly Bird Walk**
with Kristi Dranginis
8:00 a.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

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

14 **Institute for American Indian Studies:
Wigwam Escape and Museum Field Trip**
See page 5 for details.



21 **Bantam's Beauties:
Bald Eagles in Our Midst**
with Ginny Apple and Leo Kulinski, Jr.
See page 5 for details!



27 **Star Party!**
Star gazing begins at 8:00 pm
in the Sawmill Field,
weather permitting.



September 28, 2019
38th Annual Family Nature Day

Sky Hunters in Flight
Riverside Reptiles
Horizon Wings Raptor Center
Creature Teachers
Edible Insects
Music by The Boxcar Lilies &
Ian Campbell

Win a trip for 2 to Iceland
in our Raffle!

Bunnell Farm Wagon Rides!

Food by The Litchfield Lions Club
Hardcore Cupcakes
Cups & Cones Ice Cream

Local Artisans * Pie Sale
Kids Nature Crafts * Nature Tag
Sale
Silent Auction

See back page for information!

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

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

Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Programs: Summer 2019

You can now register online: www.whitememorialcc.org



9th Annual Celebration for the Bats
Saturday, July 20, 2019, 7:00 pm
A. B. Ceder Room
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

Help Gerri Griswold celebrate 27 years of crusading for Bats! A lecture featuring a live Big Brown Bat will begin the evening's festivities. We can then count our bat colony as it emerges from the Green Barn! Charming bat cupcakes and lemonade will be served (to humans...not bats...they prefer insects)! Pack a picnic or BYOB! The event is on rain or shine.



Things That Go Bump in the Night with Gerri Griswold
Saturday, August 3, 2019, 8:00 pm
Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

Join Gerri Griswold for a night walk. Learn to identify all of those insect, owl, and frog voices that lend such beautiful ambience to a summer evening. Watch for beavers at Little Left and LISTEN to bats (with an ultra-sound detector of course!)



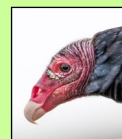
Smart Phone Photography Part 2 with Gerri Griswold
Saturday, August 10, 2019, 2:00 pm
A. B. Ceder Room
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

This is a follow up program to our first popular class last May. (you need not have participated in Part 1) After a brief PowerPoint presentation, you will be unleashed outdoors with your camera. Each participant will take three photos, which we will edit and share in the classroom. In the event of hideous weather, we'll do our "field work" in the Museum.



An Evening of Jazz with South Lake
Saturday, August 10, 2019, 7:00 pm
Activity Shed
All Tickets: \$15.00

Bring a picnic and BYOB. A sultry summer evening of soothing jazz standards from the American Song Book with South Lake is on tap. Jon Concilio: Double Bass, Brendan Walsh: Guitar, Mik Mitnik: Drums and Allan Becker: Soprano, Alto, and Tenor Sax, Flute, and Keyboards. Special guest vocalist Gerri Griswold will be sitting in for some tunes. Nobody writes music like this anymore!



Animal Adaptations with Gerri Griswold
Saturday, August 17, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
A. B. Ceder Room
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

Why is a vulture's head bald? Why are porcupines so slow? Answers to your many other questions will be revealed in this program. Animal Adaptations uses natural props, animal mounts, and surprise guests to illustrate the structural and behavioral adaptations that help animals survive in different environments. A great program for kids and adults!



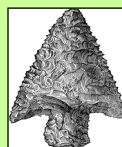
Live Concert and Contra Dance with O'Wryly!
Saturday, August 31, 2019, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Activity Shed
All Tickets: \$15.00

Strap on yer dancin' shoes, pack a picnic or a snack, BYOB, and kick off Labor Day weekend with Conservation Center favorite **Robert Messor** and his colleagues, AKA **O'Wryly!** Tonight our Activity Shed will undulate with the gleeful sights and sounds of Contra! Dancing is not mandatory this evening, but we DARE you to stay seated!



Delve into Summer's Harvest with Marlow Shami
Saturday, September 7, 2019, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

Experience Nature's healing touch as you deepen your connection to a source of creative energy anytime, anywhere. You will experience deep guided meditation, nature's healing touch activity, and a beautiful walk in Connecticut's largest wildlife sanctuary. Dress for the weather. Bring a mat for meditation if you prefer to lay down.



Institute for American Indian Studies' Wigwam Escape and Museum Field Trip
Saturday, September 14, 2019, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm
Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room. Ride in the WMCC Van.
All Tickets: \$20.00 SPACE IS LIMITED!

This is one for puzzle enthusiasts! Bring your friends and family to the Wigwam Escape! Can you thrive for a day in 1518 in a Native American village in the woodlands of Connecticut? Immerse yourself in the history of Connecticut's Native people, learn more about the skills they relied on in their day to day lives, and solve your way out of the wigwam!



Bantam's Beauties: Bald Eagles in our Midst with Ginny Apple and Leo Kulinski, Jr.
Saturday, September 21, 2019, 2:00 pm
A. B. Ceder Room
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

The Bald Eagle is America's comeback raptor and its rebound from the Endangered Species List is one of the most remarkable environmental stories of the 20th Century. Leo will lend his photographs and observations of our very own Bantam Lake eagles while Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple speaks about Bald Eagles.

<input type="checkbox"/> Celebration for the Bats.....	Member: FREE	Non-member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Things That Go Bump in the Night.....	Member: FREE	Non-member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart Phone Photography.....	Member: FREE	Non-member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> An Evening with South Lake.....	ALL TICKETS: \$15.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Adaptations.....	Member: FREE	Non-member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Concert & Contra Dance.....	ALL TICKETS: \$15.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer's Harvest with Marlow.....	Member: FREE	Non-member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Wigwam Escape Field Trip.....	ALL TICKETS: \$20.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagles in Our Midst.....	Member: FREE	Non-member: \$5.00

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please circle one: member non-member

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



Become a member of
The White Memorial Conservation
Center and take advantage of the
member discount, along with free
admission to the Nature Museum, a
discount in the Gift Shop, and receipt
of the quarterly newsletter and
calendar of events. Your tax-
deductible fee will help sponsor
programs like these.
A family membership is \$60.00 per
year and an individual membership
is \$40.00. per year.

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

SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

Some classes still have openings, but some may be sold out. Call 860-567-0857 or visit www.whitememorialcc.org to check availability and to register.



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

Nature's Nursery Series

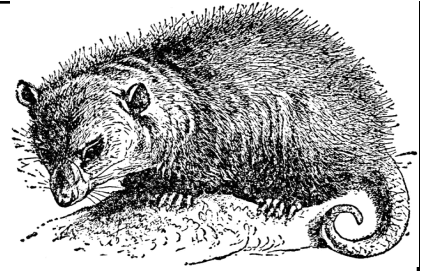
**Thursdays,
August 22,
September 5**

Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.
4:00pm -5:00pm
Members: \$8/child per session
Non-Members: \$12/child per session

"Wee Discoverers" Summer Nature Camp **Tuesdays, July 9, 16, 23, 30, & August 6**

9:30am - 11:30am
Nature Museum Children's Corner
Members: \$15/session
Non-members: \$25/session

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



Kids entering grades 1 & 2 can join us for three weeks of outdoor discovery, games, books, songs, and crafts that help them learn more about the natural world around them.
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

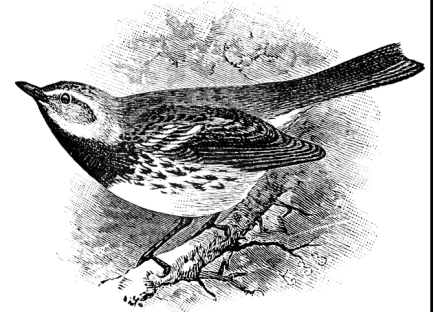
"Nature Adventurers" Summer Camp **July 8-26 (weekdays only)**

Sign up by week!
9:30am - 3:30pm each day
Meet on the Museum lawn.
Members: \$125/week
Non-members: \$185/week

"Natural History Explorers" Summer Camp **July 8-August 9 (weekdays only)**

9:30am - 3:30pm each day
A. B. Ceder Room
Members: \$150/week
Non-members: \$210/week
Grades 3 & 4: July 8-12 & 15-19
Grades 5 & 6: July 22-26 & July 29-August 2
Grades 7, 8, & 9: August 5-9

Kids entering grades 3 – 9, join us for all-day discovery programs both on and off White Memorial property.
Immerse yourselves in nature! Activities include collecting rocks and minerals, investigating aquatic life, exploring different ecosystems, learning to identify wildlife, climbing mountains, hiking trails, and so much more.
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.



WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER, INC. 55th ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 3, 2019



The 55th Annual Meeting of the White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc. was called to order by President Diedrick at 3:32 pm., on May 3, 2019 at the White Memorial Foundation office.

The minutes of the May 4, 2018 Annual Meeting were approved as previously distributed.

Mr. Samponaro presented the report for the Nominating Committee. For mem-

ber of the Board of Directors for a term of three years: Susan Hamilton. For members of the Education and Activities Committee for terms of three years: Melissa Brutting, Heather Perrault, and Judi Cayer. For members of the Education and Activities Committee for a term of one year: Tom Clark, John Markelon, and Lynda Wlodarczyk. Upon motion of Mr. Morosani and second by Mr. Gault, the Secre-

tary was authorized to cast one ballot for the slate as presented.

Center staff Gerri Griswold, Carrie Szwed, and James Fischer reported on accomplishments for 2018 and plans for 2019.

As there was no further business, upon motion of Mr. Youngling and second by Ms. Pollock, the meeting was adjourned at 4:14 pm.

Make a Difference

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

So now what? I recently read that China is no longer accepting our recycling. (Thanks for the information, Jamie). It seems that we did such a great job, that we have filled their reserves and they don't want any more of our discards. Seems fair somehow. Now other countries in Southeast Asia are taking our recyclables. Why on earth would we send the stuff that we no longer want all the way across an ocean to be recycled into items that they then make and send back to us to buy? Ah, commerce. Not sure I really understand it and not sure I really want to, anyhow. Plus, how long are these other countries going to want to accept our stuff? What will we do then?

But, I digress.

I see two problems here, at least. One, we are buying too much stuff new and that comes in packaging that we don't want or need and two, we are not being creative enough with the parts that are "trash." Okay, it is good that we are finally seeing the need to recycle and that we are doing so, but, that, in turn, is creating another problem.

We need to work harder on finding new uses for old things, especially things that come in other things. We like coffee in our house. The kind we like best comes in a large plastic container with a nice fitting lid. Ours comes in a red con-

tainer with a black lid, but other brands come in blue or green or yellow and black. These containers all stack one on top of another and don't topple over. Yeah, so what? Well, I have one container under the sink with brushes and stuff that I use for washing dishes. Another houses the cleaning brushes for the hummingbird feeders. Another one stores clean sponges. Still another stores cleaning rags. I have one in the cupboard to store large quantities of leftovers (think soup). Now, move into the bathroom: hairbrushes and products; cleaning stuff. Move into the garage: paint brushes; rags; small tools; garden tools; garden gloves. That's just my house, but you get the idea. If we still had kids at home, I'm thinking Legos; playmobile; doll clothes; little trucks and cars; small blocks; markers; crayons...now you're getting it! AND, if you don't like the color, they now make spray paint that will work on plastic.

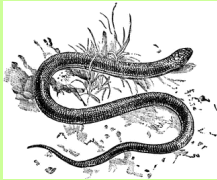
Move on to glass jars. They are good for leftovers, instead of buying more plastic. They are good for taking lunch to work or for a picnic. You can paint them and make nice gifts. Broken glass or china in cement makes nice stepping stones or garden bricks or birdbaths.

We need to be thinking constantly in a more "upcycling" way. Fine, I need whatever is in this container, but how

will/can I use the container that it comes in? Am I buying in bulk so that I don't need to buy small quantities of a product and have yet another container to send far, far away?

The brand new shirt you are buying comes wrapped in plastic, with tissue paper and sometimes cardboard inside. Not to mention plastic clips or straight pins to hold it just so. The one you buy at the thrift store comes on a hanger that they will keep AND you are sometimes supporting a worthy cause. But, do you really need another new shirt anyway? Can you add a scarf or a tie or a sweater to the ones you already own to make a whole new outfit? The more stuff you have, the more space you need to store it and the bigger your house, the higher the taxes or rent.

I used to tell my kids that everything was "bumping circles". What you do today, affects everything else somewhere, somehow down the road. It is no different with the stuff we buy. Eventually, when we are done with it, it needs to go somewhere else to become something else. Let's just hope that we've *made a difference* in the first place and it doesn't become trash.



Four snakes gliding up and down a hollow for no purpose that I could see - not to eat, not for love, but only gliding.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Volunteer Spotlight: Guy Weik *Continued from page 5*

"We travel a lot...Prince Edward Island to the Florida Keys and out west. I want to see the Grand Canyon and Yosemite. We spent more than six months in the trailer in 2018. In a 28 foot trailer you spend a lot of time outside."

But the Weiks keep returning to Morris. "We really love our connections here. We travel around, escape the cold, and return home."

"The story about Alain White on the lake in the canoe...to have the foresight that this needs to be preserved. What

would Bantam Lake be like if not for the Whites? I grew up on the lake. Thanks to the Whites we have this resource."

With a legacy of volunteering at White Memorial that spans decades, Guy has many fond memories of Family Nature Days and Museum Sleep-Ins, building bird houses and bird seed give-aways, Celebrations of the Bantam River, and the Annual Cranberry Pond Hike, "We are so lucky to have the programs you offer. I am sure Alain White is up there just overjoyed...He would be overjoyed."

Dear Guy...We are overjoyed by your kind and giving spirit, your enthusiasm, and your loyalty and love for the Conservation Center. Should you ever

roll through the gates on Family Nature Day, there will always be a spot for you at the "Fun with Bubbles" booth!



38TH ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

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

ADMISSION: \$6.00

CENTER MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE



CREATURE TEACHERS



SKY HUNTERS IN FLIGHT



THE BOXCAR LILIES

GUIDED NATURE WALKS + NATURE CRAFTS FOR KIDS + PIE SALE
BOOTHS AND EXHIBITS + ARTISANS MARKET + EDIBLE INSECTS
NATURE TAG SALE + TURTLE RACE + YUMMY FOOD
HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES + SILENT AUCTION

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IN OUR RAFFLE!



HORIZON WINGS RAPTOR CENTER



RIVERSIDE REPTILES

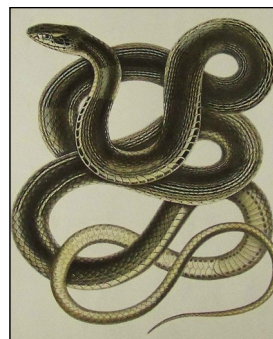


IAN CAMPBELL

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