

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center

Vol. XXXV No. 4

Fall 2017

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



Home Maker Photo credit: Leo Kulinski, Jr.

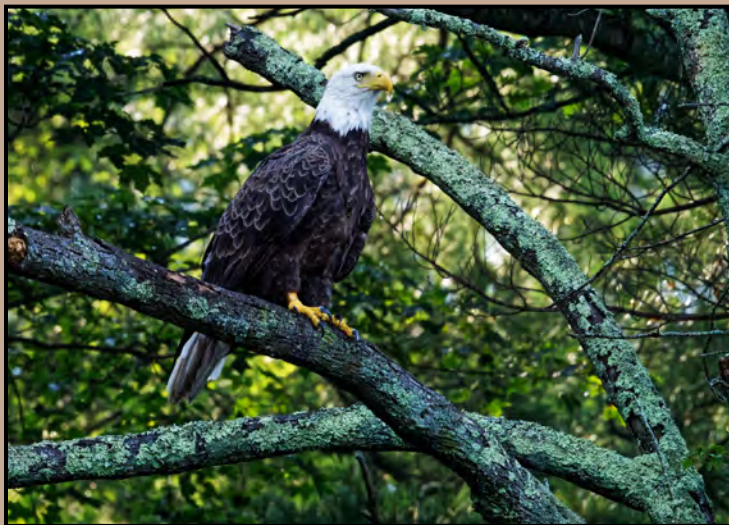
The Eagles Have Landed

Story by Brian Hess, Wildlife Biologist CT DEEP & Photographs by Leo Kulinski, Jr.

Bantam Lake had an exciting addition this past spring when a pair of bald eagles took up residence in a pine on the water's edge. While Bantam Lake and White Memorial already host a panoply of both common and rare wildlife, this nest is important. This pair of eagles is likely the first to nest on Bantam Lake in a century, possibly longer. Bald eagles have a long history of complicated relationships with humans. To Americans, eagles are not just birds - they are symbols of freedom and strength. To conservationists, eagles are similarly symbolic of mankind's capacity to foul our environment and of the power of concerted efforts to bring a species back from the brink of extinction.

Many native tribes have belief traditions that hold eagles in reverence. Some see eagles as king of the birds. Others see eagles as communicators between earth and the Creator. To colonists arriving from Europe, the bald eagle was an impressive North American Bird. Other eagle species were state symbols in the Old World, so the bald eagle's impressive appearance, power, and autonomy came to symbolize a fledgling nation. Since

then, the species has taken on an outsized role as a symbol of American freedom and strength. Almost universally, eagles are a source of honor, strength, and courage.



Though bald eagles were lionized by humans, eagles have also suffered at the hands of humans. Like other large charismatic animals, they have been killed as trophies. Because they are predators, they were killed and poisoned to protect poultry, fish, and livestock. Nesting and roosting trees were cut down to fuel industrialization and development. By 1940, long term declines in eagle populations prompted the passage of the Bald Eagle

Protection Act (now the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act). This act outlawed direct persecution of eagles and their nests.

As this protection was enacted, a more insidious threat emerged. In 1939, Swiss chemist Paul Hermann Müller discovered the insecticidal properties of Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (he later won the Nobel Prize for this work). DDT was hailed as a miracle chemical that would eliminate agricultural pests and eradicate insect-borne diseases. It was widely used throughout the 1940s and 1950s on crops and as part of a campaign to control malaria. While DDT was successful as a broad-spectrum insecticide,

scientists began to piece together evidence that DDT was the primary cause of massive declines in the reproductive output of many bird species, most notably bald eagles. By the mid-1950s, no eagles nested in Connecticut. By 1963, only 417 nesting pairs remained in the continental United States. Bald eagles had become a symbol of larger environmental problems and of how "progress" could go wrong.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

In 1962, Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*. The book collected science detailing the dangers of the indiscriminate application of synthetic pesticides and ignited an environmental movement. Public pressure motivated two key decisions within the Federal government. In 1972, the newly formed Environmental Protection Agency banned most uses of DDT in the United States, and in 1973, the Endangered Species Act was enacted. The bald eagle was on the inaugural list of endangered species.

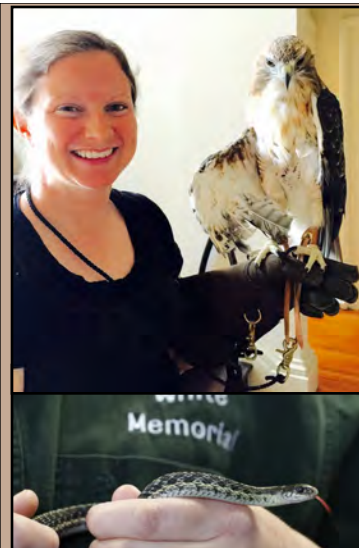
Collectively, these actions minimized the source of a toxic contaminant and focused resources on protecting and recovering the species. With water quality improving and nesting habitat protected, groups like the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife began working on reintroducing birds to suitable habitat. In

1992, a pair of adult eagles that had been released as juveniles in Massachusetts set up a nesting site in Connecticut - the first nest in Connecticut in about 40 years. With the tireless work of several generations of biologists and conservationists, the bald eagle was on the path to recovery. By 1981, the number of breeding pairs had grown to 1,188. By 1995, that number had swelled to approximately 4,500. When Dirk Kempthorne finally signed the order to completely remove bald eagles from the federal endangered species list in 2007, there were nearly 10,000 breeding pairs known in the lower 48 states. Connecticut hosted 15 of those pairs.

The bald eagle has come to symbolize the potential success of the Endangered Species Act. The delisting of the bald eagle was a sign that with the proper protection and effort, species pushed to the

brink by humans can be brought back. The National Audubon Society called it "one of the greatest achievements for conservation in American history." The National Wildlife Federation said, "This is a man-on-the-moon moment for wildlife."

Since then, Connecticut's breeding population has swelled to over 50 breeding pairs in all counties and major watersheds. With the help of many volunteers and partner organizations, the DEEP Wildlife Division conducts an annual winter count, monitors the productivity of nests, protects nesting pairs from disturbance, and bands fledgling birds. Eagles at White Memorial are a sure sign that Bantam Lake is a healthy body of water. Moreover, they are a symbol of the resilience of nature and a conservation success.



2017 ANIMAL FOOD FUND APPEAL

**THE CONSERVATION CENTER REACHES OUT TO YOU
FOR HELP IN DEFRAYING THE
MONUMENTAL COST OF FEEDING THE
WILD BIRDS AND OUR ANIMAL
AMBASSADORS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**

**THE ANNUAL EXPENSE OF KEEPING OUR
BIRDS, SNAKES, TURTLES, AND FEEDERS FULL IS AP-
PROXIMATELY \$5500.**

**YOUR DONATION, NO MATTER HOW SMALL,
WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

Yes! I'd like to help feed wild birds and animal ambassadors at the White Memorial Conservation Center with my gift of:

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

Name: _____ **Address:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

*Please make your check payable to WMCC, 80 Whitehall Road, P.O. Box 368, Litchfield, CT 06759
Your donation can also be made on-line or over the phone by credit card! Visit www.whitememorialcc.org or call us at 860-567-0857!*

Make a Difference

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

It began just as we started cleaning up from our outside summer pursuits. Every late afternoon and early evening they start, calling each other across the small valley where we live. Who-who-who-who? Who-who-who-who-ahhh? Or more commonly "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" We have been blessed to have heard the calls of Barred Owls since we began living here, some thirty two years ago. It is a comforting sound, kind of like neighbors that you rarely see, but enjoy their company.

Later that same evening, we were both reading in the family room, television off, windows and door open to let in the cool evening summer air. I heard them first. The sound brought back memories of Western movies that I watched with my Gramma. In fact, I've heard them for the last several weeks as I lay in bed trying to fall asleep through the gentle motor boat sound of Hubby's snore. It was the first time Hubby had heard them in a long time and at first he thought it was a faraway fire whistle. I urged him to get up and step out on the porch so that he could hear better. Sure enough, they called again and again. When the kids were little, we heard them nearly every night and would often bundle up and sit on the porch to better hear the chorus. When he stepped back inside, grinning from ear to ear, I knew that he knew what I had heard for several weeks. Coyotes. Their yipping echoing across the river valley. I always thought it sounded like "Daddy's home and he brought dinner".

Still later that same day, as we prepared for bed, with the windows opened wide for more of that delicious cool night air, we heard yet another voice. Katydid. *Katydid*. *Katydid*. *Katydid*. When I was growing up in western

Massachusetts, I also heard them and have always wondered just what it was that Katy did! Was it a good thing or a bad thing? And, furthermore, how do we know that it was Katy anyway? The song of the Katydid is the sound of summer winding down. It is the sound that another season is soon to take its place. My Gramma said that you count ahead six weeks from the time you hear the first Katydids and that will be approximately the time of the first frost. Who knows within this time of climate change if that old adage still holds true.

Although the deadline was looming, up until I heard all the voices of nature, I had no idea about what to write this time. Absolutely no clue!

I know this seems to be an odd start to a Make a Difference piece for the newsletter. I am usually telling you to put up rain barrels or reuse grocery bags or start a compost pile. I am always telling you to DO SOMETHING to help make a difference to our world. I know I am bossy; some might say helpful. I accept both. If you have already done those things, terrific. If not, why not? Stop just reading about making a difference and do it! However, what I am about to tell you this time might very well be the most important thing *ever*! If you can only do one thing, do THIS one thing!

It is time, people, some might even say, *past time* to make YOUR VOICE heard. Heard above the cacophony of political discourse from people set on changing our American way of life. All for money. All for greed. Changing the work that has been done for decades to bring this country and others back from the brink. Rolling back our standards. Allowing unspeakable things to happen in our National Parks. The work of Anna Botsford Comstock (1854-1930). The work of Kate

Sessions (1857-1940). The work of Marjory Stoneman Douglas (1890-1998). The work of Rachel Carson (1907-1964). The work of Anne LaBastille (1935-2011). The work of Jane Goodall (b. 1934). The work of Winona LaDake (b. 1959). The work of Vandana Shiva (b. 1952). Look them up and find out what they did. They all made a difference.

Write letters. Call. Email. Letters to the editor. Write your Congressperson *and* your Senators *and* your Governor and tell each of them, frequently and loudly that YOU CARE. Tell them NOT TO ALLOW changes that will negatively impact our water, our air, our very way of life. Tell everyone you know to email, write and call, too. Tell your kids, your grandkids, your neighbors, people in the grocery store. Start a conversation everywhere you go. Flood all of the politicians with your thoughts. Bombard them. Make them sit up and take notice. Oh, and by the way, make sure they know you will be watching and voting accordingly.

We cannot go back to what was. We need to learn from the past and make things better. Keep motion moving forward. Make a difference. Don't just write once and consider it done. Do it again and again and still again. Put it on your calendar to write or call or email, *or all three* weekly, daily, monthly. Tell them you care. *You care* about clean air. *You care* about clean water. *You care* about biodiversity. *You care* about renewable sources of energy. *You care* enough to **make a difference**. Ask them if they *care* enough.



Autumn wins you best by this
its mute appeal to sympathy for its decay.

~ Robert Browning



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

NATURE'S NURSERY

For Ages 3-6 Years
First Thursday Every Month
All Classes 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Members: \$7/session
or \$25/whole series
Non-Members: \$12/session
or \$45/whole series



AFTER-SCHOOL ADVENTURES

For Grades 1-3: Tues., October 3, 10, 17, 24
For Grades 4-6: Weds., October 4, 11, 18, 25
All Classes 3:45 - 5:00 P.M.
Members: \$8/session
or \$28/whole series
Non-members: \$13/session
or \$48/whole series



'TIS THE SEASON FOR CRAFTS !

For Grades K-3:
Wednesday, December 13
For Grades 4-6:
Thursday, December 14
3:45 - 5:15 P.M.
Members: \$10.00
Non-Members: \$15.00

Advanced registration required. Call 860-567-0857 or visit www.whitememorialcc.org for more information.

THE WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER
PRESENTS THE 36TH ANNUAL

FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017, 11AM - 5PM

ADMISSION \$6.00 (CASH OR CHECK ONLY)

CHILDREN UNDER 12 & CENTER MEMBERS FREE



SKYHUNTERS IN FLIGHT + RIVERSIDE REPTILES
MEET THE NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE
HORIZON WINGS RAPTOR CENTER + THE BAT LADY
CYRIL THE SORCERER
MUSIC BY: THE ZOLLA BOYS

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES + CRAFTS FOR KIDS
GUIDED WALKS + DEMONSTRATIONS
BOOTHs & EXHIBITS + FOOD
LOCAL ARTISANS + SILENT AUCTION
THE POCKET LADY + MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

**WIN A TRIP FOR TWO
TO ICELAND IN OUR RAFFLE!**



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 860-567-0857 WWW.WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG

Civil War Memorials on Center Green Litchfield

By J. Fenton Williams, Ph.D.

On Center Green, Litchfield, previously known as Shrubbery Park, stands a Civil War Soldiers' Monument dedicated in 1874. This magnificent white marble obelisk shows two capped Union soldiers, heads bowed, holding their retired swords, their flags at rest, rifles stowed, a snare drum, two canteens and pile of cannon balls. Dramatic image. (see image on right)

To date, the provenance of this historic marker is apparently unknown. The three Wadhams' brothers, Civil War heroes, are listed on this monument and their own gravestone is also of marble, with a flag and sword carved in relief, still standing near Whites Woods Road, in the West Burying Ground. Epitaph: *The battle is fought. The victory won. Rest. Soldiers Rest.*

Close nearby (by the water fountain) is a Thomaston granite pedestal with a bronze plaque commemorating the site of the Civil War Recruitment Tent for the 19th CT Volunteer Infantry. The inscription reads: **Site of Recruiting Tent for 19th CONN VOL INFY August 1862.** In late 1863, the regiment morphed from the infantry to the artillery, and became the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery. (see image on right)

The granite pedestal once held an amazing sundial gifted by Alain Campbell White (co-founder of White Memorial Foundation) in about 1916. In fact, the granite pedestal today has a flat 15" square top, with a threaded pin protruding, the only remnant of the mounting scheme for the missing sundial.

The Litchfield Historical Society holds records of Alain White's detailed handwritten instructions on how this sundial was "operated". He addressed the notes to "Mrs. Vanderpoel" (presumably Litchfield's memorable resident, Emily Noyes Vanderpoel). Most sundials are not "operated", rather observed, to tell the time. So unusual were these instructions that I inquired of our North American Sundial Society President, Frederick W. Sawyer, III for help in identifying the uncommon design. Without delay, Fred recognized the Pilkington Gibbs Heliochronometer as the sundial in question. The Pilkington Gibbs Heliochronometer was a novel, patented English design and only



Top surface of granite pedestal is flat and level, 15" x 15" square. Pedestal height is about 36" tall Central threaded iron mounting pin is 3/4" tall and 3/8" diameter



Sundial similar to one donated by Alain White

about 1000 were made before 1914. Some were melted down to support WWII efforts.

This sundial was unusual in that it could be manually set by the observer for the day of the year and could tell time accurately within 30 seconds. Most garden sundials are not accurate to more than +/- 15 minutes, unless longitude is corrected in the design.

Alain C. White wrote in his own hand: The dial has two revolving plates, a smaller one marked with the months of the year and a larger one marked with the hours of the day.

- ◆ The smaller plate has three short projecting knobs.
- ◆ The larger plate has two tall projecting posts, one white and one black.
- ◆ The dial is adjusted to tell clock time at any moment when the sun shines on this tall black post. To use the dial,
- ◆ Hold the tall white post in your right hand, then revolve the smaller plate, by means of the little knobs on it, until the line indicating the actual month is touching the line indicating the actual day.
- ◆ Next, revolve the larger plate, by means of the two tall posts, until the sunlight passes through the little hole either at the top or at the bottom of the tall black post and falls on the line down the center of the tall white post.
- ◆ When this has been done, the hour and the minute of the day will be indicated at the edge of the larger plate.
- ◆ When the dial is correctly adjusted it is possible to get clock time within about 30 seconds.
- ◆ The dial is strongly built and you can experiment revolving the two plates without fear of injury. Do not, however, hold the tall black post while revolving the smaller plate (for fear of getting it out of order).



(Continued on page 11)

Fall 2017 Calendar of Events

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

SEPTEMBER



SEPTEMBER 23rd 36th ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY

Sky Hunters in Flight
Riverside Reptiles + The Bat Lady
Cyril the Sorcerer
Meet the North American Porcupine
Horizon Wings Raptor Center
Music: The Zolla Boys

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

See page 4 for details.

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

OCTOBER

3 - 25 After School Nature Adventures
For grades 1 - 6
See page 3 for details.

Nature's Nursery Series
October 5, November 2, December 7
See page 3 for details.

7 **Waking Up is Hard to Do**
with Marlow Shami
10:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room


9 **COLUMBUS DAY**
Museum Closed



12 - 18 **Museum Kids Free Week ***
In Memory of Tish Samponaro from her
husband Philip G. Samponaro

13 **Wildlife Photography of Carole Wiley**
Opening Reception
6:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
Pre-register online or call 860-567-0857.

14 **An Ethereal Autumn Walk to Apple Hill,
Cat Swamp, and Laurel Hill**
Gerri Griswold leads the way!
7:00 a.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

14  **Mushroom Identification with
Mike Bok**
See page 7 for details.

15 **Park Pond Paddle with Gerri Griswold**
Pot Luck breakfast to follow! Limited space!
8:00 a.m., Meet at the state boat launch at
Park Pond in Winchester Center.
Pre-register online or call 860-567-0857.



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

21 **Fall Family Hike**
with Carrie Szwed
10:00 a.m., Meet in front of the
A. B. Ceder Room.



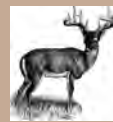
21 **What is Wild?**
Scottish Naturalist Bernie Lundie tells you
what is! www.wildcoastwanders.uk
2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room.



27 **Star Party**
Astronomy program with star
gazing to follow, weather permitting.
7:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room



28 **Spying on the Wildlife
in Your Backyard**
with Patrick O'Brien
See page 7 for details.



NOVEMBER

4 **Day Trip to UCONN Biological Collections
with James Fischer**
See page 7 for details.



4 **MASQUERADE!
with the Connecticut Guild of Puppetry**
See page 7 for details.



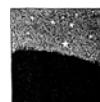
9 - 15 **Museum Kids Free Week***
In honor of Louise W. Willson

10 **Wildlife in Winter
Grades 1-6**
Veterans Day Program
See page 9 for details!

11 **Owl Prowl with Larry Fischer**
Co-sponsored by
Litchfield Hills Audubon Society
5:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room.
Pre-register online or call 860-567-0857.



17 **Star Party**
Astronomy program. Star gazing
will follow, weather permitting.
7:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room



18 **Tree Identification Walk**
with Lukas Hyder
10:00 A.M.,
Meet in the Museum parking lot.



18 **AMANDABAKES**
Museum Open House & Book Signing:
"Sweetie Bake Your Day"
6:00 p.m., Museum
Pre-register online or call 860-567-0857.

23 / 24 **THANKSGIVING**
Museum Closed



25 **Walking the Cranberry Pond Trail**
with Gerri Griswold
2:00 P.M. Meet in the Museum.



DECEMBER

2 **A Walk Through the Cathedrals**
with Gerri Griswold
2:00 p.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

8 **Museum Open House 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**
Stroll through the Museum.
Sip Mulled Cider.
Wrap up your holiday shopping.
Take 10% off all purchases!



9 **Meet the**
North American Porcupine
2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room



13 / 14 **'Tis the Season for Crafts!**
For grades K - 6
See page 3 for details.

16 **Circumnavigating Five Ponds**
with Gerri Griswold
11:00 a.m., Meet at the RT 63/61 trailhead.
Pre-register online or call 860-567-0857.

17 **Litchfield Hills Audubon Christmas
Bird Count.** To volunteer, email Ray
Belding: hoatzin1@optonline.net

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

25 **CHRISTMAS**
Museum Closed



December 27 - 29
Wild & Wacky Winter Camp
Grades 1- 6
See page 9 for details.



30 **Winter Walk Along the Lake Trail &
Butternut Brook Trail with Marlow Shami**
10:00 A.M., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.

JANUARY

January 1, 2018
HAPPY NEW YEAR! Museum Closed

Adult Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Programs: Fall 2017



Mushroom Identification with Mike Bok

October 14, 2017, 9:30 A.M., A. B. Cedar Room

Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$25.00

Join Mike Bok of Illuminating Roots Wilderness Programs for a mushroom talk and walk! Discuss the different types of fungus among us, learn how to identify them, where, and how they grow. Learn about their importance to the ecosystem, as well as to us. After a brief classroom discussion we will head out for a walk to see what types of fungus we can find and identify. **PLEASE NOTE: Foraging on WMF property is prohibited!** <http://www.illuminatingroots.com/>



Spying on the Wildlife in Your Backyard with Patrick O'Brien

October 28, 2017, 1:00 P.M., A. B. Cedar Room

Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$20.00

Game Cameras are a fun way to detect what animals are visiting your backyard. Animals trigger motion sensors which then activate cameras that use night vision technology to capture videos and still pictures. Patrick O'Brien has been working with this technology extensively while researching American Marten in southern Vermont for his Master of Science thesis at Central Connecticut State University. Patrick will share pictures of wildlife he has taken with game cameras and show you how to select a camera when purchasing one. There are lots of tricks to using this technology. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.



Day Trip to UCONN Biological Research Collections with James Fischer

November 4, 2017, 8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M., Meet at the Museum.

\$5.00 per person

Join WMCC Research Director James Fischer on a trip to see a unique library, one that represents the natural history of our state, as well as the biodiversity of some of the most unique ecosystems of the world. Specimens range from large to small, slimy to scaled, beautiful to scary, and more! UCONN's Biological Research Collections are housed in a state-of-the-art facility that ensures the specimens can be used by scientists to answer complex questions that impact our global health, economies, and understanding of biological life for perpetuity. Bring a lunch. Wear comfortable shoes.



MASQUERADE! with the Connecticut Guild of Puppetry

November 4, 2017, 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Carriage House

CGP & WMCC Members: \$25.00 Non-Members: \$35.00

The Connecticut Guild of Puppetry celebrates the life and work of its mask genius friend, Larry Hunt. Long time resident of Bethlehem, CT, Larry was an actor, director, mask-maker, puppeteer and educator who was internationally acclaimed for his innovative approaches to body movement and improvisation. Come in mask and costume and be a part of the Promenade - you might even win an award! Enjoy dancing and special entertainment! Light refreshments served. Cash donation bar.

_____ **Mushroom ID with Mike Bok**.....Member: \$15.00 Non-Member: \$25.00

_____ **Spying on Wildlife with Patrick O'Brien**..... Member: \$15.00 Non-Member: \$20.00

_____ **Day Trip to UCONN with James Fischer**.....All participants: \$5.00

_____ **MASQUERADE!**.....CPG and WMCC Member: \$25.00 Non-Member: \$35.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please circle one: member non-member

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

Make check payable to White Memorial Conservation Center and mail to:

White Memorial, P.O. Box 368, Litchfield CT 06759

You can now register online: www.whitememorialccc.org !



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.

**For more information call 860-567-0857
or visit: www.whitememorialccc.org**

The Pond Walk By Tim Carew

*A cycle ride through shadow
Woods, heady smell of pine
Wills to overjoy the senses,
By quiet wheeling upon these
Needles' pillowed pretenses.*

*The day was sunny, warm,
Then came to few clouds,
The path welcome, our bond,
To pass through old friends,
Our trees tell to Little Pond.*

*Now to the narrow boardwalk,
Creaking underfoot to amuse,
High grasses, reeds, low trees
Come close to adorn the way,
Shifting east, south by breeze.*

*A croaking chorus is heard,
With chirping, whistles of birds,
Small yellow wild-flowers appear,
Smiles of life brought to bear,
Footfalls lighten to dance in air.*

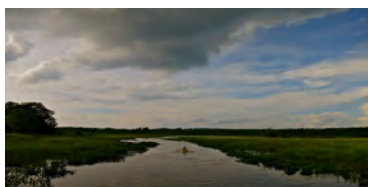
*Wooden path serpentine above
Dense marsh, watered shallows,
With dark greens and bright mallow,
Cattail and pickerelweed bloom,
A nature to harbor the swallow.*

*Red-winged blackbirds explore,
The walk came upon flowers more,
With the wild yellow join the pink,
Be true delicate white and blue,
Forever shall the purple pink.*

*Over button bush the pond is seen,
Upon countless lilies the light gleams,
Where arrow arum point and greet
The boardwalk sturdy crosses a beach,
Fayed ripples appear, that flow to meet.*

*Past half-way around the pond,
The tanager, warbler and wren
Fly cautious by to befriend,
The path now aground leads thee
To the majestic giant willow-tree.*

*Here high beside the kingfisher,
One may climb and forever see
Earth in full breathtaking beauty,
Yet the sun wanes to call away,
Drawn humbled to come another day.*



Solar Eclipse Apocalypse! Story by Gerri Griswold & Photos by Sheila Ivain

We knew the eclipse was coming but nobody saw what was coming. Not even the members of the Litchfield Hills Amateur Astronomy Club could gauge what was to happen on August 21, 2017.

I guess we should have figured something was brewing by the number of frantic phone calls received the week before. The Museum Gift Shop had run out of protective glasses. Not a pair could be found anywhere in the nation. The phone was ringing off the hook!

Monday rolled in and we were prepared for perhaps fifty or maybe even one hundred guests. Research Director James Fischer, "The phone was ringing non-stop. I don't think Marlow, Pam (our beloved and by now cross-eyed Office Manager), or I could do anything but answer phones." Fischer set up the PA system.

The amateur astronomers, led by Russ Leonard came armed with six scopes. The large telescope housed in the Sawmill Field was opened for business as well.

The crowds roared into Whitehall. Approximately 1,000 witnessed this breathtaking natural phenomenon.

At 1:00 p.m., Executive Director Keith Cudworth counted 250 cars parked on the main campus. Cars spilled out onto Route 202 and Bissell Road. State Police had to close Bissell Road because of heavy traffic. One woman was so excited to

see the eclipse (67% totality at 2:45 p.m.), that she parked, left her headlights on and the keys in the ignition, followed the masses, and completely forgot where she had parked. Fischer helped her retrieve her car.

WMCC Community Outreach Coordinator Marlow Shami witnessed the happy mob scene first hand, "What I thought was really wonderful was what Russ Leonard said, "This is a slow event. There is plenty of time to view it." Lines of happy people patiently waited to use the scopes. James Fischer made a couple of pin-hole projectors for people to use. Shami worked the lines sharing her protective glasses. "Everyone was in a good mood. There were picnics and lawn chairs. Everyone got into the zone. It was one big solar tribe."

The masses dissipated shortly after 3:00 p.m. Shami was impressed, "The kicker is that only one Dunkin Donuts cup and two other small pieces of garbage were all they left behind."

The Conservation Center is so grateful to our incredible local astronomers, for the amazing effort they put in on this memorable day and for the beautifully attended Star Parties they hold monthly in the A. B. Cedar Room.

A solar eclipse will once again darken our doorstep on April 8, 2024. With a totality of 95% expected...we'll be ready!



Volunteer Spotlight: John Markelon

Story and photograph by Gerri Griswold

A long long time ago in a town called East Windsor, John Markelon was doing some research for an upcoming trip, "I was working on a project developing a plant press for my Continental Divide hike. One book I was reading referred to White Memorial. I said to myself, "HUH!". While he was applying for jobs all along the Appalachian trail, John thought, "That Litchfield area looks good too!" Markelon landed at White Memorial in 1986 while he was an Antioch University New England graduate student. Retired WMCC Education Director Jeff Greenwood brought Markelon in to teach some botany programs: "This Bud's For You", winter botany, as well as wildlife tracking.

Growing up, John's father raised much of their family's own food. The TV would be shut off and the children forced outside. Since he lived "in the shadow of a highway," "I saw places disappear. No longer saw fish or snakes." Markelon was inspired to make a difference.

John's first teaching job in 1987 took him to New Milford High School. There was a stint at Northwest Regional School #7. He moved to Litchfield in 1991 and in 1999 began teaching at Litchfield High School.

One of Markelon's greatest achievements was spearheading the annual *Envirothon*. This is a natural resources competition for high school students across the nation. Students study a variety of topics: soils, wildlife, water among

them. They are tested on each topic and participate in hands on learning about all processes. Markelon prides himself on winning the national competition at three different high schools (New Milford High



Firmly Planted: John Markelon

School in 1998, Northwest Regional #7 in 1999, and Litchfield High School in 2001). Markelon retired from *Envirothon* in 2014 after 20 years.

In his spare time Markelon loves gardening and native plant landscaping, playing acoustic guitar, singing and hiking. "I feel the students I have impacted most are those I took hiking: immersion students... Getting kids to go outside is most im-

portant."

He has 7000 miles of backpacking under his belt...Appalachian Trail in 1983 and Continental Divide in 1985, among others. Growing up outdoors and the profound influence Markelon's parents had in his development led John to receive the White Memorial Foundation's Conservation Award in 2005. Markelon remembers thanking his parents when he accepted the award.

This summer John spent time in Mexico with a group of students at Operation Wallacea. This is a great field based conservation research organization linking student volunteers with university level researchers <http://opwall.com/>.

John has been married 28 years to Darcy. The Markelons have two children, Matthew and Sierra. Following in her father's footsteps, Sierra taught at our 2017 summer camps. The apple never falls far from the tree.

After all this time, conservation, natural resources, and White Memorial continue to fascinate John Markelon. "If a week goes by when I am not running or skiing through White Memorial...that is a bad week."

*My religion is nature.
That's what arouses those feelings of
wonder and mysticism
and gratitude in me.
~Oliver Sacks*



SCHOOL VACATION PROGRAMS

WILDLIFE IN WINTER

November 10

(Veteran's Day)

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

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

Members: \$20.00

Non-Members: \$30.00

WILD & WACKY WINTER CAMP

December 27-29

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

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

Members: \$20/session or \$55/series

Non-Members: \$30/session

or \$85/series

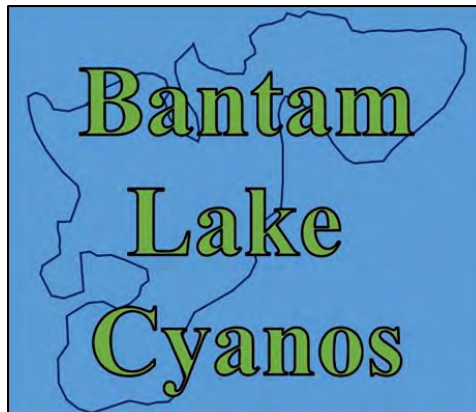


≡ BANTAM LAKE CYANOS

SEARCH

The future of Bantam Lake, Connecticut is in our hands.

CURRENT CONDITIONS · CYANOBACTERIA, FAQs · BLOOMS · HEALTH RISKS · TAKING ACTION



Bantam Lake is located in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains in northwest Connecticut and is a popular retreat destination throughout the year. Sadly, harmful algal blooms (a.k.a. Cyanobacteria Blooms or Blue-green Algae) occur annually in Bantam Lake. We created *Bantam Lake Cyanos*, a user-friendly interface between you (the user), the scientific community, and the lake managers.

This app and website provide up-to-date forecasts of cyanobacteria abundance and activity patterns in Bantam Lake. Current conditions of the lake are constantly updated. Over-abundant cyanobacteria release toxins harmful to both human and animal health.

Scientists and the lake managers need help from you, the local community. You have the ability to make a positive influence on

Bantam Lake right now and for future generations. Download *Bantam Lake Cyanos* to report cyanobacteria activity in the lake by taking pictures, videos, or texts. This information will help policy makers, lake managers, and scientists make more accurate forecasts, management decisions, and policy for the lake and its community.

<http://bantamlakecyanos.blogspot.com>

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Civil War Memorials on Center Green Litchfield

By J. Fenton Williams, Ph.D. *continued from page 5*

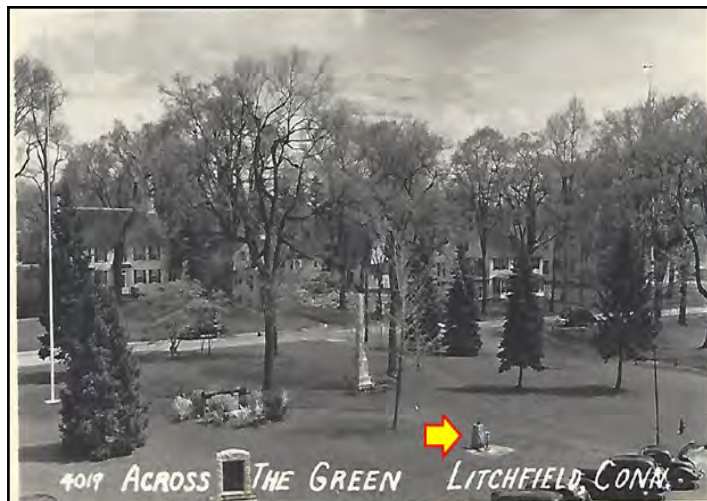
Rules for Using Sun Dial

- ◆ The small disc shows the months of the year
- ◆ The large disc shows the hours of the day
- ◆ Adjacent to the small disc is a die showing the days of the month.
- ◆ Adjacent to the large disc is a die showing the minutes of the hour

To tell the exact clock time:

- ◆ Adjust the small disc so that the mark for the month is exactly opposite the mark for the day on the adjacent die.
- ◆ The large black projection on the large disc is pierced with two tiny holes through one of which a ray of the sun can be made to fall on the large white projection of the large disc.
- ◆ Move the large disc so that this ray will fall exactly on the center line of the large white projection.
- ◆ The hours and minutes will then be found exactly opposite each other on the larger hour disc and the adjacent minute die.

- ◆ All parts of the dial can be handled fully except the large black projection on the large disc.



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"I'm so glad I live in a world where
there are Octobers."

~ L. M. Montgomery
Anne of Green Gables

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VACATION PROGRAMS (SEE PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS)



WILDLIFE IN WINTER
NOVEMBER 10 (VETERAN'S Day)



WILD AND WACKY WINTER CAMP
DECEMBER 27-29

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS (SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



AFTER SCHOOL ADVENTURES
TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER

NATURE'S NURSERY
FIRST THURSDAY EVERY MONTH

'TIS THE SEASON FOR CRAFTS
DECEMBER 13 & 14

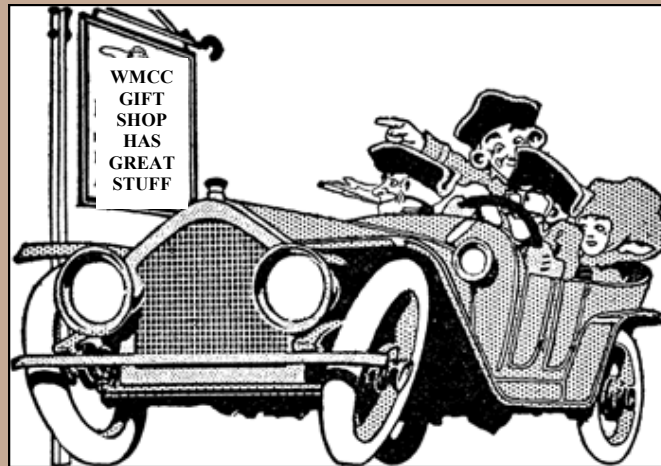
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6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**



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