

# SANCTUARY

Newsletter of  
The  
White Memorial  
Conservation Center

Vol. XXXIX No. 4  
Fall 2021

## Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

## For Information

Phone: 860-567-0857

E-Mail: [info@whitememorialcc.org](mailto:info@whitememorialcc.org)

Website: [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)



*From Little Acorns Grow Mighty Oaks  
Photo credit: Gerri Griswold*

## Keepers of The Whites

By Calvin Taltavall, Maggie Loery, Jared Franklin, Max Galdos-Shapiro, Nicole Morin, & Mike Berry

Alain and May White were thoroughly invested in children...from the camps established on Bantam Lake, to the elaborate plays staged in the gardens of Whitehall, to the annual ice cream social for local school children, to establishing the White Memorial Foundation as a sanctuary. They cared passionately about giving children the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature. Nothing has changed. In over a hundred years we continue to nurture the White's mission. Following are a handful of stories by extraordinary young people who tread in Alain and May's footsteps. They (and many more) are Keepers of The Whites.

### Calvin Taltavall

When looking back upon my years at White Memorial, I find it challenging to pick out less than a dozen events that stood out, as my years in summer camp and beyond were some of the most formative in my life. With the help of people like Gerri Griswold and Jeff Greenwood, my passion for nature was not just kindled, it was set ablaze.

Some of my favorite interests were started at White Memorial, such as my love of carnivorous plants. One of my most memorable hikes was spent with Jeff when I toured the Black Spruce Bog in Mohawk Mountain State Forest. That hike introduced me to two of our native species



which I still hold close to my heart- *Drosera Rotundifolia* and *Sarracenia Purpurea*. The sight of those plants thriving in a sea of sphagnum, so highly evolved to trap a niche group of insects and yet, developing such dramatically different morphology to do so. For me, it was love at first sight. That hike started a decade long infatuation with carnivorous plants that has only grown stronger as years go by. If I hadn't have been introduced to those plants so early on, I doubt I'd be in the position I am in now, working to conserve and preserve their native habitats with The North American *Sarracenia* Conservancy. [www.nasarracenia.org](http://www.nasarracenia.org)

### Maggie Loery

Interning at White Memorial was my first opportunity to ask things like: what is the coolest bird-call? What kind of plant is that and can I eat it? How many worms might fit into a square foot of soil, and at what point does that constitute the Wormageddon?

Of course, it also taught me that learning the answer to such perennial questions requires quite a lot of rooting around in the leaf litter. Gathering data every day with Jamie Fischer and the rest of the intern crew (for inquiries much more reasonable and scientific than Wormageddon) gave me the perfect opportunity to ask a thousand questions on species ID, what makes an ecosystem healthy, and how having data can help keep it



that way. There was no better way to learn than to be out in the field with the experts.

The path I took after WM was far from a straight one. I graduated college with a degree in biology, and have tried research, restoration work, and working on two separate conservation crews. And after all that time outside, I came back in to work as a library clerk in Danbury, CT. For as different as it is, my best work is still driven by things I learned first at WM: ask good questions, find the answers hidden beneath the first layer, and, above all else, do what you can do to help the community thrive.

*Editor's Note: Maggie Loery is the granddaughter of The White Memorial Conservation Center's first Education Director, Gordon Loery*

(Continued on page 2)



### **Jared Franklin**

My first experiences with White Memorial began with Jeff Greenwood's summer programs. To this day I still remember Jeff explaining to us how to identify birds by their song and letting us use a seine net to identify the fish in Bantam Lake.

In large part to these early experiences, I decided to enroll at Wamogo Regional High School, so as to be able to take the natural resource classes offered under the school's agriculture education program. As part of this program, students were required to accumulate a certain number of hours each semester working or volunteering in an agricultural-related setting. It was through this program that I began volunteering at White Memorial, helping Jamie Fischer conduct research in the Foundation's natural areas.



After graduation from college, I returned to White Memorial as a research technician, assisting Jamie with various research projects, including crayfish sampling, tick survival experiments, and emerald ash borer monitoring.

Today I work as a biologist in south Florida, monitoring and managing wetland habitat in the greater Everglades ecosystem. So much of what I learned at White Memorial carries over to what I now do on a day-to-day basis, from removing invasive plants to developing GIS

maps to using dichotomous keys to identify various plants and invertebrates. I owe an incredible debt of gratitude to Jamie Fischer, Lukas Hyder, and all of the other White Memorial staff who helped me develop these skills along the way.

### **Max Galdos - Shapiro**

My first memories of White Memorial are of summer camp with Jeff Greenwood at age 5 or 6. Sitting by Ongley Pond watching Water Striders dance across the surface we learned how all the creatures of the pond relied on each other. Jeff never sugar coated these relationships nor how humans could easily disrupt that beautiful place, and this lesson has remained a touch stone for me as I organize and run my own programming for children.

Perhaps the most important experiences I had at White Memorial took place as a volunteer. Starting around age 12, I would come to the museum a few days a week to feed the education animals, watch birds, and help in the gift shop. While lessons in responsibility, consistency, and diligence were deeply valuable, it was my time around the staff that was truly life changing. From them I learned just how much good people can do for the natural world when they use their passion and curiosity to



inspire others to learn. Conservation rooted in research was the ethic that surrounded me and this perhaps more than anything helped to stave off the climate grief I began to feel at this time.

Today I work as an Education Coordinator and Camp Director for Mass Audubon in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Each and every day my students benefit from my time at White Memorial as I seek to instill the same love of science and conservation that I was taught. While we face innumerable challenges protecting the natural world, my connection to that land and the people who care for it continues to inspire me to learn, teach, and protect as much as we can.

*Editor's Note: Max married his love, Arantazu Zuzene, in front of Ongley Pond on September 11, 2016. Max was responsible for rehabilitating and naming our Ambassador Barred Owl, Shakespeare!*

### **Nicole Morin**

As a former volunteer of White Memorial I received hands on experience giving me a competitive advantage in obtaining paid positions in the conservation field. I consider White Memorial the start of my career and the foundation of the dream I've built in northern New York where I now work and reside. I am originally from Plymouth, CT and I attended Wamogo Regional High across the street from White Memorial. I was lucky enough to join the White Memorial team and I developed my field research skills helping with crayfish studies, chytrid fungus monitoring, salamander population density and site preference studies, and assisted with special events.

After graduating high school and leaving White Memorial I began studying natural resource management, fisheries and wildlife, forestry management, and obtained a Bachelor of Sci-



ence in 2017 from Paul Smith's College. During that time I was a naturalist guide at the Paul Smith's College VIC and became a wildlife rehabilitator. After graduating, I was welcomed back to White Memorial as a co-leader for the summer natural history camps where I improved my skills engaging youth audiences.

My fiancé Ryan and I now own property in Lake Clear, New York where I work as The Wild Center biologist. I care for over 600+ native wildlife, performing husbandry and behavioral training of ambassador animals. I also have the pleasure of delivering educational programming both on site and digitally. In my free time I help Ryan guide clients through our entrepreneurial fishing guide service, *Adirondack TrOutfitters*.

*Editor's Note: Nicole provides top shelf virtual programming to White Memorial with her Animal Ambassadors. [www.wildcenter.org](http://www.wildcenter.org)*

# Make a Difference

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

"Natural Cleaning products" have been around for a long time. Some work pretty well. Some don't. Such is life. However, one thing this pandemic has taught us is we need to dig deeper, to rely more on oneself. It seems that the days of going to the store and finding just what is on your list are over, or nearly so, at least for me. I have had to adapt recipes, change menus and substitute all manner of things since March of 2020. I bet you have too.

Which, once again, got me thinking about my grandmother and great grandmother- two very independent, hard - working women. Two women who did not have much money, but whose homes were always clean and tidy. I got to thinking about what they cleaned with and how often. Then, I remembered an old recipe box with a section called "housekeeping hints". I had never really examined it very thoroughly, although there were some pretty interesting ideas there. What I saw a lot of was white vinegar and baking soda. Hmmm. Got me thinking...

Fast forward to a few days later when I was chatting with a new neighbor and friend, Jenn, and she told me she never buys cleaning products. Believe me when I tell you that her home is gleaming. Plus she has two dogs! So, I asked her for her "cleaning recipes". A few days later, she brought me over a spray bottle and a microfiber cloth full of her go-to cleaning product AND the recipe. She told me that she uses it on reading glasses, the frig, microwave, chrome, brightwork, hard surfaces, countertops and as an odor eliminator for things like stinking running shoes and dog beds. She also sprays it on a microfiber cloth to clean cell phones, laptops, keypads and television sets. What IS this cleaning marvel, you say? Cheap vodka and distilled water in a 50/50 ratio. Expensive vodka will also work, but why go to the added expense? Mix it up and put it in a spray bottle and go to town. I really like this Jenn, but was not completely convinced...then I tried it! Holy cow! It does all she said it

did and more. I've used it on switch plates, stovetops, exhaust hoods and windows. You need to be sure to use distilled water because "regular" tap water has trace amounts of minerals and they will change the formula. Which might also explain why all of my previous attempts at making my own cleaning products have failed. I always used regular tap water. Go figure.



Which got me asking her about her dishwasher. She does use commercial dishwasher detergent, but does not add the additive that is recommended. She uses white vinegar. Just fills up the little dispenser and never worries about spots on her glasses.

I can hear you thinking, but what does she use in her toilet? Commercial toilet cleaners are very toxic and probably not all that good for your septic tank. She uses Dr. Bronner soap and baking soda- just a squirt of soap and a sprinkle of baking soda. She rarely uses chlorine bleach for anything at all. She does not use borax.

Laundry? Yup, she makes her own laundry soap, too. Four ounces of grated soap, like "Zote"; 2 cups baking soda; 2 cups washing soda and (optional) 2 cups of borax. Use 1 tablespoon directly in the drum for a high efficiency washer and 2-3 tablespoons in a top loading machine. If you decide to use it in cold water, she recommends to dilute it beforehand. She also said that because each home has different tap water, with different

minerals, that you may need to adjust the amount or the ratio. I have yet to try this because I just purchased a huge container of detergent. When she is out of or doesn't have time to make her own detergent, she uses "Nellie's Laundry Soda". Works great. It is non toxic, biodegradable, hypoallergenic, vegan and leaping bunny certified. Stain lifter? Dawn dishwashing soap. If it is gentle enough for wildlife, it's gentle enough for us.

Which got me doing research. Dryer? Wool balls. Make your own by making a ball of 100% wool yarn. Repeat for as many balls as desired. Scent with essential oil, if desired. Stick two into an old panty hose leg; knot between so they don't touch, and run through a wash cycle in hot water with towels. Toss into the dryer on hot. Once dry, remove from panty hose and clip any loose threads. Each ball should appear "felted". Throw them in the dryer with clothes.

My cousin, Lori, uses white vinegar in her laundry to soften. It also helps reduce static cling. She also leaves dishes of cider vinegar, water and a squirt of dish liquid to trap fruit flies. She never cleans hummingbird feeders with anything but hot water and white vinegar.

Shower doors? White vinegar on a rag. Bathtub ring? White vinegar and baking soda paste, or just baking soda. You can also use borax on a sponge.

So, the next time you're at the liquor store, grab a couple of bottles of the cheapest vodka (sorry Carpy). The next time you're at the grocery store or department store, grab a couple of gallons of white vinegar and the biggest box or bag of baking soda that you can find. Walmart sells a 12 pound bag near the pool stuff! Spray bottles, microfiber cloths and Nellie's are available at Amazon or HSN.

Clean up the more natural way; make your own cleaners; stop bringing more chemicals into your home and **make a difference** for the environment and your home and family.



Spring is beautiful, and summer is Perfect for vacations, but autumn brings a longing to get away from the unreal things of life, out into the forest at night with a campfire and the rustling leaves.

~ Margaret Elizabeth Sangster



THE WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER  
PRESENTS THE 39TH ANNUAL

# FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2021  
11AM - 5PM + ADMISSION \$6.00 (CASH & CHECK ONLY)  
CHILDREN UNDER 12 & CENTER MEMBERS FREE



**SKYHUNTERS IN FLIGHT + RIVERSIDE REPTILES**  
**HORIZON WINGS RAPTOR CENTER**  
**HAND WING BAT REHABILITATION**  
**FERNCROFT WILDLIFE RESCUE: OPOSSUMS!**  
**THE TURTLE'S BACK**  
**MUSIC BY: ANDES MANTA**

**HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES**  
**GUIDED WALKS + DEMONSTRATIONS**  
**BOOTHS & EXHIBITS + FOOD**  
**LOCAL ARTISANS + ONLINE SILENT AUCTION**  
**LIVE ANIMALS + MUSIC + NATURE CRAFTS FOR KIDS**

**WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO ICELAND IN OUR RAFFLE!**  
**FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL...MASKS ARE REQUIRED!**



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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: 860-567-0857 [WWW.WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG](http://WWW.WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG)**

# Improving Water Quality in Bantam Lake Requires a Plan for the Entire Watershed

By James Fischer, Research Director

We all live in a watershed. Every decision that we make in our homes and businesses impacts someone or something downstream. We see the effect of these decisions in Bantam Lake. Excess nutrients create the conditions that encourage harmful algal blooms and invasive plants in the lake and throughout the watershed. After many years of collecting data in Bantam Lake and throughout its watershed, we are learning the origins of the excess nutrients and how to control it. These efforts were largely due to the Bantam Lake Coalition Fund which consists of contributions by the Bantam Lake Protective Association, White Memorial Foundation, Town of Morris, and Town of Litchfield, as well as many private donors.

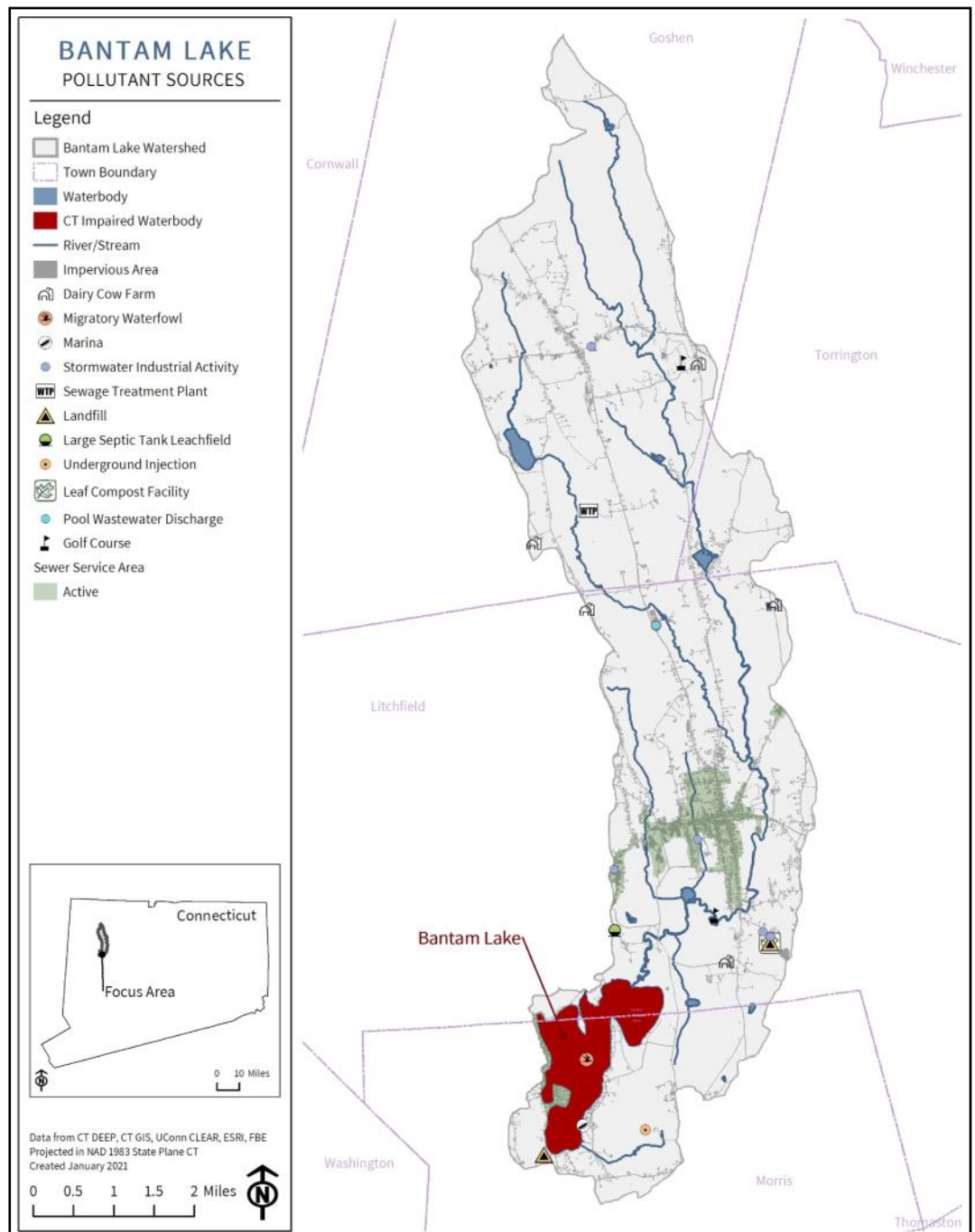
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the United States Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) noticed how much data The Bantam Lake Coalition Fund generated over the past 15 years. As a result, two principle documents were developed to help guide Bantam Lake's managers toward improving water quality. The first document titled "Connecticut Statewide Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load Core Document" with its first appendix titled "Bantam Lake Watershed" explores how much and the sources of nutrient loading. These documents illustrated the magnitude of the sources including that nearly 65% of excess nutrients originates from Woodridge Lake's Water Pollution Control Facility while an additional 35% comes from lake-bottom sediments after prolonged water column stratification and mixing. The second document titled "Bantam Lake Watershed Based Plan" explores a range of additional nutrient sources and how to prioritize as well as control them over the next 10 years. Both of these documents will be extremely helpful.

The guidance provided by these documents provides a time frame when important tasks should be performed and a robust feasibility analysis for each project that includes costs, project complexity, and other attributes. Progress is already underway! Once these documents were announced for public comment, several stakeholders reached out seeking input.

Bantam Lake has changed over the past 150 years due to many land-use and land cover changes. We see these changes when fossilized microscopic organisms are examined through the lake-bottom sediments. It is just like looking at tree rings to tell us the story of the land where the tree grew, lake sediments record how a lake changes. In the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century, Bantam Lake had little nutrients in the water column; it was an oligotrophic lake. Around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, at the peak of agriculture and as the Industrial Revolution was occurring, more nutrients entered the lake, thereby encouraging it to function like a mesotrophic lake. Nutrients entering the lake increased rapidly during the 1960's, when local town populations grew rapidly. Bantam Lake began to function like a eutrophic lake, a lake with lots of nutrients available and as a result encouraged harmful algal blooms and invasive species.

These documents show us that there is hope for Bantam Lake. If lake stakeholders wish to change things, now is the time to take action. If we address and control the sources of excess nutrients then Bantam Lake will likely function like a mesotrophic lake once again!

(Continued on page 9)





# Fall 2021 Calendar of Events

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

## SEPTEMBER



**SEPTEMBER 25th**  
**39th ANNUAL**  
**FAMILY NATURE DAY**

*Sky Hunters in Flight*  
*Riverside Reptiles*  
*The Turtle's Back*  
*Hand Wing Bat Rehabilitation*  
*Horizon Wings Raptor Center*  
*Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue:*  
*Opossums!*  
*Music: Andes Manta*

**FOR THE SAFETY OF**  
**ALL ...MASKS MANDATORY!**  
**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  
honoring Wesley D. Parcell

## OCTOBER

*After School Adventures*  
*Tuesdays and Wednesdays in October*  
*For grades 1 - 6*  
*See back page for details.*

*Nature's Nursery Series*  
*October 7, November 4, December 2*  
*See back page for details.*

**2** *Carnivorous Plants*  
*with Stewart McPherson*  
*See page 7 for details.*



**9** *Stories in Trunks*  
*and Branches: Witness Trees*  
*with David K. Leff*  
*See page 7 for details.*



**11 COLUMBUS DAY**  
Office Closed



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

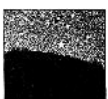
**16 Crack o' Dawn Owl Prowl**  
**with Fran Zygmont & Gerri Griswold**  
4:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room  
Pre-register online or call 860-567-0857.  
**LIMITED TO 15 PARTICIPANTS!**



**16 Fall Mushroom Foray**  
**with Mushroom Marlene!**  
*See page 7 for details.*



**22 Star Party**  
Astronomy program. MASKS  
REQUIRED! Star gazing to follow,  
weather permitting.  
7:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room



**23 Fall Family Hike with Carrie Szwed**  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.  
Please pre-register: 860-567-0857 or online:  
[www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)

**23 The Inborn Brilliance of Spiders**  
**with Dr. Richard Bradley**  
*See page 7 for details.*



**26 - Nov. 1 Museum Kids Free Week \***  
In Memory of Ron Hummel  
from His Family and Friends

**30 Spooky Halloween Dog Walk**  
**with Gerri & Bradley**  
Dress up your pooch and yourself! We'll  
parade around the property for about 3 miles!  
All dogs must be on leads.  
Spooky treats for all after the walk.  
10:00 a.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.  
Members: FREE, Non-members: \$5.00,  
Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or  
register online: [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)



**30 Sequoia National Park:**  
**Through the Eyes of Tom Alena**  
*See page 7 for details.*



## NOVEMBER

**6 The Pandemic Pantry**  
**with Gerri Griswold**  
Gussying Up American Classics!  
12:00 p.m.  
ZOOM and Facebook Live!

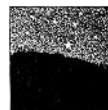
**9 - 15 Museum Kids Free Week\***  
In honor of Louise W. Willson

**11 Veterans Day Kid's Program**  
*See page 9 for details.*

**13 RAVEN ~ Bird, Myth, Legend**  
**with Mary Beth Kaeser &**  
**Gerri Griswold**  
*See page 7 for details.*



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



**20 Boggled Down ~**  
**The Fascinating Life of Tollund Man**  
**with Ole Neilson, Director Silkeborg Museum**  
*See page 7 for details.*



**23 Nature Connection**  
**Workshop for Grown-ups**  
**with Andy Dobos**  
*See page 7 for details*



**25 / 26 THANKSGIVING**  
Offices Closed



**27 Walking the Cranberry Pond Trail**  
**with Gerri Griswold**  
2:00 p.m., Meet at the Cranberry Pond  
Trailhead on Webster Road.  
Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or  
register online [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)



## DECEMBER

**4 Circumnavigating Five Ponds**  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Meet Gerri at the  
trailhead where Routes 63/61 meet! Register by  
calling 860-567-0857 or online:  
[www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)

**11 Crack o' Dawn Owl Prowl**  
**with Fran Zygmont & Gerri Griswold**  
4:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room.  
Pre-register online or call 860-567-0857.  
**LIMITED TO 15 PARTICIPANTS!**



**18 Beaver Fever: Talk & Walk**  
**with Gerri Griswold**  
*See page 7 for details.*



**19 Litchfield Hills Audubon Christmas**  
**Bird Count** ~ To volunteer, email Ray  
Belding: [hoatzin1@optonline.net](mailto:hoatzin1@optonline.net)

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

**24 Christmas Eve Stroll Up Apple Hill**  
**with Gerri Griswold**  
Hot chocolate, scones, comfort & joy!  
10:00 a.m., Meet at the Apple Hill Trailhead  
off East Shore Road. Limited to 12!  
Pre-register: 860-567-0857 or online:  
[www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)

**25 CHRISTMAS**  
Offices Closed



**December 30 & 31**  
**One Day Fun Day at White Memorial!**  
**Grades 1 - 6**  
*See page 9 for details.*



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

# Adult Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Programs: Fall 2021

ALL INDOOR PROGRAMS REQUIRE MASKS.



## **Carnivorous Plants with Stewart McPherson**

October 2, 2021, 2:00 p.m., ZOOM  
Members: FREE Non-Members: \$10.00

Travel to Dorset, England to talk carnivorous plants with an expert! Stewart McPherson is a geographer, explorer, naturalist with over 20 books published, and that's just the beginning! He founded Ark of Life <http://arkoflife.net> to conserve species of carnivorous plants on the brink of extinction.



## **Stories in Trunks & Branches: Witness Trees**

October 9, 2021, 2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room  
Members: \$10.00 Non-Members: \$20.00

David K. Leff discusses the oldest and largest living things among us. Trees play a significant role in our collective and individual memories. From the Charter Oak creation tale of Connecticut to penknife carvings in the smooth, smoke-gray bark of beeches, explore the intriguing stories that trees tell at the confluence of nature and culture.



## **Fall Mushroom Foray with Mushroom Marlene**

October 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room  
Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$30.00

Mycologist Marlene Snecinski leads you on a lovely foray to collect and identify edible mushrooms. A presentation and tasting follow the walk! **FORAGING ON WMF PROPERTY IS FORBIDDEN WITHOUT PERMISSION!**



## **The Inborn Brilliance of Spiders**

October 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m., ZOOM  
Members: FREE Non-Members: \$10.00

Dr. Richard Bradley leads us into the world of the ubiquitous spider. As intermediate-level predators, they are among the most important components of the food chain. Bradley will highlight these remarkable predators as fascinating examples of behavior and adaptation.



## **Spooky Halloween Walk with Gerri & Bradley**

October 30, 2021, 10:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room  
Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

Celebrate Halloween by dressing up yourself and your furry friend (ALL DOGS ON LEADS!) for a 3 mile stroll. Spooky treats for everybody after the walk!



## **Sequoia National Park with Tom Alena**

October 30, 2021, 3:00 p.m., ZOOM  
Members: FREE Non-Members: \$10.00

Travel with Tom on his recent adventure visiting the LARGEST LIVING THINGS ON EARTH, the Giant Sequoias. Tom will discuss the history of the Park and illustrate what conservationists are doing to preserve these living



## **Raven: Bird, Myth, Legend with Mary Beth Kaeser & Gerri Griswold**

November 13, 2021, 2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room  
Members: \$10.00 Non-Members: \$20.00

Mary Beth Kaeser <https://www.horizonwings.org/>, her lovely imprinted Raven, Maven, and Gerri Griswold team up for a program devoted to the most intelligent bird brain in the world. SPACE IS LIMITED!



## **Bogged Down: The Fascinating Life of Tollund Man with Ole Neilson, Silkeborg Museum**

November 20, 2021, 12:00 p.m., ZOOM  
Members: FREE Non-Members: \$10.00

Who exactly is Tollund Man? Travel virtually to Denmark to learn all about this Pre-Roman Iron Age superstar: where he was discovered, his reconstruction, last meal, and how, where, and why he met his fate.



## **Nature Connection Workshop for Grown-Ups**

November 23, 2021, 1:00 p.m., Museum  
Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$30.00

Want more from your time outside? Adults get so little free time to truly connect with Nature. This workshop will help you go deeper, feel more comfortable and give you some things to practice on your own, all to help you develop a deep relationship with the natural landscape.



## **Beaver Fever Talk & Walk with Gerri Griswold**

December 18, 2021, 6:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room  
Members: FREE Non-Members: \$10.00

Gather in the Museum for coffee and muffins in front of our spectacular Beaver Lodge. Learn a bit about North America's largest rodent, then venture out for a walk to beaver hot spots on our property!

<input type="checkbox"/> Carnivorous Plants.....	Member: FREE	Non-Member: \$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Stories in Trunks & Branches: Witness Trees...	Member: \$10.00	Non-Member: \$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Fall Mushroom Foray.....	Member: \$15.00	Non-Member: \$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Inborn brilliance of Spiders.....	Member: FREE	Non-Member: \$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Spooky Halloween Dog Walk.....	Member: FREE	Non-Member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sequoia National Park.....	Member: FREE	Non-Member: \$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Raven: Bird, Myth, Legend.....	Member: \$10.00	Non-Member: \$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Bogged Down: Tollund Man.....	Member: FREE	Non-Member: \$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Connection Workshop for Grown-Ups...	Member: \$15.00	Non-Member: \$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaver Fever.....	Member: FREE	Non-Member: \$10.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one: member non-member

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

Clip this form, 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.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org) !



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Your tax-deductible fee will help sponsor programs like these. A family membership is \$60.00 per year. An individual membership is \$40.00 per year.

For more information call 860-567-0857 or visit: [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)



## Keepers of The Whites

*Continued from page 2*

### Mike Berry

I grew up in Northfield, a small section of Litchfield. My childhood, like most people who grew up in the town of Litchfield, was full of encounters with White Memorial. As a kid I walked the boardwalk, looking for all kinds of wildlife in Little Pond and the surrounding woods. I camped at Point Folly, and swam in Bantam Lake. My school had 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Field Day, and of course, the much awaited Winter Field Day in the Activity Shed. Like every kid from Litchfield Intermediate School in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I enjoyed climbing all over the log skidder. Little did I know I would someday be operating that very skidder.

I was like most high school students; I had no idea what I wanted to do as a career. When I turned 14, I became very involved with my local volunteer fire company, so I thought for sure I was going to be a career firefighter. I had no plans to go to college or further my education past high school. The girl I was dating my senior year of high school asked me if I wanted to go to Vermont with her to visit Green Mountain College. I am always down for a road trip so I went. I had no idea how that trip would set the ball rolling for my career in conservation. As soon as I set foot on campus I immediately fell in love with the school. We got back from the campus visit and I immediately applied, and was accepted. I decided to major in Environmental Studies. GMC required a summer internship, so I immediately thought of White Memorial. In my junior year I reached out to James Fischer, the research director here at White Memorial. Jamie and I talked and we settled on a summer internship project attempting to detect the presence of the Northern Water Shrew on White Memorial property. Jamie suggested that since my internship was unpaid and because I

live locally, I might be interested in working on the seasonal maintenance staff. I was hired on for that summer. After my first week that summer I was hooked on White Memorial. I came back the next two summers, working on the seasonal maintenance crew and loved it.

After I graduated college there were



no full time positions available at White Memorial, so I started working as an EMT. I worked in EMS for 6 years after I graduated from GMC, always dreaming of an opportunity to get back to WMCC. In late summer of 2015, that opportunity came. An old co-worker from the White Memorial Foundation told me that there was a full time position open. I started working for WMF as a full time member of the maintenance staff in September. I worked for 5 years on the maintenance staff here at White Memorial. I, along with Tim Tallon, would mow lawns, maintain the trails, replace sections of the beloved Little Pond boardwalk, and in the winter we would harvest timber from the property under the supervision of our Forest Manager Lukas Hyder. I loved my job

and I really enjoyed my duties, but I was looking to advance my career, and dive deeper into the mission of conservation. As luck would have it in the summer of 2020 the Forest Manager position opened up when Lukas was promoted to Executive Director. I expressed interest in the position and thanks to my B.A. in Environmental Studies, eager willingness to learn, and a good working knowledge of White Memorial, I was promoted into the position.

Sitting here today writing this as the Forest Manager at White Memorial I have been thinking about how this place has influenced me. I have gained so much practical knowledge and experience in my years working here on the maintenance crew. I have learned so much about the ecology of our area, and also what it takes to protect that land from becoming another housing development or shopping plaza. I often reflect on what the area around Bantam Lake would look like if it were not for the vision of Alain and May White. They fought for the land, back in the early 1900's when conservation wasn't a widespread idea. The most important thing I have taken away from my time at White Memorial, especially since I became Forest Manager, is the idea that we can conserve the natural beauty of our woods while also using them responsibly to acquire the resources we need to live our lives.

I'm not sure what the future holds for me. I want to raise my child with White Memorial as his back yard. I would love to work here until I retire. I'm currently in the process of becoming a State of CT certified forester. I am continually taking classes and reading to further my understanding of the complicated issues facing our forests in these times of global climate change. I hope, if nothing else, I can do my small part to leave White Memorial a little better than it was when I started.



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with...  
Stocking Stuffers  
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Bat Houses  
Books  
Plush Toys  
Handmade Bird Feeders  
And so much more...



## Improving Water Quality in Bantam Lake

*Continued from page 5*

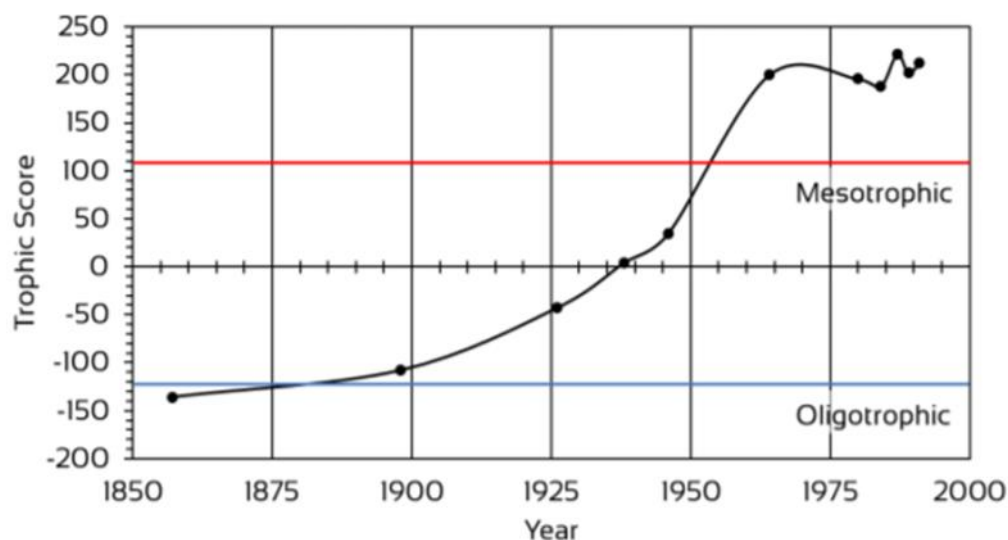


Figure 2. Reconstruction of Bantam Lake trophic status between ca 1857 and ca 1991. The blue horizontal line represents the division between oligotrophic and mesotrophic lakes; the red horizontal line represents the division between mesotrophic and eutrophic lakes based on a trophic score (Siver and Marsicano 1996).

### Literature Cited:

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. 2021. Connecticut Statewide Lake Nutrient TMDL. Appendix 1: Bantam Lake Watershed. pg. 47.

Siver, P.A. & Marsicano, L. J. 1996. Interring lake trophic status using scaled chrysophytes. In: Chrysophytes: Progress and New Horizons. J. Kristiansen, G. Cronberg (eds) Beihefte zur Nova Hedwigia 114:233-246.

## SCHOOL “VACATION” PROGRAMS

### LEARN ‘EM AND LOG ‘EM!

Thursday, November 11 (Veteran’s Day)



Have you ever wanted to identify the animals around you, even down to their exact species? This program will do that and more, as you become citizen scientists! You’ll go out “in the field,” identify wildlife, record your observations, and submit them to real-world scientific projects, such as E-Bird, I-Naturalist, and Project Squirrel. Education Director Carrie Szwed will be your teacher and lead your team of young naturalists. Meet in the Activity Shed. Drop-off program. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Please call 860-567-0857 or visit [whitememorialcc.org](http://whitememorialcc.org) for more information and to register. Space is limited! Grades 6-8: 9:30-12:00pm, Grades 3-5: 2:00-4:30pm. Members: \$20/child, Non-Members: \$30/child *Inquire about financial aid.*

### ONE-DAY FUN DAY!

Nature is so much fun in the winter! So, grab your coat, boots, and hat, and let’s spend one of your vacation days learning about the natural world around you. Get outside, play games, make crafts, and meet live animals! A morning snack and drink will warm us up between adventures. Please bring a lunch. Parents/Guardians are welcome to stay, but it is not necessary. Meet in the Activity Shed. 9:30am-3:30pm. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Please call 860-567-0857 or visit [whitememorialcc.org](http://whitememorialcc.org) for more information and to register. Space is limited! Grades 1-3: Thursday, December 30, Grades 4-6: Friday, December 31. Members: \$40/child, Non-Members: \$70/child *Inquire about financial aid.*



## Community Service at White Memorial 2020 - 2021

By Mike Berry, Forest Manager

Community service has been an important component to keeping our grounds and trails maintained and tidy here at White Memorial. In 2020 with the COVID pandemic we had to stop allowing people to help us in order to keep our volunteers and staff safe.

In the spring of 2021 we were happy to be able to start accepting help from the community again. Honor students Max Laure, Leo Laure, Pierce Loughheed, Ben Nordland, Nathan Reiter, and Evan Bryant from Litchfield High School kick-started our community service program for 2021. The students helped us to create wildlife piles out of brush from trees that were cut down by the Mott Van Winkle Classroom. The brush was moved to make way for a permaculture planting.

After taking 2020 off due to COVID, the Family Campers

and RVer's were back at the Point Folly Family Campground helping us clean up and paint to get ready for the 2021 camping season.

On Earth Day we had 16 volunteers from PRIA Healthcare Management of Torrington help us remove invasive plant species from around Ongley pond for 2 hours; the following day we had 9 helpers from Taft School working around Ongley for an hour and a half.

In 2021 so far we have had a total of 72.5 hours of volunteer work done. At White Memorial we are very grateful to have help and support from the community. If you are interested in volunteering your time or you are part of a group looking to volunteer, please contact Forest Manager Mike Berry via email at [mike@whitememorialcc.org](mailto:mike@whitememorialcc.org)



Autumn is  
a second spring  
when every leaf  
is a flower.

~ Albert Camus

## Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation Awards Grant to The White Memorial Conservation Center for Life-Saving Equipment

The Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation has awarded The Conservation Center a \$1420.00 grant for the purchase of an automated external defibrillator (AED) to be installed in the Nature Museum.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCAs) are reported annually in the United States. Over 7,000 of these are children. An estimated 70% to 90% of people experiencing OHCA die before reaching the hospital. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an AED within minutes of OHCA can dramatically raise survival rates. In a study partly funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an analysis of 50,000 cardiac arrests outside of hospitals showed that if a bystander uses an AED to shock a victim of cardiac arrest while waiting for emergency medical services (EMS), the likelihood of survival increases by 67% in

comparison to a 43% increase if EMS were to arrive within four minutes. In addition, the analysis showed that earlier use of an AED can decrease disability of survivors by 57% after a cardiac arrest. In rural areas where response time is often increased, an AED is a valuable life-saving device that can be used effectively by bystanders while awaiting the arrival of EMS.

Forest Manager Mike Berry, who is an EMT with Bantam Volunteer Fire Department, Gerri Griswold, Director of Administration and Development, and Center Member and registered nurse, Pam Velez, co-authored the grant. The Bantam Volunteer Fire Department will train Center staff in usage of the device. All staff members have first aid certifications from the American Heart Association.

The Conservation Center is deeply grateful to the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation for its support in providing us with this life-saving equipment.



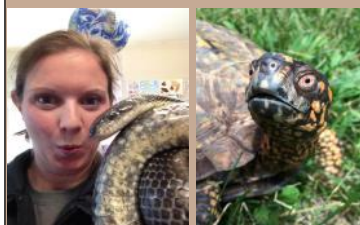
Automated External  
Defibrillator

## 2021 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, SALAMANDER,  
AND FEEDERS FULL IS APPROXIMATELY \$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](http://www.whitememorialcc.org) or call us at 860-567-0857!



## The Litchfield Garden Club Pollinator Garden

By James Fischer, Research Director

The Litchfield Garden Club and The White Memorial Foundation and Conservation Center have a long standing relationship. We are pleased to announce that the Litchfield Garden Club expanded the gardens near Ongley Pond. Their original pollinator garden was installed in 1998. Over the past two years the Garden Club expanded the project to include nearly 4000 square feet. They have added over 40 different species by sharing plants from their own gardens and purchasing from local nurseries.

The gardens incorporated three strategies. The main garden space enhances food and habitat for pollinators throughout the entire growing season. The rain garden captures run-off from the gravel road to capture nutrients and encourage the water to percolate into the ground. This garden protects the water that flows into Ongley Pond. The gardens also include evergreen trees that will eventually provide cover for owls that we often see roosting in the white pine trees nearby.



*Anne Borzilleri, President of Litchfield Garden Club, presents James Fischer, WMCC Research Director, with a Conservation Commendation at the Garden Club's 2021 Annual Meeting.*

The Garden Club has been steadfast during the installation, especially during the growing season of 2020. We experienced a severe drought, which meant that the transplants required constant tending and watering. And then there was COVID, the Garden Club Members found that spending time in this garden while catching up with their friends was a joy.

The Garden Club was so appreciative of this collaboration with White Memorial that they presented James Fischer, WMCC Research Director, with a Club Conservation Commendation. They presented the certificate at their Annual Meeting.

Please visit the gardens the next time you are near the Museum. They are located on the east side of Ongley Pond with parking nearby and lots of hiking trails nearby. Come often because there is nearly always something new blooming.

## **TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND GROUP LEADERS,** **CHECK OUT WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOUR CHILDREN!**

### **GROUP/SCHOOL PROGRAMS** (MANY OF WHICH CAN BE OFFERED IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY)

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NATIVE CT WILDLIFE  
...PLUS 50 MORE!

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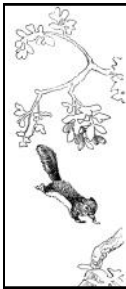


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### **VACATION PROGRAMS** (SEE PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS)



**LEARN 'EM AND LOG 'EM**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (VETERAN'S DAY)  
IT'S ALL ABOUT CITIZEN SCIENCE!

**ONE-DAY FUN DAY!**  
GRADES 1-3: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30  
GRADES 4-6: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31  
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NATURE THIS HOLIDAY!

### **AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS** (SEE BACK PAGE)

**AFTER SCHOOL ADVENTURES**  
TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER

**NATURE'S NURSERY**  
FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

### **SCOUT PROGRAMS**



CUSTOM-DESIGNED PROGRAMS FOR CUB SCOUTS AND GIRL SCOUTS TO HELP FULFILL BADGE REQUIREMENTS!  
WE ALSO OFFER FREE CAMPING TO ALL YOUTH NON-PROFITS.

## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### NATURE'S NURSERY

Thurs., Sep. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

For Ages 3-6 Years

All Classes 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Members: \$8/session

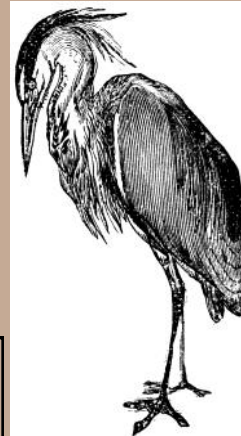
or \$25/whole series

Non-Members: \$12/session

or \$45/whole series

Meet in the Activity Shed.

Adults, please stay.



### AFTER-SCHOOL ADVENTURES

Grades 1-3: Tuesdays in October

Grades 4-6: Wednesdays in October

All Classes 3:45 - 5:00 P.M.

Members: \$9/session

or \$30/whole series

Non-members: \$13/session

or \$48/whole series

Meet in the Activity Shed.

Adults can stay, but it is not required.

Advanced registration required.

Call 860-567-0857 or visit [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org) for more information.



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