

# SANCTUARY

Newsletter of  
The  
White Memorial  
Conservation Center

Vol. XXX No. 4  
Fall 2022

## Museum Hours:

Tuesday - 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](mailto:info@whitememorialcc.org)

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



*A Pack of Wolves*  
by Alfred Kowalski (Polish, 1849-1915)

## Gone But Not Forgotten ~ The Gray Wolf

By Erin Josefson, Environmental Educator, White Memorial Conservation Center

More than two centuries have passed since the Litchfield Hills have echoed with the haunting cries of the gray wolf. No one has captured the consequences of such a profound silence as well as Aldo Leopold in his work *A Sand County Almanac*: “We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes—something only known to her and to the mountain [...] I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters’ paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view.”

Leopold goes on to write about the effects he witnessed in just a short period of time following the removal of the wolf from the landscape. He noted the barren forests, having been over-browsed by the deer and elk, and the subsequent collapse of herds due to starvation. He stated that while a single deer hunted by wolves can be replaced in a year or two, an entire forest could not be replaced for decades.

The first bounty placed on wolves was passed in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630. By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, wolves had been extirpated from New England. Between 1883 and 1918 there

were reports of up to 80,000 wolves killed by bounty hunters in Montana alone. (There is some debate on this number as many coyotes, foxes, and dogs were thought to be fraudulently passed

bounties. Wolves have always been seen as a threat to livestock. Biologists have determined over many years with hundreds of studies that bounties are just not an effective means at managing wolf populations. Does this mean there are no other tools to help ranchers faced with losing portions of their livelihoods? On the contrary; there are many non-lethal methods already in practice. There are not many instances of wolves depredating livestock, however, it does happen on occasion. Paradoxically, the reason wolves prey on livestock is because they are being hunted (more on that below).

Fladry, brightly colored flags hung along the boundaries of grazing pastures offer a temporary deterrent. Wolves are

wary of new items in their territory and the flags also make them hesitant and cautious. Although not a long-term solution, it can be used in conjunction with other methods, or for a short period of time. Electric fences in a smaller area can also reduce the pressure of a nearby wolf pack, however the cost and sheer amount of fencing required can be impractical over large areas. Recordings of other packs howling (specifically “defensive” howls, those that mark territory) have been shown as an effective means of keeping wolves at a distance.

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Wolf ~ Photo credit: DB-Naturfotografie*

for wolves.) In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century wolves were considered a rare sighting in the lower 48 states. An estimate from 1990 found at best there were 50 wolves left in the entire west.

Our relationship with the wolf is volatile and long, dating back many thousands of years to our nomadic roots and the first “camp wolves” that were selectively bred to later become “man’s best friend.” Long have conflicts plagued our understanding of, and relationship with, wolves. Historically and presently, human-wolf conflicts are handled through

Livestock guardian dogs are another intimidating method that wolves are reluctant to engage. However, the most effective method for reducing livestock depredation by wolves is through a combination and rotation of methods.

From the outside, the most obvious solution (remove the nearby pack) may seem like the best, however as previously stated, it ends up having the opposite effect. Although young wolves have the physical capability to take down large prey, it is up to the older wolves to teach them how to select individuals and hunt. Wolves have a natural fear of humans and would much rather hunt their preferred prey in remote areas of their territory. Crucially, when the breeding or older individuals of the pack are removed, their knowledge and, in fact, wisdom is lost with them leaving the younger members of the pack to hunt out of desperation (i.e., livestock).

The reintroduction of wolves to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is the mid-1990s has shown much success in restoring previously degraded ecosystems. It has not been without its conflict and challenges in the areas surrounding the reintroduction site, especially as populations have grown. States have implemented wolf hunting seasons which tend to cause more issues than they are solving. It seems a consensus in the West is still a long way off as the federal and state governments debate on appropriate management methods and which entity makes

those decisions.

What does this all mean for reintroduction or natural dispersion into New England? Given the West has so much more space yet is still rife with conflict, it would stand to reason that in a geographic area as small as the east coast, it can't pos-



*Lone Wolf*  
by Alfred Kowalski (Polish, 1849-1915)

sibly work. Right? Well, there are areas out west where ranchers are willing to work with biologists in finding effective solutions and several successful non-profits have done just that. If those partnerships can work on a larger scale in the West, perhaps they can also translate on a smaller scale here in New England. The determining factor for reintroduction would depend on the protected habitat for the wolves' preferred prey: white-tailed

deer. Our deer populations remain abundant and have adapted well to more urban environments, but we do not know how wolves might deal with urban environments on a regular basis. There are no current plans for reintroduction despite talks regarding a possible project in the Adirondacks. Maine is another hot spot of conversation regarding the presence of wolves. It is possible wolves may start to disperse south on their own as territories in Canada become occupied, humans develop more land, or prey becomes scarcer.

There are many considerations for wolves in New England in our world today. Is there room? Is there enough protected habitat? Do we have enough abundance of prey to support a breeding population? Until these questions are answered, and preemptive plans are put into place for reducing wolf-human conflict, reintroduction is not likely anytime soon. The Yellowstone reintroduction and its lessons will serve as a framework for any future plans of reintroduction. For now, hearing those ethereal songs may have to be the result of a trip out West.

**Why Do Wolves Howl?**  
**With Erin Josefson**

**November 5, 2022, 2:00 p.m.**  
**A. B. Ceder Room**  
**Members: \$5.00**  
**Non-members: \$10.00**  
**See page 7 for details.**



**WHITE MEMORIAL  
CONSERVATION CENTER, INC.  
58<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 12, 2022**

The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc. was called to order by President Diedrick at 3:35 pm, on August 12, 2022 at White Memorial's Activity Shed.

The minutes of the September 24, 2021 Annual Meeting were approved as previously distributed.

Center staff Gerri Griswold and Carrie Szwed reported on accomplishments for 2021; Lukas Hyder recapped James Fischer's report as he was not in attendance.

Mr. Samponaro presented the report for the Nominating Committee. For members of

the Board of Directors for a term of three years: Sue Carpenter and Pamela Velez. For members of the Education and Activities Committee for terms of three years: Gail Berglund, Dean Birdsall, Lisa Cook, Morgen Fisher, and Heather Perrault. Upon motion of Mr. Plunkett and second by Mr. Schoelzel, the Secretary was authorized to cast one ballot for the slate as presented.

As there was no further business, upon motion of Mr. Plunkett and second by Ms. Borzilleri, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm.



**Did Benjamin Franklin**  
**Want the National Bird to Be a Turkey?**

The Franklin Institute <https://www.fi.edu/>

The story about Benjamin Franklin wanting the National Bird to be a turkey is just a myth. This false story began

as a result of a letter Franklin wrote to his daughter criticizing the original eagle design for the Great Seal, saying that it looked

more like a turkey. In the letter, Franklin wrote that the "Bald Eagle...is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly...[he] is too lazy to fish for him-

self." About the turkey, Franklin wrote that in comparison to the bald eagle, the turkey is "a much more respectable

Bird, and withal a true original Native of America...He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage."

So although Benjamin Franklin defended the honor of the turkey against the bald eagle, he did not propose its becoming one of America's most important symbols.





## Madame President

### Ann Borzilleri Named President of The White Memorial Foundation

Some monumental changes have come to White Memorial with the retirement of its President and CEO of 36 years, Arthur H. Diedrick. Diedrick joined the Board of the Foundation in 1974 and served as its President since 1986. But as Arthur told me, change at White Memorial is not a bad thing as long as, “we adhere to the principles of our founders, Alain and May White.” During Diedrick’s tenure as President, “we expanded recreation, education, conservation, and research programs. We acquired land and added more trails. The Whites were interested in all of these things, so we were happy to expand.” It was under Diedrick’s watch that a million dollar build-out of the Nature Museum occurred in 1996 - 1998.

Arthur Hill Diedrick hails from Rye, New York. The Diedrick’s bought a weekend home on Bantam Lake in 1953. He moved to Litchfield permanently in 1960.

Diedrick is a graduate of Yale University and is the Founder of *The Institute for Sustainable Energy*. He served as Chairman of *Connecticut Public Television*.

About his time spent as President of the WMF he remarked, “I never found anything difficult because of the staff.”

It is with deepest gratitude and appreciation that we thank you, Arthur for being an incomparable steward to us and Alain and May’s legacy for these 36 years.



*White Memorial Foundation  
President, Ann Borzilleri  
and Chairman, Arthur H. Diedrick  
on the Pine Island Trail.*



Litchfield native, Ann Borzilleri, is the new President of The White Memorial Foundation. “This is a tremendous responsibility that I am humbled and honored to take on.” (We are honored to have you!)

Borzilleri’s roots in Litchfield stretch back to the Great Depression. Both sets of grand-parents found their way here to purchase land and make a better life. Her Father used White Memorial as his playground. As a child, when Ann and her two brothers became rambunctious, Dad would fill the pockets of his field coat with apples for a snack and off they would wander through Five Ponds. It is no wonder why Borzilleri is tethered to this land and echoes Arthur Diedrick’s sentiments that the guiding principles of Alain and May White and their gift to us must be protected.

Borzilleri served as President of The Litchfield Garden Club. Under her leadership, a huge pollinator garden was installed at White Memorial in 2020 - 2021.

Her biggest challenge as President of WMF will be the health of Bantam Lake. “It can be remedied and is fixable over time.” She is also anxious to move forward on an exciting new project in its infancy called *The Whitehall Trail*. “It will showcase the conservation concerns we all have.”

Ann added, “I am not alone. This is a collaborative effort with the staff, Board, visitors, members, and volunteers. I hope I can live up to The White’s expectations.”

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

**SCHOOL/GROUP PROGRAMS  
CAN BE OFFERED AT WHITE MEMORIAL,  
AT YOUR FACILITY, OR EVEN VIRTUALLY**

POND PROWL  
TAKE A HIKE

AMAZING ADAPTATIONS  
WILDLIFE OUTSIDE OUR WINDOWS  
RARE AND REMARKABLE  
OUTDOOR DISCOVERY SESSION  
...PLUS SO MANY MORE!



TO VIEW ALL PROGRAM  
DESCRIPTIONS AND FOR  
MORE INFO, VISIT  
WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG.

FREE ADMISSION TO THE  
MUSEUM WITH AN ONSITE  
PROGRAM BOOKING!

CALL 860-567-0857  
OR EMAIL CARRIE@  
WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG.

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



**“ALUMNI” HIKE UP BEAR MOUNTAIN**  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (VETERAN’S DAY)  
REUNITE WITH OLD FRIENDS AND GO CLIMBING!

**ONE-DAY FUN DAY!**  
GRADES 1-3: TUESDAY, DEC. 27  
GRADES 4-6: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28  
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NATURE THIS HOLIDAY!

**AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS (SEE PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS)**

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

**NATURE’S NURSERY**  
SECOND 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.

THE WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER  
PRESENTS THE 40TH ANNUAL  
**FAMILY NATURE DAY**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2022  
11AM - 5PM + ADMISSION \$6.00 (CASH & CHECK ONLY)  
CHILDREN UNDER 12 & CENTER MEMBERS FREE



**SKYHUNTERS IN FLIGHT + RIVERSIDE REPTILES**  
**HORIZON WINGS RAPTOR CENTER**  
**THE BAT LADY + EDIBLE INSECTS!**  
**FERNCROFT WILDLIFE RESCUE: OPOSSUMS!**  
**THE TURTLE'S BACK**  
**MUSIC BY: WRY BRED**

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

**WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO CHILEAN PATAGONIA 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](http://WWW.WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG)**



# The Chiropterecorders

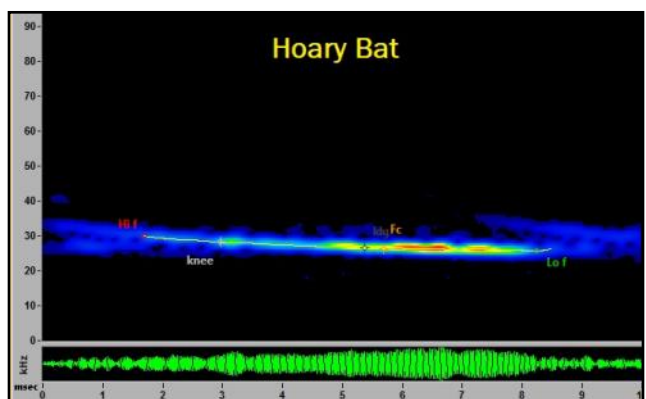
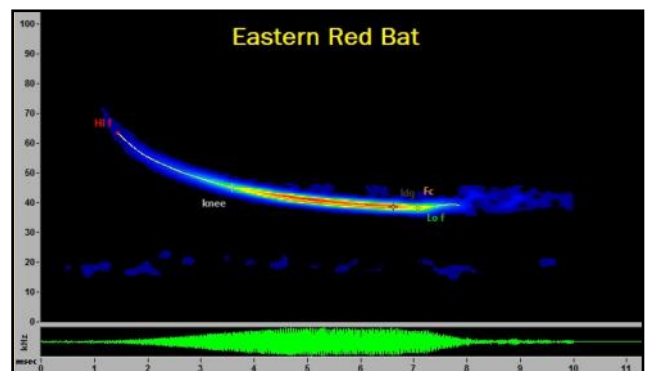
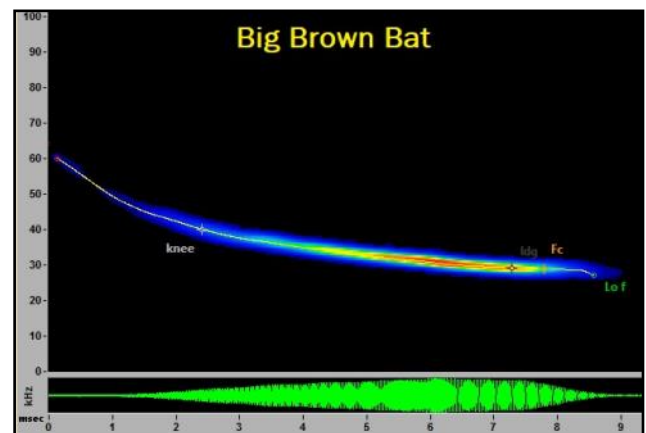
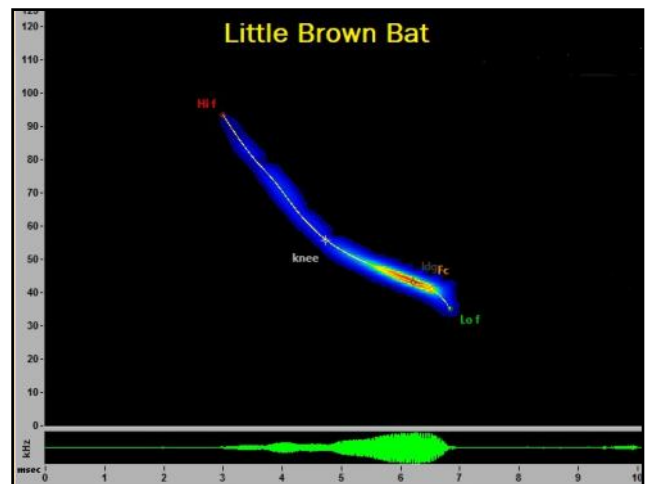
By James Fischer, Research Director

Humans cannot hear most calls that bats emit, but they are making all kinds of sounds as they fly by. What if you could hear them for yourself? Well, you can, if you have the right instruments and White Memorial's Research Program is recording bats throughout the property to learn what they can tell us.

White Memorial's Research program has been assessing the bat community for several years. Bats are an important part of our ecosystems because they control insects that damage trees and other plants. They also consume insects that carry diseases that impact humans and wildlife. There are many reasons why bats are important to our planet and humans. Unfortunately, bats are negatively impacted by several disturbances. White-nose Syndrome is a fungus that harms bats and killed several million across North America. Pollution, pesticides, and habitat loss impact the insect community.

People refer to the sounds that bats make as ultrasonic because we cannot hear these sounds, but bats can easily hear them. Bats use the reflection of these sounds from objects to help them perceive their environment. White Memorial's Research Program is using special microphones to record bats on the property. Our goal is to learn about the bat community and their habitat associations. We are not interested in what they are saying, but rather using these sounds to help us identify which species inhabit the property. We conduct two types of surveys: mobile and stationary surveys. We analyze the recordings using computer software to compare the files to a library of bat recordings to provide us with a robust estimate of the species identification. The software displays the recording in two visualizations: sonograms and oscillograms. On the bat recording images to the right, notice that some bats' sounds have a high frequency, such as Little Brown Bat, while the Hoary Bat are low frequency. Another feature of bat sounds is the shape, which ranges from steep, J-shaped, and flat. Do you notice other features? There are several subtle differences between each bat's call.

There are several instruments on the market that are easy to use. The features range and they are fun to use at dusk on warm clear evenings when you see bats flying. The simplest units are hand-held microphones that change the bat's ultrasonic sound into a sound that people can hear. Another device that you can purchase, but is a little more expensive, consists of a microphone that you plug into your smartphone. You download an app and as it records the bats flying by, the app identifies the bat species and allows you to share your observations with scientists performing research projects with the data. Look into these fun tools to expand your understanding of bats in your neighborhood.



# Fall 2022 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 24th**  
**40th ANNUAL**  
**FAMILY NATURE DAY**

*Sky Hunters in Flight*  
*Riverside Reptiles*  
*The Turtle's Back*  
*The Bat Lady*  
*Edible Insects!*  
*Horizon Wings Raptor Center*  
*Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue:*  
*Opossums!*  
*Music: Wry Bred*

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

1st & 3rd Sundays  
 October, November, December  
**Guided Museum Tour with Tom Saunders**  
 2:00 p.m., Meet in the Museum.

1 **The Pandemic Pantry**  
**with Gerri Griswold**  
*Where's the Beef?*

Our very own cooking show is back!  
 12:00 p.m., Zoom and Facebook Live!  
 Zoom viewers register here:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_j\\_kJO\\_hnO6WlHly-sTOEKO?fbclid=IwAR3Ly8CgfaLsUTX1eAIU7Zeb2ocMYELD6AJ3Fm49cISX8NZO3aLmozWwKyo](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_j_kJO_hnO6WlHly-sTOEKO?fbclid=IwAR3Ly8CgfaLsUTX1eAIU7Zeb2ocMYELD6AJ3Fm49cISX8NZO3aLmozWwKyo)

1 **Reading & Book Signing:**  
**Wren the Weeping Willow Fairy**  
 with Kate Kyres

1:00 p.m., Meet in the clearing just  
 before the Boardwalk. Bring a chair or blanket!

**After School Adventures**  
 Sponsored by the Torrington Savings Foundation  
 Tuesdays and Wednesdays in October  
 For grades 1 - 6, See page 8 for details.

**Nature's Nursery Series**  
 October 13, November 10, December 8  
 See page 8 for details.

8 **Mattatuck Trail Hike at White Memorial**  
 8:00 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

For more information or to pre-register:  
<https://www.ctwoodlands.org/node/7657/register>

10 **COLUMBUS DAY**  
 Offices Closed

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

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

15 **The Fungus Among Us!**  
 with Dave Paton  
 See page 7 for details.



15 **Reading & Book Signing:**  
**A Raven Named Grip**  
 with Marilyn Singer  
 12:00 p.m., Museum



October 15, November 19, December 17  
**Nature Connection Walk with Andy Dobos**  
 See page 7 for details.

15 **Raven: Bird, Myth, Legend**  
 with MaryBeth Kaeser  
 & Gerri Griswold  
 See page 7 for details.



October 20, November 17, December 15  
**Babies in Backpacks with Kelly Orr**  
 See page 7 & 11 for details.

22 **A Celebration of**  
**Connecticut Apples**  
 See page 7 for details.



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

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



29 **Greenland: A Land at the End**  
**of the World with Stewart McPherson**  
 See page 7 for details.



29 **SCARY CREATURES**  
**GREENLAND STYLE**  
**Tupilaq Carving Workshop**  
 with Moki Kokoris  
 See page 7 for details.



## NOVEMBER

5 **Why Do Wolves Howl?**  
 with Erin Josefsen  
 See page 7 for details.



5 **The Power & Beauty of Glaciers**  
 with Tom Alena  
 See page 7 for details.



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

Wednesdays from November 9 to March 8  
**Dark of Winter Yoga**  
 with Judith Ehrman-Shapiro (virtual)  
 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., \$10.00  
 Register by calling Judith: 860-309-9489.

11 **Alumni Hike Up Bear Mountain for Kids**  
 See page 9 for details.

12 **Animal Altruism with Erin Josefsen**  
 2:00 p.m., Zoom and Facebook Live!  
 Zoom viewers register here:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_rVIX3AaFQCSLVgtH6l3fw](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_rVIX3AaFQCSLVgtH6l3fw)

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



19 **Crack o' Dawn Owl Prowl**  
 with Fran Zygmont & Gerri Griswold  
 4:30 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room.  
 Pre-register online or call 860-567-0857.  
**LIMITED TO 15 PARTICIPANTS!**



24 / 25 **THANKSGIVING**  
 Museum & Offices Closed



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



## DECEMBER

3 **THE SNOW QUEEN**  
 See page 12 for details.



10 **Wildlife in Winter with Erin Josefsen**  
 10:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room.

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

18 **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'Assen

24 **Christmas Eve Stroll Up Apple Hill**  
 10:00 a.m., Meet at the Apple Hill Trailhead  
 Pre-register: 860-567-0857 or online:  
[www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)

25 / 26 **CHRISTMAS**  
 Museum & Offices Closed



December 27 & 28  
**One Day Fun Day at White Memorial!**  
 Grades 1 - 6  
 See page 9 for details.



31 **New Year's Eve Hike to Little Pond**  
 7:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room  
 Festive attire is optional!

# Adult Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Programs: Fall 2022



**The Fungus Among Us with Dave Paton**  
**October 15, 2022, 9:30 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room**  
**Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$30.00**

Dave Paton is just giddy about mushrooms and wants to share his enthusiasm with you! Spend two hours in the forest with Dave learning do's and don'ts, basic identification, and stories behind all of the fungus among us! The program begins with a brief introduction in the Ceder Room to view some specimens. *Foraging is not allowed on Foundation property!*



**Nature Connection Walk with Andy Dobos**  
**October 15, November 19, December 17, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Meet in the Museum.**  
**Members: \$10.00 per person per session, Non-Members: \$15.00 per person per session**

Want to go deeper with your relationship with Nature? Explore White Memorial with Nature Connection mentor Andy Dobos of Forest Wolf Programs. Andy will help you hone your powers of observation and gain more familiarity with plants and animals we pass every day. Things that may be covered are identifying edible trees and plants, wildlife tracking, relationships between species, perception exercises and more.



**Raven: Bird, Myth, Legend with Mary Beth Kaeser and Gerri Griswold**  
**October 15, 2022, 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. Learn about these amazing corvids during a one hour presentation that not only teaches you about the nature of the Common Raven, but also the impact it has had in culture and folklore through the centuries.



**Babies in Backpacks with Kelly Orr (For Ages 6 Months to 2 Years)**  
**October 20, November 17, December 15, 2022, 10:00 a.m., Meet in the Pollinator Garden**  
**Members: \$9.00 per child per session, Non-Members: \$13.00 per child per session**

Come and explore the great outdoors in a way that your child can get excited about! The third Thursday of every month we will enjoy a hike with your child in a babywearing carrier or follow their pace if they are mobile. There will only be expectations of exploring the world around us, not of a mile mark or speed. Depending on the energy level of the group we will use our bodies to move in nature for 30 minutes, followed by an activity. Enjoy reading, touch stations, and sand and water bins.



**A Celebration of Connecticut Apples**  
**October 22, 2022, 2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room**  
**Members: \$10.00 Non-Members: \$15.00**

Join Russell Powell and Barr Weeks from the New England Apple Association as they weave the delicious story of apple growing in Connecticut. Learn about apple history, growing cycle, Connecticut's ten most popular apples and some rarer New England varieties. Samples will be available in raw form as well as pie form! You'll be able to vote for your favorite pie and learn some really wonderful things while tasting them!



**Greenland - A Land at the End of the World with Stewart McPherson (VIRTUAL)**  
**October 29, 2022, 12:00 p.m., ZOOM**  
**Members: FREE Non-Members: \$10.00**

Travel to the northernmost natural human settlement on Earth with British Explorer, Stewart McPherson. Along the way, you will discover Greenland's secret history, its 4,000 years of Inuit history and culture. Journey to an abandoned ghost town, a mining settlement frozen in time. Retrace the mysterious Franklin expedition that vanished amongst the ice, and discover Greenland's spectacular wildlife, and find out how climate change is affecting their behavior and threatening their survival.



**SCARY CREATURES GREENLAND-STYLE: Make-Your-Own Tupilaq Workshop with Moki Kokoris**  
**October 29, 2022, 2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room, All Materials Included!**  
**Members: \$20.00 Non-Members: \$30.00 Children Ages 10 and up: \$10.00**

A cultural practice some 5,000 years old, the Greenlandic Inuit "tupilaq" is a small, fearsome figurine imbued with supernatural properties. These wondrous totemic sculptures can be used as guardians against evil if placed near entryways to a dwelling. Today you will be making your own guardian tupilaq with the guidance of Artic Expert, Moki Kokoris! All children must be accompanied by a paying adult. You will be fashioning your own tupilaq out of clay and baking it when you go home!



**Why Do Wolves Howl? With Erin Josefsen**  
**November 5, 2022, 2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room**  
**Members: \$5.00 Non-members: \$10.00**

Why do wolves howl? What messages do they convey? Can they recognize each other with their howling? Learn the different kinds of howls and other noises, how wolves as individuals and packs respond to those sounds, and the implications this knowledge has on our relationship with them.



**The Power and Beauty of Glaciers with Tom Alena (VIRTUAL)**  
**November 5, 2022, 3:00 p.m., ZOOM**  
**Members: FREE Non-members: \$10.00**

How do glaciers form and how do they cut and carve through the bedrock of mighty mountains? What about their blue color? This talk will reveal the mechanisms behind the force of glaciers and illustrate the many examples of the geography left behind.



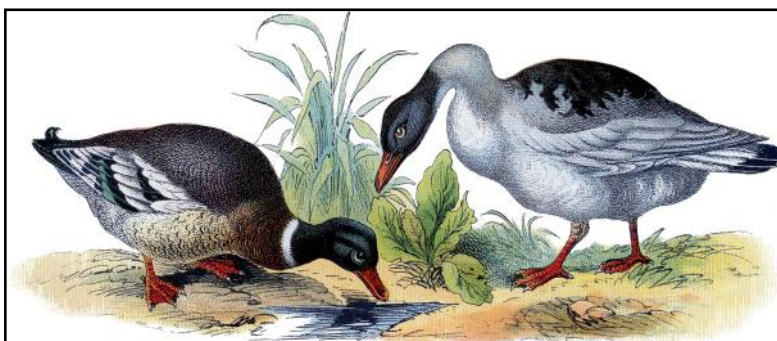
# Make a Difference

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

"Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink." Isn't that the line from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*? But, what are we going to do if it isn't just part of a poem, but a prediction? It looks like we could be heading that way, at least in some areas of the country.

In the mid 1970's Hubby and I moved back east from Colorado. We both grew up in New England and had moved west for work. We moved home partly to be closer to family and because we saw, way back then, the questionable use of municipal water. Everyone watered their lawns there. There was a beautiful public rose garden nearby. Roses take an average of one inch of water per week! More than once, we discovered lawns and gardens, in public and private places, being watered and the water was cascading down the gutter- unnoticed; uncared. The waste was overwhelming. Areas were set by timer to be watered, regardless of the weather, even if it was raining! The Den-

ver area is a prairie, not New England. Native plants and plantings were nearly unheard of at that time. For the then newly-arrived people, plant what was familiar. Make green what would have naturally been shades of green, gold and brown. Thankfully, fairly recently, landscapers have been encouraged to use more native plants in the West and nearby.



In the Southwest, the government has recently demanded that several states reduce their water usage- Arizona by 21 % and Nevada by 8%. The Hoover Dam power generation is down by some 25%. The rivers running Yellowstone are

down as well and are predicted to threaten the fragile ecosystems in that area. As I write this, several area towns where we're living in New England have restricted water usage; limiting the watering of lawns and so forth. Some towns have banned all lawn watering. Some towns have strictly reduced the number of days watering can be done. Some nearby farmers have lost crops. Most hay fields have been reduced to one cutting, instead of two or more. Cucumbers and squash are drying up on the vine. People who have wells know that water is limited. If it doesn't rain, ground water is affected, and, in turn, wells are affected. Farmers in Vermont are having trouble watering their cows. Predictions of a less

than stellar fall foliage season have also been predicted. Colors may be less than glorious. In fact, there is some thought that the leaves may dry up, simply turn brown and just fall off the tree!

*(continued on page 9)*

## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### NATURE'S NURSERY

Thurs., Sep. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8

For Ages 3-6 Years

All Classes Start at 4pm

Members: \$9/session

or \$30/whole series

Non-Members: \$13/session

or \$50/whole series

Meet in the A.B. Cedar Room.

Adults, please stay.



### AFTER-SCHOOL ADVENTURES

Generously Sponsored by

The Torrington Savings Foundation

Grades 1-3: Tuesdays in October

Grades 4-6: Wednesdays in October

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

Admission is FREE, but space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Meet in the A.B. Cedar Room.

Adults can stay, but it is not required.



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Pottery, Wooden Bowls, Greeting Cards,  
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<https://white-memorial-conservation-center.square.site/>

## Make a Difference...Continued from page 8

This past month, we spent a period of time in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. While we were there, we spent a lot of time in museums. One aspect of the museum visits that I particularly admired was the acknowledgement of First People; people who lived in an area before the first Europeans arrived. One such museum, the Maritime Museum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, had an amazing exhibit on the First People who had lived in that area. I was struck by one exhibit in particular. In it, the following signage was displayed: "Water is life. 'Women have been given a sacred gift to bring forth new life and with that gift, we've also been given the responsibility to protect the water, for our future seven generations...I think what people need to know is that we are but part of Creation, which includes the land and water and all life...The rivers and streams and the brooks are all connected like the veins throughout our body, and they're connected to the groundwater that's beneath us.'" ~ Dorene Bernard".

So, where do we go from here? The impact of climate change is real and very scary. The lack of rain that we are seeing this summer as well as the reduced snow pack and the higher than average temperatures are real issues. Do you know where your water comes from? Do you understand the water cycle?

Do you know that there is not an

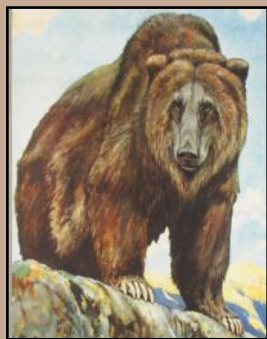
alternative to water? Water is needed/demanded/vital to every living thing from the smallest blade of grass to the largest living tree. Humans need between nine and thirteen cups of water every day to DRINK. Cows need nine gallons. Honey bees need water to make honey. Quite simply, water is life. Without water there is no life. In America, for most people, we turn on the tap and fresh water gushes out. We think nothing of where it comes from. It has always been there; it will always be. But will it?

So, dear readers, make sure that you're drinking enough water. Be sure that dripping faucets and toilets are repaired immediately. Water your veggie garden in the morning or evening. Cut down on your lawn. Do the kiddos have a nearby park that they can play in? Can you make pathways through the lawn to let wildflowers and other native plants take over? Be sure that dishwashers and washing machines are full before you use them. Take your car to a carwash or skip it altogether. Reduce your shower time. Don't run the faucet when you're brushing your teeth. If it's yellow, let it mellow; if it's brown, flush it down. Reduce your use of water and perhaps you'll help

**make a difference**

for the world,  
not just your backyard.

## SCHOOL "VACATION" PROGRAMS



### "ALUMNI" HIKE UP BEAR MOUNTAIN

High Schoolers, do you miss the fun you had in summer camp and other kids' programs at White Memorial? Let's meet up again for the "ultimate" climb in CT - Bear Mountain in Salisbury! If you are in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade and have attended any kids-only program at White Memorial, here's your chance to reunite with old friends and scale CT's tallest peak together. Education Director Carrie Szved will be your leader. Please be advised that portions of this hike are steep and difficult to climb. Wear your best hiking shoes and bring a snack, lunch, and lots of water. 9:30am-3:30pm. Transportation will be provided by White Memorial to and from the site. Meet in the A.B. Ceder Room. *Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.*

*Please call 860-567-0857 or visit [whitememorialcc.org](http://whitememorialcc.org) to register. Space is limited!*

**Friday, November 11 (Veteran's Day).** Members: \$30/person, Non-Members: \$40/person

### ONE-DAY FUN DAY!

Nature can be 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 and wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Parents/Guardians are welcome to stay, but it is not necessary. Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room. 9:30am-3:30pm.

Pre-registration and payment are required. Please call 860-567-0857 or visit [whitememorialcc.org](http://whitememorialcc.org) to register. Space is limited! **Grades 1-3: Tuesday, Dec. 27, Grades 4-6: Wednesday, Dec. 28.**

Members: \$40/child, Non-Members: \$70/child. Please inquire about financial aid as needed.



# Great Mountain Man

## Legendary Forester Jody Bronson Comes to White Memorial

Story by Gerri Griswold Photo by Mike Berry

Retirement. Most folks look forward to a golf course or packing their motor home and heading cross-country. The Oxford English Dictionary defines the word "retire" as: "to leave one's job and cease to work, typically upon reaching the normal age for leaving employment." Or "withdraw to or from a particular place." Jody Bronson, recently "retired" from Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk, Connecticut, after 46 years serving as Forest Manager of its 6000 acres, has redefined the old school definition of "retire." This retiree now spends two days at Great Mountain Forest and two days at the White Memorial Foundation where he works alongside WMF Forest Manager, Mike Berry. Bronson explained that his favorite part of his old job was the intern program. "It was my baby. I enjoyed teaching good people the fundamentals of forest management."

Jody has a conservation legacy that traces back to his Great Grandfather, Elliot B. Bronson, who served as State Purchasing Agent, buying property from private individuals and serving as a liaison between the people and the State of Connecticut with the purpose of creating State Parks. His Grandfather, Elliot P. (State Board of Fisheries and Game) and Father, Elliot C. (Senior Environmental Analyst for the State of Connecticut) carried the conservation torch too. It's only natural that Joel Elliot Bronson would follow in their footsteps planting his roots firmly at Great Mountain Forest.

Jody and I grew up in Winchester Center. We are deeply rooted there. Jody's Uncle Johnny was my Father's best friend. Jody and I joke (kind of) that we are just a pair of Winchester Raggies. We grew up outdoors among the fields, forests,

streams, and ponds that made up our natural habitat. We went to church together, attended school together. Jody met his



Jody Bronson

wife Jean (King) Bronson in high school. High school sweethearts...married to this day with two grown daughters, Emily and Rachel, who have established roots here as well. We all know that living in the Northwest corner of Connecticut is the best of everything. Living here made us who we are today.

Bronson attended Unity College in Maine and Keene State University in New Hampshire where he received a degree in

Forestry with a minor in Cultural Anthropology. His first job out of college was as an intern to Darell Russ at Great Mountain Forest. Jody never left. "I guess the two most notable things that happened to me in my forestry career were: working with Darrell Russ for almost two decades and receiving the New England Society of American Foresters Austin Cary award in 2002." While serving as Forest Manager at Great Mountain, Jody met and mentored an up and coming forester, Lukas Hyder (Executive Director of The White Memorial Foundation). Lukas left GMF to become Forest Manager for The White Memorial Foundation.

Our personal and professional lives have always intertwined. Another significant commonality we share is our friendship with the late David K. Leff. "The fact the both of us were close friends of David also played a pivotal role in both of our careers. We both look at the natural world a little differently because of David."

It is only fitting that Bronson should join our staff for a while. Earlier in the year he approached Hyder with a proposition. As Lukas settled into his new role as Executive Director, Jody could serve as a mentor to Mike Berry. "It seemed like a good fit. I can work with Mike. He can have a veteran forester as a mentor. I was interested in working in different woods with different timber types. Great Mountain Forest is more like Vermont. White Memorial is more like the Appalachians." When asked what he loves most about being at WM, Jody is quick to reply, "I can take a walk with somebody else who cares. People did it for me. I am just passing it forward."



"How beautifully leaves grow old.  
How full of  
light and color  
are their last days."

~ John Burroughs



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<https://whitememorialcc.org/join-renew/>



**NEW PROGRAM SERIES!**  
**BABIES IN BACKPACKS ~ For Ages 6 Months to 2 Years**

By Kelly Orr, Gift Shop Manager

Babies in Backpacks is a program that is inspired by my early days as a new mom who loves the outdoors. I sought advice in a local group on best practices for a moderate hike with my then 1-month-old, Xzavier. I was shocked that most people were flabbergasted that I would even consider hiking with a child that age. One kind person took the time to message me and suggest the group "Backpacking with Babies and Kids" on Facebook. I joined and knew I had found my people! While I am not a backpacker, my husband and I have always camped and hiked a lot. This group is full of parents with kids as young as 2 weeks up to 18 years old tackling outdoor things I wouldn't even have considered before having my son! I was so inspired we did our first backyard campout the next weekend with Xzavier being 5 weeks old and we never looked back. We have been camping and hiking in all weather since. I



*Kelly and Xzavier  
exploring the great outdoors!*

am hoping that *Babies in Backpacks* can offer an in-person version of that group for someone else. I will not pretend to be an expert in all outdoor activities, and doing any of them with kids takes care, planning, and most importantly, throwing expectations out the window! BUT, it is not something to be afraid of, or to shy away from "until they are older." My favorite moments with Xzavier have happened in the great outdoors. We go outside in the rain, have camped in temps as low as 20 degrees F, have been at the beach for sunrise, and have camped and hiked all over New England as a family. I want to offer a place for others to go beyond what society tells them to be comfortable with and enjoy all the outdoors has to offer with their little one! During the program we will explore all safe weather types, talk about child carrying options for hiking, and just be in nature at a child's pace. I will see all you moms, dads, grandparents and otherwise outside soon with your smallest adventurers.

To look into the eyes of a wolf  
is to see your own soul -  
hope you like what you see.

~ Aldo Leopold



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*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!*



*Puppeteer Robin McCahill  
and The White Memorial Conservation Center  
present*

## **THE SNOW QUEEN**

A benefit for  
***FISH of Northwestern Connecticut***  
**Saturday, December 3, 2022**  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE 9 am - 5 pm  
VISIT SANTA & MRS. CLAUS 1 pm - 3 pm  
HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES 1 pm - 3 pm  
HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES 1 pm - 3 pm  
LEARN ABOUT SANTA AND HIS REINDEER  
WITH MOKI KOKORIS 2 pm  
SNOW QUEEN PERFORMANCE 3 pm

Please visit <https://whitememorialcc.org/> to register.  
*Admission: Donations of Cash, Warm Clothing,  
Non-Perishable Food*

This special day of giving is made possible  
through an anonymous donor.



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