

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of
The White Memorial
Conservation Center
Vol. XXXXII No.1
Winter 2024

Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For Information:

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



Crows in Winter
Oil on Canvas, 1941, N. C. Wyeth, American
Courtesy of Sotheby's

The Amazing Winter Crow Roost in Lawrence, Massachusetts

By Craig Gibson <https://www.wintercrowroost.com/>

Introduction

Each fall in Lawrence, MA, the city witnesses the arrival of thousands of American and Fish Crows from different regions, forming a remarkable phenomenon known as a Winter Crow Roost. These crows, predominantly American Crows, migrate hundreds of miles to Lawrence, while some are local residents. The purpose of this annual gathering remains enigmatic, with theories suggesting reasons such as seeking food, avoiding predators, and forming an information-sharing center. In this article, we will delve into the intriguing world of the Lawrence Winter Crow Roost, exploring their behaviors, migration patterns, and the mysteries that shroud their communal gatherings.

The Arrival of the Crows

The influx of crows begins modestly each fall, with hundreds arriving at first, but their numbers gradually swell to over 15,000 by the end of January. The exact motivation for this avian gathering on winter grounds remains a subject of speculation, but the crows' choice of Lawrence may be influenced by the city's ambient lighting, protection from predators, and some type of information sharing among roosting birds. The crows spend their nights in this communal roost, perching quietly in trees, usually close to the Merrimack River.

Dawn Departure

Each morning, roughly 90 minutes before sunrise, the crows stir and start vocalizing more loudly. As daylight approaches, they disperse in flight to their daytime foraging grounds, typically heading in various directions in smaller and larger groups. Notably, these crows follow consistent flight paths each morning, often traveling long distances, with an average of 20 miles to reach their foraging grounds.

Seasonal Patterns

The Winter Crow Roost in Lawrence is active from fall to early spring. The roost begins to slowly disband in February as the crows



Oct. 27, 2023 clear skies, wind SW 6MPH,
temp 73F; sunset time 5:44PM

Images taken by Craig Gibson illustrate over
2000 crows converging into overnight roost
trees along Merrimack Street,
Lawrence, Massachusetts, under the rising
Full Hunter Moon.

depart for their breeding territories, which are often located in the northeast, some 100 to 500 miles away. This migration appears to be an ingrained, cyclic pattern, with crows returning to the same roosting area each year.

Social and Intelligent Creatures

The crows in the Winter Crow Roost exhibit remarkable social behaviors. They are highly intelligent, social, and very family centered. Research indicates that the American Crows are cooperative breeders, with younger crows assisting adult pairs in raising their young until they are ready to start their own families. According to recent research, approximately 20% of the American Crows in the roost are local residents, foraging in their home territories throughout the winter.

Urban Habitat Choice

These crows prefer inner city locations with ample ambient lighting. They choose large, tall trees that can accommodate the entire roosting population. The crows congregate in nearby staging areas before settling into the overnight roost, often perching on trees, utility poles, wires, fences, rooftops and even on the ground. For the overnight roost, they seem to prefer central city locations over the outskirts.

Roosting Behavior

The crows' behavior during their nightly roosting is fascinating. They land and perch in an organized manner, with the initial arrivals occupying the outer edges of the trees. Additional crows land beneath them, maintaining some distance between individuals. The main roost location can change seasonally, likely influenced by wind and weather conditions. Each winter in Lawrence, the overnight roost typically begins near the New Balance building on South Union Street along the Merrimack River, and the roost location may move nearby, within a mile or two of this central starting point.

Continued on page 2

WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER ANNOUNCES ANNUAL YEAR-END APPEAL

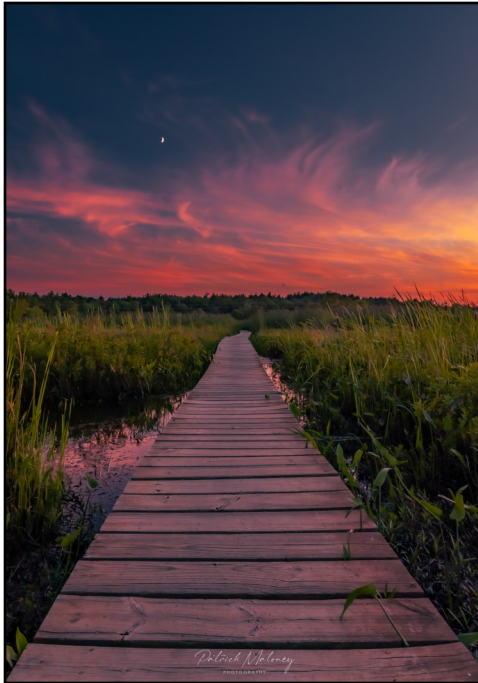
BY GERRI GRISWOLD, WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing. ~ Theodore Roosevelt

The Conservation Center thrived in 2023. Carrie Szwed's Education Department experienced growing pains...the kind that resulted in the hiring of Environmental Educator, Colleen Harrak! Colleen emerged with an arsenal of talents both as an educator and as an artist. Perhaps you have never noticed "Nature's Window" upon entering the Museum? We guarantee that Colleen's handiwork will command you to admire her creativity.

Research Director James Fischer made waves with Bats Count! White Memorial and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection partnered on a five-year program involving the installation of live cameras in our Green Barn to monitor our precious Big Brown Bat maternity colony. You can help both bats and biologists by becoming citizen scientists. Simply watch the cameras online between April and October, count the bats, and submit your findings!

She wears many hats around here... Social Media Guru, Babies in Backpacks leader, Administrative Assistant, and Gift Shop Manager. Kelly Orr has tripled sales in our gift shop since her arrival in spring



Moonrise at Little Pond
Photo credit: Patrick Maloney

2022. Orr has stocked our shelves with beautiful inventory, much of which is locally sourced and a diverse complement of White Memorial branded merchandise. Holidays are upon us! Shop local!

I spear-headed a record-breaking 41st Annual Family Nature Day! The weather was frightful and a third of our guests stayed home. A sell-out raffle and an unprecedented Upscale Tag Sale Online Auction, along with our generous sponsors, ensured that the Conservation Center would not lose money that day. We surpassed our 2022 total by \$1200.00! My enthusiasm and belief in virtual programming attracted speakers via ZOOM from Great Britain, Australia, Vermont, Egypt, California, and Upstate New York.

Your tax-deductible donation, no matter how small, to our Annual Year End Appeal supports our endeavors and the vision of our Founders, Alain and May White. You can donate securely online by stopping by our Facebook and Instagram pages, or by visiting our website: Be sure to indicate that your donation is for the Annual Appeal. Do you have a program idea? Virtual or in-person, for children or adults...we are all ears! Your interests are paramount to us. Email:

gerri@whitememorialcc.org

On behalf of Lukas, Carrie, Jamie, Kelly, Colleen, and Ronnie, I wish the very best to you and yours for Happy Holidays and a New Year filled with peace and immeasurable joy.

The Amazing Winter Crow Roost in Lawrence, Massachusetts *Continued from page 1*

Morning Departure Ritual

Each morning, the crows exhibit a ritualistic behavior before leaving the roost. They become restless and begin to vocalize as the first light of dawn appears. Over a period of about 75 minutes, groups of crows depart for their daytime foraging grounds. Between 30 to 60 minutes before sunrise, the crows may rise into the sky in repeated flight bursts before finally departing. The last group usually leaves by 15 minutes before sunrise, leaving only a few crows behind, which depart later.

Established Flight Lanes

Research has shown that the crows disperse along established flight lanes to reach their foraging grounds and return in the afternoon. Their morning flight is presumed to be direct, while the return flight is more leisurely, allowing them to join other groups on the way back to staging areas and the roost.



Photo credit: Craig Gibson

Mysteries Surrounding the Roost

Despite extensive research, the exact reasons for these large overnight winter roost gatherings remain elusive. Theories include the benefits of avoiding predators

due to ambient lighting, the safety of larger numbers, a heat island effect in urban areas, social opportunities, and information exchange about food sources. It may also serve as a rendezvous point for crows to share valuable information regarding specific food availability and also locations to avoid.

Conclusion

The Lawrence Winter Crow Roost is a mesmerizing natural phenomenon that raises numerous questions and fascinations. As these intelligent and social creatures gather in large numbers, their behaviors, migration patterns, and the purpose of their roost remain a subject of ongoing research and mystery. While we may not yet fully understand the motivations behind this annual event, the spectacle of thousands of crows converging into their roost each night continues to captivate and intrigue observers, leaving us with more questions than answers.

Continued on page 5

COMMUNITY SERVICE AT THE WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION 2023

BY MIKE BERRY, FOREST MANAGER

The year 2023 was a productive one for volunteers at The White Memorial Foundation. In the spring, we welcomed back the Family Campers and RVer's out at Point Folly Campground. The Taft School helped us out on several occasions. There was an Eagle Scout project, and we had a few dedicated volunteers complete some projects that helped take some of the load from our maintenance crew.

In the spring of 2023, 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 2023 camping season. They do a wonderful job every year and are a huge help in getting the campground prepped for opening day.

Torrington's PRIA Healthcare Management stopped by in spring to remove invasive plants around Ongley Pond.

We were contacted by Cian Bergin from Troop 77 out of Simsbury about doing an Eagle Scout project. Cian worked with his fellow Scouts to repair the Interpretive Trail. Cian was able to raise \$1137 for materials. Cian and his fellow Scouts constructed 98 more feet of boardwalk, replaced a 16-foot-long bridge and added over 177 linear feet of gravel. We are thankful to have help from Scouts like Cian to



Students from The Taft School creating wildlife brush piles.

Photo credit: Lukas Hyder

continue to improve our trails.

Continuing the tradition of service, some Connecticut schools were back to offer a hand this year. Taft was the first school back with 23 volunteers in May helping build wildlife brush piles out at the Solnit Parcel in the timber

harvest. Another group from Taft returned in September with 22 volunteers continuing Cian's work adding more gravel to wet areas on the Interpretive Trail. In October, Enfield Montessori School returned for the second year with 28 volunteers. Enfield continued last year's work of removing invasive plants from Windmill Hill. We are grateful for all the work done by these dedicated students.

This year we had a bit of extra help from some dedicated volunteers. We would like to thank Noel Fisher for his hours of service adding swingout doors to the Activity Shed, replacing the Carriage House fence, and various other tasks. Last but not least we had Sandy and Jay McKean put in 27 hours weeding the native plantings around Ongley Pond. Thank you all for everything you did this year; it was a huge help and is greatly appreciated.

In 2023 so far, we are up to around 350 person hours of volunteer time performed. We here at The White Memorial Foundation 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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Nature's Nursery Series

First Thursday of Every Month
(Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 7)
Ages 3–6 years
4:00pm

Members: \$9/child per session or \$24 for the series

**Non-members: \$13/child per session
or \$36 for the series**

Every session includes a story, a live animal, and an activity or craft. *One Adult must stay for the duration of the program. Meet in the Ceder Room.*

After-School Adventures

Grades 1-3: Tues., March 5, 12, 19, 26
Grades 4-6: Weds., March 6, 13, 20, 27
4:00–5:15pm

Members: \$9/child per session or \$32 for the series
**Non-members: \$13/child per session
or \$48 for the series**

Every session brings a new adventure, such as exploring secret places, meeting live animals, and doing fun outdoor activities. *Adults can stay, but it is not required. Meet in the Ceder Room.*



Babies in Backpacks

Third Thursday of Every Month
(Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 21)
Ages Newborn–2 years
10:00am

Members: \$9/child per session or \$24 for the series
**Non-members: \$13/child per session
or \$36 for the series**

Come enjoy the great outdoors in a way your little one can get excited about!
*Adults must stay for the duration.
Meet in the Pollinator Garden.*

SENSE-sational Spring Break Camp

Tuesday, April 16–Friday, April 19
Grades 1-3: 9:30am-12:30pm
Grades 4-6: 1:30pm-4:30pm

Members: \$25/session or \$90/week
Non-Members: \$40/session or \$150/week

Compare your senses to wild animals while playing games, making crafts, meeting live animals, and exploring White Memorial. *Adults can stay, but it is not necessary. Meet in the Ceder Room.*

Advanced registration is required for all programs. Please visit whitememorialcc.org or call 860-567-0857.
Please inquire about financial aid as needed.

The 41st Annual Family Nature Day!

It had to happen eventually! The last time Family Nature Day experienced the threat of rain was 2008. Cold, rainy weather was the order of the day for the 41st Annual Family Nature Day on September 23, 2023! Not to worry! Our team mobilized and moved as much as we could indoors!

A total of 457 guests who believe there is no such thing as bad weather...only bad clothing...celebrated opossums, reptiles, birds of prey, turtles, bats, and edible insects. The white tent served as the epicenter for children's crafts. Antique camping equipment populated the Green Barn. Tenacious vendors set up tents to sell their wares. Delicious food was served by the Litchfield Lions, Hungry Bill, and Jesse's Ice Cream Truck. Our "Upscale Tag Sale" Online Auction raised over \$11,000. An eclectic array of art, furniture, an evening at Winvian Farm, yummy beverages from

Litchfield Distillery, handmade blankets, and pottery from Bantam Tileworks were among the 150 items offered. Our Annual Raffle sold out 50 days in advance of the event! Debbie Convard of Bethlehem held the first prize ticket of a trip for two to Iceland in June 2024!!

Family Nature Day is powered by the most creative and generous volunteers, including our dynamic Education and Activities Committee. We'd be nothing without them. We are also deeply thankful to our sponsors who supported the event, turning what could have been lemons into lemonade: Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue, Krummi Travel, LLC, Thomaston Savings Bank, The Connecticut Community Foundation / Give Local, Rae Lynn Giannaccio, Gerri's Birthday Facebook Fundraiser, New Morning Market, and a Kind Anonymous Donor.



Nothing to see here! Just Carrie Szwed walking Wendy the Virginia Opossum from Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

IN HER CONTINUING SERIES, ZOË GREENWOOD HELPS YOU FIND SMALL WAYS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Salt....It was once so valuable it was used as currency. Ancient Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt. When a soldier was doing a lousy job, it was said that he was "not worth his salt." Salt's value came from its ability to preserve food, which was extremely important in the days before refrigeration and freezing. Salt is mentioned many times in the Bible... "salt of the earth; a pillar of salt; a covenant of salt." The fact that it could preserve food made it a good metaphor for permanence.

We need some salt for our bodies to run efficiently. It helps move nutrients and oxygen, allows our nerves to transmit vital messages and helps our muscles work efficiently.

Even with all that going for it, most of the salt that is produced isn't used in food or food prep; 44 % of it is used to de-ice roads! But, what else is it good for? What are some salt hacks?

Well, it can help remove wine, especially red wine, stains from carpet. Just dab the area with cold water and sprinkle the area with salt. Wait ten or fifteen minutes, then vacuum it up! I don't have carpet and I don't drink red wine, so I don't really know if this will work as indicated, but it's worth a try.

If you add a pinch of salt to your coffee mug, it can help your coffee taste less bitter. You can add about an eighth of a teaspoon to your coffee beans before grinding to help as well. It helps neutralize the bitterness. You can clean the coffee or tea stains from your favorite mugs by scrubbing with salt. If you or your little person drops an egg, cover the mess with salt and leave it for 20 minutes or so. The salt binds with the egg and cleaning it up is a snap!

There are a lot of domestic things that I don't mind doing at all, but I hate cleaning the fridge! I hate finding things that are past their prime or past the "use by" date. Salt to the rescue, or at least as a helpmate! Dissolve salt in warm water and use it to scrub the shelves and sides. It helps remove stains and smells. Sanitize your plastic cutting boards with a

mixture of bleach and salt or vinegar and salt. Wooden cutting boards can be cleaned by rubbing salt into them with a lemon wedge. Then rinse clean. TaDa.

Watermarks left on wooden surfaces can be made less conspicuous by mixing one teaspoon of salt and a few drops of water made into a paste. Gently rub the ring with the mixture on a soft cloth and work over it until the mark is gone. Restore the shine of the wood with furniture polish or maybe lemon oil.



Clean yucky sponges by soaking in a mixture of water and salt overnight. Then dry. Cover a bee sting with water and salt to help reduce swelling and relieve pain and itch. Sprinkle salt into shoes and sneakers that you wear without socks to help make them smell fresher.

Put out a grease fire in the kitchen by dousing the flames with salt or baking soda, then cover with a metal lid. **NEVER USE WATER ON A GREASE FIRE!** You can use salt to safely put out a fireplace or fire-pit fire by dousing the flames with salt. The fire will burn out more quickly, making things safer for everyone.

Got a sore throat or the beginning of a

cold? Grandma said to gargle with salt water. Tooth ache? Same thing. Might even help your bad breath. Brush your teeth once a week with salt and water paste to help remove stains like tea and coffee.

Keep cheese from molding (who keeps it that long? Not us!) by dipping a paper towel or cloth in salt water and then wrapping the cheese. Forgot to chill the wine before the dinner party? No problem, just plunge it into a sink filled with cold water, ice and salt.

Did you get a new pair of black or dark blue jeans for the holidays? Afraid they will fade in the wash? Before you wash them, combine a half gallon of water, 1/3 cup of vinegar and 1/2 cup of salt and soak for an hour. Rinse until the water runs clear and wash as normal. Remove grass stains with a solution of lemon and salt. Squeeze lemon over the stain and then sprinkle on a thick layer of salt. Rub and it should go away.

Bathe dogs in a salt bath to help prevent fleas. While you're at it, wash their bedding and such with saltwater, too. Soak new brooms in a mixture of salt and water to prolong their lives. Remove and let dry before using.

When your flowers have faded and it's time to wash the vase, sometimes yucky mineral deposits are left behind. Salt to the rescue! Fill the vase with a strong solution of water and salt and let soak. Then, use a bottle brush to scrub the inside. Dump and fill with soapy water and wash as usual.

You can kill weeds in concrete or stone cracks with salt. Sprinkle with salt and boiling water and the weeds will shrivel up and die! Be careful, though, not to spill it on plantings that you want!

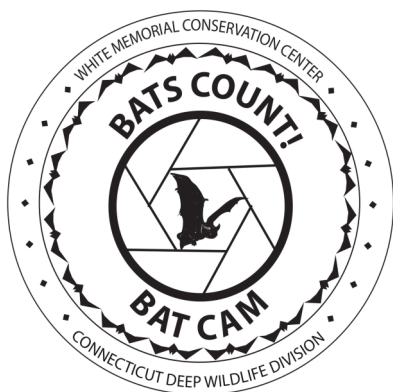
If you like line dried clothes like I do, it can be a real challenge in the winter. However, if you add salt to your next load, it will help the clothes from freezing onto the clothesline.

So, there you have it. Salt. More than just a flavoring for French Fries. More than just a way to de-ice your walkway. Another natural product that you can use to help you

make a difference!

“Bats Count!” Takes Flight

By James Fischer, Research Director, White Memorial Conservation Center

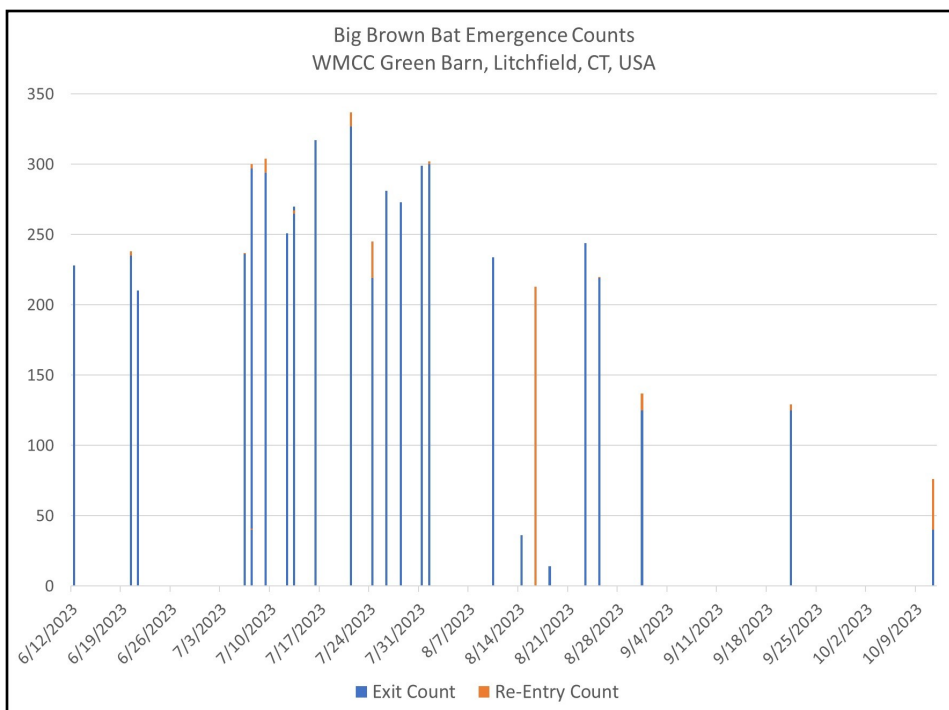


Bats Count! has officially launched. We have successfully completed the first season of our five-year collaboration with CT DEEP Wildlife Division. Our goal is to promote bat conservation throughout the state and to learn more about the Big Brown Bat maternity colony that resides in the Green Barn. We installed a total of four pan-tilt-zoom cameras so that you can view the bats daily via a live-stream that is on both WM and CT DEEP websites. The Education Subcommittee is developing curricula and activities that can be used in classrooms, for scout troops, and as a family to learn more and help bats in our communities.

The research projects need your help. Our first project is to monitor the emergence of bats each evening using the bat cams from the comfort of your home. The pattern of bat emergence from the barn changes from one night to the next. We want to learn why that happens. It is very simple. You start watching the live stream approximately 30 minutes before sunset, then you count the bats as they emerge

from the barn. It is important that you try to keep track of bats that exit the barn versus those that re-enter. It can be challenging at times, but we are confident in you. It might take a little practice and it requires some patience, but you will get the hang of it. Submitting your data is as simple as filling out a form. In our first season we received 28 emergence counts (See Figure). Next year we want more people to submit emergence counts and even more people visiting the cameras so that they can see what the bats are doing during the day. The pattern confirms that bat emergence is dynamic throughout the season. The colony consists of only adults and in early June we observed the first

pup of the season. Pups take flight in July, which explains why we observed an increase in the number of bats emerging from the barn. As the juveniles grow and get stronger, the bats eventually move on to other habitats in search of food in preparation for winter. They leave the barn each season as the colder temperatures start to settle into the area. We hope the bats will return in April. They have in the past, but with White-nose Syndrome and other disturbances, we can only monitor them to see how many do return each season. You can be part of our team and join in the efforts for protecting bats in Connecticut.



The Amazing Winter Crow Roost in Lawrence, Massachusetts (continued from page 2)

Here is a quick recap of lessons learned from our many expert friends and Crow Patrol members:

- ◆ Use a group or team of experienced counters to monitor all directions, especially with larger roosts;
- ◆ Monitor all the activity until at least 60, if not 90 minutes past sunset time;
- ◆ Use multiple locations among your counting team members;
- ◆ Recognize the difficulty in counting while streaming and staging;
- ◆ Be aware of all take-offs and landings before the Crows reach the final overnight roost;
- ◆ Avoid any possibility of double counting;
- ◆ Make every effort to watch from all possible directions;
- ◆ Allow for dramatically different numbers from year to year. Be flexible and adjust as needed;
- ◆ Recognize that Christmas Bird Count (CBC) fluctuations are to be expected. The count for each year is independent of prior year counts;
- ◆ Be aware the roost site may pose significant challenges in terms of open and unobstructed viewing access;
- ◆ Attempt to position each counter with the best wide-open views, not from inside a car or any type of limited viewing location;
- ◆ Use one of many photography methods to provide a quantitative, accurate, and comparable source of data;
- ◆ Have fun, work together as a team, enjoy the mystery of it all, learn, mentor, and share with others.
- ◆ Download the guide: www.winterCrowroost.com/guide




Winter Calendar of Events 2024

For more information on our live, virtual, and hybrid programs, please call 860-567-0857 or register online: www.whitememorialcc.org

JANUARY

1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Museum & Offices Closed **2024!**

January 3 & 17
Virtual Dark of Winter Yoga with Judith Ehrman-Shapiro
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. \$10.00
A portion of the proceeds is donated to WMCC.
Call Judith: 860-309-9488
For more information:
judith.ehrmanshapiro@gmail.com

4 **Nature's Nursery Series**
See page 3 for details. 


6 **Winter Walk to Old Camp Townshend with Gerri Griswold**
Wear sturdy shoes and bring hiking poles.
10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.


11 **Happy Hour Hiking Club with Gerri Griswold!**
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Meet in the Museum.

12 - 18 **Museum Children Free Week**
Free admission to children ages 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.

13 **Lake Trail & Butternut Brook Hike**
10:00 a.m., Meet at the A. B. Cedar Room
Dress for the weather!

15 **Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
Offices Closed


January 18, February 15, March 21
Babies in Backpacks with Kelly Orr
See page 3 for details. 

January 20, February 17, March 23
Artistry with Animals with Colleen HARRAK
See page 7 for details. 

27 **DEEP CARE FAMILY ICE FISHING WORKSHOP**
Families and individuals ages 9 and up are welcome to attend this unique event now in its 8th year! Taught by certified volunteer instructors. All materials are provided.
FREE! BRING LUNCH. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room. Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or register online.



FEBRUARY

1 **Nature's Nursery Series**
See page 3 for details. 


3 **WINTERFEST**
Burr Pond State Park, Torrington CT
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Visit our booth! Meet an Avian Ambassador!
For more information:
<https://portal.ct.gov/NCLI/Events/Winter-Festival>


February 7 & 21
Virtual Dark of Winter Yoga with Judith Ehrman-Shapiro
5:30 - 6:30 p.m., \$10.00
A portion of the proceeds is donated to WMCC.
Call Judith: 860-309-9488
For more information:
judith.ehrmanshapiro@gmail.com

10 **Cut it Out! The Local Practice & History of Ice Harvesting**
See page 7 for details. 

15 **Happy Hour Hiking Club with Gerri Griswold!**
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Meet in the Museum.


16 - 22 **Museum Children Free Week**
Free admission to children ages 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.

16 **Star Party!**
7:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room, Weather permitting, there will be star gazing after the program. 

17 **The Arctic Fox with Ester Rut Unnsteinsdottir Icelandic Institute of Natural History**
See page 7 for details. 

19 **Presidents Day**
Offices Closed 

19 - 23 **Crash Course in Icelandic with Marc Daniel Skipstað Volhard University of Iceland**
See page 7 for details.
**P E T T A
R E D D A S T**


24 **An Evening of Music and Dancing with The Bog Hollow Boys**
See page 7 for details. 


MARCH

After School Adventures!!!!
Tuesdays and Wednesdays in March
See page 3 for details.


2 - 8 **Museum Children Free Week**
Free admission to children ages 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.



 It seems like everything sleeps in winter, but it's really a time of renewal and reflection.
~ Elizabeth Camden

2 **The Amazing Winter Crow Roost in Lawrence, Massachusetts with Craig Gibson**
See page 7 for details. 


March 6, 20
Virtual Dark of Winter Yoga with Judith Ehrman-Shapiro
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. \$10.00
A portion of the proceeds is donated to WMCC.
Call Judith: 860-309-9488
For more information:
judith.ehrmanshapiro@gmail.com

7 **Nature's Nursery Series**
See page 3 for details. 

9 **The Hidden Hoofbeat of Britain and Ireland with Ruth Chamberlain**
See page 7 for details. 

14 **Happy Hour Hiking Club with Gerri Griswold!**
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Meet in the Museum.

15 **Star Party!**
SOLAR ECLIPSE PREVIEW!
7:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room, Weather permitting, there will be star gazing after the program.

16 **7th ANNUAL NATURE TRIVIA NIGHT!**
See page 7 for details. 

23 - 29 **Museum Children Free Week**
Free admission to children ages 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.

23 **Family Friendly Hike to Catlin Woods with Kelly Orr**
For ages newborn and up!
Dress for the weather!
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.

27 **Solar Eclipses with Tom Alena**
See page 7 for details. 

30 **The Pandemic Pantry: One Pot Meals with Gerri Griswold**
12:00 p.m., ZOOM & Facebook Live!



LIVE, VIRTUAL, & HYBRID Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Programs: Winter 2024
Please pre-register and pay online: www.whitememorialcc.org



Artistry with Animals ~ Colleen Harrak
Saturday, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 23, 2024
For Ages 10 and Up!
10:00 a.m., A. B. Cedar Room
Member: \$20.00 session / \$50.00 series
Non Member: \$30.00 session / \$80.00 series
ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED!

Unleash your creativity at these unique ANIMAL Life Drawing classes, led by our own artist and educator, Colleen Harrak! At all sessions, you will create realistic 2-D art using both taxidermy and live animals as your visuals. Charcoal, mixed media, and acrylics will be used. Don't miss this chance to blend art and animal anatomy in a one-of-a-kind setting. Reserve your "easel" today! All skill levels welcome!



Cut it Out! The Local Practice & History of Ice Cutting
Saturday, February 10, 2024
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.
Member: \$5.00 Non Member: \$10.00

Ice harvested from Bantam Lake was used for refrigeration throughout the year. Begin with a presentation and display of old "tools of the trade." Weather conditions permitting, the program culminates with our own "Cut-Ups" James Fischer, Jeff Greenwood, and Gerri Griswold (caterer) demonstrating how ice was cut and moved using the same tools and methods. Dress for the weather! Hot beverages & treats provided!



The Arctic Fox with Ester Rut Unsteinnisdottir
Icelandic Museum of Natural History
Saturday, February 17, 2024
2:00 p.m., ZOOM
Member: FREE Non-Member: \$10.00
A Zoom link will be provided on February 16.

The Arctic Fox is Iceland's only native land mammal. Today you will travel to Iceland (virtually, of course) to learn about this beautiful, fascinating animal. Ester has traveled every inch of her country, searched every nook and cranny, to uncover the secret and not-so-secret behaviors of the Arctic Fox. Nobody knows this animal better! Her work is the subject of an upcoming book, "Melrakki, The Surviving Arctic Fox".



Crash Course in Icelandic
with Marc Daniel Skipstað Volhardt
Monday- Friday, February 19 - 23, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
In-person in the A. B. Cedar Room & via ZOOM
Member: \$50.00 Non Member: \$80.00
MATERIALS INCLUDED!

An introduction to one of Europe's oldest languages. Marc teaches Icelandic as a second language at The University of Reykjavik. Through photos, stories, and humor from a linguist's and fellow learner's perspective, you'll learn basics of this fascinating language and maybe pick up a few tips for your upcoming trip! Included: alphabet, basic grammar, fun stories, beautiful photos, and Marc's personal anecdotes of living Icelandic. A splendid and unusual time is guaranteed!



An Evening of Music & Dancing
with The Bog Hollow Boys
Saturday, February 24, 2024
6:00 p.m., Carriage House
All Tickets: \$10.00
Bring dinner, dancing shoes, and BYOB!

You know Dave Paton as our go-to guy for all things mushroom, but did you know that Dave and a group of his non-fungal friends make up an unbelievable blue grass / folk band? Hammered dulcimer, fiddle, bass, guitar, and more make up this ensemble. Bring a dinner, BYOB, and your dancing shoes for an evening of toe-tapping, hand-clapping, feel good music with The Bog Hollow Boys!



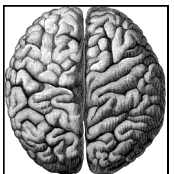
The Amazing Winter Crow Roost in Lawrence, Massachusetts with Craig Gibson
Saturday, March 2, 2024
2:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room
Member: \$15.00, Non Member: \$20.00
<https://www.wintercrowroost.com/>

Craig Gibson explores the amazing phenomenon of winter crow roosts and the lives of these incredibly smart, social, and family centered birds. Learn about the massive roost Craig and his colleagues have been monitoring in Lawrence, Massachusetts and how you can become involved counting roosts right here in our neck of the woods!



The Hidden Hoofbeat of Britain & Ireland
with Ruth Chamberlain
<https://ruthonthehoof.com/>
Saturday, March 9, 2024
2:00 p.m., ZOOM
Member: FREE Non-Member: \$10.00
A link to the program will be emailed on March 8.

Ruth Chamberlain is an equine, dog and wildlife photographer based in the Lake District, UK. She is currently working on a project documenting the native equine breeds of Britain and Ireland. Ruth is from rural Cumbria, where she grew up with native breeds and seeing the semi-feral Fell ponies out on the various Lake District fells. She studied zoo-archaeology with some focus on British horse breeds and their history with people. Today she shares her stunning images of these rare breeds.



7th Annual Nature Trivia Night!
Saturday, March 16, 2024
7:00 p.m., Carriage House
Member: \$15.00 Non Member: \$25.00
Bring dinner, your own place setting, & BYOB.
Dessert, coffee, tea, and water provided!

Come on, Brainiacs! Are you afraid of the challenge brought forth by our team of experts? Cerebrum, Cerebellum, Medulla Oblongata, Hippocampus...How big are yours? Are you even remotely prepared to test your nature knowledge at our 7th Annual Nature Trivia Night? Teams of up to six (we HIGHLY encourage team costumes) will compete for a valuable prize. Register individually and then form a team.



Solar Eclipses with Tom Alena
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
6:00 p.m., ZOOM
Member: FREE Non Member: \$10.00
A link to the program will be emailed on March 26.

On August 17, 2017, Tom was fortunate enough to witness a total solar eclipse in Greenville, South Carolina. It was the most incredible astronomical event he had ever observed! Another total solar eclipse will occur on April 8, 2024 and the path of totality will be very close to Connecticut! This program will detail this coming event!



Teachers, Group Leaders, and Program Coordinators,

White Memorial Conservation Center has established a tradition of providing quality environmental education programming since 1964. Let us help you incorporate environmental education into your curriculum or Calendar of Events.

Education programs can be conducted at White Memorial or at your facility.

The Program Possibilities are Endless...



Animal Adaptations
Creature Features
Do the Locomotion
Habitat Chat
Pond Prowl
Measuring Our Impact
Rare and Remarkable
Take a Hike
Way to Grow
Wildlife in Winter
...and so many more!



We are also happy to design a program that caters to your needs. Just ask!

Visit whitememorialcc.org for more information and a complete list of programs with detailed descriptions, including the curriculum standards they meet.

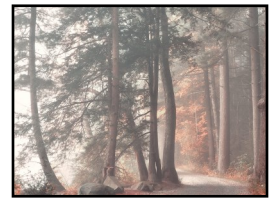
Call 860-567-0857 or email Carrie@whitememorialcc.org to book your next program with White Memorial!

What's Inside This Edition of **SANCTUARY**

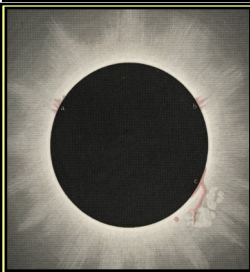
Annual Appeal.....	2
Community Service.....	3
Children's Programs.....	3
Family Nature Day.....	4
Make a Difference.....	4
Research.....	5
Events Calendar.....	6
Virtual, Hybrid, and In-Person Workshops.....	7



Give the Gift of Nature
To Yourself or a Loved One.
Become a Member of
The White Memorial
Conservation Center.



Individual Membership: \$40.00
Family Membership: \$60.00
Call 860-567-0857
www.whitememorialcc.org



**Litchfield Hills Amateur Astronomy Club &
The White Memorial Conservation Center**
MAGNIFICENT SOLAR ECLIPSE PARTY!
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE!
TALKS! DEMOS! VIEWING! FOOD! FUN!
DON'T WAIT! VIEWING GLASSES
ARE ON SALE NOW IN THE GIFT SHOP!



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TORRINGTON, CT
06790
PERMIT NO. 313

The White Memorial Conservation Center
P.O. Box 368
Litchfield, CT 06759
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED