

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of
The White Memorial
Conservation Center

Vol. XXXXII No. 2
Spring 2024

Museum Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For Information

Phone: 860-567-0857

E-Mail: info@whitememorialcc.org

Website: www.whitememorialcc.org



The Passenger Pigeon

Louis Agassiz Fuertes, 1910, Public Domain

THE LOST BIRD PROJECT

By Todd McGrain, <https://www.toddmcgrain.com/>

*"They cannot dive out of a cloud, nor
clap their wings
in thunderous applause.
They know no urge of seasons;
they feel no kiss of sun,
no lash of wind and weather,
they live forever
by not living at all."*

~Aldo Leopold, 1947

The Lost Bird Project

Since 2000, I have worked to create permanent memorials to birds driven to extinction. Collaborating with local communities, I have placed memorials at sites with direct significance to the life of each species. In most cases these sites are the locations where the birds were last seen in the wild.

These bronze sculptures are subtle, beautiful, and hopeful reminders. The human scale of each sculpture elicits a physical sympathy. The smooth surface, like a stone polished from touch, conjures the effect of memory and time. I model these gestural forms to contain a taut equilibrium, a balanced pressure from outside and from inside—like a breath held in. As a group they are melancholy, yet affirming. They compel us to recognize the finality of our loss, they ask us not to forget them, and they remind us of our duty to prevent further extinction.

Of all the birds lost to the tragedy of extinction, the Passenger Pigeon is perhaps the most dramatic.

The Passenger Pigeon

At the time of European arrival, Passenger Pigeons accounted for up to 40% of the land birds of North America. They flew in

western states, into Canada and south to Texas.

Through the long winter months, Passenger Pigeons shifted across the southern states following warm weather and available food. Their numbers swelled as the flocks came together for the spring migration. In late March or early April, the birds rose like a storm to begin the journey to the hardwood forest of the upper mid-west and northeastern states. Flying hundreds of miles each day, they flew north to destinations often familiar to them from previous breeding seasons. Upon arrival the birds descended en masse, filling the full thickness of the forest for hundreds of square miles. The forest was alive with chattering birds and the sound of snapping tree limbs giving way under their collective weight.

The new colony was a riot of activity, with dozens of nests being constructed in each tree. Passenger Pigeons built loose, flat nests approximately 12 inches in diameter. On this precarious foundation the female laid a single small, white egg. Both parents shared the responsibility of incubation. After 14 days each fragile new life emerged from its shell. The parents took turns feeding on beechnuts and acorns, returning to the nest to regurgitate crop milk into the gaping beaks of their hungry offspring. After two weeks of near constant feeding, the chicks were heavier than either of their parents. Before the young birds were even able to fly, the adults abandoned the nests, leaving the fledglings to fend for themselves.

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Passenger Pigeon Monument
Sculpture & Photo by Todd McGrain

vast flocks, numbering in the billions, sometimes eclipsing the sun from noon until nightfall. Their geographic range stretched from the northeastern and mid-

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Finally fluttering down to the ground, the young pigeons spent several days foraging for worms and insects until they were strong enough to fly. For the fox and other ground predators this was a period of easy hunting, but with vast numbers of Passenger Pigeons hitting the ground simultaneously a large percentage of the young birds survived.

It is fair to presume that Passenger Pigeons were hunted for as long as there were people living in North America. For subsistence hunters, the arrival of the flocks must have seemed a great gift. Hunting for immediate consumption, however, would have had little impact on the overall sustainability of the species. The significant decline of the Passenger Pigeon was initiated only in the second half of the 19th century. During this period the geographic range of the pigeon was dramatically transformed as large swaths of forest were converted to agriculture. It is difficult to quantify the total effect this agricultural revolution had on the pigeons, but it was certainly significant. The destruction of the flocks caused by market hunting is much easier to calculate.

Professional pigeon hunters applied the full force of their ingenuity to kill the birds in every conceivable way. Stool Pigeons lured the migrating flocks to the ground, whereupon the birds were often baited

1851—1.8 Million Passenger Pigeons shipped to market from Plattsburgh, New York

1875—2 million Passenger Pigeons shipped to market from Monroe County, Wisconsin

1878—1 Billion Passenger Pigeons shipped to market from Petoskey, Michigan



Passenger Pigeons
Sketches by Todd McGrain

with alcohol-soaked grain to make them drunk and easy to catch. Smoker pots were lit, sending up great black clouds to disorient the birds and force them to land. Every conceivable netting system was

employed. Messages sent across the newly installed telegraph lines allowed hunters to track the movements of a flock and set up ambushes well in advance of the flock's arrival. The slaughters that took place at the rookeries themselves required less skill. Young birds were snatched from nests or knocked to the ground with sticks. Trees filled with nesting birds were sometimes simply cut to the ground.

The Railroad was the modernization that was most significant in initiating and insuring the profitability of these massive hunts. As long as the supply remained, the trains could deliver, and with demand high, there was little to discourage hunters. Laws were eventually written to limit the hunting of Passenger Pigeons, though they were mostly targeted at recreational hunting, and even these limited restrictions were rarely enforced.

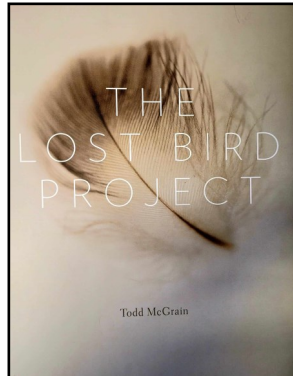
On March 24th, 1900, a boy in Pike County, Ohio shot the last recorded wild Passenger Pigeon. Just fourteen years later, under the watchful eyes of her keepers, the last captive Passenger Pigeon, Martha, died in her cage at the Cincinnati Zoo.



Todd McGrain visits the Conservation Center on May 18, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the A.B Ceder Room. Please pre-register!



Todd McGrain in his studio
Photo credit: The Lost Bird Project



The Lost Bird Project was published in 2014.



Todd McGrain's Great Auk faces Eldey Island, Iceland. The last Great Auks were killed here on July 3, 1844.
Photo credit: Gerri Griswold



**42nd Annual Family Nature Day
Upscale Tag Sale Online Auction Seeks Donations!**

Since 2020, a main fundraising component of Family Nature Day has been our online auction! You have responded with enthusiastic support, engaged in lively bidding wars, and offered stunning donations of art, antiques, services, and more.

Last year's auction raised a staggering \$11,100! Once again it's time to ask for your help in making this year's auction the most exciting and fruitful yet! Bidding runs from September 13 to September 27, 2024. Donations are tax deductible.

If you would like to donate an item or have any questions, please contact Gerri Griswold, gerri@whitememorialcc.org. To peruse the ever-growing collection of items we have already amassed and to start planning your bidding strategy, log in here: <https://www.32auctions.com/natureday42>

Little Brown Bat Surveillance! Call for Bat Monitors in Spring 2024! We Need Your Help!

By James Fischer, Research Director, White Memorial Conservation Center

Last year we observed an outpouring of support from members who volunteered their evenings to help us monitor bat emergence. Members counted bats as they emerged from the green barn where a large group of female Big Brown Bats raise their pups each summer. Counting took place mostly over our live-stream video installed in cooperation with CT DEEP Wildlife Division. Another bat species that received attention from volunteers was the Little Brown Bat maternity roost. We learned a great deal from the data collected by members supporting these projects last year and so now we are planning to expand our research projects while incorporating volunteer monitors again this summer.

Female Little Brown Bats that survived the initial outbreak of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) are breeding at a younger age but giving birth approximately 2 weeks later than average. Dr. Katherine Ineson from the University of New Hampshire recently discovered this while investigating the demographics of Little Brown Bat roosts in Massachusetts. Younger animals breeding earlier in their lives gives the population an important advantage in recovering from the severe mortality rate caused by WNS. While the later than average birth dates since the outbreak means females emerging from hibernation need to heal from the injury and stress caused by the WNS fungus while simultaneously being pregnant. Bats require more insects as soon as they

emerge from their hibernaculum and when they arrive at White Memorial Foundation to give birth. This provides us with a unique opportunity to learn which habitats Little Brown Bats and their relatives use, as well as the insect community. We will use passive ultrasonic acoustic recorders placed in different habitats to detect where bats are foraging and capture insects in



*Banding Little Brown Bats last summer with The CT DEEP & Virginia Tech Biologists
Photo: Gerri Griswold*

these habitats. We will collect guano samples at the bat house to learn what the bats are eating. Our goal is to discover management strategies that foster an insect community that encourages Little Brown Bats to heal from the injury and stress caused by WNS as soon as they arrive back to the maternity roost.

This will be a labor-intensive project and we will need volunteer support, especially monitoring bat emergence during

the evenings concurrently with other field work (acoustic surveys and insect trapping). Emergence counts estimate the number of bats foraging each evening and which weather conditions bats prefer to forage in. The accuracy of bat habitat models are enhanced by knowing how many bats are foraging each night. These models will help us understand which habitats we should prioritize for managing bat food resources because there is only so much money and effort that we can invest. Therefore, we wish to invest where we will gain the greatest return on that initial investment. We are already evaluating some options that we could use to enhance the prey base. Aquatic insects are known for their massive "hatches" that occur in the early spring season. If bats consume these insects, then we would enhance their habitats by controlling invasive aquatic plants and shrubs that live in the local streams, ponds, and wetlands. We could also install bat houses in areas that are closer to habitats that produce more of the bat's preferred prey, which would reduce the amount of energy that bats need to use to forage. The management outcomes we target ensure that Little Brown Bats and other bat species impacted by WNS are sustained while other solutions that control WNS are developed.

If you want to help us with our projects this summer, please contact James Fischer, WMCC Research Director, at:

james@whitememorialcc.org.

31st Annual Museum Sleep-In!

For 4th - 6th Graders

April 26 - 27, 2024

5pm Friday - 12pm Saturday



Kids in Grades 4-6, join us for a real-life "Night at the Museum" experience! We'll have a slumber party amongst the exhibits in the Museum. Plus, we'll embark on a night hike, gather around the campfire, make special crafts, explore Ongley Pond, and so much more. In the morning, you'll be treated to breakfast and a special program featuring live animals.

Parents, this is a drop-off program,. Plenty of adult chaperones from the WMCC Education and Activities Committee will be there. Meet in the Museum. Advanced registration is required. Registration begins on April 1 and must be received by April 19. Space is limited to 25 kids. Please inquire about financial aid as needed. Event will occur rain or shine.

Members: \$60/child, Non-Members: \$120/child
(covers all materials, snacks, and breakfast)

For more information and to register, please visit
www.whitememorialcc.org or call 860-567-0857.

This program is conducted by the Conservation Center's Education and Activities Committee.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

Ah, spring! When people's thoughts turn to flowers blooming, birds chirping, garden planting, lawn mowing. Wait! Lawn mowing? Really? Well, it does become a necessary evil if you want green grass around your house. But what impact does having a lawn have on the environment and on your personal life and how you spend your time?

I love a lush, green lawn as much as the next person. I love to walk barefoot on the cool grass. Well, I really love to walk barefoot anywhere, anytime, but that's for another day. There is nothing like a lawn for picnics or reading or playing croquet and badminton. All of those things are worthy, but at what cost?

Watering a lawn for one hour takes 1,000 gallons of water. Nine BILLION gallons of water are used across the United States to water lawns. In fact, turfgrass is the country's single largest irrigated crop! I don't know about you, but when I think of crops, I think of feeding something like people or animals. I don't think of lawns.

Three billion gallons of gas are consumed each year for lawn mowers, leaf blowers and other "garden" implements. That is the same as six million cars driving for one year. Mowing your lawn for one

hour causes as much pollution as driving your car for 45 miles. Lawns use TEN TIMES more fertilizer than that used by agricultural crops. By the way, fertilizer also releases nitrous oxide greenhouse gas. That same fertilizer can and does leach into wetlands and rivers and oceans, creating algae which deoxygenates water,

mowing every other week instead? How about trying a "no mow" May? Stop all together in mid fall and let nature take over until the snow flies.

Another idea is to convert some of your lawn to other uses. Consider a large border of native grasses and plants, which naturally have deeper root systems and

which remove more carbon from the atmosphere. Consider, too, that birds and bees and other pollinators will have more access to their food sources. Plus, you will get to see something different every day. Watching a bird or butterfly can be a fun, rewarding family activity. Being in nature on a daily basis has been proven to make us happier, less stressed, lower our blood pressure and boost our immune systems. That's a lot of good for

just being outside! Biodiversity reawakens the curious little kid in all of us.

Swap some of your lawn out for native plants and grasses. Did you know that it takes about 6,000 caterpillars for a pair of chickadees (my favorite bird) to raise a clutch of young? Where are those caterpillars coming from if you have your whole yard as lawn? Your neighbor, who has a wild lawn, that's where.

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which causes fish to die. Lawns also use about 80 million pounds of pesticides and herbicides, disrupting the food chain and killing helpful insects and plants.

So, what's a person to do? Well, as usual, I have some thoughts on that subject. Consider the amount of time you use weekly to mow. Could that time be better spent? Could you spend that time visiting friends and family or playing with the kids or reading? Will you consider



"Sense-sational" Spring Break Camp

Tuesday-Friday, April 16-19

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

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

Members: \$25/child per session

or \$90/child for the whole week

Non-Members: \$40/child per session

or \$150/child for the whole week

Spend your school vacation exploring the wild!

Meet live animals up close, make some awesome crafts, tromp around the woods, and play fun games, all while learning about the amazing senses of our native critters. Bring a water bottle and dress for the weather. Parents/Guardians are welcome to stay, but it is not necessary. Meet in the A.B. Ceder Room. Advanced registration is required. Space is limited! You can sign up by day or for the whole week.

Please inquire about financial aid as needed.



To register, please visit whitememorialcc.org
or call 860-567-0857.

White Memorial's Summer Nature Camp

Wonder Camp

Weekly 2-hour programs for children ages 4-5 featuring stories, songs, crafts, and outdoor adventures. Sign up by session or all 5 sessions. Wednesdays, July 10, 17, 24, 31, and/or Aug. 7

Discovery Camp

Week-long sessions featuring outdoor discovery, games, books, songs, and crafts that help kids learn about the natural world. For children entering grades 1-2. Sign up by week or all 4 weeks. July 8-12, 15-19, 22-26, and/or July 29-Aug. 2

Exploration Camp

Week-long sessions for children entering grades 3-9. All-day outdoor adventures await, both on White Memorial property and in many other natural places throughout northwest Connecticut. July 8-12 and/or 15-19 for 3rd and 4th grades, July 22-26 and/or July 29-Aug. 2 for 5th and 6th grades, Aug. 5-9 for 7th-9th grades

More details on whitememorialcc.org. Registration begins April 1 for members and April 15 for non-members.

New Exhibit! Nevermore: The Extinction of The Passenger Pigeon

By Carrie Szwed, Education Director, White Memorial Conservation Center

The story of the passenger pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) does not have a happy ending, but it's a story that needs to be told nonetheless. Once the most numerous bird in North America, the passenger pigeon crashed to extinction in a matter of 100 years at the hands of humans and our development.

Beginning this Spring, White Memorial's Nature Museum will showcase a small exhibit called "Nevermore: The Extinction of the Passenger Pigeon." It will feature a taxidermy mount of a female passenger pigeon. While the passenger pigeon was not a particularly showy bird, to view the real feathers, real beak, real feet of an extinct species is a profound experience. And to realize that this species - whose flocks prior to 1800 were so dense that they would block out the sun - has been reduced to a smattering of taxidermy specimens in assorted Museums is nothing short of heart-breaking.

The unregulated harvest of passenger pigeons, as well as a loss of habitat, led to their demise. It's a story heard time and time again in the chronicles of wildlife conservation. Fortunately, due to a significant shift in our cultural mindset in the early 1900's from resource exploitation to conservation, and management, many game animals, such as beavers and wild turkey, were saved. But, it was too late for the passenger pigeon.

This exhibit is intended to serve as a reminder that resources are finite, and that humans have the responsibility to uphold a conservation ethic. If we learn from our mistakes, we may never have to witness another species plummet to extinction like the passenger pigeon.



A never-previously exhibited female Passenger Pigeon mount will be on display beginning in April.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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Consider taking an area of your lawn and swapping out grass for xeriscaping your yard by using rocks, boulders and other low or no moisture features. Embrace the weeds! They are good for pollinators. Research how to certify your yard as a wildlife habitat with the Natural Wildlife Federation or the Audubon Rockies Habitat Heroes.

Start small. This is an ongoing process. Try year one with a border of wildflowers and native grasses. The following year, add more native things and try making over some of your lawn into something that will feed your family.



Try potatoes or squash or pumpkins. You could also plant some berry bushes as part of an edible landscape. Try making an herb garden. Plant some strawberries in containers. Pole beans can be used to cover up some less than desirable eyesores. Salad greens and such can be used as flower edging. You get the idea. Think outside the box.

Of course, you may have to compete with some critters like rabbits and deer, but...

Rethinking how we use our yards can make a big impact and will certainly

Make a difference.



The Connecticut Community Foundation Give Local Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills

is a 36-hour online community giving event that encourages donors to lend their support to the nonprofit organizations that work every day to make our community stronger.

Every dollar donated to the Conservation Center from 7 a.m. on April 24th to 7 p.m. on April 25th will help care for our Animal Ambassadors, lend financial support to families in need, and support virtual programming,

Your donations will be stretched with bonus funds provided by the Connecticut Community Foundation and generous Give Local sponsors. We are also eligible to win amazing cash prizes during the event!

Watch our website www.whitememorialcc.org, read your *Habitattler* for more details on how you can donate, or visit our personal ***Give Local*** page:

<https://www.givelocalccf.org/organizations/white-memorial-conservation-center>

Spring Calendar of In-Person, Virtual, Hybrid, and Events

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

APRIL

Fresh Start Hiking Club! April 2, May 7, June 4

7:45 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.
Pre-registration is required.
www.whitememorialcc.org

Nature's Nursery April 4, May 2, June 6

Pre-registration is required:
www.whitememorialcc.org



4 Conservation in Our Community Series: The Lowdown on Low Impact Development:

Practical Steps
to Improve Water Quality at Home
7:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room & ZOOM

6 CT DEEP CARE Family Fresh Water Fishing Class

10:00 a.m., A. B. Cedar Room
Pre-register: www.whitememorialcc.org



6 "Interview" with Our Barred Owls! See page 7 for details.



6 - 12 Museum Children Free Week +

8 Magnificent Solar Eclipse Party!

Museum Open House All Day!
Workshops, Talks, Food & Fun!
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pre-register: www.whitememorialcc.org



Happy Hour Hiking Club! April 11, May 9, June 6

4:00 p.m., Meet in the Museum.
Pre-registration is required:
www.whitememorialcc.org

13 Nevermore: Remembering the Passenger Pigeon

See page 7 for details.



April 16 - 19

"Sense-sational" Spring Break Camp See page 4 for details!



19 Star Party!

Astronomy program
with star-gazing to follow
8:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room



20 - 26 Museum Children Free Week +

20 Edible Plant Walk with Andy Dobos See page 7 for details.



20 The Demise & Resurrection of The American Chestnut 10:00 a.m., A. B. Cedar Room



20 Bat Hike! See page 7 for details.



20 BATS COUNT! Evening Bat Count at the Green Barn 7:00 p.m., Meet at the A. B. Cedar Room.

24 / 25 GIVE LOCAL! A Day of Giving! See page 5 for details!

26 / 27 31st Annual Museum Sleep-In For Grades 4 - 6 See page 3 for details



27 - May 3 Museum Children Free Week +

27 Early Spring Migrants Bird Walk with Fran Zygmunt 9:00 a.m., Meet in the Museum.

MAY

2 Cultivating River Health: Good Gardening & Landscaping Practices for Healthier Waters 7:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room & ZOOM

4 - 10 Museum Children Free Week +

4 Forestry in Practice with Jeff Ward & Mike Berry 9:00 a.m., Meet at the intersections of Routes 63/61. Please pre-register.



11 - 17 Museum Children Free Week +

11 Bobbing for Bobolinks at Apple Hill and Topsmead State Forest 8:00 a.m., Meet at the Apple Hill Trail Head off East Shore Road. Limited to 15. Please pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or register online: www.whitememorialcc.org

11 Nature Tag Sale Activity Shed, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



11 Bats for Kids! 2:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room Pre-registration appreciated!

17 Star Party! Astronomy program with star-gazing to follow 8:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room



18 Tiny Trekking with Kelly Orr Newborn to 5 years, 9:30 a.m., Meet in the Museum.

18 The Lost Bird Project with Todd McGrain See page 7 for details.



19 Connecticut Classical Guitar Ensemble See page 7 for details.



23 Old Town Canoe Raffle Drawing & Full Flower Moon Hike 6:00 p.m., Please pre-register for the hike.

25 - 31 Museum Children Free Week +

25 The Fungus Among Us with Dave Paton See page 7 for details.



27 Memorial Day Offices Closed



JUNE

1 Connecticut Trails Day! Exploring Lake & Butternut Brook Trails 10:00 a.m., Meet in the Museum.



6 Non-Native Invasives: An Ecosystem Cancer 7:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room & ZOOM

8 Connecticut Open House Day! Free Admission! 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Amphibian Amble with Pam Velez 2:00 p.m., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room.



9 Litchfield Hills Road Race Museum Closed



15 Mountain Laurel at Plunge Pool with Pete & Barb Rzasa See page 7 for details.



15 Where Did They Go? Extinct & Endangered Animals See page 7 for details.



21 Star Party! Astronomy program with star-gazing to follow. 8:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room



22 Honeybee Hike! 10:00 a.m., Meet in the Museum. Pre-registration is required. Members: FREE Non-Members: \$6.00



29 From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction (Film) 10:00 a.m., A. B. Cedar Room & ZOOM



29 Iceland Through My Heart with Gerri Griswold See page 7 for details.



+ Free admission to children under the age of twelve when accompanied by an adult.

SPRING 2024 VIRTUAL, HYBRID, & IN PERSON WORKSHOPS
CALL 860-567-0857 OR REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG



April 6 "Interview" with Our Barred Owls!
3:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room
Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$5.00

Come see and learn about Shakespeare and Ophelia, our resident Barred Owls. Do owls have personalities? Can an owl talk to you? Can you have an owl as a pet? Find out the answers to these questions and any others you want to ask. Family-friendly event.



April 13 Nevermore: Remembering the Passenger Pigeon with Gerri Griswold
2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room & ZOOM
Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$10.00

Once the most abundant species of bird on our planet, in less than a century all Passenger Pigeons were gone. Learn the story about a bird whose numbers blackened the skies in feathery ribbons that stretched for miles, inhaled crops, and whose sound was so deafening, one could not hear or be heard.



April 20 Edible Plant Walk with Andy Dobos
10:00 a.m., Meet in the Museum
Members: \$15.00, Non-Members: \$25.00

Andy Dobos will help you learn some common easily identifiable edible wild plants and how to responsibly harvest and prepare them. Walk through field forest and wetland edge as Andy identifies, gathers, and gives tips for preparation. *Andy has special permission to pick plants on WMF property.* Bring a notebook, camera, and dress for the weather!



April 20 Bat Hike! with Gerri Griswold
4:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room
Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$10.00

Enjoy a late afternoon stroll through bat habitats to our bat houses near Litchfield Town Beach! Last year, close to 300 precious Little Brown Bats were counted exiting these structures that were installed by Research Director, James Fischer in 2018.



May 18 Todd McGrain: The Lost Bird Project
2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room
Members: \$10.00, Non-Members: \$20.00

The Lost Bird Project involves the extraordinary effort to place a series of public memorials to birds driven to extinction in modern times. As a chronicle of humankind's impact on our changing world and a moving record of dwindling biodiversity, The Lost

Bird Project is an ode to vanished times and vanished species. As works of site-specific environmental art, the sculptures featured in The Lost Bird Project were placed in the location where the bird was last seen in the wild and are now permanent public sculpture installations at a wide range of sites, from Newfoundland to Florida, Ohio to Martha's Vineyard. Ten years in the making, The Lost Bird Project has been the subject of a feature-length documentary film that premiered in New York City in December 2011.



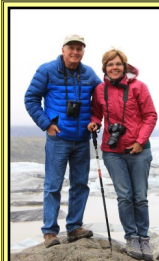
May 19 The Connecticut Classical Guitar Ensemble Conducted by Michael Stubblefield
2:00 p.m., Activity Shed
All Tickets: \$10.00

Bring a picnic and enjoy a perfect Sunday afternoon in the company of this wonderful guitar ensemble that will perform a variety of genres. Michael Stubblefield is an American composer, guitarist, and music educator based in Hartford, CT. He is a graduate of The Hartt School at the University of Hartford with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Music Composition.



May 25 The Fungus Among Us with Dave Paton
10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.
Members: \$20.00, Non Members: \$30.00

Dave Paton is just plain giddy about mushrooms and wants to share his enthusiasm with you! Spend a couple of 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 WMF property! Dave received special permission for this program.*



June 15 Mountain Laurel at Plunge Pool: Hike with Pete & Barb Rzasa
10:00 a.m., Meet at the Trailhead at Routes 63/61
Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$10.00

Naturalists and Conservation Center favorites, Pete and Barb Rzasa, lead you through the laurel laden trails of the Five Ponds Complex to view Connecticut's State Flower at its peak. Learn about other wildflowers and spring birds as you wander.



June 15 Where Did They Go?: Extinct & Endangered Animals with Colleen Harrak
2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room
Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$5.00

Some animals we have lost for good, and others still remain on the brink of extinction. Join us as we explore these extinct and endangered animals. You will even get to meet a couple of live animals that are listed as "Species of Special Concern" or "Threatened." This family-friendly program helps you explore ways to take action in your backyard!



June 29 Iceland Through My Heart
2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room & ZOOM
Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$10.00

Just back from her 56th visit to the Land of Fire & Ice, Gerri Griswold adds new photos and stories to this dynamic presentation that leads you through glacial landscapes and molten lava fields, and meet-ups with the people who define this rugged nation! Griswold first stepped foot in Iceland in 2002. It's been a love affair with the land and its people ever since.



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





MARK YOUR CALENDAR THE 42ND ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2024

FEATURING

RIVERSIDE REPTILES + COUNTRY QUILT LLAMA FARM
HORIZON WINGS RAPTOR REHABILITATION & EDUCATION
THE SECRET LIVES OF OWLS + BIRDS OF PREY
FERNCROFT WILDLIFE RESCUE: OPOSSUMS!
BUNNELL FARM WAGON RIDES
PIE SALE + VENDORS
ANIMAL AMBASSADORS MEET & GREET

MUSIC BY ~ BOG HOLLOW

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO SCOTLAND IN OUR RAFFLE!



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