

# SANCTUARY

Newsletter of  
The White Memorial  
Conservation Center  
Vol. XXXXIII No.1  
Winter 2025

## 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

Email: [info@whitememorialcc.org](mailto:info@whitememorialcc.org)

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



THE AURORA BOREALIS.

*The Aurora Borealis*

Colored Wood Engraving by Charles H. Whymper British, 1853–1941

## What's an Aurora, Anyway?

by *Denis Williamson, Secretary of the Litchfield Hills Amateur Astronomy Club*  
Photos by *Michael Kabelka*

The Year 2024 has been a banner year for amateur astronomers in Connecticut: there was an exciting eclipse-viewing event at WMCC on April 8th, and recently there was a bright comet that was easy to see. But in May and early October we saw auroras, which are fairly rare this far south. The next couple of years will likely offer more opportunities to see auroras as the sun becomes more active. So what causes auroras?

The sun is a turbulent cauldron of very hot material. Along with visible light, infrared, ultraviolet, X-ray and radio waves, our star emits electrically charged particles in all directions. Earth's magnetic field deflects most particles towards the poles where, if the stream of particles is intense enough and has the right magnetic polarity, these particles will interact with oxygen and nitrogen in the upper atmosphere (60-100 miles, 90-150km), causing a visible glow. Auroras take many forms: dispersed glow, cloud-like

patches, arcs, rays, and curtains. They even appear as a corona, where light seems to radiate from a central point. They may display rapidly changing shapes and many colors like pink, red, purple, green, occasionally yellow or gold. Red



*Ian Campbell gazes at the Northern Lights over Bantam Lake, May 11, 2024*

comes from oxygen at altitudes of 90-100 miles, and green from oxygen at lower altitudes. At still lower altitudes nitrogen emits red and blue. What colors you see can also depend on how far away you are from the source; the curvature

of the Earth may block your view from lower latitudes, so you only see the red.

Not surprisingly, ancient peoples had a variety of explanations: Aboriginal Australians saw auroras as fires in the spirit world; the Chipewyan Dene people in North America believed they were the spirits of departed friends dancing in the sky (a lovely notion!); the Sami of northern Europe believed that the blood of those who bled to death caused the red lights (not so lovely). Japanese folklore has it that pheasants were messengers to and from heaven, and red auroras were tails of red pheasants.

The first evidence that auroras are related to events on the Sun came in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Just before noon on September 1, 1859, English amateur astronomer Richard Carrington was sketching an enormous sunspot group when he saw an intensely bright light appear by a sunspot.

*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

*"To see people who will notice a need in the world and do something about it... Those are my heroes" ~ Fred Rogers*

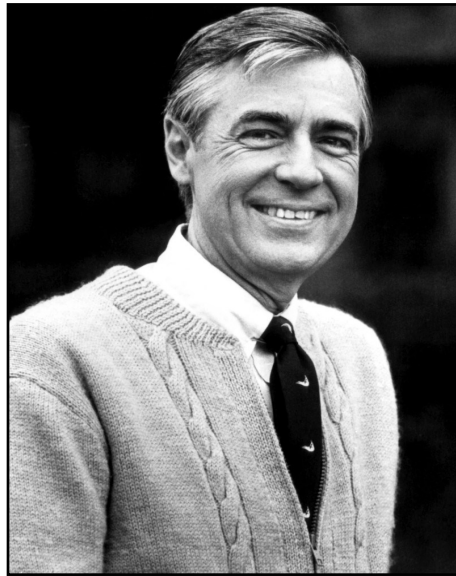
Alain and May White saw the need to preserve 4,000 acres of open space when others were skeptical and confounded by their vision.

*"When I was very young, most of my childhood heroes wore capes. But, as I grew, my heroes changed so that now I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child, is a hero to me." ~ Fred Rogers*

In 2024, Carrie Szwed and Colleen Harak, our very own caped crusaders, introduced 10,000 children to the natural world through diverse programming. They inspire budding conservationists to make this planet a better place for all living things for generations to come.

*"Beside my chair is a saying in French. It inspires me every day. It's from Saint-Exupéry's The Little Prince. 'L'essential est invisible pour les yeux.' (What is essential is invisible to the eyes.) ~ Fred Rogers*

Research Director James Fischer launched year two of BATS COUNT!, a five-year partnership with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.



Fred Rogers aka Mr. Rogers  
Photo credit: Terry Arthur

Tracking Little Brown Bats through radio telemetry revealed previously unknown data as to how far these tiny, endangered mammals travel each evening in search of food.

Gift Shop Manager Kelly Orr greets you with a smile as you enter the Museum. She

leads Tiny Trekking hikes. She manages our membership database, curates the lovely inventory in our Gift Shop, and keeps the Conservation Center ever-present in a dizzying amount of social media posts.

*"We're still one of the islands that encourage quiet and some space to think. We hear every day from people saying how grateful they are for some time of calm." ~ Fred Rogers*

I especially love spending time with you exploring our Sanctuary through the Fresh Start and Happy Hour Hiking Clubs and weekend guided hikes.

Your tax-deductible donation, no matter how small, to our Annual Year End Appeal supports our work and the vision of our Founders. You can donate securely online by visiting our website: <https://whitememorialcc.org/product/donation/>. Be sure to indicate that your donation is for the Annual Appeal.

*"The connections we make in the course of a life--maybe that's what heaven is." ~ Fred Rogers*

On behalf of Lukas, Carrie, Jamie, Kelly, Colleen, Jill, and Ronnie, I wish you and your family Happy Holidays. We hope to enjoy your company frequently in the New Year.

### What's an Aurora, Anyway? Continued from page 1

Over the next 5 minutes it moved to a nearby spot before fading out. Over seventeen hours later bright auroras appeared in both the northern and southern hemispheres! Auroras were seen in the US, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, even in equatorial regions such as Cuba, Mexico, Hawaii, and southern China. Currents induced in telegraph lines caused shocks and operators were able to send and receive telegrams while disconnected from battery power. Carrington was cautious about claiming that the solar activity caused the auroras, saying "one swallow does not a summer make." Since 1859 there have been several other such super displays of auroras but though less intense they are always exciting events.

In 1917 Elihu Thomson of General Electric wrote, "It seems doubtful if any extensive auroral display has occurred without coincident existence of exceptional areas of disturbance on the sun. We may assume that at such times great jets or streams of electrified matter (electrons, perhaps) ... are projected with high velocities outward..." He was absolutely right. Today, ground-based observatories and satellites observe the sun and alert us to sunspot activity and solar flares, making it possible to predict auroras. But how and why does the sun do this?

The sun's visible "surface" and the region above are filled with plasma – electrically charged gas – which is stirred up by powerful

magnetic fields. In sunspots these fields are very intense, causing occasional solar flares and ejection of material (called coronal mass ejection, or CME) from the sun. If enough of



this material happens to reach Earth's atmosphere, we get auroras. But we don't get auroras all the time; they vary with the sunspot cycle. Every eleven years the sun's magnetic poles (not the physical poles) flip, so its magnetic south pole becomes the magnetic north pole and vice versa. During this 11-year cycle sunspot activity increases for about 5.5 years, then wanes. For the current cycle, called Cycle

25, peak sunspot – and auroral – activity should be in 2025. So the next year or two should, with luck, bring us more auroras to admire!

Auroras exist on other planets, too. Auroras on Venus, Mars, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are caused by the same mechanism as Earth's. Jupiter has very intense auroras, but they are caused by electrical interactions with the four large moons, especially Io, whose volcanoes emit vast amounts of charged particles. Auroras have also been observed on comets and even around other stars – well, one: the brown dwarf, LSR J1835+3259.

Looking for more information? There are very informative Wikipedia articles about the Sun, sunspots, auroras, solar cycles and more. NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center issues daily bulletins, and the home page of [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com) features up to date info on sunspot and auroral activity.

The Litchfield Hills Amateur Astronomy Club has partnered with White Memorial in presenting talks and providing opportunities to view the night skies since 2009.

2025 star parties will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday night from February to October except September, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday night of November. Dates and times will be listed in the events calendar [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)

# COMMUNITY SERVICE AT THE WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION 2024

BY MIKE BERRY, FOREST MANAGER, PHOTO CREDIT: LUKAS HYDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every year a variety of groups and individuals volunteer time to help us accomplish our conservation goals. The year 2024 was no exception. We had a successful and productive year for volunteers here at White Memorial.

In the spring we welcomed back two groups to help us get ready for the 2024 family camping season. The Family Campers and RVer's were back at the Point Folly Family Campground helping clean up, paint, and get ready for our highly anticipated opening day. They do a great job every year and are a huge help in the process of getting Point Folly ready. The second group to return this year was Scout Troop 102. Troop 102 has a history of coming in the spring and having a campout while cleaning up Windmill Hill Campground. They rake the sites, pick up sticks, and fix up fire rings to ensure the campground is ready to go.

Continuing the tradition of service and education, several schools came by to lend a hand. The Forman school returned with 11 volunteers in May.



*Enfield Montessori School, October 17, 2024*

Those students built wildlife brush piles near Teal Pond. Taft School visited in the summer and fall with 57 volunteers,

adding more gravel to wet areas the Interpretive Trail. In October, Enfield Montessori School returned for the third year with 25 volunteers. Students removed invasive plants near Ongley Pond and planted the Family Nature Day Wish Tree (*Nyssa sylvatica* aka Blackgum). Fall of 2024 saw the return of a group from The Explorations Charter School in Winsted. Five volunteers cleaned out and re-established water bars on the Heron Pond foot trail. We are grateful for all the work done by these dedicated students.

Over 475 person hours of volunteer time were performed in 2024. White Memorial is thankful to have so much support from the community.

If you or your group are interested in volunteering, please contact Forest Manager, Mike Berry via email at [mike@whitememorialcc.org](mailto:mike@whitememorialcc.org). Your help is very much appreciated.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

### Nature's Nursery Series

**First Thursday of Every Month**  
**(Jan. 2, Feb. 6, Mar. 6)**  
**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 4, 11, 18, 25**  
**Grades 4-6: Weds., March 5, 12, 19, 26**  
**4:00–5:15pm**

**Grades 1-3: \$9/child per session for members**  
**\$13/child per session for non-members**  
**Grades 4-6: FREE thanks to a generous sponsorship from the Torrington Savings Foundation**

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.*



### Tiny Trekking

**Dates to be determined, based on weather.**  
**Visit our website for updated information.**  
**Ages Newborn–5 years**

**FREE for Members and Non-Members**  
 (donations accepted to defray program costs)

Experience the outside world at a child's pace! You and your child will explore each colorful leaf, climb each rock and log, and probably get a little dirty in the process! Dress for the weather! We'll go out rain, snow, or shine! *Meet in the Museum.*

### Spring Break Camp

**Monday, April 14–Thursday, April 17**  
**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**

Kids can spend their school vacation playing games, making crafts, meeting live animals, and exploring White Memorial. We guarantee they'll learn amazing things along the way. *Adults can stay, but it is not necessary. Meet in the A.B. Ceder Room.*

**Advanced registration is required for all programs. Please visit [whitememorialcc.org](http://whitememorialcc.org) or call 860-567-0857. Please inquire about financial aid as needed.**

**The 42nd Annual Family Nature Day!**  
**Story by Gerri Griswold Photo by Michael Kabelka**

A mostly cloudy day with seasonal temperatures set the stage for the 42nd Annual Family Nature Day on September 28, 2024.

Close to 1200 guests indulged their love of Nature with reptiles, opossums, llamas, goats, birds of prey, and reptiles.

The white tent was buzzing with children's craft activities. The Potion Table was a huge hit! Sister organizations populated the Ceder Room Lawn armed with information about wood carving, birds, astronomy, dairy goats, wolves, native people, primitive skills, antique camping equipment, and more. Thirty homemade pies sold at our Annual Pie Sale. Thirty vendors selling farm-raised meats, soaps, jewelry, books, crocheted items and more set up an enticing market to sell their hand-crafted wares. Hungry Bill, Meraki, The Dawg Tour, Winter Winds Farm, and Pete's Ice



*Yertle the Red - Eared Slider once again emerged victorious in the 9th Annual Ray and Jean Packard Turtle Races! In our opinion, EVERYONE was a winner!*

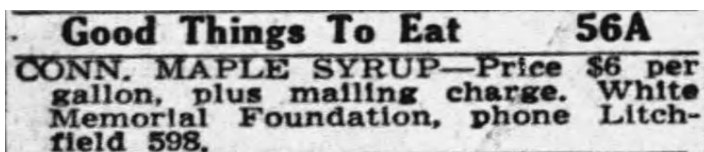
Cream ensured no one would go home hungry.

Our "Upscale Tag Sale" Online Auction raised \$12,600. Our Annual Raffle sold out 2,000 tickets weeks in advance of the event! Susan Atkins of Watertown walked away with the first prize of a trip for two to Scotland's Wild Islands, donated by Redfern Natural History Tours.

Family Nature Day would be nothing without an extraordinary ensemble of volunteers spearheaded by our Education and Activities Committee. The Conservation Center is grateful to the many sponsors that supported the event: Stewart McPherson, Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue, March Farm, Litchfield Lions Club, Thomaston Savings Bank, Rae Lynn Giannaccio, Winvian Farm, Lost Fox Inn, White Horse Country Pub, Thorncrest Farm & Milk House Chocolates, Gerri Griswold, and a Kind Anonymous Donor.

**HOW SWEET IT IS! MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION AT THE WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**  
**BY LEE SWIFT COOK**

When sugar was rationed during World War II, alternate sweeteners such as molasses, corn syrup, honey, and maple syrup were in high demand. In February 1943, White Memorial Foundation Superintendent Clifford Ongley tapped about 15 maple trees around Whitehall to experiment making maple syrup from the sap. Deemed a success, Superintendent Ongley traveled to Vermont in October 1943 to procure some of the necessary equipment, including an evaporator, to begin production on a larger scale. The evaporator consisted of a set of large flat metal pans set over a wood fire to boil down the collected sap into syrup. A sap/sugar house and storage tank for sap were built in November 1943, and in the following February, between 400 and 500 maple trees were tapped.



*Source: Hartford Courant, 31 March 1949*

To prevent price gouging on sugar substitutes during the War, the U.S. Office of Price Administration had fixed the price of maple syrup at \$3.39 per gallon. In his Oral History about work at White Memorial, Superintendent Art Ceder reported that the syrup production was labor intensive and it was costing about \$6.00 per gallon. He added that customers were offering \$8 - \$10 per gallon, but that the Foundation President was adamant that no matter what the cost, the law concerning the fixed price must be obeyed. With the end of sugar rationing in 1947, WMF increased its price to \$6.00 a gallon. Quarts were also available for \$3.00.

On Foundation property, the tapping and reborings of maple trees began in mid-February. This was followed by setting up the evaporator, and then continually splitting and hauling wood for the evaporator, collecting sap, boiling the sap, and preparing

the syrup for sales. At the end of March or early April the buckets were collected and all the equipment was cleaned.

Although sales continued from 1944 throughout the ensuing years, the cost of producing the syrup was not profitable. In addition, the Foundation could not compete with the lower prices charged by larger commercial enterprises in nearby Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York. And so, in May 1951, the Foundation Board of Trustees voted to discontinue the making of maple syrup and to sell the buckets, evaporator and equipment connected with the business. How much syrup was sold? Seventy-two gallons were sold in 1944, the first year, using 300 buckets for collecting sap. In 1945, the Superintendent reported that it was one of the poorest seasons when 51 gallons were sold at a loss, partially due to the purchase of 100 new cans and a new storage tank. The sales rebounded in 1946 when accounts reported the sale of more than 83 gallons.

Maple syrup was just one of the products sold by White Memorial to help fund the maintenance of its many properties and buildings. Lumber, bait fish, fence posts, trees, charcoal, Christmas trees and evergreen boughs were just a few of the others.

*Sources: White Memorial Foundation: Account books; Board of Trustee minutes, Art Ceder – Oliver Wolcott Library Oral History: Interview re White Memorial Foundation, June 1981.*



*Whitehall Sap House in 1951. It was located near the green barn.*



## **"Bats Count!" 2024 UPDATE**



### **A Financial Boost for Bats!**

Thanks to the generosity of the *John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation*, a supporting organization of the *Northwest CT Community Foundation*, we have received a \$14,000 grant to complete the educational goals of our "Bats Count" Project!

In 2023, through a partnership between CT DEEP and White Memorial, four cameras were installed in White Memorial's "Green Barn" to monitor the activity of the wild Big Brown Bat maternity colony residing inside. These livestream cameras not only help researchers study bats, but they also provide CT schoolchildren with a unique tool to learn about a population of animals "close to home" and the conservation challenges bats face.

An Education sub-committee of the "Bats Count" Project was formed to build off the momentum of these livestream cameras. This committee seeks to accomplish 3 main goals over the next couple of years: 1) to produce lesson plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, middle school, and high school level that specifically highlight CT's bat populations and the studies being conducted by CT DEEP and White Memorial, 2) to assemble kits of bat-themed objects for teachers to borrow that supplement the bat lessons, and 3) to conduct educational presentations on bats in schools throughout the state.

The funding provided by *The John T. & Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation* will allow us to compile our bat lesson plans into a booklet that will be published and distributed to CT schools (as well as being available digitally). We will also be able to purchase items such as bat skeletons, costumes, cultural items, storybooks, and even bat ultrasonic detectors to go into the kits for teachers to borrow. Lastly, we can now offer the first 30 "Bats are the Best" presentations free of charge to interested schools. This interactive program, taught by White Memorial educators, provides a general overview of bats and makes a wonderful introduction to any of the bat-themed lesson plans included in the booklets. Teachers/Administrators who are interested in scheduling one of these presentations for their class(es) should contact Education Director Carrie Szwed: [carrie@whitememorialcc.org](mailto:carrie@whitememorialcc.org) 860-567-0857.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the *John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation* for giving us the opportunity to expound upon the marvel of bats, their benefits to humans, and the need for their conservation!

### **The Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution, Inc. Donates to BATS COUNT! Initiative**

In celebration of Bat Week 2024, The Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution Inc. chose to highlight bats for their state project. A PowerPoint presentation was shared at the fall forum meeting coinciding with Bat Week.

In addition, through the efforts of CT DAR Member and WMCC Member, Terry Augustyn and her husband, Eric, 33 bat houses were constructed. The house design was carefully researched and constructed out of locally sourced pine. The houses were offered to the 43 chapters of the CT DAR society for a small donation that was then given to White Memorial's BATS COUNT! initiative. In total, 30 chapters received bat houses. The chapters will find appropriate places to install each house. In addition, three historic CTDAR properties will install bat houses in the spring of 2025.

The Conservation Center is most grateful to Terry and Heidi Norcross of CT DAR for spear-heading this important and significant work that raises statewide awareness to the importance of bats and their conservation.



**Pictured left to right:** Dr. Devaughn Fraser, CT DEEP Bat Biologist, Jerome Fraser, Devaughn's Trusted Advisor, Heidi Norcross, Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Committee Chair, James Fischer, WMCC Research Director, Terry Augustyn, WMCC Member and Member of the CT DAR, and Carrie Szwed, WMCC Education Director,


# Winter Calendar of Events 2025


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

## JANUARY

1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Museum & Offices Closed **2025!**

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


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

4 **Owl Prowl with Fran Zygmunt**  
See page 7 for details. 

7 **Fresh Start Hiking Club with Gerri Griswold**  
7:45 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.

January 8, February 5, March 5  
**Virtual Dark of Winter Yoga with Judith Ehrman-Shapiro**  
5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. \$12.00  
A portion of the proceeds is donated to WMCC.  
Call Judith: 860-309-9489  
For more information:  
[judith.ehrmanshapiro@gmail.com](mailto:judith.ehrmanshapiro@gmail.com)

11 **A Sweet Hike with Gerri Griswold & Kelly Orr**  
See page 7 for details. 

15 **Tale of the Cat: Bobcats in Connecticut with Jason Hawley**  
See page 7 for details.  


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


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

25 **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. Ceder Room. Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or register online.



## FEBRUARY

1 **WINTER FESTIVAL**  
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>

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


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

11 **Fresh Start Hiking Club with Gerri Griswold**  
7:45 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.

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

15 **Magic Light Show: The Science & Beauty of the Aurora Borealis with Tom Alena**  
See page 7 for details. 

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

17 **Presidents Day**  
Office Closed 

22 **Remembering Rex Brasher**  
The Greatest Avian Artist of All!  
2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Carriage House  
Please pre-register: [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)  


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



## MARCH

1 **The Pandemic Pantry: Mediterranean Magic with Gerri Griswold**  
12:00 p.m., ZOOM!


**After School Adventures!!!**  
Sponsored by  
**Torrington Savings Foundation**  
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.



4 **Fresh Start Hiking Club with Gerri Griswold**  
7:45 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.


4 **MEMBERS ONLY**  
**How Sweet it Is! Road Trip to the Great Mountain Forest Sugar House**  
See page 7 for details. 

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

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

8 **Winter Hike through the Solnit Parcel to Camp Columbia with Gerri Griswold**  
10:00 a.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room

15 **8th ANNUAL NATURE TRIVIA NIGHT!**  
See page 7 for details. 

22 **Bulgaria: A Journey to the Edge of Europe with Gerri Griswold**  
See page 7 for details. 

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

28 **Star Party!**  
8:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room, Weather permitting, there will be star gazing after the program.



29 **White Memorial Conservation Center & The Institute for American Indian Studies presents: Stories from the Animals**  
See page 7 for details.



“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold.”  
– Aristotle



**LIVE, VIRTUAL, & HYBRID Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Programs: Winter 2025**  
 Please pre-register and pay online: [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)



**Owl Prowl with Fran Zygmunt**  
**Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025**  
 5:00 a.m.  
 Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room  
 Member: FREE Non-Member: \$10.00  
**LIMITED TO 15 PARTICIPANTS**



**A Sweet Hike with Gerri & Kelly**  
**Saturday, January 11, 2025**  
 2:00 p.m.  
 Meet in the Museum.  
 Member: FREE Non-Member: \$10.00



**Tale of the Cat: Bobcats in Connecticut**  
**January 15, 2025**  
 6:00 p.m.  
 A. B. Ceder Room & ZOOM  
 Member: FREE Non Member: \$10.00



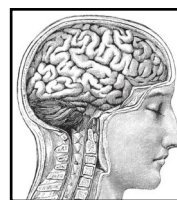
**Cut it Out! The Local Practice & History of Ice Cutting**  
**Saturday, February 8, 2025**  
 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.  
 Member: \$5.00 Non Member: \$10.00



**Magic Light Show: The Science & Beauty of the Aurora Borealis with Tom Alena**  
**Saturday, February 15, 2025**  
 3:00 p.m. ZOOM  
 Member: FREE Non-Member: \$10.00



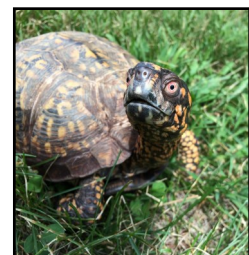
**MEMBERS ONLY! Road Trip to the Sugar House at Great Mountain Forest**  
**Tuesday, March 4, 2025**  
 10:00 a.m.  
 Meet in the Museum parking lot.  
 Members Only: \$10.00 Limited to 14!



**8th Annual Nature Trivia Night!**  
**Saturday, March 15, 2025**  
 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!



**Bulgaria: Journey to the Edge of Europe with Gerri Griswold**  
**Saturday, March 22, 2025**  
 2:00 p.m.  
 A. B. Ceder Room & ZOOM  
 Member: FREE Non-Member: \$10.00



**White Memorial & The Institute for American Indian Studies present: Stories from the Animals**  
**Saturday, March 29, 2025**  
 2:00 p.m.  
 A. B. Ceder Room  
 Members of WMCC: \$5.00  
 Non Member: \$15.00

You can do it! Venture out into the frosty New Year in search of our native owls with expert Fran Zygmunt. We'll be in search of Barred Owls, Screech Owls, Saw-Whet Owls, and Great Horned Owls. Dress for the weather! A briefing on what you can expect to see or hear will precede the prowling. Coffee and comestibles will be served beforehand to keep you awake.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century hot potato vendors peddled their wares on the busy streets of Manhattan. We at White Memorial love old-fashioned stuff. Join Gerri Griswold and Kelly Orr as they lead you on a pretty winter hike to Pine Grove I Campsite where you'll be greeted with a roaring fire and roasted sweet potatoes. Comforting mulled cider will also be on hand!

Bobcat sightings on our property and across our state are not as rare as you think! Join CT DEEP Biologist Jason Hawley as he shares information about the natural history of this most elusive creature. Learn about *The Connecticut Bobcat Project* and what biologists have learned from data collected over two years from the placing of wildlife cameras throughout our state.

Ice harvested from Bantam Lake was used for refrigeration throughout the year. Enjoy 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!

The discovery of what makes the Northern Lights occur is an amazing journey of how scientific knowledge is obtained. It involves a cast of many famous characters and spans several centuries. Learn about one of nature's most striking and compelling phenomena.

Hop in the Conservation Center Van with Carrie Szwed and head to Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk to watch maple sugaring in action! For 70 years, Great Mountain Forest has been producing maple syrup. The GMF sap house produces 75 to 100 gallons of syrup per season from approximately 450 taps. Some buckets remain, but most sap is gathered through modern methods.

Are you prepared to test your nature knowledge at our 8th 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. If you don't have a team, we'll put you on one upon arrival!

Travel to the far reaches of Europe with Gerri Griswold and discover the riches of Bulgaria. Griswold was drawn here to experience the annual Surva International Festival of Masquerade Games in Pernik. Since pagan times, men and (now) women dress in elaborate costumes representing spirits who chase away evil winter and welcome the upcoming spring. Large bells are often attached to the belt. Lively dancing is part of the celebration.

"Etuaptmumk" translates to "Two-Eyed Seeing." This refers to learning how to see the strengths of Indigenous knowledge from one eye and the strengths of Western knowledge from the other. Join Colleen Harrak from White Memorial and Educational Outreach Ambassador Darlene Kascak (Schaghticoke Tribal Nation) from the Institute for American Indian Studies for a two-eyed seeing look at local woodland animals and the lessons they teach. Colleen will show several live animal ambassadors while Darlene shares traditional Native American stories about these animals.

# 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 the wonders of nature 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](http://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](mailto:Carrie@whitememorialcc.org) to book your next program with White Memorial!

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Individual Membership: \$40.00  
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“Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.”

— Vesta Kelly

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