

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of The
White Memorial Conservation Center
Vol. XLIV No. 3
Summer 2026

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
www.whitememorialcc.org



*The Periodical Cicada, Plate 7 from "Insects, Their Ways and Means of Living"
Robert Evens Snodgrass, 1930*

Cicadas: Nature's Introverted Extroverts

By Gerri Griswold, Director of Administration and Development, White Memorial Conservation Center

Cicadas are nature's loudest introverts...creatures that spend most of their lives hidden underground, only to burst onto the scene in an ethereal summer chorus. If you've ever stepped outside on a hot summer day and heard a rising, electric buzz filling the air, you've already experienced their grand performance. But there's far more to cicadas than their signature soundtrack.

Let's talk about their unusual lifestyle! Cicadas are the ultimate long-term planners. Depending on the species, they can live underground for anywhere from 2 to 17 years before making their dramatic debut above ground. Yes, 17 years! That's longer than it takes a human to go from kindergarten to high school graduation. During this time, they're not sleeping. They're actively feeding on sap from tree roots, quietly growing and preparing for their big moment.

When that moment finally arrives, it's less of a gentle entrance and more of a mass emergence. Billions of cicadas can surface at once, slowly emerging from the soil. They climb up trees, fences, and anything vertical they can find, and then undergo one of the greatest transformations in the insect world: molting. Their outer shells split open, and out comes a fully formed adult cicada, pale and soft at first, but soon hardening into the dark, winged insect we recognize.

If you've ever found one of those empty shells clinging to a tree trunk, you've seen the aftermath of this process. They look like tiny, ghostly replicas.

Three thousand species of cicadas exist worldwide. Connecticut is home to roughly 15 - 20 species, though most people are aware of just two:



*Floury Baker (Abrieta curvicosta), Australia
both larva shell and adult,
Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons*

the annual "dog-day" cicadas that show up every summer, and the famous periodical cicadas of the genus *Magicalicada*, which emerge in synchronized broods every 13 or 17 years. In Connecticut, Brood II (17-year cicadas), are scheduled to emerge next in 2030. When a brood appears, it

feels less like an insect event and more like a natural festival...trees humming, air shimmering, sidewalks dotted with their delicate, abandoned shells.

And the singing! If you've ever stood in a Connecticut grove at dusk in July, you know it. It's not quite a buzz, not quite a whine, but something in between: a steady, electric chorus that seems to stitch the evening together. It's the sound of heat, of long days, of time itself vibrating in the trees.

Cicadas are famous for their sound, and for good reason: they are among the loudest insects on Earth. Some species can reach up to 100 decibels, which is about as loud as a motorcycle. The males are making all that noise. They produce it using specialized structures called tymbals on the sides of their abdomen. By rapidly flexing these structures, they create a clicking sound that builds into that familiar buzzing chorus.

All that noise is in the name of love. Each species has its own unique song, and females use these calls to identify suitable mates. It's like a massive audio, outdoor dating app. Somewhere in that wall of sound, a female hears a call she likes and responds with a subtle flick of her wings. The male homes in on the signal, and voilà: love in the treetops.

Despite their overwhelming numbers and deafening presence, cicadas are surprisingly harmless. They don't bite or sting, and they're not interested in your picnic. Their mouthparts are designed for sipping plant fluids.

Continued on page 2

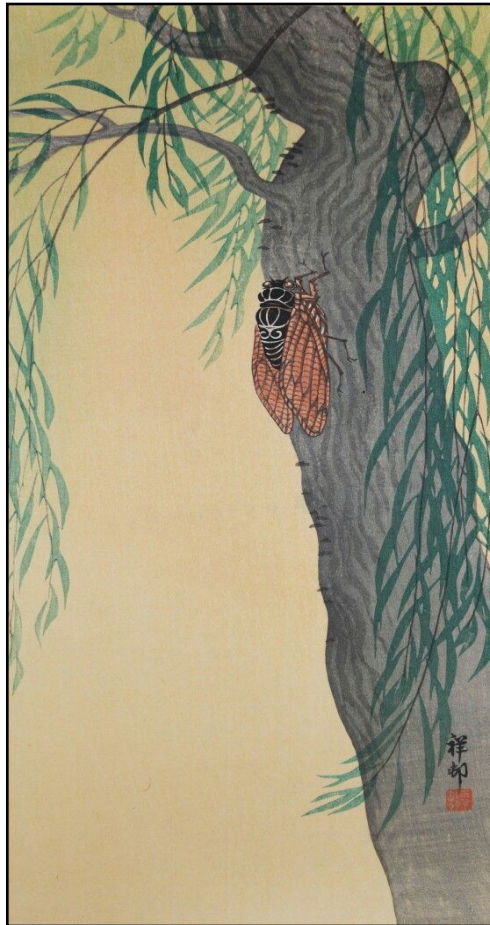
Continued from page 1

At worst, they might bump into you while flying. It's less an act of aggression and more a case of poor navigation.

Still, their sheer abundance can feel a bit apocalyptic. When millions emerge at once, the landscape changes. Trees can become dotted with egg-laying scars where females slice into small branches to deposit their eggs. In large numbers, this can stress young trees, though mature trees usually handle it just fine. And when the cicadas die, because yes, their above-ground life only lasts a few weeks, the ground can become littered with their bodies.

But even in death, cicadas play a role. Their decomposing bodies release nutrients back into the soil, essentially fertilizing the very trees they depended on. It's a full-circle moment: from roots to sky and back again.

One of the most fascinating types of cicadas are the "periodical cicadas," the ones that emerge every 13 or 17 years. These species have synchronized life cycles, meaning entire populations appear at once after years of silence. Scientists believe this strategy helps them survive predators. When billions show up simultaneously, predators can only eat so many, leaving plenty of cicadas to survive and reproduce. It's a strategy known as "predator satiation," and it's surprisingly effective.



Cicada on Willow
Woodblock print, 1936
Ohara Koson, Japanese

There is also something mathematically intriguing about those 13 year and 17 year cycles. Both numbers are prime, meaning they're not easily divisible by other numbers. This reduces the chances of their emergence aligning with predator population cycles, giving them an evolutionary edge. In other words, cicadas are playing a long game that involves both biology and math.

Cicadas have also found their way into human culture in interesting ways. In some parts of the world, they're seen as symbols of rebirth and immortality because of their long underground life and sudden emergence. In others, they're simply a seasonal marker; a sign that summer has truly arrived. In some places, cicadas are even considered a delicacy. They're said to taste a bit like shrimp or nuts when cooked, though not everyone is eager to test that theory.

So the next time you hear that rising buzz in the trees, take a moment to appreciate it. You're not just hearing noise; you're listening to a story years in the making. Beneath your feet, for more than a decade, these insects have been waiting, growing, and preparing for this brief, brilliant moment in the sun.

Cicadas aren't in a hurry. They measure life differently. In a place like Connecticut, where seasons turn with dependable grace, they remind us that some rhythms are longer, deeper, and worth the wait.

Listening for Bats: How Larry Gorham Turned His Engineering Skills into Conservation Action

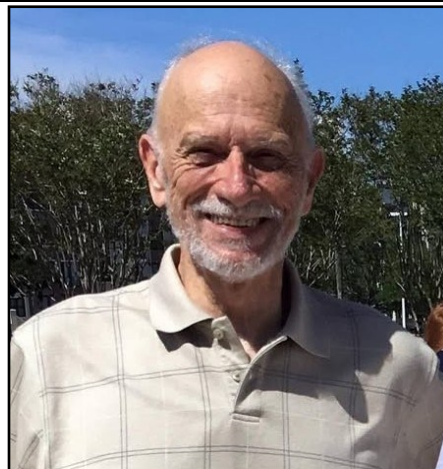
Story and photo by James Fischer, Research Director, The White Memorial Conservation Center

"Never forget the trail, look ever for the track in the snow," wrote naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton. For wildlife researchers, those "tracks" are not always left in mud or snow. Sometimes they are hidden in sound, shadow, and a quick flutter across a night sky.

For White Memorial volunteer Larry Gorham, following those hidden tracks has become a new adventure in retirement.

Larry spent much of his professional life as an electrical engineer working in control and estimation theory — work he describes as being "about sonar, really," including the challenge of determining the range and depth of submarines. After retiring, he found that he missed the technical challenge of solving difficult problems. Eventually, that curiosity led him in an unexpected direction: bats.

At first, Larry became interested in building an inexpensive ultrasonic device that could detect bats. Commercial bat detectors were costly, and his engineering instincts told him he might be able to build one himself. Larry needed to find a place that would allow him to deploy his prototype while still being nearby to check its performance throughout



Larry Gorham

the night. He contacted White Memorial after reading about the Bats Count! project. Larry stayed at the Windmill Hill Campground and walked back and forth to his detector just over the hill. But after developing that project, he discovered another device that performed a similar function. Rather than seeing that as a dead end, Larry remained open to the next opportunity.

WMCC's Research program had been using an off-the-shelf game camera to document Little Brown Bats emerging from the bat house. It was useful, but limited. Game cameras have delays, refresh times, and other constraints that make it difficult to record every bat leaving a roost. When Larry learned about the problem, he responded with the words every researcher hopes to hear from a skilled volunteer: "I think we could do that."

The result was a custom infrared video recording system designed to monitor bats as they emerge at night. Built around a Raspberry Pi computer and a second low-power controller, the system turns itself on and off automatically, conserves battery power, and records during the evening emergence period. Larry also worked through the challenge of lighting the scene with infrared illumination that would allow the camera to see the bats without disturbing them with visible light. It needed a source of power, which is a deep-cycle battery that is charged by a solar panel.

Like many good field inventions, it had to survive the test that matters most: real conditions outdoors.

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DR. JEFFREY WARD

RECIPIENT OF THE 2026 WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION CONSERVATION AWARD

by Lukas Hyder, Executive Director, The White Memorial Foundation and Conservation Center

The White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award was established in 1964 to honor an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to the environment. To date, 19 organizations and 35 individuals have received this recognition. Each year, the award—a bronze rendering of a beaver, White Memorial's symbol, created by the late Peggy Reventlow—is presented at the Foundation's annual dinner. This year, we honored Dr. Jeffrey Ward as the 54th recipient.

White Memorial President Ann Borzilleri introduced the award. Executive Director Lukas Hyder, who has known Jeff since the mid-1990s, spoke about his contributions to conservation.

Dr. Ward spent 35 years at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) before retiring in 2022. Since retiring, he has continued to contribute his time to complete key research projects. His extensive résumé includes authoring more than 100 papers documenting the results of his research. Topics include forest dynamics and regeneration, invasive species control, and practical decision-making in the field.

His leadership and service to the conservation community include sharing research with the public and the forestry community—not only in Connecticut, but nationwide and beyond through his publications. He has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Connecticut Tree Protection Examina-

tion Board; as past president of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association; as an advisor to Audubon Connecticut and the Connecticut Endangered Species Committee; and as an



White Memorial President Ann Borzilleri presents Dr. Jeffrey Ward with the 2026 Conservation Award

active member of the Society of American Foresters. The collaboration between White Memorial and CAES spans an 80-year partnership. The longest-running project is the

Catlin Woods study on unmanaged forest dynamics, which began in 1959. Another long-term project Dr. Ward has carried forward is the Beaver Pond cutting-methods study, initiated in 1983, which continues to provide valuable data. Jeff has also been instrumental in the Wheeler Hill Japanese barberry control study; an Apple Hill stump-sprout deer-browse exclusion study; the Stormwidge project, which demonstrates management for storm-resilient roadside forests; and the rehabilitation of understocked stands. These studies have used White Memorial as a site for long-term research where management questions can be tested, and the results can guide land managers and inform the public. He has also encouraged additional partnerships within the research network.

Jeff's contributions to conservation reflect his ability to bridge research and management without compromising either. He has produced durable science and offered guidelines for practical, sustainable management. His impact has been extended through workshops, demonstrations, and interpretive programs—not only for the forestry community, but for the wider public as well. Jeff has led countless educational walks throughout his career, including many here at White Memorial.

It is with great pleasure that White Memorial presents its 2026 Conservation Award to Dr. Jeffrey Ward.

Listening for Bats, *Continued from page 2*

"The fact that it worked the very first day was mind-blowing," Larry said. "I did not think it would work the first day. You know, things never work the first day. But it did."

The system has already helped White Memorial collect better video of bats emerging from their roost, improving our ability to count and monitor these animals. Larry also presented the system to bat biologists at the Northeast Bat Working Group, and he has made the software available so others can learn from and potentially build upon his work.

But Larry's connection to bats is not only technical. Years ago, at his wife's mother's house in Vermont, he remembers standing outside at night while bats circled the house in search of insects. If he stood in their flight path, they would come within inches before turning away.

"You got to look at them," he recalled. "It was amazing." At the time, he did not know much about bats, but the encounter stayed with him. They were, as he put it, "really cool."

That sense of wonder matters. Conservation often begins with a moment of attention: a bird call that makes someone stop walking, a turtle crossing a road, a bat changing direction

just inches away in the dark. For Larry, curiosity became tinkering, tinkering became invention, and invention became service.



*Keeping an Eye on the Colony
Larry Gorham's infrared camera monitors our precious Little Brown Bats.*

"I've always wanted to contribute somehow," he said, "to the conservation of the natural world." He had supported conservation

financially, but this project offered something different: a way to contribute his time, experience, and problem-solving skills directly.

That is one of the great lessons of Larry's story. Conservation needs scientists, educators, land managers, and donors. But it also needs engineers, mechanics, artists, photographers, teachers, students, retirees, and curious people who are willing to ask, "Could I help solve that?"

Larry did not begin this work as a bat biologist. He began as someone with a lifetime of technical knowledge, a love of wild-life, and a willingness to try. White Memorial is stronger because he did.

Some volunteers maintain trails. Some count birds, monitor water, pull invasive plants, greet visitors, or help with education programs. Others, like Larry, build tools that allow us to see wildlife more clearly. Every contribution matters because conservation is not one person's work. It is a community effort, built from many kinds of knowledge and many acts of generosity.

Larry's infrared camera helps us follow one more trail — not through snow, but through the evening air, where bats leave the safety of their roost and enter the night. In those brief flashes of movement, we are reminded that there is still so much to learn, and that each of us may have something valuable to offer.

Seherr - Thoss Foundations Award White Memorial Conservation Center with Aviary Funding

The Seherr-Thoss Foundations have awarded the White Memorial Conservation Center a transformative \$90,000 grant toward the construction of a new \$255,000 aviary, a project that will significantly enrich the lives of the Center's beloved animal ambassadors while enhancing the visitor experience for generations to come.

Planned improvements include upgraded habitats, electricity and running water, and thoughtfully designed landscaping that will

create a more natural, engaging, and sustainable environment for both wildlife and guests. Groundbreaking is anticipated in fall 2026.

The Seherr-Thoss Foundations are private grant-making organizations established by Sonia and Hans Seherr-Thoss, who settled in Litchfield in 1948 after purchasing farmland to raise Jersey cows. Deeply devoted to their adopted community, the couple supported and served numerous local organizations throughout their lives. Inspired by that enduring spirit

of civic engagement, they established the Foundation in 1991 and the Charitable Trust in 1994 to provide ongoing support for projects that enhance the quality of life for Litchfield residents, including capital improvements for cultural, educational, and conservation organizations.

With this generous award, the Conservation Center has now raised \$181,000 towards the project's total cost, bringing the vision of a state-of-the-art aviary one step closer to reality.



Make a Difference

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

When most people think of vacations, they often think of far away, exotic places. But, what if they decided to look a little closer to home for their getaway? What if they decided to find the things in their own back yards, so to speak? What if they set about to discover what is right around the corner from where they live? Every area of this country has interesting things to do and to visit. Sometimes, all you need to do is look for them. Talk to your neighbors and co-workers. Talk to your family members who don't live with you. Talk to your friends. Look through the newspapers and online. Start now. Pick a week for vacation and do the pre-planning. That way, when the week comes, you'll be ready. Save money on airlines and gasoline this year while lessening your ecological footprint. . Have a staycation that costs little or no money. Sounds good, but a bit overwhelming?

Well, let me help you.

First, you must let go of the mindset that more is better. You have to let go of the mindset that you need to spend a lot of money to have fun. You don't! What you do need to do is put your thinking caps on and let your imagination run wild. Gather everyone together and have a family meeting and tell them that this year's vacation will be closer to home. Have everyone brainstorm things to do and places to go that are, say, within a twenty-five-mile radius from home. Find your inner child and let him or her soar! Then, set a realistic daily financial limit, or a weekly limit, if that is easier, and stick to it! Be creative! Get out some paper and pencils and get started writing down what everyone offers. No idea is too silly or far out. All ideas have merit. Be sure to include something that each person offers. No one likes to feel left out.

Remember, this is a VACATION!!! It is not the time to pay bills or clean the garage or paint the living room or mow the lawn. The idea is to stay home but still have a break. Treat this time as you would any time you are away. It's not the time to get "caught up." It's time for vacation.

Feeling a little stuck? Here are a few things to get you thinking creatively and help you get started. They are in no particular order.



- White Memorial has 40 miles of trails. How about hiking all of them? Too much? Select a section and hike in that area.
- When was the last time you visited the Conservation Center Museum and *really looked* at the exhibits? Do it.
- Put away ALL your devices. Make it a technology free vacation. If that won't work, consider at least a few days or afternoons tech free.
- Camp in your backyard or at least have a fire in the firepit and roast marshmallows. Better yet, roast hot dogs AND marshmallows and eat them outside!
- Check out the stars. Maybe you'll see a shooting star!
- Pick a day and cook all your meals on the grill. Get creative.

- Visit a local beach. Many have day passes for a nominal fee.
- Pick a foreign country or area of the USA; do some research and make food from that area. Every state has a food item that makes them famous.
 - Visit an area museum or art gallery or park that you've never been to. Pack a picnic lunch.
 - Go to the library and get books to read from an author you've never read or pick an old favorite that you haven't read in years. Spend the afternoon reading.
 - Check out that same library and find out what passes they have for museums and so on in your area. The passes are often for free admission.
 - Visit a nearby farm and check out the animals.
 - Have ice cream for lunch. Make it a sundae!
 - Have breakfast for supper and supper for breakfast.
- Go letter boxing.
- Go Geocaching.
- Do anything *at all* out of the normal for you and your family.
- Play a new game or do a puzzle.
- Sleep in other rooms of the house. Swap beds, it will feel like you're somewhere else.
- Dig out the cornhole or badminton or croquet set and play.
- Stay up late and sleep in...you're on vacation, after all.
- Just keep it simple and have fun!!!

Whatever you decide to do or wherever you decide to go, make it something enjoyable and *make a difference* this summer for you and your family. You might just start a new family tradition.

**“Learning from Our Backyard Bats”
Lesson Booklet Now Available!**

Thanks to generous funding provided by The John T. & Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, White Memorial has developed a lesson booklet entitled, “Learning from our Backyard Bats.” Copies of these booklets are being distributed to schools statewide, and a digital version is available

on White Memorial’s website. The booklet, primarily authored by Education Director Carrie Szwed and Environmental Educator Colleen Harrak, arose from an initiative developed by White Memorial and CT DEEP called “Bats Count.” It contains nine lessons that highlight

local bat species and the research being conducted to conserve bats in CT. With this booklet, we hope to supplement classroom content and provide students with a local, relevant example of wildlife in need of our understanding and protection.



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Corporate Sponsors!**

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SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

Some classes still have openings, and some may be sold out. Visit www.whitememorialcc.org or call 860-567-0857 to check availability and register. Financial aid is available by inquiry on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Join us on one Thursday per month for an engaging program designed for young nature lovers 3-6 years old. Sessions include storytime, encounters with live animals, and activities and crafts. Dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes. *We require that one parent/caretaker stay for the duration of the program.*

**Nature’s Nursery Series
Thursdays,
July 9, August 13, & September 10**

For Ages 3-6
Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.
4:00pm
Members: \$10/session, \$27/series
Non-Members: \$15/session, \$42/series

**Wonder Nature Camp
Wednesdays and Fridays,
July 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, & 24**

For Ages 4 & 5
9:30am - 11:00am
Members: \$30/week
Non-members: \$50/week
Drop-off program

These classes for 4 & 5 year-olds meet twice a week during the first 3 full weeks of July. They feature stories, songs, crafts, games, and outdoor adventures that introduce young ones to the wonders of nature! Sign up by week. *Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Subject to availability.*



Nature lovers entering grades 1 & 2 can join us for week-long sessions of outdoor discovery, hikes, games, books, songs, and crafts. These activities help them learn more about the natural world all around them. *Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Subject to availability.*

**Discovery Nature Camp
July 6-24 (weekdays only)**

For Kids Entering Grades 1 & 2
9:30am - 3:30pm each day
Members: \$150/week
Non-members: \$210/week
Drop-off program
Sign up for one week only.

**Exploration Nature Camp
July 6-August 7 (weekdays only)**

9:30am - 3:30pm each day
Members: \$180/week
Non-members: \$240/week
Grades 3-4: July 6-10 & 13-17
Grades 5-6: July 20-24 & July 27-31
Grades 7-9: August 3-7
Drop-off program

Kids entering grades 3 - 9 can join us for week-long sessions on specified dates that immerse them in nature! All-day adventures will take us to unique parts of White Memorial property, as well as offsite to natural areas throughout northwestern CT. *Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Subject to availability.*



Summer 2026 Calendar of Events

Programs will be either In-Person or Hybrid via Microsoft Teams!

For more information, please call 860-567-0857 or visit our website ~ www.whitememorialcc.org

JULY

June 29 - July 5
Children's Free Week in the Museum*

July & August
Summer Nature Camps for Kids!
See page 5 for details!



July 3
Independence Day
Offices Closed
Museum Open



July 4
Independence Day
Offices & Museum
Closed

3 **Tiny Trekking with Kelly Orr**
9:00 a.m., Meet in the parking lot
at 122 Whites Woods Road.

6 - 12 **Children's Free Week in the Museum***

9 **Nature's Nursery**
For children 3 - 6 years old.
See page 5 for details!



July 9, August 13, September 10
Happy Hour Hiking Club!

Please pre-register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org

10 **Things That Go Bump in the Night**
Insects, Owls, Bats, Beavers, Fireflies!
What surprises will Nature
have in store for us?

8:00 p.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room,
Space is limited!

You must register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org



11 **The Grantville Dawgs in Concert!**
See page 7 for details!



17 **Star Party!**
Presentation, 8:00 p.m.,
A. B. Ceder Room, Stargazing after the
program, weather permitting.



18 **Whitehall Then & Now**
with Gerri Griswold
2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room.
Please pre-register:
www.whitememorialcc.org



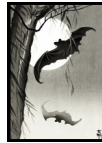
July 20 - 26
Children's Free Week in the Museum*

*Free Museum admission to children ages twelve and under
when accompanied by an adult.

25 **The 16th Annual**
Celebration for the Bats
with Gerri Griswold

7:00 p.m.

A. B. Ceder Room / Activity Shed
Cupcakes, Bat Chat, Music,
Bat Count! Please register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org



AUGUST

1 **Ron & Joan Jones Memorial Hike**
Summer Saunter to Wheeler Hill
& Old Camp Townshend
10:00 a.m., For details, please register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org

August 3 - 9

Children's Free Week in the Museum*

8 **Morning Paddle with Kelly Orr**
See page 7 for details!



8 **Tiny Trekking with Kelly Orr**
10:00 a.m., Meet in the Museum.

13 **Nature's Nursery**
For children 3 - 6 years old.
See page 5 for details!



15 **The John Stey Band**
See page 7 for details!



August 17 - 23
Children's Free Week in the Museum*

21 **Star Party!**
Presentation, 8:00 p.m.,
A. B. Ceder Room, Stargazing
after the program, weather permitting.



22 **Meet Our**
Riveting Reptiles
with Colleen Harrak
See page 7 for details!



28 **Moonlight Hike with Kelly Orr**
& Gerri Griswold
7:00 p.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.
Space is limited! Please pre-register:
www.whitememorialcc.org

29 **Ron & Joan Jones Memorial Hike**
Loving Haight & The White Oak Trail
10:00 a.m., For details, please register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org

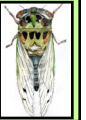


SEPTEMBER

4 **Pajama Parade!**
Fun for the whole family! 6:00 p.m., Meet at
the A. B. Ceder Room. Suggested donation:
\$5.00 Please pre-register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org



5 **Cicadas:**
Nature's Introverted Extroverts
with Gerri Griswold
See page 7 for details!



7 **Labor Day**
Office and Museum Closed



10 **Nature's Nursery**
For children 3 - 6 years old.
See page 5 for details!



12 **Ron & Joan Jones Memorial Hike**
Morning Ramble to Laurel Hill,
Cat Swamp & Apple Hill
10:00 a.m., For details, please register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org

12 **Radical Raptors**
with Colleen Harrak
See page 7 for details!



September 14 - 20
Children's Free Week in the Museum*

16 **Tiny Trekking with Kelly Orr:**
Heron Pond
2:00 p.m., Meet at 670 RT 63 in Litchfield.

18 **Star Party!**
Presentation, 8:00 p.m.,
A. B. Ceder Room, Stargazing
after the program, weather permitting.



19 **Ron & Joan Jones Memorial Hike**
Evening at Little Pond
5:00 p.m., For details, please register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org



September 28 - October 4
Children's Free Week in the Museum*

Nature Study Workshops Saturday Programs: Summer 2026

Call 860-567-0857 or register online: www.whitememorialcc.org



The Grantville Dawgs in Concert!

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Activity Shed

All Tickets: \$10.00



The 16th Annual Celebration for the Bats!

Saturday, July 25, 2026

7:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room /Activity Shed

Suggested Donation: \$5.00



Morning Paddle with Kelly Orr

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 7:00 a.m.

Meet at the Whites Woods Road boat launch.

Members: FREE Non-members: \$5.00

You must provide your own boat!



The John Stey Band

Saturday, August 15, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Activity Shed

All Tickets: \$10.00



Meet Our Riveting Reptiles

Saturday, August 22, 2026

10:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$5.00 Non-Members: \$10.00

FOR ALL AGES!



Pajama Parade!

Friday, September 4, 2026

6:00 p.m., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

FOR ALL AGES!



Cicadas: Nature's Introverted Extroverts

Saturday, September 5, 2026

2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$5.00 Non-Members: \$10.00



Meet Our Radical Raptors

Saturday, September 12, 2026

2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$5.00 Non-Members: \$10.00

FOR AGES 8 & UP!

Get your dancing shoes ready for an evening of classic oldies from Paul Simon to K C and the Sunshine Band, Joan Jett, Bachman Turner Overdrive, Bill Withers, and more! The *Grantville Dawgs* are a group of friends (Dawgs) that enjoy playing and singing rock and popular music from the 60's, 70's and later. The band hails from the Grantville section of Norfolk. Get ready to raise the roof! Pack a picnic and BYOB!

Our festivities begin with bat-themed cupcakes and lemonade in the Activity Shed and a bat chat with Gerri Griswold in the Ceder Room. Learn about our BATS COUNT project! As darkness sets in, we'll count our Big Brown Bat colony, mothers and their pups, as they emerge from the Green Barn! There will be music too because our bats deserve to be serenaded!

What better way to start a day than by launching your boat on the Bantam River and communing with Nature and like-minded friends! Bring your thermos and a breakfast treat. Join Kelly for a trip up or down the river. Water level will dictate what direction we go! Be on the lookout for herons, beavers, snapping turtles, and more!

The John Stey Band is a mostly acoustic group based in Northwest Connecticut, delivering a roots-driven sound that draws from a wide repertoire spanning the 1940s to the present. Blending elements of country, bluegrass, and rock and roll, the band creates music that feels both timeless and fresh. Settle down at a picnic table for an evening of eclectic country, bluegrass, rockabilly, and folk tunes. Bring a picnic /

Experience up-close encounters with our reptilian residents, such as Peaches the Honduran Milk Snake and Rocky the Box Turtle. We'll teach participants just what characteristics make a reptile a reptile, as well as discuss the life cycles and adaptations of various species of reptiles in CT. You'll also hear the interesting stories behind how our live reptiles became education ambassadors for their wild counterparts.

You don't have to be a kid to participate in this fun event! Put on your favorite jammies and take an easy stroll (geared towards kids) around the main area. Look out for bats! Perhaps you'll hear frogs, owls, and katydids. Our destination is Ongley Pond, a cozy campfire, S'Mores, and family fun! We encourage you to bring a picnic supper to eat on the Ceder Room lawn before our parade!

You never think about them, but they are always underfoot! There are thousands of species of cicadas on our planet! You might dismiss them as being visually unsavory, a little creepy, loud, destructive, dangerous, or maybe you don't think of them at all! The fact of the matter is that there is so much to love about Nature's most introverted extrovert! Gerri Griswold gives you myriad reasons why cicadas should be celebrated!

Just who-who-who are those big, beautiful birds of prey you see perched atop fenceposts by day or hear calling outside your window by night? Environmental Educator Colleen Harrak highlights some of the hawks, owls, eagles, and falcons that call northwest CT home. You'll even get to meet our Avian Ambassadors up close and personal!

White Memorial Conservation Center 62nd Annual Meeting

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the White Memorial Conservation Center was held on May 1, 2026.

Roxanna Booth was elected as the newest member of the Center's Board of Directors. Jenn Davis, Olivia Cook, Sophia D'Urso, and Erin Simmons were elected as the four new members of the Education and Activities Committee.

Attendees learned about the Center staff's accomplishments in 2025 as Gerri Griswold, Carrie Szwed, and James Fischer presented their reports.



Aviary Coin Drive!

**Donate your spare change
to help build a new home for
our feathered friends!**

Collection Jar in our Nature Museum!

THE WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER
PRESENTS THE 44TH ANNUAL
FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2026
11AM - 5PM + ADMISSION \$6.00
CHILDREN UNDER 12 & CENTER MEMBERS FREE



FERNCROFT WILDLIFE RESCUE: OPOSSUMS
RIVERSIDE REPTILES + JURASSIC CLASSROOM
HORIZON WINGS RAPTOR CENTER
MEET OUR ANIMAL AMBASSADORS
MUSIC BY: WRY BRED

BUNNELL FARM WAGON RIDES + TURTLE RACE + GOATS
GUIDED WALKS + DEMONSTRATIONS
PIE SALE + POTION TABLE
BOOTHS & EXHIBITS + FOOD + LOCAL ARTISANS
LIVE ANIMALS + MUSIC + NATURE CRAFTS FOR KIDS

**WIN A TRIP FOR TWO
TO GREENLAND IN OUR RAFFLE!**



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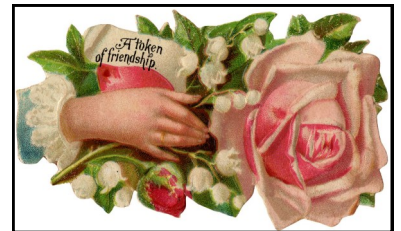
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Rising with the heat
A canticle of summer
Song of cicada

~ Peter Galen Massey

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