

SANCTUARY

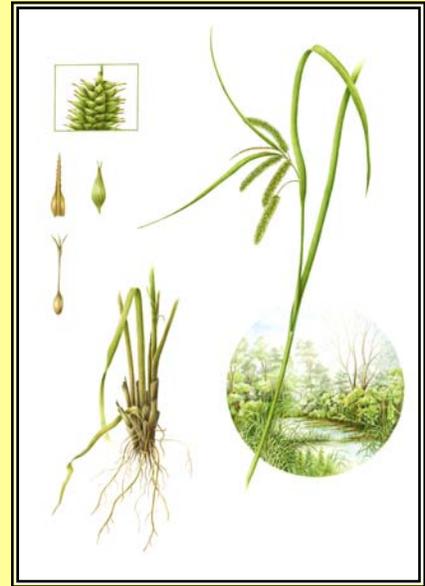
Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center
Vol. XXVII No. 2
Spring 2009

Museum Hours:

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

For Information

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



Carex Pseudo-cyperus by Betsy Rogers-Knox

White Memorial's Rare Plant Illustration Accepted into National Exhibition by James Fischer, Research Director, White Memorial Conservation Center

White Memorial harbors many plant and animals species, some are rarely observed elsewhere in the state. This is one reason why White Memorial is such a special place. The other reason is that we have members like Betsy Rogers-Knox; who makes it her life's passion to share the beauty of nature by illustrating the botanical world around us. Recently, Betsy approached White Memorial wishing to illustrate a rare plant so that she could submit the artwork into an special exhibition sponsored by The American Society of Botanical Artists. The ASBA announced the new exhibition would be titled *Losing Paradise? Endangered Plant Species Here and Around the World*. Betsy submitted her illustration and it was accepted by the exhibition's jury! Betsy's illustration was not only judged for its aesthetic quality, but also for its accurate representation of the plant. Submissions to the *Losing Paradise* exhibition consisted of rare plants from around the world by renowned botanical illustrators. The exhibit will be viewed by many people throughout the United States (See Exhibit Itinerary). The exhibition addresses an important topic that we are losing species around the world and more people need to know

why it is happening. Plants not only provide us with food, but also with clean air, water, and beautiful places to visit.

Betsy's accomplishments would not have occurred at White Memorial, if it were not for another skilled professional that recognizes the importance of the



Art and Science Join Forces: Betsy Rogers-Knox (Left), Bill Moorhead, (Center) and WMCC Research Director, James Fischer (Right) deep in discussion..

critical ecosystems that occur on the property. William "Bill" Moorhead, a professional botanist, found this rarely observed plant on the property. Although the plant is probably a species that most people would overlook, this plant inhabits a region that most visitors are familiar with, the Little Pond wetland that is circumscribed by the one mile boardwalk. The plant is referred to as *Carex Pseudo-cyperus*, a grass-like

plant which inhabits swampy to boggy habitats. Connecticut's populations of *C. Pseudo-cyperus* are along the southern edge of this species range and are infrequently found in the state. A collected specimen was eventually pressed, mounted, and incorporated into the University of Connecticut's

Biological Research Collection in Storrs. This state-of-the-art collection facility insures that the specimen represents the biological diversity of Little Pond and insures that it remains protected for perpetuity. UCONN's collection represents the state of Connecticut's natural history and is often referred to when important decisions need to be made about conserving critical habitats in the state (read more in *The Value of Natural History Collections for Society* on page 3)).

The special collaboration between an artist and scientist may sound like a rare arrangement to some of you, but it is a vital collaboration that insures we protect the ecosystems on our planet. Communicating what we are really losing is a difficult challenge for all professionals who are interested in conserving natural resources. This is why we are so fortunate to have Betsy and Bill as some of White Memorial's advocates.

(Continued on Page 2)



The bluebird carries the sky
on his back.

Henry David Thoreau,
Journal, April 3, 1852



**Losing Paradise?
Endangered Plant Species
Here and Around the World
Exhibit Itinerary**

Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO
October 1 - November 15, 2009

Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL
January 16 - April 11, 2010

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY
May 6 - July 25, 2010

**Smithsonian National Museum of Natural
History, Washington, DC**
August - December, 2010

Additional California venue in development

Make a Difference

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

Jeff and I have been conducting an experiment. Actually, I've been experimenting, and I announced it to him. As any smart husband would do, he agreed. We're trying to reduce our carbon footprint and cut costs simultaneously.

We're fairly frugal, but when we shop and see something that we really want, we buy it. Clothes and shoes and craft supplies. Food. Shampoo and toothpaste and soap. Laundry detergent, tissues and cough drops. All of these things are necessities, but how much do we *really need*? How much is *too* much?

Hubby and I have an old fashioned budget; complete with envelopes for every category- food, household, gifts, etc. We often spend cash. I wondered what things would be like if we took only enough cash from our paychecks to keep the envelopes level. I wondered what would happen if I only went shopping when we needed supplies and not just because it's a habit. What would happen if I sent Hubby to the store? He only buys what is on the list. Week one- we reduced our cash needs to 75 % of what we usually bring home; next week, 50%; third week 25%. We can't go much lower. Can we? We still had plenty to eat, plenty to do and lots of fun. We didn't go anywhere

unnecessary *and* we saved money. We didn't use much gas and saved the transportation costs of unneeded products.

We have a freezer and a pantry. Both are full. What if I made meals based on what we already had, rather than what was on sale? I scoured cookbooks and the internet. I made a bunch of really tasty meals, most of which I didn't even need to supplement. We even had a pot-luck dinner for five friends which only cost us eighty nine cents for cabbage! One couple brought munchies, one brought wine and one brought a yummy pumpkin cheesecake for dessert. We provided veggie soup and homemade yeast bread. The veggies came from the garden, the freezer and the pantry. I made the bread. We had coffee and fixings from the pantry. Eighty nine cents for seven people! The recipe made enough so that everyone went home with a quart of soup.

I avoided all of the post-holiday sales. We have enough clothing, music, entertainment, etc. We can only listen to one song at a time, wear only one pair of shoes, anyway. We didn't really *need anything*. I've even planned a baby gift based on what I'd already purchased and put away. Sure, I have a bit of work to do, but it is too cold to

spend much time outside, anyway. We were going to go to the movies, and then realized that we get cable and have movies we own. Popcorn? Check. Candy? Yup. Wine? Can't even bring that *in* to a movie. We had a wonderful evening. We've also played Scrabble. We played cribbage. We played music. We went for walks. We sat and talked. It's been a very relaxing, quiet several weeks.

We both like this new approach so much we're going to continue. We've decided that Valentine's Day will be simpler. We're going to spend an intimate evening at home, making our own special meal. We're making each other cards, like we did when we were dating. No flowers, no candy, just each other. What else do we need, anyway? It's really all about making informed decisions. Do I *want* it or *need* it? Where was it made? Under what circumstances? Can I find it in a consignment shop? Is there too much packaging? What will I do with it when I'm done?

Think outside the box. **Make a difference.** Get creative. Be inventive. Let me know how it works for you at zoegreenwood@yahoo.com

It works for us. It will for you, too.



The Value of Natural History Collections for Society

© Mississippi Museum of Natural History, Jackson, MS.

http://museum.mdwfp.com/science/bio_value_collections.html

Natural science museums are often asked to justify not only their current biological research collections but also the need to continue collecting modern specimens. The average person, who is unfamiliar with scientific research, may look and only see thousands of jars of dead fish, frogs, snakes, and lizards; steel cabinets filled with drawers of mammal and bird carcasses, freshwater mussels, fossils, bones and dried plant specimens; and glass-top cases holding insects of every description. People may wonder if these specimens are not on exhibit for the public to see, what purpose do they serve.

Research collections are often referred to as biological libraries. Properly preserved specimens provide a permanent snapshot in time and space and become only more valuable through time. They can document locations and populations no longer available to science due to habitat modification or outright destruction. It was through the study of shell thickness in bird eggs that the harmful effects of DDT were first elucidated, and the analysis of fish collections has revealed increasing levels of mercury in aquatic environments. By studying the stomach contents of fish collected over a 30-year period at one locality in the Pearl River, scientists were able to chart the precipitous decline in water quality over that period based on the number and diversity of diatoms (microscopic algae) contained in the intestines of the preserved fish (M. Meister, 2000, *Fish Preserves*, Tulanian).

Museum-based research collections are being used increasingly in studying emerging infectious diseases such as hantavirus, avian influenza, Ebola, and SARS. In 1993, the hantavirus outbreak that occurred in the Southwest was soon linked to deer mice as the host. Genetic studies on museum specimens of deer mice showed conclusively that the hantavirus had been present in rodent populations before 1993 and that, based on different virus strains and

different hosts, there was an ancient association between the two. Subsequent ecological fieldwork, based on the findings in the museum specimens, led to the discovery that rodent populations increased significantly following the wet El Nino of 1992, confirming the relationship between increased precipitation, large rodent populations, and a higher risk of human exposure to hantavirus. By understanding these relationships scientists are able to predict when the next disease outbreak may occur.

Museums provide reference material that is used by law



enforcement, public health agencies, zooarchaeologists, anthropologists, taxonomists, medical researchers, and many other scientific disciplines. Most natural history field guides rely on museum collections not only for life history and distributional information about species but for accurate artistic renderings of the subject matter. As our knowledge evolves and new methods of scientific inquiry are developed, we are able to re-examine interpretations of data derived from museum collections or to apply new techniques to both historic and recently collected specimens. Developments in molecular biology dictate that we now preserve and archive more material from these specimens to allow us to examine DNA and other genetic material.

It has been said that systematics (the classification of living things) is the foundation of almost all biology, and collections are the foundation of

systematics. Just as an author may go to a library to research subject matter for a book he or she is writing, the systematist will visit biological collections to examine specimens to understand the relationship between and among various organisms. Only in these collections does sufficient material often exist to make comparisons and draw scientific conclusions, and in these collections specimens may exist in a drawer or a jar that turn out to be new to science.

In a world with such rapid industrial and urban development, it is incumbent upon scientists to study and document the effects of such development on organisms. It is only through documenting the geographical distribution, habitat requirements, food habits, reproduction, and other aspects of a species' natural history that we can come to understand that particular species' needs and that we can manage the environment to meet those needs. But to understand much about a species, we need to preserve enough individuals from different populations throughout the species' range to demonstrate the degree of variation found in that species.

As surprising as it may seem, there are many areas of the United States and within Mississippi [& Connecticut] that have never been the subject of a basic biological inventory of the species of plants and animals inhabiting those areas. Surveys to establish baseline information are desperately needed in many areas before we can attempt to monitor the status of the species or its location into the future. A basic premise of scientific methodology is the ability of subsequent workers to repeat the study; therefore, the collection, preservation, and deposition into museum collections of voucher specimens is essential to these inventories. They provide that snapshot in time and space, and permanently preserve for future study examples of the fauna and flora that occurred at that particular time in that particular place.

(continued on page 6)



Spring Calendar of Events



For more information on any of our programs, please call us at 860-567-0857

MARCH

- 28 **Early Spring Weed & Wildflower Identification Walk** with Master Gardener Donna Katsuranis, Meet in the Museum, 2:00 P.M.

APRIL

- 4 **Field Trip to UCONN's Biological Research Collections Facility**
See page 6 for details



- 4 **Woodcock Cocktail Party**
Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen introduces you to this comical bird. Over snacks and non alcoholic drinks we'll discuss habitat and natural history then head out in search of the Woodcock's extraordinary mating display. Class size is limited. Call 860-567-0857 to Pre register. Ages 8 and up. 6:00 P.M.
A.B. Ceder Room



10 Good Friday...Museum Closed

- 11 **Kayaking 101** Dave and Cheryl Faber, *CT Outdoors, LLC* offer a basic **indoor** class for people who are interested in becoming involved in recreational kayaking. Class size is limited! Pre Register by calling 860-567-0857. 1:00 P.M.-2:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room

12 Easter Sunday...Museum Closed

- 13 - 17 **April Vacation Programs**
Call the Museum in Mid-March for details!

- 18 **Blue Birds and Other Cavity Nesters**
Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen discusses Blue Birds, Tree Swallows, Black-capped Chickadees and others. Learn about nest box construction, habitat and more. 2:00 P.M.,
A.B. Ceder Room



- 20 - 26 **Museum Kids Free Week.**
In Memory of Louise W. Willson*

- 24/25 **19th Annual Museum Sleep-In**
see page 5 for details

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

- 25 **Earth Loom** Ginger Balch, owner of *In Sheep's Clothing* in Torrington, teaches children ages 5 and up how to weave on a giant Earth Loom using elements from nature. Children take home a small cardboard loom to practice their new skills! 2:00 P.M. A.B. Ceder Room



MAY

- 1 **WMCC Annual Meeting** 3:30 P.M.
- 2 **Ticks and Lyme Disease Prevention**
Dr Kirby Stafford III, State Entomologist from CT Agricultural Experiment Station discusses all aspects of this hot topic. Copies of the *Tick Management Handbook* will be available at no charge. To pre register call 860-567-0857. 10:00 A.M. , A.B. Ceder Room
- 9 **Nature Photography Workshop**
Paul Edwards teaches a class for the beginner geared towards nature and scenic photography. For both film and digital. Learn how to get away from automatic settings to get the shots you really want! Class size is limited. Students should bring their camera with instruction book. Bring lunch! Age 16 and up. Pre register: 860-567-0857 9:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M. A.B. Ceder Room
- 11-17 **Museum Kids Free Week**
Courtesy of Tara and Arthur Diedrick *
- 16 **Classy Trashy Bags** Lois Melaragno teaches you to crochet lovely functional items out of plastic shopping bags! Bring bags and sharp scissors! Ages 10 and up. Pre register: 860-567-0857 Fee: \$3.00 , 2:00 P.M. A.B. Ceder Room



- 23 **Private Tour of The Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy**
Visit one of North America's most diverse collections of waterfowl. Pre registration and pre payment required.
See registration form on page 6

25 Memorial Day...Museum Closed

- 25 - 31 **Museum Kids Free Week.**
Honoring Helen Ryan Donnelly *

- 30 **Exploring Ongley Pond** In springtime, Ongley Pond comes alive with a wealth of amazing plants and animals. Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen arms you with a net and helps you identify your finds. 2:00 P.M. Meet in front of the A.B. Ceder Room

JUNE

- 6 **Frog Identification and Walk** CT DEP Technician Laura Saucier introduces you to our native frogs. Classroom and Nature walk. Dress for the weather! Bring a flashlight. 7:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room



- 8 - 14 **Museum Kids Free Week**
In Memory of Louise W. Willson*

- 13 **Exploring Five Ponds** Five Ponds devotees, Sam Langley and Gerri Griswold share the many reasons why they love Five Ponds more than any other WMF hike. With Mountain Laurel in full bloom this walk should not be missed. Pack a picnic. Gerri brings dessert! 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M., Pre register by calling 860-567-0857. Meet at the Beaver Pond Trail entrance at the junction of Routes 63/61.
- 13 **Kayaking 101** Dave and Cheryl Faber, *CT Outdoors, LLC* offer a basic **outdoor** class for people who do not own a kayak but are interested in becoming involved in recreational kayaking. Learn safety, paddling, vehicle loading and more. Class size is limited! Pre Register by calling 860-567-0857. 1:00 P.M.-3:30 P.M., Meet in the Museum Lobby

14 Litchfield Hills Road Race

Museum Closed

- 20 **A Serenade for the Bats of White Memorial**
Folk Guitarist Robert Messore makes beautiful music timed with the emergence of our bats from the Green Barn. Sit at picnic tables festooned with tea lights in the Carriage House Field and celebrate the union of music and nature. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Pre registration and pre payment required. *See form on page 6*



- 27 **Tree Identification Walk** with WMF Forest Superintendent, Lukas Hyder 10:00 A.M. Meet in the Parking Lot.

- 29 - July 5 **Museum Kids Free Week**
In Memory of Louise W. Willson*

JULY

- 3 **Independence Day..** *Museum Closed*
- 4 **Bats: Earth Allies** with Gerri Griswold Call 860-567-0857 for more information.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
28TH ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY
SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2009

FEATURING
JULIE ANN COLLIER: WINGMASTERS
MORTAL BEASTS AND DEITIES: STILT WALKERS
 SPONSORED BY NORTHWEST COMMUNITY BANK AND
LITCHFIELD BANCORP
PLUS!
WILDMAN STEVE BRILL
BRIAN KLEINMAN: RIVERSIDE REPTILES
 AND A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY
THE JUGADELICS



Did you know that WMCC
now accepts
Visa,
Master Card, and Discover?

Stop by the Museum
to pay for
Memberships, Programs,
or
the perfect gift!



19th Annual
Museum Sleep-In

April 24 - 25, 2009 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon
 (For grades 4 - 6)

- Make a Dreamcatcher + Decorate a Nature Bandana**
- Make & Use a Fishing Pole + Learn About Backyard Birds**
- Make a New Friend + Bring a Friend + Take a Walk in the Night**
- Challenge yourself - Bring a "Trash Free" Bag Supper**
- Sleep in the Museum among the Exhibits**
- Enjoy a Campfire with Stories and Songs**
- Meet a Duck + Learn about Bears**
- Do a Day Hike and Scavenger Hunt**



Cost: \$45/member - \$65/non-member
DON'T DELAY! This program is limited to 25 participants.

Registration must be received by April 7, First come, first served.
 Confirmation will be sent along with a checklist of things to bring.
 Fee covers all workshop materials, snacks, and breakfast.
 All activities occur rain or shine.

For more information, please call us at 567-0857.
 This program is conducted by the Center's
 Education & Activities Committee

NORTHWEST CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

EARTH DAY
NATIVE PLANT SALE

APRIL 24, 25, & 26 2009
GOSHEN FAIR GROUNDS

www.conservect.org/northwest

Children's Summer Programs 2009

Give your child the gift of nature this summer at White Memorial

Wee Discoverers weekly story hour series for 4 and 5 year-olds featuring stories, songs, and crafts.

Nature Adventurers for children entering 1st and 2nd grades. Focus is on the interdependence of living things, the variety in the natural world, and the importance of recycling to minimize our impact on the earth. Hands-on discoveries, games, books, songs, and crafts are offered.

Natural History Explorers for children entering grades 3 through 9 are more in-depth, all day field discovery programs conducted on and off White Memorial property.

Tentative dates for this year run from June 29 through August 14.

Please call the Museum at 860-567-0857 to request a registration form or check our website

www.whitememorialcc.org in mid March



The Value of Natural History Collections for Society (cont'd from page 3)

Scientific collecting can be an expensive, arduous, time-consuming endeavor. From travel, equipment, and supplies expenses to physically preparing and preserving the specimens to identifying, cataloguing, and installing the specimens into the collections is a long, meticulous process. Because of these factors, scientists generally must focus their collecting efforts on limited objectives or specific questions. Collectors are also bound by professional ethics with respect to research and understand the responsibility to justify the scientific collecting of specimens. Most modern-day museum scientists are involved to some degree in conservation biology and their field research can directly impact how a species or its habitat is managed to benefit perhaps an entire ecosystem. The effects of limited, judicious scientific collecting on a population of plants or animals pales in comparison to the detrimental effects of habitat destruction, overexploitation, land use changes,

invasive species, climate change, and human population growth.

As wild places and the species inhabiting them disappear around the world, the value of museum biological collections becomes that much more important, not only to the scientists who study these collections but ultimately to our society as a whole. And it is imperative that we acknowledge and educate society of the connection between the two so that these collections will survive and grow and continue to provide answers to questions that we may not yet know how to ask.



GRANT TO SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY

Thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the **Seherr-Thoss Charitable Trust**, the Conservation Center will demonstrate the potential to use the sun to produce clean energy, by installing an 11.04 kilowatt photovoltaic solar array. The proposed system will provide about 28% of the Museum's annual electricity needs. Sunlight Solar Energy is the contractor for the project and it is anticipated they will complete the installation in the near future.

This project is the latest addition to our commitment to promote clean energy. All White Memorial electricity

accounts are currently signed up for the 100% Connecticut Clean Energy Option with Sterling Planet. This option supports energy produced by wind and small hydroelectric systems. You too can support clean energy, just call Sterling Planet at 877-457-2306 or check out their website www.sterlingplanet.com.

We extend our thanks to everyone from the Seherr-Thoss Charitable Trust for their leadership and support of this project as well as for many past projects at White Memorial and throughout the Litchfield community.

SPRING 2009 ADULT PROGRAMS REGISTRATION FORM

APRIL 4 Field Trip to UCONN's Biological Research Collections Facility

Depart: 9:00 A.M. Return: 5:00 P.M. Meet in the Museum Parking Lot Limited to 14 Participants!

Join WMCC Research Director James Fischer on a visit to this state-of-the-art facility housing specimens from around the world and from our own neighborhoods. Pack a lunch and dress for the weather as we make a pit stop at Mansfield Hollow State Park to study geological features, do a little birding, and maybe track a few mammals. Space is limited on the Conservation Center Van so register early!

MAY 23 A Private Tour of The Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy

2:00 P.M. Meet in the WMCC Parking Lot at 1:30 P.M.

The Conservancy maintains one of North America's largest and most diverse collections of waterfowl from around the world, including many rare and endangered species. Visitors will learn about the Conservancy's research, education, and breeding programs.

JUNE 20 A Serenade for the Bats of White Memorial: Coffee House Featuring Folk Guitarist Robert Messore

7:00 P.M. Ceder Room and Carriage House Field

Clip & Mail

- _____ **Field Trip to UCONN's Biological Research Collections Facility**Member: \$ 5.00 Non member: \$10.00
- _____ **Private Tour of the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy**Member: \$ 5.00 Non member: \$ 8.00
- _____ **Serenade the Bats with Robert Messore**Member: \$ 4.00 Non member: \$ 7.00



CEU's AVAILABLE

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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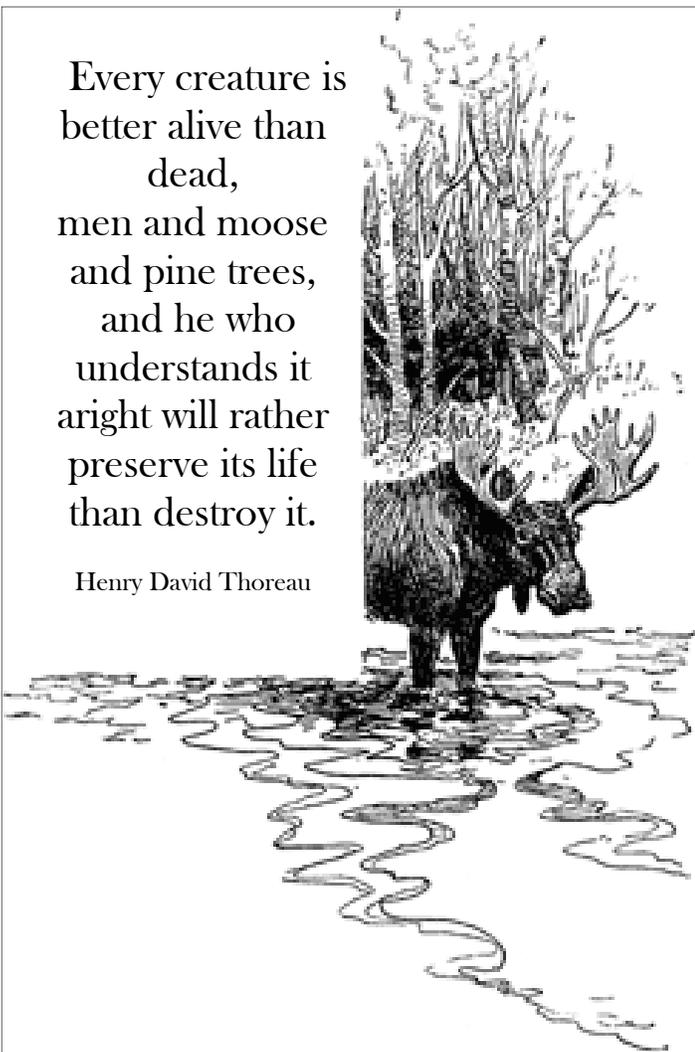
Please circle one: member non-member

Make check payable to White Memorial Conservation Center and mail to:
White Memorial, P.O. Box 368, Litchfield CT 06759

Become a member of the White Memorial Conservation Center and take advantage of the member discount, along with free admission to the Nature Museum, a discount in the Gift Shop, and receipt of the quarterly newsletter and calendar of events. Your tax-deductible fee will help sponsor programs like these. A family membership is \$45.00 per year and individual is \$30.00.

Every creature is
better alive than
dead,
men and moose
and pine trees,
and he who
understands it
aright will rather
preserve its life
than destroy it.

Henry David Thoreau



COMMUNITY SERVICE AT WHITE MEMORIAL

BY LUKAS HYDER, WMF FOREST SUPERINTENDENT

Over the last few months, the following individuals and groups could be found doing community service at White Memorial.

On October 20th, a group of middle school students & instructors, from Taft School in Watertown, spent the day in the woods north of Beaver Pond. They built wildlife brush piles in the area that we had harvested timber the winter before.

Ethan Pratt, an 8th grader from the Washington Montessori School, spent a week this past November working on an internship, which focused on non-native invasive plants. Some of his time was spent doing research and making a poster. Ethan also spent time in the field getting to know the species intimately, and then cutting them down. He returned to Washington Montessori serving as an ambassador to his classmates about this important issue.

We proudly hosted an Eagle Scout Project, done by Keegan Zygmunt of Colebrook, and Boy Scout Troop 23. His task was to clear the wildlife opening at the southern end of the Trail Riders trail. He and his volunteers cut brush and saplings, girdled trees, built wildlife brush piles, maintained several water bars and high pruned a section of the trail. They worked in both rain and snow, and still completed the task.

Many thanks to all who helped out.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MARGARET SELLERS

Story by Gerri Griswold Photo by James Fischer

Margaret Sellers has more facets than the Hope Diamond. As a diamond in the rough, she lay hidden in a mine of concrete and subdivisions called suburban Chicago. Yet, from a very early age, she dreamed about nature and lived for springtimes filled with scouting out open lots in search of vernal pools and their contents...in particular...salamanders! Margaret tried to recruit friends and family into her magical world but was met with raised eyebrows. While other girls were shopping and chasing boys, she found inner peace in a receding pool of water and mud. Margaret always knew that the natural world would be a driving force in her life. In college, she studied to become an audiologist but always kept conservation education in the back of her mind.

Margaret married Thomas, a mechanical engineer. Thomas' company transferred him to a job in Waterbury. As Margaret and Thomas scanned a map of Connecticut searching for a place to live, she saw "a big green blob" above Waterbury. "Thomas, I want us to find a place to live right next to that big green blob"...That big green blob, of course, was the White Memorial Foundation.

The Sellers rented a house in Litchfield. Every day for months they hiked WMF trails and marveled at the fact that this magnificent property was theirs to use free of charge and at anytime of day. She felt it was time to give something back by volunteering...and did she ever!

Margaret first crafted a script for a walking tour through the museum. She began training to teach pond classes and lead nature walks for school groups. She helped Dave Rosgen with bird projects. She assisted Jamie Fischer as the liaison between White Memorial and the Community Service program at Wamogo Regional High School bringing students to the nature center monthly to work on projects involving invasive plants, animal care, and more. She assisted Lois Melaragno with wildlife rehabilitation. She helped develop bait food for Jamie Fischer's Water Shrew survey. Then it was on to mammal tracking ("the most fun of all!") and then vernal pool surveys. At the culminating point of her tenure as a volunteer, monitoring vernal pools, Thomas was called upon to move to Alberta, Canada for another project and off they went.

Margaret and Tom had fallen in love with Litchfield County. In late 2008 they purchased a "retirement" home in the area. When Margaret visits Connecticut, you can always find her at White Memorial: ringing a cash register, teaching a class, or working on research. Multi-faceted...brilliant... ready, willing, and eager to give any task one hundred per cent. We at WMCC are all the richer having this gem of a volunteer in our coffers.



Perfect Catch: Margaret Sellers waits for spring at Ongley Pond

THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP
CARRIES UNIQUE ITEMS
HANDCRAFTED IN CONNECTICUT
FOR
MOM, DAD, AND GRAD!



**SPRAIN BROOK APIARY HONEY
AND BEESWAX CANDLES**

**BROOKVIEW SUGAR HOUSE
MAPLE SYRUP**

**DOEMAIN ACRES
GOAT MILK SOAP**

BEN WOLFF POTTERY

**FOXGLOVES
GARDENING GLOVES
(GREAT FOR BIRDING TOO!)**

AND SO MUCH MORE!

WE NOW ACCEPT VISA, MASTER CARD, AND DISCOVER!

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SANCTUARY**

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A Planned Gift can
make a difference in
your future and ours.



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site.

whitememorialcc.org

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