

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center
Vol. XXVIII No. 2
Spring 2010

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



“With a sag belly and the grin it was born with. And indeed they spare nobody”
-Ted Hughes, “Pike”

Meet the Waterwolf

By Ed Machowski, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries Division

A Little History and Background

The northern pike (aka waterwolf, snake, northern, “the luce”) is not only the largest predatory freshwater fish in Connecticut, but also one of the most popular gamefish throughout North America and elsewhere around the globe. The pike’s sleek body, fin placement, low slung bottom jaw and razor sharp teeth make it a fast, efficient predator. It is this voracity and fighting ability that endears this fish to so many anglers worldwide. It may be the fish’s behavior or possibly its appearance, but a shroud of mystery seems to surround the pike. Present day fishermen stories as well as tall tales in folklore and mythology abound. The “Mannheim Pike”, for example, supposedly lurked the moat surrounding a medieval German castle and was purported to have lived for 267 years growing to a shocking 550 pounds (don’t go for a swim in that moat!). But the pike’s place in mythology is only half the story. There are also accounts of alchemists using pike hearts and galls to cure pleurisy, pike ashes to treat burns, and also pike bones used as talismans against witchcraft.

Mythological accounts and folklore aside, pike are capable of growing to truly large sizes for a freshwater fish species (IGFA World Record - 55lbs; N. American Record - 46lbs; CT State Record - 29lbs). While pike are considered a “cool water” species, they

are very adaptable to a wide range of environmental and water quality conditions. This adaptability allows northern pike to be the most circumpolar species of the 5 member *Esocid* family (grass pickerel, chain pickerel, muskellunge, northern pike, and amur pike). The only two environments where pike seldom grow well or survive are in very cold, oligotrophic lakes and warm, shallow waters. But anything in between these two extremes is suitable for pike survival.

In Connecticut, historic records indicate that pike were introduced into the CT River in the mid-1800’s, but the first waterbody actively managed for pike was Bantam Lake beginning in 1970. Initially, they were used in Bantam to help control an out-of-balance and stunted perch population. This management strategy worked while at the same time developing a very popular fishery. As the northern’s popularity grew, fishing effort soared, and the Fisheries Division expanded the program, now managing six lakes as well as the CT River for pike. Each year northern pike provide more than 20,000 angler hours statewide, much of this effort occurring during the ice-fishing season.

Pike will spawn naturally in CT lakes and rivers, but survival of the eggs and offspring is usually not sufficient to support a fishery. In order to maintain a

consistent population level and augment natural reproduction in our management lakes, it is necessary to stock fingerling pike. Rather than purchase them for stocking, state fisheries biologists use natural marsh areas throughout CT to spawn and raise pike. Presently, the state runs 54.5 acres of managed spawning marsh (4.5 acres on White Memorial Foundation property) to raise roughly 15,000 fingerling pike annually.



A Fingerling Pike

How it all works

Pike spawning coincides with ice out conditions, snow melt and spring rains. Marshes and backwater locations in rivers warm sooner than surrounding deep water habitats. This temperature difference helps guide pike to potential spawning grounds. Emergent grasses, hummock grass, and submerged brushy vegetation found in shallower marsh areas are necessary for successful spawning. Pike do not dig a nest (redd), but rather broadcast small adherent eggs over submerged vegetation. The eggs “stick” to the vegetation keeping them in oxygen rich water and out of the mucky marsh sediment which is low in oxygen.

(continued on page 2)

(cont'd. from page 1)

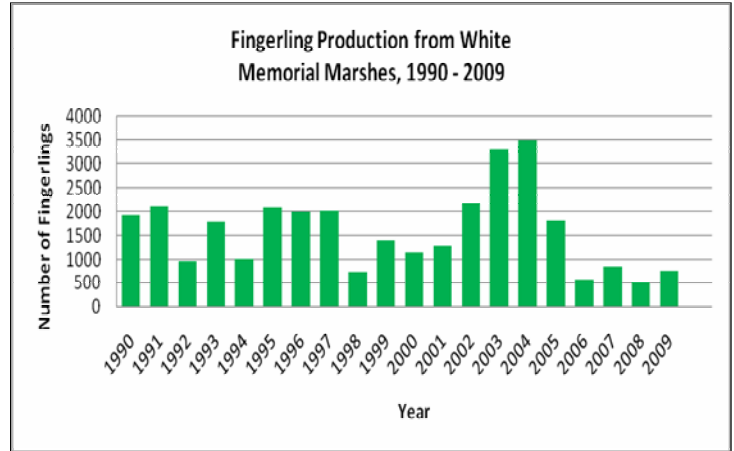
Natural reproduction is limited in CT due to two factors: 1) many suitable marsh areas have been "cut off" from spawning pike due to road crossings and development, and 2) water levels can drop precipitously following snow melt causing unhatched eggs to desiccate and die. Our managed marshes provide stable water conditions to optimize hatching and survival.

Every spring, adult pike are captured in Bantam Lake and stocked directly into each marsh. The number of pike needed is based on the poundage of females. Generally, 50 - 70lbs of female are stocked in each location which results in 550,000+ eggs/marsh. Two males are then stocked for each female. Adults are removed from the marsh and returned to Bantam Lake once the spawning activity ceases.

The speed at which the eggs hatch is dependent on water temperature. The warmer the water, the quicker they hatch. Generally this process takes about 2 - 3 weeks. Newly hatched pike are interesting in that they are born with a sucker disc-like mouth. This is another adaptation which keeps the non-swimming pike attached to the vegetation and out of the bottom mud until their yolk sac is absorbed and they begin to swim and actively feed on zooplankton. Other than netting the adult pike and maintaining water levels, all other factors (e.g. fertilization success, pH changes, and temperature changes) which determine hatching success are in the hands of Mother Nature and totally out of our control. Once the pike are free swimming, we still have one major hurdle to overcome, and that is spring flooding. If flooding occurs between hatching and late June, thousands of pike can exit the marsh. Some of these fish will survive the gauntlet of predators (e.g. bass and perch) and make it to Bantam Lake, but most will become a tasty lunch.

In late June the water in each marsh is slowly released through a trap at the marsh's outlet. Fingerling pike (now 4 - 5 inches long) are captured, counted, measured, and stocked in vegetated areas within Bantam Lake. Our goal in Bantam Lake

is to maintain a healthy pike population and subsequent fishery for pike by stocking 2,000 fingerlings annually. We have been close to or achieved this goal in 10 of the last 20 years.



All in all, our managed marshes have been hugely successful in supporting Bantam Lake's pike population and have provided Connecticut anglers with many hours of fishing. We are currently looking for ways of producing a more consistent product, and time will tell if this is possible.



Make a Difference

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

Single serving packages. Juice pouches. 100 calorie packs. Individual yogurt containers. You are not going to find any of the above in my cupboards or frig. I just don't buy into the need. I don't see the purpose. With a little time and effort, you don't have to buy things with more packaging than is required. In fact, I haven't had trash from my lunch in over fifteen years. I only use reusable shopping bags. I don't buy coffee from take out places if I don't have my mug. The next time we go out to dinner, I am thinking about bringing my own take home container.

The only time I succumb to the single serving stuff, however, is when the school in which I work makes Christmas stockings for less fortunate children in the area. Small bags of chips and cookies are a special treat when you never get those things in any size on a regular basis. I

purchase them without a qualm. Then, for me, the project outweighs the lifestyle. Although I never see them open the stockings, I can hear their squeals of delight from 20 miles away.

Fast forward to a staff meeting where all kinds of things were discussed including an upcoming project for Haiti relief. It was then and there that I learned about the pouch brigade. (Thank you, Madelyn). I knew about women in underdeveloped countries making things out of drink pouches. I have seen several articles in many different magazines promoting those products. I knew about the yogurt company that was giving money for each returned yogurt container (they give money for the big ones, too, by the way). I knew about the company that gives you money for the returned printer cartridges. What I didn't know was about the "pouch brigade".

Type *Pouch Brigade* into a search engine and you'll get to a site where all kinds of things are recycled! All kinds of companies are repurchasing and repurposing vast amounts of former trash. Go back to the search engine and type *purchasing pouch brigade products* and you will come up with a list of places to buy wonderful purses, backpacks, lunch bags, and fashion accessories made from empty drink pouches, old billboards, former sneakers and a plethora of other things. The prices are reasonable. You are giving work to ladies around the world who are trying to make a living for their family. You sport a one-of-a-kind item. What I don't understand and can't quite comprehend or imagine is what those same ladies must think of people who can't pour juice from a jug.



RESEARCH FORUM

WHAT IS FOREST HEALTH?

BY STELLA COUSINS, MASTER OF FOREST SCIENCE CANDIDATE, YALE F & ES

In the summer of 2009, field research began on the Connecticut Highlands Project, part of a multi-agency effort to understand ecological processes and make informed land conservation choices in the greater Highlands region. The project includes a number of plots in White Memorial Foundation forests, which were visited by researchers throughout the summer. The natural areas in the Highlands provide protected watersheds, a network of farms and working forests, and many recreational opportunities, all in close proximity to large metropolitan areas. This same proximity, however, contributes to the region's popularity for suburban and exurban development. The first phase of the Highlands Project seeks to understand forest ecosystem health issues in the context of fragmentation – breakup of forested areas by other landscapes. But what exactly *is* forest health? The concept appears frequently as a goal of environmental policy, but has only vaguely agreed-upon meanings. In this article, we'll explore how scientists and policymakers explain forest ecosystem health, and what a healthy forest might mean for people and organisms that use Northeastern forests in their daily lives.

The metaphor of human health extends to the forest in that an ecosystem's health, like a human's, is characterized by systems integrity and can suffer from diagnosable problems. Many trace the idea of land sickness and wellness – ecosystem health – to Aldo Leopold's compositions on the subject. Less famous minds also considered such topics long before; for example, George Perkins Marsh dealt extensively with the destruction and recovery of ecosystems in his 1864 book *Man and Nature*. Today, assessing ecosystem health is still viewed as a sort of clinical ecology. Answering a question begins by choosing criteria for what "health" is. Human perspectives necessarily contribute to these standards: a timberland owner may have a different view of forest condition than a watershed manager, while both might differ with an investor or real estate agent. The way we measure ecosystem health is based on human values. Predictably, then, there are a range of definitions and criteria for ecosystem health, reflecting the range of goals that people have for forests.

Because forest ecosystem health is such a broad topic, in application it is typically distilled into just a few of its many components. Studying a subset of indicators is an approachable task that fits with traditional scientific subjects and also with policy goals. Probably the most straightforward of these approaches is that of organism-focused forest ecosystem health. Projects investigate the biology and effects of problem (or suspect) species, aiming to understand their life histories, origin, and host effects. Historically, work has often focused on revealing undiscovered weaknesses in harmful or pathogenic species, in order to exploit these weaknesses in later control efforts. Establishing a clear understanding of the roles played by any insect, disease agent, or particular plant species can be extremely important in composing a picture of forest condition. Investigations with this organismal perspective include the long record of biological information on gypsy moth, and recent studies of eastern hemlocks and the hemlock wooly adelgid. Beech bark disease has also warranted interest throughout New England for many years.

Biogeochemistry also provides a meaningful window into forest ecosystem processes. By examining nutrient cycling or inputs and outputs to systems, a great deal can be revealed about the fundamental operations of large suites of forest organisms, often over a large area, in a common language. Frequently these studies follow a long time series, tracking changes to reveal the impact of a practice or local phenomenon, such as pollution deposition or management activity. The extensive work of Herb Bormann and Gene Likens at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in North Woodstock, NH is one foundational example. Recent investigations in this arena are analyzing the recovery of forests in the years following the Clean Air Act. In the Northeast, an issue of particular interest is calcium ion depletion, which has effects on sugar maple and red spruce trees and forests. The biogeochemical elements of forest ecosystem health are well suited to measurements of resilience and vigor. These soil based indicators provide a sound foundation for the more visible above-ground processes of functioning and dysfunctioning ecosystems.

Understanding forest ecosystem processes must of course involve a deep knowledge of the forest itself, beginning with where it is found and what vegetation makes it up. The appearance or disappearance of species can be tumultuous for any ecosystem: the decline of native components and takeover by new players are key indicators of gaps in system functionality. For New England, the loss of chestnut to disease and the introduction of myriad non-native plant and disease species have historically had far-reaching effects on the forest. A composition-minded view of systems can effectively capture species declines and introductions, and track changes in these processes, also providing insight into forest health conditions.

Taking a pattern-based approach is often necessary to understand phenomena where many interrelated stressors interact, or where the effect of a non-forest influence, like human settlement, is in question. Patterns are well suited to large-scale questions. A geographic framework is often used in studies of landscape effects on forest ecosystem integrity. For example, patterns of red spruce dieback in the White Mountains in New Hampshire help explain some underlying ecosystem health causes. Because of its interdisciplinary and large-scale features, pattern-based analysis plays a very important role in synthesizing, scaling up and mixing the diverse approaches to assessing forest health.

Future studies will undoubtedly continue to define forest ecosystem health for New England, but it is clear that many paths can reveal valuable knowledge about the ecosystem's functions and dysfunctions. Though any given investigation may focus on one aspect, all have implications for the other perspectives on forest health. Having a wide variety of ecosystem diagnostics at our disposal helps us better understand the underlying processes in the forests where we live and work.

The CT Ag. Exp. Station, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Audubon Society Connecticut branch, CT DEP, and UCONN are all cooperators on the Connecticut Highlands Project.

Funding was provided by USFS Northeastern area, State and Private Forestry




Spring Calendar of Events







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

APRIL


- 2 **Good Friday...Museum Closed**
- 3 **Blue Yodels Coffee House**
Felicia Michael and Bob Brophy set the table with a musical banquet of folk, rock, country, and pop to benefit the Alzheimer's Foundation. 2:00 P.M., Carriage House, Members: \$8.00, Non-members: \$12.00 Call 860-567-0857 to pre-register.
- 4 **Easter Sunday...Museum Closed**
- 10 **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! Members: \$6.00 Non-members: \$10.00. 1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
- 10 **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 10 and up. 6:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
- 12 - 16 **April Vacation Programs**
Call the Museum in Mid-March for details!
- 17 **ADULT WORKSHOP**
Calling All Frogs!
Identifying Frog Calls
See page 6 for details
- 
- 21 **Take a Walk Series**
Exploring Wheeler Hill
See page 6 for details
- 20 - 26 **Museum Kids Free Week.**
In Memory of Louise W. Willson*
- 23/24 **20th Annual Museum Sleep-In**
see page 8 for details
- 24 **Bluebirds and Other Cavity Nesters**
Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen discusses Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and others. Learn nest box construction, habitat, and more. 2:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room

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

MAY



- 1 **Silence of the Bees** 
This gripping one hour DVD explores one of nature's most baffling mysteries: the disappearance of the honeybee. 2:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
- 7 **WMCC Annual Meeting** 3:30 P.M.
- 7 **Star Party: Spectacular Saturn!** 
Denis Williamson teaches us about our planetary "Lord of the Rings", Saturn. Star gazing to follow. 7:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room.
- 8 **How to Take Great Nature Photos**
Paul Edwards teaches a full day workshop for the beginner geared towards nature and scenic photography.
See page 6 for details.
- 11 - 17 **Museum Kids Free Week**
Courtesy of Tara and Arthur Diedrick *
- 15 **Exploring the Solnit Parcel with Dale Jones and Gerri Griswold**
FM 97.3 WZBG personality Dale Jones and his trusty former traffic reporter Gerri Griswold lead you through Camp Columbia and along the trails of the Solnit Parcel. Explore rocky outcrops, visit a research site where salamanders are studied, and end the walk with a sweet reward. Meet in the Museum parking lot. 1:00P.M. Call 860-567-0857 to pre-register.
- 19 **Take a Walk Series**
Spring Migrants 
See page 6 for details.
- 22 **Spring Nature Walk with Dave Rosgen**
Edwin Way Teale said, "The world's favorite season is spring. All things seem possible in May." Dave seeks out all things possible..trillium, spotted salamanders, bobolinks, butterflies, and more!
10:00 A.M., Meet in front of the Museum.
- 22 **May and Me**
A Story Walk Up Apple Hill 
Take a stroll up Apple Hill with Gerri Griswold. Stir in the incredible story of the Whites. When you reach the top, savor the moment and taste your reward! 2:00 P.M. Meet in the Museum parking lot. Call 860-567-0857 to pre-register.
- 25 - 31 **Museum Kids Free Week**
Honoring Helen Ryan Donnelly *

- 26 **Meet the Waterwolf**
CT DEP Fisheries Biologist, Ed Machowski teaches you about the feisty and fabulous Northern Pike and takes you on a walk to visit Pike Marsh, a CT DEP managed marsh. 6:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room

- 29 **Wildman Steve Brill** 
The nation's greatest forager returns to White Memorial!
See page 6 for details.

- 31 **Memorial Day...Museum Closed**

JUNE

- 5 **Exploring Ongley Pond** 
In springtime, Ongley Pond is awash with an abundance of 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 Museum
- 8 - 14 **Museum Kids Free Week**
In Memory of Louise W. Willson*
- 12 **Exploring Sunny Brook Park**
Sam Langley and Gerri Griswold lead you along the Alain and May White Trails. Find out who cleared and named these trails. Pass huge glacial erratics, historic ruins, and visit a heron rookery. Pack a lunch! Gerri supplies dessert! 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857. Meet in the parking lot at Sunny Brook Park just off the Newfield Road in Torrington.
- 12 **Kayaking 101** Dave and Cheryl Faber, *CT Outdoors, LLC* offer a basic **outdoor** class for people who do not own a kayak . Members: \$10.00 Non-members: \$14.00 Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857. 1:00 P.M.-3:30 P.M. Meet in the Lobby.
- 13 **Litchfield Hills Road Race**
Museum Closed
- 16 **Take a Walk Series**
Mattatuck Trail Mega-Transect (6 mile hike)
See page 6 for details.
- 19 **The Signs of Summer**
Kayak the Bantam River with Robyn Dinda. Pack a lunch! 10:30 A.M. Meet in the Museum parking lot. Call Robyn for more information, 860-567-0738.
- 19 **In the Footsteps of The Leatherman**
See page 6 for details .
- 26 **A Tisket a Tasket**
Make a Berry Basket 
See page 6 for details .
- 29 - July 5 **Museum Kids Free Week**
In Memory of Louise W. Willson*

**CLEAN, GREEN, AND SUSTAINABLE!
OUR ENERGY EXHIBIT UPDATE**

As the winter sun rises and sets over the solar panels on the south-facing roof of the Activity Shed, a new exhibit on “green” living is slowly taking shape. Located in the Backyard Habitat section, the back door area of the house is coming alive with new signage, a touch-screen display, and other accessories which point the way to energy conservation and clean energy sources. Visitors can learn about simple ways to use less energy in everyday tasks, things that we all can implement with minor modifications of our lifestyles. At the touch-screen, one can access the current energy production of our solar panels outside as well as the output totals for the month and for the year. So far our predictions for the cumulative kilowatt-hours produced by the

system have been pretty close to the actual figures. Even on cloudy days the photovoltaic cells make measurable electrical current. Changes are also being made to the ‘Backyard at Night’ display. Come in and see what they are! Make it the reason for your next visit!



THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

**FIND THE PERFECT GIFT
FOR MOM, DAD, AND GRAD!**



**WE FEATURE
UNIQUE GIFTS HANDCRAFTED IN
CONNECTICUT!**



One swallow
does not make a
summer,
but one skein of
geese, cleaving the
murk of March thaw,
is the Spring.

Aldo Leopold

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
29TH ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY
SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2010**

**FEATURING
MAGIC WINGS BUTTERFLY CONSERVATORY
SPONSORED BY NORTHWEST COMMUNITY BANK AND
LITCHFIELD BANCORP
PLUS!
JULIE ANN COLLIER: WINGMASTERS
MORTAL BEASTS AND DEITIES: STILT WALKERS
THE BAT LADY
MUSIC BY
NANCY TUCKER**

**NORTHWEST
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**EARTH DAY
NATIVE PLANT SALE**

**APRIL 23, 24, & 25, 2010
GOSHEN FAIR GROUNDS**

www.conservect.org/northwest

Children’s Summer Programs 2010

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 28 through August 13.
Please call the Museum at 860-567-0857 to request a registration form or print one from our website in mid-March.

www.whitememorialcc.org



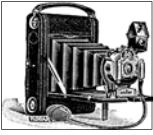
SPRING 2010 WORKSHOPS REGISTRATION FORM



April 17 Frog & Toad Call ID Workshop & Survey* 4:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. Members: \$10.00 Non-members: \$15.00
 Laura Saucier, CT DEP Wildlife Technician, will share with us how to identify frog species by their calls. A potluck dinner will be served so bring a dish to share. Although we will be indoors for most of the time, we will be going out to hear frogs so dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. This is a rain or shine event, remember frogs like water. This training will kick off our Frog and Toad Survey for the entire property! A.B. Ceder Room, Contact James Fischer for further details.



April 21 Take a Walk Series: Exploring Wheeler Hill* 10:00 A.M until 12:00 P.M. Members: \$3.00 Non-members: \$5.00
 Education Director Jeff Greenwood will conduct an interpretive walk up and around Wheeler Hill following a short but somewhat demanding trail and making numerous observations and identifications along the way. At one time much of it was open pasture land. This open land was maintained as such into the 1960s and then was allowed to regenerate into a forested landscape. Dress for the weather and ground conditions. Meet in the Museum.



May 8 How to Take Great Nature Photographs 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$20.00
 Paul Edwards teaches beginners and intermediates nature and scenic photography, for film and digital photography, and both point & shoot and SLR cameras. For those using SLR cameras (cameras with interchangeable lenses), learn how to get away from "automatic" settings. Students should bring their cameras with instruction booklet. If time and weather permit, Paul will work in the field with the group to practice some techniques. Bring a bag lunch! A.B. Ceder Room



May 19 Take a Walk Series: Spring Migrants* 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. Members: \$3.00 Non-members: \$5.00
 The month of May produces the bulk of the northbound spring migration of birds through Connecticut. The White Memorial Foundation serves as a magnet for a sizeable number of these birds. Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen will attempt to find as many of these species as possible by visiting places that have traditionally yielded a wide variety of birds. Dress accordingly. Wear waterproof shoes and think mosquito and black fly! Bring your own binoculars. Meet in the Museum.



May 29 Wildman Steve Brill 1:00P.M. until 3:00 P.M., Members: \$10.00, Non-members: \$15.00 , Children under 12: \$5.00
 The nation's greatest forager, Wildman Steve Brill, returns to White Memorial! Participants will learn hands on about renewable resources, our environment, and what can be done to preserve and rebuild our nonrenewable ecological riches. Bring drinking water, plastic bags for veggies and herbs, paper bags for mushrooms. No sandals or smoking! Meet in the Museum parking lot.



June 16 Take a Walk Series: Mattatuck Trail Mega-Transect Six Mile Hike* 9:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. Members: \$3.00 Non-members: \$5.00
 Join WMCC Research Director James Fischer on this hike to collect data that records the natural features throughout most of the White Memorial Foundation. Walk the transect periodically stopping at prescribed locations to collect data along the trail. Dress for the weather. Wear comfortable sturdy shoes/boots; bring a packable lunch and plenty of drinking water. This hike is for experienced day hikers. Meet in the Museum.



June 19 In the Footsteps of The Leatherman 11:00 A.M. Members: \$5.00 Non-members: \$8.00 Bring water!
 Shirley Sutton leads you to Prospect Mountain off Cathole Road to visit two shelters and two mine sites which were havens for folk icon The Leatherman. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Bring water. Snacks and/or lunch are optional. The hike is a rocky trail, one mile of steady, moderate uphill. The pace will be slightly faster than casual walking. The return will follow the same route, downhill, for a two hour two mile round trip. You may choose a personal option of continuing to the other side of Prospect Mountain for a 4-mile round trip with a visit to one other mine (shelter) site. Meet in the Museum parking lot.



June 26 A Tisket A Tasket: Make a Berry Basket 1:00 P.M. Members: \$30.00 Non-members: \$35.00
 Learn the fine art of basket weaving from multi-talented Master Gardener Roxann Lovell, owner of *Aerie Mountain Garden, Gift, and Floral Shop* in Barkhamsted Make a basic handled berry basket out of flexible rattan. Materials included but you must bring clothes pins and garden shears. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. A.B. Ceder Room and Activity Shed.

Clip & Mail

<input type="checkbox"/> Calling All Frogs!	Member: \$10.00	Non member: \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Take a Walk: Wheeler Hill	Member: \$3.00	Non member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> How to Take Great Nature Photos	Member: \$15.00	Non member: \$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Take a Walk: Spring Migrants	Member: \$3.00	Non-member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildman Steve Brill	Member: \$10.00	Non-member: \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Take a Walk: Mattatuck Trail Mega-Transect	Member: \$3.00	Non-member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Footsteps of the Leatherman	Member: \$5.00	Non-member: \$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Make a Berry Basket	Member: \$30.00	Non-member: \$35.00

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 \$50.00 per year and individual is \$35.00.

Make check payable to:
 WMCC and mail to:
 P.O. Box 368
 Litchfield, CT 06759

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Please circle one: member non-member

Payment enclosed: Program fee: \$ _____ Membership fee: \$ _____ Total \$ _____



CEU's AVAILABLE

COMMUNITY SERVICE AT WHITE MEMORIAL

BY LUKAS HYDER, WMF FOREST SUPERINTENDENT

Last fall and early winter White Memorial witnessed many hearty and helpful souls around the property, volunteering their help where they were able.

In August, two high school students from Litchfield, Michael Steinberg and Luke Fredsall, spent several mornings on the Skilton Trail, at the Solnit Parcel (at the south end of the property), installing waterbars and doing other trail construction.

On October 26th, Taft School in Watertown sent five students to help Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen with vegetation management around the bird boxes and snake boards.

On December 5th, Blaine Florian of Boy Scout Troop 44 completed his Eagle Scout project in the former Camp Townsend area. His projects consisted of several wildlife habitat improvements including re-brushing a wildlife opening, constructing 10 wildlife brush piles, releasing 6 crab apple trees, as well as some non-native plant control.

On the 12th of December, Boy Scouts from Troop 140, while on a winter campout at White Memorial, helped out by cutting non-native bittersweet vines on Windmill Hill.

Finally, despite the cold and wind, Nate Cyrus spent five mornings of his winter break from college volunteering. He assisted with the property-wide forest inventory and the monitoring of this winter's timber harvest.

White Memorial appreciates these and all the volunteers who give so freely of their time and talents.



Ready for your close up? : Leo Kulinski ,Jr. takes aim!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: LEO KULINSKI, JR.

Story and Photo by Gerri Griswold

One frigid Saturday morning, White Memorial's "official" photographer Leo Kulinski, Jr, met me for breakfast and conversation. "I hope you'll be able to get enough material for your story, Gerri."

Leo is a Torrington native and a graduate of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Relations. (Those of you who know Leo are saying, "HUH?") Leo is quiet, modest, and unassuming. He is a brilliant photographer, an amateur astronomer and meteorologist, and a dedicated runner (he has participated in every edition of the Litchfield Hills Road Race). His two books, "Veronica the Red-tailed Hawk" and "The White-tailed Deer of White Memorial" grace the shelves of our gift shop. Many of his breathtaking pictures can be found on our website and his own (www.whalesandwolves.com). His work has been used by filmmakers, publishers, and television producers. Leo stays humble. He never toots his own horn.

He wasn't always inspired by nature or running. Kulinski discovered White Memorial in the late 1970's while preparing for the first Litchfield Hills Road Race. A few of his friends decided on a lark to run the seven mile test. They began training in April for the June event. (You runners out there are saying, "HUH?") After the race was finished and the debilitating pain subsided, ("We were lucky we didn't kill ourselves! I couldn't walk downstairs for a week.") Leo was hooked on running.

On his regular jogs through White Memorial (40-50 miles a week), Kulinski met Jeff Greenwood. He even began keeping a log of weather conditions on each run (visit Leo's weather station on his website). He also began hiking the White Mountains with friends (he has climbed all 48 of the 4,000 footers in the White Mountains). He tried his hand at photographing birds and mountains. Interest in taking concert portraits when Eric Clapton came to town triggered Leo into buying his first 35mm camera and telephoto lens (see this photo on Leo's website). A photography and development course stoked Kulinski's interest in his new found hobby. When he saw a Carl Sams photograph of a deer and wildflowers on the cover of a 1987 Audubon Magazine (which Leo brought to our meeting!), the wildfire started! Sams' book "Stranger in the Woods" coauthored with his wife, Jean Stoick, is a photographic fantasy of the relationship between a small family of deer and a snowman. It tugs at Leo to this day. Eventually Kulinski approached Greenwood about having a photography show at the Conservation Center, "White Mountains, Whales, and White-tailed Deer". (Did I mention that Kulinski has been on over 100 whale watches and has assisted experts in the photographic cataloguing of fluke patterns of Humpbacked Whales?)

Kulinski and Greenwood became close friends. Together they spent a day hiking the five 1,000 foot peaks of White Memorial. "It would have been quicker", said Kulinski, "but Jeff had to describe everything he saw. We got ten feet along the trail and he (Greenwood) started in. I knew it would be a long day."

Funny, talented, disciplined, generous, kind, passionate, and curious: Leo Kulinski, Jr. is a man of few words but a man about whom volumes could be written.

20th Annual
Museum Sleep-In

April 23 - 24, 2010 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon
(For grades 4 - 6)

- Make a Seashell Wind Chime + Build a Bird House**
- Make & Use a Fishing Pole + Plant an Acorn**
- 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**
- Live Reptiles and Amphibians + Meet a Real Bat**
- Do a Day Hike and Scavenger Hunt**



Cost: \$50/member - \$70/non-member
DON'T DELAY! This program is limited to 25 participants.

Registration must be received by April 16, 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

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SANCTUARY**

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