

# SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the  
White Memorial  
Conservation Center  
Vol. XXIX No. 2  
Spring 2011

## Museum Hours:

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

## For Information

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E-Mail: [info@whitememorialcc.org](mailto:info@whitememorialcc.org)  
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*Portrait of a Lady: Pink Lady's Slipper, Cypripedium acaule*  
Illustration by Betsy Rogers-Knox

## "Catching" Pesticide Residues in the Food We Eat

*By Walter J. Krol, Analytical Chemist, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

### **Background**

Pesticides play a vital role in the production of much of the food that we consume. The residues remaining in the food we eat are often of concern to consumers. The Department of Analytical Chemistry at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) plays an ongoing, usually unnoticed, and mostly unknown role in protecting the consumers of Connecticut from the illegal use of pesticides.

Since 1963, representatives of the State Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) have collected samples of fresh produce sold in Connecticut stores, farmers markets, roadside stands, and local farms. These samples are delivered to the laboratories at the CAES where pesticide residue analysis is performed. The goals of this collaborative program are: 1) to ensure that pesticides are used in accordance with their labels and 2) to ensure that the public is protected from the deliberate or accidental misuse of pesticides.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established limits for residues, known as

tolerances, for all pesticides allowed for use in the production of foodstuff in the United States (US). To be able to enforce these tolerances, the quantity and the type of any pesticides present in a sample must be known. The CAES serves as an independent laboratory for the DCP and has no enforcement or regulatory powers under State Statute. Results of all analysis performed are forwarded the DCP. The DCP maintains regulatory jurisdiction over produce samples grown within the State. For samples sold within the state, but produced elsewhere, the DCP forwards analytical laboratory results directly to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) whose regulatory influence extends to the rest of the country and to samples imported from other countries.

### **Considerations**

The analysis of pesticide residues in food involves two steps: 1) removing (extracting) the pesticide residues from the food and 2) examination and determination (analysis) of which pesticides might be present in the food. Frequently, the optimum extraction method

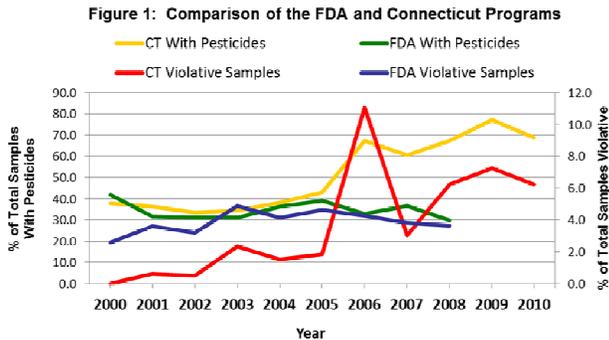
could vary with pesticide type/class and with food type. In 2005 the *Quick, Easy, Cheap, Effective, Rugged, Safe* (QuEChERS; pronounced "Catchers") multi-residue methodology was introduced for the extraction of a wide variety of pesticides from a wide variety of foods. The extraction solvent (acetonitrile) used is amenable to both Gas and Liquid Chromatography (GC and LC), allowing for the simultaneous analysis of volatile (GC) and non-volatile (LC) pesticides. Mass Spectrometry (MS) is used to unequivocally determine the presence of a pesticide in a sample. Mass Spectrometry provides a 'fingerprint', which is unique to each chemical compound, and allows a determination to be made of which pesticides are present in the sample extracts and how much. Around 2006 our laboratories acquired a new LC connected to a MS (LC/MS) and GC connected to a MS (GC/MS). We decided to take advantage of the latest methodology and technology available to advance the Connecticut pesticide residue program.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(cont'd. from page 1)

## Findings

Prior to 2006, the results obtained in Connecticut closely matched those obtained by the FDA in their annual pesticide residue monitoring reports. In 2008, the last year for which data are available, the FDA examined 5053 food samples, of which 1398 were domestic, 3655 were imported and *one* was from Connecticut. The FDA program found, on average, that 35.2% of the samples analyzed between 2000 and 2005 contained pesticide residues, whereas, during this time frame, the Connecticut survey revealed that 37.2% of the samples examined contained pesticide residues (plotted on primary axis in Figure 1).



During this same period, the average number of samples examined found to contain illegal (violative) residues by the FDA was 3.8% and in Connecticut 1.4% (plotted on secondary axis Figure 1).

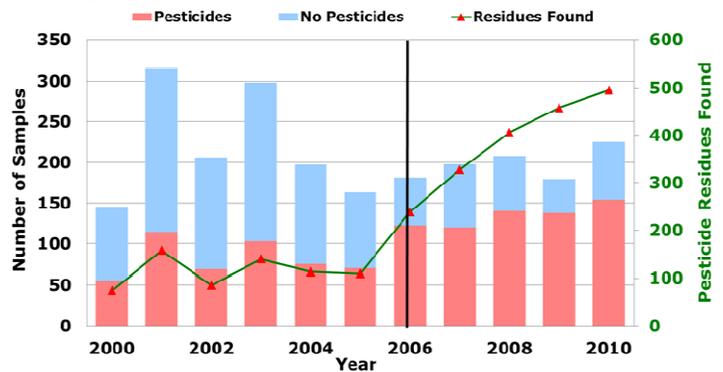
The improvements made in our program

became evident beginning with the 2006 results. Between 2006 and 2008 (last available data), the FDA program found that on average 33.1% of the samples analyzed contained pesticide residues and that, on average, 2.8% of the samples analyzed were violative. Between 2006 and 2010, the Connecticut survey found that on average 68.2% of the samples analyzed contained pesticide residues and that, on average, 6.8% of the samples analyzed were violative.

## Discussion

Figure 2 depicts the results of the Connecticut program from 2000 – 2010 and provides insight into one of the reasons for the divergence in the two programs. The number of samples examined each year in Connecticut has remained relatively constant. It can be seen that the number of pesticide residues found since 2006 has greatly increased. This is due to two reasons 1) we have made a focused effort to screen for more different

**Figure 2: Pesticide Residues in Food Sold in Connecticut 2000 - 2010**



(Continued on page 7)

## Make a Difference

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

“Oh look, it’s snowing!” That’s an exclamation that you don’t hear much this winter...at least not with much enthusiasm. We have been bombarded with snow. It is snowing as I am writing this piece. I really like winter. I like sweaters. I have a really nice hat - I like hats. Heating with wood heats you more than once. There is nothing like a wood fire. I don’t even mind shoveling. I love making soup and stew and bread. The sky always seems bluer in winter.

What I *don't* like is not having time to play in the snow. It seems like all we have time for is to shovel and clean off the roof. I have only been out a couple of times on my snow shoes. My husband loves to cross-country ski. I like to ski, too, but I am much too slow for him and I slow him down. I let him go alone. When you drive in a neighborhood, you rarely see kids out having a good time in

the snow. There are very few snowmen. Where have all the snowmen gone? Where are all the sleds?

We live in an area with an abundance of natural areas. White Memorial alone has more than 4,000 acres with thirty-five miles of trails. I see runners, people out for exercise, but I don’t see people just enjoying the out-of-doors. Everybody has an agenda. Get fit. Watch the birds and increase your life-list. Shovel the driveway. Nobody is making snow angels. It is hard to find someone who is just there and just enjoying the way the snow bends the branches. Someone who is enjoying watching the snow fall and catching the flakes on their tongue. Someone who is hunting in the remote corners looking for the early signs of spring. The days *are* getting longer. The bird songs are beginning to change. The Great Horned Owls are calling. So, it is

coming. Spring, I mean.

So this spring, take the time to make a difference in *your own life*. Take time to *just be*. Turn off the television. Stop texting. Stop walking and talking on your phone. Leave the ipod home. Get out and just enjoy being, being in nature, being in an area that is still full of wonder. Spend some time playing in the nearly 10,000 acres Alain and May White left for us to enjoy, both at White Memorial and in other park-like places in Connecticut. Conserving is one thing - it is vital, even. But, *take time to enjoy what is being saved*. Take time to fill your own fount from nature and **make a difference** for YOU.



## PLAYING THE NUMBERS GAME: THE EVOLUTION OF A BIRD BANDER

BY GORDON LOERY, FORMER WMCC DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

**Foreign Retraps**

The first three installments of this series began with my boyhood interest in natural history. At the end of the third article I had committed myself to a long-term program of collecting capture – mark – recapture data at my bird-banding station and using the latter to look for answers to important natural history questions about what is happening to resident Foundation bird populations in our ever-changing world. The ultimate aim of this program is to learn more about whole populations and thus to improve our ability to encourage desirable trends and discourage undesirable trends. But in the meantime there are occasional immediate rewards known as foreign – retraps. They are individual birds I have banded here that have been recovered elsewhere, or individual birds banded elsewhere that I have recovered here in Morris. There is nothing on the bands except a unique identification number and the address of the Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. When there is a recovery the bander and the recoverer, who need not be another bander, can only find out more about the retrap by communicating with each other through the B.B.L. Fortunately, I have occasionally found the resulting communications very fruitful. For example, one of them enabled me to find out that a Pine Grosbeak I had banded over 9 years earlier here in Morris, CT had been found dead on a Canadian roadside. The chances of its death being reported under these circumstances were very slim. Furthermore, this was one of only four Pine Grosbeaks that I have caught in over 50 years of banding. The chances that one of the four would ever be recovered was, again, very low. Finally the publication of this recovery established a new longevity record for this species. Over the years I have established Foundation longevity records of at least 5 years for 25 species of birds, the oldest being a 14+ year old Blue Jay. But this was my first international longevity record. Taken together this one incident produced a triple beating of the odds.

One other visitor from the North was last caught at my banding station late one afternoon, late in the spring. It was recaptured the very next day at another

banding station in the middle of Vermont. It must have flown about 100 miles due north over night. This may seem very unlikely. How could a small bird fly that far non-stop and how could it find its way in the dark? We now have evidence that not only are such events possible but that they happen every spring and fall. Large flocks of birds have been observed flying across the face of the full moon on migration nights. There is also good evidence they navigate by the stars. Birds have been released in large flight cages inside a planetarium in the middle of a migration season. When the scientists change the arrangement of the stars on the planetarium's ceiling it produces a corresponding change in the direction of the birds' flight. Finally we have a good idea of how they prepare for long nocturnal flights. They must first find a good site where they can feed heavily. Then they refuel by putting on extra weight. Unfortunately I did not weigh my migrant the last time I caught it and the Vermont bander did not weigh it when she recaptured it. It would have been interesting to find out how much fuel was required for a 100 mile flight. I was able to get in touch with the Vermont bander to confirm the fact that she did indeed catch it the day after it left Morris. But we will never know how much weight it lost in its flight.

A third unusual foreign-retrap was a Purple Finch first caught and banded at a winter feeder in the deep south. I captured it one summer at my feeder. The following winter it was recaptured again at the same southern feeder where it was originally banded. The bird, like some people e.g. Alain and May White, was apparently commuting between its southern winter home and its northern summer home.

I have never found a good explanation for one other individual bird that was a permanent resident not a foreign-retrap. It was a Black-capped Chickadee that I banded and retrapped for six consecutive years. It appeared to have perfectly normal plumage until the sixth year when it suddenly showed up with a completely white head. One might assume this was a sign of normal advancing age but I have recaptured hundreds of chickadees six years old and over and this was the only one that had become a partial albino. It

may have been just a result of a late in life genetic mutation.

**Looking For Statistical Help**

Finding out what happens to individual birds has always been a source of human interest but significant examples will be very infrequent. Finding out what happens to large groups of birds over a long period of time is apt to require more outside help for the bander but is a more certain way of gaining a better understanding of the changing world in which we live.

By the 1970's I had accumulated an impressive collection of chickadee capture-recapture data and was looking for help in interpreting it. Local statisticians I soon found could not help me. Then I found out that Yale had a graduate program in statistics and was looking for projects for its students. They invited me down to meet with the class, which incidentally appeared to be almost all Chinese. When they found out I had capture-recapture data from a bird banding station they told me they too would not be able to help me. I later found out that there was nobody at a New England college at that time familiar with the newly developed (1965) statistical models required for my purposes. In the modern world professionals are apt to become more and more specialized and lose track of what is happening even in closely related fields. We need more inter-disciplinary collaboration.

Finally in 1980 I came across an announcement of a week-long conference to be held at Asilomar, California sponsored by the Cooper Ornithological Society. The objective of the conference was to gather "together biologists and statisticians to assess critically the methods and assumptions we use in data gathering and analysis. We hope that this effort will lead to a better understanding of what can and cannot be done with data sets, and of ways to increase the sophistication and accuracy of our analytical and sampling methods".\*

This was precisely what I had been looking for and I was determined to attend the conference. Unfortunately there was a great deal of turmoil going on at the Foundation at the time and I was caught in the middle of it. That had to be addressed first.

(Continued on page 4)

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**BY WMF FOREST SUPERINTENDENT LUKAS HYDER**

Last year continued to be busy with community service individuals and groups volunteering well over 300 man- hours of labor helping in the management and maintenance of White Memorial's 4,000 acres. All were projects that would not have been possible without their help. Since the last report, the following groups and individuals have helped out at White Memorial.

In May, Cub Scout Pack 1 from Torrington did invasive plant removal, focusing on Asiatic bittersweet, around the Pine Grove I area where they were camping.

On May 15<sup>th</sup> we hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Yale Day of Service. Malcolm Forbes and 8 Yale alumni spent a Saturday morning working on improvements to the Trail of the Senses. They added gravel, constructed and maintained waterbars, removed invasives, and delineated the trail.

Girl Scouts and Brownies from Torrington, led by Ann Marie Baujin,

did some weeding and non-native invasive removal in the main area.

Joe Schiffer from Litchfield spent two days in August working at opening up the boardwalk area and cutting non-native invasives.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, Jessica Rich and three co-workers from Walker Systems Support in Farmington, spent a morning clearing invasives from around Ongley Pond.

Taft School sent 9 middle school students for their community service day on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. Their tasks included garbage pick-up at many trailheads and along Bantam Lake as well as bluebird box habitat management.

Marvelwood School in Kent continued their weekly appearances and helped with many assorted projects.

The dedication of time and enthusiasm by these many individual and groups has helped make White Memorial a better place. We thank them for all their help!

**PLAYING THE NUMBERS GAME**  
**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**  
**LONGEVITY RECORDS FOR BIRDS BANDED**  
**AT WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>AGE</b>
Blue Jay	14 year, 6 month
Black-capped Chickadee	11 year, 10 month
American Tree Sparrow	10 year, 9 month
Dark-eyed Junco	10 year, 8 month
Rufous-sided Towhee	9 year, 11 month
Brown-headed Cowbird	9 year, 10 month
Downy Woodpecker	9 year, 10 month
Pine Grosbeak	9 year, 9 month
Hairy Woodpecker	9 year, 8 month
Northern Cardinal	9 year, 1 month
Purple Finch	9 year 1 month
American Goldfinch	8 year, 8 month
Common Grackle	8 year, 0 month
Red-winged Blackbird	7 year, 10 month
House Finch	7 year, 1 month
Gray Catbird	6 year, 11 month
White-breasted Nuthatch	6 year, 11 month
White-throated Sparrow	6 year, 9 month
Eastern Tufted Titmouse	6 year, 7 month
Mourning Dove	6 year, 6 month
Evening Grosbeak	6 year, 6 month
Song Sparrow	6 year, 3 month
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6 year, 2 month
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5 year, 11 month
Eastern Phoebe	5 year, 0 month

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**30TH ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2011**

**FEATURING**  
**FM 97.3 WZBG**  
**FALCONER BRIAN BRADLEY**  
**RIVERSIDE REPTILES**  
**FOREST PARK ZOO**  
**WILDMAN STEVE BRILL**  
**MORTAL BEASTS AND DEITIES: STILT DANCERS**  
**THE BAT LADY**  
**MUSIC BY**  
**NANCY TUCKER**

**NORTHWEST**  
**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**EARTH DAY**  
**NATIVE PLANT SALE**

**APRIL 29, 30, & May 1, 2011**  
**GOSHEN FAIR GROUNDS**

[www.conservect.org/northwest](http://www.conservect.org/northwest)

**Children's Summer Programs 2011**

*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 July 5 through August 19.**  
**Please call the Museum at 860-567-0857 to request a registration form**  
**or print one from our website in mid-March.**





# Spring Calendar of Events



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

## APRIL

- 2 **Big Tree Walk with Lukas Hyder**  
Visit a wide selection of WMF record trees and a state record Japanese Larch! 10:00 A.M.,  
Meet in the Museum parking lot. 
- 6 **Home Composting with Russell Wheeler**  
Nobody can tell you more about the fine art of composting as Russ! And he is funny!  
6:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
- 9 **Woodcock Cocktail Party**  
Learn about the comical little woodland bird affectionately known as the Timberdoodle.   
*See page 6 for details.*
- 10 **An Introduction to Nature Journaling in Watercolor with Betsy Rogers-Knox**  
*See page 6 for details.*
- 12 - 16 **April Vacation Programs**  
Call the Museum in Mid-March for details!
- 13 **Take a Walk Series**  
**Explore Kent Falls with Jeff Greenwood**  
*See page 6 for details.*
- 15 **Ghost Bird**  
This documentary film tells the timely story of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker's miraculous rediscovery in 2005. 7:00 P.M., Litchfield Community Center, Suggested Donation: \$5.00  
Co-sponsored with the Litchfield Hills Audubon Society 
- 16 **Invasive Plants: ID, Ecology, & Control**  
*See page 6 for details.*
- 16 **Owl Prowl with Dave Tripp and Fran Zygmunt**  
*See page 6 for details.* 
- 20 - 26 **Museum Kids Free Week**  
In Memory of Louise W. Willson\*
- 22 **Good Friday**   
**Museum Closed**
- 22 **Star Party: Comets: Space Snowballs**  
Star gazing to follow.  
7:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
- 23 **Walk up Wheeler Hill**  
Gerri Griswold leads the way. 2:00 P.M.  
Meet at the Campground Store on North Shore Road.

- 23 **Boxcar Lilies Pot Luck Supper BYOB**  
**Coffee House**  
*See page 6 for details.*
- 24 **Easter Sunday**  
**Museum Closed** 
- 29/30 **21st Annual Museum Sleep-In**  
*See page 8 for details.*
- 30 **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

## MAY

- 6 **WMCC Annual Meeting** 3:30 P.M.
- 7 **Early Bird Bird Walk & Breakfast with Ray Belding**  
*See page 6 for details.* 
- 7 **Breakfast and Walk to Little Pond with Dale Jones FM 97.3 WZBG**  
*See page 6 for details.*
- 11 - 17 **Museum Kids Free Week**  
Courtesy of Tara and Arthur Diedrick \*
- 14 **Marlow Shami Workshop: Nature, Creativity, and You**  
*See page 6 for details.* 
- 18 **Take a Walk Series**  
**Exploring Cat Swamp with James Fischer**  
*See page 6 for details.*
- 18 **Dr. Walter Krol: "Catching" Pesticide Residues in the Foods We Eat**  
Pesticides play a vital role in the production of much of the food that we consume. Learn more about the residues remaining in the food you eat. 7:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
- 21 **DEP CARE OPEN WATER FISHING PROGRAM**  
Learn everything about bait, tackle, fish Identification, and more! Morning classroom and afternoon fishing trip. All materials included. Bring a lunch! 10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room. Call 860-567-0857 to pre-register. 
- 25 - 31 **Museum Kids Free Week**  
Honoring Helen Ryan Donnelly \*

- 27 **Star Party: Picturing the Sky**  
Learn about astro-photography! Star gazing to follow. 7:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
- 28 **Late Spring Botany Walk with Bill Moorehead**  
A rare opportunity to tag along with a great botanist! Dress for the weather. 10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room. Class is limited to 20 participants.  
Call 860-567-0857 to pre-register. 
- 30 **Memorial Day...Museum Closed**

## JUNE

- 4 **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. 
- 4 **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.
- 8 - 14 **Museum Kids Free Week**  
In Memory of Louise W. Willson\*
- 12 **Litchfield Hills Road Race**  
**Museum Closed**
- 15 **Take a Walk Series**  
**Breeding Birds in Catlin Woods and Swamp**  
**With Dave Rosgen**  
*See page 6 for details.*
- 11 **Big World of Elephants**  
Follow Rebecca Sterley from Thailand to Tennessee. A wealth of information about various elephant species. 11:00 A.M., A.B. Ceder Room 
- 11 **Mongolia: Up the Steppes & Into the Future**  
Become acquainted with ancient and still thriving herding peoples, history, archaeology and more. Rebecca Sterley presents. 2:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room 
- 18 **Life & Times of the Monarch Butterfly**  
*See page 6 for details.*
- 24 **Star Party: Birth & Death of a Star**  
Star gazing to follow.  
8:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
- 25 **Best of Ray Packard: Nature Photography**  
2:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room
- 29 - July 5 **Museum Kids Free Week**  
In Memory of Louise W. Willson\*

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

# SPRING 2010 WORKSHOPS REGISTRATION FORM



**April 9 Woodcock Cocktail Party**  
 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room  
**Members: FREE Non-members: \$10.00**  
 Learn about the comical bird over tasty nibbles then head outside in hope of spotting the Woodcock's fascinating mating ritual. Dress for the weather! **Class is limited to 20 participants!**



**April 10 An Introduction to Nature Journaling in Watercolor**  
 1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room, Ages 10 & up  
**Members: \$30.00 Non-members: \$40.00**  
 Noted botanical illustrator Betsy Rogers-Knox teaches nature journaling techniques with exercises in observational skills including drawing and watercolor. Supplies are included!



**April 13 Take a Walk Series: Explore Kent Falls**  
 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M., Meet in the Museum.  
**Members: \$8.00 Non-members: \$15.00**  
 This state park was another gift to the state of Connecticut by the Whites and White Memorial Foundation. Jeff Greenwood takes you in the Center's van. Bring a lunch to enjoy along the way!



**April 16 Invasive Plants: ID, Ecology, & Control**  
 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room  
**Members: \$48.00 Non-members: \$58.00**  
 Get a head start on invasive control by learning to identify in the early season. This program is co-sponsored with the New England Wildflower Society. NEWFS's Ted Elliman facilitates.



**April 16 Owl Prowl with Dave Tripp & Fran Zygmunt**  
 6:30 P.M. - ????, A.B. Ceder Room, **DINNER INCLUDED!**  
**WMCC & LHAS Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$25.00**  
 Enjoy a light dinner and lecture then hit the trails with Dave and Fran in search of a variety of owls such as Great Horned, Barred, Screech and more! **This program is limited to 15 participants!**



**April 23 Boxcar Lilies Pot Luck / BYOB Coffee House**  
 7:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room, **Museum open at intermission!**  
**Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$18.00**  
 This amazing trio from Greenfield, Massachusetts use stunning harmonies to embellish classic Americana/folk pieces. Bring a hot or cold dish. We'll supply dessert, soft drinks, and utensils.



**April 30 Cormac McCarthy Pot Luck / BYOB Coffee House**  
 7:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room, **Museum open at intermission!**  
**Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$18.00**  
 Cormac blazes into the Ceder Room holding a mixed bag of luscious original music from blues to folk to country. Bring a hot or cold dish. We'll supply dessert, soft drinks, and utensils.



**May 7 Early Bird Bird Walk & Breakfast with Ray Belding**  
 7:00 A.M.- 9:00 A.M., A.B. Ceder Room, **Only 15 spaces!**  
**WMCC & LHAS Members: FREE Non-members: \$10.00**  
 Uber-birder and all around great guy Ray Belding leads you in search of spring migrants and early nesters. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Return to the Ceder Room for a light breakfast!



**May 7 Breakfast & Walk to Little Pond with Dale Jones**  
 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room, **Only 20 spaces!**  
**WMCC & LHAS Members: FREE Non-members: \$10.00**  
 Once a year Gerri Griswold manages to rope WZBG's Dale Jones into leading a hike. Today Jonesy takes you to the Little Pond Boardwalk. Enjoy a light breakfast before the 3 mile jaunt.



**May 14 Marlow Shami: Nature, Creativity, & You**  
 10:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room & **Outdoors**  
**Members: \$50.00 Non-members: \$55.00 Bring lunch!**  
 Discover how to access wise council from the natural world. Dive into your creative well and return to celebrate your unique beauty. A day of meditation, nature, and art. Dress comfortably.



**May 18 Take a Walk Series: Exploring Cat Swamp**  
 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., Meet in the Museum.  
**Members: \$8.00 Non-members: \$15.00**  
 James Fischer leads you through this dynamic wetland which is home to White River Crayfish, fascinating plants, and river otters! Dress for the weather. Wear strong waterproof boots.



**June 15 Take a Walk Series: Breeding Birds in Catlin Woods**  
 10:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M., Meet in the Museum.  
**Members: \$8.00 Non-members: \$15.00**  
 Dave Rosgen hopes to unveil a bounty of birds as Catlin Woods and Marsh are home to as many as 50 species this time of year as opposed to roughly 20 in winter. Dress for the weather.



**June 18 Life & Times of the Monarch**  
 12:00 P.M., A.B. Ceder Room, **Includes lunch!**  
**Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$20.00**

Did you know Monarch Butterflies can be banded? Anne Torrey does and has! Meet this fascinating and engaging woman who spent years working with these popular and delicate creatures. Take a walk to the Butterfly Garden with Anne and enjoy a wonderful luncheon.

Clip & Mail

_____ <b>Woodcock Cocktail Party</b> .....	Member: FREE	Non member: \$10.00
_____ <b>Introduction to Nature Journaling</b> .....	Member: \$30.00	Non member: \$40.00
_____ <b>Take a Walk: Kent Falls</b> .....	Member: \$8.00	Non member: \$15.00
_____ <b>Invasive Plants</b> .....	Member: \$48.00	Non-member: \$58.00
_____ <b>Owl Prowl</b> .....	Member: \$15.00	Non-member: \$25.00
_____ <b>Boxcar Lilies</b> .....	Member: \$15.00	Non-member: \$18.00
_____ <b>Cormac McCarthy</b> .....	Member: \$15.00	Non-member: \$18.00
_____ <b>Birding with Belding</b> .....	Member: FREE	Non-member: \$10.00
_____ <b>Walk to Little Pond with Dale Jones</b> .....	Member: FREE	Non-member: \$10.00
_____ <b>Marlow Shami</b> .....	Member: \$50.00	Non-member: \$55.00
_____ <b>Take a Walk: Cat Swamp</b> .....	Member: \$8.00	Non-member: \$15.00
_____ <b>Take a Walk: Breeding Birds in Catlin Woods</b> .....	Member: \$8.00	Non-member: \$15.00
_____ <b>Life &amp; Times of the Monarch</b> .....	Member: \$15.00	Non-member: \$20.00

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.

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**“CATCHING” PESTICIDE RESIDUES  
IN THE FOOD WE EAT  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

types of pesticides and 2) the improvements made in our laboratories have allowed us to detect much lower levels of pesticides present in the food samples we have examined.

The results of this work allow the consumer to gain a better understanding of the prevalence and levels of pesticide residues in the food they consume. The reader should note that although the majority of the samples tested contain pesticide residues, the levels at which these chemicals are detected is very low in comparison to their tolerance limits. The average level of pesticide found in those samples with residues from 1990-2005 in the Connecticut study was 0.544 part per million (ppm), while the average from 2006 – 2010 was 0.143 ppm. The average residue found in the latter time frame was 40.6 times lower than the average tolerance. The work contained herein continues to ensure that the food sold in Connecticut contains pesticide residues that are within the guidelines of US Federal Law.

The results of the work done at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station are published annually in bulletin form, and are available at our website <http://www.ct.gov/caes/>. Feel free to contact the author of this work with any questions or comments by email [Walter.krol@ct.gov](mailto:Walter.krol@ct.gov) or by phone (203) 974-8456.



Ray of Light: Ray Packard

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:  
RAY PACKARD**

*Story and Photo by Gerri Griswold*

Nature has always been a force in Ray Packard's life. This Watertown native grew up savoring the outdoors and especially enjoyed time spent alone at Echo Lake. He taught himself how to use a slingshot and later on as a young adult, the fine arts of fishing and hunting.

After graduating from Watertown High School Ray jumped from job to job eventually landing at Connecticut Light and Power where he worked for 25 years as a serviceman. He retired in 1993. "It was a wonderful job!" He married his wife Jean (now together 51 years!). Three children appeared Raelynn, Steven, and David and six grandchildren. During the busy years of working and being a father to three feisty youngsters, Ray would often escape to Housatonic Meadows for some fly fishing, "All the stress would go away. The outdoors was my psychiatrist."

Packard took a keen interest in photography at an early age picking up his first camera during his high school years, a very simple Kodak Pony film camera. He was also a good shot in another way. Ray was a fine marksman and a member of the Wigwam Gun Club where he practiced four times a week. White-tailed Deer were his favorite quarry. One day, he took down a beautiful buck. As Packard approached the animal he was suddenly overwhelmed with sadness. "It broke my heart", he said. "I don't need this meat to live." That day he hung up his gun for good. "If I photograph deer there are no bag limits, no closed seasons, and it is more of a challenge to get the shot. I sold all of my guns and bought camera equipment. From that day on I only hunted with a camera."

His love of photographing nature has taken Ray to Alaska (x3), Costa Rica, and eight or nine National Parks including Yellowstone (x3) and the Grand Canyon. He has visited Baxter State Park more times than he can count. Packard became a student of animal behavior studying how they maneuvered so he could be a better stalker, get closer, and take magnificent shots. Although his favorite trip was taking his eighteen year old son to Alaska for two weeks seeing Brown Bear, Caribou, and Moose up close and personal, Packard's favorite subject remains the White-tailed Deer.

Ray has been a member of White Memorial since 1982. That he found the place was only natural. Once he became familiar with the massive amounts of trails his visits became very regular but as is always the case in nature, never routine. One day he stepped into the Museum and met Gift Shop Manager Lois Melaragno, a superb wildlife rehabilitator. Their friendship was sealed with the overflow of creatures he helped Lois rehabilitate and release (and photograph!). Melaragno would frequently give Ray hot tips about recent sightings on the property. One of his favorite pictures, a nesting hummingbird, hangs in the Museum's gift shop. The nest was about twelve feet up on a branch hanging over Bantam Lake. Packard took an old deer stand, converted it into a bird blind, erected the blind in the tree and photographed the mother and her two chicks for three weeks. "She came by every fifteen minutes. I could hear her coming...bzzzzzzzz. She'd land on the nest and I'd take a shot." He captured the chicks while they fed and exercised their wings. After three rolls of film were shot, Packard realized that bird droppings were all over the branch below the nest and in every photograph. He returned with a ladder and furnace brush, scrubbed away the mess, and started all over again.

Over the years Ray has amassed thousands of images. His work has been published by the *Sierra Club*, *The Wild Turkey Federation*, *Birds and Blooms Magazine*, *Country Magazine*, and *National Audubon*. Last year Packard donated his library of 35,000 transparencies to the Conservation Center, a most selfless and extraordinary gesture from one of the Conservation Center's most treasured and extraordinary members.

*Ray Packard will discuss one hundred of his favorite photographs in a presentation on June 25, 2011 at 2:00 P.M. in the A.B. Ceder Room.*

## 21st Annual Museum Sleep-In

April 29 - 30, 2011 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon  
(For grades 4 - 6)

**Build a Bird House**

**Learn to Track Wildlife**

**Create a Dream Catcher + 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**

**Edible Insects + Meet Real Birds of Prey**

**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 22**

**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

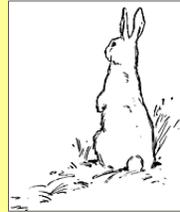
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probably  
the same  
day he created  
Spring.



Bern Williams

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