

SANCTUARY

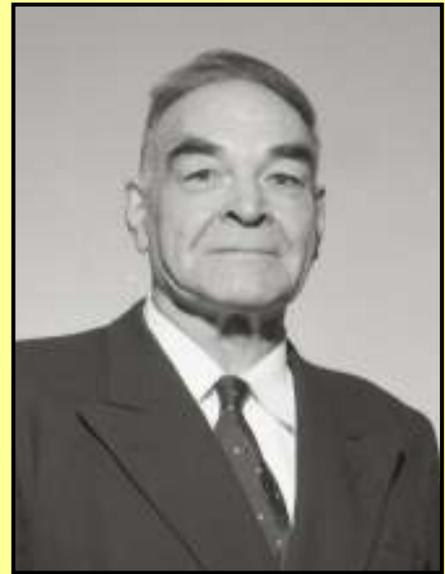
Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center
Vol. XXX No. 2
Spring 2012

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
Website: www.whitememorialcc.org



Dr. Raymond Kienholz and The White Memorial Foundation

By Gordon Loery Former WMCC Director of Research

I can think of no better way of introducing the subject of change and progress at the White Memorial Foundation over the last 55 years than to review the role of Dr. Raymond Kienholz in helping to make it possible.

I have often wondered about Dr. Kienholz's background. He never talked much about it but I have found out he was born in a small town near Bellingham, MN in 1894 and attended grade and high schools in Big Stone, South Dakota. From there he moved to Illinois where he obtained B.S., M.S. and PhD degrees, the latter two from the University of Illinois, majoring in plant ecology and physiology. From 1922 to 1948 he taught and carried out research at a number of institutions ending up at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

When I first heard of Dr. Kienholz's dissatisfaction with the Storrs campus as the site for his summer Conservation Workshop for Teachers I decided to offer the more rural setting of the White Foundation's 4,000 acres as an alternative. I knew this would be a long-shot at best because of our lack of facilities at the time but I thought it would be worth a try. We did not have a classroom, a dormitory, a dining hall, or even a kitchen available for public use. When I explained all of this to him however his only reply was "Let me see what you do have." I soon found out this was typical of the man. When he really wanted to do something nothing would be allowed to get in the way. Not after he

had succeeded in pulling himself up from a Big Stone, South Dakota high school to a University of Illinois PhD. So I invited him over to see for himself.

We began our tour of the Foundation by visiting the old farm house in which I was living. Since I was not yet married I was living by myself on the first floor leaving four rooms on the second floor empty. "Good" he explained, "that will be the dormitory for the women teachers who always outnumber the men in this summer workshop." Since this was a college credit course there was never a shortage of enrollees. So in order to fit them all in, Dr. Kienholz would have to go out and find enough double-decker beds to fill all four rooms, bring them over here, and set them up. He did so all by himself, never asking for help.

Another problem was the shortage of bathroom facilities. There was only one in the whole house and that was on the first floor. As you can imagine it would be a very busy room every morning before breakfast. Everyone would have to get in and out as quickly as possible. The few male teachers enrolled in the course would have to live in small tents set up in the open field in back of the house and use outhouses. Then there were the problems of providing a classroom and a dining hall. Dr. Kienholz solved both together by locating an enormous dual purpose tent and bringing it over to my back yard in Morris. But even Kienholz could not raise it by himself. He had to seek help

from the Foundation crew for the really heavy work. Then he had to fill the tent with tables, benches, a screen and projector and connect the latter with a source of electricity.

Finally we needed a kitchen and a cook. The old empty shed in back of the house would have to be cleaned out and furnished with a stove, a refrigerator, storage drawers, and another power line providing electricity. Dr. Kienholz had had previous experience in recruiting cooks.

The Conservation Workshop In A New Setting

By June 1957 Dr. Kienholz was ready to start anew at the age of 63 when most of his contemporaries were preparing for retirement. He brought with him from the Storrs campus the wildlife professor Dr. Hunter as his full time assistant. The two men had both been commissioners in the Connecticut state government before moving over to Storrs and worked together very well but had very different personalities. Dr. Hunter would never have moved the Workshop off the Storrs campus on his own and he had a rather unique sense of humor. He once came up to me and with a perfectly straight face asked "Tell me, does your mother know what kind of a house you are running up here?" Dr. Kienholz would never have even thought of asking such a question.

(Continued on page 2)

(cont'd. from page 1)

In addition to the two full-time Storrs faculty members almost every day a guest resource specialist would be invited over to lead a discussion or field trip. For example Ruth Billard, a state wildlife biologist, would come over to lead the group out on one of the Ruffed Grouse census lines she had laid out on Foundation property. This was not an easy walk on a well-marked trail, but it gave the teachers a first-hand idea of how wildlife managers collect inventory data. And all of this introduced them to a new area for possible future class field trips as well as providing career-advancing college credits.

Having worked overtime preparing a new campsite for his Conservation Workshop I thought Dr. Kienholz would take a little time off whenever he had the opportunity. But again I underestimated him. Sundays were a day off for his students but he never failed to go into the Litchfield Congregational Church to take part in the morning service. And a friend of mine told me you could hear his deep, booming voice all over the church whenever the congregation was singing a hymn. He never



Dr. Raymond Kienholz
with Alice Rogers, WMF Trustee, circa 1965

did anything in a half-hearted way. And as soon as the Litchfield workshop was over he immediately took off leading a bus load of older students on a two month long, cross-country tour of the United States visiting Federal Parks, Forests and other conservation areas. This too was a college-credit program for those who needed the credits.

After three summers at 243 Alain White Road the time had come to move the workshop to a more permanent site on White Foundation property. I was planning to get married in 1960 and I think the Trustees were satisfied that this summer program for teachers was a worthy addition to their plans for opening the hitherto private sanctuary to the public. The first move was to convert the second floor of what is now the Museum into a dormitory. Later on the dormitory, dining hall, classroom and kitchen were all moved over to what had been the Carriage House.

The success of Dr. Kienholz in moving his Conservation Workshop for teachers to the White Memorial opened up many new doors. He was a son of German pioneers who became a pioneer from the West himself.

Make a Difference

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

Okay. The Christmas tree is down and the decorations are in the attic. The menorah is stored on the shelf in the coat closet along with the dreidel. Now, you are spending your time trying to find a place for all of the gifts you received from the holidays. There is no place ANYWHERE because it is already loaded with all of the old stuff you already have. It is time to clean out and clean up. But, because you care about the environment, because you want to reuse and recycle, where do you send the stuff?

That's where I come in...this article will be filled with the locations and addresses of where to send stuff. Clothes? No problem. Consider hosting a clothes party where you and your guests bring gently used clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry, and accessories. Everyone will "shop" each other's stuff and everyone will go home with a new wardrobe. Any leftovers can be donated to Goodwill, Salvation Army, Veterans, a consignment shop, or Savers. Many area food banks and schools have been hosting used coat drives this winter. This works really well for children's clothes, too. Kids grow so fast that most of their clothes are practically new.

Books? Try your local library or consignment shop. Goodwill; Salvation Army, and Savers will take some. Don't

overlook the doctor's office for places to donate good used children's books. Consider getting your PTO or PTA to host a book swap. It is a great way to get more reading material for little or no money. Many senior centers will take magazines. If you have textbooks or books to get rid of...try

www.amazon.com/Textbook-Buyback;

www.bookbyte.com/SellTextbooks.aspx

or www.alibris.com/Official_Site

If you want to donate textbooks try

www.bookbyte.com or

www.liberiandevelopmentfoundation.org

Check out

www.nationalserviceresources.org ,

effective practices for a whole list of worldwide organizations that take books of all kinds.

Cell phones? Take them to the local center for battered women. They are always on the lookout for more phones. Other locations for cell phones and various electronics are www.epa.gov/osw/conservematerials/ecycling/donate.htm or

www.recyclingforcharities.com or

[earth911.com/.../electronics/.../reuse-](http://earth911.com/.../electronics/.../reuse-electronics-through-donation/)

[electronics-through-donation/](http://earth911.com/.../electronics/.../reuse-electronics-through-donation/)

Is the toy box overflowing? Try

[www.donationtown.org/news/donate-](http://www.donationtown.org/news/donate-toys.html)

[toys.html](http://www.donationtown.org/news/donate-toys.html) , www.kidsdonations.org , or

www.pickupplease.org .

There is always somebody/somewhere that can use your discarded items. Consider holding a garage sale or donating your castoffs to the local church or synagogue for their rummage sale. It is always a good idea to frequently check out the local consignment places to purchase items as well. If you don't have to have the newest and brightest and shiniest, try for something used and reconditioned. It may not have all of the bells and whistles, but if it will do for your purposes, try used.

Make a difference. Before you buy new or before you throw out something that still has use, think nowhadayadowidit when you are finished with an item. Everyone should consider "now what we are going to do with it" when we are done.

Make a difference every day.

It is much easier than you think.



We're Hosting a BioBlitz in 2013!

By James Fischer, WMCC Research Director

That's great news for those of you who already know what a BioBlitz is. But for those of you who don't, hold onto your hats! It is a 24-hour Safari through the wilds of White Memorial where scientists inventory every biological kingdom inhabiting White Memorial's critical habitats. You may have your doubts that this can be achieved. It can and it has in many places around the world. It has even been performed in several locations within Connecticut. Now it will happen at White Memorial for the first time ever!

Blitz is a perfect name for this event. The event begins when biologists converge onto White Memorial, are told the boundary of the property to be examined, told where the food and restrooms can be found throughout the event, and are then let loose! Each biologist has their bag of tricks to pull from for finding their quarry. Lepidopterists use a smelly concoction of fermenting bananas and other secret ingredients for attracting butterflies and moths to the side of trees that are smeared with the bait. Ornithologists pull out their binoculars, spotting scopes, and tapes of owl calls to record every species of bird. Botanists hike up their chest waders to navigate through the marshes in search of the rare of plants amongst the

invasive plants choking our wetlands. But think about the person who studies carrion beetles and the methods for finding their species! Talk about needing to love your work! And these are only a few groups that will be represented. What about scientists who study spiders, mammals, fish, fungi, or snails, don't worry they'll be there.

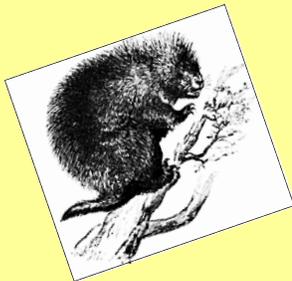


Collection Agency: How insects are displayed at a BioBlitz!

Every region of the park is explored whether it is under water or under a rock, on top of a log or on top of a telephone pole, it gets examined! Every unique species is counted within a 24-hour period. Yes, there is very little sleeping, but a lot of pizza is eaten. Whatever the eventual tally ends up with, everyone leaves with a lifetime of memories that were fun to share. A BioBlitz is not only a species inventory, it's a real adventure!

The scientists need your help and are searching for the next generation of biologists and ecologists, no matter what your age. You will hear more

about the BioBlitz in future editions of Sanctuary but you can also check in at <http://wmrep.blogspot.com>, our Research Program's blog to learn more as it is organized. We have scheduled the BioBlitz for May 31 – June 1, 2013. Mark your calendars now!



22nd Annual Museum Sleep-In

April 27 - 28, 2012 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon
(For grades 4 - 6)

- Build a Bat House + Make a Porcupine Pin Cushion**
- Learn about Animal Tracks**
- Take a Bird Walk + Make Tube Animals + Meet a Tree**
- 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 Amongst the Exhibits**
- Enjoy a Campfire with Stories and Song + Meet a Bat and a Porcupine!**



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

Registration must be received by April 20
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 860-567-0857.

This program is conducted by the
Conservation Center's Education and Activities Committee.



WHITE MEMORIAL'S NEW 2011-2025 FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

BY WMF FOREST SUPERINTENDENT LUKAS HYDER

Have you ever wondered how many trees there are at White Memorial? I just found out there are approximately 2.5 million trees. That equals about 78.2 million board feet, or enough lumber to build approximately 3,900 average sized houses. How do I know this you may ask? Well I have been measuring and counting the trees here on and off for the last two years.

The prior Forest Management Plan expired in 2011 and we now have a new Plan for the next 15 years to expire in 2025. The process of coming up with the plan is detailed in the following paragraphs.

To start the process the preparations included quite a bit of office work. First was reviewing the data, maps, and past use from the prior Management Plan (spanning the years of 1997-2011). To make it easier on us, the entire 4,000 acre property is broken down into 18 blocks, or *Compartments*. Each *Compartment* is further broken down into numerous *Stands*. A *Stand* generally comprises a manageable unit of a forest type, based on similar ages and groupings of tree species, or perhaps other land types. The *Stand* is determined from aerial photographs where different land and forest types show up quite clearly and are then delineated, and confirmed by field survey. Examples of a *Stand* could include pole-sized mixed hardwood, or sawtimber conifer, or even abandoned field.

Once the *Stand* boundaries are delineated and mapped out, the next step

is to head to the field to get the actual measurements on the ground. Each *stand* on the property is then visited and up to 10 sample plots taken. To make sure the data is unbiased, random points are pre-selected with data collected at each point. On all trees that fall within the plot, the diameters are measured, species recorded, and health condition noted. Wildlife habitat and forest conditions are also recorded. To determine growth rate and site index, the heights and growth rings are measured on one or two trees per plot. On a smaller 1/100th acre plot, the regeneration is tallied, as well as shrub, ground cover, presence of invasives, slope, etc. also collected.

Back in the office, the information on all the plots in the *stand* is compiled and then averaged to get the information on the *stand*. To get the information on the *Compartment* level, the data from all the *stands* in that *compartment* is compiled. The *Compartment* level data is compiled to get information on the property as a whole.

By extrapolating the newfound data, we know that the "average tree" at White Memorial is 9.9 inches in diameter, 80 years old, and 79 feet tall. It is growing at 3% and there are 270 of them per acre. For comparison, in 1996 the average tree was 9.3 inches in diameter, 70 years old, and 73 feet tall; it was growing at 3.3% and there were 235 of them per acre. This shows us that the forest is growing older, taller, and bigger, and the growth rate is slowing slightly, as would be

expected.

White Memorial is 78% forested and 22% non-forest. Within the forested portion, 64% is upland hardwoods, 15% lowland hardwoods, and 21% conifers. The makeup is predominantly large sawtimber (64%) and 34% pole and small sawtimber, and ½% in the sapling size class. Within the non-forested acreage, the vast majority is wetland habitats (14% of total property) comprising marsh, lowland brush, and open water. There are 708 acres (18% of land) in Natural Areas.

The hypothetical average forest acre contains fewer small trees and more larger trees than in 1996. The number of trees less than 4" is decreasing because they are growing larger, and thus, the number of trees greater than 4" is increasing. The average diameter is increasing, the average height is increasing, as is the stocking per acre and age.

The inventory shows that currently there are approximately 2.5 million trees on White Memorial, of which approximately 828,600 are larger than 4 inches in diameter. In the 1986 inventory there were 3.8 million trees, and about the same number in the 1996 inventory. However the volume of wood (size of the trees) has increased from 30 million board feet in 1986 to 45.6 million board feet in 1996 to the current total of 78.2 million board feet, a 70% increase over 1996 data.

This information will be used to make management decisions for the property.



Children's Summer Programs 2012

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 25 through August 10. Please call the Museum at 860-567-0857 to request a registration form or print one from our website in late March.



Spring Calendar of Events



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

APRIL

6 Good Friday..... Museum Closed



7 Early Morning Hike up Windmill Hill with Gerri Griswold
7:00 A.M., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

8 Easter Sunday
Museum Closed



13 Documentary Film
Green Fire:
Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time
See page 6 for details.

14 Coffee House:
World Café
with Judy Handler and Mark Levesque
See page 6 for details.

17 - 20 April Vacation Programs
Call the Museum for details!

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

20 Star Party!
 Astronomy lecture with star gazing to follow (weather permitting). 7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room.

21 *In the Footsteps of the Leatherman:*
Lecture and Hike with Shirley Sutton
See page 6 for details.

27/28 22nd Annual Museum Sleep-In
See page 3 for details.

28 Significant Beekeeping Events
in North America
Al Avitabile tells you the buzz!
2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room



29 *Spring Landscape in Watercolor* with
Betsy Rogers-Knox
See page 6 for details.

MAY

4 WMCC Annual Meeting 3:30 P.M.

5 *A Private Tour of the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy*
See page 6 for details.

11 - 17 Museum Kids Free Week
Courtesy of Tara and Arthur Diedrick *

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

12 Hike to Cat Swamp and Apple Hill with Dale Jones FM 97.3 WZBG and Gerri Griswold
10:00 A.M., Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.

18 Star Party!
 Astronomy lecture with star gazing to follow (weather permitting). 7:30 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

19 Coffee House:
A Musical Evening with Folk Artist Willie Nininger
See page 6 for details.

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

26 Tree Foliage Identification Walk with Lukas Hyder
10:00 A.M.
Meet in the Museum parking lot.



28 Memorial Day...Museum Closed

JUNE

2 Exploring Ongley Pond
In springtime, Ongley Pond is teeming with an abundance of plants and animals. Conservation Staff Member Marlow Shami 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*

9 Circumnavigating Five Ponds with James Fischer and Gerri Griswold
10:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.,
Meet in the Museum parking lot.

10 Litchfield Hills Road Race
Museum Closed



15 Star Party!
 Astronomy lecture with star gazing to follow (weather permitting). 8:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

16 Dog Day! A Hike with Man's Best Friend!
2:00 P.M.
Meet in the Museum parking lot. All dogs must be on leads and must mingle well with others!



23 A Celebration of Bats
Not only is 2012 The Year of the Bat but it's also the 20th anniversary of Gerri Griswold educating with and rehabilitating these extraordinary creatures.
Lecture, cupcakes, and music provided by *The Woulds* who know a thing or two about celebrations!
Lecture: 6:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room.
Music: 7:00 P.M. Activity Shed



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

29/30 The Springfield Tornado:
One Year After
Talcott Mountain Science Academy
Meteorologist Tom Alena lectures Friday on this stunning weather event. On Saturday take a road trip to Springfield and follow the path of the tornado with Tom and Gerri Griswold.
Lecture: 6:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room
Saturday: 9:00 A.M. Meet in the Museum parking lot. We'll car pool to the Springfield College parking lot where the walk begins at 10:30 A.M.



JULY

4 Independence Day
Museum Closed 

6 *Red, White, and Blues!*
Jimmy Griswold in Concert
Details in late April!

14 3rd Annual Iceland Affair!
Featuring Icelandic Recording Artists
Lay Low and Svavar Knutur!



Have you signed up for our weekly email newsletter The Habitattler?
Learn about upcoming programs.
Check out our most recent wildlife observations.
Feast your eyes on beautiful photographs taken by Conservation Center Staff and YOU!
info@whitememorialcc.org

"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world."
Virgil A. Kraft

SPRING 2012 WORKSHOPS REGISTRATION FORM



April 13 Documentary Film: Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time

7:00 P.M. , Litchfield Community Center

Suggested donation: \$5.00

Co-sponsored by Litchfield Hills Audubon Society and WMCC

This extraordinary film follows the life and legacy of legendary environmentalist Aldo Leopold and how he shaped and influenced the modern environmental movement. **THIS IS A MUST SEE!** A brief discussion will follow. Refreshments served.



April 14 Coffee House: World Café with Judy Handler and Mark Levesque

7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$20.00

Enjoy an entertaining and energetic program of music from around the world for guitars and mandolin. This wonderful husband and wife duo blend Brazilian, Latin, gypsy, jazz, classical, and folk music influences to create their lyrical and expressive arrangements. BYOB. Light refreshments will be available for purchase.



April 21 In the Footsteps of the Leatherman: Lecture and Hike with Shirley Sutton

11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. A. B. Ceder Room, **LUNCH INCLUDED!**

Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$20.00

During the 1800's there was a mysterious wanderer in Westchester County and parts of Connecticut. Speaking very little, he communicated his needs of food primarily with hand gestures. He was a curious, fearful sight. As residents grew to know him they often accommodated his simple requests. Shirley Sutton brings the Leatherman to life. After her lecture and a brief lunch she will lead a hike to Prospect Mountain where you will see two of the Leatherman's shelter sites.



April 29 Spring Landscape in Watercolor with Betsy Rogers-Knox

1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$30.00 Non-members: \$40.00

Learn to paint a very simple step-by-step spring landscape with internationally celebrated botanical artist Betsy Rogers-Knox. This workshop is suitable for ages 12 and up. All skill levels are welcome. All supplies are included!



May 5 A Private Tour of the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy

Tour: 10:00 A.M. MEET IN THE MUSEUM PARKING LOT AT 9:30 A.M.

Members: \$10.00 Non-members: \$15.00 A portion of the proceeds goes to LRWC.

Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy in Litchfield is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of waterfowl and wetlands through research, education, and conservation action. The Conservancy maintains a diverse collection of live waterfowl from around the world with an active breeding program that provides birds to reintroduction programs and educational facilities.



May 19 A Musical Evening with Folk Artist Willie Nininger

7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

Members: \$10.00 Non-members: \$15.00

A mainstay of the Greenwich Village folk scene in the 70's and 80's, Willie has performed in revues, clubs, and concerts across the USA and around the world. He is a highly acclaimed song writer and has developed a reputation as a great folk humorist. He has gained notoriety as a top flatpick guitarist with his solo acoustic bluegrass version of the *William Tell Overture*. The New York Post calls him "an all-smiling-down-right charming performer." The Boston Herald said, "Nininger was hilarious in and between songs, displaying a sly and daffy wit."

Clip & Mail

- _____ **Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time** Suggested Donation: \$5.00
- _____ **World Café: Judy Handler and Mark Levesque** Member: \$15.00 Non member: \$20.00
- _____ **In the Footsteps of the Leatherman** Member: \$15.00 Non member: \$20.00
- _____ **Spring Landscape in Watercolor**..... Member: \$30.00 Non-member: \$40.00
- _____ **Private Tour of LRWC** Member: \$10.00 Non-member: \$15.00
- _____ **Musical Evening with Willie Nininger** Member: \$10.00 Non-member: \$15.00

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please circle one: member non-member

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

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



IN SPRING

RIPPLING and gurgling and giggling along,
 The brooklets are singing their little spring song;
 Laughing and lively and gay as can be,
 They are skipping right merrily down to the sea.



WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST DAVE ROSGEN TAKES FLIGHT

Center Wildlife Biologist David Rosgen completed his last day of work at White Memorial on January 31st. Here since 1999, Dave was responsible for wildlife monitoring on the property as well as teaching programs and leading nature walks. Dave will not be leaving us entirely as he will continue his association with White Memorial as a volunteer working on the Bluebird Nest Box Program, which he started many years ago. In addition, we can expect to still see Dave out with his spotting scope and binoculars at White Memorial and other birding spots throughout northwestern Connecticut, monitoring the comings and goings of birds throughout the year.



Love Birds! Beverly Baldwin and George Stephens

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BEVERLY BALDWIN AND GEORGE STEPHENS

Story and Photo by Gerri Griswold

Bev Baldwin and George Stephens are seriously wonderful people and seriously fabulous volunteers who have been Conservation Center members since 2001. “One of the reasons we joined”, says Baldwin, “was to pay back for all the years we used the grounds for free!”

Baldwin began volunteering steadfastly in 2000. Most of her duties involve the Museum’s Gift Shop. George volunteers his time birding in general. Many of the notable sightings seen posted in our information kiosk are George’s findings.

Bev hails from Milford. George is from Wolcott. George hiked at Sleeping Giant State Park, near the campus at Quinnipiac University, where he was enrolled as a psychology student. Bev received an Associate Degree in Human Services (gerontology) from Naugatuck Valley Community College. She too enjoyed walking in the woods. It was a place for “sorting out thoughts.”

“You are NOT going to tell about the bar that was torn down shortly after we met!”...The couple married in 1973. When George’s Seymour-based family business moved to Plymouth, George and Bev moved to Torrington. “We came to Torrington looking for a place to hike and found White Memorial.” Stephens says, “The woods is our church and our marriage counselor.”

Bev always enjoyed her backyard birds BUT “It was never a thrill straining my neck with binoculars”. Coming to White Memorial changed her view of birding and really ignited an interest in developing her skills as a birder. “Our first trip to Cape May we didn’t even have binoculars!” Stephens’ love of birds stretches back to his Wolcott childhood, his mother’s bluebird boxes, and a pet parakeet named Colonel. One day at the Conservation Center George happened to mention his interest in birds to wildlife biologist Dave Rosgen and “That was it!” Stephens became hooked! When they hit the trails together Baldwin remarks that she occasionally tells Stephens, “We are going to hike..not walk!”

Both Bev and George are active members of the New Haven Bird Club, Litchfield Hills Audubon Society, E-bird, Project Feeder Watch, and National Audubon. They are extremely active members of the Conservation Center and are always popping up at events ranging from astronomy talks to music coffee houses.

When he is not chasing birds around, the retired Stephens likes trying his hand at wildlife rehabilitation. (Gift shop manager Lois Melaragno has been his mentor.) He also works on the “honey do” list Baldwin has left for him! Baldwin works full time for Durable Medical Equipment in Naugatuck and in her spare time enjoys reading. Their son, Jason, recently published a book on Kindle entitled “Days Like These” about his college days. Says Baldwin, “I HOPE it’s fictional!”

It is quite obvious that Bev Baldwin and George Stephens love White Memorial...certainly for the programs, the birding, and the trails...all the reasons we all love White Memorial. But what keeps them coming back is Alain White’s legacy “That this organization (the White Memorial Foundation) cares about nature and our environment and have honored Alain’s vision of saving this land.”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**31ST ANNUAL
FAMILY NATURE DAY**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

FEATURING

FALCONER BRIAN BRADLEY

RIVERSIDE REPTILES

THE BAT LADY

ATKA THE WOLF

MUSIC BY

ANDES MANTA

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SHOP**

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FOR MOM, DAD, AND GRAD!**



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**“Every spring
is the only
spring -
a perpetual
astonishment.”**

Ellis Peters

**NORTHWEST
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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NATIVE PLANT SALE**

**APRIL 20—22, 2012
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