

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the
White Memorial
Conservation Center

Vol. XXIX No. 1
Winter 2011

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



New England Cottontail

Photo credit: Mike Marchand / NHFG

Status of the New England Cottontail

By Howard Kilpatrick, Wildlife Biologist, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Background

The New England Cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) is the only rabbit native to Connecticut. It is different from the introduced Eastern Cottontail (*S. floridanus*), in that the body size is a little smaller and the ears are a little shorter with a dark outline around the outer edge. Most notably, the Eastern Cottontail (EC) usually has a white spot on its forehead and the New England



New England Cottontail with characteristic black spot between the ears and dark line along the edge of the ears

fields, regenerating forest, or dense thickets will be used by cottontails. In Connecticut, both species of cottontails often are found occupying the same patch of habitat.

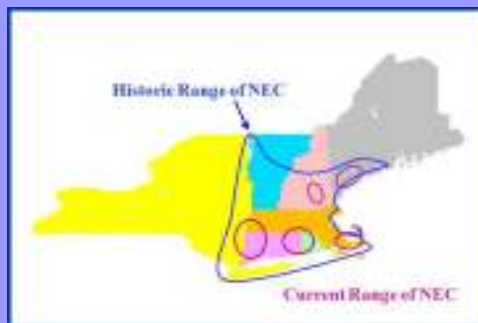


Figure 1: Historic and current distribution of the New England Cottontail

Historically, NEC were found throughout Connecticut and regionally throughout most of New England and eastern portions of New York (Figure 1). Currently, remnant populations of NEC have been documented in a small portion of their historic range (Figure 1). Based on current distribution data, it is believed that NEC have been extirpated from Vermont. Connecticut appears to contain the largest proportion of the remaining cottontail population in the northeast. The decline in distribution is attributed primarily to habitat loss and habitat fragmentation and partially attributed to increased competition from the more adaptable EC.

In 1999, the NEC was listed as a wildlife species of regional conservation concern in the northeastern United States by the Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee. In 2000, a petition to list the New England Cottontail as

Threatened or Endangered and designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act was filed by the Biodiversity Legal Foundation, Conservation Action Project, Endangered Small Animals Conservation Fund, and Defenders of Wildlife. In 2006, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service designated the NEC as a candidate for Threatened or Endangered status. The Connecticut Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy identified the NEC as a species of greatest conservation need. Since 2000, the Connecticut Wildlife Division has been collecting data on distribution, movements, and survival of NEC and EC in Connecticut.

Distribution

To document current distribution of NEC, data were collected from live-trapping, fecal pellet collection, donations from hunter-harvest specimens, and collection of vehicle-killed specimens. Differences in skull morphology or DNA analysis was used to confirm species of cottontail. Initially, samples were collected in towns where historic records of NEC existed. Currently, samples are being collected in towns that have no previous record of NEC. Identifying current distribution of NEC is important for developing future management strategies. Over a 10-year period (October 2000-September 2010), 1,403 rabbit specimens were examined from 116 of 169 (69%) towns in Connecticut. Among all methods of collection, 76% of specimens were EC, 10% were NEC, and 14% were unconfirmed. Of these samples where species ID was confirmed, 88% were EC and 12% were NEC.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

NEC were found in 29 of 116 (25%) towns and EC were found in 110 of 116 (95%) towns (Figure 2). Twelve additional towns were found to have NEC by the University of New Hampshire between 2003-2006 through fecal DNA analysis. (Figure 2)

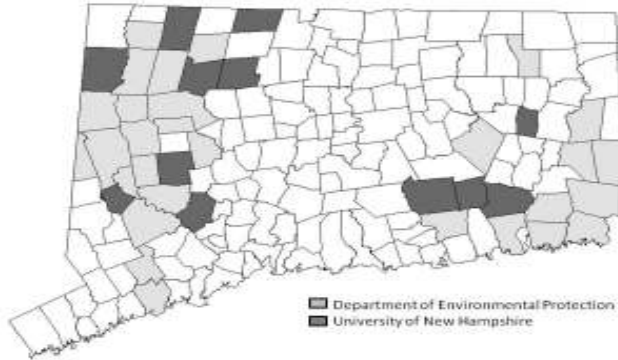


Figure 2. Distribution of New England Cottontails confirmed by the CT Wildlife Division (29 towns; GRAY) from October 2000-May 2009 and the University of New Hampshire (12 towns shaded BLACK) from 2003-2006.

Movement and Mortality

Knowledge of animal movements is important for developing effective management strategies. An animal's "home range" indicates how much space an individual needs throughout the year to find adequate food and cover for survival. An animal's "core area" is the most important part of the home range and is where the animal spends most of its time. Since 2001, rabbits have been captured and fitted with radio collars at 7 different study sites. Radio telemetry was used to collect data on size of home range and core area of cottontail rabbits in various habitats. Radio collars also had a built-in mortality sensor which was activated if the rabbit remained motionless for 8 hours. This allowed mortality rates and cause of mortality to be evaluated. Collared rabbits were monitored 6 times per week (3 day readings from sunrise to sunset and 3 night readings from sunset to sunrise) for up to 1 year or until mortality occurred. A total of 181 cottontails were live-trapped and equipped with radio transmitters for collecting data on home range use and causes of mortality. However, because of high mortality rate, adequate data was collected from 16 rabbits for delineating annual home ranges, from 29 rabbits for delineating winter home ranges, and from 47 rabbits for delineating breeding season home ranges. Size of annual home ranges and core areas averaged 10.2 and 2.6 acres respectively. Size of winter home ranges and core areas averaged 7.1 and 1.6 acres respectively. On average, a NEC will spend the winter months in an area of about 7 acres in size and will spend most of that time in an area just less than 2 acres in size. Mortality rates were high during the winter months and relatively low during the non-winter months. Rabbits move very little during winter and experience

high mortality rates. Rabbits that inhabited extremely dense thickets during winter had smaller home ranges and experienced higher survival rates. Creating dense patches of thickets can increase amount of winter foods and cover and will significantly enhance survival rates.

Habitat Enhancement

Availability of high quality winter habitat is key to expanding cottontail populations. The Wildlife Division is implementing habitat improvement projects at 5 locations in Connecticut to further enhance existing habitat occupied by NEC. These habitat enhancement projects are expected to be completed within the next year and will be conducted at the Goshen, Roraback, Zemko Pond, and Housatonic River Wildlife Management Areas as well as the Camp Columbia State Forest (which borders White Memorial). These projects will involve removing mature forest trees to enhance understory vegetation growth, providing more food and cover for NEC and many other early successional wildlife species such as Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse.

Captive breeding program

Many states are now initiating habitat enhancement projects to create more habitat for cottontail rabbits. However, creating suitable habitat does not mean that rabbits will naturally colonize these new habitats. Several factors to consider are: a) where is the closest population of cottontails, and b) do they have the ability to disperse across the landscape and colonize these new habitats? Because the answers to these questions are unclear, a regional effort is being initiated to develop a captive breeding program for NEC. The initial phase of the project is a cooperative effort between the Roger Williams Zoo, the United State Fish and Wildlife Service, the Rhode Island Fish and Wildlife, the University of Rhode Island, and the Connecticut Wildlife Division. Initially, 6 NEC will be captured in Connecticut and transported to the Zoo for the captive breeding program. The pilot program will focus on developing a protocol to care for and maintain a healthy rabbit population in captivity and for them to successfully breed. After the details have been worked out in the pilot study, the plan is to expand the facility and to maintain genetic diversity in the captive population. Offspring from the captive breeding program will be released in these newly created habitats.

Rabbit Specimen Found?

If a road-killed rabbit is encountered, please place it in a cold place and contact the Wildlife Division at the Session Woods Office in Burlington (860 - 675 - 8136) or the Franklin Wildlife Office in North Franklin (860 - 642 - 7239) for specimen pick up. Also, contact the Franklin office if you know of a location in a town that has an abundance of rabbit sign and NEC have not been documented in that town (Figure 2).



21st Annual Museum Sleep-In

Friday, April 29 5:00 P.M. to Saturday, April 30, 12:00 Noon
Members \$50.00 Non-Members \$70.00

Call the Museum 860-567-0857 for a registration form or visit our website
www.whitememorialcc.org

WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER ANNOUNCES ANNUAL YEAR-END APPEAL

Our 2010 calendar was brimming with exciting and original events! A flotilla showed up to a *Celebration of the Bantam River*. At our *Serenade for the Bats* you counted 309 Big Brown Bats as they softly swept into the night sky. *Travels with a Porcupine* brought the subject's top authority to our Ceder Room for one of our most memorable lectures yet. A fireside reading with author David Leff, the *Take a Walk Series*, *Llama Packing Through Five Ponds*..you just couldn't get enough! Your children anticipated and participated in programs which will

serve as a foundation for their love of nature for years to come.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a contribution card and envelope. A donation, no matter how small, will indicate that we are serving your interests in the best possible way.

You can also support the Conservation Center throughout the year with **Planned Giving**, using **Sterling Planet**, and shopping **Amazon.com** through our website! Ask for details!

The Center Staff thanks you for your kind support. We wish you very happy holidays and hope to see you frequently in 2011!

BATS, BUTTERFLIES, BIRDS OF PREY THE 29TH ANNUAL FAMILY NATURE DAY SOARS!

Warm weather and sunny skies heralded in the 29th Annual Family Nature Day on September 25, 2010. The happy crowd of nearly 800 fed their minds, bodies, and souls with great food and superb programming provided by *Wingmasters*, *Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory*, and *The Bat Lady*. For the third consecutive year Stilt Dancers *Mortal Beasts and Deities* towered over guests dressed as a hawk and doves. Music and comedy courtesy of natural wonder Nancy Tucker kept our guests in stitches.

The Conservation Center Staff and the Education & Activities Committee are deeply grateful to **Northwest Community Bank**, **Litchfield Bancorp**, **The Connecticut Community Foundation**, **Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation** and an anonymous donor for giving this beautiful event its wings!



Belinda Melaragno of Plymouth was the first prize winner in our Kayak Raffle made possible by Dave Faber, Owner of CT Outdoors, LLC

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

It's that time of year again. Holiday "must haves" are already in all of the stores and it is not even Halloween! Heck, as I write this, it's not even Columbus Day. I guess this is because our world has become so full of "stuff" that the retail merchants want us to buy their "stuff" before we buy the "stuff" from their competition. In a weird way, it makes sense.

However, when we buy new "stuff" we have lots of old "stuff" to get rid of and that is the rub. What do you do with the old "stuff" when you get the new "stuff"? Well, in our house you recycle. I hope you do in your house, too.

"But where?" you say. Eyeglasses can go to the Lions Club. Many hearing aid companies take used hearing aids and give them to the needy. Sneakers build new playgrounds and tennis courts. Visit: <http://www.nikereuseashoe.com/>. www.cristina.org refurbishes computers and pairs them with people who have special needs. Office supply stores like

Staples take used ink cartridges from computer printers. Cell phones can go to abused women in many communities. All kinds of "stuff" finds its way to Goodwill and Salvation Army. Go to www.earth911.com and search its database for the nearest recycling facilities. You can even get rid of your technology "stuff" online at www.gazelleforgood.com and make a little money doing so. You might not get rich getting rid of your "stuff", but you will keep it out of the incinerator.

I recently did a bunch of Christmas shopping at a fall festival in an area church. Hardworking members of the church had set up a "new or nearly new" boutique. Items that had been donated that were in excellent condition (most in their original boxes) were set up boutique style. Everything from brand new stuffed animals to leather gloves was offered at unheard of prices. Some of the leftovers from that sale were going to the Veteran's Home for the patients to do a little

shopping of their own.

If getting a Christmas tree is on your "to do" list this year, consider getting a "real tree". One acre of growing Christmas trees provides oxygen for about 18 people. Plus, birds and other critters can make their homes in and around the trees. The tree can be chipped and used as mulch after the holidays. Artificial trees are made from petroleum and metal and are often made overseas. They are nearly impossible to recycle, so will end up in an incinerator. Plus, consider the shipping costs of bringing those "trees" to America.

Make a difference this holiday season - with a little creative thought it really is pretty easy.



PLAYING THE NUMBERS GAME: THE EVOLUTION OF A BIRD BANDER

BY GORDON LOERY, FORMER WMCC DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

In the first installment of this series I wrote about the seeds of my banding career planted in my boyhood. In the second I described how my experiences during World War II threatened to kill off the young seedlings before they reached full maturity. This third installment is the story of the seedlings recovery with the help of my collaborating with workers in other disciplines. The advice of Prof. Demas (see part II) was bearing fruit.

D. Yale Conservation Program

In the fall of 1950 I became a member of the first class of the Yale Conservation Program headed by Paul Sears. It was decidedly inter-departmental. There was to be only one required core course per year offered in the department itself. Each student could then choose his or her other courses from any other related departments (biology, government, etc.) or schools (forestry, law, etc.) depending on his or her special interests and needs. Even the required course proved to be inter-departmental at times. For example, when G. Evelyn Hutchinson, the well-known ecologist with wide-ranging interests, was teaching it he had us spend some time studying a display of English landscape paintings at the Yale Art Gallery. All of this fit nicely into the collaborative direction I was heading.

In the summer between the first and second years at Yale each student was required to collect data for a thesis. In my preparation for this I obtained a job with the CL&P. company collecting data about the natural resources of the Connecticut River watershed. The river starts in southern Canada, forms the boundary between Vermont and New Hampshire, and continues on through western Massachusetts and central Connecticut to Long Island Sound. The CL&P was interested in helping to establish an inter-state Connecticut River Watershed Association., so I spent the summer visiting the four state capitals collecting data.

At the end of the summer my employers decided they would like to have the data put in a form that could be used to introduce the new watershed association to the public. As a graduate student I was able to go up into the stacks of the Yale Library looking for ideas. I came across a book that consisted of a series of maps of the same area, each one describing something different about its natural resources. The CL&P liked the idea. The next question was who could design the maps. I went over to the Yale Art School and found several graduate students looking for a project. They were excited about the idea and went right to work on it. For a cover they took a photograph of a Connecticut River sign at one of its bridges and added Your Valley.

Your Future. The map book proved to be a success and was published. For me it demonstrated the value of collaboration.

E. White Memorial Foundation

1. Opening Up

In the 1950's the White Memorial Foundation trustees began making plans for the 50th anniversary of their organization in Litchfield and Morris. Alain White had acquired 4,000 acres of undeveloped land around Bantam Lake, much of it abandoned farm land, and turned it over to the newly created Foundation in 1913. It had remained relatively isolated from the surrounding communities in its early years. Some of the Foundation trustees, including Dillon Ripley, thought this would be a good time to open up the semi-closed preserve to the public. Ripley's interest in the Yale Conservation Program led him to recruit me to help put this proposal into practice.

2. Getting Started

The opening up process produced a number of new educational programs and facilities. We established a new summer Day Camp for children with science teacher Tom Malley on the staff. We persuaded Conservationist Doc Keinholz to transfer his University of Connecticut summer credit course for teachers from the Storrs campus to the White Memorial using the second floor of my house as a dormitory and an enormous tent in back of the house as a classroom. Finally we introduced natural history classes in the 6th grades of the local schools culminating in an all-day spring field trip to the White Memorial. Then after some discussion we converted the Whites old summer home into a natural history museum. The latter included dioramas of Foundation sites with backgrounds painted by Perry Wilson of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and his protégé Ruth Billard. We also designed a self-guiding nature trail starting and ending at the new museum which further tied the latter to its surroundings.

Our research programs from the beginning featured birds thanks in no small degree to the leadership of Mitchell Van Winkle, Jr. who was about to succeed his father as chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. We located two young, highly recommended field ornithologists, Andrew Magee and Jim Cavanaugh, and hired them to spend the migration and nesting seasons at the Foundation. They returned year after year repeating the same roadside and breeding bird censuses and we published the results. Then in 1958 we established a bird banding station at my house in Morris.

3. Bird Banding

I had observed bird banding at both National and Massachusetts Audubon Centers

and was impressed. When I became settled at the White Memorial I discovered Alex Bergstrom in West Hartford. He was a Hartford Insurance Company executive who somehow found the time to simultaneously carry on an active banding career. Some years later my wife Louise and I went on a field trip to East Africa. When our leader, who was also a bander, found out we came from Connecticut he asked if we knew Alex Bergstrom who was the source of his mist nets. Alex became my tutor and helped me obtain a banding permit from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The bands are made of light, rust-resistant aluminum and are slit on one side so they can be opened and re-closed around a bird's leg. They come in different sizes and a bird's leg does not become thicker with age so they will never become too tight. They can move up and down freely on the leg but cannot come off over the foot. Each band has a unique number (see part II) on file in the federal government's banding office.

In banding it helps to be ambidextrous. I hold the bird in my right hand, firmly enough to immobilize it without injuring it, and apply the band with my left hand. I began by catching the birds in Potter traps baited with enticing food. When the bird hops in to get the food a door comes down behind it. I have only seen one species of birds escape from one of these traps – Starlings. They can open a closed door with their bills and fly away.

Then Alex Bergstrom began importing mist nets from Japan. Birds fly into them without seeing them. One can catch a greater variety of birds in greater numbers in the mist nets but many of them are just transients and all are badly traumatized. I have thus found I can re-catch a much higher percentage of returns from previous years in the traps. In the three mid-winter months (November, December, and January) I will catch an average of 160 Black-capped Chickadees a year and over 100 of them will be returning for 5 or more years. These old timers learn they are perfectly safe in the traps. When I go out to get them they stand motionless and look at me as if to say "Come on, get me out of here and get it over with". I knew the resulting capture-mark-recapture data was valuable and so, at the risk of being labeled out-of-date, I have continued to concentrate on trapping. I then began looking for statisticians who could help me by analyzing the data. They in turn might be able to benefit by testing and demonstrating the usefulness of their often complex, sophisticated models. A mutually beneficial collaboration.



LITCHFIELD HILLS FOOD SYSTEMS, INC.
RECIPIENT OF THE 2010 WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION CONSERVATION AWARD
 BY KEITH CUDWORTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award was established in 1964 to honor an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to the environment. To date, 16 organizations and 27 individuals have received this recognition. Each year the award, a bronze rendering of a beaver, the White Memorial's symbol, which was created by Peggy Reventlow of Litchfield, is presented at the Foundation's annual dinner. This year's recipient is the **Litchfield Hills Food Systems, Inc.**

Accepting the award for **Litchfield Hills Food Systems**, was their president William Burgess. In presenting the award to Mr. Burgess, White Memorial's President Arthur Diedrick remarked on the many aspects of their organization. Established in 2006 the group has a mission to make a sustainable difference in "human conservation" by connecting sustainable agriculture, local food, and active healthy lifestyles. In addition to their "face to the community", the Litchfield Hills Farm-Fresh Market, they also promote Edible School Gardens with local schools and are promoting Rod Dixon's KIDS MARATHON program. This last program allows children ages 7-12 to learn the value of exercise and nutrition habits of healthy living.

The **Litchfield Hills Food Systems** has made and continues to make a significant contribution to the quality of life in Northwestern Connecticut.

Through their promotion of sustainable agriculture and healthy life

style education, they have made a significant contribution to the environment.

For more information about the Litchfield Hills Food Systems, be sure to check out their web site at www.litchfieldhillsfood.org.



Food for Thought: WMF President and CEO Arthur Diedrick (L) presents Litchfield Hills Food Systems, Inc. President Bill Burgess with the 2010 WMF Conservation Award.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
ROBYN DINDA
 STORY AND PHOTO BY GERRI GRISWOLD

There could be no better volunteer to feature in our winter edition of *Sanctuary* than Litchfield native Robyn Dinda. "I love the coziness of winter...pot of soup on the stove... going out at 10 PM to shovel snow. I love to rake leaves and shovel snow!" The depth of Robyn's love for being outdoors in any season (particularly autumn and winter) began as a child growing up on the same street in Litchfield where she lives today. "The neighborhood was filled with kids and dogs. I'd wear my pj's over my play clothes so I could just get up in the morning and go play." With White Memorial literally in her backyard Robyn, along with her two sisters and brother, had plenty of elbow room in which to discover nature. Winters provided ice skating on Duck Pond or cross-country skiing with her father. In Summer she'd mount her 36" Columbia bicycle...the one with no brakes and wearing no helmet and no knee pads go careening around Bantam Lake. "I dragged my feet along the road. There were always holes in the soles of my shoes."

Many of us know Robyn as The Queen of the Bantam River. Dinda's interest in kayaking began over a decade ago on a whim, "I was out on a hike with a friend in Collinsville and saw a kayaker. I thought I'd give it a try". She took classes and even dabbled in white water kayaking on the Shepaug River. Today the popular interpretive kayak trips she leads along the Bantam River attract legions of boaters. Her passion for sharing the beauty of the river

is infectious.

In recent years, Robyn became a Master Wildlife Conservationist for the Connecticut DEP something else about which she is extremely passionate, "from managing mosquitoes to beavers to pine forests...I'd love to do this every day of my life." These credentials certainly have come in handy when she volunteers to help WMCC Research Director James Fischer with his projects. Over several years, Dinda has assisted with vernal pool monitoring, deer density survey, frog survey, and salamander cover board research. About Fischer she says, "I just think his energy is contagious. He lights up and everyone in the room gets fired up too!" Takes one to know one!

Dinda has worked at the Torrington Savings Bank for twelve years and has two adult children, Tim and Amy, who (go figure) love the outdoors! She also serves as Vice President in the Litchfield Hills Audubon Society. "They speak my language", and is very active in Junior Audubon. "Our children should be outdoors too!"

There is no room in her life for television. In her free time, Robyn loves to paint. She is self taught and incredibly good! Her favorite subjects are taken from nature...a pine grove on a frozen day...and geese...she adores geese! "Because of the fall, their beauty, and listening to their wings flap."

In the future her dream is to answer a calling to climb Tanzania's Mount

Kilimanjaro. Next summer she will travel to Iceland on a natural history exploration of the remote northwest fjords, surveying majestic bird cliffs in search of puffins, hiking rugged landscapes, and dipping her toes in geothermal pools dating back a thousand years to the Sagas.

Robyn Dinda truly personifies nature... a breath of spring, a bolt of lightning, a rushing river, a perfect snowflake, a soaring hawk, a graceful doe...another beautiful fixture we are so grateful to have here at White Memorial.



Queen of the Bantam River: Robyn Dinda

Winter Calendar of Events

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

JANUARY

- 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Museum Closed

2011!

Winter Tracking Club

January 2, February 12, March 19



Three Red Trees School of Natural Living instructors, Andrew Dobos and Deneen Bernier take you wildlife tracking through the winter woods.

See page 7 for details and registration.

- 8 **Christmas in Yellowstone**

From the PBS series *Nature*, take a breathtaking look at deep winter within America's first national park.

2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room.



- 8 **An Evening with Todd Stoughton and the Still Hillbillies**

A toasty mix of folk, blues, and pop music!

See page 7 for details and registration.

- 12 - 18 **Museum Children Free Week***

Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. John Morosani
In Memory of Remy Edmund Morosani

- 15 **Family Ice Fishing Workshop**

CT DEP Fisheries experts teach you everything about water, fish & fishing, how to think like a fish and have some safe fun! An outstanding opportunity to learn from the best in the classroom and on the ice! Bring a lunch and dress for the weather! **FREE admission.**

Pre-registration required.

10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.,

A.B. Ceder Room and Ongley Pond



- 17 **Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
Museum Closed

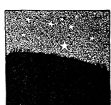
- 19 **Take a Walk Series**

Ice Harvesting
with Jeff Greenwood
and James Fischer

See page 7 for details
and registration.



- 21 **Star Party: Winter Constellations**



Lecture with star gazing to follow
weather permitting.

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.,

A. B. Ceder Room

- 22 **BIG World of Elephants!**



Rebecca Sterley shares her
experiences with pachyderms both
here and abroad!

2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

- 29 **Cut It Out! The Local History and Practice of Ice Harvesting**

Ice once harvested from Bantam Lake was used throughout the year! Visit the Museum display on ice harvesting, walk to the old ice house ruins, and watch Jeff Greenwood and James Fischer demonstrate ice cutting the old fashioned way! **Dress for the weather!** Hot beverages and snacks provided.

Please pre-register. 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.,
Meet in the Museum.

- 30 **Cross Country Ski Trip to Schermerhorn Hill with Robyn Dinda**

Pack a lunch! Meet at the intersection of Route 63/61. 10:30 A.M. For more information call Robyn at 860-567-0738.

FEBRUARY

- 5 **The Boxcar Lilies**

Stunning harmonies. Classic American/Folk music. This evening includes a pot luck supper.

See page 7 for details and registration.

- 12 **The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: A Ranger's Perspective**

Sit back, enjoy lunch, and be amazed by the breathtaking photography and stories presented by Gary Melnsyn!

See page 7 for details and registration.

- 16 **Take a Walk Series**



Winter Walk in Catlin Woods
and Marsh with Dave Rosgen

See page 7 for details
and registration.

- 16-22 **Museum Children Free Week***

Courtesy of The Laurel Ridge Foundation in
Memory of
Francesca M. Thompson, M.D.

- 18, 22, 23 **School Vacation Day Programs**

Call the Museum in mid-January
for details 860-567-0857.

- 18 - 21 **Great Backyard Bird Count**

Email Dave Rosgen:
dave@whitememorialcc.org
for more information.

- 19 **Winter Wildlife Tracking
Full Day Workshop**

With Andy Dobos and Deneen Bernier

See page 7 for details and registration.



- 21 **Presidents Day**
Museum Closed



- 26 **A Celebration of Connecticut Maple Syrup: Lecture and Pancake Breakfast!**
See page 7 for details and registration.



MARCH

- 2 - 8 **Museum Children Free Week***

Courtesy of Arthur and Tara Stacom Diedrick
in Honor of Claire and Matthew Stacom

- 5 **Hiking the Pine Island Trail
with Jigger and Jolley**

Learn how oxen have served man through the centuries and learn to drive this darling duo yourself! Lunch included!

See page 7 for details and registration.

- 12 **Winter Birds & Early Spring Migrants**

with Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen

Meet in the Museum parking lot. 2:00 P.M.

- 16 **Take a Walk Series**

Explore Campbell Falls
with Jeff Greenwood

See page 7 for details
and registration.



- 19 **Late Winter Walk Through the Cathedrals with Gerri Griswold**

2:00 P.M., Meet at the Museum.

- 23-29 **Museum Children Free Week***

In Memory of Louise W. Willson

- 26 **Nancy Tucker's Lava Lamp
Rock Out Spectacular!**

Enjoy a very special evening of molten music
and explosive comedy!

See page 7 for details and registration.

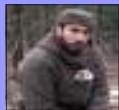


The way a crow shook down on me
The dust of snow from a Hemlock tree
Has given my heart a change of mood
And saved some part of a day
I had rued.

Robert Frost

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

Adult Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Workshops: Winter 2011



Wildlife Tracking Club
 Sunday, January 2, Saturday, February 12, March 19 10:00 A.M.
 Fee PER SESSION: Members: \$7.00 Non-Members: \$10.00

Get to know our beloved wildlife much better with primitive skills specialists Andy Dobos and Deneen Bernier. Meet in front of the Museum. Wear warm clothes and waterproof boots!



An Evening with Todd Stoughton and the Still Hillbillies
 Saturday, January 8, 2011, 7:00 P.M. A. B. Ceder Room
 Registration Fee: Members: \$10.00 Non-Members: \$15.00

Enjoy a toasty mix of folk, blues, and pop standards and originals. Todd and his band of music makers are no strangers to WMCC. Come hear why we love them! Light refreshments will be available.



Take a Walk Series: Ice Harvesting
 Wednesday, January 19, 2011, 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
 Registration Fee: Members: \$3.00 Non-Members: \$5.00

WMCC Education Director Jeff Greenwood and Research Director James Fischer demonstrate how ice was cut and moved the old fashioned way! Dress for the weather! Meet in the Museum.



Coffee House: The Boxcar Lilies: Pot Luck BYOB Dinner
 Saturday, February 5, 2011, 7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room
 Registration Fee: Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$18.00

Spectacular harmonies and classic Americana/Folk pieces define these lovely ladies! Bring a dish for dinner and your own wine or beer. We'll supply dinnerware, soft drinks, coffee, tea, and dessert!



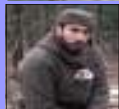
The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: A Ranger's Perspective
 Saturday, February 12, 2010 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room
 Registration Fee: Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$20.00

Wildlife Photographer Gary Melnysyn spent time working as a park ranger at Yellowstone. Supported by his breathtaking photos, learn facts about the park, its geology, and wildlife. **LUNCH INCLUDED!**



Take a Walk Series: Winter Walk in Catlin Woods and Marsh
 Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
 Registration Fee: Members: \$3.00 Non-Members: \$5.00

This area contains a diverse array of habitats. Some 20 species of birds and a half dozen mammals call it home. Wildlife Biologist Dave Rosgen leads the way. Dress for the weather. Meet in the Museum.



Winter Wildlife Tracking Workshop
 Saturday, February 19, 2011, 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
 Registration Fee: Members: \$45.00 Non-Members: \$50.00

Spend the day outdoors following tracks and sign. Gain insight into the animal's world. Dress warm with lots of layers! Wear good boots. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Meet in the Museum.



Pancake Breakfast: Celebration of Connecticut Maple Syrup!
 Saturday, February 26, 2011, 9:00 A.M., A. B. Ceder Room
 Registration Fee: Members: \$10.00 Non-Members: \$15.00

Delisse Cable owner of Brookview Sugar House in Morris spreads the joy of maple sugaring in our state. Learn about the threat of the Asian Longhorned Beetle. Gerri Griswold makes magic in the kitchen!



Hiking the Pine Island Trail with Jigger and Jolley
 Saturday, March 5, 2010, 11:00 A.M., **INCLUDES LUNCH!**
 Registration Fee: Members: \$20.00 Non-Members: \$25.00

Follow this darling brace of oxen along the sweeping stretches of the Pine Island Trail. Learn about their service to man through the centuries. Lead them yourself! End with lunch in the Ceder Room!



Take a Walk Series: Explore Campbell Falls with Jeff Greenwood
 Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
 Registration Fee: Members: \$3.00 Non-Members: \$5.00

This state park was one of numerous plots given by the Whites to the State of Connecticut. It features an impressive waterfall with its associated geology. Bring a lunch! Meet in the Museum.



Nancy Tucker's Lava Lamp Rock Out Spectacular!
 Saturday, March 26, 2011, 7:00 P.M., Carriage House
 Registration Fee: Members: \$12.00, Non-Members: \$15.00

Swing into spring with the warm comedy and molten music of Nancy Tucker! Lava is the theme. You are encouraged to bring your own lava lamp to illuminate the room. Surprises galore! Refreshments!

Chip & Mail

<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Tracking: Jan 2 __ Feb 12 __ March 19__	Member: \$7.00	Non Member: \$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Todd Stoughton.....	Member: \$ 10.00	Non Member: \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Harvesting.....	Member: \$3.00	Non Member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Boxcar Lilies.....	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$18.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.....	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Catlin Woods.....	Member: \$3.00	Non Member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Tracking Workshop.....	Member: \$45.00	Non Member: \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Maple Celebration.....	Member: \$10.00	Non Member: \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Jigger & Jolley.....	Member: \$20.00	Non Member: \$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Campbell Falls.....	Member: \$3.00	Non Member: \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Tucker.....	Member: \$12.00	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.



CEU's available



Make Check Payable to WMCC
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P.O. Box 368, Litchfield, CT 06759

For more information call 860-567-0857!

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 17, 2010
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

**STROLL THROUGH THE MUSEUM.
SIP MULLED CIDER. NIBBLE SWEET TREATS.
WRAP UP YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING.
TAKE 10% OFF ALL PURCHASES!**

OPEN HOUSE SPECIAL

BUY A NEW MEMBERSHIP FOR YOURSELF OR A LOVED ONE AND RECEIVE A FREE WMCC CANVAS TOTE!



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AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



The Great Outdoors

Grades 1 & 2:

Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, & 30

Grades 3 & 4:

Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22, & 29

3:45 - 5:15 P.M.

Details available in mid-February.

Call the Museum for more information 860-567-0857

Or visit us at www.whitememorialcc.org

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Give the Gift of Nature
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