

# ONE WORLD CONSERVATION CENTER



## Newsletter, Summer 2016

### A look back at the past year and ahead to summer

Youth programming grows each year. In-school programs have enriched classroom science lessons and provided field trips to the Greenberg Reserve. After-school nature programs have been offered at three elementary schools, fall, winter and spring. Home-schoolers have come to the Center for our Natural Science Toolkits. We count a total of 628 students served directly, a 200% increase from the previous year.

Our five “Valley We Live In” winter lectures drew a total of 225 citizens out on winter Thursday evenings. Our thanks to the speakers who donated their time and to the Bank of Bennington for its sponsorship. Our Director, Holly Betit, has added a new monthly series, “Third Thursdays,” informational presentations by local speakers on varied topics. The programs have served about 25 per Thursday and will continue through the summer.



Summer camps, Camp Mentor and Me and Camp Connect, will provide positive mentorship and an outdoor day camp experience for youth who will benefit from a supportive environment that helps them connect with the natural world through exploration, with support for overcoming barriers. A grant from the Agnes Lindsay Trust will provide assistance for campers who do not have local sponsorship. Our Center and Greenberg Reserve will also host field trips from other local day camp and summer programs.



*The Jewett Brook Wetland and its varied aquatic wildlife are easily and safely explored by summer campers, home schoolers, and local families out for an outdoors exploration. Far left, a frog as seen from the wetland boardwalk. Near, a home school group finds frogs and salamanders. The bridge, its rail seen at left, offers fine view of the birds overhead and the wetlands below.*

## Natural Science Toolkit For Home Schoolers

The final session of our Natural Science Toolkit (May 4) focused on Wetland Wonders. The session began at the center with information about life cycles, characteristics and adaptations of animals to a wetland habitat. Frogs, salamanders and turtles were the focus. Then all put on boots and grabbed pails to explore the ecology of Jewett Brook and the pond just below the bridge.

The Home School classes are led by Mary Batcheller, well-known in this area for her knowledge and leadership of birding.



We appreciate  
Support from the Business Community

### The Bank of Bennington

Bennington Car Wash and Xpress Lube  
Bennington Cooling and Heating  
Bennington Elks Lodge # 567  
Bennington Physical Therapy  
Bennington Potters  
Carbone Automotive  
GVH Studio  
Jason Morrissey, Attorney at Law  
Kaman Composites Vermont  
Knotty Pine Motel  
Love Cody & Company  
Monument Electric  
Quadra-Tek  
The Ira Allen House  
The Pharmacy, Inc.  
Wassicks Tire Service  
Williams Financial  
Wills Insurance, Inc.  
Yoga Place

Thank You!

## A Volunteer Leader

We are pleased to introduce and honor Mark Raymaker for his invaluable contributions as a volunteer. A resident of Shaftsbury, Mark has filled many bags with rubbish, put up two rows of bluebird boxes and preparing bat boxes for the Greenberg Reserve. Mark brings experience in the business world and has honed his volunteer muscles and know-how in New Zealand. Mark has also participated in most of our lectures and brings a breath of fresh air and energy to the Education Center. Thank you, Mark, for your willingness to give back to nature here at the One World Conservation Center.



*Volunteer!*

*Share your knowledge*

*Meet other volunteers*

*Help our community learn about local ecology*

*802-447-7419*

## Nature Exploration Kits!

We want to make an impact on our local environmental education. Thanks to funding from a private grant, we have developed six amazing Nature Exploration Kits for anyone to rent, explore, learn and enjoy. They were created with non-formal groups (homeschoolers, 4H, Scouts, etc.) in mind, but any family or group can rent one out for a 3-week time period.

Kit topics include birds, insects, bats, trees, mammals, and reptiles and amphibians. We call them “Kits,” but they are really trunks, filled with a lot of awesome “stuff” (the type of things that make us nature educators salivate) like specimens, skeletons, neat posters, books, stuffed animals, games, etc.. Each kit also includes 8-10 activities that are adaptable to a wide range of ages, abilities, and group sizes.



We needed nearly a year of work to put them together. Now we look forward to getting the word out and seeing the community response. For more information, go to our website, [www.oneworldconservationcenter.org](http://www.oneworldconservationcenter.org).

## Nymphfest at the One World Conservation Center

Biologists, entomologists and interested citizens from New England, plus a few from as far as Wisconsin, convened at the OWCC on a May weekend to share their knowledge of dragonflies. Nymphfest, sponsored by the Dragonfly Association of the Americas with support from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and organized by Kevin Hemeon of Hoosick Falls. The event is an opportunity for professionals, members of the Association and the general public to learn more about identifying dragonflies. The 40+ attendees listened to lectures on dragonfly collection and identification, then put their knowledge to use in the afternoon by identifying insects from the “skins” (exuviae) shed when the insects molt into adults. Ken Tennesen, currently writing a key to the North American genera of dragonflies and damselflies, and other biologists were on hand to help out. Sunday featured lectures on specific genera (groups) of dragonflies, again followed by more identification.



One World Conservation  
Center  
PO Box 415  
Bennington, VT 05201

## Forestry Series What every woodlot owner should know

July 19, 5:00 pm

Learn how to manage your woodlot: Topics, COVERTS, NRCS, VWA. The focus will be on wildlife habitat.

July 22, 5:00 pm

Forest Management Plans and timber harvests.

August 18, 5:00 pm

Vermont's Use Value Appraisal (UVA) program.

Registration is required for each program.  
For more information and to register  
Call the OWCC, 802-447-7419.