Noble, an SCSU professor of ornithology, botany, and biogeography for 34 years, was a patient and enthusiastic teacher. ANC director Ali Rabelman and past director Donna Lindgren were both students of his. For over 40 years, he studied and led wildlife tours in such places as Alaska, Russia, Africa, and Costa Rica, visiting 90 countries. A lifelong ornithologist, he compiled a lifetime birding list of over 6,000 species (814 species in North America) and a list of 512 species of North American bird nests. Noble wrote and co-authored 10 books on birds and wildlife, and was also a wildlife photographer. He worked with Roger Tory Peterson to revise the Eastern Field Guide to Birds. Noble also spoke at the UN with Jane Goodall on the state of the environment worldwide.

Biodiversity was of keen interest to Noble. During BioBlitz events, in which the goal is to find as many species as possible in a 24 hour period in a given area, Noble’s personal best was 1450 species in one day.

Noble was a member of many wildlife societies, including the American Birding Society and the New Haven Bird Club. He was a founding member of the board of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute for Natural History. His many awards include the Outstanding Conservationist Award from the CT Botanical Society and the American Birding Association’s Roger Tory Peterson Award.

Noble’s legacy is the life changing infusion of enthusiasm and awareness of nature and wildlife that he brought into the world for all. I have ever met.”

Roger Tory Peterson, a close friend, once stated, “Noble Proctor is the most knowledgeable naturalist on a local, United States and worldwide scale that I have ever met.”

Noble also spoke at the UN with Jane Goodall on the state of the environment worldwide.


Thanks for wonderful volunteer care provided to our scaled, furry, & feathered animals by: Sylvia Boucher, Gary Cohen, Marcia Cohen, Lisa Dickal, Kari Doering, Kimberly Leite, Kate Linderman, John McEachern, Charlin Pereira, Stefanie Reyher, Steven Schmidt, Joy Tait, Rich Wade, Susan Wilson, Tyler Yurman, Ansonia Animal Control, and AHS Life Skills students & mentors. Also many, many thanks to Katharine Jackson, DVM, & Bethany Veterinary Hospital (humane animal services); James Micinilio, DVM, & Countryside Veterinary Hospital; & Shary Parker, DVM (support & care of our wildlife and helpful animal ambassadors).

Thanks to the Ansonia Public Works Dept. for keeping our toilets functioning and our grass mowed, for repairs and summer painting, debris removal, and much more!

New Members: Jody Bishel, Pat Compton, Ann Deduk, Dr. Marc Diberardino, Give Greater, Virginia Grant, Susan Hawley, Pamela Bilotto, Delphine Krezel, Mark Madigosky, Heather Merrill, Stacey Moran, Carleton Newell, Jean Edwards, Deborah Ruderman, Constance and Scott Schatzlein, Super Softy, James Tomlinson, Lisa Zolikiewicz.

Other donations & services: Barbara Hertel (bird seed); Kathleen Kevallas (taxidermy raccoon); Ada Merrill (art tutition); Pitney Bowes (weeding & mulching RWPH butterfly bird garden, installing garden bench in ANC family organic garden); Mike Shea (interpretive signage for self guided trail); Janice Wivagg (bat houses).

Mud Day volunteers: Mike Belardinelli, Joan Bittencourt, Sylvia Boucher, Kathy Gambacini, Jordan Hamuka, Betty Laurella, Donna Lindgren, John McEachern, Nate Platt, Ashley Smith, Rich Wade, Viola Waldo, Martin Wigglesworth.

Summer 2015 program presenters: Karen Hicks & Ansonia School Readiness Council (Story Stroll, July 8); Food Corps (Family Organic Garden Program, July 10–Sept. 25); Susan Wilson (Pet Loss Grief Support Group, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13); Dawn Sotir & Jody Bishel (Back to Basics: Natural Dyes, Aug. 1); Chris Rowlands (music/comedy/puppet show, Aug. 7); Bob Carruthers & New Haven Astronomical Society (Rocks in Space: Perseid Meteor Showers, Aug. 8); James Tully (Amazing World of Arthropods, Aug. 15); and of course Nature Center staff members for presenting many programs.

Birthday party presenters: Pat Evans, Kathy Gambacini, Dawn Sotir, James Tully.


Administrative assistance/clerical work: Kari Doering, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Bonnie Pelaccia, Pauline Sholtys, Rich Wade.

Hunting Season Safety

Year round, visitors to the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center often hear the Ansonia Rod and Gun Club’s shooting range activity, which is located on land adjacent to our park. In our 30-year-plus history, we have not had any “incidents” with these good neighbors, though the noise level they produce is sometimes a concern. The staff and wildlife in the park have become accustomed to it over the years. However, fall brings the hunting season, which runs through December 30. Hunting is not allowed in our park, but some of the adjacent land owners, such as State Forest land, do allow it, and this can be a concern to hikers. For your safety, we suggest that you wear brightly colored clothing when walking our trails. We recommend purchasing an orange safety vest at a sporting goods store. Avoid wearing white or woodland colors such as green and brown. Our park is staffed seven days a week. If you have any concerns while walking our trails, please call us at 203-736-1053.

Friends’ Focus
Fall 2015

Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI) exists to support the staff, the programs, and the vision of the Ansonia Nature Center.


Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI)
PARTY WITH THE ANIMALS and the Friends of the Ansonia

Nature Center, Inc. Five educational birthday party themes to choose from:

AWESOME AMPHIBIANS (SPRING & SUMMER ONLY)

BIRD BRAINS

INCREDIBLE INSECTS

REPTILES RULE

MAD FOR MAMMALS

2 hour party includes: 15 minute set up (parent/FANCI) 45 minute educational program (FANCI) 45 minute cake / presents (provided by parent) 15 minute cleanup (parent/FANCI)

Fee for family-level members $150.00, non-members $175.00

For more information please call (203) 736-1053.

The Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center’s Playground Revitalization Project

As you have read here in previous issues, the Nature Center staff and FANCI’s grant writing committee have been working hard to secure funding to rebuild the Ansonia Homegrown Playground. In addition to the work already done, all the proceeds from this year’s Autumn Fest will go toward the playground, and there will also be another upcoming fundraising event for this project. We welcome all those who would like to be part of this effort, so if you would like to be part of our fundraising committee, please send us your name, address, telephone number, email address, and how you can help us achieve our goal.

Nature Center Wish List: Gas Powered Hedge Trimmer • New Shed • Stackable Washer and Dryer • Laminator • Laptop Computer • Large Flat Screen for PowerPoint Presentations • Boardwalk Extension • Black Oil Sunflower Seeds • Natural History Lecture Series for Adults • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Students • Outdoor Classroom & Viewing Deck • Metal Leaf Rakes • Good Quality Hand Pruners and Loppers • Gift Certificates to Petland, Staples, and Art Supply Stores • and VOLUNTEERS for Co-Leading Natural History Walks • Nature Trail Monitoring • Adopt-A-Trail Groups • Exhibit Work • Playscape Restoration • Presenting FANCI Birthday Party Fundraisers!!!

Redwing Pond House Wish List: The RWPH Preschool is always grateful for paper donations, gardening supplies (hoses, spades, potting soil, etc), gift cards to Staples, Michaels, A.C. Moore, etc. for art supplies, and tree stumps! We have many thinly-sliced tree sections (we call them tree cookies!) that we use for building and paths outside, and we love larger stumps to sit and climb on!

October

O hushed October morning mild
Thy leaves have dropped to the fall;
To-morrow’s wind, if it be wild
Should waste them all
The crowns above the forest call;
To-morrow they may form and go
And, hark! the mellow month is all
Make the day seem to us less brief
The crows above the forest call;
To-morrow they may form and go
And, hark! the mellow month is all

For the grapes’ sake, if they were all
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes’ sake along the wall.

—Robert Frost

The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center meet at the Nature Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. All members of FANCI and interested folks are invited to attend.

Nature Center, Inc. Five educational birthday party themes to choose from:

AWESOME AMPHIBIANS (SPRING & SUMMER ONLY)

BIRD BRAINS

INCREDIBLE INSECTS

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MAD FOR MAMMALS

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Thy leaves have dropped to the fall;
To-morrow’s wind, if it be wild
Should waste them all
The crowns above the forest call;
To-morrow they may form and go
O hushed October morning mild
Begin the hours of this day slow
Make the day seem to us less brief
Hearts not averse to being beguiled
Beguile us in the way you know;
Release one leaf at break of day;
One from our trees, one far away;
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst
Slow, slow!

For the grapes’ sake, if they were all
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes’ sake along the wall.

—Robert Frost

The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI) as an information link between FANCI and its members.

Editors: Alison Rubelmann, Pauline Sholtys, Norma Jean Moore.

Mailing: Rich Wade.