

# BIRD CONSERVATION

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## BCR & BLITHEWOLD: ART FOR CONSERVATION

Large crowds and brisk art sales characterized the second annual paint-out and sale of the *New England Plein Air Painters, LLC*. This year, the event benefited the Blithewold estate in Bristol, RI and BCR. The outdoor painting group consists of among the most talented and well-known artists in New England.

On the beautiful weekend of July 9-10, 25 artists captured the grandeur of the century old mansion, arborum and gardens that sit on the shores of Narragansett Bay. A favorite site for visitors and artists alike were the groves of Giant Sequoias, which in New England can grow only near the coast. Other spectacular spots included the water garden (featured in the last newsletter), cutting garden, woodland garden, and the mansion itself.

Visitors to the event were treated as well to a gallery of recently completed artworks painted in New England. Many of the paint-



**A Giant Sequoia on the grounds of Blithewold was an irresistible subject for artists.**

ings featured the grounds of Blithewold itself, and additional works from Blithewold were made

available to purchasers as they were completed.

# BLITHEWOLD PHOTO GALLERY

***New  
England  
Plein Air  
Painters,  
Blithewold,  
& BCR***



**Photos (clockwise): New England Plein Air Painters; New England Plein Air Painters, LLC executives Barbara Lussier and T. A. Charron , and Blithewold Director Karen Binder; Artist in action: Michael Graves (right) talks with a visitor; Rhode Island Art League volunteers man the BCR information table; A visitor views recently completed works; The Blithewold Mansion.**

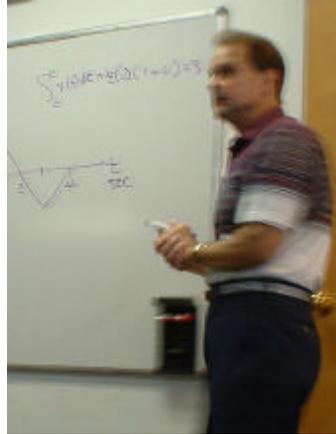
## BIRDS AND MATH

**M**ath and science are inseparable. Mathematics has correctly been referred to as the language of science, and indeed much of mathematical theory has developed in response to questions asked by scientists.

The connection between math and science is obvious in fields like physics and engineering, but it is no less true in conservation. Because many complex mathematical issues arise as research data are gathered by BCR, staff have been undergoing year-long training in calcu-

lus theory and techniques (the term calculus means a method of calculating).

Every middle school student learns how to draw the graph of a straight line and how to calculate the line's slope, but when the graph is curved finding the slope is a more complex issue. The solution to such problems is called finding the derivative, and equations that include derivatives are called differential equations. Techniques for solving differential equations are at the heart of population biology, and consequently at the heart of many of BCR's studies.



**Alan DiFonzo, instructor for Fitchburg State College, tutors BCR staff in methods of evaluating integrals.**

***“Mathematics has correctly been referred to as the language of science.”***

## RHODE ISLAND LANDSCAPES & CONSERVATION

**L**andscapes like those at the Blithewold estate have inspired BCR Director Robert Craig to team once again with New England Plein Air Painters' Barbara Lussier to write a book about the Rhode Island coast, the aesthetics of its landscapes, and the conservation of these places.

Already well on its way to completion, this book explores landscape through

art, history and science. It develops by its last chapter a argument for preserving the natural landscapes of the Rhode Island coast. It provides as well a guide to places that artists and conservationists have admired for centuries.

This book will appear as a title in the Road to Discovery series of Perry Heights Press of Wilton, CT. Previously, Craig and Lussier

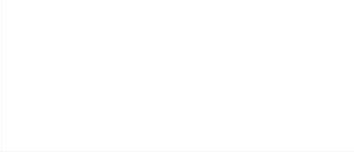
have collaborated for the series on a book about the critical habitats of Connecticut: *Great Day Trips to Connecticut's Critical Habitats*.

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**Take a bite out of BCR expenses by becoming a member.**

## MEMBERSHIP

Nearly 3000 have visited our new web site this year already— a rate well above that of last year. Such increasing interest in our web site clearly demonstrates that BCR's mission

is valued highly by the conservation community. Please help BCR by becoming a member. Membership applications and payment options are available

at [www.birdconservation-research.org](http://www.birdconservation-research.org).