

Join Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple as she talks about black bears, focusing on the natural history of black bears in Connecticut, an overview of black bear habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction and current research efforts. She also provides practical recommendations for optimum co-existence with our black bear population. Black bear artifacts are shared with the audience.

A native Texan, Ginny Apple was one of the first full-time women sportswriters in the country, who left the field mid-career to pursue a path in communications/public relations.

Through the years she has hiked, climbed, kayaked, skied and poked her way through the outdoors and developed a passion for all things natural.

A move to the middle of the woods in Barkhamsted 18 years ago brought her into an environment filled with bears and other wildlife. Living in a house surrounded by Peoples State Forest, she observes a large population of Black Bears and supplies field notes and photographs on them to DEEP bear biologists. Her affinity for this magnificent creature led her out west to participate in a Grizzly research mission in Montana and to become a Master Wildlife Conservationist with the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Her focused expertise is on Bears, Bobcats, Bald Eagles, Beavers , Coyotes, Fisher, Moose, Wild Turkey, Owls and Things That Go Bump in the Night and numerous other wildlife species that call Connecticut home as well as volunteering on numerous wildlife projects, including helping with necropsies on road kill animals.

She is Chair of the Barkhamsted Conservation Commission and also on the Town Economic Development Commission, on the Boards of the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Friends of American Legion and Peoples State Forests (FALPS), the Friends of Connecticut State Parks and volunteers regularly with the Barkhamsted Historical Society (BHS) and maintains the Town's Facebook page as well as that of FALPS and BHS.

Just to keep her creative juices percolating, she has a side business, *Murder Without Pain*, where she writes murder mystery games based on historical subjects and runs them at country inns, corporate parties and fundraisers.