

CONNECTICUT Woodlands



THEY BOUGHT PROPERTY. THEY GOT A DAM.

ALSO: THE SEARCH FOR EXOTIC LARCH TREES • TRAIL NAME FIXED AFTER 40 YEARS.

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DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

Donna Potwin amid gnarled mountain laurel on Reservoir Loop Trail. See page 22.

Connecting People to the Land

Our mission: The Connecticut Forest & Park Association protects forests, parks, walking trails and open spaces for future generations by connecting people to the land. CFPA directly involves individuals and families, educators, community leaders and volunteers to enhance and defend Connecticut's rich natural heritage. CFPA is a private, non-profit organization that relies on members and supporters to carry out its mission.

Our vision: We envision Connecticut as a place of scenic beauty whose cities, suburbs, and villages are linked by a network of parks, forests, and trails easily accessible for all people to challenge the body and refresh the spirit. We picture a state where clean water, timber, farm fresh foods, and other products of the land make a significant contribution to our economic and cultural well-being.

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Bill and Candace Powers stand on top of the dam that marks the edge of their property. The couple became owners of two-thirds of the dam when they bought their new home in Windham just over five years ago.

PHOTO BY JULIA WERTH

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Out with the dog on a beautiful day, contemplating the invasives



BY ERIC LUKINGBEAL

Our eight-month-old Australian shepherd Jack requires at least two walks every day. Morning and late afternoon, we walk in one of two places: along the west branch of

Salmon Brook, or in the woods and fallow fields of Granby's 330-acre Holcomb Farm. The Holcombs began farming it in 1756; it is still farmed, now by a farmer who sells produce as a CSA (which stands for "community-supported agriculture," meaning that people pledge to pay for weekly deliveries of what's in season). Enormous sycamores line the brook, and red and white oak mixed with red maple and mostly dying white ash and hemlock fill out the woods. In both places, spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) show their tiny, pale yellow flowers that precede the leaves unfolding. A few trillium push up in the brook's floodplain, the ancient source of the Holcomb Farm's remarkable fertility.

These plants are all familiar sights in the early spring in Granby's woods. The settlers here in the 18th century would have recognized all of them. But they would not have recognized some of the other plants that have come close to dominating the landscape here and around Connecticut. That early spring glow of soft green, 2 or 3 feet tall? That's Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*). The woods, as well as the edges of fields, are full of it. It's especially noticeable in the very early spring, as it is among the very first plants to leaf out. Brought here from Asia in the 19th century, it has been planted as an ornamental hedge, prized for its oval red berries and bright fall color. Some invasive barberries are still sold in the nursery trade.

I use the example of the barberry only because it is so familiar. But many other plants are considered invasive here. Since 2003, in response to a legislative mandate,

the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council has kept a list of invasive species. Most, but not all of them, are "banned," that is, prohibited from sale, cultivation, or distribution under Connecticut law. In 2014, 98 plants were on the list. Barberry is not, nor is Norway maple, or burningbush (*Euonymus alatus*). The striking reddish pink foliage is a commonplace in the fall, both in foundation or mass plantings, and as escapees in the roadside and woods. The reason that some plants are not banned even though they are invasive is the result of the influence of nursery industry representation on the council. Most of the plants that are invasive but not banned are popular with the public. They are big sellers. I confess to having a Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)—a Crimson King variety) in my yard, although it was already here, and rather petite, when we bought the place.

We are rightly proud of our Connecticut forest cover (about 59 percent, 13th in the United States). But we ought not ignore the increasing prevalence of invasive plants in the woods. The definition of an invasive plant is a nonnative that disrupts or harms the environment, economy, or human health. Lacking competition, parasites, predators, or pathogens, it is able to increase its population size very quickly. It is a threat to biological diversity because it outcompetes native species in the same ecological niche.

My own personal struggles with invasive plants have centered around three: Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), and Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). The rose, first brought to this country in 1866 and widely planted as roadside hedges in the 1930s, will quickly take over fallow fields and edges if not cut down at least annually. It will also grow in fairly deep shade in the woods. From a distance, it is pretty in bloom, and quite fragrant. Its thorns are so sharp and abundant that it can be used as fencing for livestock (except for goats, which will eat it quite happily). I estimate that I have cut down, dug out, and removed several hundred

plants in the past several decades, and while I am gaining on the population, I am running out of steam.

My small but determined Japanese knotweed crop lies near a small stream. It would thrive more than it has if I did not cut it down to bare ground four or five times a year. It is a showy 6- to 10-foot-tall plant with attractive heart-shaped leaves and greenish white flower clusters in late summer. It even boasts some winter interest as it turns a rather striking reddish-brown and lasts upright until spring. My neighbor lets his go, as it serves as a screen for his Revolutionary War-era house, which sits close to the road. It is easy to see why landscapers brought it here from Japan. It is useful in the landscape and will grow almost anywhere. It is on the banned list. You cannot buy it, but you wouldn't need to. Just dig up a small piece of the rhizome (one inch will suffice) from which it spreads, and you will have a colony before you know it.

The climbing vine Oriental bittersweet has its defenders, even though it is banned. Its red fruits inside an orange-yellow shell are unmistakable. It can strangle vegetation, even large trees, in a decade. Smaller and weaker trees like birch will break under its weight. It is often seen around Christmas time, in ornamental wreaths. I have watched a wreath maker collect it from the trees on my street. There is a native, American bittersweet, which is nearly identical in appearance and less aggressive. But it is uncommon to the point that some of the experts in invasive species control claim never to have seen it in Connecticut.

Another common invasive, autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) was planted extensively along Connecticut highways by the Department of Transportation. The red fruit is edible picked off the tree and makes a tasty jelly.

One plant on the list intrigues me. I've never seen it that I know of, and it is not yet known to be naturalized in Connecticut. It is the tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), commonly known as "stinking Willie." The way things are going, I'm pretty sure we will meet up soon.

Eric Lukingbeal is a retired environmental lawyer. He lives with his wife, Sally King, in Granby, where he serves on the town's land trust and planning and zoning commission.

State gashed environmental agencies but defended public land and trees



BY ERIC HAMMERLING

From February to May, the state budget consumed 99 percent of the oxygen at the General Assembly. Contentious wrangling over the budget and

deep budget cuts are two leading reasons why 22 legislators (including the Speaker of the House and perhaps others by the time you read this) decided that 2016 would be a good year to retire.

The final budget significantly cut funding to primary state agencies that help protect Connecticut's air, water, forests, and parks. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Station, Council on Environmental Quality, and others are now less able to fulfill their missions. Also cut were major environmental programs, including the Community Investment Act, the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program, the Farmland Protection Program, funding for state parks and forests, the Regional Greenhouse Gas

Initiative/Green Bank, and the new bonding for recreational trails and greenways. Whether they were "trimmed" or "gashed" depends on your perspective, but all were hit hard.

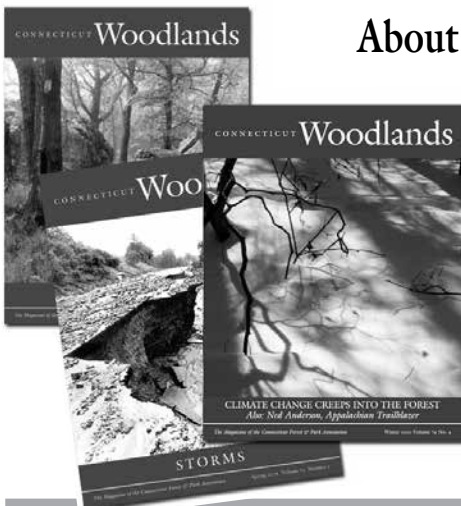
The good news is that two important bills passed that enabled some badly needed rays of sunlight to penetrate into this otherwise dark and gloomy session:

1. Constitutional Amendment to Better Protect Public Lands. Senate Joint Resolution 36 (SJ 36) calls for amending the state constitution to ensure that the General Assembly cannot dispose of state-owned public lands without both a public hearing and a separate bill for any proposed land conveyance (and the bill must pass with a two-thirds majority in both chambers). Under the rules for constitutional amendments, this same resolution must pass the General Assembly again in either 2017 or 2018 to get on the ballot for November 2018. This was an enormous step toward better protecting state lands, and great bipartisan support was expressed in both chambers (though Senator Kevin Witkos and Representative Roberta Willis deserve extra special recognition for their efforts).

2. Public Notice of Planned Tree Removals Along Municipal Roads. This bill (House Bill 5150) supports three important steps forward for municipal trees. First, electric utilities must notify each town of proposed tree pruning and removals by the end of January, and towns will have 14 days to make these plans publicly available. Second, electric utilities must remove or dispose of debris from their authorized tree pruning and removals. Finally, when municipal tree wardens plan to remove shrubs, they may notify the public with one posting for a group of shrubs instead of individual postings for each shrub. Representatives Mike D'Agostino and James Albis negotiated and moved forward this important bill, which will help ensure that we are better informed about tree pruning and cutting in towns and cities.

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association worked hard to promote these two bills, and many of our partners and supporters like you took the time to contact their legislators. This work made a difference for everyone. Thank you!

Eric Hammerling has directed CFPA for eight years. He lives in West Hartford.



About Connecticut Forest & Park Association and Connecticut Woodlands Magazine

Connecticut Woodlands is a quarterly magazine published since 1936 by CFPA, a member-based nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the land, trails, and natural resources of Connecticut.

Members of CFPA receive the magazine in the mail four times a year.

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LARCH PLANTATIONS **IN SOUTHERN** **NEW ENGLAND**

CURIOSITY OR OPPORTUNITY?

Left, inset, these larches were planted on South Central Connecticut Regional Water Resources Authority lands in 1970, as a nurse crop for white pine to forestall weevil damage. The larches clearly outgrew the pines, growing almost 2 feet per year over 46 years.

BING.COM

Left, Larch flooring in Connwood, Inc. office in Middlefield. The lumber came from exotic larches thinned from a stand that provided a screen of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's Hammonasset Reservoir in Madison and Killingworth.

TIM HAWLEY

BY LLOYD C. IRLAND AND DAVID I. MAASS

At the recent New England Society of American Foresters meeting in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, two posters showcased the results of growing exotic larches in Maine and Vermont. In chatting casually with researchers, we found that these species have been planted in several places in southern New England. At one time, landowners and researchers planted larches, Norway spruce, Scots pine, and other exotics. Some of these trials are as old as 100 years. We will concentrate on Connecticut in this article, although we also learned of examples in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. We and other foresters, including some of the pioneers planting and studying larches in this region, have formed what we call the Larch Virtual Experiment Station. Here we introduce our subject in the hope that others with larch plantings will let us know about them and their experiences.

Exotic Larches, Not Native

We are not talking about the native larch, or tamarack, often known as hackmatack or hack (*Larix laricina*). We are only



GREAT MOUNTAIN FOREST

Jody Bronson and Wes Gomez stand with Japanese larches in Great Mountain Forest. The stand has been thinned only once since it was planted in 1952.

addressing exotic European (*L. decidua*), Japanese (*L. kaempferi* or *leptolepis*) and Dahurian larches (*L. gmelinii*) and their hybrids. If there is any Siberian larch (*L. sibirica*) out there, we haven't bumped into it yet. Another well-known hybrid we have not found is the Japanese/European variety called the Dunkeld (*Larix x marschlinsii* Coaz).

How Do Exotic Larches Grow?

Very fast.

In well-designed trials in Maine, exotic larches grew in height and diameter much faster than native species. The hybrids grew even faster. Our Web site larchresearch.com contains published research that documents examples of fast growth in the United States and Europe. Unfortunately, even in research forests, many larch plantings have not been re-measured recently, so whether the fast growth continues for the life of the trees isn't certain.

In northern New England, our collection so far includes seven stands between 30 and

IN NEW YORK, PLANTED LARCHES ON STATE LANDS HAVE SOLD FOR THE SAME PRICES AS WHITE PINE. IN MAINE, WE ARE NOT SEEING PRICES AS HIGH AS THIS.

75 years old whose mean diameter growth has averaged 0.25 inch per year. These trees' heights measure between 73 feet and 105 feet (growing 1.4 to 2.1 feet per year). We studied seven other stands of exotic larches between 22 and 24 years old; these grew in diameter at an average of 0.43 inch per year and reached heights between 45 and 67 feet (1.9 to 2.8 feet per year).

Examples of larches at varying ages are growing on the University of Connecticut University Forest lands, at Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk, on open-space land in Middletown, and at the lands of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority. A few individuals can be found at the Yale Myers Forest. We need a series of current measurements on existing stands in southern New England and assessments of their condition, to see how their performance compares those of stands in northerly areas. We hope this article might stimulate curiosity about this and provide more examples.

What Are Some Silvicultural Uses for Larches?

With the rapid growth rates, if well managed, larches can produce small sawlogs of good quality in 20 to 25 years. There has been little research on thinning, but we believe larch stands will benefit from it.

In southern Sweden, foresters experiment with larch as a nurse crop for oak. Anybody out there have too much oak regeneration?

In Connecticut, larch has been interplanted with white pine in an effort to fend off weevil damage. We know of no published work on this subject, but if successful, these plantations could offer a promising mixture, with the larches ready for harvest ahead of the pines.

Water supply managers have planted exotic larches along reservoirs as waterfront screens.

Finally, a rapidly growing conifer like the larch could store carbon.

What Are People Doing With Larch?

Many things.

All of them are small-mill, short-production-run products. It could hardly be otherwise as the supply is so small. Our group has been looking at this for two years or more, and we keep bumping into new uses. Here is a list:

Larch products needing drying:

- ▶ Flooring: Connwood Foresters recently installed larch flooring at its Middlefield headquarters
- ▶ Wall paneling: One of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection offices in Marlborough is finished with larch paneling cut from a state forest
- ▶ Millwork items

Larch products that do not need drying, or need air-drying only:

- ▶ Decking
- ▶ Bridge timbers
- ▶ Poles for hopyards (microbreweries are growing fast)
- ▶ Sills for sheds or small buildings
- ▶ Canoe parts
- ▶ Shipbuilding—in the early 19th century, the Royal Navy was convinced that ships could be built of larch and advocated planting it for future Navy needs. Some pulp mills will buy larch, but because that market is far from southern New England, it's probably unlikely that larches were used for ships here.

Processing larch requires knowledge of the proper drying schedules. A sawmill in New York has worked this out. A mill in Maine recently sawed about 50,000 board feet of Japanese larch logs, aged 51 years. The mill owners loved the quality but had problems with resin clogging saws. We need to learn how the people in Japan deal with this problem. In New York, planted larches on state lands have sold for the same prices as white pine. In Maine, we are not seeing prices as high as this.

Should We Plant Exotics?

We must ask this question. We would not recommend planting these trees in vast areas, and we don't expect that tree farm owners would do that. Larch will be used in small patches, old fields, or in mixtures. If they had not already been here for a century or more, we would advise extreme care before introducing them. We are aware of no scientific studies, but managers familiar with these trees have reported no reasons to fear that they will take over the forest. Some owners will want to avoid using exotics on principle, but we see no reason at present to write them off as a curiosity just yet.

Larches have been observed to reproduce naturally in areas where enough sunlight is present and may be considered naturalized in some localities. European larch is a widely used ornamental tree around the Northeast. There may be more larch trees standing in suburban yards than there are in timber-growing situations in rural areas. Should we be looking carefully at potential adverse effects? Certainly.

Continue Studying the Experiment

Considering white pine's challenges with blister rust and weevils, the movement of pine beetles and hemlock wooly adelgid into this region, and past disappointments with planting red pine, southern New England's portfolio of softwoods seems to be on the wane. Most of the planting opportunities are now history. But there remain many small patches on farms and woodland properties where owners would like to actively grow something. Shouldn't larch be considered as an opportunity instead of a mere curiosity? We need to learn much more from established plantings concerning invasiveness, environmental aspects, response to management, and any issues with insects, diseases, or weather damage. A great, unplanned natural experiment is already out there. Why not take a close look and see what it can tell us?

If you are curious about this subject, look at the website: larchresearch.com.

Lloyd Irland is a principal of the Irland Group in Wayne, Maine, and faculty associate at the University of Maine School of Forest Resources. He is a former research scientist and lecturer at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. David Maass is an independent consultant in Portland, Maine. The authors acknowledge help from Jody Bronson, Tim Hawley, and Tom Worthley in performing measurements and searching files for data.



DAMS

A State Full of Pretty and Dangerous

*New regulations require inspections and repairs—
landowners struggle to understand and keep up*

BY JULIA WERTH

Five years ago, Bill and Candace Powers finally bought their dream house on the edge of Robinson Pond, in Windham. The house brought with it everything they could have wanted: a beautiful view, a spacious home, and a place to kayak all summer long. The house also brought with it the ownership of a significant hazard.

“My first thought was, ‘uh-oh,’” Mrs. Powers said. “‘I’m going to own a dam; what does that mean?’”



At the time, that was not clear. When they became owners of one of 550 Connecticut dams now classified as high or significant hazard, their dam had no emergency action plan, had never been inspected—as far as the neighbors knew—and it wasn't even registered with the state.

The Powers family took the initiative to hire a specialist to inspect the dam and with the aid of their neighbors paid thousands of dollars to create an emergency action plan.

Their actions are not the norm. Several of the nearly 3,000 dams throughout Connecticut, including many classified as high and significant hazard, haven't been inspected since the last major flood in 1982, leaving those downstream in danger of flooding if a severe storm ever were to hit, according to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The threat is very real. In 1982, floodwaters overtopped and broke 17 dams and damaged many more, resulting in 11 deaths and \$276 million worth of damage, according to the National Weather Service. Scientists say climate change is likely to provoke a greater number of severe storms in the future.

In response, the state in 2013 passed a law raising the responsibilities of all private dam owners in an effort to increase the safety of all Connecticut residents. On February 3 of this year, the DEEP adopted new regulations in connection with this state law detailing the requirements and enforcement of the act, said Arthur Christian, engineer of the department's dam safety program.

"The regulations allowed us to explain how to

The Powers home and barn on the edge of Robinson Pond in Windham Connecticut. When the Powerses bought this property five years ago, it came with the ownership of a class B, significant hazard, dam that had never been registered or inspected by the state.

This drain in Robinson Pond, a manmade pond in Windham, Connecticut, often becomes clogged with leaves, sticks, and other debris. The Powerses and their neighbors clean it out during their frequent kayaks around the pond.

Candace Powers looks out over Robinson Pond from the top of the class B, significant hazard, dam that she, along with her husband, became an owner of five years ago. For her, the difficulties that come with owning a dam are worth it for the joy of her frequent kayak trips in her own backyard.

JULIA WERTH



write an emergency action plan and how inspections should be done,” Mr. Christian said. “The original law [from 1987] never really spoke to emergency action plans. If someone had a dam that they didn’t maintain, we had no way to order them to do an emergency action plan.”

Although the Powerses said they support the new regulation’s mission, they said they were frustrated with the lack of open communication from the DEEP and the General Assembly during the talks about the regulations. “It kind of burns me a little bit because I wasn’t included in that,” Mr. Powers said.

The state posted a public announcement about the hearings for both the law and the regulations and it was on the DEEP website.

However, some of Connecticut’s dam owners, such as the Powerses, are in an older age bracket, and they do not regularly use or have access to the Internet. Therefore, they missed the chance to participate in the formation of regulations that directly affect them.

When Connecticut Woodlands last looked into the threat dams pose in Connecticut (“The 100-Year Storm,” by Christine Woodside, spring 2008, Volume 73, No. 1), the state had yet to determine how new data indicating increased rainfall and potential for a 100-year storm should affect dam safety standards. Eight years later, with the new regulations adopted, the state finally has done that.

The dam on the bank of Robinson Pond in Windham Connecticut was unregistered with the state for decades. The dam is now registered as a significant hazard class B dam and has an emergency action plan its owners can follow in case of an emergency.

JULIA WERTH

Periodic inspections are now required of private dams by a professional engineer hired by the dam owner, and a revised emergency action plan for high and significant hazard dams every two years, according to the DEEP. Under the previous regulations, the DEEP would come, do the inspection, and charge the dam owner no more than \$660, according to Mr. Christian. However, the inspection will now cost at least \$2,600 every five years for the Powerses and their neighbors, in addition to about \$500 for the plan, according to an estimate by the engineer they hired.

“Responsibility for meeting these obligations is also now clearly placed where it belongs: with the owners of dam structures,” DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee said in a February press release.

But this much responsibility seems unjustified to some Connecticut dam owners. “You don’t see this in other situations where the state is supposed to do inspections,” Mr. Powers said. “It would be like the health department saying to a restaurant you have to hire your own inspectors.”

The state does not see it this way. “One of the things to remember is that these [dams], unlike bridges, are actually owned by individuals or companies, and they have an obligation and a responsibility to maintain and keep the dam,” Mr. Christian said. “We tell them how to do it, and make sure they do it.”

Before 2013, “there were only five workers having to do all the permits and inspect all the dams,” said Cheryl Chase, director of the DEEP’s inland water resources division. With owners now required to hire an engineer on their own, more than 200 dams can be inspected each year, compared with the 100 that was the typical annual amount, Ms. Chase said.

The new regulations are increasing owner responsibility and cracking down on enforcement as well.

BEFORE 2013, “THERE WERE ONLY FIVE WORKERS HAVING TO DO ALL THE PERMITS AND INSPECT ALL THE DAMS. WITH OWNERS NOW REQUIRED TO HIRE AN ENGINEER ON THEIR OWN, MORE THAN 200 DAMS CAN BE INSPECTED EACH YEAR, COMPARED WITH THE 100 THAT WAS THE TYPICAL ANNUAL AMOUNT,

— Cheryl Chase,
director of the DEEP’s
inland water resources
division.

Under the new regulations, dam owners must be told by January 15 of each year if they are due for an inspection. If they do not follow through by the end of the year, the state will issue a notice of violation, and three months later, the penalties will begin. Dam owners will be “charged \$3,000 if they delay and the state has to do the inspection,” Mr. Christian said. “Procrastination is not to their benefit.”

It is hoped that the fines will diminish the increasing threat of a break that could result in injuries or washed out roads, Ms. Chase said. State officials said it wasn’t simply lack of people to enforce the inspections that resulted in potentially dangerous dams across the state; it was a lack of awareness.

“Once you get down to the second level [of dam classification], the owners sometimes don’t know they own the dam,” Mr. Christian said. “We have to explain where their dam is and why they own it. We are trying to have outreach because dam owners need to understand.”

For example, he said, in Greenwich, one high hazard dam has not been maintained by two owners. One of them has no legal obligation for maintenance, and the other has been impossible to contact. In this scenario, the state has reserved the right to inspect the dam

and perform the necessary maintenance, or potentially take it down.

“The inspection for these kinds of dams would come out of our budget,” Mr. Christian said. “If we are going to do the removal or make it safe, then we have to go look for money, which is difficult to find today.”

As once completely unaware potential dam owners, the Powers family said they could not agree more with the DEEP’s goal to increase education and awareness. After buying property with a dam, homeowners need to learn how to take care of their new acquisition, and, according to the Powerses, it’s not easy to learn without pestering the state for help.

“Maintaining proper inspection and following government regulations and coming



JULIA WERTH

Candace and Bill Powers stand on their dam.

up with the money for any necessary maintenance or improvements is the most difficult part,” Mrs. Powers said. “It’s like you own something. It’s kind of like having a baby.”

Julia Werth is a senior at the University of Connecticut who is majoring in both journalism and nutritional sciences. Beginning in August, she is editor-in-chief of the Daily Campus, the student newspaper.

THE MANY FACES OF A MOST COMMON TREE: EXTRAORDINARY DIVERSITY IN NATIVE RED MAPLE

By Scott S. Hobson. North Charleston, South Carolina: CreativeSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015, 254 pages

BY ROBERT M. RICARD

Maples (*Acer* species) are one of the most ubiquitous tree species in New England, sometimes regarded as the defining species, especially when fall foliage season comes around. This is for good reason; the genus is composed of six species in the region that, in places, dominate the forested as well as the built landscape.

Perhaps the most familiar and appreciated is sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), which provides maple syrup, sugar products, and vibrant, golden fall foliage. Our regard for the sugar maple shows in its designation as state tree in New York, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The author of this book, wetlands scientist Scott S. Hobson, works in the only state that has adopted the red maple (*Acer rubrum*) as state tree—Rhode Island. Schoolchildren there voted for the red maple in 1890; the designation became official in 1964. Mr. Hobson encountered this native species early on, growing up in Connecticut and earning degrees from the University of Connecticut. Mr. Hobson's forester and arborist father helped establish his curiosity for the woodland world.

Clearly, the red maple caught his notice early. He became obsessed with it. This has led to a work of love and devotion to detail—really significant detail—for red maple variability, especially its bark. This self-published book is a dense photographic essay documenting his fascination with the wide variation in the look and characteristics of red maples. He describes each photograph, but what makes this book so valuable are the many photos and the system of classification he has constructed.

In his introductory sections, Mr. Hobson declares that he's not interested so much in the science of genetic controls behind

these variations. He enjoys, rather, presenting his notions of why and what causes these variations that his vibrant close-ups of bark reveal.

As it turns out, reasonable yet sporadic science explains red maple variability. The 1970s brought a burst of forest and tree genetics research just as molecular genetics began to dominate studies of tree history. The U.S. Forest Service Research Laboratories, the U.S. National Arboretum, and several universities conducted this research, which focused on northern hardwoods (including maples).

Foresters and ecologists have long recognized that red maple is one of North America's most abundant trees and that it is geographically, morphologically, and ecologically diverse. The species covers a wide territory from Newfoundland south to Florida, from the East Coast to the Mississippi River, jumping over to Texas and Oklahoma. It thrives from sea level to around 3,000 feet. It grows in a wide range of soil types and tolerates wet and dry soil. It is seemingly indifferent to its position relative to the sun. Its adaptability makes it a good tree for disturbed soils such as in cities: plant breeders have cultivated numerous varieties for urban and suburban landscapes.

This knowledge can help explain the variation Mr. Hobson wonderfully presents in pictures that are arranged systematically by his classification scheme. Although I found the details to be sometimes redundant, I found that after I spent time following his narrative under each photograph, I began to appreciate what he sees and began to get it.

For Scientists and Nonscientists

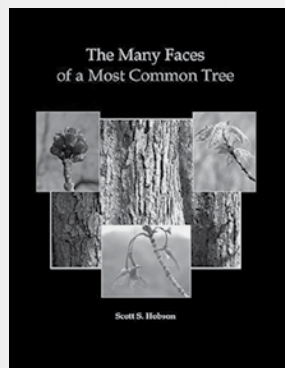
This is not simply a pretty picture book of trees; it is more a type of book that some scientists, as well as the general reader, will find rich with nuance. The book reminds

me of the self-published books by the distinguished and legendary U.S. Forest Service research scientist, the late Dr. Alex Shigo. During that burst of classical forest genetics research, in the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Shigo produced his most influential—and sometimes controversial—theories. His most renowned research was in the genetics of compartmentalization: walling off a tree wound. This research showed that tree wounding was often under genetic control and that, depending on the genetic variability of the species, strong compartmentalization could be bred into successive generations of the tree.

The research of that period proved that red maple is genetically highly variable. This is what Mr. Hobson shows with his pictures. I loved three sections most: "Knobby Trunks," "Mature and Distinguished," and "Damage and Decay." The scientific literature suggests a reason for the knobs and other surficial distortions: the species is highly susceptible to damaging agents—insects, diseases, mechanical. The species also has a strong ability to compartmentalize (wall off) wounds. This combination of wounding and walling off would, therefore, make for the curious structures he shows in the last few chapters.

This book is fun, if you work at it a little. It is not a coffee table book, per se, that you pick up to look at the pretty pictures, although you certainly can do this. You should move from the beginning to end, as the author would like you to do. The pictures begin with the simplest tree bark characteristics and move on to the more complex and profound—like a musical piece building to a crescendo. In doing this, you will get his deeper thinking of both the simplicity and the complexity to the tree in looks and characteristics. I suggest you give this book a look and spend some time going from start to finish.

Robert M. Ricard is a senior extension educator for the University of Connecticut in West Hartford.



CONNECTICUT FOREST & PARK ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

The month of May was a busy time for CFPA. On May 19, members and the Board of Directors gathered beneath a new pavilion built of Connecticut timber at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Lockwood Farm. Two days later, volunteer trail workers for CFPA joined with Branford clearing and marking trails, placing rocks, and building bridges in the Stony Creek Trail System of the Van Wie Preserve in that town. Photographers' names are in parentheses.

1, 9, and 14: Views of the Lockwood pavilion's graceful construction (Scott Livingston).

2. Elizabeth Fossett, CFPA's events and volunteer coordinator, talks with Zach Cockrum, regional liaison for the National Wildlife Federation (Bea Holt).

3. Entrance to bird and butterfly garden at Lockwood Farm (Scott Livingston).

4. A poster shows the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System (Scott Livingston).

5. Ted Esselstyn of City Bench talks about making furniture from salvaged trees (Scott Livingston).

6. and 8. Trail workers make a new bridge in Branford (Clare Cain).

7. CFPA Executive Director Eric Hammerling with CFPA President Eric Lukingbeal (Scott Livingston).

10. Clearing a section of trail (Clare Cain).

11. Mr. Esselstyn with panelists Terry Jones of the Jones Family Farms and Steve Strong of Strong Timber Frames. Mr. Strong oversaw the construction of the Lockwood pavilion where they sat (Christine Woodside).

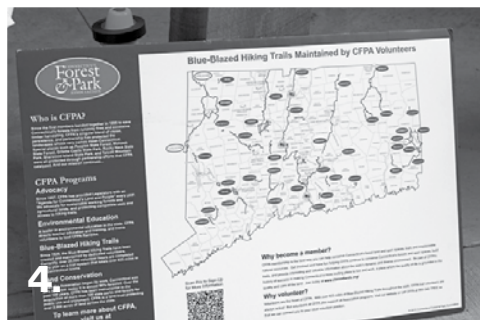
12. Mr. Lukingbeal runs the annual meeting (Scott Livingston).

13. A dirt road weaves past plantings at Lockwood Farm (Scott Livingston).





3.



4.



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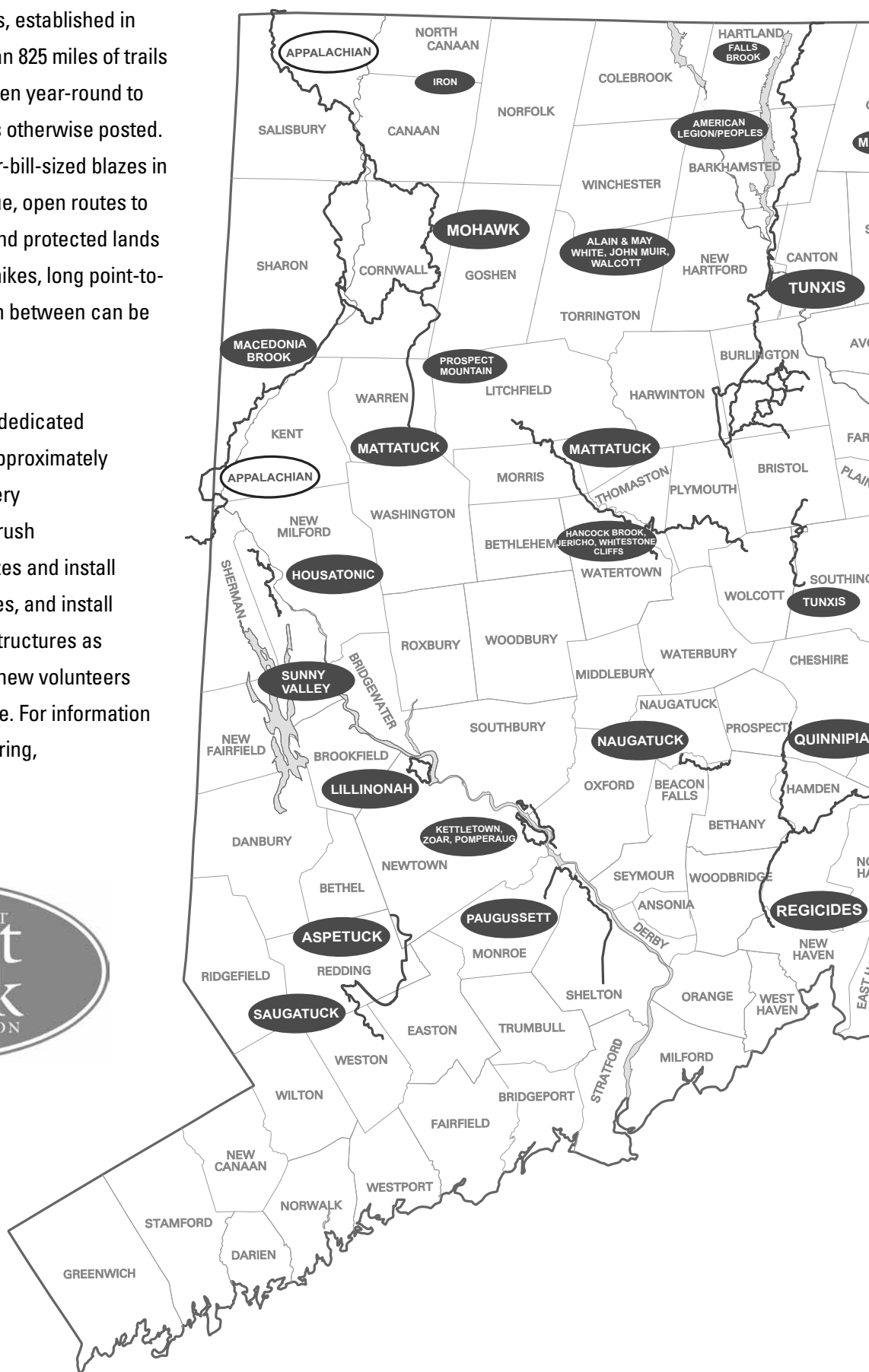
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14.

The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, established in 1929, currently total more than 825 miles of trails in 96 towns. The trails are open year-round to all forms of foot travel unless otherwise posted. The trails, marked with dollar-bill-sized blazes in a signature shade of light blue, open routes to exploring the open spaces and protected lands of Connecticut. Short loops hikes, long point-to-point hikes, and everything in between can be found on the Blue Trails.

The trails are maintained by dedicated volunteers who contribute approximately 20,000 hours of trail work every year. Trail volunteers clear brush and downed trees, paint blazes and install signs, coordinate work parties, and install bridges and additional trail structures as necessary. CFPA welcomes new volunteers to help with trail maintenance. For information about the trails and volunteering, see ctwoodlands.org.



ROSES AND STRAWBERRIES: A CONNECTICUT RAMBLE

BY JEAN CRUM JONES

A rosebush grows just outside the doorway of our Victorian homestead. We planted it more than 30 years ago to remind me of my late mother's love of roses. However, the plant quickly revealed another message. Every June, the first red blossom appears as a never-fail signal that strawberries on our pick-your-own farm will ripen within the week. I panic a little, knowing how little time I have to attend to the details of reopening for the season.

Roses and strawberries show many similarities because they are closely related botanically. Both are cousins in the rose subfamily *Rosoideae*. According to botanists, the red fleshy part of the strawberry we eat is not a fruit at all but a flower part. The hybrid varieties of both strawberries and roses share similar struggles to survive in Connecticut. They both fight against unpredictable winters with alternating severe freezes and mid-winter thaws. This is generally followed by oppressive summer humidity and the subsequent never-ending battle against fungal

diseases. We might battle armies of insects, such as mites or aphids, who mount sneak attacks on delicate plant parts. However, the successful grower of roses or strawberries feels immense pride when both these magical plants put on a good June show. The intense emotions people feel smelling deeply fragrant, beautiful roses and eating intensely delicious strawberries are identical. It's hard to find the words that describe the sensuousness of the experience. It is no wonder both roses and strawberries are strongly associated with love and passion and so frequently are the subjects of poetry.

Days of Wine and Roses

At the end of each row of grapevines in our experimental vineyard, we have planted a rosebush. Why? It's an old French tradition. For vineyard managers, it served as an early warning system, like a canary in a coal mine. Roses and grapevines are both highly susceptible to powdery mildew, but roses are even more sensitive. If a rose shows signs of being infected by mildew or mold, chances are the vineyard hasn't been affected yet and

the vineyard manager can still have time to counteract the spores and prevent the vineyard from being infected. That's the folklore, anyway! Our son Jamie planted these roses to enjoy as he drives by in his farm truck and for our winery guests' pleasure as they sip a glass of wine on the terrace.

Wild Roses

Other than these dozen rose hybrids, we get most of our rose enjoyment from the wild roses that grow naturally on the farm. About six species of roses are native to Connecticut. If we are observant, we can find *Rosa palustris* (Marsh) in wet areas and *R. virginiana* (Virginia) in thickets. These true native roses are rather small, scrambling shrubs with 3- to 4-foot canes and 1- to 2-inch blooms. We can recognize them by their five bright pink petals when they blossom in June. We also have some beach roses (*R. rugosa*) scattered about. This species is native to Japan, Korea, and China and was introduced to New England in 1845. This hardy species thrives near roadways and all along the sandy stretches of the New England coast. It likes dry, sandy soil, is not bothered by salt spray or bitter cold, and likes lots of sun. *Rugosa* rose grows in long thickets from 1 to 6 feet and frequently blooms all summer with flower colors of white or rose. Afterward, large fleshy, orange-red hips are produced that can be gathered for rose hip preserves and tea. This attractive shrub is commonly seen along the Connecticut shoreline. In some places, because of its dense growth, it is displacing native vegetation on sand dunes. Potentially, *R. rugosa* may become an invasive species problem for some Connecticut beaches.

One invasive rose species our farm has struggled with is the *R. multiflora*. It was introduced into the United States as an ornamental rootstock from Japan in 1866. From the 1930s into the 1950s, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service promoted its use on farms for erosion control and livestock fencing. Unfortunately, it became a tenacious foe to the



farmer. The multiflora rose is a dense, thorny shrub that reaches to 15 feet in height, with arching canes that can ramble up trees or bend to the earth. This serious invasive has a wide tolerance for various soil, moisture, and light conditions and can grow on the edges of woods, along stream banks, and by roadsides. A single plant can produce a million seeds per year, which may remain viable for as long as 20 years. Birds devour the hips and are the primary seed dispersers. Multiflora rose forms impenetrable thickets and has very strong, sharp thorns. When I first came to the farm in the early 1970s, the farm crew was at war with the miserable multiflora rose. The crew worked hard at cutting it back several times each growing season for four to five years—a most unpleasant task. The multiflora rose growth is under control now at our farm but requires constant vigilance.

Since we have no time on the farm to nurture an elaborate floral garden, I am fortunate to live close to several wonderful public gardens, which I seek out as refuges of beauty and peacefulness. Roses are especially fascinating to look at because there are so many varieties and they have such interesting names. Roses tend to be well labeled and are easy to identify. But, how did there get to be such an abundance of rose personalities and why do they look so different from our wild roses on the farm?

A Brief History of Roses

The rose is one of the oldest flowers known to man. Fossilized remains from 35 million years ago have been found in Colorado, Montana, and Oregon. There is evidence the Chinese were cultivating roses some 5,000 years ago. The ancient Greeks grew roses for the beauty of the flowers but also for medicines and perfumes. The Romans of Empire days loved roses and established early rose-growing technology—growing them in greenhouses and using warm water irrigation. In the 16th century, colonists brought English and French roses to North America, making them the longest cultivated European flowers in the Americas. Captain John Smith of Virginia noted the American Indians planted native roses by their summer camps.



AT THE END OF EACH ROW OF GRAPEVINES IN OUR EXPERIMENTAL VINEYARD, WE HAVE PLANTED A ROSEBUSH.

WHY? IT'S AN OLD FRENCH TRADITION.

In 1799, Empress Josephine Bonaparte, wife of Napoleon, a passionate rose lover, began creating a most remarkable rose garden at Malmaison, her country chateau outside Paris. Her gardeners planted and included every variety known at that time, about 250. Her husband brought back rose plants from his conquests. Then, she had the famed botanical illustrator, Pierre-Joseph Redoute, create a monumental series of rose paintings, which included many of her garden roses. Also, in 1789, the *R. chinensis* (China) was introduced into Europe and had the amazing ability to flower more than once a year, rather than only in early summer as the traditional wild roses do. A powerful rose obsession arose and set the stage for breeding work to develop new rose hybrids with new shapes and new colors. A technique of growing “bush roses” trains them into a compact shapes.

In 1867, a French breeder produced the first hybrid of the tea rose, which was distinguished by a long, shapely bud and had the continual blooming characteristic.

Eager breeders worked to develop new

varieties of tea roses, so that they could display their beautiful buds at Victorian flower shows, which became all the rage. By 1920, hybrid teas dominated the flower markets, and they remain the most popular rose today. Unfortunately, these tea roses lost the beguiling fragrance of the wild rose and are fussy to grow. One of the most well-known roses, “Peace,” was smuggled into America from Occupied France in 1945 and created sensational interest in rose growing by new suburban homeowners after World War II. The love of roses and the process of hybridizing have led to the creation of thousands of modern cultivars.

Connecticut's Rose Fame

Connecticut has been noteworthy for its production of roses. In 1925, Cromwell was home to the largest rose growing company in the United States and was nicknamed “Rose Town.” Visitors came to marvel at “the crystal village” and the “sea of glass” as they looked upon acres and acres of greenhouses, which were considered one of the floricultural wonders of the world. Anders Pier-

son, a Swedish immigrant, started the Pierson Floral Nursery in the 1880s. He had done a childhood apprenticeship with a florist in Sweden, came to the United States when he was 19, and was determined to be a “hothouse man.” He was fueled by his belief: “Flowers are not a luxury wholly, but they are an integral part of a well-ordered life.” The entire Pierson family worked in the business and was successfully marketing carnations, violets, and roses to New York City by 1890. His company employed many Swedish immigrants whom Mr. Pierson encouraged to follow his lead in coming to America. Mr. Pierson’s passion was roses, and he wanted to develop the perfect rose. In 1895, he discovered a new strain of roses, which were sturdier, yet more beautiful than any other. Becoming A.N. Pierson, Inc., in 1908, the company continued to grow all kinds of flowers for markets that extended from Boston to Washington, D.C., to western New York state. However, roses were their premiere product. When “The Rose King” died in 1925, the company was employing 500 workers.

The company continued under the wise management of Pierson's son, grandson, and great-grandson. In 1989, A.N. Pierson sold more than 9 million roses. Times, however, began to get rocky for the company as the price of fuel oil began to skyrocket in New England. But, the death knell came when the company was faced with fierce competition from roses imported from Columbia and Ecuador. Agronomists discovered that roses grew well in the dry fertile soils of northern South America with its intense sunlight, dry air, and year-round equatorial temperatures. The rose workers there could be paid less for a day's work than an American received for an hour. The Andean Trade Preference Act, passed in 1991, removed trade barriers from these drug-producing countries and encouraged the Columbian and Ecuadorian rose industry to rapidly take off, despite the fact the flowers had to travel 5,000 miles before arriving in the United States at a supermarket or florist. Today, nearly 80 percent of the 4 billion cut flower roses come from South America. A.N. Pierson, Inc., part of the historical fabric of Connecticut, ceased operation in 1991, overpowered by the overseas competition.

Another significant rose farm that suffered the same fate as Pierson's is the Pinchbeck Rose Farm in Guilford. William Pinchbeck Jr., a seasoned florist, founded his "rose-colored vision" in 1929 to supply the wholesale flower markets from New York to Boston. He purchased property in Guilford to be midway between the two massive markets. Pinchbeck then contracted Lord & Burnham, famous builders of fine glass conservatories, to build a quarter-mile-long glass house. This structure, which remains the largest single-span greenhouse in the United States, is significant not only for its size but also for the four generations of the Pinchbeck family who worked it for 80 years, specializing in high-quality Connecticut roses. A second glass house half the size of the first was added in 1936. At the height of its production in the early 1990s, Pinchbeck's employed 40 workers, housed 90,000 rose plants, and produced 3 million roses.

The farm closed its rose business about 10 years ago because of the inability to compete with the South American roses. Fortunately for fourth-generation Tom Pinchbeck, a unique opportunity presented itself when the Ability Beyond organization proposed a partnership that would enable career training for teenage students with autism while learning the greenhouse and farming business. Since 2009, Roses for Autism has helped nearly 100 people with autism learn the many aspects of running an agricultural enterprise and has helped develop skills that have enabled employability. Pinchbeck Farm now grows a variety of flowers—Gerbera daisies, lilies, snapdragons, and roses—both in the greenhouse and in the large outside cutting garden. Just this April, Roses for Autism introduced a perfume, Ardent Rose, made from Pinchbeck's intensely fragrant rose, the Lavande, as a way to extend the enjoyment of the aroma of roses. Sales of the perfume will help provide scholarship aid to individuals with autism.

After our farm's strawberry production has peaked in later June and all is running well, I take a day away to "stop and smell the roses." A visit to a beautiful rose display refreshes the spirit and inspires joy and peace. Take some time this summer to enjoy Connecticut's beautiful roses, whether in the wild while on the trail, at the beach, or in a lovingly attended rose garden.

Jean Crum Jones is a registered dietician who works with her family running the Jones Family Farms and Jones Winery in Shelton. She is an honorary director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

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Removing Trees? Look for Signs of Bats First

Federal rule protects places they roost and hibernate

A new rule protects the northern long-eared bat as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act and prohibits removing trees where the bats raise their young in the summer.

A decade ago, northern long-eared bats congregated by the hundreds in their winter hibernation caves in Connecticut, but for the last five years, they seem to have disappeared. The fungal disease called white-nose syndrome infects the bats and leads them to wake up during hibernation, fly around looking for food at a time when it isn't available, and thus use up their fat reserves and die. The fungus is killing them by the millions in the Northeast, Middle Atlantic, Midwest, South, and in Canada. The bats are valuable in natural cycles because they eat huge numbers of insects. For the same reason, they're worth perhaps millions of dollars to farmers.

Although under the new rule government officials will be allowed to remove bats that threaten buildings, only permit-holders may cut down trees where they roost or trees within 150 feet of the roosts in June and July. They also may not remove trees within a quarter-mile of a cave, mine, or other underground spot where they hibernate in the cold weather.

Managing forests to help bats is not easy. First of all, all tree-cutting is not bad for bats. Forest management can help bats: for example, harvesting that opens up the canopy and can help young bats mature more quickly. But cutting trees where they live is a sure way to stress or kill them. Many healthy bat populations are found in old forests.

Northern long-eared bats normally would be able to survive in high numbers despite tree cutting. But in areas where white-nose syndrome has infected so many bats, they "may be less resilient to stressors," wrote Karen Hyun, acting principal deputy assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, in a federal explanation of the rule, "and maternity colonies are smaller." Because these bats tend to have only one pup per female in good years, "death of adult females or pups or both during tree felling



JENNY DICKSON/CONNECTICUT DEEP

could reduce the long-term viability of some of the white-nose syndrome-impacted colonies if they are also in the relatively small percentage of forest habitat directly affected by forest management."

Federal officials acknowledged it's sometimes difficult to identify where these bats are roosting. The rule also stresses that officials or citizens who need to remove trees still might be able to do so by contacting federal ecological services field offices on whether a permit would be available. For a list of field offices in Connecticut, see www.fws.gov/offices.

Officials Will Protect Places Where Bats Spend Winter

Officials will avoid publicizing where they hibernate and instead work to eliminate white-nose

syndrome, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced this spring. The Endangered Species Act usually requires designating "critical habitat" for listed species. The identified habitats may require special management considerations or protections. The act calls for the service to consider which areas a species needs to recover, unless it determines that doing so would not help the species. That is what the USFWS decided in this case. It conducted an in-depth analysis and determined that bats need mines and caves for hibernation in winter and forested areas for roosting and raising young in summer. Because so few winter sites exist, the bats' survival hinges on protecting those places. But doing so is too risky, the USFWS said, because identifying the caves and other hibernation sites would call attention to them and increase the risk of vandalism and disturbance to bats. It also could hasten the spread of white-nose syndrome.

Since its discovery in New York State in the winter of 2006-2007, white-nose syndrome or the causative fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*) has spread to 32 states and five Canadian provinces, killing more than 5.7 million cave- or mine-hibernating bats.

—Christine Woodside, with press releases and federal documents



DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

The Reservoir Loop Trail threads through a stand of old mountain laurels.

ENJOY ROCKS, RIDGES, AND WATER ALONG THE RESERVOIR LOOP IN MIDDLETOWN

BY DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

Walking to where the trailhead should be, my friend Donna and I were at first perplexed by a sign reading: “State Land. No Trespassing. Public Water Supply.” Then we spied the blue and yellow blazes, so we knew it was a designated trail and OK to hike here.

“Here” was the southern end of the Reservoir Loop Trail, a fairly easy 1.5-mile trail in Middletown. That trail plus a roughly 0.3 mile walk on a dirt road would allow us to link up with the more challenging Blue-Blazed Mattabesett Trail and follow that 2.3 miles back to our car.

What a fun adventure it turned out to be. It had just about everything I like in a hike: varied terrain; jumbled rock outcrops; traprock ridges; large stands of gnarled, old mountain laurel; little brooks; vernal pools; and scenic views of pretty reservoirs. Our



DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS.

Park near this kiosk on Brooks Road.

only disappointment was encountering very little wildlife. We heard the calls of a red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) and a raven (*Corvus corax*), watched a veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) hop through a shrub, and glimpsed the back end of a large black snake—probably a black rat snake (*Elaphe o. obsoleta*)—slither away under the leaf litter. (Don’t worry: The black rat snake “is a

gentle snake,” according to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. It does not bite, and it is not dangerous to people.)

Mountain Laurels Under Hardwoods

Our 4.1-mile counterclockwise hike began where the Reservoir Loop Trail begins, on Brooks Road at the southern end of Asylum Reservoir No. 2. We first followed the blue-and-yellow-blazed trail northward to unpaved Reservoir Road, then headed eastward on the road, and turned left to join the Blue-Blazed trail. Our route crossed the Blue Trail once and then came very near it again before we turned onto it at our third encounter. You could pick up the Blue Trail earlier than we did if you wanted to do a shorter hike, as the map at the Reservoir Loop trailhead shows.

To follow our route, park on the side of Brooks Road near the southern end of

Asylum Reservoir No. 2, at a pull-off with a view of the water. A kiosk there posts a map showing this stretch of the Mattabesett section of the New England Trail and its side trail. (The NET consists of the Mattabesett, Metacomet, and, in Massachusetts, the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail). Then walk a few yards east along the road until you see, on the left, the side trail, the blue-and-yellow-blazed Reservoir Loop Trail.

Reservoir Loop Trail, Northbound

You will walk through a profuse grove of mountain laurels that flanks the mostly level path as you set off through the hardwood forest. Soon you will pass a vernal pool and cross a tiny stream (these might be dried up by summer). After another stand of mountain laurels—obviously old ones, with thick, gnarled trunks and branches—arrive at an outlook with a nice view of Asylum Reservoir No. 2. Continuing on, go over the top of a rock ledge, passing a little depression and a cave on your right. About a mile from the start of the hike, bypass a signpost marking the intersection with the Blue-Blazed Mattabesett/NET. Continue straight for about one-tenth of a mile, following the blue-and-yellow blazes. When you reach Reservoir Road, turn right and begin following the road. In a few dozen yards, you will see the blue-blazed trail on your right. Ignore it and continue on the road. (Along the way you might notice old, faded blue-and-yellow blazes, which marked a segment of the Reservoir Loop Trail that has now been abandoned.) In about 0.3 mile, you should see a sign for the New England Trail and blue blazes on your left. Turn left here to pick up the Mattabesett Trail.

Mattabesett Trail, Southbound

Cross a tiny stream and follow the trail as it passes around and behind a rock outcropping, revealing a gigantic jumble of rocks. After crossing a small stream and walking through a stand of mountain laurel, you'll come to an intersection where faded blue-and-yellow blazes lead to the left; ignore them and stay on the Blue Trail.

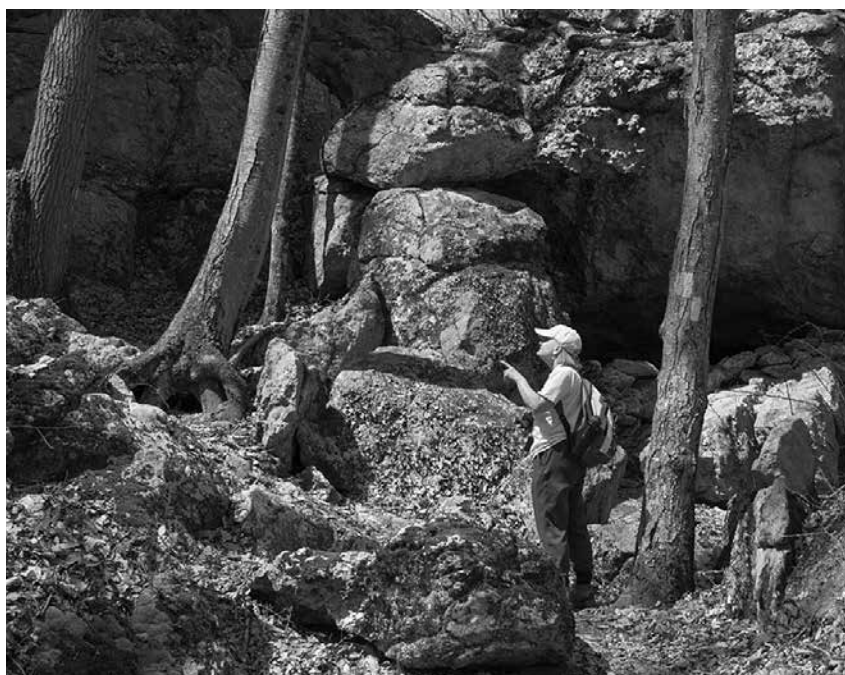
Follow an old woods road along the base of a ledge on your left. When you see two massive, diagonal rock outcrops, take a minute to admire them. Donna and I were awed! The trail here turns left

in front of the outcrops. Soon you will see the cave known as Rock Pile Cave. It's a perfect den for a bear or a bobcat.

Next, climb a ridge and walk along it. You'll see more mountain laurel. This is also where Donna and I saw the black snake. (Snakes like to sun themselves on ridgetops.) Now descend to a big rock outcropping that offers a wonderful view of what many call the Twin Reservoirs. They're actually one reservoir: Asylum Reservoir No. 1, which is bisected by the Reservoir Road causeway.

A steep climb down from the outcropping brings you to a ledge. Another steep, rocky descent leads you to a stream that flows into the reservoir. After crossing the stream, the trail goes straight for a bit, then bears left. It's not easy to see the next blaze here, so you might have to look around. Go up another ridge. Cross Reservoir Road and

stay on the Blue Trail this time (you will recognize this area from your trip out on the other trail). Cross another stream. A straight stretch brings you back to the intersection with a signpost marking the crossing with the Reservoir Loop Trail. Pass the signpost, staying on the Blue Trail. The last half-mile of the trail will take you up and over two more rock outcrops and a ridge with a view of Reservoir No. 3. After descending from the ridge, arrive at Brooks Road. Turn left and follow the road back to your car.



DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

Investigating the cave.

Directions

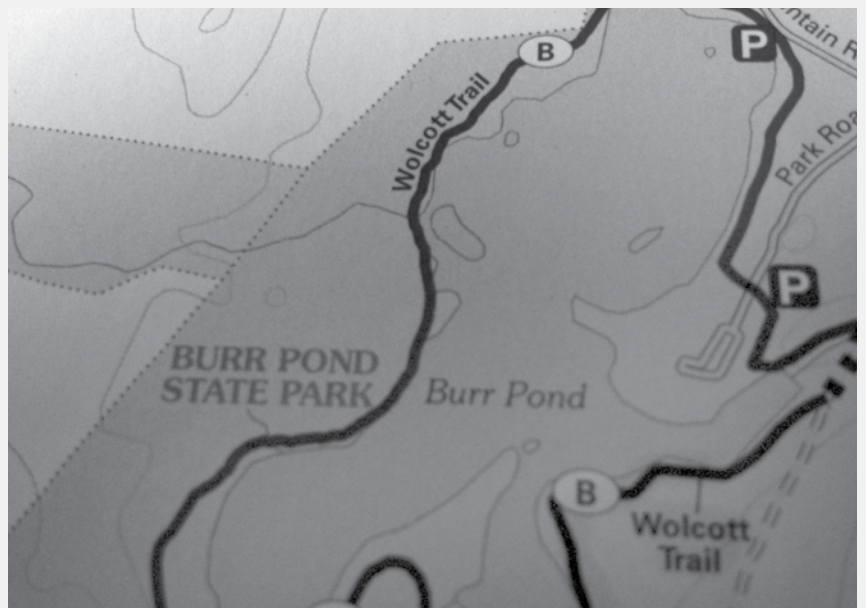
From Route 9, take exit 11. Turn right (east) onto Randolph Road (Route 155). Go 0.2 mile to the traffic light at the top of the hill. Turn right (south) onto Saybrook Road (Route 154). Go 0.3 mile and turn left (east) onto Brooks Road. Follow that 0.8 mile to the pull-off at the shoreline of Reservoir No. 2. Park along the side of road. (This is a different parking area than the one noted in the *Walk Book*.)

Note: The Reservoir Loop Trail has been modified since the last edition of the *Connecticut Walk Book West*. The book is currently being revised, and the new edition will be published in 2017. An updated interactive map is available online at ctwoodlands.org.

Diane Friend Edwards is a freelance writer, nature photographer, and lifelong lover of the outdoors. She has written this column for several years. She lives in Harwinton with her husband, Paul. She assists with proofreading of this magazine.

Trail volunteer discovers 40-year typo

The trail in fact is named for Frederic Col-
lin *Walcott* (1869–1949), a man with a his-
tory in that area. In 1909, Frederic Walcott,
who lived in Norfolk, Connecticut, started the
private Great Mountain Forest with Starling
W. Childs, a friend from Yale University. In
1913, the two men pushed the newly formed
Connecticut State Park Commission to buy
15,000 acres for reclaiming deforested land
as future game habitat. Mr. Walcott presided



This shows the misspelled “Wolcott” in the Connecticut Walk Book 19th edition—one of many guides that repeated the error.

over the Connecticut Board of Fisheries and Game from 1923 to 1928 and was a U.S. senator from 1929 to 1935. Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mr. Walcott chaired the Senate Committee on the Conservation of Wildlife Resources and

supported the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC named one of its camps after him in 1933. Sometime in the next few years, CFPA Secretary Philip L. Buttrick, who had been stationed at CCC Camp Walcott, established the Walcott Trail around the pond.

It seems that someone working on the *1976 Bicentennial Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Guide* made the first error. That was the oldest publication where Mr. Hansen found the mistake. And then, like a bad rumor, the misspellings multiplied. The federal government in the 1980s installed signs effectively renaming the Civilian Conservation Corps' Camp Walcott, "Camp Wolcott." The misspelling went on so long that it seemed no one knew it was wrong.

In March, Mr. Hansen went before CFPA's Trails Committee with this story. The committee voted to officially designate the Walcott Trail and voted to rededicate the trail with the proper spelling. Mr. Hansen works as the Hartford secretary in

the technical assistance outreach program in the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Wildlife Division. His diligence in tracking down this history will ensure that no editor will misspell the name Walcott Trail in the future.

—Christine Woodside

AN EDITOR'S MISTAKE IN
1976 HAD LED TO FOUR
DECADES OF TYPOS IN
SEVERAL EDITIONS OF
THE *CONNECTICUT WALK*
BOOK, ON SIGNS, AND
ANYWHERE THE TRAIL
WAS ADVERTISED.
THE TRAIL IN FACT IS
NAMED FOR
FREDERIC COLLIN
WALCOTT (1869–1949),
A MAN WITH A HISTORY
IN THAT AREA.



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DAVID PETERS

Former CFPA trail manager who built shelter on New England Trail

David Wayne Peters, 55, of Durham, a former trail manager on the Mattabesett section of the New England Trail who built a hikers' shelter on his land, died April 19 after a courageous battle with cancer.

In 2005, Mr. Peters built the Cattails Shelter on his land in Durham. (He named it after a childhood fort.) The trailside structure and campsites are located one-tenth of a mile south of Route 68. He kept it stocked with drinking water.

He was the beloved husband of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's office

manager, Teresa Kucmerosky Peters. Mr. Peters was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, son of the late Theodore Peters and Elizabeth Driscoll Peters of Killingworth. David Peters grew up in Clinton, spent four years in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and had lived with his wife and two children in Durham since 1999. He was a longtime employee of Tilcon Connecticut, Inc. in North Branford.

Mr. Peters loved hiking, kayaking, and backpacking sections of the Appalachian Trail. He won an award from CFPA for



Left, David Peters on the top of Mount Higby. Right, receiving a trails award in 2007.

COURTESY OF PETERS FAMILY AND CFPA.

best new trail manager in 2007. He also gave rides to hikers. Once he promised two through-hikers a cold soda, but when he found no soda at home, he bought some and the next day left two cans up the trail in a bag full of ice.

He was a skilled carpenter and a potato chip enthusiast who lined his garage walls with his collection of potato chip bags from all over the world. In addition to his wife, he leaves his daughter Lauren, his son Eric, and four sisters: Cheryl Cameron of Mount Juliet, Tennessee; Debra Peters of Williamsburg, New Mexico; Linda Barcellona of Clearwater, Florida; and Patti Peters of Middletown, Connecticut.

Private services were held. Memorial donations may be directed to the CFPA, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06481 or online at ctwoodlands.org/giving.

—Christine Woodside, with death notices and with thanks to Terri Peters

BERNICE S. HIBBARD

Wife of the former CFPA executive director

Bernice S. Hibbard, the wife of former Connecticut Forest & Park Association Executive Director John Hibbard, died April 22 at the Marlborough Health & Rehabilitation Center. She was 81 and had lived for many years in Hebron. Mrs. Hibbard grew up in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. She and Mr. Hibbard were married in 1965 and moved to Hebron the next year. She

was a registered nurse and worked at many places in her long career as visiting nurse, maternal and child health nurse, and nursing instructor. She retired in 1992 from her job at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Following her retirement, she volunteered with several nonprofit health care organizations. Besides her husband, Mrs. Hibbard's survivors include their daughter,

Beth Hibbard of Watertown, Massachusetts, and her brother, Leonard E. Stoner of New Oxford, Pennsylvania. A funeral service will be held later. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Gilead Congregational Church at 672 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 or other charity.

—From death notices

ELMS OR ZELKOVA TREES ON EDGEHILL STREET?



CHRIS DONNELLY

Elm trees growing under wires.

To the Editor:

I discovered your interesting magazine at the Fair Haven branch library in New Haven. I have some questions and comments about the article “In Defense of Tall Trees,” by Chris Donnelly (Winter 2015, pages 10-13).

Accompanying a photo, Mr. Donnelly writes: “Elms under utility wires along Saint Ronan Street in New Haven. This is an example of the wrong tree in the wrong place. These trees have no choice but to grow up into the wires, creating long-term maintenance problems for both the city and the utility.”

Actually, the trees shown are in front of 123 Edgehill Road. (St. Ronan Street becomes Edgehill Road as it continues north.)

I am pretty sure the trees shown are zelkovas rather than elms. Zelkovas has been used as an alternative to (disease-prone) elms in many locations in New Haven. I had one planted in front of my house on East Rock Road (near Edgehill Road) by the Urban Resources Initiative. I requested a zelkova because I liked the vase-like shape of the many zelkova that had been growing along Prospect Street in front of Albertus Magnus College, nearby in New Haven.

I had not given much thought to whether the zelkova limbs would cause a problem as they rose to the utility wires. I see that as my zelkova has grown in the past few years, it has in fact come very close to the wires. So far, the limbs are thin, and I don’t think they pose a threat to the wires, but perhaps they will eventually.

My question is what kinds of trees are considered suitable for planting where there are wires overhead. I have seen some people plant ornamentals that don’t reach the wires. But ornamentals are too short to create much shade or to create the beautiful visual effect of genuine street trees (such as oaks).

What would you or Mr. Donnelly recommend? In the future, it would be good to ask your writers to offer suggestions as to what tree is right in situations like the one that Mr. Donnelly showed.

—Philip Langdon, New Haven

Mr. Donnelly replies:

You are correct regarding the street being Edgehill Avenue. I did go back and look at the trees; they are elms. It is also true that zelkova trees have been planted in many places instead of elms. While zelkovas are related to elms and have a somewhat similar form, zelkova trees are not susceptible to the Dutch elm disease. Zelkovas also often grow less tall than many American elms, although still tall enough to grow into the utility wires. On tree lists, they are considered to be a “maybe” in terms of compatibility with overhead wires.

Trees that can grow into overhead wires create a maintenance need. Given sufficient resources and good luck with the weather, trees can often be managed so that they are structurally reliable in the vicinity of electrical wires. But it does take work. Many communities find themselves in a position where locating sufficient resources for public trees in general is very difficult. Under those circumstances, creating additional work when there are other options can be questionable from a public policy perspective. It is important to choose carefully at planting time.

Tall trees do provide many critical benefits to a community, and so, in my view, communities should work to retain the tall trees that they have, if the location is appropriate. They should also make it a priority to plant trees that will grow into tall trees in places appropriate to trees of that size. Judgment is required to determine where those sites exist. They also need to determine whether the costs of maintenance and risk of tree failure outweigh the many benefits from those trees. In these latter situations, as you suggest, smaller trees would be the preferred alternative.

The choice of the right tree for any given location can be complicated. Besides overhead growing space, one should also consider the presence of sunlight; the quality, volume, and characteristics of the soil; the amount of moisture available; how the nearby space will be used; and so on. One should also give consideration to providing diversity and whether planting a specific kind of tree will fit in with other plantings along the street. Then, there are all of the questions that relate to disease and insect susceptibility and maintenance needs.

In choosing a tree species to plant, I would suggest giving careful consideration to all of the above and then make use of a good tree selection resource. The Urban Resources Initiative in New Haven maintains a list of trees that gives the compatibility of tree species with overhead wires and other environmental features. To get to that list, go to URI’s tree planting web page at environment.yale.edu/uri. A similar list, focusing on trees with short mature heights, is given in the report of the State Vegetation Management Task Force (ct.gov/deep/svmtf). A very good third resource is the University of Connecticut’s plant database (hort.uconn.edu).

—Chris Donnelly is an urban forester for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



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