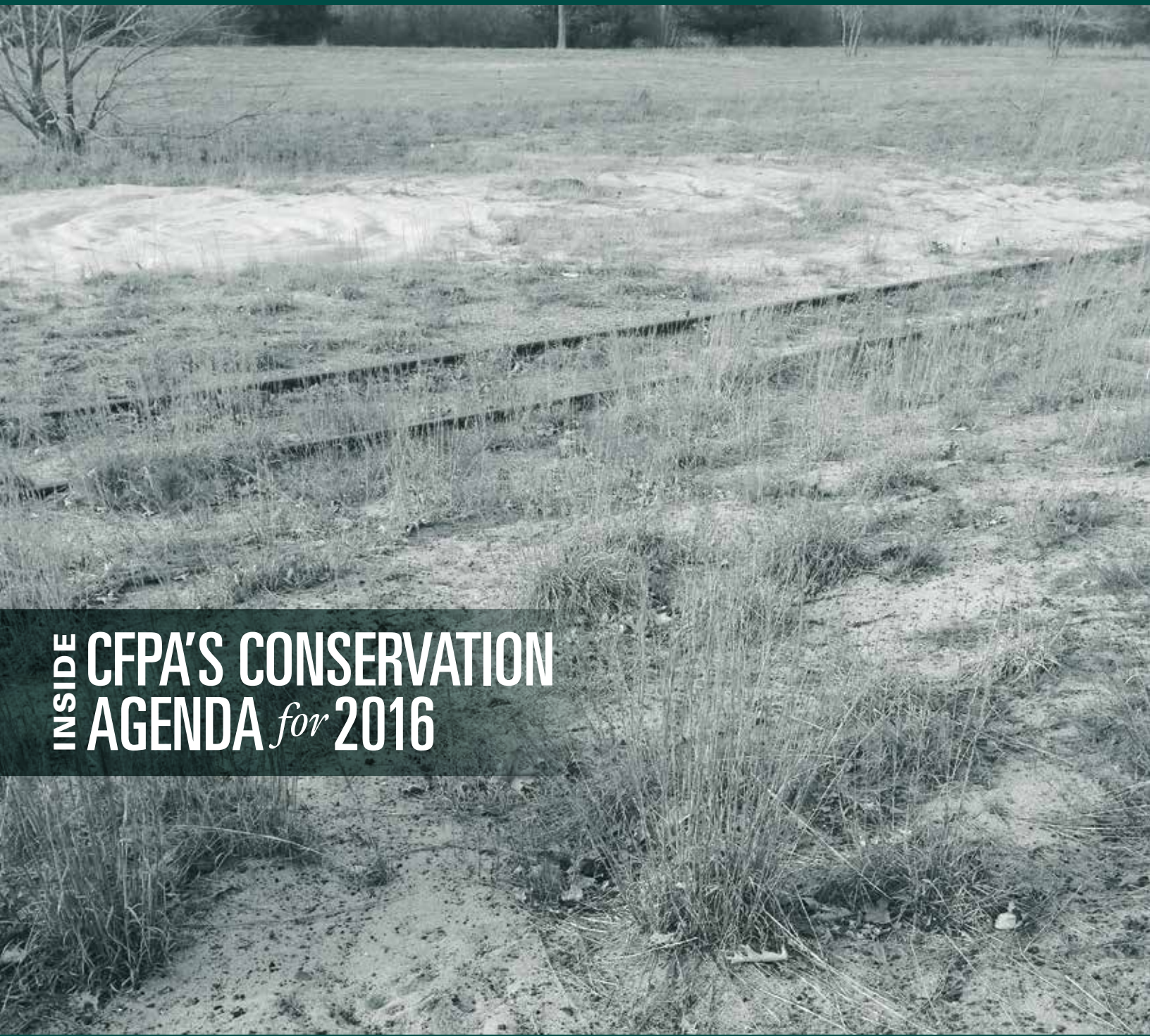


CONNECTICUT **Woodlands**



INSIDE **CFPA'S CONSERVATION**
AGENDA *for* **2016**

THE DISAPPEARED SANDPLAINS

A LAND TRUST CELEBRATES 50 YEARS • BEAR PROBLEMS

THE CONNECTICUT FOREST & PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT, **ERIC LUKINGBEAL**, *Granby*
 VICE-PRESIDENT, **WILLIAM D. BRECK**, *Killingworth*
 VICE-PRESIDENT, **DAVID G. LAURETTI**, *Bloomfield*
 VICE-PRESIDENT, **STARR SAYRES**, *East Haddam*
 TREASURER, **JAMES W. DOMBRAUSKAS**, *New Hartford*
 SECRETARY, **ERIC HAMMERLING**, *West Hartford*
 FORESTER, **THOMAS J. DEGNAN**, *East Haddam*

DIRECTORS

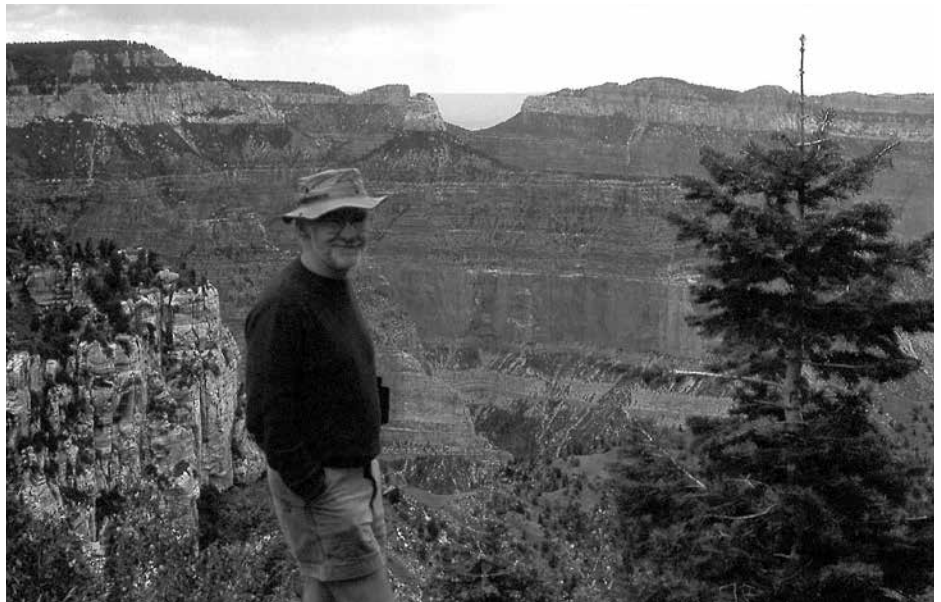
BRETT BOSKIEWICZ, *Simsbury*
STARLING W. CHILDS, *Norfolk*
JESSI CHRISTIANSEN, *Killingworth*
R. RICHARD CROCE, *Killingworth*
RUTH CUTLER, *Ashford*
CAROLINE DRISCOLL, *New London*
PETER KNIGHT, *Bloomfield*
MICHAEL LECOURS, *Farmington*
SCOTT LIVINGSTON, *Bolton*
JEFF LOUREIRO, *Canton*
ANTONIO MAZZARA, *Stamford*
ERIN McGRATH, *Wesleyan University*
LAUREN L. McGREGOR, ESQ., *Hamden*
JEFFREY O'DONNELL, *Bristol*
DAVID PLATT, *Chester*
RAYMOND RADIKAS, *Glastonbury*
ALEX J. SIEBERT, *Wesleyan University*
RICHARD WHITEHOUSE, *Glastonbury*

HONORARY DIRECTORS

GORDON L. ANDERSON, *St. Johns, FL*
HARROL W. BAKER, JR., *Bolton*
RICHARD A. BAUFELD, *Redding*
RUSSELL BRENNEMAN, *Westport*
GEORGE M. CAMP, *Middletown*
ANN CUDDY, *Ashland, OR*
SAMUEL G. DODD, *North Andover, MA*
ASTRID T. HANZALEK, *Suffield*
JOHN HIBBARD, *Hebron*
JOSEPH HICKEY, *Wethersfield*
JEAN CRUM JONES, *Shelton*
EDWARD A. RICHARDSON, *Glastonbury*
L.P. SPERRY, JR., *Middlebury*
SALLY L. TAYLOR, *Mystic*
SIDNEY VAN ZANDT, *Noank*

STAFF

TRAIL STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR, **CLARE CAIN**, *Old Lyme*
 FIELD COORDINATOR, TRAILS PROGRAM,
COLIN CARROLL, *Hamden*
 EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR,
ELIZABETH FOSSETT, *Meriden*
 MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING DIRECTOR,
MARTY GOSSELIN, *Durham*
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, **ERIC HAMMERLING**, *West Hartford*
 DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, **JAMES W. LITTLE**, *Hebron*
 ADVANCEMENT ASSISTANT, **KARA MURPHY**, *Guilford*
 LAND CONSERVATION DIRECTOR,
LINDSAY SUHR, *North Haven*
 FOREST & PROGRAM DIRECTOR, GOODWIN FOREST CENTER,
BETH RHINES, *Woodstock*
 OFFICE MANAGER, **TERESA PETERS**, *Durham*
 EDITOR, **CHRISTINE WOODSIDE**
 COPYEDITOR, **ROBIN GOLD**
 GRAPHIC DESIGNER, **KAREN WARD**



COURTESY OF THE WHITEHOUSE FAMILY

Richard Whitehouse, former Connecticut Forest & Park Association president and trail manager (shown here on a trip to the Grand Canyon), died in December. See page 24.

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.

Connecticut Woodlands

Published quarterly by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association,
 16 Meriden Road,
 Rockfall, CT 06481-2961
 Indexed in the Connecticut Periodical Index,
 ISSN 00106257
 Telephone: 860-346-TREE
 Fax: 860-347-7463.
 E-mail address: info@ctwoodlands.org
 Web site: ctwoodlands.org

Annual Membership


Individual	\$ 35
Family	\$ 50
Supporting	\$ 100
Benefactor	\$ 250

Life Membership \$ 2500

Corporate Membership

Club / Non-profit	\$ 75
Sustaining	\$ 100
Landmark	\$ 250
Stewardship	\$ 500
Leadership	\$ 1000



 Printed on 60% Recycled, FSC and Green-e Certified Paper

CONNECTICUT Woodlands

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association

SPRING 2016 Volume 81 No. 1

CONTENTS



FEATURES

- 6 THE DISAPPEARED SANDPLAINS:**
95 percent of them are gone.
Second in a series on imperiled ecosystems.
By Christine Woodside.
- 10 JOSHUA'S TRUST:**
Northeastern Connecticut's steward of 4,500 acres prepares for the next 50 years.
By Terese Karmel.
- 17 THE FOREST ECONOMY IN CONNECTICUT:**
A new report lists statistics that should not surprise us.
By James W. Little.
- 18 BEAR NECESSITIES:**
People–bear encounters increase; wildlife officials take action.
Nicholas Shigo

On the Cover:

A small sandplain in central Connecticut. The whiter section at the top is where an all-terrain vehicle did circles.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.**
The silver tsunami: Older owners of forested tracts consider selling.
By Eric Lukingbeal.
- 5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE.**
We hold these truths to be self-evident.
By Eric Hammerling.
- 13 CFPA IN THE COMMUNITY.**
► Conservation Agenda.
- 20 FROM THE LAND.**
Lilac dreams: Their presence in Connecticut tells the story of early farmers.
By Jean Crum Jones.
- 22 TRY THIS HIKE.**
Over two summits and lots of rocks on the Rugged Housatonic Range Trail.
By Diane Friend Edwards.
- 24 IN MEMORIAM.**
Richard Whitehouse.
- 26 ON THE TRAILS.**
Talking with 825-milers: "Does it get better than this?"
- 27 LETTER TO THE EDITOR.**
► Thanks for Jean Jones.
► CFPA's Trails Program welcomes field coordinator.



We hold these truths to be self-evident



BY ERIC HAMMERLING

During an intense 17-day period in 1776, Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, which was adopted by representatives of the 13 colonies on July 4. In this historic document, Jefferson set forth a few high-minded principles (e.g., “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”) together with a list of grievances against the king to justify before the world the breaking of ties between the colonies and the mother country. These principles, combined with an effort to ensure that checks and balances would avoid future abuses by a tyrannical monarchy, provided the underpinnings for a new system of government that was embodied in the U.S. Constitution in 1789.

With the Declaration of Independence as the Connecticut Forest & Park Association’s inspiration, we are putting forward our own high-minded principles to reduce the current threats to your state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, and state-owned agricultural lands. We hold the following truths to

be self-evident for public lands with agricultural, conservation, and recreational values:

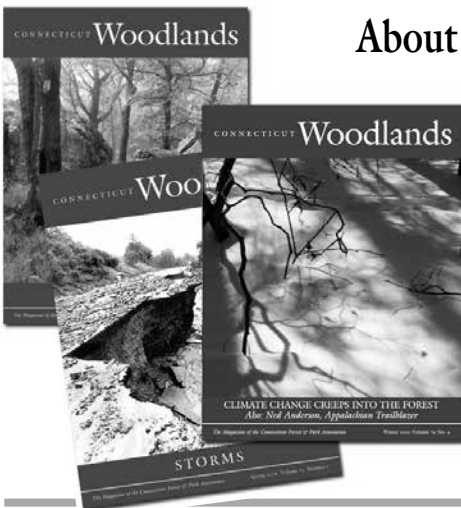
- ▶ That your public lands should not be given away, sold, traded, or have their uses changed without a public hearing in the town or towns where the public lands are located;
- ▶ That your public lands should not be given away without compensation that equals or exceeds the values being lost in the region where they are being lost;
- ▶ That the General Assembly should be held to a higher standard than a simple majority vote (we recommend a two-thirds majority vote) to approve a conveyance of public lands;
- ▶ That the General Assembly should not bundle all conveyances into one bill, but should have separate bills to be considered for each conveyance of public lands with agricultural, conservation, or recreational value; and
- ▶ That conveyances of public lands using powerful language exempting the General Assembly from all previously enacted laws should be the exception and not the rule.

At the time of writing this article, a joint resolution that would amend the state

constitution has been introduced in the Environment Committee, and we expect that soon another joint resolution will be introduced in the Government Administration and Elections Committee, which has jurisdiction over constitutional amendments. Now is the time to get involved and help make a change that will ensure that your state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, and state-owned agricultural lands are included in the legacy that you leave to future generations. This cannot wait as additional state lands are given away.

In case you are wondering what is involved in achieving an amendment to the state constitution, a bill must be passed in each chamber of the General Assembly with greater than a three-quarters vote if it is to be included on the ballot during the next even-year election (which happens to be this November). Then, the people of Connecticut get to vote on it, and a simple majority at the ballot box would amend the state constitution. The state constitution has been amended 31 times since 1970, and it simply must be amended once more to better protect your state lands.

Eric Hammerling of West Hartford has served as CFPA’s executive director since 2008.



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.

For more information about CFPA, to join or donate online, visit our website, www.ctwoodlands.org, or call 860-346-TREE.

Give the gift of membership in CFPA. Contact Marty Gosselin at 860-346-TREE.

ADVERTISING RATES

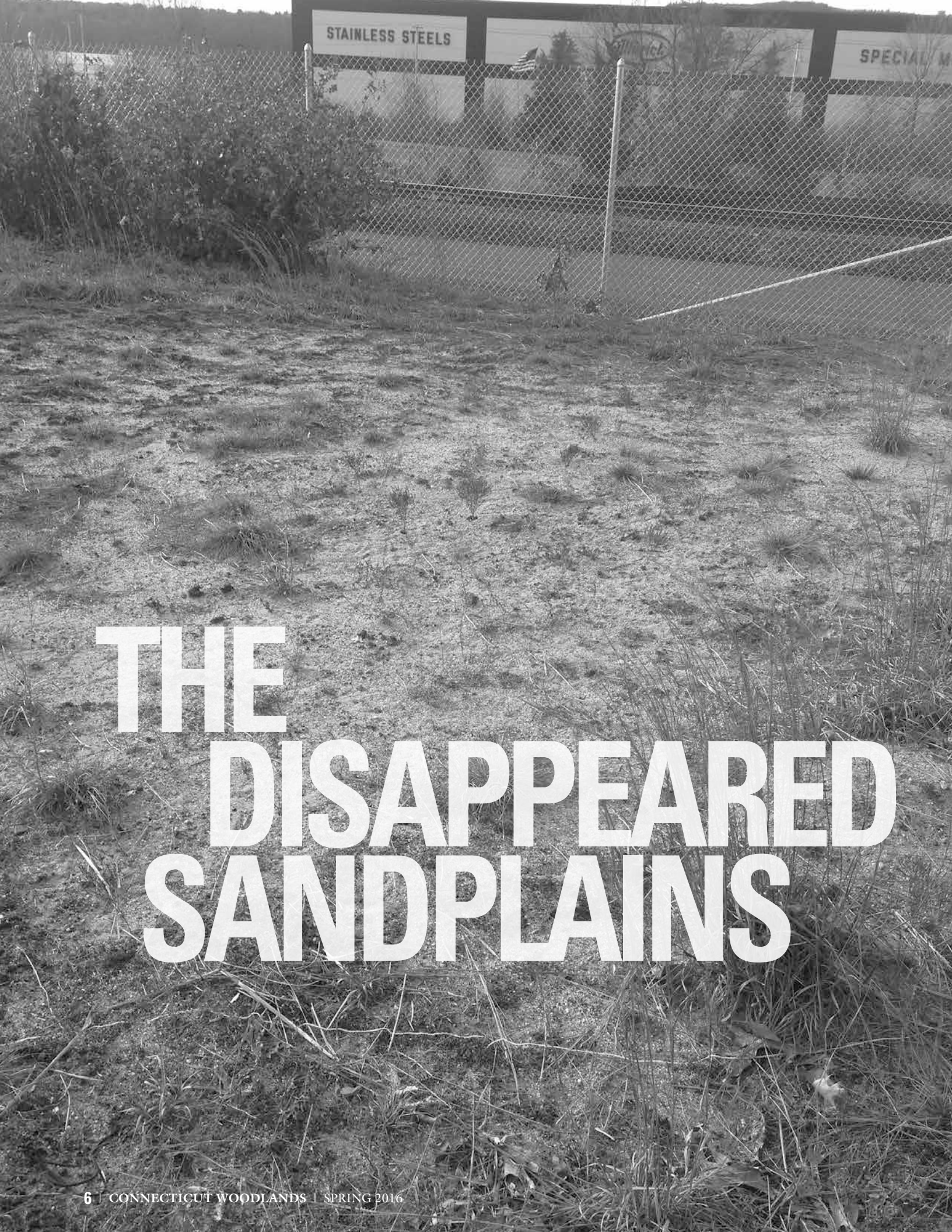
Full page: \$450

Half page: \$225

Quarter page: \$112

Eighth page: \$75

Design services available for a fee.



STAINLESS STEELS

SPECIAL M

THE DISAPPEARED SANDPLAINS

95 PERCENT OF THEM ARE GONE

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

I trudge along a barren, sandy field, following a bespectacled, gray-bearded ecologist named Bill Moorhead. He steps carefully in his work boots over dead patches of grass and green-gray lichen. He leans down suddenly, plucks a dead plant out of the sand, and holds it against the worn-green canvas of his work coat. I peer at the dead, orange-tipped seeded tops of St. John's wort (*Hypericum gentianoides*).

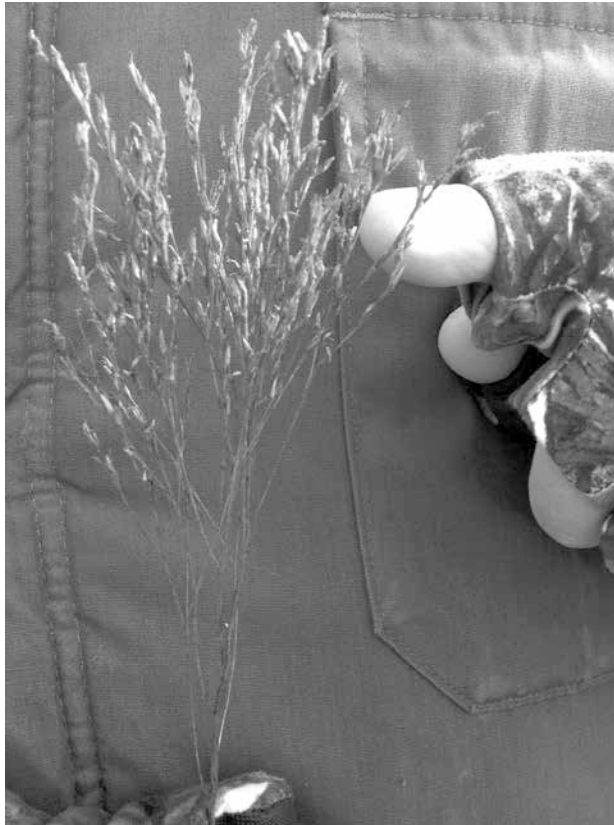
He holds the wispy dry leftovers of a grass (*Aristida tuberculosa*) that survives on these sandy soils because of its three wing-like seeds, or "awns." These catch the loose soil as the wind drops the grass. The awns fix themselves in the sandy soil, ensuring the growth of the next generation.

This is not the beach. This is not the desert Southwest. This is a sandplain somewhere in central Connecticut. I have raced across a state highway, skirted a fence, and crossed railroad tracks behind Mr. Moorhead. Behind the sandy field and its dead grasses and lichens rises an industrial building. Now we walk around an intriguing bull's-eye-shaped indentation in the whitish sand.

Because this habitat I'm visiting is so rare now in Connecticut, I have agreed not to talk about where exactly I am, but I am curious to know what species made this odd circular wallow. "People," he says. "An ATV." *Homo sapiens* did the usual ritual of circling around in an all-terrain vehicle. That shocks me a bit, until I learn that as long as a joy rider doesn't do that all the time—say, as long as the ATV driver comes back here only once every few years—then the disturbance might even help this landscape. I have much to learn.

Degraded and Diminished

This is a sandplain grassland, sometimes called a sand barren, one in a list of "imperiled ecosystems" grimly catalogued several years ago by a plant expert, Kenneth J. Metzler, and an insect expert, David L. Wagner, both of them state of Connecticut scientists, explaining to a governor's taskforce what rampant development and other human degradation had done to the diverse habitats of southern New England.



CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

St. John's wort thrives on the sandplains.

ner, an entomologist and professor of ecology at the University of Connecticut, found rare beetles living on sandplains. The insects thrived in soil so heavily altered by people that it was little more than a collection of sandpits, but "they had these cool tiger beetles living in them."

It's difficult to calculate exactly the acreage of Connecticut's sandplains before development, but Dr. Metzler estimates that only about 5 percent of the original sandplains are still sandplains. This may seem an obvious point, but I ask Mr. Moorhead if, once industrial buildings, shopping malls, houses, and pavement cover sandplains, is the habitat totally lost? The answer: yes.

Developers have loved sandplains because they're flat. They don't hold rocks or roll around large hunks of rock ledge as many Connecticut landscapes do. The earliest development of sandplains was making them into cemeteries. In modern times, they provided level areas for huge complexes such as Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, the University of Connecticut's stadium at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, and the former Cytec Industries in Wallingford (now closed)—all were built on sandplains.

Connecticut's
13 Imperiled
Ecosystems

SECOND IN
A SERIES



CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

Ecologist Bill Moorhead walks a sandplain (we have agreed not to reveal the exact location) near an industrial site.

DEVELOPERS HAVE LOVED SANDPLAINS BECAUSE THEY'RE FLAT. THEY DON'T HOLD ROCKS OR ROLL AROUND LARGE HUNKS OF ROCK LEDGE AS MANY CONNECTICUT LANDSCAPES DO. THE EARLIEST DEVELOPMENT OF SANDPLAINS WAS MAKING THEM INTO CEMETERIES. IN MODERN TIMES, THEY PROVIDED LEVEL AREAS FOR HUGE COMPLEXES SUCH AS BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN WINDSOR LOCKS, THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT'S STADIUM AT RENTSCHLER FIELD IN EAST HARTFORD, AND THE FORMER CYTEC INDUSTRIES IN WALLINGFORD (NOW CLOSED)—ALL WERE BUILT ON SANDPLAINS.

Several acres of sandplain remain undeveloped around the Cytec property, Dr. Wagner notes. This is the largest undeveloped sandplain left in the state. And, like most of the sandplains, it is in private hands. This Cytec property went up for sale this winter.

The Original Sandplains

Before European colonization started in the 1600s, this sandplain—and the many miles of others to the north and south of where I stood the day I visited the sandplain with Mr. Moorhead—could have been covered with pitch pine trees. Those low, gnarly trees thrive on sandy soil. And beneath them, at that time, probably were similar grasses to the ones I review with Mr. Moorhead. The land would have burned every several years, because the Indian tribes who lived here used fire to keep their hunting and migration routes clear and to produce fresh grass for meadows.

Or the land could have been open and somewhat barren, as parts of it appeared to me the day I rambled around it. Whether once home to the low pitch pines or the grasses, we know for certain that this sand has been here for about 12,000 years, since the time a gigantic lake retreated.

The lake was known later as Glacial Lake Hitchcock (for the geologist who studied it). For some 3,000 years, it held water for miles on either side of today's Connecticut River, extending from today's Rocky Hill, Connecticut, to northern Vermont. The lake's layers of sand and silt settled as a result of the lake's movement and ultimate draining after the landscape altered.

Stanley W. Bromley imagined some of this scene in his 1934 article, "The Original Forest Types of Southern New England" (Ecological Monographs, vol. 5 no. 1, January 1935). Most of Connecticut was forested by very old trees with a "parklike" landscape beneath, he wrote.

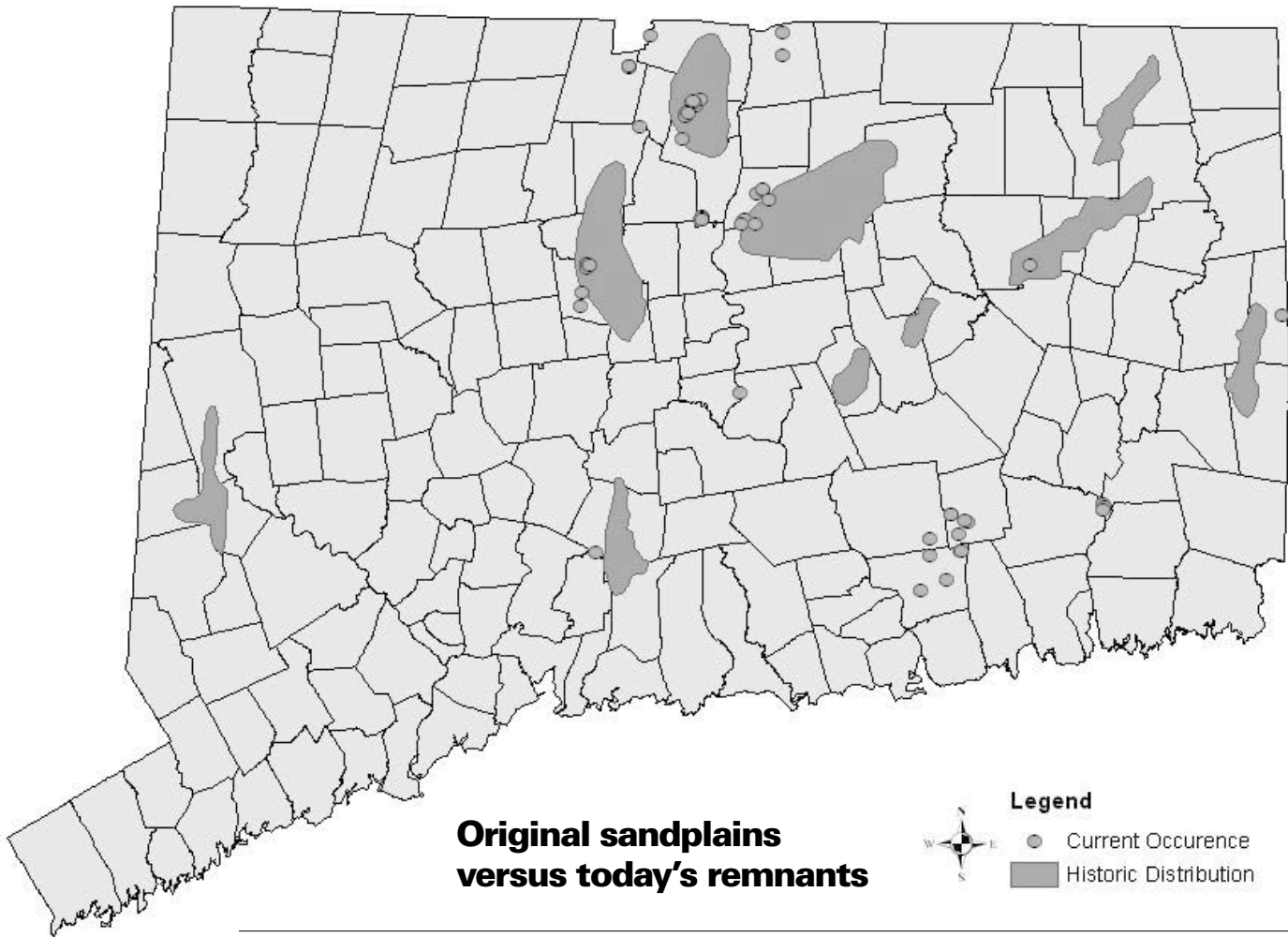
A few years later, in 1937, Charles E. Olmsted studied sandplains for his Yale dissertation. He proved in a paper published that year, "Vegetation of Certain Sand Plains in Connecticut" (Botanical Gazette, vol. 99 no. 2, December 1937) that sandplains' plant makeup can change easily by seed distribution. Birds, wind, people's shoes, and nearby farmers planting shrubs along fencerows—all can change the makeup of the plants and therefore animals.

Dr. Olmsted identified the then-largest swatch of sand barrens, as the sandplains also have been called, from North Haven and Wallingford north to Meriden, 1.5 miles wide and 15 to 16 miles long. That the land remained barren, favoring small groups of drought-tolerant, sand-loving plants and animals in a state where almost 46 inches of rain fell in a year—this proved, he wrote, that the barren landscape represented a land not modified by people. He believed that grassland persisted on the sandplains until the European colonists came along and encouraged pitch pine and scrub oak.

His paper also documented how farmers had degraded sandplains. They tried to grow crops that weren't suited to the soil. The farms failed, and they abandoned them but didn't take away seeds left from their failed crops. This disturbed seed banks in the sandplain soils, and discouraged, in turn, those plants that would thrive on sandplains.

A Vulnerable Ecosystem

Seldom do the remaining sandplains appear in the best condition they can be. Optimally, they are home to several species of pollinating insects, all of them either



listed as Connecticut species of special concern or no longer found here. These include the noctuid moths *Apamea burgessi*, *Agrotis stigmata*, *Eucoptocnemis fimbriaris*, *Lepidolys perscripta*, and *Euxoa pleuritica*; the violet dart moth (*Euxoa violaris*); phyllira tiger moth (*Grammia phyllira*); the frosted elfin moth (*Incisalia irus*); the regal fritillary moth (*Speyeria idalia*); and Leonard's skipper (*Hesperia leonardus*), a tiny fast-moving butterfly that lives for only two weeks.

The sandplains also provide the unique dry habitat for certain plants. These include sandplain gerardia (*Agalinis acuta*), which the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection lists among the "most important" to protect in its 2015 Wildlife Action Plan and which is endangered in the United States; low frostweed (*Helianthemum propinquum*) and golden-heather (*Hudsonia ericoides*), both endangered in Connecticut; and others.

Animals that thrive on sandplains struggle,

too. One of the rarest toads in Connecticut, the eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), likes to hide in sandy holes after breeding in temporary pools. We know it's out there on the sandplains. Grassland birds that live in this habitat include the state-endangered Northern harrier, grasshopper sparrow, savannah sparrow, and upland plover. We can't list them all here. See the Connecticut habitat listings in the Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan, best found through an online search.

Dr. Metzler mapped critical habitats used in these reports and others, and says it's a shame more of the public doesn't know about the maps. One can search online for "Connecticut critical habitats," and that will usually lead to the database. Or go to this URL to get started: cteco.uconn.edu/metadata/dep/document/CRITICAL_HABITAT_POLY_FGDC_Plus.htm.

Sandplains aren't going to thrive as the total ecosystems they used to be. Dr. Wagner

says some scientists have given up hope. Mr. Moorhead and Dr. Metzler are two who look at the future with a sense of possibility, if a diminished one.

Before Dr. Wagner showed him the tiger beetles burrowing around in degraded sand pits, Dr. Metzler says, "I was looking at it from what I considered a viable ecosystem perspective in the plants and size. My mind was changed." Now he considers the few remaining sandplains "as remnants that function with a few species that are indicative of that type of habitat."

If seeds have been waiting in the sand for their right moment, and the land remains free of development, the sandplains could harbor some of the unique flora and fauna they once did.

Christine Woodside is a Deep River-based journalist and has edited Connecticut Woodlands since 2001. Visit her at chriswoodside.com.



JOSHUA'S TRUST

*Northeastern Connecticut's steward of 4,500 acres
prepares for the next 50 years*

BY TERESE KARMEL

Agnes Fuller's cow pasture on a remote piece of farmland in Chaplin is a perfect example of the conservation and history mission of Joshua's Trust, a prominent organization that celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Each day, Mrs. Fuller, who managed her farm until well into her 90s, dragged her painful knees up a steep wooded hill to feed her cows. So when she neared the end of her life, she wanted to make sure her 12-acre pasture would remain in its natural state, even though its former bovine inhabitants had long since moved on.

"I want to do what Mollie Hubbard did," she said often, referring to her deceased neighbor, a science illustrator at the University of Connecticut, who donated 31 acres of hay fields, hardwood forests, and two ponds, now called the Hubbard Sanctuary, to the

trust. At the top of a hill adjacent to Hubbard's land, through an iconic stone wall, a wood sign announces "Agnes' Pasture," preserved in perpetuity as the strong Yankee woman had requested.

Joshua's Trust, which manages or owns 4,500 acres in 14 eastern Connecticut towns and holds assets of more than \$12 million (from its original \$1,400), was formed in April 1966 through mutual cooperation between the Mansfield Historical Society and the town Conservation Commission.

It is a unique organization, staffed by a full-time executive director, Michael Hveem. More than 200 volunteers dedicate their time to protect prime undeveloped land in eastern Connecticut.

The name—officially, Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust—refers to February 1675, when a Mohegan chief, Joshua Attawanhood, in his last will and testament bequeathed a large portion of his hunting

Above, Agnes Fuller's field in Chaplin, preserved and marked.

TERESE KARMEL

ground to “sixteen men of Norwich” in the following language:

I Joshua Sachim Son of Uncas Sachim, Liveing nigh Eight mile Island on the River of Connecticot and within ye Bounds of Lime being Sick of body but of good and perfect memory and not knowing how Soon I may depart this Life doe make this my Last Will and testament. . . .

This was followed by a detailed description of each tract, which encompassed what became the towns of Windham, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, and Scotland. Joshua’s seal, the so-called “critter,” is the trust’s logo.

The history of the trust is recorded in a newly published book, *Fifty Years of Trust: The Story of Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historic Trust* (Elm Grove Press, Mystic) by Rudy Favretti, a landscape architect, whose energy and research skills have given this community several histories of area landmarks.

The evolution of Joshua’s Trust can be measured by its change in venues, from a tiny office in a local Willimantic bank to its newest home in Mansfield, a 19th-century family farmhouse donated by the late Isabelle Atwood. The house and a host of outbuildings, including a working weaver’s cottage, carriage shed, blacksmith shop (all of which Ms. Atwood specified should be developed into a museum), and a large black-and-white cat named Mouse, can be found at the intersection of Wormwood Hill and Gurleyville roads in Mansfield, just a few miles from the historic Gurleyville Gristmill, one of the trust’s first purchases in the 1970s. The stone gristmill, originally built in 1750, is open to visitors and was once operated by the family of Wilbur Lucius Cross, governor of Connecticut from 1931 to 1939.

Another early purchase, the Ashford Oak, a nearly 375-year-old red oak once considered the largest and oldest in the state, is carefully maintained by trust stewards.

Other early properties include Bradley-Buchanan Woods, a 25-acre parcel with a 10-acre pond in Mansfield Center. It was in the Buchanan family for three generations. Proposal Rock, 30 acres in Mansfield Center, was sold to the trust at a bargain price by

a woman whose father had proposed to her mother standing near one of the boulders. More recently, the trust received a unique 102-acre forested area and pond in Windham called the Allanach-Wolf Woodlands along with funds to maintain the land and purchase adjacent property to create greenways.

Today, the operation of Joshua’s Trust is far more complicated, with many volunteers and much administrative work, than it was in the early years. Mr. Hveem said a number of challenges lie ahead, starting with renewal of the trust’s accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance. The renewal process requires careful research and property inspection. Joshua’s Trust is one of only 15 accredited land trusts in Connecticut. This recognition is seen as a seal of approval, which foundations that might donate funds will notice, according to Mr. Hveem, a lawyer, librarian, and native of this region.

The trust is currently engaged in securing foundation donations, which Mr. Hveem said the organization has not been particularly active with in the past.

One concern, he said, is that the trust’s members and volunteers are aging, and many of the early active members have died—a situation other conservation organizations also face. “We started with passionate young

A GREAT REASON BEHIND JOSHUA’S TRUST SUCCESS AND GROWTH IS THAT IT HAS NEVER VEERED FROM ITS ORIGINAL MISSION OF LAND CONSERVATION AND RESPECT FOR HISTORY. THE EXACT LANGUAGE THAT APPEARS IN THE ORIGINAL APRIL 1966 BYLAWS APPEARS IN ITS LATEST TAX FORMS, THAT IS TO “PRESERVE THE RURAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA” AND “TO ACQUIRE AND ASSURE THE PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE” OF OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND WITH HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE TO THE AREA.



COURTESY OF JOSHUA’S TRUST

Joshua’s Trust helped this cow named Sweetheart find a new home last year, after her owner had died and donated her farm to the trust.

people in the 1960s and 1970s,” Mr. Hveem said. “We’re always looking to engage people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. We have an issue, we’re working on it, and we have hope.”

A great reason behind Joshua’s Trust success and growth is that it has never veered from its original mission of land conservation and respect for history. The exact language that appears in the original April 1966 bylaws appears in its latest tax forms, that is to “preserve the rural character of the area” and “to acquire and assure the preservation and maintenance” of open space and natural resources and land with historic significance to the area.

Mr. Favretti pointed out that the diligent core of volunteers are professional planners, engineers, and historians associated with the University of Connecticut. Although afternoon teas to raise funds may have been replaced by concerts by local bands, eco-forums by

**SINCE 1966, VOLUNTEERS HAVE
BEEN THE HEART AND SOUL OF
THE ORGANIZATION.**

professionals, and wine tastings, the volunteers are the heart and soul of the organization.

One such individual is Warren Church, an Eastern Connecticut native, who has been among the leaders of the trust for decades. Mr. Church is a retired engineer who returned from Massachusetts to his

native Chaplin, where five generations of his family have lived since 1834, when his great grandfather settled there.

As a kid, Mr. Church wondered what was so special about the place. He said he called it “Hicksville.” But between his junior and senior years at the University of Connecticut, he took a summer job with the California park service. It was a life-changing experience.

“I saw the wide-open West, and then we drove back and I couldn’t believe my eyes coming into the Quiet Corner. I didn’t realize until I went away the beauty of the area, how unique it is and how it must be preserved.”

His family donated the 37-acre Bernard Church Woods, named for his father, the late Chaplin town clerk, to Joshua’s Trust in 1993.

Are there more conservation-minded people hidden in the forests and on the windswept fields of Eastern Connecticut, so that the next 50 years are as enriching for this organization as the first half-century?

Mr. Hveem feels the region is “poised for exponential growth” for land trusts but stressed that with growth will come a greater need for volunteers and donors to continue the mission.

Since we began this written journey about Joshua’s Trust with a cow story, why not end it that way? A year ago, with snow still on the ground, Mr. Hveem was faced with an unusual task. A woman had died suddenly, leaving her Mansfield farmland to the trust. She had wanted her pet rust-colored cow, Sweetheart, to be found a home. Mr. Hveem and Mr. Church made the search, relocating Sweetie as her owner had wanted. The new owners even agreed to let a family friend visit the cow.

It’s not just land that is left to the Trust. A cow? Why not? It’s history and it’s part of the land.

Terese Karmel teaches journalism at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.





2016 CONSERVATION AGENDA FOR THE LAND & PEOPLE OF CONNECTICUT

2016 Policy Priorities

1. Support a Constitutional Amendment that protects State lands with conservation, recreation, and agricultural values from being sold, traded, or given away by the Legislature without appropriate public process and compensation.
2. Ensure that significant encroachments on State lands are made public (e.g., published in CEQ's Environmental Monitor similar to Administrative land transfers) if less than full restitution is recommended by the State.
3. Support authorizing legislation (a.k.a. "Project Green Space") that would enable municipalities to collect up to 1% of real estate conveyance fee on buyers to support local open space and farmland acquisition as well as park, forest, and trail management projects.
4. Maximize retention of healthy trees in the public right of way and ensure public notice requirements are followed.
5. Require Planning & Zoning Commissions to consult with Municipal Tree Wardens to ensure planting plans do not conflict with "Right Tree, Right Place" best practices.
6. Support "Greenway Tax Credit" that would provide a State income tax credit to private landowners who donate a permanent easement allowing recreational access for trails officially designated as State Greenways.

2016 Funding/Resource Priorities

1. Establish a new, secure source of funding for State Parks operations and maintenance.
2. Protect the integrity of the Community Investment Act (CIA) fund against raids and earmarks.
3. Support bonding for the State Recreational Trails Program, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program, Farmland Preservation Program, and Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund.
4. Support funding and positions at CT DEEP essential for managing and acquiring parks, forests, and open space lands.
5. Support key Federal programs (e.g., Forest Legacy; Land and Water Conservation Fund; No Child Left Inside Act; New England Trail funding through the National Park Service; the U.S. Department of Transportation/FHWA Recreational Trails Program and others) that further the conservation of forests, open space, and trails.

** Sign-up for Advocacy Alerts, visit www.ctwoodlands.org and/or contact our Executive Director, Eric Hammerling, via 860/346-TREE or ehammerling@ctwoodlands.org.

CFPA Public Policy Committee Members

William D. Breck	John E. Hibbard	Lauren L. McGregor
Hon. Astrid T. Hanzalek	David K. Leff, Chair	John C. Larkin, Lobbyist
Brett Boskiewicz	Eric Lukingbeal	Eric Hammerling, Staff

CFPA's 2016 Conservation Agenda Priorities Analysis

1. Support a Constitutional Amendment that protects State lands with conservation, recreation, and agricultural values from being sold, traded, or given away by the Legislature without appropriate public process and compensation.

The Council on Environmental Quality describes the situation well in its 2014 report [Preserved But Maybe Not: The Impermanence of State Conservation Lands](#); State Parks, Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and publicly owned agricultural lands are vulnerable to being given away by the Connecticut General Assembly.

Despite CEQ's report and growing public frustration with the insufficient protections for State lands, the initial 2015 Conveyance Act included four separate proposals to give away public lands. If not for public outcry and the active efforts of several heroic Legislators who fought to remove these proposals, the following public lands would have been lost:

- 4.7 acres of Silver Sands State Park to the City of Milford for municipal parking and other purposes;
- Over 100 acres of the Centennial Watershed Forest to the town of Fairfield despite existing conservation easement protections; and
- Sensitive habitats in the Quinebaug Wildlife Management Area would have been damaged by 2 private roads built for sand and gravel extraction.

A Constitutional Amendment is necessary to better protect State lands, and states such as Maine, Massachusetts, and New York already have constitutional protections in place. A Constitutional Amendment should include the following provisions: 1) require a vote by a supermajority (two-thirds) of each chamber, 2) require a local public hearing in the town(s) where public lands would be sold, traded, or given away; 3) require a separate bill for each proposed loss of public lands with agricultural, conservation, or recreational value; and 4) require compensation for the State to purchase replacement land with similar values in the same region.

“Process improvements” such as a Joint House/Senate Rules Change requiring that Conveyance bills have a hearing before the Environment Committee could be helpful intermediary steps (currently the only required public hearing is before the Government Administration and Elections Committee), but ultimately this would not be protective since Conveyance Acts are voted upon in the last few days of each session when House and Senate rules are waived.

2. Ensure that significant encroachments on State lands are made public (e.g., published in CEQ's Environmental Monitor similar to Administrative land transfers) if less than full restitution is recommended by the State.

Every year, encroachments occur on State lands ranging from acres of timber theft from a State Forest to minor boundary disputes. Most encroachments are readily resolved, but at times, there is significant damage done to State lands and there is no requirement for the State to inform the public of these resolutions, even if the State is agreeing to less than full restitution of lost resources and public lands are to be left degraded. A mechanism exists through the Environmental Monitor (published by the Council on Environmental Quality) to include information for the public on how these encroachments are being resolved. CFPA will work with CT DEEP and CEQ to suggest a reasonable balance between over-reporting minor encroachments, and under-reporting major ones. Legislation may be necessary.

CFPA's 2016 Conservation Agenda Priorities Analysis

- 3. Support authorizing legislation (a.k.a. "Project Green Space") that would enable municipalities to collect up to 1% of real estate conveyance fee on buyers to support local open space acquisition as well as park, forest, and trail management projects.**

CFPA supports the efforts of Audubon CT and partners to establish a local option to acquire, preserve, and protect current open space and parks in Connecticut cities and towns. The legislation would have three key components: the percentage of the assessment on the value of the home; an exclusion level to ensure equity among home buyers, and the range of projects funded. The legislation would apply to land stewardship of open space and parks, and to acquiring parcels of open space, parks, and farmland.

- 4. Maximize retention of healthy trees in the public right of way and ensure public notice requirements are followed.**

One critical protection for street or roadside trees within the public right-of-way ("public trees") is that the municipal tree warden is required to post a notice on those trees that are proposed for pruning or removal, allowing neighbors and other community members to ask for a public meeting before pruning or removal takes place. A hearing allows questions to be asked and alternatives suggested that better protect the trees, and also provides a right of appeal from a tree warden decision. Although individual landowners whose property abuts the site of proposed utility tree work must be given notice by the utility and have a right to object to the tree warden and to appeal a decision, that notice does not inform neighbors and other community members who also have an interest in these public trees. CFPA supports legislation that would clarify this posting requirement to keep the public appropriately informed and able to participate in decisions about proposed pruning or removal of public trees in all Connecticut towns.

- 5. Require Planning & Zoning Commissions to consult with Municipal Tree Wardens to ensure planting plans do not conflict with "Right Tree, Right Place" best practices.**

Over the past couple of decades, municipal tree wardens as well as utilities and others have rallied around the concept of "right tree, right place"; i.e., ensuring that the right species of tree to meet landowner, community, utility, and other goals is planted or replanted in the right location for maximum long-term benefits. Unfortunately, many towns and town commissions do not utilize the expertise of their tree wardens in reviewing planting plans for newly proposed housing and commercial developments. This level of review should help avoid future conflicts that would otherwise arise if the wrong species of trees were planted next to roads, beneath power lines, in transportation lines-of-sight, et cetera. We ask the General Assembly to support legislation that would require Planning and Zoning Commissions to consult with their municipal tree wardens when reviewing planting plans to ensure "right tree, right place" is considered.

- 6. Support "Greenway Tax Credit" that would provide a State income tax credit to private landowners who donate a permanent easement allowing recreational access for trails officially designated as State Greenways.**

People want to live near trails and beautiful open spaces. According to a 2008 National Association of Home Builders study, "Trails consistently remain the #1 amenity sought by prospective homeowners." The CT SCORP (State

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) emphasizes that people desire trails more than all other types of recreational amenities. There is also a growing recognition of the economic, health, and quality of life benefits associated with having protected and well-managed forests, parks, and trails. We ask the General Assembly to support giving municipalities an option to provide a property tax credit or deduction for the donation of a conservation easement that would protect a trail corridor in perpetuity. The state has a process and a Greenways Council to designate "greenways" as a special category of trails. Greenways deserve special tax incentives to encourage landowners to protect these greenways in perpetuity.



Connecticut Forest & Park Association
 16 Meriden Road
 Rockfall, CT 06481

(860) 346-TREE
www.ctwoodlands.org

Grow Your Own Meadow

Large or Small, for the Home & Community Landscape

DATE: May 21, 2016

LOCATION: CFPA Headquarters (Middlefield, CT)

A seminar with landscape designer Kathy Connolly, sponsored by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

TIME: 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.

FEE: \$30 (Member) /\$40 (Nonmember)

Details at www.ctwoodlands.org/MeadowSeminar

NEW THIS YEAR! Join us for an additional one-hour program on meadow site selection and preparation.

TIME: 1 p.m.- 2 p.m.

FEE: \$15 (Member) /\$20 (Nonmember)

Details at www.ctwoodlands.org/MeadowSitePrep



Horst Engineering

Precision Machining • Thread Rolling • Centerless Grinding

Proud supporter
 of CFPA and
 Trails Weekend

East Hartford, CT • horstengineering.com



THE FOREST ECONOMY IN CONNECTICUT

A NEW REPORT LISTS STATISTICS THAT SHOULD NOT SURPRISE US

BY JAMES W. LITTLE

Many people probably believe that Connecticut, the silicon valley of the 19th century, home of the Insurance City after that, a perennial top-five richest state in the union, and one of the most densely populated areas in the country, could not still be home to a forest-based economy. And they would be wrong.

Here are three numbers from a 2015 report by the North East State Foresters Association, “The Economic Importance of Connecticut’s Forest Based Economy”¹ to consider:

- ▶ **Acreage of Connecticut forests:** 1,799,342. Forests cover 56 percent of the state. Oak/hickory forests compose more than 72 percent of that forest cover.
- ▶ **Gross annual output** (total sales): \$2.1 billion.
- ▶ **Forest-related workforce:** Roughly 8,200 people work in the forest products, maple, and Christmas tree sectors. Compare this with General Electric’s Connecticut workforce in 2015 of 5,800 and that of The Travelers, which employed 7,300.
- ▶ **Income generated by forest recreation:** \$1.2 billion, which accounts for 4,600 jobs in the sectors that include and support this recreation economy.
- ▶ **Total sales (in 2013) of forest-based manufacturing and recreation:** \$3.3 billion. For comparison, the Connecticut insurance industry generates about \$18 billion in gross state product (according to a 2014 Connecticut insurance market brief).

These are surprisingly big numbers. Trees, forests, trails, parks, and protected lands are critical to Connecticut, and too often they are ignored, exploited, and underappreciated by communities, businesses, and state government.

The forest report acknowledges that as dramatic as these benefits are, they do not include the value of ecosystem services, “ecological life-support systems that provide a full suite of goods and services that are vital to human health and livelihood.”² How does one place a monetary value on clean air and water, wildlife habitat, or a meandering trail leading to a scenic landscape that makes one feel alive and happy to live in Connecticut?

This importance of Connecticut’s landscape to the quality of life in the state was emphasized in a 1962 report to Governor John Dempsey by William H. (“Holly”) Whyte, former editor of *Fortune* and author of the groundbreaking book, *The Organization Man* (Simon & Schuster, 1956).³ The report is known to those in conservation circles as simply the Whyte Report. Quality of life and access to healthy outdoor recreation, a rare business measurement where Connecticut ranks in the top 20 nationally,⁴ is an important issue for Connecticut companies and contributes to the state’s ability to attract new business and retain existing businesses.

Early in the 20th century, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, under the leadership of conservation innovators such as Henry S. Graves, suggested that farmers view trees as a crop to be grown and harvested for profit. This was especially true in rural areas where poverty was a harsh reality because of poor soil and collapsing family farms. CFPA advocated for favorable forest taxation and has continually worked closely with the state forester in managing forestlands to keep them healthy and generate much needed revenue.

Connecting ideas and people to the land is essential to CFPA’s conservation strategy. CFPA helped form Connwood to provide processing and marketing services for forest products. CFPA was involved in the creation of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association. CFPA Board member and pioneer grower, Phillip H. Jones, was its first president. CFPA sponsored a Tree Farm Program in Connecticut, at the request of the American Forest Products Industry in 1946.

In 1929, CFPA also began its most visible program, the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. The trails were not the mission of CFPA, but a program to support conservation and forestry. George Milne wrote, “The trails meant not only exercise and recreation, but also communion with the natural world that went much deeper.”⁵ Trails offered opportunities to experience and appreciate the wooded landscape. They inspired people to protect these places that became special to them because of their connection. In addition to positive economic benefits, there are new health benefits being discovered in forests. In an era where arguments over carbon and climate change rage, one area where all agree is the importance of the benefits of forests in taking carbon out of the atmosphere. The report notes that forests “with increasing volumes and carbon mass can provide a positive benefit in the greenhouse gas equations.”⁶ What technology offers both joy and climate change benefits with so little cost or controversy?

The economics of forests are critical to moving conservation forward in Connecticut. History shows, sadly, that action is rarely taken by communities, government, or business simply for the public good. Dollars and cents arguments and measurable benefits are essential to preserving our trees, forests, trails, parks, and protected lands. We enjoy the benefits of a forested landscape, which was once reduced by 70 percent, because CFPA was able to create a balanced argument, including economic realities to reforest the state.

This report is a crucial reminder that forests make an important contribution not only to the quality of life in Connecticut, but also to its economy.

James W. Little is the development director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, publisher of this magazine.

1 ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/forestry/ct_forest_based_economy.pdf

2 2015 North East State Foresters Association report, 17.

3 Russell L. Brennenman wrote eloquently about this issue in his chapter “Rescuing Connecticut—A Story of Land-Saving Actions,” *Twentieth-Century New England Land Conservation*, ed. Charles H. W. Foster (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009), 259–300.

4 Connecticut Business & Industry Association, “Economy, Jobs Top Election Issues,” August 5, 2014, cbia.com/news/economy/economy-jobs-top-election-issues/

5 Milne, George, McLean, *Connecticut Woodlands* (Rockfall: Connecticut Forest & Parks Association, Inc., 1995), 47.

6 2015 North East State Foresters Association report, 8.



PAUL FUSCO \ DEEP

Bears that come too close to humans can be dangerous because they associate people with food.

BEAR NECESSITIES

People–bear encounters increase; wildlife officials take action

BY NICHOLAS SHIGO

The bears seemed to almost be playing with Stephanie Rivkin on her late August hike in Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington.

Both were male American black bears, *Ursus americanus*, each about three feet high at the shoulder and covered in glossy black fur. Wildlife biologists estimated them to be about a year old. Red identification tags hung from their ears, showing that these bears had encountered civilization before and been tagged for tracking by wildlife officials.

One ambled up to Ms. Rivkin in a cartoonish way. He sniffed and pawed at her leg, sometimes darting back off the path to the trees. The other kept its distance but watched



PAUL FUSCO \ DEEP

Black bears on this page and the next were photographed by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection staffer Paul Fusco.

attentively. All the while, Ms. Rivkin spoke to the bears in a low whisper, as you might if you were trying to calm an unfamiliar dog. As she walked away, one bit her softly on the leg, much like a pet's play bite.

To many, this behavior may seem rather benign. Wildlife biologists say that bears acting like big pets actually are very dangerous. This is a behavior that biologists call habituation, where a bear learns to associate people with food and uses them to get food instead of hunting or foraging. Although this encounter ended safely, a bear gnawing on a person's leg, however softly, is not playing, and the encounter could very well turn violent, the experts said.

For this reason, both bears were killed September 2 by staffers of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection. This drew the attention of many on social media, who angrily criticized the DEEP.

Connecticut residents and out-of-state observers took to DEEP's Facebook page, called Connecticut Fish and Wildlife, to comment on the situation.

"Who cares how many times the[y] moved the bear!!!! It was its home n all it knew. Aggressive? Really? It's a bear. I think this woman shouldve moved her home or found a different trail," wrote one angry commenter, identified as Mary Jo Thompson-Avery.

Posters suggested teaching people about bears or telling hikers who fear potentially dangerous wildlife to stay out of the woods. Some called for Connecticut to institute a bear hunting season. Others commended the DEEP for keeping the trails safe.

"We don't like to put down bears. We don't want to do it," said DEEP wildlife biologist Kathy Herz, who works at DEEP's Sessions Woods center. "Unfortunately, this event happened, and because of social media, people saw it.

People didn't quite understand what was going on," she said.

Paul Rego, a wildlife biologist based at Sessions Woods, said that the state deals with problem bears, or animals that act bold or threatening toward humans, every day. Most of these conflicts are dealt with through public education and trapping and relocation. Mr. Rego said state biologists handle hundreds of these calls every year.

Very few of these are dealt with lethally, but sometimes it becomes necessary, he said, especially in a state as densely populated as Connecticut.

"If a bear is showing conflicts that we feel are serious enough to not live where humans live, we do not have the option of moving the bear to other states," Mr. Rego said.

Bears are sometimes trapped and relocated, but Mr. Rego said that Connecticut's small size and lack of vast wilderness makes this difficult. Sometimes euthanizing the animal is the only option.

"We are a state with a high human population that lives in and near good bear habitat," he said.

The black bear population has been rising for about 30 years, he said. He attributes this to bears returning to areas that have been reforested after clear-cutting almost a century ago and establishing a breeding population.

Black bears had been extirpated in Connecticut since the mid-1800s, until a breeding population was confirmed in the 1980s, according to DEEP.

Bear populations in other New England states have been increasing as well. Andrew Timmins, bear project leader at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, said bear complaints have been rising in the last 30 years as well but has stabilized at about 700 a year during the last decade. Mr. Timmins estimates the bear population in New Hampshire to be about 55,000 animals.

Of those 700, Mr. Timmins said that about 5 to 10 per year will require moving the bear and about 15 will lead to killing the bear, whether by the department or by the public. None of those dispatched has been for aggressive behavior. He said that most complaints NHFG receives about bears "are due to them coming into populated areas with access to food. They have lost their ability to be wild bears due to feeding."

In Massachusetts, the bear population has been growing since the 1970s. Laura Conlee, black bear project leader at the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, said the state's bear population rises about 8 percent per year. As the population has grown, so have the number of bear complaints.

Even with this increase in bear populations, wildlife departments stress that euthanizing bears is an extreme last resort to

dealing with the problem. Ms. Conlee said problem bears require relocation only about 10 times a year and only one or two need to be killed, if that. This measure is taken only if bears are breaking into houses or otherwise acting extremely aggressively.

Most problems with black bears can be solved through proper education of the public. Ms. Herz said the department does not recommend people interact with or film bears as Ms. Rivkin did. The biologist said the bears were likely habituated to people through feeding and interaction, something her department is working to change through education.

Biologists from all three states recommend keeping food away from areas where bears are likely to have access to it. Places like Sessions Woods, where bears are known to live, post signs and warnings telling visitors how to avoid conflicts with bears and, since September, have increased their efforts, Ms. Herz said.

Incidents occur when people unfamiliar with bears treat them like their house pets and not the wild animals they are, which can sometimes result in an unfortunate end.

"Our department and staff have the goal of conserving wildlife and put a lot of effort into maintaining wild populations," Mr. Rego said, "but also have a responsibility to mitigate conflicts and to public safety."

Nicholas Shigo is a student at the University of Connecticut.



PAUL FUSCO \ DEEP

Many of the bears in Connecticut are tagged so that wildlife officials can track their movements.



LILAC DREAMS: THEIR PRESENCE IN CONNECTICUT TELLS THE STORY OF EARLY FARMERS

BY JEAN CRUM JONES

My first unforgettable memory of spring in Connecticut occurred in mid-May of 1970 when I opened the upstairs bathroom window of our 1870 farmhouse. I was intoxicated by an astonishing strong floral fragrance that wafted inside and filled the room. Two 20-foot lilac bushes grew next to the house, and their full-flower blooms waved gently in the breeze near the window. Reared in Mid-Atlantic suburban subdivision houses, I had never experienced the lovely assertive scent of lilac before.

Lilacs are not generally grown in areas without cold winters. I learned it was an old New England custom for settlers to plant lilac bushes close to their back doors, by the fence, or along the side of the barn. Lilacs were beloved and were not planted for their usefulness but for their beauty and fragrance.

Lilacs are long-lived, hardy bushes. A distant cousin of the olive, they are similar in that they seem to live forever and will remain long after the farmers who planted them

have died. Lilacs regenerate from suckers at the base if the main branches are broken or cut down. When tramping through second-growth woodlands of New England, seeing a thicket of lilacs is a first indication that a cellar hole of a vanished 19th-century timber-framed farmhouse may be near.

The lilac most familiar to New Englanders is descended from the species *Syringa vulgaris*, the common lilac. This lilac is native to Eastern Europe and has been found growing wild in the forests of Hungary and Romania. The lilac plant was introduced from Ottoman gardens to northern Europe in the mid-1500s. After its arrival in Vienna, the bush spread first to France and the Netherlands and eventually to Britain in the early 1600s. Botanists recognize 21 species of lilacs, and all but two from southeastern Europe originate in Asia, mostly in China. The name itself comes from lilak, an Arabic word that means blue.

There is debate about who introduced the lilac bush into North America and when, but the consensus seems to be that lilacs were brought via the Dutch or the French in the late 1600s, and they were widespread

by the late 1700s. Descendants of Pilgrim leader William Brewster claim he brought lilacs with him from Holland to plant at his new home in Massachusetts, and, indeed, there are plenty of lilacs growing where his house once stood. Some claim that French missionary Jesuits planted lilacs wherever they settled in the late 1600s as evidenced by the widespread growth of lilacs on Mackinac Island, Michigan. A famous lilac festival is held annually on Mackinac Island in June to celebrate their importance and loveliness. In New Hampshire, where the state flower is the purple lilac, the Governor's Wildflower and Lilac Commission claims that the Governor Wentworth lilacs, first planted in 1750 in Portsmouth, represent the oldest documented lilacs in North America.

First Lilacs in Derby, Around 1680

However, I prefer the traditional tale, noted by C. Norton Hudson in his 1904 *Flowers and Their Fables* book, that says Dr. John Durand, a French Huguenot physician, who settled in Derby, Connecticut, between

1680 and 1690 was the first to plant lilacs in America. He was from La Rochelle, France, and initially settled in New Rochelle, New York. Upon making a return voyage to France, Dr. Durand came back with a large number of lilac roots that he planted around his grounds in Derby as a reminder of his homeland. It is claimed all of Dr. Durand's descendants had lovely blue lilac bushes surrounding their homes.

No matter how they got here, lilacs quickly became an American classic and were mentioned by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson in their garden manuals. Lilacs were widely planted in New England, and as Northeasterners moved westward, lilac cuttings went with them to grace their new homes. It seems there is no other shrub in which the spirit of home and the memory of grandparents on the farm is so closely entwined.

With the advent of urban parks in the late 1800s, lilacs were widely planted in these new public spaces. Lilacs were popular because they were the earliest flowering bushes that dramatically welcomed spring with their distinctive perfume and their profuse blooms in shades of white, pink, blue, lavender, purple, and magenta. Victor Demoine and his family of Nancy, France, were developing many new lilac cultivars at this time. These French hybrid lilacs had extremely fragrant double blossoms and were widely planted in U.S. parks and botanic gardens. In Rochester, New York, there is an especially large collection of lilacs from this period, for which the city is well recognized by lilac admirers.

Lilac Collection in Bethlehem

During this same period around the turn of the century, well-to-do families were establishing suburban estates with private gardens for their families to enjoy. Women became greatly involved in planning and designing these gardens. The French lilacs were often used as significant garden features, either as a shrub border or an allée. In Connecticut, an example of a beautiful, private lilac collection on an old country estate can be seen at the Bellamy-Ferriday House in Bethlehem. The house is maintained now by the Connecticut Landmarks organization and is open from May to October. Its website lists hours and special events. Eliza Ferriday and her daughter, Caroline, designed the formal garden with the lilacs, roses, and peonies.

Sturdy Sun-Likers

Lilacs are a sturdy plant and fairly easy to grow. Most important is that they have full sun; well-drained, composted soil; and good air circulation to keep powdery mildew at bay. Many historic plant nurseries grow lilacs. There are more than 2,000 cultivars, so it is helpful to have some guidance when selecting lilacs for one's home. The long-established White Flower Farm in Litchfield features lilacs in its display gardens, and its online and print catalog offer extensive choices.

Lilacs are unique flowers that settle strongly within our hearts. When they blossom, I recollect my early days as a young bride learning about the farm. My mind also drifts to memories of a wonderful family wedding here that was planned for mid-May so the bride could be surrounded by the scent of lilacs. It is an endearing plant with its distinctive, heart-shaped leaves, delicate flower clusters, and unforgettable fragrance. What would mid-May be like without masses of lilacs gracing the Mother's Day table? I do not care to know—lilac blossoming is a time of paradise in Connecticut.

Jean Crum Jones lives in Shelton, where she helps her family run the Jones Family Farms.

Hull Forest Products Inc.

Serving The Needs of Forest Landowners
Since 1972.

Providing Numerous Forestry Services:

*Four Certified Foresters On Staff
Forest Management Planning
Tree Farm Certification
Wildlife Habitat Management
Timber Stand Improvements
CT Forestland Property Tax Classification*

Purchasing Standing Timber.

*For A Free Initial Consultation or Sawtimber
Appraisal Please Call:*

Hull Forest Products Inc.

101 Hampton Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259
(860) 974-2083 or (800) 353-3331
www.hullforest.com



Ferrucci & Walicki, LLC

Land Management Consultants

Environmental Stewardship
and Land Management since 1982

- Forest & Open Space Management Services
- Property Tax Work (PA 490 & Chapter 61)
- GIS & GPS-based Mapping
- Forest & Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Timber Inventories & Appraisals
- Professionally Managed Timber Harvests
- Environmental Oversight
- Watershed & Utility Land Management
- Recreation Plans & Implementation
- Forest Stewardship Plans

6 WAY ROAD
MIDDLEFIELD, CT 06455
860-349-7007 FAX: 860-349-7032
EMAIL: FW@FWFORESTERS.COM
WWW.FWFORESTERS.COM

Satellite Offices in Connecticut:
COVENTRY, NEW HAVEN, MADISON

Senior Staff:
DAN PERACCHIO, ERIC HANSEN
TOM WALICKI AND MIKE FERRUCCI

OVER TWO SUMMITS AND LOTS OF ROCKS ON THE RUGGED HOUSATONIC RANGE TRAIL

BY DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

**“CHALLENGING LEDGE OUTCROPPINGS ...
STEEP CLIMBING ... ROUGH SCRAMBLING ...
GIGANTIC GRANITE BOULDERS.”**

The description of the Housatonic Range Trail in the *Connecticut Walk Book West* intimidated me a little—but it intrigued me a lot. I find big rock formations fascinating. Hmm: Would this be an appropriate hike to cover for Connecticut Woodlands magazine? Usually I write about an easy-to-moderate hike, hoping to encourage as many readers as possible to explore the state’s Blue Blazed Hiking Trails. But the editor said, “Go for it!” So I did. My husband and I set out for the trail one day in mid-December when the weather felt more spring-like than wintry and trail conditions were dry.



DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

Top, Paul G. Edwards hikes past the trail’s signature giant granite boulders.

Above, the rocky route lies west of the Housatonic River Valley, in New Milford.

The Housatonic Range Trail runs north to south along a rocky, forested plateau west of the Housatonic River valley, roughly paralleling Route 7. The entire trail lies in New Milford, beginning in the Gaylordsville section and traveling southward 6.4 miles to the summit of Candlewood Mountain (elevation 991 feet). Along the way, it crosses the flank of Boardman Mountain and goes up and over Pine Knob (710 feet). Two other access points allow for shorter hikes. There are no loop options, so whatever distance you hike in, you must also hike out.

The Hike

Considering our relatively late start (around noon), Paul and I chose the shortest option—3 miles round trip. We started at the southernmost parking area, on Concord Way, walked 0.2 mile south on Route 37, then followed the blue blazes into the woods at the intersection of Candlewood Mountain Road. Our route took us over Pine Knob, down into a saddle known as Paradise Valley, up again to Candlewood Mountain, and back.

At first, the trail rises gently through a forest of hemlocks interspersed with hardwood trees. After a few mild ups and downs, you reach a section of rocky ledges with a view to the east of a gravel pit off Route 7. Not exactly a pretty sight. But rocks, not views, are the highlights of this hike. Before reaching the top of Pine Knob, the going becomes a bit strenuous, at one point ascending a sharply slanted ledge. Then comes the *pièce de résistance*, which Paul and I resisted: a section of trail called the Corkscrew, with steep ledges and huge slabs of boulders. The *Walk Book* warns that this section requires using hands and feet to scramble up. We looked at each other—I had a hiking stick in one hand (so did Paul), the trail write-up in the other, and a camera hanging around my neck (he did, too). Plus, from where we stood at the bottom, we couldn't see which way the trail went through the Corkscrew and therefore couldn't gauge how difficult it would be. So, we took the easier—that is, moderately difficult—blue-and-white-blazed bypass trail. (You will know you are at the intersection of the Corkscrew and the bypass trail when you see thin diagonal blue blazes on a tree. After the tree, turn sharply right—not left, as the *Walk Book* says—for the Corkscrew or stay left for the bypass trail. In just 0.1 mile, the bypass trail rejoins the Blue Trail.)

After summiting Pine Knob (no view; not



TOP PHOTO BY DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS. BOTTOM PHOTO BY PAUL G. EDWARDS.

Top, rock seats and a fire ring invite a rest on the forested summit of Candlewood Mountain.

Bottom, Diane Edwards stops by huge tree roots.

even a sign), the trail drops into a saddle filled with boulders, passes a massive wall of rock, then heads up the flank of Candlewood Mountain. About a half-mile from the top, a sign to the left indicates a 0.4-mile loop trail to Kelly's Slide, which the *Walk Book* describes as "an enormous slab of bedrock that slants to an abrupt drop-off." Tempted to try it, we instead continued to the top of Candlewood Mountain. There, we found a large fire ring and rock "seats"—a good spot to have a snack before heading back down.

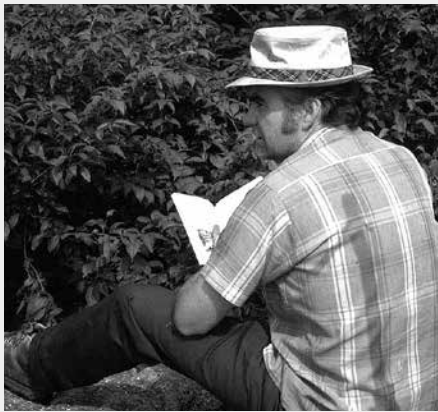
"Great hike," we agreed, vowing to come back. Next time, we will do the Corkscrew and Kelly's Slide.

Directions

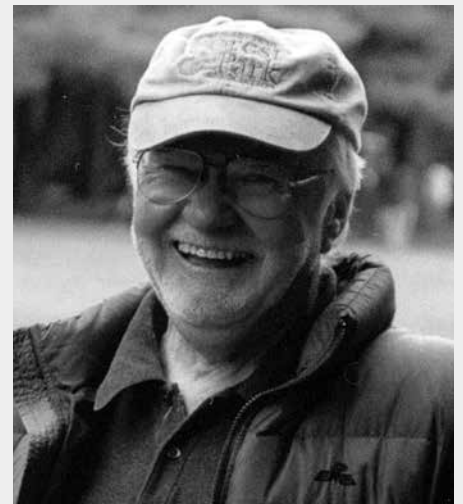
Concord Way parking is just off Route 37 in New Milford, 0.4 mile north of Route 7. The Candlewood Mountain Road trailhead (and parking for two or three cars) is at the intersection of that road and Route 37, 0.2 mile north of Route 7.

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.

RICHARD WHITEHOUSE



COURTESY OF THE WHITEHOUSE FAMILY



Richard Whitehouse, a former president of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Board of Directors who dedicated many decades to the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, died on December 11, 2015, at home in Glastonbury, where he had lived since 1965. He was 78.

Mr. Whitehouse started maintaining the Shenipsit Trail as a young man, in 1968, and continued working on trails the rest of his life. For many years he cared for the trails on Case Mountain in Manchester. He was CFPA's Trails Committee chairman from 1995-1999 and served as board president from 2000 through 2007. (He also was a friend to Connecticut Woodlands magazine and is the reason the editor took on the job.)

He loved the forests, farms, and trails; he dedicated his life to sharing them with others. Outdoor adventures punctuated his childhood and his long marriage to the late Mary Joanne Whitehouse (who died in 2001).

He was born in 1937 and grew up the youngest of six children—he had three brothers and two sisters—on a small working farm in Broad Brook, Connecticut. He graduated from Ellsworth Memorial High School in 1955, and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1957. He attained the rank of captain and flew an F4-B in Vietnam. He earned his degree in electrical engineering at North Carolina State University in 1963. Mr. Whitehouse worked at Southern New England Telephone Company for many years.

He also volunteered for the Appalachian Mountain Club and took students from Cheney Technical High School onto the

Case Mountain trails, teaching them about drainage and bridge building.

He leaves four sons, James Whitehouse of Chaplin, David Whitehouse of Hebron, Tim Whitehouse of Poolesville, Maryland, and Mark Whitehouse of Arlington, Virginia; one daughter, Maureen Teubert of Dodgeville, Wisconsin; 11 grandchildren; and many in-laws and friends.

Mr. Whitehouse's large family, friends, and associates shared stories at a memorial service December 19 in Manchester and by email with Connecticut Woodlands. His dedication to the land and trails grew out of his background and his attitude. As a teenager, a cousin recounted, he rallied his family to grow cucumbers to sell to the Silver Lane Pickle Factory in East Hartford. He taught his children how to grow vegetables, tap maple trees and boil syrup, keep bees and gather honey, and watch birds, a life-long interest.

"At the root of it all, was a gentle and playful kindness in my father's spirit. He loved to quietly share his love of the outdoors," wrote Jim Whitehouse. "As a child

it took on many forms, regular camping trips with the family, backpacking trips with the children, mountain climbing and above all, sharing his knowledge of the plants and animals that were around us wherever we went."

He added, "I remember the cans of blue paint in the basement! I also remember the bond he formed with the many staff and volunteers who worked with CFPA. It was a high point in his life."

Mr. Whitehouse took some of his grandchildren to see a former charcoal pit off the Shenipsit Trail, his son Mark Whitehouse recalled. "He also showed them a witness tree in old farmland that had been taken over by the forest. He brought to life what seemed to them to be a large tree in the forest near a falling-down stone wall."

Mr. Whitehouse had once built a skating rink by a brook and invited the neighbors, and he and his wife raised money for charity with a backyard fair.

Echoing remarks he made at his father's service, Tim Whitehouse listed the themes he saw in his father's life: "His love of the outdoors, and his drive to share this with others; his love of place—he was truly a Connecticut Yankee; his reverence for the old ways combined with a focus on the future; and, most of all, his love of family, immediate and extended, and his willingness to do whatever he could to support them."

Memorial donations may be directed to the Hibbard Trust of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

—Christine Woodside



HIKE with Us!

Connecticut Offers the Nation's Biggest Trails Day

JUNE 4-5

THE 24TH ANNUAL CONNECTICUT TRAILS DAY is drawing near and the Connecticut Forest & Park Association has gathered more than 220 volunteers who have organized a super-exciting variety of events throughout the state!

We offer something for everyone with our guided and self-guided activities the first weekend in June—long and short hikes, educational walks, trail runs, bike rides, horseback rides, water trail paddles, letterboxing, trail work parties and more.



Trails are well marked, and expert hikers will lead the events. Come out, have fun, and learn something new. All events are totally FREE!

The American Hiking Society introduced National Trails Day in 1993. Connecticut now boasts the largest state-

wide Trails Day celebration in the country. This year we expect more than 5,000 participants from just about every town in the state to lace up their hiking shoes, enjoy the fresh outdoor air, and get their hearts pumping on over 650 miles of Connecticut trails.

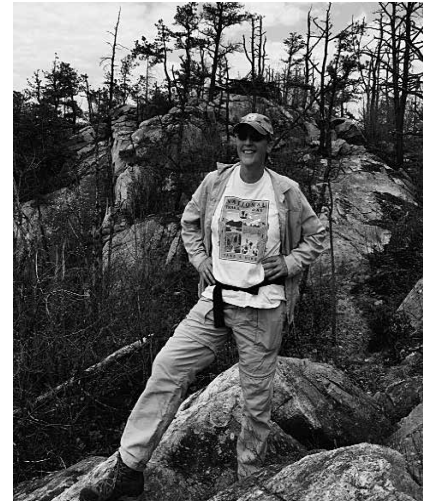
"I have seen firsthand how Connecticut Trails Day brings families and their neighbors together, helps foster new friendships, and has even been the catalyst for converting casual hikers into trail lovers," says Clare Cain, CFPA's trail stewardship director. "Even the most avid enthusiasts can discover a new trail or open space property they may not have encountered before."

With CFPA's new online directory, participants have access to event listings statewide, which makes it easier to find out what's going on in their areas. Visit ctwoodlands.org and click on Events.

Back for a second year is the incredibly popular Trails Day patch, offered to anyone who attends a hike and fills out the order form online, or in the printed directory which can be found in various locations throughout the state.

Connecticut Trails Day supports the American Hiking Society's aim: using National Trails Day to highlight the important work thousands of volunteers do each year to take care of our state's wonderful trails. Trails do not just magically appear. Their construction and maintenance take hours of dedicated planning and labor. So give thanks to your local volunteers and consider taking a day to enjoy and give back to your favorite trail... or discover a new one.





TALKING WITH 825-MILERS: “DOES IT GET BETTER THAN THIS?”

It's been a while since Connecticut Woodlands talked with hikers who covered all 825 miles of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. During a work session reviewing maps for the new *Connecticut Walk Book*, I met and talked with two who recently completed every last mile over the traprock, mud, duff, bog bridges, and streams of the Blue Trails. They were still smiling. They were planning more hikes.

James Giana of Manchester spent seven years on his quest. He retired from his job as a management analyst for the state of Connecticut in 2009. He read an article by Hartford Courant journalist Peter Marteka about the cave known as Will Warren's Den. That spot is on the Metacomet Trail, part of the New England National Scenic Trail. "My friends who were Boy Scouts had done it years ago," Mr. Giana (who grew up in Plainville) said, "but I was 'too cool' to be a Boy Scout."

So there he was, in his mid-60s, ready to try. He hiked up the ridge to the spot. "Coming back, I thought, 'I'm going to die.'" He sat in his car afterward and seriously thought about giving up hiking.

But then he got himself into shape, first on the flatter Airline State Park Trail in his hometown of Manchester. The milepost markings encouraged him, and soon he was hiking 6 miles out-and-back. Next, he walked longer and longer distances in his



FIRST AND LAST PHOTO, COURTESY OF JAMES GIANA. PHOTOS OF LIANE STEVENS BY ANITA MONTANILE.

Clockwise from upper left, Jim Giana on Case Mountain, Liane and Razz on the Mattatuck Trail in White Memorial forest, Liane on Whitestone Cliffs Trail in Waterbury, Jim on a rail trail in Amherst, Massachusetts.

neighborhood. Soon he made a spreadsheet to record his milestones on foot.

The remarkable aspect of Mr. Giana's Blue Trail feat is that he completed all of the hikes as out-and-back hikes. Most of us get someone to pick us up at the other end, or take two cars with our friends, spotting a car at the endpoint. Mr. Giana, who turns 70 in May, said he hiked alone because his friends and his wife hadn't retired yet—they were still

at work most of the times when he was on the trails. This all means that he actually earned himself the distinction of 825-Miler times two.

Liane Stevens first started keeping track of her Blue Trail mileage in 1989 but covered about 500 miles of them in just under two years, between January 2014 and late December 2015. She retired from her insurance project management job at The Hartford in January 2014. She'd long wanted to finish all the Blue Trails when that date came. Her hikes increased in earnest. She hiked with a trail friend, usually either Linda Ho or Anita Montanile, and her West Highland terrier, Razz, trotted along.

Ms. Stevens and her friends parked a second car so that they could hike longer stints in a day, and at the end of their hikes, they loved to find a good hotdog place. Ms. Montanile remembered that most of the adventures climaxed with some moment where Ms. Stevens stopped in the woods, spread out her arms, and asked, "Does it get better than this?"

Her home state—Ms. Stevens grew up in Newington—delivered many surprises. "I went places I've never been."

What is it about working toward a goal on the trails that brings such joy and connection with our homeland?

—Christine Woodside

THANKS FOR JEAN JONES

Several years ago, we discovered your magazine while on a trip to Connecticut. My husband gave me a subscription as a gift, and I continue to renew the magazine because I want to read Jean Jones's column.

I have learned so much about farm life in past generations. The column about ice harvesting was one of my favorites. Because of her food articles, we have tried new foods that we would not have thought of. We shared the lima bean article with butter-bean-eating friends. Your magazine has a spot on my bookshelf, and my subscription will continue as long as Jean Jones continues to write.

Thank you for the lovely magazine.

—Lois J. Malarkey
Richmond, Virginia



CFPA'S TRAILS PROGRAM WELCOMES FIELD COORDINATOR

Colin Carroll began work this winter in a new position at the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. He works closely with the many volunteer trail managers to manage, maintain, and improve the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System. The experienced trail builder and adventurer has worked and ranged a wide area of the United States.

He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, where he started doing carpentry as an extracurricular activity. He sought adventure through the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps program, leading a team in a variety of projects throughout the south central region of the United States. This job introduced him to trail work.

He spent six years building and maintaining trails at Big Bend National Park in Texas, Kings Canyon National Park in California, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the border of Tennessee and North Carolina. His experience and understanding of trail design and construction has led to an approach that was shaped by the variety of environments in which he has worked.

Mr. Carroll's wife, Rachel Frantz, will join him here after completing a master's degree in social work at the University of North Carolina this spring.



Native trees and shrubs
Woodland wildflowers and ferns
Hummingbird, butterfly & bird attractants
Water garden & bog plants
Environmentally friendly products

Take a walk on the wild side at
Ballek's Garden Center
Ballek's ... Supporting Conservation and Preservation

Maple Avenue • East Haddam 860-873-8878 Open year round



Connwood Foresters, Inc.
Serving CT, MA, RI & NY Since 1945

Forest Stewardship Plans	Expert Witness Services
Property Tax and Cost Savings	Timber Sales and Appraisals
Baseline Documentation Reports	Boundary Location/Maintenance
Wildlife Habitat Improvements	Invasive Species Control
Permit Acquisition	GIS & GPS Mapping

USDA NRCS Technical Service Provider for
Gov. funded stewardship plans/activities
for land trusts & individuals

860-349-9910 **CONNWOOD.COM**

SCOTLAND HARDWOODS
A ROSSI COMPANY

FORESTRY SERVICES DIVISION
P.O. BOX 328, SCOTLAND, CT 06264

- **Dedicated To Helping Landowners Meet Their Objectives**
- **In Business Since 1925**
- **Fully Automated Sawmill Facilities**
- **Complete Line of Forestry Services and Consultation Provided By A Full Time Staff of State Certified Professional Foresters**

TO FIND OUT HOW A ROSSI FORESTER
IN YOUR AREA CAN HELP YOU
MEET YOUR OBJECTIVES,
CALL US TODAY AT (877)-209-9906



16 Meriden Road
Rockfall, Connecticut 06481-2961

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STANDARD
Permit No. 344
New London, CT

Do you want to hike in a quiet forest or along a busy street?

If you prefer a forest, make your voice heard. Make it loud - loud enough to be heard in the quiet corners of the State Capitol where deals are made.

CFPA is fighting to protect your state lands from being given away without public hearing. A common sense proposal is on the table and we need your help to make it happen.

Consider a special gift to help CFPA advocate for your interests.

Go to www.ctwoodlands.org/donate and make sure your voice is heard!



Connecting people to the land since 1895

16 Meriden Road
Rockfall, CT 06481-2961