

CONNECTICUT Woodlands



CAN A PROSPEROUS STATE REMAIN GREEN?

TALKING WITH A PLANNER WHO STOOD UP TO "MEGALOPOLIS"
ALSO: IN DEFENSE OF TALL TREES

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CHRIS DONNELLY

The benefits of strong, tall trees along town streets often outweigh their threats to electrical wires, an urban forester says. Above, shade trees on Batter Way in New Haven. See page 10.

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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CONTENTS



FEATURES

7 CAN A PROSPEROUS STATE REMAIN GREEN?

"It must," said Joe Hickey, writing 50 years ago. Did the state heed his advice? Have we held back "Megalopolis"?
By Christine Woodside.

10 IN DEFENSE OF TALL TREES.

Identify the valuable and strongest large trees in cities and towns. Then work to keep them.
By Chris Donnelly.

14 THE JOHN MUIR OF THE EAST?

The quiet legacy of Harlan P. Kelsey, a review of Loren M. Wood's new biography.
By Kathleen Groll Connolly.

DEPARTMENTS

4 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

A lawyer brain encounters provocative ideas about forestry.
By Eric Lukingbeal.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE.

Tell your stories from the woods.
By Eric Hammerling.

6 EDITOR'S NOTE.

When trees stopped being fuel and started being a crop: Meet the man who wrote *American Canopy*.
By Christine Woodside.

16-19 CFPA IN THE COMMUNITY.

Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails map. Meet trail volunteers Peter Dorpalen and Eric Bengtson.

22 TRY THIS HIKE.

Salmon River Trail and Day Pond Brook Falls Trail.
By Diane Friend Edwards.

24 ON THE TRAILS.

A successful trail running series wraps up.

26 ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE.

News from around the state.

28-29 CFPA VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED.

Photos from the November 7 dinner.

30 CFPA STORE.



On the Cover:

Rural and developed land bumps against each other all over Connecticut. This photo shows Mansfield Hollow Lake near the University of Connecticut.

PHOTO BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



A lawyer brain encounters provocative ideas about forestry



BY ERIC LUKINGBEAL

For a long time, I've thought of myself as "up to speed" on the benefits of forests. Although I'm not a scientist, and have no formal training in forestry, I've

done a fair amount of reading, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) summary reports issued every five years or so. And I've read William Nordhaus's 2013 book, *The Climate Casino* (Yale University Press), which I strongly recommend. I've come to believe that forests are good things, giving us all kinds of ecological services, such as clean air and water, and that if we lose them, we're in serious trouble. More forests could only help us and our planet. My guess is that almost all of our Connecticut Forest & Park Association community shares in this view of forests as an unalloyed good.

Then I read an op-ed piece in the September 20th New York Times, "To Save the Planet, Don't Plant Trees." It is by Nadine Unger, an assistant professor of atmospheric chemistry at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. My first reaction was a mix of surprise, shock, and disappointment. My lawyer brain turned on,

THE CONCLUSION OF THE PIECE IS THAT SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY ON FORESTRY TO COMBAT WARMING IS A HIGH-RISK PROPOSITION. AS SHE PUTS IT, "WE DON'T KNOW THAT IT WOULD COOL THE PLANET, AND WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO FEAR THAT IT MIGHT HAVE PRECISELY THE OPPOSITE EFFECT."

and I began to look for flaws in her argument. Surely her essay's title was overstated to attract readers.

The thrust of her argument is that "large scale increases [such as by planting trees] in forest cover can actually make global warming worse." This is so, she says, because the dark green color of trees absorbs the sun's energy, instead of reflecting it. She says that planting trees in the tropics would lead to cooling, but doing so in nontropical places would lead to warming.

She makes one important claim that is new to me. The claim is that there is no consensus on whether the huge change in land use from forest to croplands and pasture has caused cooling or heating. Because we haven't been able to answer that question, we cannot say that planting more forests on a large scale would help.

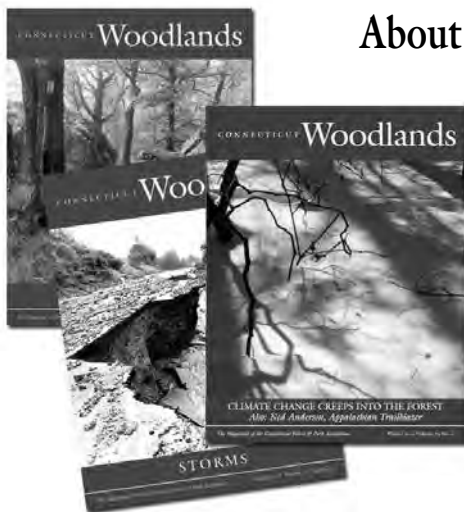
My lawyer brain did find a few nuggets

but not as many as I had hoped. She does say that forests offer "unambiguous benefits to biodiversity and many forms of life." Not exactly chopped liver! She doesn't attempt to quantify these benefits. She also agrees that trees provide carbon storage, but she points out that it is not permanent because trees eventually die and the carbon goes back into the atmosphere.

The conclusion of the piece is that spending a lot of money on forestry to combat warming is a high-risk proposition. As she puts it, "We don't know that it would cool the planet, and we have good reason to fear that it might have precisely the opposite effect."

One of my fellow board members asked, "What is our position on this?" I think the right answer lies in CFPA's long-held belief that public policy ought to be based on good science. If Professor Unger's science is good, then we ought to rethink the idea of forestry as a one-size-fits-all partial solution to global warming. It would work in the tropics (Professor Unger agrees) but not necessarily everywhere else. Of course, the real solution is to stop treating the atmosphere as a free public sewer for the disposal of pollutants.

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.



About Connecticut Forest & Park Association and Connecticut Woodlands Magazine

Connecticut Woodlands is a quarterly magazine published since 1936 by CFPA, the private, non-profit 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.

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Tell your stories from the woods



BY ERIC HAMMERLING

In September, I attended the annual Land Trust Rally in Providence, Rhode Island. More than 2,000 staff and volunteers for land conservation organizations from around the United States convened. One of the most inspirational moments in this educational event was the keynote address given by Andy Goodman, who spoke persuasively about the importance of being a good storyteller (which Andy certainly was). His entertaining talk was titled “Change the Story, Change the World,” and he convinced me that Connecticut Forest & Park Association can and must do a much better job at telling stories.

Dr. Paul Zak, a researcher at Claremont Graduate University, documented how stories affect our brains and compel us to action. According to Dr. Zak, the most engaging stories have two essential elements: (1) The

story must capture and hold our attention, and (2) it should transport us into the characters’ world.

From a storytelling perspective, the way to keep an audience’s attention is to continually increase the tension in a story. As tension in a story increases, stress hormones are released, and your focus increases. Once a story has captured your attention long enough, you may begin to emotionally relate to the story’s characters. Even though you know you are watching television or a movie, ancient parts of your brain are triggered to simulate the emotions that you believe the main character is feeling . . . and you will begin to feel those emotions too.

A key chemical synthesized in your brain as you are listening to a compelling story is oxytocin. Dr. Zak calls oxytocin “the moral molecule” because it makes you more trustworthy, generous, charitable, and compassionate. It also makes you more sensitive to social cues that can inspire you to help others in need. This act of helping others in need also triggers further feelings of happiness in your brain in a veritable feedback loop

of virtue. I am convinced that many great CFPA volunteers and financial supporters live squarely in that feedback loop of virtue.

Send Your Stories to CFPA

The stories in Connecticut Woodlands magazine are compelling. We want more. **We want to hear your stories about being connected to the land and being connected to others in the woods.** Did you fall in love or meet someone special in the woods? Did you perform an act of kindness in the woods, or were you a beneficiary of an act of kindness? Did you make a lifetime friend in the woods?

Email your story to me at ehammerling@ctwoodlands.org (or if you’d rather write something on paper, mail it or drop it off at CFPA, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06481) with the subject line “My Story from the Woods.” On Valentine’s Day, 2015, we’ll hold a drawing from among you storytellers to see who will receive a special Valentine’s Day treat (yet to be determined).

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



Grace Ellsworth

GRACE ELLSWORTH, LIFELONG CONSERVATIONIST, DIES AT AGE 100

Grace Walker White Ellsworth, an honorary director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, died on June 23 after a morning of physical therapy followed by lunch. Mrs. Ellsworth was born in Hartford on November 10, 1913. Her family was broken by divorce when she was 4. Taken away from her older sister Frances, Grace grew up in Boise, Idaho, where she learned to love the outdoors and all things active. The separation left her fiercely determined that a happy, connected family was of utmost importance, and her marriage to John E. Ellsworth in 1939 and subsequent birth of four children was the anchor point of her being. Other passions motivated her throughout her life. After attending Miss Hall’s School in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and later Oxford School in Hartford, Grace was discouraged from going to college, so her interest in education became fierce and never waned. She was the last surviving founding regent of The University of Hartford, starting in 1956 when the

campus was a nothing but a pasture. As a life regent, she participated actively in many aspects of decision making as the campus grew, and her practical approach to complicated problems earned her much respect, and at times, a hearty dose of teasing. She served on the boards of Saint Lawrence University, Hartt School of Music, and Miss Hall’s School. Another main passion was a broad and committed belief in the responsibility of individuals to do their part as citizens of their communities. As such she was involved in many organizations, as both committee member and philanthropist. She loved the arts—opera and symphony particularly—and she attended performances up to her death. Coming from the White family of painters, she herself was a talented though unrealized artist, and she exercised her keen eye through the enjoyment of fine art all her life, and supported the Atheneum and other local museums.

continued on page 20

When trees stopped being fuel and started being a crop

Meet the man who wrote *American Canopy*

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE



Eric Rutkow with a tree.

ALYSSA REICHARDT

FORESTERS AND MOST READERS OF THIS MAGAZINE ALREADY KNOW THAT TREES ARE NOT SOME PRETTY BACKDROP, NOT SOMETHING TO HUG, BUT THAT THEY ARE LIFE ITSELF IN NORTH AMERICA AND THAT WE WOULD NOT BE THE PEOPLE WE ARE WITHOUT THEM.

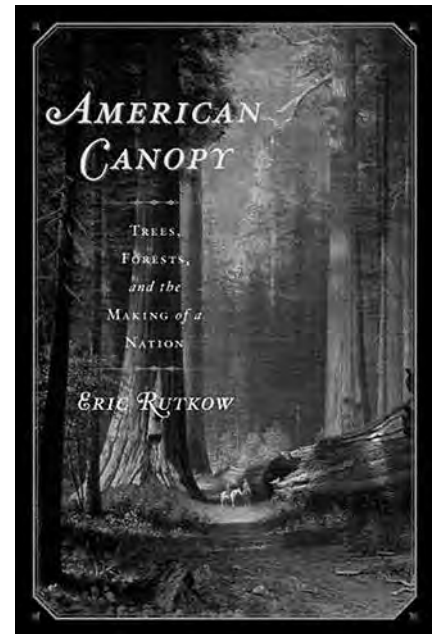
In late October, a few hundred foresters and forest-oriented professionals gathered in a chandeliered ballroom in Southington for the 10th annual Connecticut Forest Forum (also the 26th annual Conference on Urban and Community Forestry). I would expect that this audience had heard and memorized the history of trees in America. Perhaps they had, but they had not been so excited about all of the implications of that history until a young writer and historian grabbed the podium and started retelling the story of Americans' reliance on trees going back to the beginning of record-keeping.

Eric Rutkow gave a keynote talk to the conference based on his 400-page popular history, *American Canopy* (Scribner, 2013). In that book, he tells story after story of how trees made the United States and how the United States altered how it used and thought about forests.

Mr. Rutkow's book opens with the sad story of a tree researcher who in 1964 inadvertently cut down the oldest tree on the continent and spent the rest of his life defending the act. The author then tells how trees drove the economy as ship masts, fuel, building materials, and the main ingredient in paper, and how, in the 20th century, forest conservation was born and trees became a crop, something that, like corn and wheat, should be grown sustainably.

Foresters and most readers of this magazine already know that trees are not some pretty backdrop, not something to hug, but that they are life itself in North America and that we would not be the people we are without them.

Mr. Rutkow told me after the talk that he grew up in the suburbs, where all the trees in his neighborhood seemed to be maples. He started taking backpacking trips as a kid. "I got into tree identification, because for me understanding trees was how I understood the environment—understanding where I was," he said.



That backpacker grew up to become an environmental lawyer who wanted to read a book about the shift in attitudes about trees in the 20th century—about the changeover, after oil began driving the economy, to considering trees a precious resource that delivered timber, perhaps, but also good health and habitat.

"It was really a question that I was trying to answer, which was, How did that shift take place in the United States?" he told me. "It seemed to me like a really obvious question. I assumed that book had been written. I couldn't find that book. No one had taken on the tree as its own category, and no one had taken it on that it might be a driving force in U.S. history."

He went on, "A book that I initially thought might be a little bit more light-hearted turned out to make a bigger statement, because the research kept pushing me in that direction. I can't believe how central this is to the entire American experience."

—Christine Woodside



CAN A PROSPEROUS STATE REMAIN GREEN?

"IT MUST," SAID JOE HICKEY, WRITING 50 YEARS AGO.
DID THE STATE HEED HIS ADVICE?
HAVE WE HELD BACK "MEGALOPOLIS"?

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

One day in the early 1980s, Joseph Hickey, a field representative negotiating a permanent route of the Appalachian Trail through Connecticut, wandered across a meadow and up into the woods of Ten Mile Hill, among colorful buildings of a closed Buddhist camp in western Connecticut. The property was for sale. It lay at the confluence of the Ten Mile and Housatonic rivers, on the border with New York. If the National Park Service could buy the camp, it would solve some tense disputes then bubbling about how to protect the land around the AT.

One of the options for placing the trail had just fizzled. The landowner on the New York side was television psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers who, after spotting park service scouts on her property, had confronted the Secretary of the Interior himself.

Mr. Hickey thought that even if the AT had to enter Connecticut at a different place then, it still should follow the best, most beautiful route possible. He ambled across the old camp's meadows. Mr. Hickey, a lifelong Catholic and New Englander, had never seen the bright colors of Buddhist buildings before. "But I'm very open-minded," he reflected recently. He saw great possibility for the trail crossing this land and was determined to find some agency that would buy it.

The old camp was for sale for \$3,000 an acre; it amounted to 90 acres. On his first visit, an appraiser had guided him around the camp. "Then I went on my own. I thought, 'I'll save the land.'" The Ten Mile River is really a stream; he waded easily across that. And then, "I had a nice little swim in the Housatonic while I was at it."

Soon he and his trail scouts met with the

Naromi Land Trust, which soon bought the camp and held it until the park service could find the money.

Quietest Influential Land Planner Around

In his retirement, Joe Hickey is known to many backwoods hikers as a member of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Trail Committee, the man confidently establishing the route for a new walking trail called the East-West Trail. When finished, it will connect the New England Trail to the AT, providing a link between two of the East's best long-distance trails. Adam R. Moore, a former head of the CFPA, fancied the route and mentioned it to Mr. Hickey one day a decade ago.

"He said, 'Is it possible?' and I said, 'Yes it is possible,'" remembered Mr. Hickey. He started on it right away and has never

TWO AWARDS PRAISED JOE HICKEY'S LANDSCAPE QUESTS

In 1994, Joe Hickey won the **Frederick Law Olmsted Award** from the Connecticut chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The award, named for the famous park planner, honors stewards of the natural environment. The society praised Mr. Hickey's work toward the creation of the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor. The designation gave attention to the old mill towns and settlements of the northeastern corner of the state, including the manufacturing city of Willimantic, an area that had been considered depressed. Mr. Hickey was calling northeastern Connecticut "the last green valley" before it became a household term.

In the late 1980s, Connecticut's tourism offices honored Mr. Hickey for his **work restoring the ski slopes** of the state-owned Mohawk Mountain after a tornado had ripped through western Connecticut.

WRITE TO US!
DO YOU THINK CONNECTICUT HAS
HELD BACK DEVELOPMENT?



COURTESY OF JOE HICKEY

Joe Hickey, left, won an award from the Connecticut Tourism Council for his work restoring trails and the ski area on Mohawk Mountain after the July 10, 1989 tornado destroyed buildings and felled trees. Mr. Hickey, left, stands with former Governor William O'Neill and Lynn Parrott, of the Tourism Council.

flinched from the work of scouting routes and meeting with multiple landowners such as the McLean Game Refuge, the Simsbury Land Trust, and the Great Mountain Forest. "We're starting to put the many pieces together."

Making a new trail is something he has done before. As he likes to say, he has the scars to prove that between 1978 and the late 1980s, he helped reroute the AT onto a permanent corridor of federal government-owned land. Connecticut was the last state to agree on a permanent AT route. The battle took longest in Cornwall, where the AT advocates had hoped to keep the trail as it wound through such iconic points as Cathedral Pines, the Colt Foot Valley, and the ghost settlement known as Dudleytown. Mr. Hickey fought hard for that route, but it became clear that landowners and Cornwall officials would not give in, and so he then went out into the wooded hillsides of Sharon, seeking the next-best route.

He believes that trails connect people to natural landscapes and that to make a new trail, one must sometimes give in to politics. He's willing to accept situations less than ideal to get a project done. "However, one must strive for the best quality we can," he says.

Multiple Legacies

Mr. Hickey, who turned 82 in August, is making the East-West Trail, and it will always

be his legacy, but anyone who believes that the trails are his only achievements is misinformed. The retired state environmental planner did much more than shape the direction of the AT:

- He brainstormed and wrote the first proposal for Connecticut's first inland wetlands protection law.
- He pushed the federal government to draw attention to the beauties of Northeastern Connecticut when it created the Quinebaug-Shetucket Natural Heritage Corridor.
- He devised the state heritage park system.
- He was involved in the preservation of the state's only national park, Weir Farm.

He did all of these things because of great frustrations that came early in his career as a regional planner whose specialty was natural resource conservation. He wanted concrete results after he produced perhaps his greatest contribution, a half-century ago, when he charted a course for the state as part of a broad planning project. Let us look at those frustrations. This story is about the Connecticut landscape—told through the story of disappointments that shaped the career of one of the most important advocates for the land.

The Best Thing He Ever Wrote

Mr. Hickey said that the best thing he ever wrote was *The Green Land* (for the

Connecticut Development Commission). He penned the 85-page book, published in 1966, for a state planning initiative. In the 15 years before *The Green Land*, farms had ceased operation with hastening regularity; houses and new strip malls had risen on those old fields. As the population increased, “the best possible use of the land could not be left to chance.”

Like many at the time, he was struck by the conclusions in Jean Gottmann’s book *Megalopolis: The Urbanized Northeastern Seaboard of the United States* (MIT Press, 1961). The Northeast looked green and open in many places then, but Dr. Gottmann said that a lot of that was illusion:

As one follows the main highways or railroads between Boston and Washington, D.C., one hardly loses sight of built-up areas, tightly woven residential communities, or powerful concentrations of manufacturing plants. Flying this same route one discovers, on the other hand, that behind the ribbons of densely occupied land along the principal arteries of traffic, and in between the clusters of suburbs around the old urban centers, there still remain large areas covered with woods and brush alternating with some carefully cultivated patches of farmland. These green spaces, however, when inspected at closer range, appear stuffed with loose but immense scattering of buildings, most of them residential but some of industrial character. That is, many of these sections that look rural actually function largely as suburbs in the orbit of some city’s downtown. Even the farms, which occupy the large tilled patches, are seldom worked by people whose only occupation and income are properly agricultural. And yet these farm areas produce large quantities of farm goods! Thus the old distinctions between rural and urban do not apply here any more. . . . In this area, then, we must abandon the idea of the city as a tightly settled and organized unit in which people, activities, and riches are crowded into a very small area clearly separated from its nonurban surroundings. Every city in this region spreads out far and wide around its original nucleus; it grows amidst an irregularly colloidal mixture of rural and suburban landscapes; it melts on broad fronts



COURTESY OF JOE HICKEY

Hickey and his wife, Barbara, on a trip to Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland.

with other mixtures, or somewhat similar though different texture, belonging to the suburban neighborhoods of other cities.

Dr. Gottmann’s new view of the North-east greatly influenced Mr. Hickey when he wrote *The Green Land*. “Indeed, the state is entering a critical period which will determine its future visual character,” he wrote. “The megalopolitan world is about to engulf Connecticut and the mounting size and rate of change will seriously impact regulations and policies which have been used to protect Connecticut to date.” *The Green Land* laid out the status of farming, forestry, fishing, parks, and open space. In it, Mr. Hickey called for vocational education of fishers and farmers. He said the state must preserve land for parks in every part of the state. *The Green Land* joined five other reports that asked Connecticut residents to work communally as they plan for the future. This request—think regionally, not just locally—went against the classic New England approach of “home rule.”

Perhaps the second-best thing Mr. Hickey ever wrote was the report that preceded *The Green Land*. That was *The Appearance of Connecticut*, released in 1963 by the Connecticut Development Commission using a federal grant under the Housing Act of 1954. That legislation built on the 1949 act and called for urban and suburban renewal that considered the quality of life. *The Appearance of Connecticut* closely followed

a report to the governor of Connecticut in 1962, “Connecticut’s Natural Resources: A Proposal for Action.” Known to conservationists since as “The Whyte Report,” a call to clean up and preserve Connecticut commissioned in 1962 by the governor’s office. William Whyte (author of *The Organization Man* [Simon & Schuster, 1956]) wrote *The Whyte Report*, which many believe launched the environmental movement here.*

Mr. Hickey felt that these reports lay on shelves and that many of the recommendations in them—for more education programs and protection of farms and forests—would require long political battles. He grew tired of waiting, and so he transferred to a job for the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, which soon became the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. As an environmental planner, Mr. Hickey put his feet firmly into the field. He went from one concrete project to another—the AT, the natural heritage projects, wetlands, and local trail protections. He became close friends with former CFPA Executive Director John Hibbard. The two often found themselves serving the same causes and testifying at the same hearings. They shared the goal of connecting people to the land.

In the early 1960s, in *The Appearance of Connecticut*, *The Green Land*, and two others on geography and resource industries, Mr. Hickey had poured his best writing and his best understanding of history and planning. He believed, and still believes, that no one should take land for granted. His call to action was that residents must work hard for land, finding ways through both public and private channels. They must save farms, forests, water supplies, beautiful tracts, and park land.

He believed that in the early 1960s many people had lost their sense of responsibility for natural areas because so many people worked in industry, disconnected from the land. A half-century later, Mr. Hickey brought his reports to us at Connecticut Woodlands and challenged our readers to ask if Connecticut is using all that we know to its best advantage. His hope is that we all will continue to read and think about people’s need for contact with natural land.

* “Connecticut has just so much land,” Mr. Whyte wrote, “and with this land it is going to be hard to take care of many more people in the decades ahead. It can do it well; it can do it poorly. Which it is to be will be determined in a relatively short time.”



IN DEFENSE OF TALL TREES

Identify the valuable and strongest large trees in cities and towns. Then work to keep them.

BY CHRIS DONNELLY

In the wake of recent storms in Connecticut, residents have criticized tall trees as threats to public safety and the reliability of electricity and cable lines. Yet, tall trees are very much a natural part of the Connecticut landscape.

It is true that trees are large, living organisms and that, when they grow in close proximity to people and structures, they need careful attention and maintenance. However, tall trees also contribute to the quality of life. They provide a wide range of

benefits—from cooling buildings to soothing tempers—not available through other practical means. The growth and retention of healthy, structurally strong, and properly located tall trees should be a priority goal of all municipalities in the state.

My emphasis is deliberately *tall* trees because it's easy to equate a tree with a tree, and so to accept as a trade-off the safety of short-stature trees for the benefits of tall trees. Although shorter trees such as crabapples, dogwoods, and flowering cherries have their place, they are not able to make the same contributions as do tall trees

such as oaks, elms, maples, and pines.

Tall trees' canopies and leaf surface areas measure larger than do those of smaller trees. Taller trees have more leaves, trap more pollutants, take in more carbon dioxide, transpire more water through the soil, and cast greater shade than smaller trees do.

Tall trees also do all those things that make trees so valuable to us. For the same ground footprint, tall trees deliver more working leaf surface areas. Also, their heights provide greater ability to shade the roofs and upper stories of buildings. Taller trees provide a broader range of habitats and they

TALL TREES' CANOPIES AND LEAF SURFACE AREAS MEASURE LARGER THAN DO THOSE OF SMALLER TREES.

TALLER TREES HAVE MORE LEAVES, TRAP MORE POLLUTANTS, TAKE IN MORE CARBON DIOXIDE, TRANSPIRE MORE WATER THROUGH THE SOIL, AND CAST GREATER SHADE THAN SMALLER TREES DO.

tend to live longer, and so provide their benefits for a much longer time.

The benefits provided by trees in cities, towns, and villages have been well documented. These include financial, social, and health benefits, and many others resulting from the environmental services trees deliver. For instance, in 2007, a team of interns working for Knox, Inc., studied ecosystem benefits of the trees within the City of Hartford.¹ Through this study, it was learned that Hartford's trees remove some 73 tons of air pollutants annually and, through reduction in energy usage, reduce the burning of fossil fuels by some 2,400 barrels of oil per year.

A similar study, conducted by Suzanne Oversvee, a graduate student at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, found that the street trees in New Haven produced some \$4 million in environmental

services per year, with energy savings from reduced electrical and natural gas consumption totaling about \$1.7 million.²

Because these are local studies, it is possible to look at the data in detail. In New Haven, the larger tall trees, those more than 36 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh), make up about 5 percent of the population of street trees. In Hartford, in which all trees and not just street trees were surveyed, trees with greater than 36 inches dbh make up only about 2 percent of the population. Yet, in Hartford, these 2 percent of the trees produce about 14 percent of the benefits that the trees in the city provide. If trees 24 inches and larger are considered, in Hartford they make up 5 percent of the population and do 40 percent of the work.

The environmental and financial benefits of these trees and their contributions to

green infrastructure are only a part of the importance of these trees. A 2003 study published by Frances Kuo,³ an associate professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, outlined the benefits of trees to the social ecology. These include stronger ties among neighbors, a greater sense of safety and adjustment, better supervision of children and healthier patterns of children's play, more use of neighborhood common spaces, fewer incivilities, and fewer violent crimes and crimes against property. Most of Dr. Kuo's research in this area was focused on residents in Chicago subsidized housing. In the paper, she comments, "In poor communities, social ties among neighbors are the first line of defense against the ravages of poverty. By contributing to stronger ties among neighbors, trees may enhance residents' resilience in the face of sudden financial setbacks and emergencies." In other words, the simple presence of trees can be a buffer against hard times.

She also is quick to point out that the benefits of trees are not just there for the socio-economically disadvantaged. Later on in the paper, she references the community green spaces in middle- and upper-income neighborhoods across the country: "The pattern of neighborhood ties developing from the shared use of these common green spaces exactly mirrors our findings from the poorer

Opposite page: A pin oak with a trunk 39 inches in diameter shades a two-family house on the corner of Batter Terrace and Derby Avenue in New Haven, providing significant energy savings.

Left: A large black oak (61 inches in diameter) dwarfs spectators returning from the 130th Harvard-Yale football game in New Haven's West River neighborhood. Trees like these can be central to the character of a neighborhood.



CHRIS DONNELLY

1 See "Hartford's Urban Forest—The Challenge," available on the urban forestry Web page on the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection forestry Web site: ct.gov/deep/forestry.

2 "Assessment of the Environmental Service Benefits of the City of New Haven's Street Tree Population," by Suzanne Oversvee, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Master's Project, Spring 2007, unpublished.

3 "The Role of Arboriculture in a Healthy Social Ecology," by Frances E. Kuo, *Journal of Arboriculture* 29(3): May 2003.



CHRIS DONNELLY

A colonnade of well-maintained red oaks line the Memorial Boulevard in Bristol, casting shade and making a strong statement regarding Bristol's veterans.

THE SOCIAL VALUE OF TREES IS ALMOST CERTAINLY A FACTOR UNDERLYING THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF TREES, AS SHOWS IN THE GREATER PROPERTY VALUES IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH TREED LOTS AND TREE-LINED STREETS. BUT THE VALUE OF TREES DOES NOT END THERE. MANY STUDIES HAVE CORRELATED TREES WITH BETTER HUMAN HEALTH.

neighborhoods. . . . Moreover, this pattern appears across different community greens with striking consistency.” Trees are a part of the social glue that holds neighborhoods and communities together, wherever those communities are and whatever the circumstances associated with them.

The social value of trees is almost certainly a factor underlying the economic value of trees, as shows in the greater property values in neighborhoods with treed lots and tree-lined streets. But the value of trees does not end there. Many studies have correlated trees with better human health. By encouraging outdoor exercise, trees help with cardiovascular fitness. Although not all studies

support that trees lower the rates of asthma, trees do remove fine particulate matter from the air, and that leads to a variety of health benefits.⁴

U.S. Forest Service researcher Geoffrey Donovan and colleagues outline perhaps the most startling suggestion of trees’ lifesaving benefits in a paper connecting human health and the loss and removal of ash trees killed by an exotic insect, the emerald ash borer. These authors concluded that the widespread death of ash trees from the emerald ash borer led to an increase in deaths from heart and lung illnesses, adding, “These results . . . also provide stronger support for a causal relationship.”⁵ The plausible

⁴ “Modeled PM2.5 Removal by Trees in Ten US Cities and Associated Health Effects,” by David Nowak et al., *Environmental Pollution* 178: 395–402, 2013.

⁵ “The Relationship Between Trees and Human Health—Evidence from the Spread of the Emerald Ash Borer,” by Geoffrey Donovan et al., *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 44(2): 139–145, 2013.

mechanisms that the article cites for this result include improved air quality, reduced stress, increased physical activity, more moderate temperatures, and relief during stressful life events.

Other research supports trees' critical values. Trees do matter, and they matter for many reasons. Large trees have a particular importance because of their increased ability to provide these benefits. Because trees are so important to people, well-treed cities and towns should be one of the legacies that each generation seeks to pass down to the next.

How do we do this? We do this by planting trees, of course, but simply planting trees is not enough. We have many large, healthy tall trees now. These trees are already

hard at work. Retaining the trees we already have and committing to their maintenance is only reasonable. We should know where these trees are and differentiate those that are healthiest, are most structurally sound, and otherwise have the greatest potential to contribute within communities, and we should work to keep them.

To gain the benefits of these trees, proximity is important, so it is also important that these trees are well-spread across the community landscape. In some places, because of the density of housing or for other reasons, this means that trees in public places, including along streets, have an additional importance. A tree that is one of the few tall trees in a given vicinity is that much more valuable than if it is one among many other

tall trees nearby. Mapping and other tools can show us where these trees are.

And we do need to plant trees. As we do so, we should seek to plant the right trees where they will be most effective. Besides choosing smaller and more compact trees for certain circumstances, this also means placing a priority on planting trees that will become large, tall trees in areas that can sustain such trees.

This might mean choosing among competing priorities and taking some risks. But, as the articles mentioned suggest, ignoring or undervaluing what it is that trees do has its own risks.

Chris Donnelly is an urban forester for the Connecticut DEEP.



CHRIS DONNELLY

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.



THE JOHN MUIR OF THE EAST?

*The quiet legacy of Harlan P. Kelsey,
a review of Loren M. Wood's new biography*

BY KATHLEEN GROLL CONNOLLY

**BEAUTIFUL LAND OF THE SKY: JOHN MUIR'S FORGOTTEN EASTERN COUNTERPART,
HARLAN P. KELSEY, BY LOREN M. WOOD (BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA: IUNIVERSE, 2013)**

Let's make a bet: I'll send you \$1 if you'd ever heard of Harlan P. Kelsey before turning to this review. I hadn't when I took on this detailed history. Loren M. Wood, the overseer of the Harlan P. Kelsey Arboretum in Boxford, Massachusetts, provides ample evidence that his subject deserves a noted place in the history of U.S. conservation and horticulture. Chronicling Mr. Kelsey's life from 1872 to 1958, the author offers a portrait of an inexhaustible advocate for land conservation who had an extraordinary appreciation of botany.

The book includes Mr. Kelsey's prodigious correspondence with the key naturalists and conservationists of his day, and the many governmental figures he encountered in his five-plus decades of leadership and collaboration in the establishment of five national parks—Great Smoky Mountains, Shenandoah, Everglades, Mammoth Cave, and Isle Royale. At different times during his long career, Mr. Kelsey was president of the Appalachian Mountain Club and was active in establishing the route of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. He was also active in discussions about a possible national park in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and other park proposals in Vermont's Green Mountains and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Mr. Kelsey volunteered most of his time. In one letter, Mr. Kelsey

and a correspondent joke about the \$12 per year he receives from the National Park Service.

Mr. Kelsey's passion for forests and native plants developed in the mountainous southwestern corner of North Carolina—the so-called beautiful land of the sky. His father, S. T. Kelsey, was a town developer who, in the 1870s, with a business partner, carved out of the wilderness the town of Highlands, North Carolina (elevation: 4,100 feet).

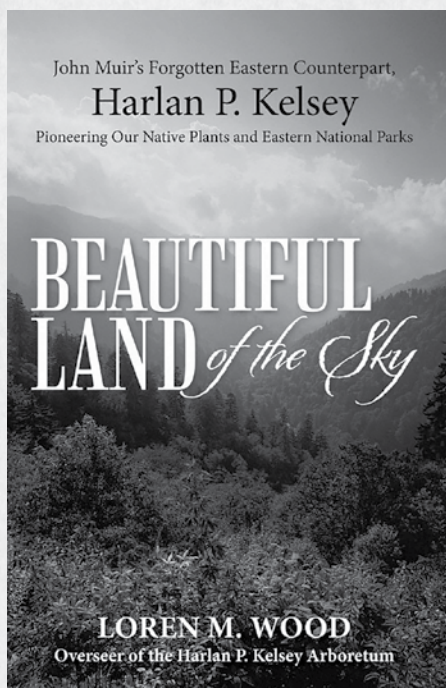
There, the elder Mr. Kelsey also established a successful tree nursery and, as history shows, the younger Mr. Kelsey needed no invitation to the horticultural profession. Before he was 10, Harlan Kelsey tried to establish a small orchard of grafted apple trees. At 12, he and his brother had already published their first catalog of native rhododendrons. "Ornamental trees and shrubbery," said the ad, presumably crafted by the pair

of pre-teenagers, "native to Western N.C., including many new and rare plants such as *Rhododendron vaseyi* and Carolina hemlock." Harlan Kelsey's formal education was roughly equivalent to today's high school degree, but the study of mountain landscapes, horticulture, and botany possessed and informed him throughout his long life.

Mr. Kelsey became a leading horticulturalist, eventually running a very successful landscape design and nursery business from his adopted home on the north shore of Boston. In Mr. Kelsey's day, almost all commercial horticulture consisted of imported species. Author Wood records a seminal speech published in an 1894 issue of *American Nurseryman*, in which Mr. Kelsey stated, "We want every private pleasure ground in which our wild plants once grew, to become familiar with their lovely presence once again." He was responsible for numerous introductions of native plants, particularly rhododendrons, into commercial trade.

He also wrote several taxonomy manuals in an effort to bring standardization to botanical names. (His books are still available from large online retailers.) In 1936, he received the George Robert White Medal of Honor from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, one of the highest awards in the profession. Mr. Kelsey was named the Dean of American Nurserymen by the American Horticultural Council in 1954.

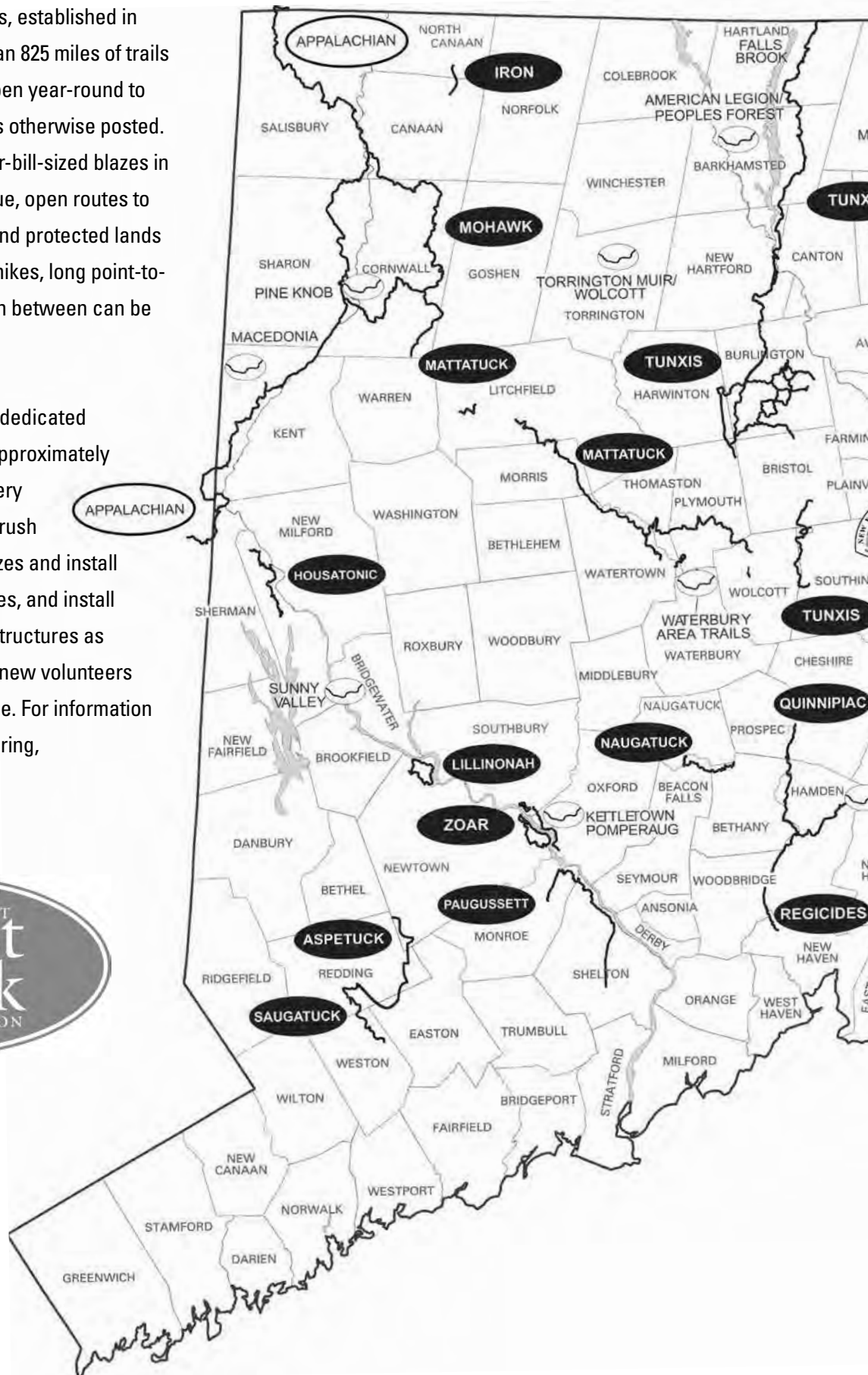
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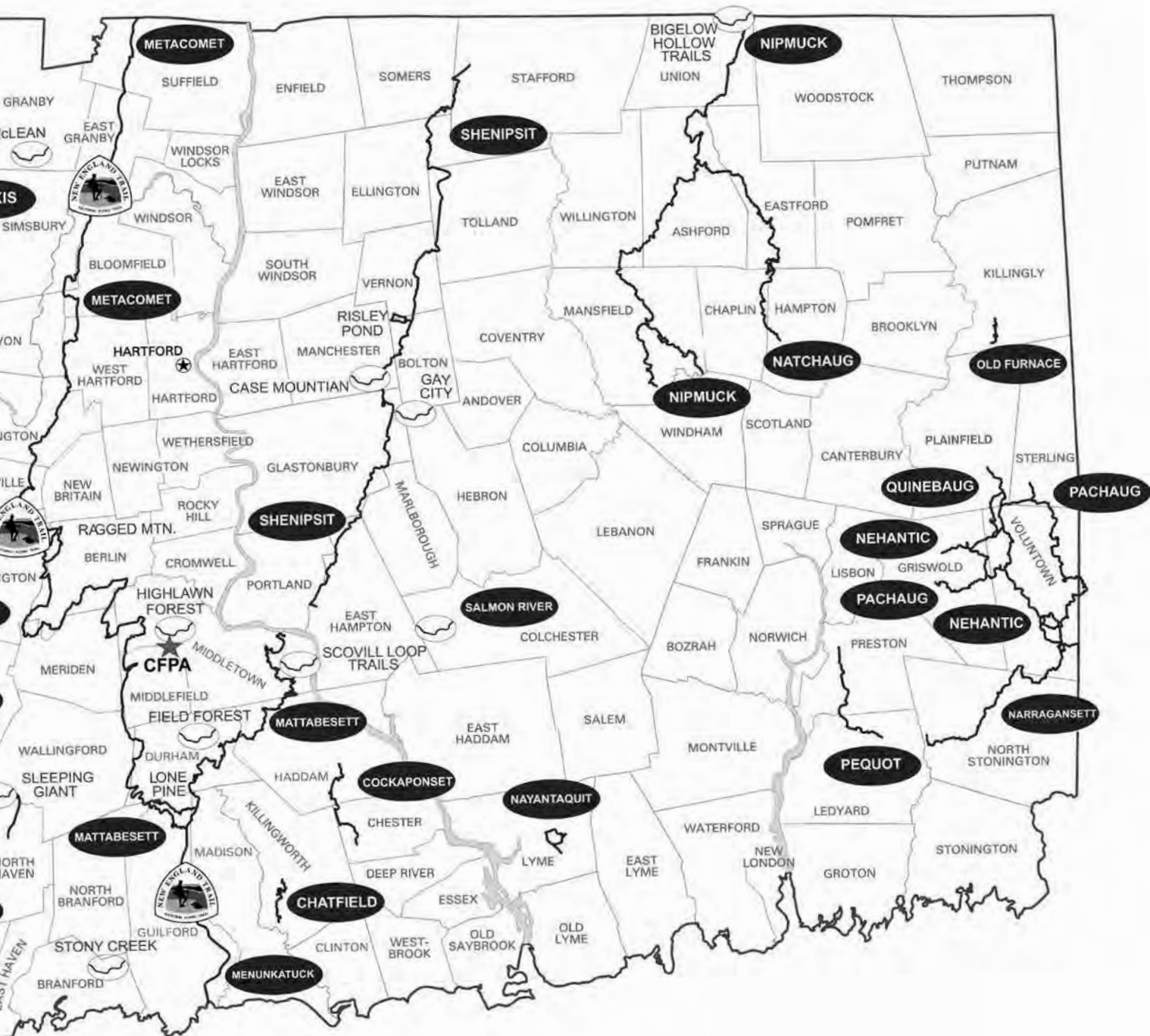


THE BOOK INCLUDES MR. KELSEY'S
 PRODIGIOUS CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE
 KEY NATURALISTS AND CONSERVATIONISTS
 OF HIS DAY AND THE MANY GOVERNMENTAL
 FIGURES HE ENCOUNTERED IN HIS FIVE-PLUS
 DECADES OF LEADERSHIP AND
 COLLABORATION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
 FIVE NATIONAL PARKS—GREAT SMOKY
 MOUNTAINS, SHENANDOAH, EVERGLADES,
 MAMMOTH CAVE, AND ISLE ROYALE.
 AT DIFFERENT TIMES DURING HIS LONG
 CAREER, MR. KELSEY WAS PRESIDENT OF
 THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB AND
 WAS ACTIVE IN ESTABLISHING THE ROUTE OF
 THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL FROM MAINE TO
 GEORGIA. HE WAS ALSO ACTIVE IN
 DISCUSSIONS ABOUT A POSSIBLE NATIONAL
 PARK IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS OF NEW
 HAMPSHIRE AND OTHER PARK PROPOSALS
 IN VERMONT'S GREEN MOUNTAINS AND
 MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA.

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.





CONNECTICUT'S BLUE-BLAZED HIKING TRAILS

INTERACTIVE BLUE TRAILS MAP ONLINE

<http://www.ctwoodlands.org/BlueTrailsMap>

Whether you're a devout hiker of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails or a walker looking for a local escape, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's new online trails map will help you plan your outing before your boots hit the ground. As a companion tool to the *Connecticut Walk Book*, this map will allow you to zoom in and see the latest trail locations, learn trail names and distances, and fully discover all that Connecticut hiking has to offer.

CONNECTICUT FOREST & PARK ASSOCIATION HISTORIC MILESTONES

- 1895 Connecticut Forestry Association founded in the Weatogue section of Simsbury, Connecticut, on December 30, 1895, at the residence of Reverend Horace Winslow.
- 1901 Facilitated establishment of the first state forester position in the nation.
- 1901 Initiated a state forest acquisition policy, making Connecticut the first state in the nation able to acquire land for state forests.
- 1903 Encouraged the acquisition of the Portland (now Meshomasic) State Forest, the first state forest in New England.
- 1905 Secured enactment of the Connecticut Forest Fire Law, the first such law in New England.
- 1913 Secured enactment of the 10-Mill Law, the first reducing taxation on land committed to forestry.
- 1920 Envisioned, acquired, and donated Peoples State Forest to the state of Connecticut.
- 1921 Secured enactment of a bill authorizing state purchase of the first 100,000 acres of forest.
- 1923 Secured enactment of a bill requiring spark arrestors on railroad locomotives.
- 1928 Became incorporated as Connecticut Forest & Park Association.
- 1929 Established the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System. The Quinnipiac Trail was the first.
- 1930 Established the prototype for the Civilian Conservation Corps at Peoples State Forest.
- 1936 Published the first issue of Connecticut Woodlands magazine.
- 1937 Published the first volume of the *Connecticut Walk Book*.
- 1963 Secured enactment of Public Act 490, the first law in the nation to allow forests, farms, and open space to be taxed based upon use rather than development value.
- 1971 Secured enactment of the Landowner Liability Law to protect landowners hosting trails.
- 1986 Established the James L. Goodwin Forest & Park Center in Middlefield.
- 1986 Coordinated Project Learning Tree in Connecticut.
- 1991 Secured enactment of the Connecticut Forest Practices Act.
- 1993 Began as Connecticut coordinator of National Trails Day, the American Hiking Society's initiative. Connecticut Trails Day features more hikes than any other state.
- 2002 Secured enactment of the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act of 2002, directing the National Park Service to study the feasibility of making these trails a National Scenic Trail.
- 2009 The federal government designated the 220-mile-long MMM Trail in Connecticut and Massachusetts as a National Scenic Trail, called the New England Trail.
- 2011 Led efforts to amend the state Landowner Liability Law to restore liability protection to municipalities on recreational lands.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



CONSERVATION ADVOCACY

Every year since 1897, CFPA has provided legislators with an Agenda for Connecticut's Land and People. CFPA's advocacy priorities have included securing adequate resources for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to manage state parks and forests; support the preservation of working forests and agricultural lands; and lead efforts to secure National Scenic Trail designation and ongoing support for the New England Trail.

BLUE-BLAZED HIKING TRAILS

The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System, established in 1929, is one of CFPA's most visible and lasting contributions to recreation. The Blue Trails total more than 825 miles in 88 towns. The infrastructure for managing this massive area consists of CFPA's trail stewardship director, the CFPA Trails Committee, and more than 100 volunteer trail managers who through work parties and ongoing maintenance activities donate more than 20,000 hours of volunteer time each year.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Three elements make up CFPA's Environmental Education program: (1) CFPA co-sponsors the nationally acclaimed Project Learning Tree (PLT) Program and offers hands-on professional development workshops for teachers and non-formal educators on forests and related natural resources topics; (2) The James L. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton features native plant wildlife gardens, an 80-acre demonstration forest, a museum, hiking trails, and a classroom to provide forestry, wildlife, and general conservation education programs for youth and adults; and (3) CFPA has long been known for its conservation-themed publications such as Connecticut Woodlands (published since 1936), the *Connecticut Walk Books* (published since 1937), and *Forest Trees of Connecticut* (recently republished in 2012).

LAND CONSERVATION

Over the past 100 years, CFPA has been instrumental in the acquisition of more than 100 state parks and forests for public use and enjoyment. CFPA owns properties or holds conservation restrictions on approximately 2,000 acres. The conservation priorities for the program are in lands associated with working forests and/or hiking trails.

WalkCT

Describing 130 walks and growing, CFPA's WalkCT.org website provides information on places to walk throughout Connecticut. CFPA sponsors free WalkCT Family Rambles. Volunteer leaders are trained to connect families to the outdoors with fun, engaging, family-friendly walks every month of the year.

Visit ctwoodlands.org for more information on CFPA programs and activities.

MEET TWO OF CFPA'S DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Two of the dedicated volunteers who maintain sections of the 825 miles' worth of Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails have gone above and beyond what the Connecticut Forest & Park Association expects of volunteers. Eric Bengtson and Peter Dorpalen showed great vision and put hundreds of hours into their trail projects.

Eric Bengtson first became involved as a trail manager for Aquarion Water Company in 2000. He was responsible for monitoring and maintaining the Saugatuck Trail, which at the time was not recognized as a Blue Trail. But he suggested CFPA make it part of the system, which it did. Between 2004 and 2007, a new trail near the Saugatuck, the Aspetuck, was created; Mr. Bengtson was named the trail manager and took meticulous care of it. (Another trail manager took over the Saugatuck.)

Then, in 2011, Mr. Bengtson had the vision to extend the Aspetuck Trail. He approached Aquarion to ask if it was possible. "Working with Aquarion is fantastic," he has said. The company responded with the idea of connecting the two trails located within the 15,300 acres of the Centennial Watershed State Forest in the heart of Fairfield County. The Centennial Watershed State Forest is managed by a partnership of Aquarion Water Company, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, The Nature Conservancy, and CFPA. For the past three years, with the help of over 120 people, Bengtson has led the charge in connecting these two lovely hiking trails to create over 18 miles of continuous trail with 8 bridges. He said he hopes people enjoy the trail as much as he has enjoyed creating it. This year Mr. Bengtson has reported more than 650 hours of work on the beautiful trail.

Peter Dorpalen came to be a volunteer for CFPA in a slightly different way. He saw an opportunity to enhance the landscape of Connecticut for the enjoyment of all its people. Peter, who lives down the street from the Metacomet Trail in Farmington, saw a wild abandoned trail and wanted to do something to reverse the damage. He reached out to CFPA to see how he could become involved.



CLARE CAIN

Eric Bengtson on the new bridge over the Little River, Saugatuck Trail.



TIM JOHNSON

Peter Dorpalen on the new bridge over the Shepaug River along a new section of the Mattatuck Trail.

Peter was soon put in touch with the trail manager for this trail. After signing a liability form he started working on the trail. He worked tirelessly to remove trees covered in poison ivy and battled invasive species. It wasn't long until his efforts were recognized, and he was asked to become the trail manager for that section of trail.

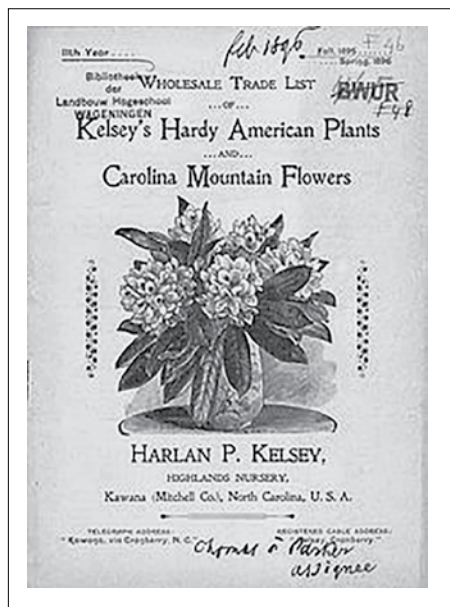
Mr. Dorpalen has engineered several relocations, using his knack for looking at an overgrown, neglected landscape and seeing what the trail could look like instead. He also has been working very hard to close a 15-mile gap between the Mattatuck and Mohawk Trails in Warren and recently was able to close 8 miles of this gap. This part of the trail started as thick laurel over rugged

terrain, but that has not stopped Mr. Dorpalen from putting over 300 hours towards scouting, flagging, building, and blazing this new section of trail for us all.

Eric Bengtson and Peter Dorpalen saw a need and stepped up to fill it. They are two of CFPA's incredible trails volunteers. Those who want to volunteer should note that trail work is only one way to help. Others include monitoring CFPA properties, helping plan and run events, and stuffing envelopes.

In 2014 volunteers dedicated more than 30,000 hours. Thank you to all of you who have contributed your time, energy, and knowledge to CFPA.

MR. MUIR WAS AN INNOVATOR; HE EARNED A MODICUM OF IMMORTALITY. MR. KELSEY WAS AN ADAPTOR. HE WORKED THROUGH CHANNELS AND BUILT COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS. HIS WRITING WAS OPERATIONAL, NOT VISIONARY. HE CALLED LITTLE ATTENTION TO HIMSELF OR HIS IDEAS—EVEN THOUGH HE WAS WIDELY RECOGNIZED WITH HONORS AND AWARDS IN HIS DAY.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Harlan Kelsey's Highlands Nursery in North Carolina specialized in plants that thrived in the Eastern mountains.

A Quiet Activist

But what of the author's comparison of Mr. Kelsey to John Muir? Why is Mr. Muir still widely known 100 years after his death—while Mr. Kelsey doesn't even have a Wikipedia entry? Mr. Muir, who lived from 1838 to 1914, was an activist for the groundbreaking concept of national parks. Kelsey's contributions came later, at a time when states and

towns were actively seeking national park status for many areas.

But perhaps more important than the different times in which they lived, Mr. Muir's and Mr. Kelsey's methods represent two very different approaches to creating change. Mr. Muir lived ascetically much of his life, often in wilderness. He was a visionary who developed a voice in his writing that still inspires contemporary audiences to action. He was a paradigm-changer who aimed to reach the hearts and minds of others to save the natural landscape from doom. Mr. Kelsey lived a much more conventional life. A successful businessman, he married an heiress, became a family man, and was an active community member.

Mr. Muir was an innovator; he earned a modicum of immortality. Mr. Kelsey was an adaptor. He worked through channels and built collaborative relationships. His writing was operational, not visionary. He called little attention to himself or his ideas—even though he was widely recognized with honors and awards in his day. Mr. Kelsey got results and earned a life with material comforts. Both methods worked in their different landscapes (Mr. Muir in the West; Mr. Kelsey in the East) and times. Where Mr. Muir's role is widely noted, history forgot to give Mr. Kelsey even a footnote. But Mr. Kelsey was a true conservation super-achiever, and *Beautiful Land of the Sky* documents in meticulous detail letters, excerpts from published articles, maps, photographs, and land records.

A Dry Narrative, but an Important Record

I did not find it an easy read. Mr. Wood, a retired financial consultant, did not share his insights into Mr. Kelsey's inner life, temperament, or personality. Mr. Wood refers frequently to Mr. Kelsey's modest demeanor, patience, and persistence, for instance, but leaves out the vignettes that might show those characteristics in action. The book left me knowing about Mr. Kelsey without knowing him.

Despite this, the book certainly will be of value to national park researchers and conservation historians. The author suggests in his epilog that the Kelsey Arboretum, which is open to the public, seven days a week, is worthy of the National Register of Historic Places (see kelseyarboretum.org/). Mr. Wood has certainly supplied all the evidence that others may need to turn that idea into reality.

Harlan P. Kelsey's life is well worth acknowledgement. In the meantime, I have added the arboretum to my list of places I'd like to visit. And when I go, I'll know of the talent, inspiration, and energy that Mr. Kelsey brought to bear on conservation during his journey on earth.

Kathleen Groll Connolly is a landscape and garden designer, garden writer, and speaker with 30 years of involvement with landscapes—horticultural, agricultural, wild, and otherwise. She has published poetry and reviews in Connecticut Woodlands for more than a decade.

GRACE ELLSWORTH *continued from page 5*

At the age of 99 Grace was appointed an Honorary Board Member of Connecticut Forest and Park Association as a tribute to her support for this cause. As a kind of activist of her times, she never stopped loving politics and following the daily news, and could argue just about anyone into an uncomfortable corner with her sharp incisive mind. When her husband died in 1994, Grace continued tending the home and property she and Mr. Ellsworth had built together. It was not an easy transition for her to leave her beloved house at the age of 98, but she bowed gracefully to the inevitability of it and finished out her life at the Saybrook at Haddam. Grace's four children,

Elinor Ellsworth, Starr Sayres, Ann-Toy Broughton, and Tim Ellsworth, celebrated her 100th birthday with a big bash last November, with Grace holding court with her usual humor, wit, and elegant style. She also leaves nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Direct memorial donations to the Office of Institutional Advancement University of Hartford 200 Bloomfield Avenue West Hartford, CT 06117 <https://www.anchoronline.org/SSLPage.aspx?pid=312> or the Connecticut Forest and Park Association 16 Meriden Road Rockfall, CT 06481-2961 (ctwoodlands.org/donate). A celebration of her life took place July 30.



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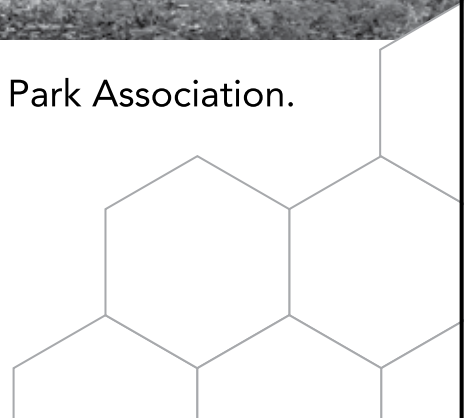


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SALMON RIVER TRAIL AND DAY POND BROOK FALLS TRAIL

BY DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

On the map in the *Connecticut Walk Book East*, the Blue-Blazed Salmon River Trail in Colchester looks a bit like a deflated balloon on a string, the “balloon” being a 2.9-mile loop section of the trail and the “string” a 2-mile connector trail (called the Comstock Bridge Connector). I like loop trails because I do not have to retrace my steps. There’s always something new to see. So that’s the portion of the trail my friend Noreen and I decided to hike in October.

Now that it’s winter, short days and cold weather might discourage anyone from covering the entire 6.9-mile hike (the loop plus in and out on the connector) described in the *Walk Book*.

Hiking clockwise, we began and ended the loop portion of the Salmon River Trail in Day Pond State Park, at the gravel parking lot next to the beach. The trail took us past a huge glacial erratic, over small brooks, and across wooden bridges. At various times, we traveled through a mixed hardwood forest, large stands of hemlocks, and mountain laurel thickets. The going was mostly easy to



DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

Hatch Brook tumbles over rocks in the home-ward stretch.

**MIDWAY AROUND THE LOOP, WE MADE A DELIGHTFUL DISCOVERY THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:
A SHORT (0.2 MILE) SPUR TRAIL TO A SERIES OF PRETTY CASCADES COLLECTIVELY CALLED DAY POND BROOK FALLS.
EVEN AFTER A SEASON OF SPARSE RAINFALL, THE FALLS HAD ENOUGH WATER TO TUMBLE OVER
MOSSY ROCKS AND INTO LITTLE POOLS AS THE BROOK FLOWED DOWNHILL. IN WINTER,
THE FALLS WILL PROBABLY BE FESTOONED WITH ICE—A SIGHT WORTH SEEING.**

moderate with a few steeper uphill sections.

Midway around the loop, we made a delightful discovery that you might want to check out: a short (0.2 mile) spur trail to a series of pretty cascades collectively called Day Pond Brook Falls. Even after a season of sparse rainfall, the falls had enough water to tumble over mossy rocks and into little pools as the brook flowed downhill. In winter, the falls will probably be festooned with ice—a sight worth seeing.

The Loop Hike

Begin hiking the Salmon River Trail loop at the Day Pond beach parking area. Walk to the end of the parking area and cross the bridge next to the dam. At the South Loop sign, turn right to enter the woods, following the Blue-Blazed trail. (Note: Even though the Salmon River Trail has one continuous loop, one-half of it is referred to as the North Loop and the other half as the South Loop.) In just 0.3 mile, you will come to the glacial erratic. Stop for a minute to marvel at how powerful the glacier must have been to move such a huge boulder, which probably originated far from its present location.

As you continue hiking in a generally northwestern direction, you will pass the junction with the Comstock Bridge Connector Trail, cross a utility easement, and then a bridge over Day Pond Brook. Soon you will see a sign for the blue-and-red-blazed Day Pond Brook Falls Trail (hiking to the falls and back will add only 0.4 mile to the loop hike), and shortly after that, you will cross an abandoned road and then enter the North Loop. The trail now takes you uphill through a mountain laurel thicket. At the top, the trail leads through a hardwood forest, across a utility easement, and

then downhill toward Day Pond Brook. The trail parallels the brook for a while, crosses an underground utility easement, and finally brings you back to your starting point at the state park beach.

Directions

From Middletown, take the Arrigoni Bridge to Portland and follow Route 66 east to Route 16 east, then go north on Route 149 for about half a mile. At Peck Lane, go left, then turn left onto Day Pond Road.

The entrance to Day Pond State Park is on the right. Follow the gravel park road past two small parking areas, a bathroom building, and a pavilion. Park in the beach lot.

From Route 2, take exit 16 in Colchester. Go south on Route 149 for 3 miles, turn right onto Peck Lane, left onto Day Pond Road, and then right at the park entrance.

Diane Friend Edwards is a writer, photographer, and lifelong lover of the outdoors. She lives in Harwinton with her husband, Paul.



Noreen Kirk pauses along the South Loop to marvel at the size of an erratic.

DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS



Left, Runners Eliot Greenberg and Lisa Fydenkevez at the Soapstone Mountain Sampler, a 6-kilometer race on the Shenipsit Trail, on May 18.

Below, Connecticut Forest & Park Association Development Director Jim Little was also the race director for CFPA's September 6 race, Run for the Woods on the Tunxis Trail in Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area.

SCOTT LIVINGSTON



A SUCCESSFUL TRAIL RUNNING SERIES WRAPS UP

The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail Running Series has completed a very successful first year.

**CHECK OUT THE FINAL POSTINGS AT
CTWOODLANDS.ORG/TRAILRUNNING.**

The Blue-Blazed Hiking Running Series has completed a very successful first year. Check out the final postings at ctwoodlands.org/TrailRunning.

The Blue-Blazed Series offers a diverse selection of races for runners of all skill levels. The series brings greater awareness to the Blue Trails and the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, whose volunteers build and maintain the trails. The series featured 11 races, 3 of which offered short or long options: Bimble's Bash 10-kilometer race; the Traprock 50K or 17K; the Soapstone Mountain Trail Races 24K or 6K; the Southern Nipmuck Trail Race; the Soapstone Assault; the Peoples State Forest 7-mile race; Trails for a Cure/Cockaponset; Run for the Woods 10K or 5K; the Nipmuck Trail Marathon; and the Bimble's Bluff 50K. A total of 1,332 runners—382 women and 950 men—competed in at least one race. The overall men's title went to Ted Cowles (who ran every race), and the woman's title went to Kehr Davis, who ran four races, including the Nipmuck Trail Marathon and the Soapstone Mountain 24K. Many thanks to Dom Wilson, who calculated all the scores, and to Debbie Livingston (who was the second-place woman in the series) and Jerry Turk, who gave time to envision and help make the series a reality. Finally, thanks to CFPA's Marty Gosselin for all the Web work, and the Shenipsit Striders running club.

—Jim Little





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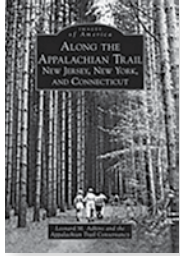
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Pictorial History of the AT in CT

On its way from Maine to Georgia, the Appalachian Trail covers more than 50 miles through Connecticut, where the federal government's project to protect the land took a decade, from the late 1970s to the late 1980s. Now a book chronicles the history of the trail in this state. Connecticut Forest & Park Association members and Connecticut Woodlands



editor Christine Woodside assisted author Leonard Adkins as he searched for archival photographs for *Along the Appalachian Trail: New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut* (Arcadia Publishing, 2014).

Mr. Adkins told the story of the early trail in Connecticut at CFPA's annual volunteer dinner in Glastonbury on November 7. The book, like other Arcadia titles, is like a photo album—showing some of the many volunteers and trail promoters going back to the 1930s—with detailed captions showing Mr. Adkins's deep well of knowledge. No surprise there: he has hiked the A.T. five times and written six books about the trail.

Moose Sighted

In November, state authorities reported a moose wandering near Interstate 84 in the Cheshire and Prospect area. Moose near roadways pose a particular danger, if hit they are more likely to collapse through a vehicle windshield because of their tall stance. Moose are also difficult to see when driving at night because of their dark color.

All moose and deer collisions with vehicles should be reported to local or state authorities, or the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Environmental Conservation Police Officers (860-424-3333). Report moose sightings on the DEEP Web site at ct.gov/deep/wildlife.

Connecticut has a resident moose population estimated at 100 to 150 animals. They are found most often in the northeastern and northwestern wooded corners of Connecticut but have been seen in most other parts of the state.

—Connecticut DEEP

State Grants \$7.8 Million for Open Space

Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced on October 28 that nearly \$7.8 million in state grants will help 25 communities buy 2,237 acres for open space. In addition, \$96,250 was awarded to establish community gardens in New Haven and Norwalk.

"Conserving land is an important investment in our future, and today's grants move us closer to meeting our goal of protecting 21 percent of Connecticut's land as permanently protected open space," Mr. Malloy said. The grants come through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program, which is administered by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. This program provides financial support to local governments and land trusts in purchasing open space, using state bonds and funding from the 2005 Community Investment Act.

The open space grant program requires the local party to grant the state a conservation and public recreation easement.

These open space grants will help the state of Connecticut achieve its goal of protecting 673,210 acres of land by 2023. Connecticut now has 496,948 acres designated as state or local open space lands, 73.8% of the goal. Since the program was launched in 1998, more than \$117 million in state funding has been awarded to municipalities, nonprofit land conservation organizations, and water companies to assist in the purchase of 29,181 acres of land in 135 cities and towns.

One of the grants announced will help secure nearly 71 acres in Essex that are part of the tract called the Preserve, a 1,000-acre coastal forest area the state will buy with the Town of Old Saybrook and surrounding towns. The grants for Community Gardens in New Haven and Norwalk are the result of a more recent component of the open space grant program. These grants are designed to create green spaces in city neighborhoods, open urban lands for outdoor recreation, and help improve community health by encouraging the growing of local fruits and vegetables.

—Connecticut DEEP



SKIP WEISENBURGER

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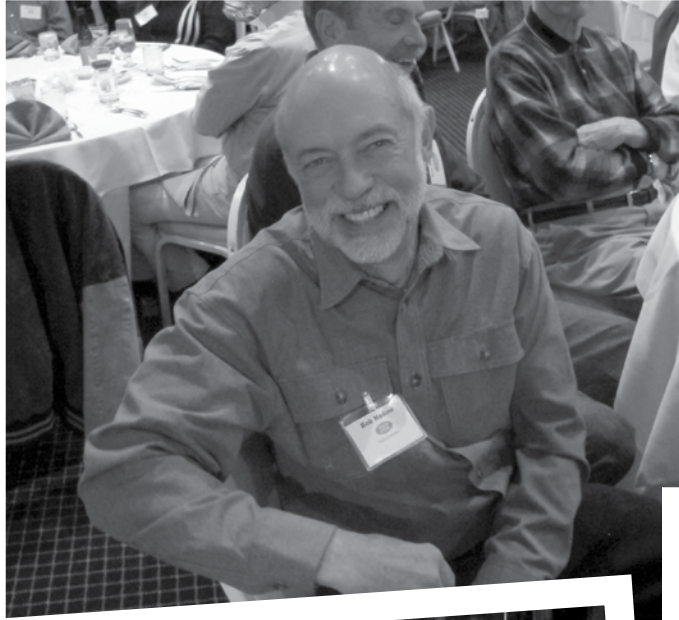
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CFPA VOLUNTEER DINNER 2014



Connecticut Forest & Park Association volunteers gathered in Glastonbury on November 7. Just a few of the crowd were (clockwise from top left), New England Trail Roving Crew Chief Robert Nodine, CFPA Board of Directors member and trail manager Richard Whitehouse, trail honoree Paul Mei (with Clare Cain), award recipient Chuck Sack (with Jennifer Benner at podium), and Joe Hickey (left) with former CFPA Executive Director John Hibbard.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE



More CFPA volunteers recognized on November 7 included (clockwise from above left) Outstanding New Trail Managers Hector Morera (with Clare Cain) and Tom Tella; Outstanding Trail Manager Elizabeth Buckley; Outstanding Goodwin Volunteer Lynne Warren (with Goodwin Forest Center staffer James Parda), Trail Blazer Eric Bengtson; and Outstanding Volunteer David Reik (with Eric Hammerling in background and Clare Cain at right). For a full listing of all winners, see ctwoodlands.org.





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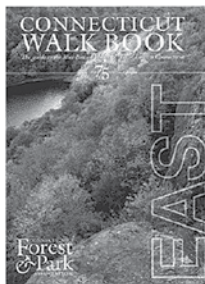
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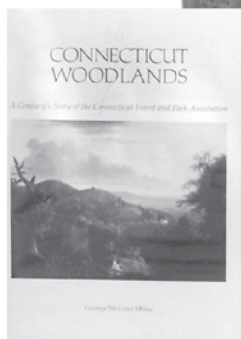
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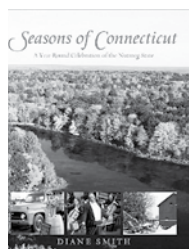
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