

CONNECTICUT Woodlands



ROADSIDE KEEPERS: TALKING WITH TREE WARDENS

A WEEK WITH EDWIN WAY TEALE. DAVID LEFF ON PROTECTING STATE LAND

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Arborist Bruce Pauley, who served as tree warden for New Canaan for several years, is one of four who talks about a tree warden's commitment to public trees. See page 7.

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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Hartford Tree Warden Heather Dionne examines the trunk of a large elm tree removed under her authority. See page 7.

PHOTO BY CHRIS DONNELLY

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Correction: Tom Ebersold’s job was incorrectly listed in the last issue. He is an elementary school teacher.



A glimpse into the startling views of the global conservation movement



BY ERIC LUKINGBEAL

Like most readers of this magazine, I think of myself as a conservationist, but without paying particular attention to the definition of *conservation*. With no formal training in any scientific field, that may be too bold a claim. But the idea of conservation, and the related idea of preservation, has been at the center of many of my daily activities for a long time—even more so now that I am retired. Conservation and preservation are, of course, at the heart of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's activities.

Our doings here in Connecticut on behalf of conservation for the past 120 years are just a small part of the global conservation movement. Our efforts focus on the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails and on protecting parks and forests. We have a firm conviction that keeping the trails clear and connected will connect those who follow them to the serious matter of protecting them, and that public open space protects the natural environment without which we have no life.

We believe that our policies should be based on sound science. I cannot recall a serious dispute among the ranks of our Board of Directors about what our conservation goals should be. That is not the same thing as saying we haven't disagreed on the tactics needed to achieve those goals. But our goals have not been in dispute.

Our consensus on goals stands in sharp contrast with the global conservation movement. In 2012, the journal *Breakthrough* published an article, "Conservation in the Anthropocene," by Peter Kareiva, Michelle Marvier, and Robert Lalasz. Dr. Kareiva was at the time the Nature Conservancy's chief scientist. (He is now director of the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at the University of California, Los Angeles.) The authors of this article made some startling (to me) claims. First, that conservation is

failing. The fight to protect nature is being lost, even though the number of protected areas in the world has increased 1,000 percent since 1950. The evidence of failure is simple: worldwide biodiversity is in decline. One example cited is that more tigers live in captivity than in the wild. As far as I know, no one disputes that biodiversity is in a steep decline. Take a look at Elizabeth Kolbert's book, *The Sixth Extinction* (Henry Holt, 2014) for the details. Even though areas of beauty and abundant wildlife will continue to attract generous donors and occasional government attention, these protected areas are islands in "a sea of human transformation."

Dr. Kareiva and his coauthors say that the real issue for modern conservation is not what islands to fence in and protect, but what to do with the rest of the land, which is hardly wilderness but has conservation value nonetheless. (All of Connecticut falls in this category). The authors go on to claim that a pragmatic approach is needed and that conservation will have to "jettison the idealized nature of nature, parks and wilderness," and instead forge a "more optimistic human-friendly vision." Some call Dr. Kareiva and his supporters eco-pragmatists.

The second point in the article is that conservationists exaggerate the fragility of nature because the data do not support the notion that ecological change such as the loss of a single species will lead to a larger collapse of the ecosystem. The authors cite the loss of the American chestnut and the passenger pigeon as events with "no catastrophic or even measurable" effects.

The third point is that nature can recover quickly from human disturbance. The aftermath of the nuclear reactor disaster in Chernobyl, Ukraine (formerly the USSR), in 1986 is one example, as it is now thick with wildlife despite high radiation levels. In short, the authors say, "Conservation's continuing focus upon preserving islands of Holocene [the accepted term for the present geological period] ecosystems in the age

of the Anthropocene [the term proposed by some to reflect humans' impact on climate and geography] is both anachronistic and counterproductive."

Instead, they write, conservation ought to consider measuring achievement by its relevance to people, including city dwellers: "Nature could be a Garden—not a carefully manicured and rigid one—but a tangle of species and wilderness amidst lands used for food production, mineral extraction, and urban life."

Dr. Kareiva also says, "None of this is to argue for eliminating nature reserves or no longer investing in their stewardship. But we need to acknowledge that a conservation that is only about fences, limits, and faraway places only a few can actually experience is a losing proposition. Protecting biodiversity for its own sake has not worked."

The eco-pragmatists' arguments are controversial. The *Breakthrough* article has resulted in repeated volleys back and forth in professional journals and even in the popular press. The recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decision not to list the greater sage grouse as endangered under the Endangered Species Act has roused both praise and scorn. E. O. Wilson, the evolutionary biologist, was quoted as saying, "Where do you plant that white flag you're carrying?"

We have no true wilderness left here in Connecticut. Our ancestors cut or burned practically all of our trees for fields or fuel. Most of our forest cover (which is quite abundant at about 60 percent) is only about 100 years old. No islands of pristine wilderness remain to save. So in this sense the argument Dr. Kareiva and the eco-pragmatists make does not even apply to us. And yet, we have a lot to do still. We are already focused on the rest of the land, which has conservation value.

Eric Lukingbeal worked most of his career as an 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.

Conser-vision: Today's land, tomorrow's legacy.



BY ERIC HAMMERLING

The mission of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association is to connect people to the land, thereby protecting Connecticut's forests, parks, and trails for future generations.

Achieving this mission is a challenge in a world where many people are becoming less connected to the outdoors.

When faced with big challenges, I think of two great quotes on problem-solving attributed to Albert Einstein: "If I had an hour to solve a problem I'd spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and 5 minutes thinking about solutions," and, "We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them."

What are the problems? Smartphones, computers, televisions, stressful jobs, endless e-mails, over-programmed extracurricular activities, and the Internet have all been implicated in triggering and exacerbating our disconnection from the outdoors. Author and teacher Richard Louv calls this "nature deficit disorder." That disconnection is linked to physical and mental health issues that can be reversed. For example, a simple walk outdoors combats osteoporosis, reduces depression and anxiety, and improves the quality of life.

Simply understanding that time outdoors delivers numerous physical, mental health, and social benefits is not enough to change the way people live. It takes what I call conser-vision, the will to change joined with significant volunteer and financial resources to succeed. If big problems necessitate bold solutions, then reconnecting people to forests, parks, and trails in Connecticut is the big challenge that CFPA's strategic plan, "Today's Land, Tomorrow's Legacy" was developed to address.

The heart of "Today's Land, Tomorrow's Legacy" is 3 major strategies and 14 major actions that are detailed on our website, ctwoodlands.org. I have grouped these strategies into three basic categories: places to go, places to meet, and places to protect.

Places to Go

So there will be places to go, we want to work with you to:

- Build shelters on the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails for overnight outdoor experiences.
- Transform the Blue Trails into a world-class trail system.

Places to Meet

So there will be places to meet, we want to work with you to:

- Improve CFPA's campus in Middlefield to better connect conservation community members to each other and to the outdoors.
- Build an outdoor education center to inspire the next generation of conservationists.

Places to Protect

So there will be places to protect, we want to work with you to:

- Advocate for protection and improved management of state, municipal, and private forests as well as trails.
- Permanently secure the Blue Trails through long-term protection of trails and forests.

These are a few of the concepts of "Today's Land, Tomorrow's Legacy," but we cannot achieve this ambitious, positive vision without your continued support.

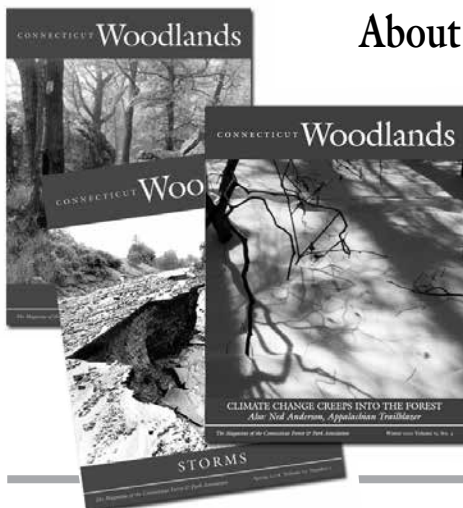
You are already doing so much for CFPA and for Connecticut. I ask one more thing of you: Bring more people into the CFPA family.

If we expect to accomplish the goals of "Today's Land, Tomorrow's Legacy," we will need more members and more volunteers to get us there. Think about what supporting CFPA means to you, and please encourage others to join you as part of a community.

Learn more about "Today's Land, Tomorrow's Legacy" at ctwoodlands.org/The_Plan. If you have questions or ideas about how you can help the cause, please call me at 860-346-2372 or send me an e-mail at ehammerling@ctwoodlands.org.

Members like you form the backbone of the CFPA family, and we deeply appreciate your support.

Eric Hammerling has directed CFPA since 2008. He lives in West Hartford with his family.



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.*

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A sad tale about a beloved tree

Talking to emotional people who don't want a tree to fall to the ax—that's a skill that takes a combination of scientific understanding, sympathy, and plain guts. All four tree wardens Chris Donnelly interviewed for our story in this issue told him that talking to people is perhaps the most important skill in their wide-ranging duties.

Tree wardens work with the trees we know the best, the ones we see every day as we drive and walk through town. If a nice-looking sentry and its graceful leafy branches suddenly disappears, that brings up strong emotions.

This reminds me of a sad tale I covered for The Day newspaper in 1998. The University of Connecticut at Avery Point (the campus overlooking Eastern Point Bay in Groton) planned to cut down a giant copper beech tree that stood near where a new plaza and walkway were planned. The tree had survived hurricanes, earlier construction, trench-digging, and the pouring of the sidewalk on which, every day, passed hundreds of admirers. Its trunk measured 5 to 7 feet in diameter. Its giant crown included at least 10 major branches.

People protested the planned removal, emotionally, at a public meeting. Tree experts told me at the time that copper beeches are resilient and can outlive losing a third of their root systems, which means that they might survive the construction of a large plaza.

A few weeks after the hearing, the president announced they'd decided to move the giant tree to another area of campus. This seemed an amazing compromise, I remember thinking. (What must it cost to move such a tree?) Those who had campaigned for it seemed relieved. Their protestations had been heard.

And then, just days later, in the early morning hours, crews cut down the tree anyway. With no notice.

The people were stunned, and some of them remained angry for the three years it took for the construction of the new buildings and plaza to be completed.

Tree wardens encounter this kind of passion regularly. Hardly any public tree removal project goes forward without it. Trees that large require one or two human lifetimes to grow. It's true that a tree is, essentially, a very large plant. It can be a dangerous object, causing death and destruction and possibly blocking necessary services such as electricity and roads. But citizens engage with instincts no practicalities can touch. It's just the way it is. And that's why the tree wardens you'll meet in this issue, and the many others in Connecticut, probably can never hope to be paid what they are worth.

—Christine Woodside

The devastating storms of 2011 and 2012 in Connecticut turned attention toward roadside trees, and toward the municipal officials responsible for these trees, the tree wardens. Tree wardens balance the need for reliable electrical lines with residents' desire for healthy trees along roadways. Tree wardens must protect public safety while maintaining the state's long-standing heritage of tree-lined streets.

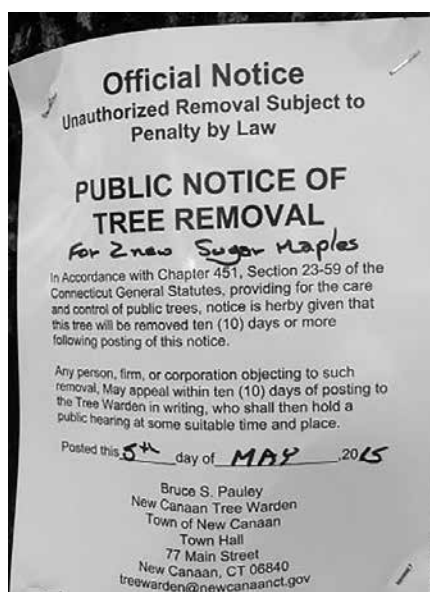
Who are these tree wardens? What do they do on the job? What makes a good tree warden?

A little bit of background first. The office of tree warden came into being in Connecticut in 1901. Legislation in that year allowed municipalities to appoint tree wardens. In 1918, this legislation was changed to require municipalities to have a tree warden. Little changed until 2013, when a major change listed qualification requirements for tree wardens (Connecticut General Statute 23-58a). These qualifications are fairly basic. Within a year after appointment, a tree warden must either be an arborist licensed by the state of Connecticut or have completed a course of study established by the Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut (TWAC).

These qualifications are the baseline for what makes a tree warden. The actual duties of the tree warden are given in the statute in broad terms (CGS 23-59). By law, a tree warden has "care and control" of the trees and shrubs that are in the public right of way "in whole or in part." Fair enough, as far as that goes, but what does that phrase "care and control" mean?

Jim Govoni, president of the TWAC, says that most tree wardens interpret that statute carefully because they understand the first duty of the tree warden is public safety. Someone has to determine whether a particular tree along the public right of way is safe. Opinions about trees are often highly charged and contradictory. The tree warden must decide whether a tree remains standing, but that decision can be based on many factors. The tree warden is not required to assess each tree for structural soundness.

After public safety, Mr. Govoni says,



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ROADSIDE KEEPERS: TALKING WITH TREE WARDENS

*Their job was created 115 years
ago to have "care and control"
of public trees in Connecticut*



BY CHRIS DONNELLY

the tree warden's second most important duty is to enhance and improve the condition of a community's urban forest. Often, the local tree warden finds himself or herself in the role of primary steward. Communities value their trees, especially those along town-owned streets and roads. (Trees along state routes are under the authority of the commissioner of transportation.) Communities put this key public asset into the hands of the tree warden, more or less, with the expectation that the tree warden will provide direction and support for its maintenance and improvement.

The qualifier "more or less" can loom large in this discussion. Although local ordinances cannot limit a state statute's authority, they can further define and enhance the tree warden's responsibilities. They can also establish bodies such as tree boards to work with the tree warden to establish local tree policy.

Public trees and their fate occasionally wind up front and center in political debates. Political leaders will seek to influence the planting and removal of trees, seeing that as a type of constituency service. Tree wardens, as a rule, guard against this sort of interference with their authority, knowing that state statutes give them the final say, short of court, over the trees under their jurisdiction. As Mr. Govoni likes to say, tree wardens are local officials in the sense that local leaders appoint them, but state law defines their position and authority. Thus, their duty involves more than what the local government seeks, but what state law requires.

So, who steps forward to do this often difficult, very visible, and often publicly scrutinized job? Let's meet four of them, from communities large and small.

New Canaan: BRUCE PAULEY

For five years, Bruce Pauley served the trees in his hometown, one of the state's mid-sized communities with 20,000 people. New Canaan maintains 122 miles of town roads. Mr. Pauley, who retired from his post a few months after he spoke with me, shared expertise and understanding that came from his long career working with trees. Several public-spirited citizens recommended him for the post. The first



MICHAEL DINAN, NEWCANAANITE.COM

Bruce Pauley posts a notice on a Norway maple in front of the Town Hall in New Canaan. He intended to replace this invasive species with a sugar maple.



CHRIS DONNELLY

Christy Hass (at right) discusses street trees in New Haven with (front, from left) Public Utilities Regulatory Authority Chairman Art House, United Illuminating vegetation manager Ken Bullard, and UI Vice President Joe Thomas.

selectman and others asked if he would bring his expertise to the job of tree warden. They needed a program of care for the town's trees. At the time, Mr. Pauley was still working full-time running a highly respected tree care company. After being asked a couple of times, Mr. Pauley agreed.

Mr. Pauley is articulate, very knowledgeable about trees, and committed to his town. He has held an arborist license from the state of Connecticut for more than 40 years. He ran his tree-care company for almost as long, until his recent retirement. He was asked to serve as a part-time tree warden, receiving only a small stipend to cover expenses.

Because during his first years in the post he also ran his tree-care company, Mr. Pauley set up a system to avoid conflicts of interest. Any tree work the town needed (including trimming or removal needed after storms) would be distributed equitably over each of the nearby tree-care companies that chose to participate. No favoritism would be shown to any one company. Pricing would be standardized. Mr. Pauley, however, would retain the critical responsibility of the tree warden, that of care and control of the town's trees. It was his responsibility to determine the tree work that needed to be done. Consistent with state law, this includes trees whose branches extend into the public right of way even though they grow on private property.

When asked why he became a tree warden,

Mr. Pauley says it seemed like a natural thing. His career has always been about interacting with people about their trees and about applying his knowledge of trees for the benefit of his clients. As a lifelong New Canaan resident, he cares deeply about the town, about the special place it is, and about how trees are important to that sense of uniqueness.

It is also apparent, as one speaks with Mr. Pauley, that communication skills top the list of his qualifications. It is important to him that townspeople appreciate what trees do and how they grow and that they understand the decisions that he makes as tree warden. Mr. Pauley cites getting people in the town involved in trees as one of his most important accomplishments as tree warden. Since Mr. Pauley took the post, New Canaan has passed a town tree ordinance, developed a citizens' Tree Care Coalition, and been designated a "Tree City USA," planting and caring for trees under a program established by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Asked what traits a tree warden should have, Mr. Pauley suggested several. First, he believes that a tree warden must be licensed as an arborist. This is not surprising, given his contributions to arboriculture over his career. He has been in leadership roles in both the Connecticut Tree Protective Association and the Tree Protection Examining Board, two organizations key to the arborist licensing process in the state. Through becoming a licensed arborist,

an individual gains a basis of knowledge and experience that is indispensable.

However, more than just knowledge and insight are needed. A tree warden also needs to have the time to commit that the position demands. Being a tree warden is not just about working with trees but also with people. That can be complicated. Trees are often an emotional issue for people. The tree warden can be both personally committed and passionate, but he or she must also be the one to be logical and keep the decision in the proper perspective.

Mr. Pauley speaks highly of the New Canaan tree crew. He has found the crew to be motivated, responsible, knowledgeable, and just as concerned about doing things right as he is. For an individual as dedicated as Bruce Pauley is, that is high praise.

New Haven: CHRISTY HASS

Christy Hass is the city forester and tree warden for the city of New Haven. Before coming to New Haven, she was parks and recreation director and tree warden for the town of Rocky Hill. Ms. Hass left Rocky Hill and came to New Haven in 1998. In reviewing her career as a tree warden, Ms. Hass looks at this transition as a critical time. Rocky Hill, currently with a population of around 19,000, is a largely suburban town, where most residents have ready access to trees on private and public property. New



CHRIS DONNELLY

Hebron Tree Warden Kevin Kelly (left), retired South Windsor Tree Warden Karl Reichle, and Windsor Tree Warden Jim Govoni in the field at a recent Tree Wardens' Association of Connecticut workshop. Mr. Govoni is the TWAC president.

Haven is an urban center with a population of about 130,000 residents, many of whom have no contact with trees outside of public areas. Trees line 226 miles of city-owned roads.

Ms. Hass's background is in parks and recreation, not forestry or arboriculture, so her learning curve as tree warden in Rocky Hill was steep. Fortunately, while there, the Tree Wardens' Association of Connecticut formed, providing her and other wardens an opportunity to share and to learn from one another. She says she benefitted greatly from working with tree wardens from neighboring towns and throughout the state.

One key lesson she learned is that successfully managing trees involves a lot more than just knowing about trees. One must understand people; this makes the most difference.

That lesson was put into play when Ms. Hass arrived in New Haven to become deputy director of parks, recreation, and trees. She learned quickly how important street trees are to the residents. In many parts of the city, street trees mostly define a neighborhood, connecting people to their homes and their neighbors, encouraging residents to come outdoors. Ms. Hass says she recognized that as tree warden she affects the everyday lives of people in the city.

Because Ms. Hass is not a licensed arborist, she was qualified to serve as tree warden through the TWAC school. By her

accounting, not being an arborist may actually help her in her job. The assessment of a tree as a biological entity is only one element in deciding what to do with a tree, she says. She relies on another city employee, who is an arborist, to provide the technical evaluation of the tree's health, condition, structure, and form. As tree warden, she takes this information and decides a course of action. Sometimes, that means being the "bad guy," as not all decisions are universally accepted. Still, it is up to her to see the bigger picture and to know the rules and ramifications associated with that decision—and then stand her ground once she makes a decision.

Ms. Hass is also a big proponent of communication. She knows that she always needs to be able and ready to explain why she has made her decision. She is a strong believer in the independence of the tree warden and is quick to say that, once politics are involved in the decision-making process, the whole process is at risk. Consistency and clarity are critical. If the tree warden is not systematic and structured as she goes through the decision process, or if she bends decisions based on personalities or political concerns, then the game is over. The tree warden cannot be effective in doing the job if that is the case.

Asked what stands out in her career as New Haven's tree warden, Ms. Hass also cites outreach to the community as being at the top of the list. She is proud to have

helped develop procedures for engaging the people in tree decisions, for educating people about trees and for fostering a sense of engagement. In discussing these accomplishments, she is careful to indicate that this did not come about by her effort alone, but with the collaboration of individuals and organizations.

Hebron: KEVIN KELLY

Kevin Kelly, the public works director in Hebron, acts as the tree warden, overseeing public trees along 78 miles' worth of roads, serving a population of about 8,600. Mr. Kelly first became a tree warden while working in Colchester's Public Works Department. His background is in commercial construction, specifically road building. As he recalls, before his experiences as tree warden, trees were as much of an obstacle as anything, as he concentrated on the hard-scape needs that his job then required. But he worked with roadside trees and, later, park trees after his job in Colchester was expanded. In Hebron, where Mr. Kelly is now tree warden, park trees are managed by a separate department.

Mr. Kelly credits the TWAC's Tree Warden School for teaching him the responsibilities as a tree warden. The six-week course laid the foundation. He readily acknowledges that he had to learn a great deal about the risks trees pose, tree biology, tree identification, and the importance of trees in public places. His learning has continued. Given the responsibility, there is little opportunity to call a halt to gaining new information and insight.

Mr. Kelly appreciates the value of a second opinion and regularly seeks out others' viewpoints. He encourages his staff to take courses and attend programs that will improve the quality of their work.

Communicating with the public as he deals with tree issues is often foremost in Mr. Kelly's mind. He believes that delivering a consistent message is critical. This means that his views must be based on knowledge of tree law and of his responsibilities. Being alert to risk trees comes up often in conversation with Mr. Kelly, as he sees public safety as a central element in his job.

In general, when a tree warden decides to remove a public tree for reasons other than it being an immediate hazard, he or she will post a notice directly on the tree. This allows

the public the opportunity to request a hearing on that tree's removal. Mr. Kelly says he has learned through public hearings just how important trees can be to people in the town, as well as how concerned people can be if they perceive a tree to be unsafe.

Appreciating what underlies a particular point of view has made Mr. Kelly that much more respectful of the public's stake in the fate of an individual tree. It has also underscored the need for fairness and full information in the decision-making process. For example, he makes a point to seek the input of an arborist if he recognizes that the situation requires that sort of professional advice, not just to clarify the issue for himself but also for all who will also be affected by his decision.

Mr. Kelly's work as a tree warden has gained him a great deal of respect professionally. He currently serves on the board of directors for the TWAC and was a member of the State Vegetation Management Task Force, the body that did a detailed study and made recommendations after the devastating tree falls following the storms of 2011 (and 2012). Mr. Kelly serves as vice chair of the Connecticut Technology Transfer Center Board of Advisors. This is a program housed at the University of Connecticut, established by the state Department of Transportation to assist those who deal with decisions about transportation. In this post, Mr. Kelly sees the relationship between trees and transportation issues and how those relate to the role of the tree warden.

Hartford: HEATHER DIONNE

Heather Dionne has served as Hartford's city forester since 2012. She makes decisions about trees along 206 miles of municipal roads in a city of 125,000 residents and the many thousands of people who stream into the city every day for jobs at the state capitol and state agencies. Ms. Dionne previously worked as an arborist caring for the trees on the University of Connecticut campus. She is a graduate of Unity College in Maine, where she studied urban and community forestry.

Ms. Dionne describes her work for the city as essentially the job that she has always wanted. Her interest in trees and people developed early. In high school, growing up in Coventry, she was greatly influenced by one of her teachers, Tom Abbott, who encouraged her developing passion for trees. She also credits the town tree warden, Chuck Conkling, who

hired her as a seasonal to work on an inventory of the town's trees—a project funded, coincidentally, by an America the Beautiful grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's forestry division.

These high school experiences inspired her college and career choices. She chose Unity to complete her undergraduate work, graduating in 2003, partly because of the course offerings and partly because it offered tree climbing in its curriculum and had a Woodsman Team, allowing her to practice old-time tree skills.

Her important skill, she says, is understanding the city's operations, which can be complicated, with many pieces that must fit together. She must be able to navigate these categories of work: administrative elements, planning, development, staffing and political realities, how the city handles emergencies, citizens' opinions, and working with nonprofits. All of them must connect in the right way. This means recognizing the priorities and sensibilities of others and being able to speak up at the right time and for the right reasons.

That last one comes up often. Ms. Dionne finds herself speaking up for the community at large, as their tree advocate. This is not always easy because Hartford's citizens are at least as diverse as the trees, and not

everyone views trees in the same way. This fully tests her knowledge of trees and people. She has developed a thick skin, so the emotions of the debate do not intrude on her sense of values and perspective.

Asked what she considers her most important contributions so far, Ms. Dionne lists first her efforts to keep the public safe, then helping the city to develop a positive process to care for its trees. The city's tree inventory is down from its past levels. Ms. Dionne sees her job as helping to reforest Hartford, working to keep the positive momentum going.

Big City, Small Town—Same Challenges

These are only four of the more than 150 tree wardens in Connecticut. As different as each of these individuals are, they share certain traits. They all recognize that people can be emotional about trees and must hear all of the information about situations. All four cite their dedication to the people in their communities. They want their community systems to work well. Finally, they are committed to helping people understand the role of trees in their town or city.

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

For a list of tree wardens, visit ct.gov/deep/treewardens.



CHRIS DONNELLY

Heather Dionne posts a tree in Hartford. The notice explains that people have 10 days to request a hearing.

THE WAY IN THE WOODS

A week with Edwin Way Teale

BY KATHERINE HAUSWIRTH

In August I joined a small circle—artists in residence who each spent a week living and creating at Edwin Way Teale’s former home in Hampton. This 168-acre memorial sanctuary, which Edwin and his wife Nellie named Trail Wood, arose from former farmland. It encompasses forest, meadows, ponds, streams, and a network of winding trails. Edwin’s office in the white Cape Cod house is preserved just as he and Nellie left it, filled with an impressive collection of books and mementos from the lives they largely spent outdoors. Edwin died in 1980, Nellie 13 years later. Their haven—one that they longed for and sought for years—has been a Connecticut Audubon property since 1981 and has hosted visual artists and writers every summer since 2012.

The summer before last, a bookstore owner in Woodstock, New York, listened to me talking excitedly about Trail Wood and the residency I was hoping to win. This spurred him to climb up into his attic and rummage around, emerging with a slightly musty but well-preserved four-volume set of Teale’s *The American Seasons* (Dodd, Mead, 1976): one delicious book for each season, chock full of Edwin and Nellie’s travels around the United States and expertly crafted prose about the natural world. *Wandering Through Winter* (Dodd, Mead, 1965) won Teale the 1966 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction.

The set includes a thin biography of Edwin, and in it, I was tickled to read that he declared himself a naturalist at age 9 and by age 12 had changed his middle name from Alfred to Way. Edwin felt his full given name was “too commonplace for a future Thoreau” and instead adopted his Grandfather Way’s last name as his middle name. This boy already knew he would immerse himself in nature and write about it. And, an inspiration for any writer, he found a way to do it. Every year, he remembered his personal

“Freedom Day,” the day he broke away from a salaried magazine job and started his freelance photography and writing life. When he began his time at Trail Wood he was, as they say, living the dream.

Sadly, most of Edwin’s 31 books, reflecting a unique and riveting mix of accurate science and genuine, childlike delight, are out of print. Many friends, upon hearing that I’d won my residency, followed their hearty congratulations with a short pause and then a polite question. Who was Edwin Way Teale, exactly?

When I pulled up the long Trail Wood driveway to meet Rich Telford and Vern Pursley, the residency coordinator and property caretaker who gave me my orientation tour, I soon made my own short pause, followed by a polite question. They advised me to drive around the bend and park under the catalpa tree. I paused; my mind whirled nervously: I had no idea what a catalpa tree was. By asking them, was I about to reveal that I was not a “real” naturalist?

I’ve read enough about and by Edwin Way Teale that I feel comfortable calling him by his first name, and I assume that he would not have judged or berated me for my limited knowledge of flora and fauna. His writings reveal a deep sense of unabashed joy and enthusiasm for observation and learning. Many people wrote to him asking about the natural world and his books, or asking to visit. His responses were kindly. I’ve detected no trace of arrogance despite his obvious expertise. His zeal lives on at Trail Wood, embedded in the ripples in the waterways, the insects’ buzz, the woodchuck perhaps descended from the very one he wrote about, and the big, bean-like pods of the iconic catalpa that graces his yard.

At Trail Wood, I became a naturalist through my questions. The sight of even a common gypsy moth had me peering and tracking and researching in a sort of timeless bliss. One question led to another and another.



Top right, a boardwalk protects a wet area. Bottom right, a trail led the author to the beaver pond.

KATHERINE HAUSWIRTH



KATHERINE HAUSWIRTH

Top, Edwin Way Teale's writing cabin overlooks a pond.

Above, Edwin Way Teale joyously listed his property's 25 ferns.

One of Edwin's late-July entries in *A Walk Through the Year* (Dodd, Mead, 1978) affirmed my keen interest and questions. He knew so much at that point, having published about two dozen books, but he noted gleefully, "Again I am encountering something new beside the pond." He returned to Nellie at the house and viewed the "tiny, flat, rounded objects" he'd found underneath a 14-power magnifying glass. Edwin discovered that he had found pill clams. Then came the questions: "Why this sudden population explosion? Why on this particular summer?"

I have studied Edwin's correspondence (meticulously preserved and housed at the University of Connecticut's Thomas J. Dodd Research Center) and found more of the

same enthusiasm in letters to his friend, the writer Rachel Carson. He wanted to learn more about eelgrass and sea anemones, asking Ms. Carson for her help in this quest. In another letter, Ms. Carson recalls their discussion about why the conch shell seems to give off the sound of the sea.

Perhaps as a reaction to my experience at Trail Wood, which was as contemplative as it was active, I became very curious about Edwin's spiritual life. I found nothing on record to suggest that he embraced a specific set of beliefs. Recently, however, I heard an interview with social psychologist Ellen Langer that helped me give a word to this spiritual "vibe" I detect in Edwin's deliberately chosen, lively way of life, studious but also peppered with an enviable dose of delight. Ms. Langer's definition of mindfulness has little to do with meditation or yoga or prayer. She described it as "actively noticing new things," a state that "puts you in the present" and is "literally, not just figuratively, enlivening."

One can notice new things anywhere, but I did so alone at Trail Wood, free from the usual constraints of work and family responsibilities. My week was a festival of noticing, intertwined with bouts of trying to capture it in words. My mind filled with things that enriched and enlivened me. I took in my surroundings as Edwin did when he recorded his own experience. *Mind-full*. I wrote about the hummingbirds and their favored roses of Sharon, the sphinx moth and its affinity for the catalpa, the multihued abundance of mushrooms in the woods, the catbird who flew around inside the information shed at dusk, and the beaver in the far pond who finally revealed himself (or herself) early one morning.

The "Way" in Edwin's prophetic adopted name leaps to mind when I recall my week alone on his cherished preserve. I took a laminated map that showed me the way through Ground Pine Crossing and Fern Brook trails, to the Beaver Pond and to the Hired Man's Monument. Edwin's words—which I read at the start of my day while sipping coffee on the low slate stoop of his house—showed me the way to things that are too easily abandoned by the workaday world. I found the way to silence and observation with all senses. I found the way to noticing and then noticing some more, and recording something of what I thought I could be learning. I joyfully snapped countless photos and spent languorous hours in a hammock. I

trekked, studied, wrote, and edited. I saw the way of stepping back and finding meaning in all of it—even in the bug bites, humid air, and achy limbs as I hiked yet another hour.

Edwin's life at Trail Wood, and my own weeklong sojourn there, may read as paradisiacal, maybe even escapist. But I think the true test of Edwin's words, my own scribbles, and a hallowed place like Trail Wood is how any of these experiences resonate out in the "real" world. This, too, is a mark of mindfulness, according to how Ms. Langer describes it: this finely attuned noticing, this present-tense, spirited way of approaching life is also sensitive to context. Case in point, this reality-bound paragraph at the end of *A Walk Through the Year*, following 365 delectable snapshots of creatures and plants and climate and seasonal cycles at Trail Wood:

As I come to these final sentences, I sit here wondering if a time will ever come when such a book as this will seem like a letter from another world. Will the richness of the natural world be overrun, and more and more replaced with a plastic, artificial substitute? The threat is real. And the outcome seems to depend on the wisdom and courage and endurance of those who are on the side of life—the original, natural life, the life of the fragile, yet strong, out-of-doors.

Parade magazine hailed Edwin as the "press agent for Nature." Surely we could use him now, someone to show us the way to more quiet and thoughtful observation, more well-informed and truly effective conservation. We have his words, still so very relevant, as a guide. We have his place, Trail Wood, as a touchstone for reveling in the outdoors, for the spark we feel when we make contact with plants and animals and the elements.

After living at Trail Wood, I've decided that the best remuneration we can offer for places like it, and for people like Edwin and Nellie, is to join the ranks of "press agents," honoring these places with our time, transmitting our enthusiasm and joy, and acting on the protective impulse that their meaningful and mindful gifts engender.

Katherine Hauswirth is a writer who lives in Deep River. Visit her at fnpnaturalist.com. Her week at Trail Wood was supported by the Connecticut Audubon Society through the Edwin Way Teale Artists-in-Residence at Trail Wood program.

ONLY A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WILL SAVE THE PLACES WE LOVE

Policy view from the Connecticut Forest & Park Association

BY DAVID K. LEFF

Connecticut residents need a constitutional amendment to protect places we always thought were protected. Current law and legislative processes threaten your favorite state-owned hiking trail along the ridges, that remote headwater stream or shoreline fishing spot, backwoods wildlife view, or stretch of beach. Without your knowing it, many of those places could become a parking lot, housing development, or commercial strip. The Connecticut Forest & Park Association has made it among its highest priorities to stop this wanton plunder with a permanent constitutional fix.

Every session of the Connecticut General Assembly considers a bill called the Conveyance Act. It gets little public notice and is rarely read closely by legislators. But each year, pieces of our preserved public lands not protected by deed restriction are threatened to be sold, traded, or even given

THE CONSTITUTION CONTROLS ANY LEGISLATIVE ACT REPUGNANT TO IT.

—Chief Justice John Marshall, 1803

away as “calling cards” of constituent service. They are conveyed to municipalities for town facilities, to other state agencies that want to develop them, and even to private parties for commercial purposes. Lands are also lost to midnight amendments on other “must-pass bills” slipped through without scrutiny in the frenetic waning moments of a legislative session.

Such actions well illustrate a favorite saying of the late George “Doc” Gunther, longest ever serving member of the state Senate: “There is no bill so bad that an amendment can’t make it worse.”

In addition to legislation, sometimes state agency administrative action can result in losing conservation lands to development. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, for example, is empowered by law to swap certain lands without legislative approval or can transfer “custody and control” to sister agencies that might want to use them to build structures, roads, or other facilities. Often these proposals are made with crushing and irresistible political pressure and little public notice. Fortunately, the Council on Environmental Quality publishes land transfers proposed by state agencies.

Fortunately, legislative and administrative attempts to hijack our state parks and forests often fail through the hard work of CFPA and our conservation partners. But we need to stop wasting our energy fighting these pernicious and worthless proposals. I’ve observed and fought this yearly battle for more than 35 years, first as a legislative staffer with the Environment Committee, then as deputy commissioner of environmental protection, and now as a CFPA volunteer. It’s getting worse. Only a constitutional amendment can solve the problem.

Sometimes large and significant parcels are involved, but other times small pieces are. It’s the death of a thousand cuts for our public lands that left to legislative whim could dismantle our park and forest system in little more than a generation. In an age of tight budgets where funds for new acquisitions are hard fought and we have far to go to achieve the state’s goal to preserve 21 percent of the state’s land as open space, protecting what we have is critically important.

Among recent legislative land grabs was transfer of about 8 acres of our premier state park, Hammonasset Beach, to the town of Madison in 2012. There was also the notorious 2011 law authorizing the Haddam land swap that would have traded part of a wildlife management area a stone’s throw from the Connecticut River for land of questionable conservation value elsewhere. Fortunately, the charade collapsed when the proposed trade lands proved of relatively poor economic value as well.

On the administrative side, DEEP wastes precious staff time every year reviewing proposals from those who covet its lands, including other state agencies. In 2013, a large chunk of Meshomasic State Forest was proposed for transfer to the state police as a shooting range, an effort only halted by public outcry from people like us. Last year, four proposed land giveaways failed under intense pressure from CFPA and its partners. These lands included 100 acres of Centennial Watershed



NO ... PROPERTY [IS] SAFE WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION.

—Judge Gideon Tucker, 1866

State Forest in Fairfield, 4 acres of Silver Sands State Park in Milford, and two different access easements to private sand and gravel operators near the Quinebaug River that would have destroyed irreplaceable endangered spadefoot toad habitat.

In 2014, Public Act 14-169 allowed DEEP to place conservation restrictions on certain state-owned open space and required an inventory of lands. The easement mechanism has yet to be used, and it remains unclear how it will work. As a result, this well-intentioned law has not ended attempts to dismantle state parks and forests. Last year, Representative Roberta Willis proposed HB 5686 to put the brakes on administrative land swaps. Although the bill failed, such legislation is admirable. If passed, it might stop some transfers and call attention to our concerns, but it would not solve the problem. Courts have ruled that one legislature cannot bind a subsequent one. No matter what restrictions and protections are imposed by law today, tomorrow's land transfer legislation beginning with the ominous words "Notwithstanding any provision of the General Statutes . . ." is free to disregard prior law. The only thing that binds the legislature is a constitutional amendment voted on by the people. That's us. We need to make our voices heard.

"Constitutional amendment" sounds like a big deal, and it is. But, it's not as extraordinary as you might think. The Connecticut constitution has been amended 31 times since 1965. It requires a three-fourths vote of the General Assembly or a majority vote of two General Assemblies before approval by referendum in a general election. Constitutional protection of public lands is not unprecedented. New York, Massachusetts, and Maine have such provisions in their constitutions—New York since 1894.

The constitutional amendment CFPA advocates would cover state land held for conservation, outdoor recreational, and agricultural purposes. It would not be an absolute bar to divestiture of public open space, but it would ensure any such an action is taken only after careful review and by a process that is transparent and involves us, the people. It would require a two-thirds vote of the legislature, a public hearing in the affected communities, and an appropriation for the purchase of compensatory land of similar conservation value as close as possible to the conveyed site. Unfortunately, last year we were unable to find a legislator to introduce the necessary proposal. But we will be back at it again this year and are hopeful we will get a bill introduced. Some legislation takes years before it catches on. Our parks, forests, and other conservation lands should be for all time. We will continue to speak for the future of these lands if it takes a decade or more to get them permanently protected.

We are fortunate in Connecticut. We have a landscape worthy of the protections afforded by a constitutional amendment. "A countryside of undramatic but exceptional beauty," Witold Rybczynski wrote of Connecticut in his biography of Hartford-born park-maker Frederick Law Olmsted, father of American landscape architecture. We at CFPA value the beauty and complex ecological functions of natural lands, and the diverse web of life dependent on them. We know their restorative power for us as human beings and the wonder they bring to our children. But beyond this, what is at stake is the very character of Connecticut.

What distinguishes Connecticut from most any other place on the planet is its concentrated landscape diversity from shoreline to mountaintop, and its unique marriage of nature and culture. We are small geographically, but that is a big advantage. The greatness of Connecticut's landscape is that you can lose yourself in the near wilderness of Canaan Mountain, and that evening attend a symphony or a professional ballgame. You can paddle the Farmington River (designated a National Wild and Scenic River) and later in the day shop at a store or dine at a restaurant for just about any item or cuisine on the globe. Spend the morning in a world-class library or museum and an afternoon cross-country skiing in Nipmuck State Forest. Spend a day at the office, and that evening go surf casting on the beach or take a boat out on Long Island Sound.

The key to Connecticut's success as a place to live and do business is its landscape of natural diversity, cultural proximity, and accessibility. To ensure that success in a future of more people and greater development, we need to expand our public open-space lands, not contract them. Certainly, we can ill afford to let them be taken from us without our knowledge or input.

CFPA is advocating constitutional change for a bizarre reason and a sacred purpose. It's bizarre because even though most every citizen considers our state parks and forests and other "preserved open space" as devoted in perpetuity to nature and outdoor recreation, in the smoke-and-mirrored halls of lawmaking we've learned that perpetuity isn't forever. Our purpose is sacred because by ensuring that these lands are truly permanently protected, we keep faith with our forebears who worked tirelessly to set them aside and with our children and grandchildren and theirs who, in an increasingly urbanized and busy world, will desperately need these places to challenge their bodies and soothe their souls.

I hope that in the coming year we will have legislative champions who will understand the significance of a constitutional amendment to protect these places that speak to our very identity as a community, that define our home. CFPA staff and directors will need your help to make it happen. Please respond to requests to contact your legislators. Make them understand that only a constitutional amendment will permanently protect open-space lands essential to our quality of life. These lands clean our water and air; draw tourists; produce food, wood products, and other goods; and sell fishing tackle and hiking boots. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shift the paradigm in favor of the environment. Don't let it go by without your input!

It's time we put a halt to legislative and administrative theft of our state conservation lands. Such lands do not belong to any legislator, town, or private enterprise. They don't even belong to us. We are merely trustees, stewards. These places that exist for our pleasure, wonder, and economic benefit belong to all the people of Connecticut now and for all time. The landscape of the future depends on us today. We cannot fail to protect it.

David K. Leff is the former deputy commissioner of the state's environmental department, then called the Department of Environmental Protection. He is an essayist and poet whose work is at davidkleff.com. He also is chairman of CFPA's Public Policy Committee.

MEET THE CFPA BOARD MEMBERS

In 2015, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association welcomed three new members to its Board of Directors: Brett Boskiewicz, Jessi Christiansen, and Peter Knight. We are excited that they are bringing their talents to help support CFPA's mission. At the same time, we wish to acknowledge the outstanding service of three special outgoing board members: Rob Butterworth, Russ Brenneman, and Astrid Hanzalek. Although they "graduated" from Board service in 2015, we are fortunate that all three are continuing their involvement with CFPA. Ms. Hanzalek and Mr. Brenneman are now honorary CFPA board members, and Mr. Butterworth is as active as ever on CFPA's Trails Committee, on CFPA's Forest and Trail Conservation Committee, and as a dedicated trails volunteer.

Brett Boskiewicz comes to the CFPA Board with a lifelong love of the outdoors and a strong desire to give back to the trails that he has enjoyed for many years. He is an avid hiker and fly fisherman and strongly supports the CFPA's mission to reconnect families and children with the outdoors. Mr. Boskiewicz joined Cigna's legal department in 2015 to work on corporate and health care litigation after working as an attorney with Robinson & Cole LLP for 11 years. He and his family—Jennifer, Harry, Charlie, and Miles—live in Simsbury and can often be found hiking the Blue-Blazed McLean Game Refuge and Simsbury Land Trust trails near their home.

Jessi Christiansen is currently the head of school at the Independent Day School in Middlefield. She comes to the CFPA board with a commitment to the outdoors, a passion for outdoor education, and a love of trail maintenance. Ms. Christiansen served as a volunteer chief crew leader for the Washington Trails Association for more than 15 years,



Peter Knight



Jessi Christiansen



Brett Boskiewicz

and truly enjoyed helping WTA grow its volunteer trail maintenance program. Ms. Christiansen grew up in Connecticut and received her bachelor of arts degree from Gettysburg College and her master's degree from Bank Street College of Education. She spent 19 years in Seattle, where she was an elementary classroom teacher and an administrator. After a 2-year stay in Panama, where she was the director of strategic planning for Colegio Brader and a pre-K through 12th grade bilingual school, she came back home and began her career as IDS's head of school in 2013. On a 33-acre campus, Ms. Christiansen is excited to build more opportunities to get her students outside and to continue building IDS's outdoor program.

Peter Knight is a partner with Robinson & Cole's Environmental and Utilities Practice Group, where he focuses on environmental litigation, defense of agency enforcement actions, and regulatory matters. He regularly assists clients with private cost recovery and complex multiparty Superfund (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act) cases and class actions, as well as environmental remediation projects. He also coordinates the firm's pro bono efforts and regularly represents children in neglect and abuse cases through Lawyers for Children America. A graduate of UConn Law School, Mr. Knight has long been an adjunct instructor with the law school's lawyering process program. Formerly a competitive distance runner, on weekends he still can be found on the back roads and trails of Connecticut.

ERIC HAMMERLING WINS AWARD

Eric Hammerling, executive director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, and two other Middlesex County environmentalists shared the Rockfall Foundation's 80th Anniversary President's Award for exceptional contribution to the state's natural environment.

The award was given in East Haddam on September 24. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Rob Klee was the keynote speaker.

Mr. Hammerling has been CFPA's director since May 2008. He is CFPA's lead advocate at the state legislature, where he works on forestry, recreation, education, and trail-related issues. He led CFPA's efforts to secure recreational liability reform to encourage municipal

entities to open their lands for recreation and to help protect 14,000 acres of forests in the 10-Mill program (the original state law that allows forest landowners to pay a lower tax rate).

Rockfall also honored Amy Blaymore Paterson, executive director of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, which she has directed since 2010. Working with the CLCC Steering Committee, Amy provides the Connecticut conservation community with technical assistance, training, and advocacy to further advance permanent land conservation across the state. Ms. Paterson previously worked on land protection issues for CFPA.

The third recipient of the award was Dr. David Bingham, a retired physician from Salem who has been active with the Eightmile

River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee, the Salem Land Trust (which he founded and for which he serves as vice president), League of Conservation Voters, Connecticut Land Conservation Coalition, the American Chestnut Foundation's Connecticut chapter, and Audubon Connecticut.

The Rockfall Foundation, founded by Middletown philanthropist Colonel Clarence S. Wadsworth, supports environmental education, conservation, and planning initiatives in Middlesex County. In addition, the foundation operates the historic deKoven House Community Center with meeting rooms and office space for locally based environmental nonprofit organizations.

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.

CFPA 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 96 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 15,000 hours of volunteer time each year.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Since its original statement of purpose to bring forestry and related topics into schools, CFPA has been a leader in environmental education.

To engage in a natural learning experience, CFPA offers teachers, landowners, adults, natural resource professionals, youth, students, families, and seniors myriad programs that provide inspiration for science, art, history, math, literature, and conservation topics. Together, we demystify the wild, explore trails, and discover hidden gems of Connecticut's forests.

From its headquarters in Middlefield to its partnership program at the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton, and the forests and trails across the state, CFPA connects people to the land to create and support lifelong learners as Connecticut's stewards of the woods.

LAND CONSERVATION

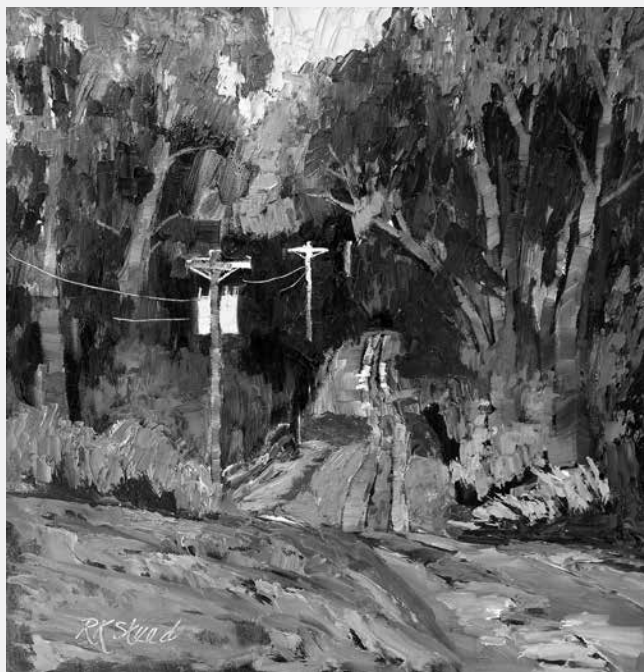
Over the past 100 years, CFPA has been instrumental in the acquisition of more than 100 state parks and forests for public use and enjoyment. CFPA owns properties or holds conservation restrictions on approximately 2,000 acres. The conservation priorities for the program are in lands associated with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

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

TEALES' WAY

LIFE LESSONS FROM A SILVER BIRCH

BY JUDY BENSON



COURTESY OF ROXANNE STEED

Roxanne Steed painted this oil, "Teales' Way: the Call of the Road Home," while sharing a residency at Trail Wood with Judy Benson.



JUDY BENSON

A silver birch's tenacity can mean many things to many observers.

At the crest of the trail in a cluster of glacial boulders, a silver birch springs skyward over a thick granite slab. Its muscular roots arch over the rock in four compass points that head down into the soil. This is not a hypothetical tree in a generic woodland, but a living specimen in a real place, along one of the paths through Teales' way.

A young tree, perhaps 15 or 20 years old, it climbs straight and tall to brush its lush crown against the other treetops in the canopy. Moss covers the 4 feet of exposed roots and one side of the granite slab, its gentle yet unyielding force breaking down the rock particle by particle to nourish the soil. This birch stands as a living metaphor of life happening and persisting in hard places, of the will to grow and create despite the resistance of the spot where the seed landed. It speaks of beauty rising out of struggle, but accepting the burden as part of one's being.

Of course, this is a personal interpretation of a scene that could be viewed through many different lenses—of the dispassionate scientist, of the driven hiker seeking motivation toward a destination, or of the temporal observer content to see what's there without infusing it with some larger meaning. All are valid perspectives. But none follow Teales' way. "There is more to nature than the facts of nature," Edwin Way Teale wrote in *Journey into Summer*, published a year after he and his wife Nellie moved to Trail Wood. "There are beauty and poetry and awe and wonder. . . . To be deaf and blind to all except factual nature . . . is to lose the better half."

The couple who made this place they called Trail Wood their home, then acted to ensure it would be shared with all of us in a future they could not see, knew both great love and great grief. Edwin's plea for nature's "better half" came in the second of the four-seasons series dedicated to his and Nellie's only son, killed in the closing days of World War II. David Teale's photo hangs prominently in Edwin's study, and the Teales' slate gravestone in the cemetery 2 miles from here memorializes his life along with their own. Like the birch, the Teales took the hard pain of their loss with them when they came to Trail Wood, but embraced it along with the wonder and healing power of the nature around them and the joy of sharing it with others. Beyond the woodlands where the birch grows, and the meadows around their old farmhouse, the message of Edwin and Nellie's way flows out onto the ungated gravel road that is the way in and the way out of Trail Wood. It invites the seeker to dwell for an hour or a week or many times over, then carry the songs of the birds and the brooks, the colors of the butterflies and black-eyed Susans, the strength of the beavers and birches in a spirit renewed by the lessons of nature.

This essay by The Day newspaper's health and environment writer was written with the support of the Connecticut Audubon Society through the Edwin Way Teale Artists-in-Residence at Trail Wood program.



WAYNE FOGG

Logger Jeremy Bellows of Gibson Hill Forest Products LLC stands with the forwarder he used for the Whitney Forest timber harvest.

BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE FOREST

How the Whitney Forest timber harvest will aid biological diversity.

BY JESSIE RACK

The trail that leads into the forest winds beneath towering mature trees one moment, then swerves into seeming wastelands of stumps and fallen branches. The wind rustles leaves overhead, and a bird sings. Paralleling the trail, the tracks left by a logging truck are beginning to sprout grass.

It's easy to view a timber harvest negatively, especially when the forest looks dramatically different afterward. But this is not a normal logging site. And in the hands of someone like state forester Emery Gluck, a harvest can shape the forest into much more than it could be without human intervention.

I met Mr. Gluck at the Whitney Forest in Lebanon on a sunny, crisp afternoon. The entrance to the forest was hard to miss: logs from the timber harvest, which took place from July to September, lay stacked neatly in a stone-graveled clearing. The air was redolent with the smell of cut wood, and branches and woodchips covered the ground.

The management of Whitney Forest is a relatively recent project

of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. According to Lindsay Suhr, CFPA's land conservation director, Dorothy Whitney donated the 84 acres of Whitney Forest to the association in 1998. A timber harvest had occurred while the property still belonged to Ms. Whitney, but the forest had been allowed to grow unchecked and unmanaged for several years. In 2013, Ms. Suhr began working with Mr. Gluck, who took on the project of managing the Whitney Forest as a volunteer land steward. He noted the state of the forest and advised CFPA that it was time to start actively managing the trees.

Ms. Suhr said that one goal of the timber harvest was to establish trees of varying ages in the forest. Like most of the forested areas of Connecticut, this property probably started as agricultural land. When the farms were abandoned, plant life would have grown in, and the trees that became Whitney



WAYNE FOGG

Jeremy Bellows bucking and limbing sawtimber.

Forest would have all sprouted around the same time. Selectively harvesting some trees, Ms. Suhr said, would give younger trees space to grow, so that as old trees die out, there are others to take their place. An additional benefit was that this harvest promoted tree species and habitat diversity.

As I learned on my walk with Mr. Gluck, some of the species being outcompeted on the Whitney property are part of what make the forest special. Mr. Gluck is a soft-spoken man who chooses his words with care. Initially reserved, he became animated as we wove deeper into the forest, first following the track of the logging truck.

Our first stop was a swamp white oak just off the track. A relatively uncommon species, the swamp white oak tends to get crowded out by faster-growing trees. Part of the management plan in this part of the forest was to allow the swamp white oaks to flourish.

And that's the key point about this timber harvest: every tree that was cut was cut deliberately, in an effort to help species that are not sustaining themselves under the current natural conditions. Since the days when this area was farmland, not much has disturbed the forest. Because it was previously disturbed, the forest will benefit ecologically, from the right kind of management, according to Mr. Gluck.

Oaks, for example, need a lot of light for their seedlings to grow. Getting light to the

forest floor requires a disturbance of some sort—a fire, a heavy storm, or a clear-cut. Historically, disturbances happened in the forest with some regularity, but these days they're few and far between. Native Americans purposefully used fire to shape the land, but later forest fires were often accidental. In the early 1900s, Mr. Gluck said, fires burned about 30,000 acres a year. Only 160 acres were burned in Connecticut this year.

"From an ecological point of view, that's not sustainable," he said. "So we use [timber] harvest as a proxy for fire and other disturbances."

We stopped at the edge of a heavily harvested swath. In this area, Mr. Gluck said, they specifically left the best oak trees and concentrated on removing the maples and birches. What's special about oak forests, he said, is that they're one of the most important forests for wildlife.

"Over 50 species of birds and mammals rely on acorns as their primary source of food," he explained. "Our forest, without any type of disturbance, would succeed to birch, beech, and maple, and that's a less ecologically valuable forest type. That forest type is becoming prevalent because people don't like to do a heavy harvest."

Birch, beech, and maple can grow even when their seedlings are shaded, and so they're doing fine in the absence of disturbance. It's the species that can't tolerate



CFPA STAFF

Emery Gluck measuring timber in the Whitney Forest.



WAYNE FOGG

“Corduroy” was used in areas with wet soil to prevent road ruts and erosion.

“OVER 50 SPECIES OF BIRDS AND MAMMALS RELY ON ACORNS AS THEIR PRIMARY SOURCE OF FOOD. OUR FOREST, WITHOUT ANY TYPE OF DISTURBANCE, WOULD SUCCEED TO BIRCH, BEECH, AND MAPLE, AND THAT’S A LESS ECOLOGICALLY VALUABLE FOREST TYPE. THAT FOREST TYPE IS BECOMING PREVALENT BECAUSE PEOPLE DON’T LIKE TO DO A HEAVY HARVEST.”

—Emery Gluck

shade, the ones that need drastic disturbance to survive, that need a little help.

Species such as pitch pine. In Connecticut, the pitch pine–scrub oak ecosystem is one of the most imperiled because of its dependence on disturbance and need for lots of sunlight. Pitch pine, Gluck told me, was historically sustained by fire, possessing a type of cone that sometimes needed fire to open and release seeds. These days, he said, most pitch pines have evolved to open their cones without fire.

We entered a sunlit swath of land that had been heavily logged. One lone pitch pine stood in the cut area, tall and flat-topped. Scattered around its trunk were old cones, open and spent. Mr. Gluck looked up at the tree, its long trunk tapering into a crown of green needles. He explained that it was a bad sign that there was very little live crown left. “But I think I can see a few pitch pine cones, if I’m not mistaken,” he said hopefully, peering into the branches overhead.

It’s difficult to see a stretch of forest in which many trees have been cut and removed, but the future forest that Mr. Gluck envisions is a healthier one, one that will harbor a highly diverse array of animals

and trees, from the more rare pitch pine and swamp white oak, to more common oaks, birches, beeches, and maple. “Forest management is the most economically feasible way to maintain biological diversity,” he said.

The logging that took place on the Whitney Forest property was different from other logging jobs in that it used the expertise of both a forester and a logger. The forester helps design the harvest plan, considering ecological circumstances and wildlife values, and the logger carries out that plan. Sometimes, Mr. Gluck told me, loggers might come in without a forester’s harvest plan and select the biggest, most valuable trees—usually oaks—because they get the most money from big trees. Removal of only oaks degrades the ecological value of the stand, which then becomes primarily birch, beech, and maple. At Whitney Forest, however, CFPA requested that the logger, Jerry Bellows, remove a lot of small trees. “We get less money because of that, but we’re not doing it for the money,” Mr. Gluck said. He added that Mr. Bellows, the logger, was hired because he is conscientious, skilled, and would minimize damage to the forest.

Mr. Gluck said that the logging job was handled differently than most. "How it's usually done is a logger says, 'I'll offer you this much money for your timber,' or the forester goes out and marks the trees and then solicits a bid from a whole variety of loggers and sawmills," Mr. Gluck said. But because the logging here was aimed at forest diversity rather than value of timber, "We contracted to pay the logger a certain amount for harvesting the trees, but we own the wood."

CFPA was careful about managing the timber cut at Whitney Forest in other ways, too. Trees with wildlife dens were preferentially left standing. To prevent erosion, trees were harvested at the driest time of year, and streams were crossed on temporary wooden bridges. The logging slash—fallen limbs and tops of trees—was left where it lay to provide wildlife habitat and nutrient recycling.

"People might not like the logging slash," Mr. Gluck said, "but I'm hoping they can look at the land and the way it's managed for the ecological sense of pleasure versus just the aesthetics."

He trailed off. Leaves crunched underfoot. "You want to do what's right for the land."

Jessie Rack is a PhD candidate in ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Connecticut. Last summer, she interned at the National Public Radio Science Desk, in Washington, D.C.



WAYNE FOGG

Jerry and Jeremy Bellows cutting sawtimber.



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LOOPING THROUGH MCLEAN GAME REFUGE

BY DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

Not being a mountaineer, I prefer winter hiking in an area that's not too steep, nor too rocky, but that still has interesting terrain and plenty of trees to block the biting wind. McLean Game Refuge in Granby and Simsbury is one such place. This privately owned and managed wildlife sanctuary, which is open to the public, has more than 4,200 acres of forests and fields traversed by a network of hiking trails. When snow covered, some of the trails also make wonderful places for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing.

On my most recent visit to the refuge, a friend and I hiked about 2.5 miles, following an access trail to one of the refuge's most popular loop trails, the B Loop. Along the way, we passed hemlocks and pines, oaks and other deciduous trees, as well as small patches of mountain laurel and Christmas ferns. Various mosses, hugging rocks or poking up through the leaf litter, added splashes of green to the scenery. An occasional squirrel or chipmunk scampered across our path, and a red-bellied woodpecker called from high up in a tree. Tree trunks riddled with holes told us that lots of woodpeckers live in these woods. At a pond near the end of our hike, a gaggle of Canada geese serenaded us—if you can call their honking a serenade!—while we ate lunch on the porch of an old cabin. Throughout the hike, we met only a few other hikers and dog walkers, probably because it was midweek. (Note that refuge rules require dogs to be leashed.)

The Hike

The 2.1-mile Blue Loop is one of 11 McLean Refuge trails described in the *Connecticut Walk Book West*. It overlaps with two other, shorter loops (the Red Loop and the Orange Loop), which gives you options if you decide along the way not to do the longer Blue Loop. All three

loops begin as one trail, identified by a sign saying *Red Loop* (don't worry; the other loops start here too).

To reach the trailhead, begin at the refuge's main parking lot on Routes 10/202 south of Granby center. From the northwest corner of the lot, walk along the paved access trail until the pavement ends, then follow a woods road for about 0.1 mile, and cross a bridge over Bissell Brook. The loop trailhead will be on your right.

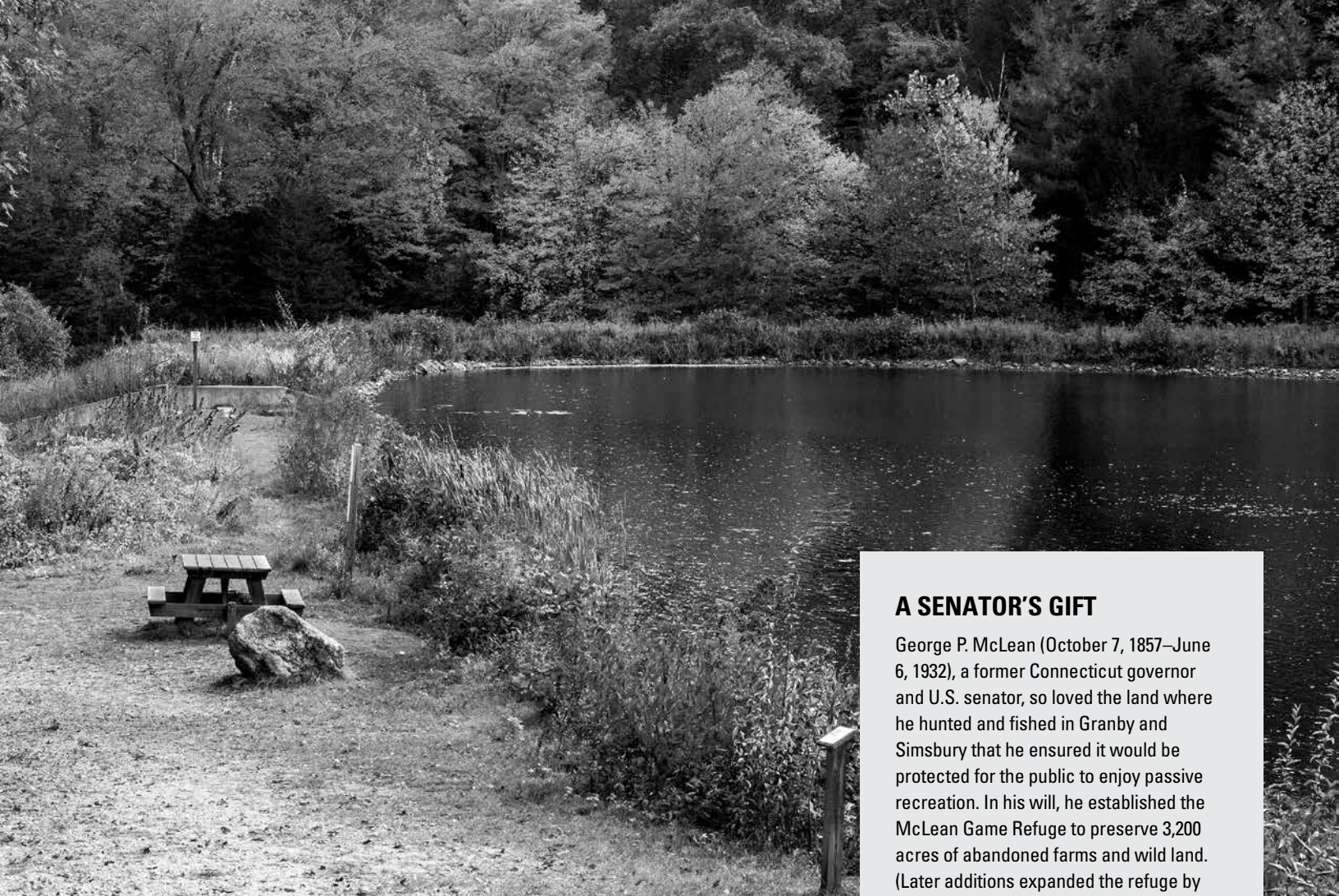
Easy-to-spot rectangular blazes in blue, orange, and red mark the first section of the trail, which is fairly wide and flat. About one-third of a mile from the trailhead, the Red Loop splits off to the left. Follow the main trail, which is now marked only with blue and orange blazes. This part of the trail becomes a little narrower and winds up and down over rolling terrain. At 1.01 mile from the trailhead, the Orange Loop diverges to your left. Now follow the dark blue blazes uphill to the top of a ridge, then steeply downhill to a woods road. Turn left onto the woods road, as indicated by a *Blue Loop* sign with an arrow. Don't be concerned (as my friend and I were) that there are no blazes

on the trees here; just stay on the woods road. In about a half-mile, the Orange Loop rejoins the Blue Loop. Less than a quarter of a mile beyond that, the Red Loop enters from your left, and the three loops follow the same trail along the woods road. Soon you will come to a junction with another woods road; turn left here and walk about 0.2 mile to the cabin at Trout Pond. (If the pond isn't frozen, you too might enjoy a goose serenade!) Continue walking until you reach the beginning of the loop trail, then retrace your steps to the parking lot.

Directions

The main entrance and parking lot for the refuge is on the west side of Routes 10/202, about 1 mile south of Granby center.





A SENATOR'S GIFT

George P. McLean (October 7, 1857–June 6, 1932), a former Connecticut governor and U.S. senator, so loved the land where he hunted and fished in Granby and Simsbury that he ensured it would be protected for the public to enjoy passive recreation. In his will, he established the McLean Game Refuge to preserve 3,200 acres of abandoned farms and wild land. (Later additions expanded the refuge by more than 1,000 acres.) “I want the game refuge to be a place where some of the things God made may be seen by those who love them, as I loved them, and who may find in them the peace of mind and body that I have found,” his will stated. During his lifetime, Mr. McLean’s love for wildlife was also evidenced by the fact that he had two islands created in Trout Pond to create refuges for ground-nesting birds from foxes and raccoons. In addition, while serving as a U.S. senator, he was instrumental in the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Mr. McLean had several noteworthy guests accompanying him on his visits to the land that would become the McLean Game Refuge: U.S. Presidents Calvin Coolidge, William Howard Taft, and Herbert Hoover, and Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, who along with his brother endowed the Yale School of Forestry in 1900. Mr. McLean’s brother, John, served as secretary of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Board of Directors when it formed in 1895.



PHOTO OF CABIN BY DONNA POTWIN. OTHER PHOTOS BY DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

Opposite page, left: hiking the access trail to the B Loop. Opposite page, center: this sign greets hikers partway through the loop. Top, Trout Pond attracts resting walkers and geese. Above, left, the author relaxes at the cabin overlooking the pond. Above, right, woodpecker holes.

For allowed uses, the latest hours, and a current map, visit mcleangamerefuge.org.

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

BY JEAN CRUM JONES

During the winter, almost every evening, I begin my cooking by sautéing an onion. Ubiquitous to almost every cuisine throughout the world, the lowly aromatic onion imparts its pleasant, pungent flavor to innumerable dishes. Worldwide, onions are the second most important vegetable crop (after tomatoes), and they do grow almost anywhere. Onions have a magical ability to increase the savoriness of any dish they are cooked with. Traditional New England cuisine of chowders and stews rely on onions to help provide their classic flavors.

Bulb onions, the hardball-sized globes we all purchase in net bags at the supermarket, were brought over to New England on the *Mayflower*. As soon as they were able, the new English settlers planted their onions. They also discovered the American Indians enjoyed onions, though theirs grew wild and would today be described as ramps.

Onions are one of the most ancient of vegetables. They are considered members of the lily family. Probably originating in central Asia or the Mideast, they were domesticated about 6,000 years ago. Onions were valued by the early Egyptian, Greek, and Roman civilizations, not only for their culinary zest, but also for medicinal use and remedies. The onion was spread throughout Europe by the conquering Roman armies, and in medieval times, the onion was one of the three principal vegetables of the populace, along with cabbage and beans. As the age of European seafaring began, lots of onions were carried aboard ships. They added flavor to simple meals, and their vitamin C content prevented scurvy. On the second voyage of Columbus to the New World, he brought along a barrel of onions and a barrel of sugarcane stems to plant in Hispaniola. The planted rows of cane shoots reproduced quickly and abundantly and forever changed the nature of the Caribbean islands. I do not know the outcome of the onion planting, though onions play an important flavoring role in Caribbean



LEE RUSSELL/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Onions have long been a thriving business in New England. These bags were on sale in 1939 in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

FORGOTTEN TALES OF ONIONS

cuisine. The desire for sugar exploded in the 1500 and 1600s, and the Dutch, Spanish, French, and English confiscated all the West Indies and used its fertile lands for the growing of cane plants.

Most English settlers of New England grew onions for their own family use in kitchen gardens using the varieties that grew successfully in England. Planted in the spring, onions would be allowed to grow until early fall, when they would be harvested and allowed to cure before being braided into long ropes and hung up for storage in cool, dry locations. If there was a good harvest, stored onions would last until the beginning of spring, when wild ones could be foraged.

Wethersfield's Commercial Operation

The commercial growing of onions came to play a significant role in the history of Wethersfield, Connecticut. The first settlers had found a particularly fertile area of land to settle on in 1634. Along the Connecticut River, the soil in this region is deep and

well drained and is rich in organic matter as a result of being buried under a prehistoric lake (Lake Hitchcock) for a millennium. Also, the location of the town favored it to become an important distribution and shipping center.

Resources and goods were gathered from interior portions of Connecticut, kept in warehouses, and then shipped down the Connecticut River to Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. Then, these Connecticut supplies were carried to ports in the American South or the West Indies. Connecticut became a major player in the West Indies provisioning trade, and our farmers grew crops, raised cattle and horses, and cut timber to send to the islands. Although the islands could have supported a self-sufficient farming economy, as was the practice in New England, the craze for the highly profitable sugar cane dominated the islands' farmland, and plantation owners grew cane wherever they found fertile ground.

Onions to the Caribbean

For Wethersfield farmers and sea captains, growing and shipping red storage onions to the West Indies became a very profitable business, which began in the mid-1600s and became well established by the early 1700s. Thousands of onion bushels were shipped out to the Caribbean where sugar plantation owners exchanged onions for sugar products and molasses, which was then used in New England to distill rum. Connecticut became the New World's leading rum distiller during this era.

Much of the work of cultivating red onions was done by Wethersfield women, who came to be called "onion maidens" and were said to "to weed and weep." Caring for onions is labor intensive. During the most active period of production, for almost a century, 33 percent of Wethersfield onion producers were women. At the height of the onion trade in 1801, Wethersfield exported more than 100,000 ropes of onions, weighing about five pounds each.

The onion trade disappeared in the early 1840s. The slave trade was outlawed in 1808 and the abolitionist movement ended the export trade to the Caribbean. A pink root blight destroyed the onion crop in 1838, which, along with some previous bad growing years, made onion farming no longer worthwhile. At the same time the red onion business was going into decline, the nascent commercial seed industry had gotten its start in Wethersfield and the fertile fields along the Connecticut River supported the growth of the American seed business for the next 60 years.

During the Civil War, there was high demand for onions for the Army. As well as an essential flavoring for beans, onion juice was used to clean gunshot wounds. General Ulysses Grant declared to the War Department: "I will not move my troops without onions." They sent him cartloads.

Onions became a major agricultural crop again in Connecticut beginning in the 1860s, this time in Westport and Fairfield. Although early farmers here had always grown onions, it wasn't until the development of a globe onion with high yields that these farmers pursued growing and selling large shipments of onions. The "Southport Globe" and "White Globe Onions" evolved from seed strains grown earlier along the Connecticut River Valley.

As they prospered, the onion growers became self-taught agronomists in their efforts to boost yields. They concocted different mixtures of fertilizers to sufficiently sour and sweeten the soil to the right growing chemistry. Some onion farmers also developed plows, disks, and row cultivators that would do the job without injury to the crop. After the farmers harvested and dried their onions, they stored them in onion barns, covering them in hay and cornstalks.

Horse and oxen teams carried the onions to Southport, which was easier to reach than Bridgeport or Norwalk. Warehouses lined the Southport shoreline where hundreds of thousands of barrels were shipped to New York City. Typically, schooners would carry loads of onions, oats, butter, and eggs to New York City, and they would return with flour, molasses, sugar, mackerel, rum, and gin.

The most prosperous years for onion farming in Fairfield and Westport lasted from 1860 until the 1890s. The rising costs of fertilizers and competition from larger Western enterprises began dampening their enthusiasm. Then, a devastating blight of cutworms and fungus in 1894 effectively ended the onion era. Some onion farmers began growing strawberries and other vegetables for the rapidly urbanizing population in nearby cities. Others sold their land to wealthy urbanites for summer homes and permanent housing away from the noise and pollution of cities. Connecticut citizens are fortunate that one onion farm family, Daniel and Catherine Sherwood, had their land become part of a favorite seaside state park in Westport.

Though onions are no longer a big crop in Connecticut, their heritage lingers on. One can still buy heirloom seeds of Connecticut onion varieties, "Wethersfield Red" or "Southport Globes" for the home garden. Wethersfield celebrates its agricultural roots with a "Big Red" onion logo. And a few onion barns still picturesquely dot the countryside of mid-Fairfield County. There are certainly many layers to the onion story in Connecticut and much to ponder as they gently sauté in a pan on a cold winter's night.

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



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DAVID B. SCHROEDER

David B. Schroeder, 80, of Woodstock Valley, professor emeritus and former head of the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering at the University of Connecticut, died unexpectedly of natural causes on October 26.

In the late 1980s, Dr. Schroeder and his wife Jill became owners of the first-ever property covered by an easement held by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. Edgar P. Wyman, retired professor of forestry at UConn and a longtime active CFPA member, decided he wanted to permanently protect from development 180 acres of historic family land he owned in Eastford and Woodstock. Working with CFPA's executive director at the time, John Hibbard, Dr. Wyman divided the property into three large parcels, and in 1989 sold the first 80-acre parcel to the Schroeders.

The deed included a conservation easement limiting development to one single family home and attendant farm or forestry related buildings. Dr. Schroeder was a proud and careful steward of the property for the rest of his life, and he played a key role in ensuring that the two remaining parcels were also sold to conservation-minded families.

In recent years, "Doc Schroeder," as many called him, was an active supporter of the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, volunteering to teach courses on tree and shrub identification and actively supporting the Friends of Goodwin Forest.

Despite being discouraged by his South St. Paul High School counselor from pursuing an academic career, Dr. Schroeder enrolled at the University of Minnesota in 1953 to study forestry and plant sciences. He financed his studies with a variety of jobs, many of them in the upper Midwest wilderness, and all of them outdoors, where he most loved to be.

In 1965, he earned his PhD in plant pathology from the same institution and accepted a position as assistant professor of plant science at the University of Connecticut, where he stayed for 41 years, retiring in 2006. He was a founding member of the Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association, serving on their board, and he chaired the Ashford Inland Wetlands Commission—both posts for nearly 20 years. He was chairman of the Wolf Den Land Trust for 15 years and represented UConn on the Connecticut Licensed Arborist Examining Board for decades. He loved his profession

and his colleagues, and, most of all, he loved and was famous for teaching, particularly undergraduate students.

Dr. Schroeder was respected and admired for being just as comfortable talking to loggers on a log landing as to college deans and university presidents. He dearly loved his family and friends and many of the countless animals he had throughout his life, especially his dog, Tony.

He leaves his wife of 35 years, Jill; two brothers, Ronald P. and Dennis Schroeder; his sister, Pat Cardin; two sons, Andy and Mark Schroeder; his daughter, Kate; one grandchild; and numerous other in-laws, family members, and two dogs. His parents, Eldon and Erna Schroeder, and first wife, Mary Jane Retka, predeceased him.

No services had been planned at the time of publication. Memorial donations may be directed to the David B. Schroeder Scholarship fund 31093, UConn Foundation Inc., 2390 Alumni Drive, Unit 3206, Storrs, CT 06269, or at uconn.edu/schroeder.

—Stephen H. Broderick

Mr. Broderick, a retired UConn Cooperative Extension forester and educator, has been a neighbor of the Schroeders for 25 years.

PRUDENCE PEASE CUTLER



Prudence Pease Cutler, a devoted honorary director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and an advocate for land conservation in Connecticut and Massachusetts, died peacefully on November 15 in Simsbury. She was 98. She was the wife of the late Ralph Dennis "Denny" Cutler. She lived in Farmington and Simsbury.

She was an avid sailor (with her husband), and a skilled gardener who, while a student at Vassar College, grafted an apple tree that still produces in Ashford. As a member of the Garden Club of Hartford, Mrs. Cutler actively supported legislation against roadside billboards and defended the West

Hartford reservoirs against an encroaching highway. She served on the board of the Connecticut chapter of The Nature Conservancy and was a supporting member of the Sheriffs Meadow Foundation on Martha's Vineyard, where the family had a house. Her survivors include her son, Thomas Cutler of Farmington; two daughters, Ruth Cutler of Ashford, and Carolyn Cutler of Avon; and her sister, Penny Pease. A memorial service took place December 8 in Simsbury.

SUELLEN KOZEY McCUIN

Suellen Kozey McCuin, 49, of Essex, a respected leader in the citizens' movement to protect the 1,000-acre forest called the Preserve in Old Saybrook and Essex, died August 21 after a sudden and brief illness. Mrs. McCuin was born in Derby and grew up in Old Saybrook. She earned her bachelor's degree at Central Connecticut State University and had a career in government affairs, most recently as executive director of the Connecticut Council of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Known by many as a passionate environmentalist and a devoted friend, Mrs. McCuin loved animals, especially dogs and horses, which she rode in parades and on the beaches of her hometown.

She leaves her husband, Scott, and their children Maddy and Owen McCuin; her mother, Madelyn Hart Kozey of Old Saybrook; her sisters, Marilyn Abrahamsson and Kathleen Lunz; her brothers, Paul Kozey and John Kozey, and many in-laws, nieces, and nephews. Her father Walter Kozey predeceased her. A mass and reception were held August 29 in Essex at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, where she was a member. Memorial donations may be directed to the Kozey McCuin Children Education Fund, Essex Savings Bank, P.O. Box 950, Essex, 06426 or the Old Saybrook Land Trust.

—From death notices



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