

# Rock, Root & Trail



AUGUST 2017

## Mom Inspires Generosity and Caring ... and Trails Day Hikes!

After years of driving by Mansfield Hollow State Park and pledging to hike it (sound familiar?), we finally took action and joined Debbie Tedford, a longtime volunteer trail manager, and her husband, Barry Gorfain, on their annual Connecticut Trails Day hike. It was a fun event and a great hike. During the hike, I was moved to learn that Debbie has organized a Trails Day hike for the last 10 years as a way to honor the woman who inspired her love of the outdoors ... her Mom.



It was Debbie's Mom who originally told Debbie about Trails Day. When her Mom passed away, Debbie started leading Trails Day hikes as a way to remember her in a loving, positive way. Debbie spoke of how she and her Mom would look for Lady's Slippers, and on our hike we were rewarded with several sightings of the rare flower. I thought about how something as simple as a lovely flower can create such a strong connection to those we love – that is what nature does for many of us. We hope you will give the gift of nature – like Debbie's Mom did - to those you love and help protect that gift by continuing to support CFPA. - *Jim Little*

## Fabulous Volunteer Spotlight ... Book 'Em Danno ...



Volunteers do all sorts of fun things at CFPA. Most toil on trails, some lead hikes, others teach ... but only one maintains CFPA's Camp-Ellsworth Library. That unique individual is the fabulous volunteer, Mal Bochner. Since 2003 Mal has organized and cared for the unique collection of books available to members at CFPA's HQ. The Camp-Ellsworth Library contains nearly 2,000 books and pamphlets on forests, parks, trails, wildlife, and open spaces.

Your support and generosity allow us to offer benefits such as the Camp-Ellsworth Library, and we encourage you to stop by to visit and use it. When I asked Mal why he volunteers at CFPA, he said: "Trust placed in me to allow me to reinvent myself as a self-trained librarian AND the professional and collegial staff." With his dry wit intact, he noted, "The hardest, most difficult and most frustrating part of volunteering at CFPA is making a left turn onto Route 66 at the end of the day!"

## A Diverse Collection Lands at CFPA ...



Robert Ricard, PhD. (aka Bob or Rocket Ricard), Senior Extension Educator, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System, recently donated his wonderfully diverse library to CFPA. Books on Olmstead, Pinchot, Fernow, Greeley, shade trees, dendrology, chestnuts, and much more can be found in the collection. Bob's collection reflects his intellectually inquisitive personality (try saying that three times fast). My conversations with Bob have encompassed forestry, the importance of tree wardens, history, and even the curious impact of living in Rhode Island for short periods of time. Why did Bob donate his collection to CFPA? Bob says, "I think there is more appreciation of forest history there than other institutions I am affiliated with." Bob is a great friend of CFPA and to Connecticut's trees, and we thank him for his generosity. Stop into CFPA and enjoy the fruits of his lifetime of work educating people to the importance of trees in our lives and how to protect them.

## Watch for Young Interns Building Trails in the Woods ...

They are enthusiastic, energetic, eager to learn, and leap tall trees in a single bound. No, not you, they are CFPA's Summer Conservation Trail Crew working to make your Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails better this summer. It is inspiring what five motivated young people, under rigorous (but gentle) supervision by trail experts, Clare Cain and Colin Carroll, can do to improve trails. Building bridges, relocating trails, placing rock stairs, and even creating fun videos – they do it all for you.

CFPA is concerned about the diminishing number of young people getting outside and connecting with the natural world. Who will love trails, protect forests, or care about state parks in the future? CFPA's summer intern program fosters a new generation of conservationists, giving them job skills and building their appreciation for the outdoors and recreation management. CFPA interns are the future of conservation and we hope you'll thank, support, and embrace them – careful they are sweaty – if you stumble upon them in the woods. The program costs \$25,000 and is funded this year by the State's Recreational Trails & Greenways grants, which have since been eliminated by budget cuts and must be restored. If you are also concerned about getting youth into the woods for a life-affirming experience, and have the resources, we're looking for a wonderful donor to support next year's interns.



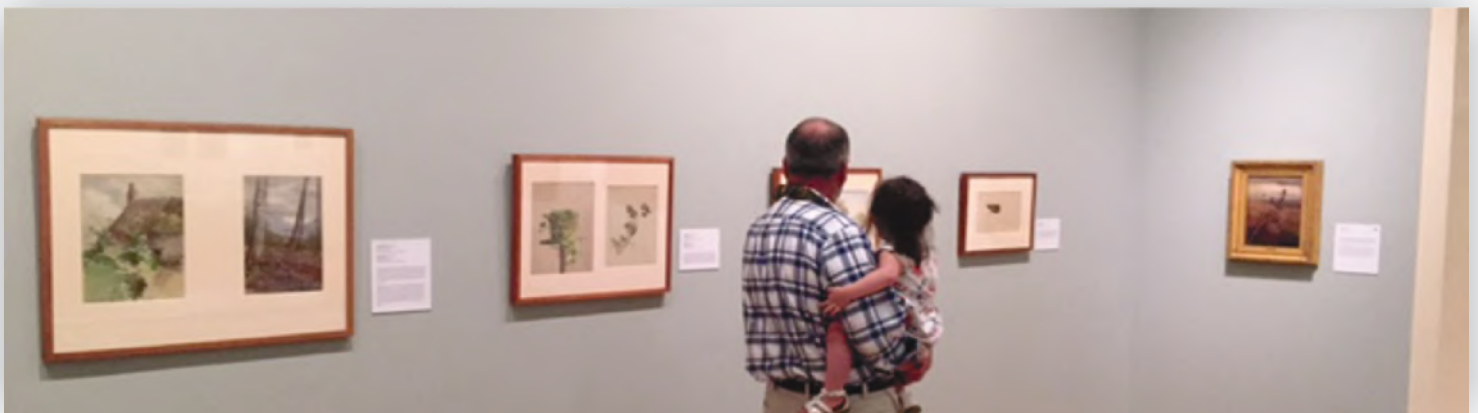
## These Girls Want to do More Than Just Have Fun ....

Lily and Clara just won't give up. Every month, they put money into their gift jars and their Mom and Dad bring them into the office where we count out the change in their jar. It is the highlight of my day. They give up part of their allowance they could use for Disney (Lily is a big Cinderella fan) or treats to protect forests, parks, and trails. Yes, they are very cute ... but they are also inspiring. Lily and Clara have donated \$43.95 so far in 2017. This is a true story ... I'm not creative (or cynical) enough to make it up. Don't be like Bo, or Mike ... be like Lily and Clara and share so that others in the future might enjoy what we have today.



## The Art of Flora and Fauna

Members of CFPA's Winslow Society were recently treated to a special event at the lovely Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme. It was a beautiful summer evening and the landscape around the museum was in bloom. Things were also blooming inside at the recently installed exhibit, Flora/Fauna: The Naturalist Impulse in American Art. The exhibit explores the intersection of fine art with natural history and showcases the importance of naturalist subjects for artists at the Lyme Art Colony. Winslow Members were treated to a tour of the collection by the exhibit's curator, Jennifer Stettler Parsons, PhD. Susan Whalen, Deputy Commissioner of CT DEEP offered a sobering talk about the state of State Parks during this budget crisis. Thanks to the Flo Gris for their hospitality and the exploration of the strong connection between art and nature and to Susan for taking time to meet with the Winslow Society.

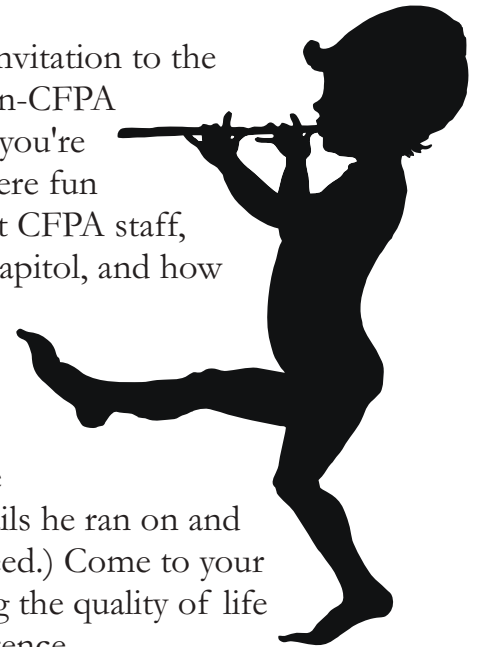


## WARNING: Blatant Advertisement ... read at your own risk

What the heck is the Winslow Society (I hope) you ask? It is a community of generous people who've chosen to give \$1,000 or more in a calendar year to protect trails, forests, and parks through CFPA. The Society offers fun and informative gatherings throughout the year, such as a legislative update, an art/nature-themed gathering, and a hike with CFPA's President, Eric Lukingbeal. We hope you will consider joining the Winslow Society because you recognize that your precious landscape needs your strong voice to protect it and your strong hand to shape it.

## No, it wasn't just the wood elves ....

Pssst .... as a CFPA member make sure to look out for your personal invitation to the new, special Regional CFPA Insider Update. Then tell your envious, non-CFPA member friends that you stepped up to protect trails and, unlike them, you're an insider! The first two Updates (Windham and Hartford Counties) were fun and informative. People gathered, chatted (or gossiped), ate snacks, met CFPA staff, learned about trail improvements, the work needed to be done at the Capitol, and how important they are to keeping forests, parks and trails healthy – alive even – in the state. In the Hartford County meeting, CFPA board member, Peter Knight, introduced Eric Hammerling and noted that before he joined CFPA he never really understood that it was CFPA members and volunteers – yep that's you – that made trails happen. He thought it was the state, or maybe the wood elves, that cared for the trails he ran on and valued. (Peter is one of those super fit guys who run trails at a high speed.) Come to your regional meeting and learn how important your support is to improving the quality of life in CT – really it is you and not just the wood elves who make the difference.



## Cool quotes ...

“The improvement of forest trees is the work of centuries. So much more the reason for beginning now.” *George Perkins Marsh*

“Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife, are in fact plans to protect man.” *Stewart L. Udall*

“... CFPA has played a role of quiet, effective leadership, as one of the earliest and most enduring conservation organizations. It has kept its unique character and strength, with a clear focus on Connecticut as part of an inescapable larger world.” *George Milne, Connecticut Woodlands*

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