

Rock, Root & Trail



JULY 2018

Inspire Action ... Create Positive Change

Trees fall across your trails. Bridges rot away. State parks are held hostage during a budget crisis. Your public land is given away in the dark of night. Your frustration grows ... *what can you do?*

One easy, effective idea to protect forests, parks, and trails is to invite a friend, colleague, and family member to join CFPA (or gift them a membership).

If every member recruits a new member the impact would be fantastic for Connecticut's outdoor recreation.

Your help is needed this summer. Trails are still being cleared of storm damage.

Make a special effort to invite, encourage, cajole, plead, and ask a person who uses trails to join YOU as a member of CFPA. It is an easy way to protect your outdoors.

As a thank you, we'll give you a neat CFPA HIKE bandana ... and our sincerest gratitude for your help.

Please use the enclosed envelope to mail in the new membership – make sure to write your name on the envelope so we can give you credit!



Make this Grumpy Cat Happy

Dear RR&T Editor,

You feature dogs on trails? Pleassse ...

Let's state the obvious: Cats are vastly superior to dogs. Just ask Mat and Ladan, my devoted humans (Mat manages "Reach Your Summit" with my help, of course).

I keep myself clean. Dogs need groomers – and they still smell. I have my own tent, which I don't slobber in or chew up. And I look positively fetching in my harness.

Fellow felines ... we must save trails and take them back from the dogs. I've been plotting

how to influence the humans at CFPA and I know the answer.

I challenge my feline friends to demand their humans become CFPA members ... then we can take over the Blue Trails.

Continued on page 4



Passport to the Parks

Do you have CT license plates on your car? If so, you now get into State Parks with no charge at the gate thanks to the “Passport to the Parks.”

The “Passport” is paid for with a new \$10 fee on your CT DMV vehicle registration (paid every other year), but that new bi-annual fee is a bargain compared to the \$13 per car parking fee you once paid for every visit to a shoreline park.

Most importantly, all state campgrounds are now re-opened, there are more lifeguards and seasonal maintainers to keep people safe, recreational seasons are extended, and we expect many more people to get connected to the outdoors through the Parks.

Your contacts to your Legislators made this happen. Great job, and make sure to get out this year to enjoy your summer at your State Parks!



Protect Your Public Lands When You Vote on November 6th

HOORAY – you can now take positive action to protect public lands!

It was touch and go, but on the last night of the 2018 Legislative session, SJ 35 passed. Now, you can vote to protect public lands on the November ballot.

If this ballot measure passes, it would amend the state constitution to require that before public lands could be sold, swapped, or given away by the General Assembly, there must be a public hearing and a $\frac{2}{3}$ rds vote when public lands held by DEEP or the Department of Agriculture are proposed for conveyance.

YOU recognize the importance of protecting state lands. YOU reached out to your state representatives. YOUR generous gifts and personal involvement have made the difference so far!

But getting on the ballot simply isn't enough; it needs pass. So what can you do?

Tell your friends, co-workers, and neighbors about the benefits that public lands like State Parks and Forests provide to you, and how horrible it would feel for those lands to be lost in a backroom deal made at the Legislature.

Consider an extra contribution to CFPA to support the statewide push that must be made on this issue over the next 5 months.

Your Legislators have acted. **It's in your hands now!**



Insider Updates

CFPA launched a new initiative in 2017 - Insider Updates - small gatherings of CFPA supporters in the county where they live or volunteer.

Many CFPA supporters are connected to trails and the forested landscape, but not engaged with CFPA and its community of supporters. The Updates were started as an opportunity to bring together CFPA members and celebrate their shared love of the natural world and outdoor recreation.

It was decided, for the convenience of attendees, to make them county-centered. They are a great success ... and fun! As we experimented, we discovered more interesting venues such as the Litchfield Distillery, the Jones Family Winery, City Bench, the Connecticut Arboretum, and Westford Hill Distillery.

The Updates are for you to learn more about the work you support at CFPA and meet others in the community. Feel free to invite a friend to join you at an Update near you!



Thinking Ahead ... Being Grateful

Mark and Sarah Lynch are new members of CFPA. They are young, grateful for forests, parks, and trails ... and willing to give back.

Mark is a Navy veteran working in the tech industry. He emailed me and asked how to name CFPA in their new will. I was surprised. It is unusual for a couple in their 30's to have a will (something they'd put off but realized was too important to ignore). It is even more unusual for a young couple to be thoughtful enough to plan for both family and the organizations they value.

Mark told me the reason they are giving CFPA a bequest is that they want to preserve the natural resources we have. He said "I appreciate everything the organization (CFPA) does from legislative tasks down to trail maintenance and I would like my legacy to help continue these efforts."

Mark hiked the entire Metacomet, spends a lot of time on forested trails to clear his head ...

and realizes that trails don't maintain themselves. Mark explained that he only discovered CFPA when hiking the Metacomet. He was hooked, became a member, and bought a Connecticut Walk Book.



Mark said he joined because forests, parks, and trails "make life better." He and Sarah felt it was important to give back and did so by becoming members and including CFPA in their legacy planning.

Final Thoughts*Why Recruit a new CFPA member?*

What's in it for you? Well ... for starters, how about open and safe trails? Or well-tended state parks and forests? And a neat CFPA HIKE bandana.

Or the singular satisfaction of doing a simple but positive act in support of the land you value.

You are invited this year – specifically July, August, and September - to protect forests, parks, and trails in a simple way ... *get one person to join you in your support of CFPA.*

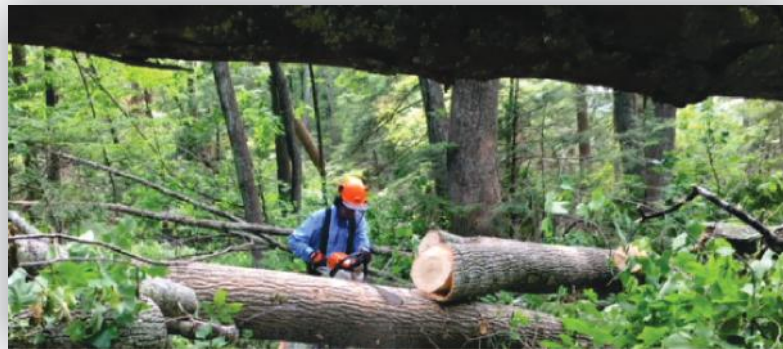
Inspire just one person to be like you - to join CFPA. You will make a difference for your favorite forests, parks, and trails.

Ask ... and you will be surprised at the number of people who use the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails but are not CFPA members. Many are people you know.

You are important to protecting forests, parks, and trails. Ask others to do the same by joining and supporting CFPA.

Storm Damage ...

Thanks to heroic volunteers and supporters like you, trails continue to be cleared. Support trails and the volunteers who maintain them by getting fellow hikers to join you as a CFPA member.



Continued from page 1

Really ... what's so special about tail-chasing canines? I too can hike the Connecticut Blue-Blaze Hiking Trail System, and I can do it without sniffing every leaf and twig on the way. My fellow felines are purrrfect for leading their humans on the Blue Trails.

When Mat first started chauffeuring me into the Great Outdoors, I was uncertain. It is, after all, full of delicious, furry creatures (bad for my waistline). But at the top of Tariffville Gorge, with the wind in my mane, I felt reconnected to my primal, ancestral instincts.

Life is better when you take your human for a hike. I now take Mat hiking whenever I can. Remember, the world is your litterbox.



-Dixon the Himalayan Cat

For more photos of Dixon, go to www.ctwoodlands.org/dixon

Visit us at www.ctwoodlands.org



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