

Rock, Root & Trail



July 2019

Meet the 2019 Summer Trail Crew!

They're back! This is our third year sponsoring a Summer Trail Crew working throughout the summer across the state. Here's a quick introduction:

We've got four new members of the Crew, led by Brennan Turner, CFPA Field Coordinator, and Marissa Jayawickrema, Crew Leader. Faren Roth comes from Guilford and attends Yale. She loves escape rooms! Alex Staddon lives in Middlefield and goes to New England College. He's originally from the U.K. Mike Pazareskis of Wallingford is a student at CCSU and wants to work in a National Park someday. Sarah Healy attends SUNY Binghamton from West Hartford and hopes to do field research in the future.

If you're out hiking this summer and you run into the Trail Crew, say "hi!" We promise they won't bite. And if you love the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, thank them for their work. They're spending their summer making sure your trails are safe and clear!



From left to right: Faren Roth, Sarah Healy, Marissa Jayawickrema, Mike Pazareskis, Alex Staddon

With a Little Help from our Friends

They came. They saw. They demolished.

An amazing team of volunteers from NRG's Middletown Power LLC arrived at Highlawn Forest on an overcast day in May. Eight hours later, the NRG team had disassembled the old amphitheater and much of a damaged vernal pool platform, and neatly stacked the wood to be re-used on another project. Thanks to Keith Shortsleeve at NRG for coordinating the work party, and to the company for donating \$2,000 in support of the project. When rebuilt, the Highlawn Forest Vernal Pool Education Boardwalk will offer safe access for students, teachers, and visitors alike, and minimize damage to the wetlands ecosystem.

The cost of rebuilding the Highlawn Forest Vernal Pool Education Boardwalk is largely offset by a generous \$5,000 grant from the Rockfall Foundation.



Broken Arrow Nursery

How long have you been a member of CFPA? A year? 10 years? Last fall during CFPA's membership drive, we took a step back and looked at all of our existing members. Imagine our surprise when we realized that some of our members have been with us for more than 60 years!

Board member Tom Degnan reached out to thank Dick Jaynes of Hamden for his long-time commitment to our organization, and Dick sent back a few anecdotes about his time with CFPA and Sleeping Giant State Park. Here's one:

Way back in the late 1940's I had a neighbor, Harry Webb, who had been involved with the design and construction of the tower on Sleeping Giant during the depression in the early 1930's. Because of this, Harry had special dispensation to drive on the Tower Road. So, one day he drove me (a 6th grader) to the Tower in his air-cooled Franklin—a really memorable trip to our local state park.

We were so happy to hear from Dick, and we want to hear from you too. Send your fondest CFPA memories to agraham@ctwoodlands.org, or reach out on social media. Maybe you'll be in the next Rock, Root, & Trail!



Dick and Sally Jaynes

Volunteering with CFPA

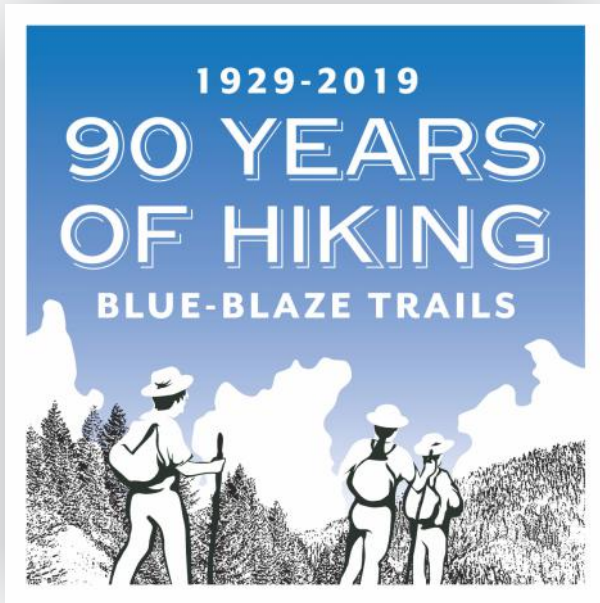
Every Spring Liz Hughes, Manager of Events and Volunteer Engagement, runs a volunteer orientation at CFPA headquarters in Middlefield. We're always looking for more volunteers and we always have open opportunities. In 2018, more than 300 individuals reported volunteering over 18,000 hours of time with CFPA. That time includes things like trail monitoring and maintenance, educational programming, administrative help, environmental advocacy at the Capitol, and so much more. This spring we were thrilled that more than 40 people attended our volunteer orientation.

Be a CFPA Ambassador

Fun news for enthusiastic trail lovers. CFPA is re-introducing a volunteer opportunity in 2019—the “CFPA Ambassador.” These volunteers spend time on trails and at events spreading the word about CFPA's mission and sharing their love of the outdoors. Interested in volunteering with CFPA? Read more about it on our website at www.ctwoodlands.org.



An Ongoing Gift to YOU.



It really was a crazy idea 90 years ago. An experiment skeptics thought would fizzle out of its own accord.

The idea was to build and maintain trails in forests all around the state ... oh, and it would be done exclusively by volunteers. That crazy idea set in motion by CFPA's Trails Committee in 1929 is one that gives you a lot of pleasure today – it's the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails.

YOUR Blue Trails are constantly in need of care and repair. Love your trails. Celebrate them as an ongoing gift to you from the visionaries 90 years ago.

Keep the vision of a thriving trail network alive - give in support of trails. Get a little crazy and support the idea that people like you have sustained for 90 years.

Use the enclosed envelope and give today.

Come Have a Drink with CFPA!

In 2017 CFPA started holding monthly regional gatherings called “Insider Updates” with supporters around the state. Not surprisingly, we found that interest peaked and spirits were high when these gatherings were scheduled at places where locally produced alcoholic beverages are served (if you don't drink, there are always non-alcoholic options available too). Not only does it feel good to bring supporters together as a community for updates, input, and fun, but also it feels right to support local businesses at the same time. Special thanks to Stubborn Beauty brewery in Middletown and Westford Hill distillery in Ashford for hosting our last two gatherings, and we look forward to upcoming Insider Updates at Brewery Legitimus on July 30, and Niantic Public House on August 22.



Bring a friend to an Insider Update and Introduce them to the CFPA Family

Night at the Museum

June 27 was the perfect evening to be along the Lieutenant River at the Florence Griswold Museum. A cool breeze blew in off the water and the gardens were blooming.

Each year, CFPA thanks members of the Winslow Society (donors to CFPA at the \$1,000+ level) with an Art & Nature event. This year's event was hosted at the Florence Griswold Museum in their newest exhibit titled "Fragile Earth: The Naturalist Impulse in Contemporary Art." The exhibit curator, Jenny Parsons, gave the Winslow Society a private tour of the gallery.

At the end of the evening, local artist Tony Falcone spoke about his love of state parks, especially Sleeping Giant. Tony graciously donated prints of his painting "Giant Valley Reflections" to thank each Winslow Society member.

If you would like more information about The Winslow Society, please contact CFPA's Executive Director, Eric Hammerling or Development Director, Jim Little at 860-346-TREE.



And the Winner is...

With more than 450 submissions, picking a winner of the 2019 Trails Day Photo Contest was a tough job. Congratulations, Lauren Desrocher for winning with this standout, beautiful photo of a pink lady's slipper with hikers in the background.

CFPA staff loves getting outside during CT Trails Day Weekend, but we had almost as much fun looking at all of the photos we received and seeing how much YOU enjoyed it. Don't forget, you don't need to wait for Trails Day 2020 to get back outside!

Looking for a group to hike with? Check out the CFPA Rambles on our events calendar. Ramble guides lead group hikes all over the state, so sign up for one today! See all of CFPA's events at www.ctwoodlands.org/events.



Did you know that pink lady's slippers can live to be more than 20 years old?
#CFPAFunFacts

Visit us at www.ctwoodlands.org



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