



JUNE **ROCK
ROOT
&
TRAIL** 2021

THE NEWSLETTER FOR
SUPPORTERS OF CFPA

*With everyone getting vaccinated,
life is finally returning to normal.*

TOBY
&
TERRI



2020 - Making Lemonade out of Lemons

In adversity, CFPA became stronger. Flexibility and creativity kept CFPA programs alive.

CFPA was sustained by YOU - the wonderful supporters who make CFPA great. Thank you for sharing your time, resources, and talent with CFPA.



When Covid-19 closed our office and meeting room in March, 2020, most CFPA staff members worked remotely from home during the crisis. But there was one exception — Terri Peters, CFPA's Office Manager — who came to the office almost every day during the pandemic

with her faithful watch-poodle, Toby (aka, Killer). Terri stayed on the front line collecting mail, depositing checks, and keeping the building running. We are grateful to Terri for her efforts. When you call or email, please thank her as well.



Mt. Higby by Bob Pagini

NOT SO GOOD NEWS...

While the increase in trail use has been positive for many, the wear and tear on trails has been troubling. Unusually harsh winter storms hurt trails as well. Because of the pandemic, trail work parties could not get out to repair trails. Intrepid trail repair volunteers went out in ones and twos to keep trails open.

There is a lot of work ahead and trails need your support.



GOOD NEWS...

Trails remained open and they have been a critical community asset during the pandemic. Trails saw record increase in use. People walked, hiked, and ran trails to get out of the house, breathe fresh air, relieve stress, and exercise.



Vernal Pool Boardwalk at Highlawn Forest

(more on this later)

An Inconvenient Closure

Despite the State Capitol remaining closed since last March, some lawmakers still found time to craft troublesome legislation. Bills that exempt some from paying the reasonable \$5/vehicle/year Passport to the Parks registration fee could have gutted funding for State Parks. For example, a bill that would have unfairly allowed multiple car owners to pay the same fee as single car owners could have cut State Park funding by 50%.

The other concern is diverting 'some' of the funds from the Passport to other needs that have nothing to do with Parks. Our mantra continues to be "No exemptions and no diversions."



You are more important during this closure than ever before. Your voice is critical so legislators know you are watching and aware of their actions.

CFPA's Executive Director, Eric Hammerling, always says that politics is a contact sport and those who make the most contact win! While the Capitol is closed, he can't bump into legislators in the hallway to discuss legislation. But you can fill that "contact deficit" by reaching out to your legislators and making your voice heard to defend State Parks and other conservation priorities.



From the Woods to the Schoolyard

There were some 200 6th and 7th graders and over a dozen teachers from Windham Middle School that Beth Bernard, CFPA Education Director, didn't want to disappoint. The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut had given CFPA a grant to train teachers to use the outdoors as a classroom and take the 6th and 7th graders to Goodwin State Forest.

The goal was a fun education experience for a day that connected the students to a local forest. COVID came, remote learning started, and when the school opened again

all trips outside the school were cancelled.

Beth worked with the school, specifically Principal Marcus Ware (now a CFPA Board Member), and the program moved to the schoolyard. Beth taught the teachers on the Project Learning Tree curriculum in-person and students discovered how wildlife thrives in their schoolyard, on ballfields, and in the scrubby woods surrounding the school. What could have been a disappointment became a positive learning experience for all of us.

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COUNSELLORS AT LAW

Trails Need Your Help

Here is why.

It's been a tough year for you... and for your trails because of storm damage. A picture from the Salmon River Trail tells it all. You can help keep trails open.



\$395 protects a mile of trail—become a **One Miler**.

Trail use exploded as people used forested trails for stress relief. As a result, Trails were stressed! In June of 2020, the CT Trails Census issued a report stating:

“More than half of the trails in this study recorded an increase of greater than 65% in use.”



Connecticut Trail Census
Statewide multi-use trail user study

Fewer trail-repair volunteers could get out and maintain trails because of the pandemic. Major projects were delayed and trail triage was an ongoing task for trail crews of only one or two.



It gets lonely out in the woods without you!

Your support is a great help to trail volunteers all year long.

DONATE
TODAY



\$44

to save 200 YARDS of trail

\$66

to save 300 YARDS of trail

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to save 500 YARDS of trail

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to save 1000 YARDS of trail

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