

Rock, Root & Trail



MARCH 2017

Welcome to the first edition of your Rock, Root & Trail!

Your generosity and passion for trails, forests, and parks protect the natural quality of life that makes Connecticut such a great place to live and play – we cannot thank you enough for your support of CFPA.

Rock, Root & Trail is a periodic newsletter to keep you up to date on all the fantastic work leaders like you make happen. Your support positively impacts Connecticut's environment. However, in today's uncertain climate, it is critical you continue to work hard to protect the places you love.

Please keep up your support and help keep trails protected, forests healthy, and parks open to the entire community.



Are Connecticut's outdoors your playground?



We recently thanked a fabulous donor and volunteer, who gave over 209 hours in volunteer time in 2016, and she graciously responded:

"you guys make Connecticut my playground...and I am happy...thrilled really...to be able to help out. Been having lots of fun with the rock stars...and painting signs...and just monitoring the trails I hike. All good. L. S."

One addition we'd make to Liane's statement is that CFPA is not alone in doing the work. YOU as a donor, member, and volunteer make CT the great outdoor recreation playground that we love.

Yes ... you can be a rock star!



Once again ... CT trees, trails & parks bow down and thank you!

You were busy in 2016 – thanks for protecting what makes waking up on a Connecticut morning fun – vibrant forests, great trails, and healthy parks. Thanks for the great work you made happen in 2016 ... and the dragons yet to slay in 2017.

Stand in front of a mirror to see what a trail hero looks like ...

Your donations and volunteer efforts were awesome ... and essential to the vibrancy of your Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. There was so much work going on that we hope you will go to ctwoodlands.org/2016Trails and smile your way through the great photos and projects!



Yell like ... Heck

You made your voice heard at the CT Legislature asking that state parks be properly funded – a frustrating battle that needs you to keep yelling, pestering, and protesting before more damage is done.



Shedding light into the misty swamp

Your support moved the Constitutional Amendment to Protect State Lands (SJ 36) closer to reality by getting it passed in both houses. Passage of SJ 36 was an ENORMOUS first step toward better protecting your state lands, you and many of your legislators were wonderfully supportive to make this happen.

You and CFPA did so much work protecting the environment that we ask you to go to your CFPA website at www.ctwoodlands.org for more information about the next steps required to get this Constitutional Amendment on the ballot in 2018.

The gift of clean water, air ... and lots of fun.

Hundreds of acres of land were donated in 2016 by conservation heroes like you to CFPA so they can be permanently protected and stewarded. Your generosity gives CFPA the resources needed to both protect and properly steward land under protection.



Youthful Conservationists wanted ...

please apply at CFPA.

You helped educate hundreds of adults and students throughout 2016 with outdoor education programs at the Goodwin Conservation Center (a joint effort by CFPA and CT DEEP), on Blue Trails, and at CFPA headquarters. Education is critical to raise awareness of the crisis in our environment and to grow a new generation of conservationists.



There are still dragons to slay ... and you're the conservation warrior in shining armor.

Your favorite Blue Trails on private property are at risk – your help is essential to keep trails alive and accessible. Over 40% of the Blue-Blazed Trail Network is on private property. The trails - and you as a hiker, walker or runner - are their guest.

- It costs over \$225 to protect and maintain a mile of trail each year. Trails exist because you have the foresight, the generosity, the good will to support their existence.
- You know that trails are not free. Training volunteers, working with landowners, communicating with CT- DEEP and the companies who allow trails on their land costs money. You are needed to keep trails alive.
- We are at the beginning of a long effort – a steep trail – to having the Constitutional Amendment to Protect State Lands onto the ballot and approved by CT voters. This will be a statewide effort and getting the word out to voters on the importance of voting “yes!” will be costly. As a lover of Connecticut's outdoors, your support is needed to make this happen.



Go to www.ctwoodlands.org/Agenda2017 to check out your conservation community's 2017 goals to protect your forests, parks, and trails, and recreational fun as spelled out in CFPA's 2017 Conservation Agenda.

With humble thanks for their profound optimism

With one simple act, two long time donors to CFPA, Lois Barlow Cox Query and Philip Keating are now permanent, legacy donors to CFPA. They did so with a gift of profound optimism – leaving a bequest to CFPA in their estate plans. Their generosity ties their legacy to the core value that protects CT's forests, parks, and trails for future generations.

CFPA is always humbled in the vote of confidence by you - our donors - when you give annually and leave a legacy to all of the outdoor lovers in CT.

CFPA has a special community of supporters who recognize CFPA in their wills, trusts, or as a beneficiary in their retirement plans and life insurance. They are members of CFPA's Heritage Society. Please think of the joy that trails, forests, and parks have given to you over your lifetime – leave a legacy so that future generations might thank you for paying it forward to them.



Respected Trails Leader Seeks A Heroic Donor

CFPA is a grassroots organization supported by membership and many small donations from great folks like you. However ... if inspired by a fun or a really, really interesting project, we know some folks can give much more. Here are two ideas for YOU who like to share a lot and who really love forests, parks, and trails!

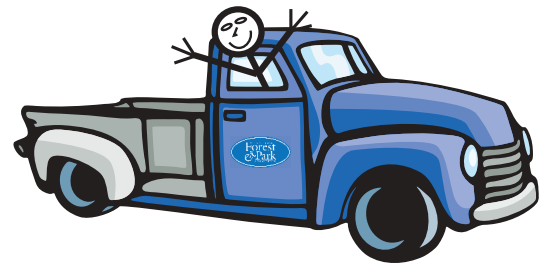
A bridge, a bridge ...

Bridges and kiosks need to be built along the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. We are seeking a donor who would like to invest \$15,000 to build and sustain these bridges and kiosks. The donor will be recognized on the bridge or kiosk they support.



'Til her daddy takes the T-Bird away

Clare Cain, Trails Stewardship Director, wants a T-Bird ... sorry, I mean a pick-up truck or van for use on trail projects. We'd like a truck to cart around our conservation trail crew this summer. Clare's preference is a new truck, but a nice used truck or van (with a working radio!) will work just fine.



Call Jim Little, CFPA's lonely Development Director, for more information at 860-346-TREE.

Visit us at www.ctwoodlands.org



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