

Rock, Root & Trail



NOVEMBER 2018

Sweet Victory

"I heard music playing as I read it. Movie theme music. Triumphant music. YES! music. Maybe even the Hallelujah Chorus." (*writing guru, Tom Abern, comments on reading about Question # 2 passing.*)

Yes, Yes, Yes – you crushed it. You advocated for and got a complete victory showing the importance of public lands. You called for legislative transparency and shouted it out for all to hear. You were right ... and validated by a rousing 84% YES vote. What more could you ask for? (More about that later).

Thank you for your support, your efforts, and your voice crying out in Connecticut.

This is important. Passage of Question # 2 means that your state-owned public lands are now safe from being sold, swapped, or given away by the CT General Assembly without first receiving adequate input from the public.

Good for you, the public, and good for Connecticut. Please enjoy this landmark victory (and a victory for public lands). Thank you for making it possible.

(loud applause – thank you)

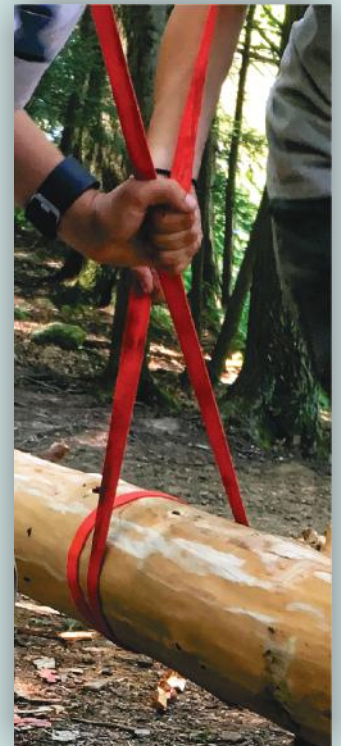


Be a GIANT.

Give to CFPA's Annual Fund and ...

- Lend a hand and get things done for trails
- Open a trail suffering from storm damage
- Support volunteers working to make CT a better place to live
- Inspire a child to love the outdoors by getting them outside
- Educate landowners to better manage their woodlands
- Reach out to trail hosts to encourage them to keep trails on their land

You walk with **Giants** when you support CFPA. Give today in the enclosed envelope or at www.ctwoodlands.org/donate



They Ran Their Trails Off

The 2018 Blue-Blazed Trail Running Series (BBTRS), along with its runners, finished strong. This year, 838 individuals competed in at least one race, running a total of almost 18,000 miles in fourteen events. A special thank you to those who organized, worked, or volunteered at the races.

Congratulations to our winners, Stacey Clark and Koby Nelson. Stacey competed in four events, achieving one overall win and three age group wins, running a total of 90 miles. Koby competed in seven events, with three overall wins and two age group wins, racing a total of 101 miles.

The BBTRS is a series of races that take place on Blue-Blazed trails throughout Connecticut. While each race has winners, the BBTRS winners are calculated by points earned during the season. Everyone who finishes a race receives three points, plus one for winning their age group, and two for winning an overall race.

Finally, thank you so much to the Shenipsit Striders and Dominic Wilson for all their work on the series. We'll see you next year!



Great runners train all year-long to meet their goals.

You can help CFPA fulfill its goals by giving all year-long with a monthly gift.

It's easy. Go to
www.ctwoodlands.org/donate
for more information.



YOU ... support outreach to conserve woodlands and the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails throughout Connecticut. Your 2018 support put new educational signs on CFPA properties and ensured over 2000 acres are safeguarded for future generations. Thank you.
Lindsay Suhr, Land Conservation Director

Next Generation Education

Because of supporters like you, the entire Windham Middle School 6th grade was able to visit the Goodwin Conservation Center in Hampton. They built shelters, touched slugs, and made hypotheses.

One teacher noted, “This is marvelous for them because, in town, they really don't go to the woods.” Because of you, I was able to make a difference for a lot of children (and their teachers) in Windham.

I loved teaching at the Goodwin Conservation Center (you should check it out!). I spent one day wearing waders in 30 Acre Pond catching tadpoles, talking about damselfly larva, and showing students the variety of life in the water. Then I spent a day 50 yards away, in an entirely different habitat, identifying grasshoppers, collecting spiders, and watching woolly bear caterpillars curl up...the kids loved it when it pooped on me.

We need outdoor education to inspire the next generation of conservationists, and we couldn't facilitate these programs without supporters like you. Thank you.

Amelia Graham, Development Assistant



YOU ...are growing a new generation of nature lovers! This year you gave outdoor educational opportunities to at least 400 Connecticut students who explored field, pond, and woodland habitats. This is an amazing accomplishment, but with your help we can reach even more. Thank you.

Emma Kravet, Education Director

YOU ... help volunteers build and maintain the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. The complex and time consuming work to keep trails healthy cannot happen without your generosity. Thank you and keep on hiking.

Clare Cain, Trails Stewardship Director



Your Rights – One Final Note

You have a stronger voice, a new right in the state constitution to speak up for your public lands before the General Assembly can sell, swap, or give them away. You made this happen when you contacted your legislators... and you voted YES on Question # 2.

You also made this happen by donating in support of CFPA and the good work benefitting you and your community. Without your financial support, protecting forests, parks, trails, and your right to speak up for them doesn't happen.

Now that you have the right to a public hearing, you also share the obligation to participate when future public hearings are held by the General Assembly regarding the fate of your public lands. As you can see with Question #2's victory, participating makes a difference!

Your support of CFPA in the Annual Fund provides you with a strong presence at the State Capitol. This will be more important than ever looking forward so you can continue to raise your voice in support of your lands.

Give today in the enclosed envelope or at www.ctwoodlands.org/donate



New Workshop for Cool Trail Tools.

Trails now have a new, secure workshop at CFPA thanks to Astrid Hanzalek, honorary board member and founding member of The Winslow Society, The A. Lindsay Thompson Fund, The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, The Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Phyllis M. McDowell Fund for the Environment, the Kalayjian Family Fund, the Herb and Ellen Patterson Memorial Fund, the Katchen Coley Conservation Fund, The National Park Service, The Newman's Own Foundation, and Connecticut's Recreational Trails and Greenways Program. Foundation materials were donated by Suzio-York Hill and tools were donated by Stanley Black & Decker.

It takes a community to keep trails healthy – thank you.



Visit us at www.ctwoodlands.org



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