

# Rock, Root & Trail



November 2019

## Building with Climate Change in Mind

How can CFPA install structures that will provide access, stand-up to more intense storms, and have a lighter impact on the land? With a little ingenuity and by communicating with other, national trails groups ... that's how. Later this fall, a new wetlands boardwalk will be installed at Highlawn Forest behind CFPA headquarters that will sit on "patented galvanized riser pan footings" rather than heavy traditional concrete footings and pilings. It was first used successfully by CFPA's trail team in Goodwin State Forest. With a changing climate and a wet area, this is just one way to build resilience into the many structures stretching across the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system to keep your feet dry.

This project could not happen without the financial support of the Rockfall Foundation, the Astrid Hanzalek Fund, NRG, and the volunteer efforts of Burns & McDonnell, NRG, and CFPA volunteers from Goodwin, Bob Mazzawy and Stan Crawford.

Your support helps CFPA plan for the impact of climate change and build stronger, flexible structures. Thank you.



## Outdoor Fun and Learning

The James L Goodwin Conservation Center and State Forest was filled with the happy sounds of young visitors this October. Between 11 and 13 years old, most of the visiting students had limited exposure to forests and trails. Many had never waded into a pond to find tadpoles, or walked in a meadow in search of insects. Most were excited and curious. All came away with a greater appreciation for the land and creatures who live there.

Thanks to support from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, roughly 425 6th and 7th graders from Windham Middle School came to the Goodwin Conservation Center in Hampton to learn how to hike in a forest, look for insects in a meadow, learn about life in ponds, and connect with the land. This was the second year the Foundation funded this active and unique program. It is important to the Windham community since many of these children do not have easy access to nature where they live. This program allowed students and teachers the opportunity to use the outdoors as their classroom.

Growing a new generation of conservationists is crucial to Connecticut's forests, and beyond. You help that effort as a supporter of CFPA – thank you.





## Life of Service

Astrid Hanzalek was smart, elegant, tough, generous, outspoken, witty, and she made a difference for Connecticut conservation and preservation over her lifetime. CFPA and her many friends mourn her unexpected passing this September.

Astrid was a state legislator for 10 years and served on many boards over her lifetime. In June 2010, she was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, by Charter Oak State College.

Astrid served on CFPA's board and as an honorary board member since 1975. She and her husband Fred left an indelible mark on CFPA with their service, and their financial support of projects including upgrades to CFPA's Meeting Room, the Trails Workshop, and at Highlawn Forest. Astrid's was a life well lived. She inspired us and will be sorely missed.



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## Trails and Forests ... Oh My.

The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails were envisioned for enjoyment ... and to grow Connecticut's appreciation for forests.

And it's been working! Thousands of people enjoy the Blue Trails and the forests where trails live. Trail users like YOU appreciate and work to protect the forests because they value the trails in their favorite woods.

Forests and trails need your protection today. Unusual storms resulting from climate change destroy forests and trails. Damage from superstorms may be one of the most notable symptoms of climate change ... but healthy forests are part of the solution. Healthy forests are one of the best ways to mitigate climate change. They soak up carbon from the atmosphere to benefit all of us.

Your help is needed to continue the fight. Your generosity protects forests ... please support CFPA's Annual Fund and the forests and trails you value.



## Celebrating You ...

You are valued and appreciated every day. When you give to, or volunteer with, CFPA, trails are stewarded and forests are protected. Three years ago, CFPA thought it would be a great idea to show how much you are valued and appreciated, so the Insider Updates were initiated.

The Updates take place county-by-county all around the state. The goal is to host an Update in as many counties as feasible. This makes it easier for local members like you to meet other CFPA supporters, celebrate their efforts, have fun, and learn what is happening locally. They have been a great success.

The first few Updates were held in local libraries (blame bibliophile Jim Little for that idea). Then we switched to wineries, breweries and distilleries – and attendance surged! This year the Updates were hosted by: Westford Hill Distillers in Ashford, Niantic Public House in East Lyme, Counter Weight Brewing in Hamden, Stubborn Beauty Brewing Co. in Middletown, Brewery Legitimus in New Hartford, and Hanging Hills Brewery in Hartford.

Keep on supporting CFPA and look for your Insider Update invitation next year. Join us, have fun, and learn a little about CFPA efforts in your community.



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## Volunteer Love

Volunteers are the heart and soul of CFPA. Without people stepping up to work on trails, lead hikes, steward protected properties, educate the community, or call their legislators, Connecticut would not be the great place it is. Volunteers are essential to the conservation effort that protects forests and maintains the Blue Trails. In 2019, over 16,000 reported hours (of often hard work) were donated by CFPA volunteers. Almost 200 volunteers, members, donors, and friends showed up at A Villa Louisa in Bolton on Friday, November 1 to celebrate their efforts in service to the community of people who care about forests, parks, and trails in Connecticut. We cannot thank volunteers enough – we ask that you thank them with your support as well.

The evening was made possible by donors and partners who support CFPA and its volunteers all year-long. A special thank you to Eversource for sponsoring the evening.

**EVERSOURCE**





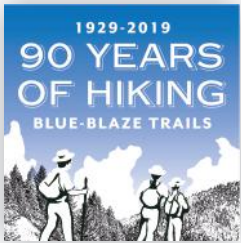
## A Little Help From our Friends

Like you, CFPA periodically has an unusual expense it needs to deal with. Recently, the oil tank buried next to the building (thought to be a good idea in 1985) was finally removed and a new tank installed in our boiler room.

The good news is the tank came out clean (no leakage), but the cost was over \$7,000. Would you consider a special gift to help offset the cost of the tank removal? If so, use the enclosed envelope and write 'oil tank' on your check. Thank you for the additional support!



## Fun Fact For You



Your Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails celebrate their 90th anniversary in 2019 and CFPA will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2020. These milestones are reached thanks to the leadership and support of amazing volunteers and donors like you over many decades.



## Woodlands White .... What a Delight.

Once again, we wish to thank Jamie Jones and our great friends at the Jones Winery at Jones Family Farms for donating cases of their tasty Woodlands White to serve at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Visit the winery and enjoy a glass at the Winery's beautiful venue, 606 Walnut Tree Hill Road in Shelton.



A new generation is protecting forests and trails. They are your team. They are young children, teenagers, and college students who have fallen in love with the outdoors. They willingly sacrifice to protect the forests and trails they value.

**You probably started just like them.**

**Visit us at [www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)**



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