

Rock, Root & Trail



SEPTEMBER 2018

On November 6 - Vote Yes on Question # 2 to Protect your Public Lands

Voting "Yes" for public lands on the ballot would ensure transparency and a higher standard to protect your public lands. If this ballot measure passes, the following would be required **BEFORE** the CT General Assembly could sell, swap, or give away your public lands:

- ✓ A public hearing; and
- ✓ A 2/3rds vote by the Legislature for State Parks and Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, state-owned agricultural lands, and other valuable state-owned public lands.

Your Yes vote is needed ... and your voice is needed. Please reach out to the voters you know who value public lands and legislative transparency and ask them to vote Yes on Question #2.

VOTE YES!

Back to School

Let's face it - the New Year really begins in September, not January. It's when the new school year starts and our brains morph from a hot summer vacation daze to cooler, learning, and growing days.

Make September a time for a new YOU - a time to discover new trails and places.

Trails such as the Hibbard Trail (thanks John!), Highlawn Forests Trails, and the Scovill Loop Trails are hosted on CFPA protected properties. CFPA is the oldest state wide land trust in Connecticut. Your support helps protect these properties and we encourage you to visit them.

Go to www.ctwoodlands.org for maps of these trails and many more. Do your trails a favor and bring a friend on your hike and encourage them to join you in supporting CFPA.



Rock, Root, and Ken - Fabulous Volunteer Spotlight



"I am so satisfied to contribute to CFPA. Working on the Garden Gang has become almost an addiction." Ken Sherrick

In 2013, CFPA board members Ruth Cutler and Caroline Driscoll saw the unruly grounds at CFPA's Rockfall

headquarters as an opportunity to create beautiful gardens and increase awareness of utilizing native plants in the landscape. This vision could only happen with the dedicated support of numerous Garden Gang volunteers.

One of its leaders is Ken Sherrick. Ken joined the Garden Gang in 2013 as a requirement of his Master Gardener certificate. As a Middletown resident, he was looking for a local project to "dig into deeply."

Assisting Ruth in leading the charge, he and the Gang transformed CFPA's gardens, even growing a pollinator meadow along our driveway. Every year Ken takes on new projects to increase the beauty while also keeping an eye on native plantings to support our local wildlife.

We are grateful for Ken's support of CFPA. Stop by the office from April to October to see the incredible spaces Ken and the entire Garden Gang have worked tirelessly to create and maintain.

Because of your decision to support CFPA, dedicated volunteers like Ken can continue to enrich our lives and ensure the viability and health of your trails, forests, and parks. We thank you.



A Full CFPA HQ

CFPA's headquarters is a fertile place. As I write, we are waiting for two Monarch butterflies emerge from their chrysalises, and Liz Hughes is about to give birth to a new son!

All things are connected in nature. Because of the decision to cultivate Milkweed in the CFPA gardens, we're helping to sustain the endangered Monarch butterfly.



Sam Dodd: a Legacy of Conservation and Service

Sam Dodd worked his entire life to preserve land and build trails. Sam was active, disciplined, and committed to his family and community. He and his wife Ann were busy and successful anesthesiologists. Sam founded Joshua's Trust, the largest land trust in eastern Connecticut. He considered his work with Joshua's Trust "to be the best thing he did."

Sam was also a CFPA Board Member for over 25 years and an Honorary Board Member afterwards. His legacy with CFPA will continue long after his death, and not just because of his service to CFPA.

Sam left a generous gift to CFPA in his will. The gift went into CFPA's Permanent Fund and will be an asset in protecting land and trails into the future.

Your commitment to protecting land and trails can also live on after you. Please consider a bequest or planned gift to CFPA when creating your estate plan. If you have questions, contact Jim Little at 860-346-2372 or at jlittle@ctwoodlands.org.



An evening in Ashford

We could not have asked for a better venue or hosts. The Westford Hills Distillery in Ashford hosted this year's Windham County Insider Update on a practically perfect evening—one of the few in this humid summer!

Westford Hill Distillers is located on 200 acres of property owned by the Chatey family since 1919. Inspired by the abundant orchards of the region, Margaret and Louis Chatey founded the distillery in 1997.

CFPA members learned about the art of distilling, enjoyed tasting the fruits of the distilling – in moderation – and enjoyed sitting on the porch enjoying good conversation. Many thanks to Margaret and Louis for their hospitality.

We look forward to YOU joining us at one of next year's Insider Updates.



“Hi, this is Shraya. I’m a CFPA volunteer calling to ...”

We ended our summer with a new volunteer in the office. Shraya is a student at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford. She spent a few weeks with us in August calling our lapsed members. In just three days, Shraya made 188 phone calls.

(For two days, she worked from the desk of our development director, Jim Little. Everyone in the office thought Jim looked great. Was he on a new diet? New hair?)

The staff at CFPA wants to thank Shraya for her hard work at a task most people would avoid. CFPA is a membership-based organization, and we couldn't exist without your support. When making her calls, Shraya thanked people for their ongoing support of the organization. She also explained the importance of maintaining one's CFPA membership to Connecticut's trails, forests, and parks.



Something New and Exciting

Something new is happening this year. Have fun with your friends and fellow CFPA members on Nov 2, 2018.

CFPA's Annual Meeting will be combined with CFPA's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The dinner will thank you for your critical membership support and the amazing work of CFPA volunteers. This year's celebration will be held at Fantasia in North Haven.

Go to www.ctwoodlands.com/CFPA-Events for details and then RSVP today at 860-346-2372 or info@ctwoodlands.org.



The Envelope Pile

CFPA is no different than any other small non-profit in its challenge to retain members. Experience tells us that more often than not, members don't renew because they fail to act quickly when asked to renew and simply forget to renew their membership. The renewal envelopes pile up on desks only to be swept away at the next cleaning.

Don't forget your favorite trail, forest, or park. Renew quickly and continue to support your conservation efforts.

Have you participated in the 2018 Membership Challenge yet? There's still time! Join CFPA or refer a member to CFPA and win a limited-time HIKE! bandana!



Visit us at www.ctwoodlands.org



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