

CONNECTICUT **Woodlands**



ROADKILL: ANIMALS' ENCOUNTERS WITH ASPHALT

CONNECTICUT
Woodlands

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association

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Courtesy of Eric Bengtson

A Connecticut Forest & Park Association trail volunteer, Mary Kaley, helps clear the blue-blazed six-mile Aspetuck Valley Trail, which was dedicated on June 1 by state officials, CFPA, and the Nature Conservancy. The trail in Redding, Newtown, and Easton is in the Centennial Watershed State Forest set up in 2002 after the state of Connecticut and the Nature Conservancy bought and obtained conservation easements for Aquarion Water Company land. For another photo, see page 5. Aspetuck Valley Trail.

Conserving Connecticut

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association is a private, non-profit organization dedicated since 1895 to conserving the land, trails, and natural resources of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation, the National Woodland Owners Association, the American Hiking Society, and Earth Share.

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On the cover:

No animal travels far in Connecticut without running into one of the roughly 3,732 miles of roads.

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CONSIDERING WHAT THE 1950S LEFT BEHIND

Cuddled up as a family, at the drive-in

By ADAM R. MOORE

To get an evening started off right, you can't beat the Big Bopper. So it happened at dusk on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. The Moore family – or the S'Moores, in Great Park Pursuit game parlance – pulled off of Route 32 in Mansfield, tuned the radio to 88.1 FM, and at once heard the Big Bopper singing the jolly, 1950s rock and roll tune "Chantilly Lace." My wife and I exchanged smiles, the children put their hands up and wiggled under their seatbelts, and I merged into one of the lanes of cars in front of me. We were out for a classic American evening – a drive-in movie.

That evening was one of our two or three ventures a summer to the Mansfield Drive-In. The Mansfield Drive-In is one of two remaining drive-in movie theaters in Connecticut, the other being the Pleasant Valley Drive-In. Recent accounts in the Hartford Courant indicate that both are doing well, either in spite of or because of the closure of every other drive-in in the state. The six, or maybe eight, lines of cars filing in demonstrated that this particular drive-in is thriving.

We were in line beside a Jeep with the top off and a little girl in the back, a guy on a shiny red scooter with a folding chair slung over his back, a van – not a minivan like ours, but a real van, the eyebrow-raising kind with curtains on the tinted windows – and dozens of other vehicles full of families like ours. We were already cheerful due to the Big Bopper, and our mood improved when the attendant didn't charge us for the two youngest kids. We drove through the vast dirt parking lot, following the signs to Screen 2, found a parking spot, backed in, and parked. Each screen shows a double feature.

Our son was asleep in his car seat, so I stayed in the minivan while Melissa took our three daughters to the playground to pass the time before the movie. Yes, there's a playground, the old steel kind, with a swingset, a slide and the like and mosquito bites galore. I kept the radio on. Songs like



Ann Colson
Executive Director
Adam R. Moore

"Runaround Sue" spun on the turntable and in between them the theater's announcer, a woman with a pleasant Willimantic voice, said things like, "Take the family and come early, let the kids play on our playground." Or, "Don't forget to visit our snack bar – how about a chili dog? Or a cup of chili?" This must be the only movie snack bar that serves clam fritters. Of course, at the drive-in, you can also bring your own: we brought two bags of popcorn we'd made at home and some iced tea.

The drive-in movie theater is a remnant of the 1950s, a decade that most conservationists lament. It was a decade that produced horrible, box-like architecture. It created the sprawling suburban subdivision. Car culture. The interstate highway system. The decade began something else in our culture, a throwaway, disposable mentality, something I have heard described as a Kleenex culture. Paper napkins instead of cloth, disposable diapers, paper tissues instead of handkerchiefs, etc. Food came pre-processed and mass-marketed, trends Jean Jones describes so well in her "From the Land" column in this magazine. The consumer culture that began then turned thrift into a vice rather than a virtue. The good inclination to save and reuse items became twisted, resulting in clutter, because so many items, so much stuff, is dumped upon us. Prodigal purchasing became the virtue, and an engine of our economy.

Fortunately, these trends seem to be turning, and our culture seems to be changing. The effects of the 1950s and the decades that followed are what conservationists endeavor to undo with "smart growth," greenways, walkable communities and the like. These efforts are beginning to work, but they will take time.

Yet lest we believe that our society has finally achieved environmental wisdom, and lest we try to undo everything that the 1950s left us,

let us acknowledge the environmental mistakes that we are making in the present decade, and let us strive to retain what was good about the 1950s.

In the category of what was good and worth retaining, I count a sense of national optimism. I count the music. On the landscape, I count roadside restaurants such as Shady Glen and Guida's. And I count the drive-in movie theaters, at least the two Connecticut has left, in Mansfield and Pleasant Valley.

When Melissa and the girls returned, we moved the minivan to a spot with a slightly better view. We unfolded lawn chairs and set them up behind the car. We opened the tailgate and sat the 3-year old and 6-year-old on the folded-down rear seat. We dug into the paper bag of popcorn. We watched the sun dissolve into the western horizon and a waxing gibbous moon shine through a veil of clouds. The movie began, and we tossed blankets over our legs and huddled together, a family.

THOUGHTS ON GREEN LIVING AND PLANNING

By RICHARD WHITEHOUSE

In early May, I left Connecticut's cool, wet, late spring for a few days in Canada. When I returned I found summer, with temperatures in the 80s. All kinds of flowers were in bloom, not in the normal seasonal sequence but in a seldom seen mixture of early spring and late spring blooms, giving us a glorious display. One day I even came across a trout lily in bloom. Suddenly I had to get out to mow my lawn, taking some of the joy out of that mixture of seasons. Is global warming upon us? The National Wildlife Federation (CFPA is the state affiliate) has published a Gardener's Guide to Global Warming that we will make available soon.



CFPA President
Richard Whitehouse

In the last issue my message was to "buy local." The recent scare with pet food imports now is reported to have spread to the food consumed by us humans. This brings home the fact that local products whose source we know may be best for us all. And think of all the energy saved by not transporting food from all parts of the globe.

One other item concerning plastic bags, so common to hold our purchases from stores: You may want to read an informative article in Orion magazine, "Polymers Are Forever" by

Alan Weisman. See www.orionmagazine.org.

HERE AT CFPA we are in the process of completing an update of our strategic plan. This has been an effort from the ground up, and the ideas put forward by the various committees have been amazing. They are laying out an exciting future. The plan shows great confidence in our organization. The plan should be ready for our annual meeting — to be scheduled for September 20 — and to make it work we will need the involvement of all of you. I am certain that is something we can count on.

Deck Whitehouse

TRAIL MIX



Six-Mile Aspetuck Valley Trail Opens in Fairfield County

Trail advocates and state officials dedicated a new Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail in Fairfield County on June 1, just in time for Connecticut Trails Day the next day. The Poverty Hollow section of the trail is pictured here.

Ann Colson

Congress Considers National Scenic Trail from Connecticut to New Hampshire Border

The Metacomet and Mattabesett trails in Connecticut and the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail in Massachusetts would become a National Scenic Trail if the bill introduced in March in both houses of Congress becomes law. U.S. Rep. John Olver of Massachusetts and U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts introduced the New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act.

The New England National Scenic Trail would be only the ninth National Scenic Trail in the nation and the first such designation since 1983. The House bill is H.R. 1528, introduced on March 14, and the Senate bill is S. 923, introduced on March 20.

Connecticut Forest & Park Association Executive Director Adam R. Moore testified in favor of H.R. 1528 in May. See his testimony on page 9. A national scenic trail on these blue-blazed paths means an adjustment in the dealings of the volunteers for CFPA who manage these trails. Mr. Olver said that local volunteers would continue to be important in caring for the trails. "Designation as a National Scenic Trail would provide an infusion of federal resources that will help further all their efforts."

The Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails pass through four out of the five Congressional districts in Connecticut, and all four of these Representatives have co-sponsored the House bill. Senator Lieberman has co-sponsored the Senate bill, and at press time the Association was asking Senator Dodd to co-sponsor the Senate bill as well.

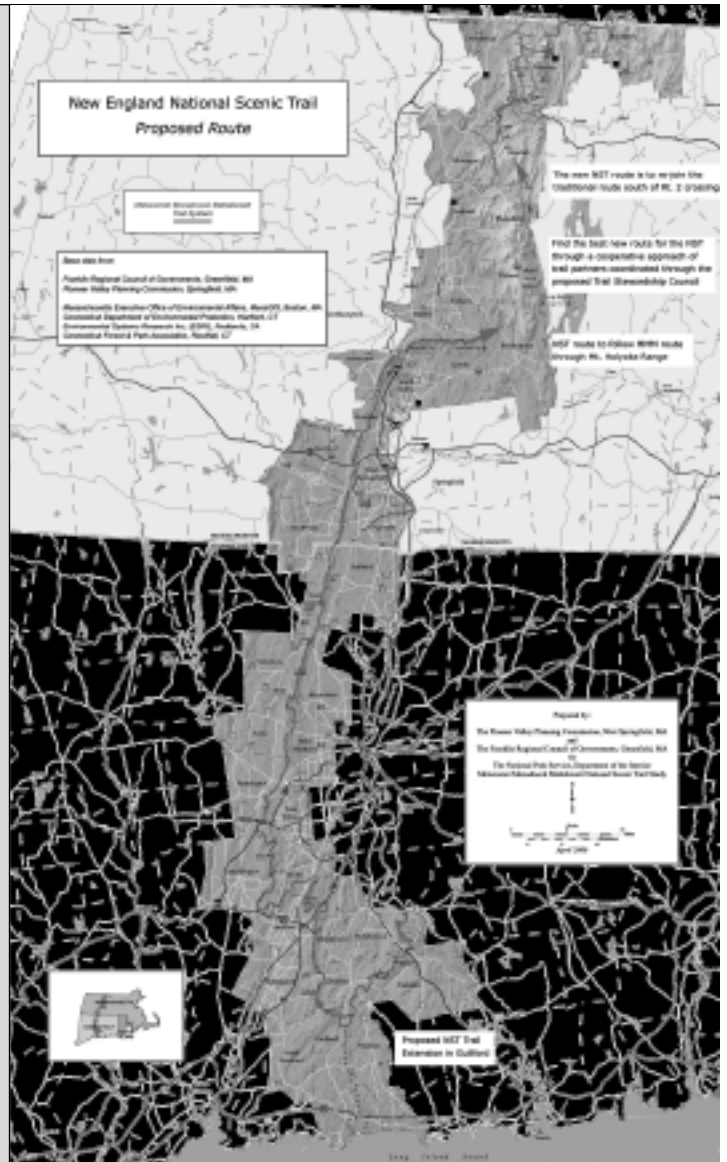
The combined trails that would become the New England National Scenic Trail cover 220 miles from Guilford, Connecticut to the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border in Royalston, Massachusetts. The trails are often called the MMM Trail, because they include the Mattabesett, Metacomet, and Metacomet-Monadnock trails.

History of the scenic trail effort

The National Park Service studied the trail route and met with landowners in a three-year-long feasibility study authorized by the federal government in 2002 after Congress passed the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act, first introduced by Mr. Olver. President Bush signed the bill into law on December 16, 2002.

The bill and its companion Senate version enjoyed the co-sponsorship and strong support of the Connecticut delegation. CFPA Trail Conservation Coordinator Ann Colson testified in its favor six years ago. The study, from 2003 to 2006, concluded that the "preferred alternative" was the designation of the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail System as a National Scenic Trail, with a significant reroute to occur in the Belchertown-Leverett area of Massachusetts, where one landowner asked to move the trail.

The study revealed that about 2 million people live within 10



miles of the trail. Such demographics enable a New England National Scenic Trail to meet a key policy goal of the National Trails System Act of 1968, namely to establish walking trails "primarily, near the urban areas of the nation."

Mr. Moore said that CFPA was delighted that Mr. Olver had introduced the bill, and thanked the Connecticut delegation for its support to make this trail system part of the list of National Scenic Trails (which include the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail).

"The Association established the Metacomet and Mattabesett trails in Connecticut in 1931," Mr. Moore said, "and through the hard work of our volunteers and the good will of civic-minded landowners, we have maintained these trails as open-to-the-public hiking trails ever since. We strongly support the designation of these trails as a National Scenic Trail."

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Photo at right

Connecticut Trails Day

From left, Bill Vendetta, J. Beth Baldwin, and Arnold Daly on the Mattabesett Trail in Middletown on June 2, 2007.

Christine Woodside



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Extending the Trail to the Sound

The National Scenic Trail proposed for Connecticut and Massachusetts will include an extension of the Mattabesett Trail from Guilford to Long Island Sound. In May, CFPA's Trails Committee heard the latest news in the work by volunteers and local and state officials to establish the roughly 14-mile route.

Ann Colson, CFPA's trail conservation coordinator, along with trail volunteers Paul Mei and Joe Hickey, have scouted a route covering the first 7.8 miles of the new section in North Guilford. The proposed path leaves the existing Mattabesett Trail at Broomstick Ledges and proceeds south on Guilford Land Trust property, through the Genesee tract owned by the Regional Water Authority, then continues to Cockaponset State Forest and into the town-owned Timberland forest. Mrs. Colson, along with Guilford Environmental Planner Leslie Kane and Charles Tracy of the National Park Service, have met with each of the landowners and received tentative approval for CPFA to locate the trail extension along this route. They also have met with First Selectman Carl Balestracci, Jr., and many of the town boards and commissions, all of whom have expressed overwhelming support for extending the trail to Long Island Sound. Similar meetings will be held throughout the summer as CFPA continues to explore options for the remainder of the route. Trail construction is expected to begin in early September.

A Roomful of Trail Workers: CFPA Winter Workshop Report

The fourth annual CFPA Winter Workshop was held on Saturday January 27, at the CFPA headquarters in Middlefield. The workshop was once more filled to capacity. Executive Director Adam Moore began the session with a warm welcome to all the attendees.

The first session was a presentation on writing trail and hike descriptions, co-presented by CFPA Trail Conservation Coordinator Ann T. Colson and Christine Woodside, who is the editor of Connecticut Woodlands and also Appalachia journal. A lively and wide ranging discussion ensued on what made for good (and bad) descriptions and maps. A question and answer period had Mrs. Colson and Ms. Woodside fielding a wide and varied number of questions, which they ably answered.

Taking the podium once more, Adam Moore gave a talk targeted at land trusts and similar type conservation groups titled, "So You Have Open Space ... Now What?" Mr. Moore discussed both the problems and opportunities facing organizations involved with land protection.

Next, CFPA Volunteer Trail Manager Elaine LaBella gave her always-enjoyable tool safety demonstration. Ms. LaBella's energetic and humorous presentation was well received and appreciated by all.

CFPA Trail Volunteer Birge Dayton presented a slide show illustrating various types of trail bridges, from simple hewn log bridges to ones made of structural steel.

I gave a talk on work party management. I discussed all the aspects of successful work party management, from planning through execution to completion.

During the lunch recess, many took advantage of the sunny (though cold) day to enjoy a brisk hike through the Demonstration Forest Trails outside the building.

Following the lunch break, Joe King, a volunteer trail manager and chairman of CFPA's Universal Access sub-committee, gave an update on the CFPA approach to implementing Universal Access requirements.

—Rob Butterworth, CFPA Trails Committee member, Cockaponset Trail volunteer manager



Mysterious carvings on the Mica Ledges

Robert Pagini photographed this rock, carved with the letters "AMC," near the Mattabesett Trail in the area of the Mica Ledges. "It looked as though a piece may have been broken off because it appears there is the numeral 1 carved into it near the edge following AMC, which could have been and probably was a date," Mr. Pagini told us. While it's uncertain what the initials "AMC" signify, CFPA Trail Conservation Coordinator Ann T. Colson suggested that they could be related to the "selectmen's stones" she studied in this area, marking the spot where the borders of Durham, Guilford, and Madison meet. (See her article, Connecticut Woodlands, summer 2005, page 17.) To mark boundaries, town selectmen carved their initials and a date into the rock that they carried to the site.

Spring Trail Workshop Attracts 40 to Macedonia Brook State Park

More than 40 people ventured out on a beautiful sunny day on April 21 at Connecticut's largest state park, Macedonia Brook, to the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's annual spring workshop. There was some competition for parking spots since the date coincided with the opening day of fishing season. CFPA Administrative Coordinator Terri Peters, courtesy of CFPA, provided beverages and snacks. CFPA Trail Conservation Coordinator Ann Colson welcomed everyone and explained the CFPA organization, its functions, and the many benefits of membership. Weezie Perrine, chair of the CFPA Trails Committee, also welcomed the workers. Joe King explained the charter for the newly formed CFPA Universal Access Trail committee and offered handouts.

I explained the facilities, the agenda for the day, and the location and nature of the trail maintenance projects. Elaine LaBella explained the various tools that are used in trail work and how to use them safely. The participants were assembled into groups, each with a leader for the project. During the day, participants were free to move to other sites according to their interests.

Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of the participants and their leaders, all projects were successfully completed. The one exception was the cedar pole handrails on the bridge project. The measure of success was best expressed in the words of the park unit supervisor, Gary Nasiatka: "Thank you, thank you, thank you! You folks are the greatest! The work you did at Macedonia is wonderful and much appreciated! Your dedication, expertise and hard work are a magnificent testament to the value and high-caliber quality of trails volunteers in Connecticut and throughout the country."

Bob Davis led a project to build a timber bridge on concrete block supports across a small stream on the blue-blazed Macedonia Ridge Trail. The bridge has hand rails made from cedar poles. Roland Sabourin provided the drawings. CFPA purchased the materials.

Elaine LaBella led a project to dig a drainage ditch on the green-blazed trail. Workers lined it with rock to drain spring water off the trail.

Chuck Sack and Joe King led a relocation of the blue trail to near-by higher ground to avoid a continuously wet segment of trail. The group cleared and removed brush on the new segment, painted blazes, and blacked-out the blazes on the old wet section. They placed debris on the closed section.

Harry and Weezie Perrine led a project to use rocks to solve a wet trail problem on the blue trail.

Bob Schoff led a project to remove Japanese barberry, an invasive species, on a section of the green trail. The group used grubbing and cutting techniques using pick mattocks, shovels and weed wrenches.

Rob Butterworth led the project to solve an erosion problem on the green trail using log waterbars. He demonstrated techniques to fell trees, remove bark, and install the log bar. The group secured the logs with steel rebar. — *George Arthur, workshop coordinator, Roving Trail Crew chief*

Adam Moore's Testimony on the National Scenic Trail Designation Act

On May 15, CFPA Executive Director Adam R. Moore gave this testimony on HR 1528, the House of Representatives' version of the bill to declare the Metacomet, Mattabesett, and Metacomet-Monadnock trails in Connecticut and Massachusetts as a National Scenic Trail.

Introduction and Summary

Chairman Grijalva, Representative Bishop, and Members of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HR 1528, the New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act. I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. I am pleased to offer our strong support for this bill. If designated, the New England National Scenic Trail would be only the ninth National Scenic Trail in the nation and the first trail designated since 1983.

Founded in 1895, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association is a private, non-profit conservation organization and is the oldest conservation organization in Connecticut. The Association's mission is to conserve the land, trails and natural resources of Connecticut. In 1931, the Association created the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails, two of the footpaths that would be designated part of the New England National Scenic Trail by HR 1528. We have maintained these trails for 76 years through the good will of civic-minded landowners and the hard work of generations of Association volunteers.

We strongly support the designation of the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails in Connecticut, and the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail in Massachusetts (with a section rerouted in the Belchertown-Leverett area), as the New England National Scenic Trail. National Scenic Trail designation will enhance the long-term viability of these trails as a continuous, open-to-the-public resource. Designation will result in improved mapping and maintenance, better coordination and communication between landowners, towns and trail maintaining organizations, and a more enjoyable experience for walkers. Designation will greatly

improve the potential for willing-seller land conservation. In this rapidly developing area of Connecticut, designation will help to keep these trails intact far into the future.

The Association strongly opposes the use of takings for trail purposes and strongly opposes using trails to restrict private property rights. We are most pleased that this legislation bars federal takings and allows land acquisition from willing sellers only. We are equally pleased that respect for private property rights has been a guiding principle of the trail study and will remain so if National Scenic Trail designation occurs.

National Scenic Trail designation will leave intact the fundamental nature of this trail system. That is, a trail that is primarily a footpath, existing through the good will of landowners, and maintained by volunteers. If a landowner asks us to close a trail, we honor that request, and will continue to do so if designation occurs. Though it is essential that this fundamental nature will remain so, it is also clear that with National Scenic Trail designation, every type of positive trail-related activity will increase and improve – maintenance, mapping, signage, wholesome use, land conservation, tourism, educational opportunities, economic development and more.

With its miles of sheer, striking trap-rock cliffs, a New England National Scenic Trail most certainly is scenic. From some vantage points along the trail, one can see clear across Connecticut: the distant profile of Mt. Tom over one shoulder, and the shimmering blue waters of Long Island Sound over the other. Yet a New England National Scenic Trail offers something more. In its Statement of Policy, the National Trails System Act states that "trails should be established... primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation." The feasibility study revealed that some two million people live within ten miles of the proposed New England National Scenic Trail. Two million people within ten miles. A New England National Scenic Trail clearly meets this primary policy goal behind the National Trails System Act.

I urge you to join with me in support of HR 1528, the New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act, and I thank you for the

opportunity to testify.

In the written testimony to follow, I will present information on the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, a detailed description of the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails and their operation, information about the National Park Service feasibility study, and the reasoning behind our support of HR 1528.

Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails

The Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails are part of the 800-mile Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System established and maintained by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System is a network of about three dozen hiking trails that traverse the hinterlands of many Connecticut towns. All of these trails are open to the public, free of charge. The trails are overseen by the Association's Trails Committee and are maintained by Association volunteers. For over 75 years, each of the trails within the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System has been blazed with paint that is a distinct shade of light blue. Rev. Edgar Heermance, first chairman of the Association's Trails Committee and founder of this trail system, chose the color of light blue because he found it to be the color that was most visible at dusk.

Both the Metacomet and the Mattabesett Trails were established in 1931 by the Association's Trails Committee. Each trail is divided into sections, and to each section the Trails Committee assigns a volunteer Trail Manager. The Trail Manager blazes and maintains the assigned section. He brings any concerns to the attention of the Association and submits an annual written report of his hours and efforts. He may work independently or may be assisted by additional Association volunteers. The Association replaces Trail Managers that voluntarily step down from their posts, and removes Trail Managers when necessary.

The Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails traverse the trap-rock ridges that, along with the Connecticut River, are the defining features of central Connecticut. Trap-rock is basalt, an igneous rock that extruded from the surrounding landscape millions of years ago as massive sheets of magma. As the magma cooled, it crys-

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tallized and fractured into great, step-like columns of basalt. The trap-rock ridges run through central Connecticut from the town of Suffield, on the Massachusetts border, south to New Haven. In many places, the ridges run for miles, with sheer drops of several hundred feet. Though the Metacomet Ridge is essentially one geologic feature, it does consist of several distinct sub-ridges, each one bearing its own name (Talcott Mountain, Ragged Mountain, etc.).

The Metacomet Trail measures 57 miles in length. From its northern terminus in Suffield, the trail runs south along the trap-rock Metacomet Ridge from Suffield to the Hanging Hills of Meriden and Berlin. The Metacomet follows a north-south direction along what is generally a straight line. The Mattabesett Trail measures 53 miles and exhibits the shape of a horseshoe. The Mattabesett Trail begins along Lamentation Mountain in Berlin and Middletown, runs south atop ridges to Durham, turns southeast, and reaches its southernmost point around Bluff Head in Guilford. Turning northeast, the Mattabesett crosses the Broomstick Ledges and a number of rugged hills, and terminates at the Connecticut River in Middletown. As it turns to the northeast, the trail leaves the igneous trap-rock and travels upon metamorphic gneiss, schist and pegmatite.

The Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act of 2002 that authorized the National Scenic Trail Study of these trails called for the Mattabesett Trail to be extended to Long Island Sound. The New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act calls for this extension to be made through the Town of Guilford. The Town of Guilford, the Association, and the National Park Service have found a route that takes the trail south through most of the town, and these parties are actively working on completing that direct connection to Long Island Sound. This connection would add an additional 14 miles to a New England National Scenic Trail.

The trails are often located near the edges of trap-rock cliffs. The cliffs create an environment that is quite unique. As the cliffs form sheer walls of rock, stretching hundreds of feet into the air, they create updrafts upon which soar vultures, hawks and other birds of prey. The vegetation on ridge tops can also be quite different from that of the surrounding forest. Drought-tolerant trees

such as chestnut oak, pitch pine, and red cedar characterize the cliffs, the trees' forms stunted by an ever-present wind. A number of rare and endangered plants find their habitat atop trap-rock cliffs. Beneath the cliffs lie talus slopes, piles of broken basalt that have accumulated over the years. Among the talus are found "cold vents," shafts yielding air much colder than the ambient temperature. Near these cold vents grow plants that are generally found only further to the north.

The trails pass near a number of historic sites. The Metacomet passes near a feature known as Hospital Rock, a rock upon which those quarantined for smallpox inoculation inscribed their names in handsome script. There are towers along the trail, such as Castle Craig in Meriden and the Heublein Tower in Penwood State Park. The Mattabesett Trail crosses the route of George Washington in several places, with bronze markers in Durham and Wallingford marking Washington's passage. The trails pass through quintessential New England villages, with white-steepled churches, town greens and clapboard-sided colonial homes.

Since 1937, the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails have been mapped and described in the Connecticut Walk Book. For many years the trails were depicted in the Walk Book on elegant maps drawn by talented volunteers. Now, the trails are mapped by volunteers with Global Positioning System equipment, assembled by staff into a Geographic Information Systems computer database, and mapped for the Walk Book by a professional cartographer. The Walk Book is now in its 19th Edition and is divided into two volumes, East and West. As the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails are in central Connecticut, they are described in both East and West volumes.

Ownership, Roads and Use

The Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails exist by permission of the landowner. The Association seeks permission to establish new sections of the trail and to reroute existing sections. If a landowner requests that the Association close the trail on his property, the Association honors that request and closes the trail. Although there are a few cases in which the Association or other parties hold easements that allow the Metacomet or Mattabesett Trail to remain in place in pepe-

tuity, these instances are very few. For the majority of its length, the trails exist entirely through the good will of the landowner.

The Association has been able to maintain the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails for 76 years without the need for any takings. If takings were used to protect trails, such actions would severely hinder the creation of new trails and would jeopardize the integrity of the existing trail system. The Association also opposes using the trail – or National Scenic Trail designation – as a means of restricting the private property rights of trail landowners. Landowners have always been free to manage their properties as desired, and when quarrying or forestry operations have come too close to the trails, we have moved or closed the trails on a temporary or permanent basis.

The Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails cross the properties of a range of different types of landowners. The types of properties crossed by the trails include state parks and state forests, lands of electric utilities, municipal water utility properties, land trust properties and other private conservation lands, quarries, municipal lands, other corporate lands and lands of private individuals. Some 13.6% of the overall length of these two trails is located on the lands of private individuals, yet these individuals constitute 74.5% of the total number of landowners. For the most part, these properties are rugged, wooded backcountry properties, although no property is ever very far from a population center.

Certain sections of the trails are located on roads. In some places, these road walks occur on earthen woods roads, which are not undesirable for hiking. In other cases, road walks occur on paved local roads and state highways. Certain road walks are unavoidable. For example, roads provide the only connection between the Metacomet and the Mattabesett Trail, and walking the road is the only means of crossing a thoroughfare known as the Berlin Turnpike. Other road walks have occurred in more recent times due to trail closures by landowners. In Suffield, the Metacomet Trail is located along a state highway as it makes its way to the Massachusetts line and its junction with its sister trail, the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. This road walk occurred because a landowner at what

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ROADKILL: ANIMALS' ENCOUNTERS WITH ASPHALT

Cars and trucks on 3,732 miles of roads kill or hurt thousands of animals each year

By CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

The two crows heard the roar of a downshifting car trying to avoid hitting them. They looked up, as if bored, then flapped away to the side of the road. As soon as the car passed, they were back at the freshly killed squirrel, pecking at the flesh.

On a small-town state road, a mother squirrel and three babies raced across, just missing a car, and then stopped. A fourth baby squirrel remained on the other side. It then skittered across to the mother, who started chattering as if to scold the straggler.

About 18,000 deer die on Connecticut roads each year; the state has estimated.

istockphoto

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Roadkill

continued from page 11

These two stories are true so far as they go — told as witnessed by humans, who tend to apply human-like emotions and reactions to animals. The incidents do not prove that animals learn to cross the 3,732-mile road network of Connecticut. The biologists who watch animals every year, and the studies on roads and wildlife, show that most species don't understand roads, which are death traps for them in almost all cases.

"Except for a few selected scavengers, it's hard to think of a case where a species would benefit from the presence of roads," said Paul Rego, furbearer biologist for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Rego, in his job to monitor the mammals that are hunted or trapped for their fur, sees evidence that roads compete with hunters as weapons that kill. While the numbers of dead animals reported to Mr. Rego's office are low, he said that they probably represent a fraction of the actual road deaths.

"The animals I deal with, almost all of them cross the roads once in a while. From muskrats and

"Except for a few selected scavengers, it's hard to think of a case where a species would benefit from the presence of roads."

— Paul Rego, furbearer biologist for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

weasels to fishers, bobcats, black bears, they all cross roads, and sometimes unsuccessfully," he said.

Another way to see the impact of roads is to examine the numbers of injured animals taken to wildlife rehabilitators each season. In the most recent season with complete data, rehabilitators received 685 birds, 461 mammals, and 83 reptiles (most of them turtles), according to Laurie Fortin, a wildlife technician for the DEP.

These numbers rarely include dead animals. "If an animal is killed, a rehabilitator is unlikely to get involved at all," Ms. Fortin said. Also, animals hurt near roads might not have been in the road at all. But ultimately, "This probably underrepresents the number of animals hit by cars," she said.

The state's deer biologist has a more definite idea of the huge role cars play as animal predators. Howard Kilpatrick, who works for the DEP's wildlife division, set out to tally roadkilled deer reported to three different state agencies. He found that the number of deer killed on roads is higher than the number killed by hunters.

No traffic-savvy instincts

What is going through the mind of a wild animal when it runs into the

path of a car or truck going full throttle? It's very likely that most amphibians, reptiles, and mammals react to asphalt with panic, confusion, or, at best, oblivion. In the 90 or so years roads began to dominate the Connecticut landscape, animals have not evolved to understand the cues that would save them on roads.

"There are probably deer that just run across the road and they don't have any concept that that's a motor vehicle and it's driving 60 miles per hour and, 'If I run across it will hit me,'" said Howard Kilpatrick, a deer biologist for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection who has tracked thousands of deer-vehicle deaths each year. Other people have said they've watched a doe come up, watch the traffic, and when there was a gap in traffic, they crossed." But this is rare, he said. All of the evidence suggests that the opposite is true: something about cars inspires panic in animals. Whether traffic is moving or not, the animals come to the edge of the road and just run. Or, if they are snakes, they begin to move, usually slowly and, if they hear an engine, they freeze—a response they use to fool predators into thinking they are dead.

With the exception of the oddly savvy squirrel family—actually witnessed one day on Route 148 in Chester—most animals move along routes and in patterns that don't take into account cars and trucks. They don't know what to do to avoid them, and, so far, Connecticut roads have none of the experimental animal tunnels, culverts, overpasses, and fencing tried in some states, such as Massachusetts and Florida, to help reptiles cross, and Canada, to help moose.

The statistics on roadkill, while spotty, show that roads are a major predator of numerous species in Connecticut.



Turtles

Roads have reduced the numbers of female turtles in several terrestrial and aquatic species, because females must move overland to nest. Scientists James P. Gibbs and David A. Steen of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse concluded in 2005 that the proportion of females in freshwater and terrestrial turtles has declined from 1928 to 2003. The U.S. turtle population was about 45 percent males and 55 percent females in the 1930s. Today, they are on average 60 percent males and 40 percent females. They drew a connection between this fact and the expansion of road surfaces in the United States over that 75-year span.

Roads now cover 20 percent of the country's land mass; in states with more roads, they found that the turtle populations were more skewed toward males. "Our results suggest an ongoing depletion of breeding females from wild turtle populations over the last century because of many factors, including, and perhaps chiefly, road mortality," they wrote.

Whitfield Gibbons of the University of Georgia reported sobering observations of 193 snakes representing nine species they released near roads. Between 25 percent and more than 60 percent simply avoided crossing the road. This means that a road can act as a limit to a snake's range. The longer, thinner snakes crossed faster than short, fat species, they wrote.

Some snake species froze for a period of up to several minutes every time a car or truck came near them. The denser the traffic, the longer it took the snake to cross—and the higher chance of dying in the road.

"The majority of snakes become immobilized at the instant the vehicle passed rather than before or after," they wrote. "Additionally, the majority resumed movement shortly after the vehicle passed, sug-

gesting that immobilization is generally a momentary reaction." They also said that the timber rattlesnake, an endangered species in Connecticut and many other states, often remained immobilized for up to one minute or more after the vehicle had gone by.

Large mammals

Expanding populations of bear inevitably take them onto the highways. Road deaths each year usually are in the single digits. In the 2005-06 season, Mr. Rego of the DEP reported, six bears died in road accidents in Farmington, Hartland, Middletown, Suffield, Sharon, and Wallingford.

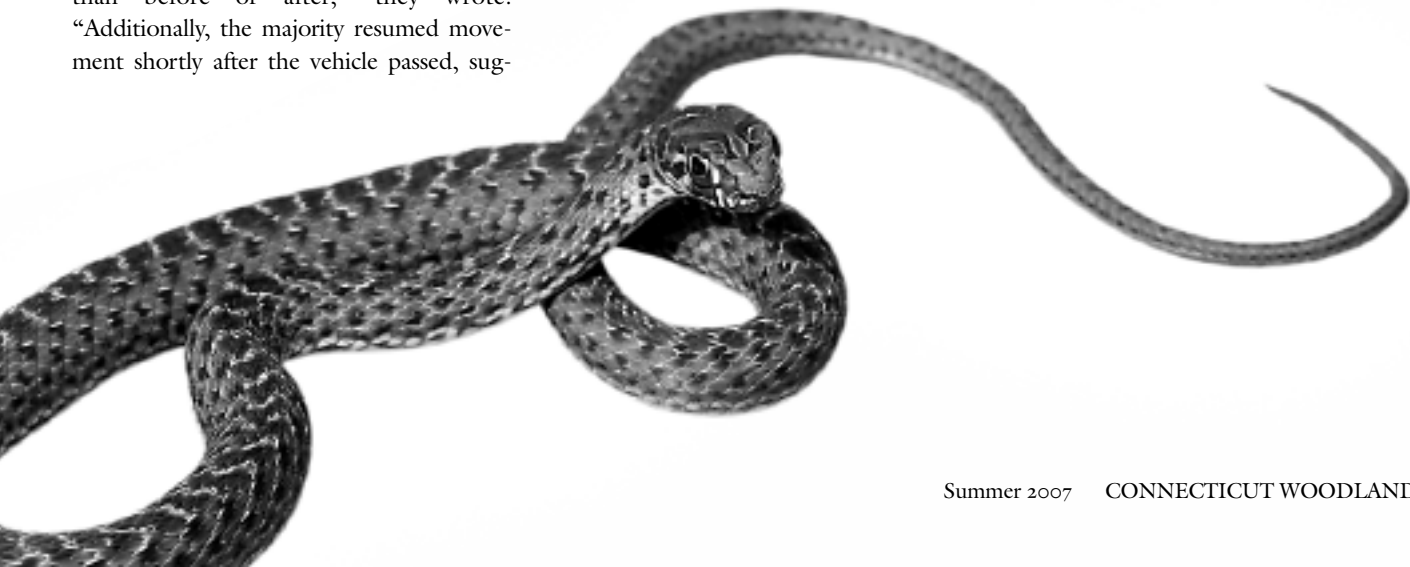
That same year, 17 bobcats were reported killed on roads in 16 towns, including Farmington, Enfield, Norfolk, and Plainfield.

Moose, like bears, have reestablished themselves in Connecticut, particularly the northeast and northwest corners, but because the population is so low (106 sightings of moose in 45 towns over a 10-year period), road fatalities average fewer than one per year, according to the DEP.

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In the 90 or so years roads began to dominate the Connecticut landscape, animals have not evolved to understand the cues that would save them on roads.



Roadkill

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Deer

In 2004, trying to answer definitively how many deer died on the road each year, the Connecticut DEP examined reports of dead deer from three sources: reports to the DEP, the number of dead deer the Connecticut Department of Transportation collected from the roads, and the number of deer-vehicle accidents to which the state police responded. Mr. Kilpatrick, the DEP deer biologist, concluded that the numbers of roadkilled deer are much higher than thought at the time.

For every one roadkilled deer reported to his department, he found that an additional five deer were killed by cars or trucks, for a total of 18,000 killed on roads. From the state police accident reports, Mr. Kilpatrick also concluded that for every deer found dead at an accident, three more deer had been hit by vehicles but weren't found at the accident scenes. (Most of them probably ran off, but no one knows.)

This suggests a total of about 27,000 deer hit each season, out of a population of at least 68,000 deer. Because hunters kill about 12,000 deer each year, these numbers show that roads are the number one predator of deer in Connecticut.

In 2005, University of Connecticut doctoral candidate Scott C. Williams and three colleagues from Juniata College in Huntington, Pennsylvania concluded in a study that more deer-vehicle crashes happen at dawn and dusk and that during breeding season, male deer die in larger numbers. Attempting to map the "hot spots" where more deer encounter cars, the researchers showed that in most regions of Connecticut, deer died on the roads at greater rates during the breeding months of September through December. Tallies the rest of the year were lower.

Small mammals

No complete tally of roadkilled small mammals exists, but the DEP keeps track of road deaths in species that trappers or hunters collect for fur, and rehabilitators track all animals hit by cars and reported to them. The tallies, while merely a snapshot into the full reality, show that all species wander into roads on a regular basis.

In 2005-06, for instance, 17.5 percent of the reported harvest of fisher had been killed by cars or trucks—or 21 animals. Beavers and mink apparently rarely go onto roads, but red fox, gray fox, and coyote do. In 2005-06, trappers reported 19 gray fox killed on roads (14 percent of the total gray fox harvest that year) and eight red fox killed on roads (16 percent of the total harvest). Eight coyotes were reported killed on roads by trappers—only 7 percent of the coyote harvest.

*For every one roadkilled deer
an additional five deer were
killed by cars or trucks.*

Opossums die by the thousands on American roads each year. One way to get an idea of how many die on Connecticut roads is to consider the findings of University of Massachusetts researchers L. Lean Kanda, Todd K. Fuller and Paul R. Sievert. Using an army of volunteers who recorded every roadkilled opossum they saw while commuting in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts, they documented 93 dead opossums in one season (2000) and 64 two years later.

Connecticut's opossum counts are only of roadkilled animals reported by trappers who collected them and of road-injured opossums taken to rehabilitators. The counts are telling. Over one decade, trappers claimed 67 opossums they found dead on the road. But rehabilitators over a nine-year period handled 2,022 that had been injured.

The Massachusetts study found that these plump animals with the rat-like tails favor suburban landscapes, forest "edge" habitat, and that they can find water in places like bird baths and storm drains, so they don't require open water. In other words, opossums thrive in all aspects of the built environment except one – asphalt.

Amphibians

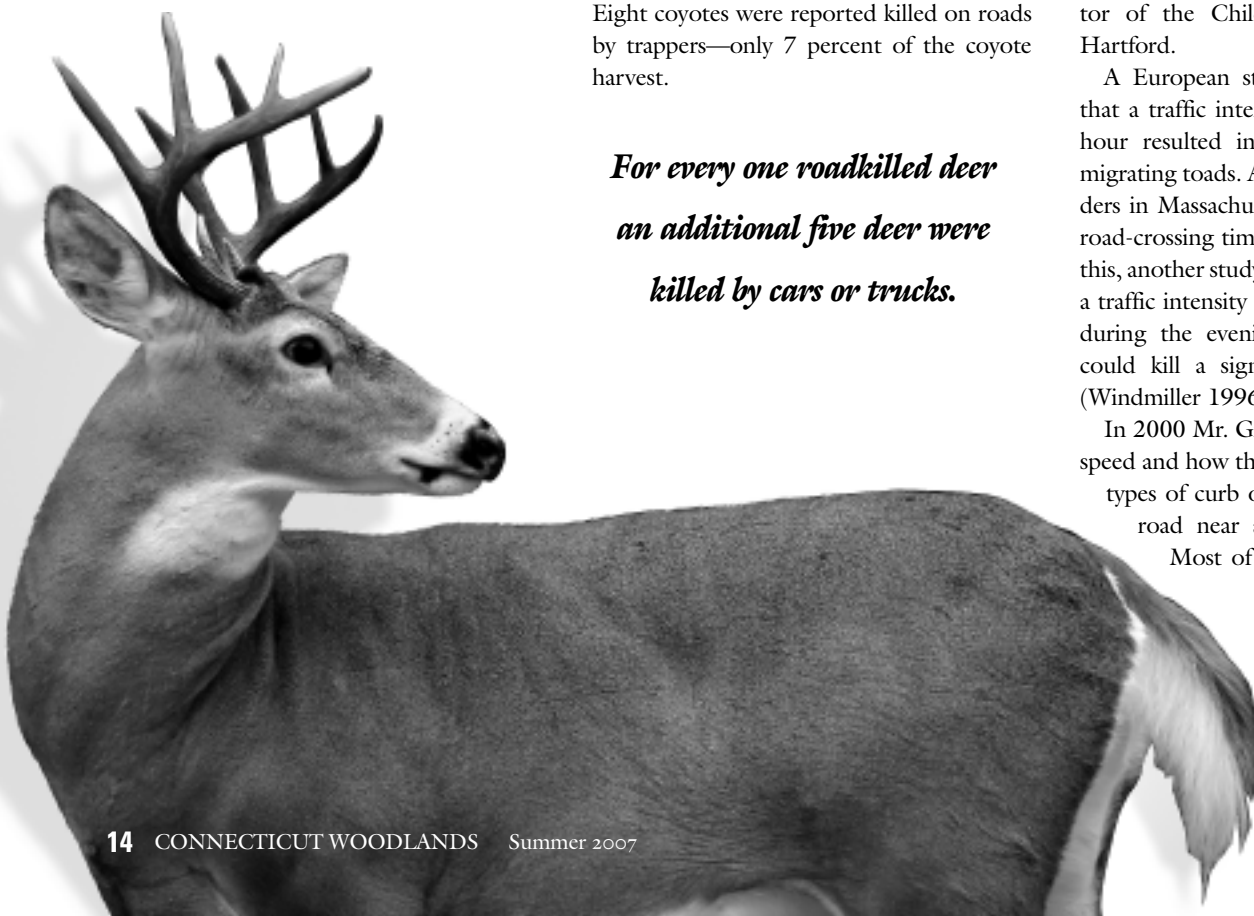
Several scientific studies implicate roads in amphibians' mortality rates, said Hank Gruner, a herpetologist who is interim director of the Children's Museum in West Hartford.

A European study (Kuhn 1987) found that a traffic intensity of 24 to 40 cars per hour resulted in 50-percent mortality in migrating toads. A study of spotted salamanders in Massachusetts calculated an average road-crossing time of 11 minutes. Based on this, another study calculated that roads with a traffic intensity of five to 10 cars per hour during the evening salamander migration could kill a significant portion of them. (Windmiller 1996).

In 2000 Mr. Gruner studied salamanders' speed and how they reacted to two different types of curb on a brand-new residential road near a vernal pool in Granby.

Most of the houses had yet to be

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WILDLIFE V. PAVEMENT IN CONNECTICUT

Deer

Number of deer killed annually by cars and trucks: About 18,000

*Includes 3,000 reported to the Department of Environmental Protection and 15,000 retrieved from roads by the Department of Transportation

Number of deer injured by cars that flee the scene: About 9,000

Number of deer reported killed by hunters: About 12,000

Source: Howard Kilpatrick, deer biologist, Connecticut DEP, 2004

Moose

Car-moose accidents, 1995-2004: 9

Cost to relocate a moose out of state: \$6,000 per moose

*State officials say that the web of roads in Connecticut make many regions bad territory for wide-ranging moose because they'll be hit by cars.

Source: Howard Kilpatrick, deer biologist, Connecticut DEP, 2004

Snakes

25 percent to 60 percent of snakes avoided crossing roads according to a study of 193 snakes representing nine species in the southeastern United States. **Of those that did cross, almost all of them perished.**

Source: Kimberly M. Andrews and J. Whitfield Gibbons, "How Do Highways Influence Snake Movement? Behavioral Responses to Roads and Vehicles," *Copelia* No. 5, 2005.

Amphibians

Traffic of 24 to 40 cars per hour killed half of the toads trying to cross in a 1987 study.

Spotted salamanders required an average of 11 minutes to cross the road in a 1996 Massachusetts study. **Light traffic, only five to 10 cars per hour, could kill much of a salamander population during migration.**

Data interpreted by herpetologist Hank Gruner, interim director of the Children's Museum in West Hartford.

Mammals

Number of roadkilled animals salvaged by trappers, 1998-2006

Muskrat: 90

Raccoon: 466

Gray fox: 43

Red fox: 58

Mink: 65

Beaver: 42

River otter: 35

Coyote: 77

Skunk: 23

Opossum: 67

*These low numbers don't reflect actual totals of animals killed on the road, but only those trappers who went to the trouble to collect and report. For most of these species, many more are hunted or trapped than collected on the road. Foxes killed on the road and collected represented up to 48 percent of the total fox harvest in some years.

Source: Paul Rego, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Wildlife Division

Wildlife Injured by Cars and Taken to Rehabilitators, 1996-2005

Birds: 3,608

Rabbits: 407

Gray squirrels: 1,006

Opossums: 2,022

Deer: 233

Snakes: 12

Salamanders: 3

Turtles: 428

(Hit and taken to rehabilitators in lower numbers were red squirrels, flying squirrels, mice, woodchucks, bats, muskrat, beaver, chipmunks, otter, mink, weasel, fisher, porcupine, frogs.)

(Bird species included mute swans, waterfowl, seagulls, songbirds, raptors, wild turkeys, and more.)

Source: Laurie Fortin, Connecticut DEP Wildlife Division rehabilitators' reports



Bears in Cities

On May 21, a 155-pound black bear was spending some time in Hartford and West Hartford. On May 8, a 200-pound black bear wandered into Hamden, near Lexington and Dixwell avenues, a congested residential neighborhood. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection staff members tranquilized and moved the animals and warned residents that bears are out looking for food, territory, and mates in the warm months.

Paul Rego, a DEP wildlife biologist, said that the only factor limiting the growth of the bear population is their being hit by cars.

The state's bear population is about 300, or six times that of the late 1980s. In 2006, people reported seeing bears more than 2,000 times in 125 of the state's 169 towns. The DEP does not normally tranquilize and relocate bears unless they are a nuisance or in a heavily populated area. The department advises people to avoid these animals: take down bird feeders until the fall; store garbage in a shed or garage; don't store pet food outside; remember bears might be attracted to the grease in grills or the compost pile; and do not ever intentionally feed bears or lure them to the yard. Make loud noises when you encounter a bear and it will usually run away.

The DEP Wildlife Division monitors the black bear population through sighting reports received from the public. Report sightings on the DEP's website at www.ct.gov/dep or by calling DEP Wildlife Division's Sessions Woods office at 860-675-8130 (Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). For emergencies after hours, call 860-424-3333.

— Sources: Connecticut DEP press release; *The New York Times*

Roadkill

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sold, so the empty road offered him the unusual chance to follow most of the individual salamanders. Further, half of the curbing on the road was a Cape Cod style, which are lower and not as steep as normal curbs, which made up the other half.

He followed about 50 spotted and Jefferson salamanders during their evening migrations to reach the vernal pool. "I would time them from the time they dropped onto the road coming out of the forest ... how long it took them to cross." He also kept track of how many made it over the standard curbs versus the Cape Cod-style curbs. Only 27 percent of the salamanders could make it up and over a standard curb, while 91 percent could get over a Cape Cod-style curb. Also, salamanders spent much more time crossing when they had to deal with standard curbs.

Even with the help of an easier curb, it's rough out there on the roads for salamanders. "Anecdotally, I'll tell you that just looking at the roads ... the mortality is pretty significant. Even in places where you have moderate traffic, it's significant," Mr. Gruner said.

Further Information:

The Humane Society's suggestions for watching for wildlife, and other articles can be found at:
http://www.hsus.org/wildlife/issues_facing_wildlife/.

In Massachusetts, some groups advocate for wildlife overpasses or underpasses to widen their territories, arguing that more damaging than dying on roads is fragmentation of habitat.

For an article on this, see the National Wildlife Federation magazine *National Wildlife*, available at:
www.nwf.org/nationalwildlife/article.cfm?issueID=75&articleID=1091.



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CONNECTICUT'S 'TEMPERATE' FORESTS ACTUALLY RESEMBLE TROPICAL ONES

*Old European principles often don't work in managing these woodlands
How new stands of mixed trees grow up beneath old ones*

By DAVID M. SMITH

Silviculture has traditionally been dominated by principles derived from centuries of European experience with even-aged planted stands of single species that dependably develop in ways predictable in yield tables fitted to them. Where natural stands consist of many species, foresters are often bewildered by what seems a state of unmanageable chaos. This commonly dictates complete clearcutting of such stands to replace them with stands of simpler composition that come close to the monocultural plantation model.

The climate of our region is called temperate but is mainly the result of striking an average between hot humid summers that are quasi-tropical and winters that are almost Siberian. The trees do their growing in the warm season but are dormant in the winters. As a result, the natural forests are almost as chaotically diverse as tropical rain forests and can seem hopeless to foresters imbued with the centuries-old principles learned from simple stands composed mainly of one species.



A tropical forest ecologist, P. W. Richards (in 1952), put some order into the chaos when he observed that the tropical species often sorted themselves naturally into different horizontal strata. In these stands, categories of species with similar ability to endure shade develop just above those of successively greater ability. Thus stands with this structure have come to be called "stratified mixtures" in this country.

What this means is that new stands of mixed species can often start beneath old stands if suitable sources of seeds are overhead or nearby. The little replacement trees may grow slowly but persist until the old trees above them are killed by windstorms, insects, disease or cutting. Even though the little seedlings or saplings may be decades in age, many species of this so-called "advanced regeneration" can respond with much more rapid growth. This development has been so commonly recognized with mixed stands of eastern United States hardwoods that foresters often replace old stands by what are too loosely called "clearcuttings" in which the pre-established seedlings and saplings are mostly reserved. The new crop may be supplemented by stump sprouts or new seedlings of species that do not grow rapidly in shade that start on little spots of bare soil created by



logging. The chief problem with creating new mixed stands from advanced regeneration is browsing by deer. This is usually quite selective but can be mitigated by hunting to reduce deer populations to about 15 per square mile.

Stratified mixture may develop in other ways. Connecticut has many good stands that arose from sprout growth after the heavy fuelwood cuttings or bad fires that were common before the 1920s. They can be started by planting. For example, the late Eugene Winch, who was in charge of the State Forests of eastern Connecticut, planted a random mixture of single seedlings of European larch, red pine, white pine, and Norway spruce in 1934 that now stands close to US Rte. 44 on the Nye-Holman State Forest in West Willington. The four species rank from tallest to shortest in the order listed. When he planted it, the prevailing orthodoxy held that mixed planting had to be small patches of single species, so he hid his experiment behind some rows of pure red pine. His results were so good that planting random mixtures became standard with many Connecticut foresters.



In New England, stratified mixtures of hardwoods such stands have almost invariably developed after the harvest of pure stands of white pine that colonized grassy fields after agricultural abandonment. Converting the new mixtures back to pure white pine has been frustratingly difficult and costly but any scattered white pines that ultimately emerge in untreated stands are usually straight and fine, especially if they are pruned and kept free of side-crowding afterwards.

Stratified mixtures created from mixed advanced regeneration have many advantages. They preserve biodiversity and do not necessitate expensive planting. Nearly complete cover by woody plants is continuous-

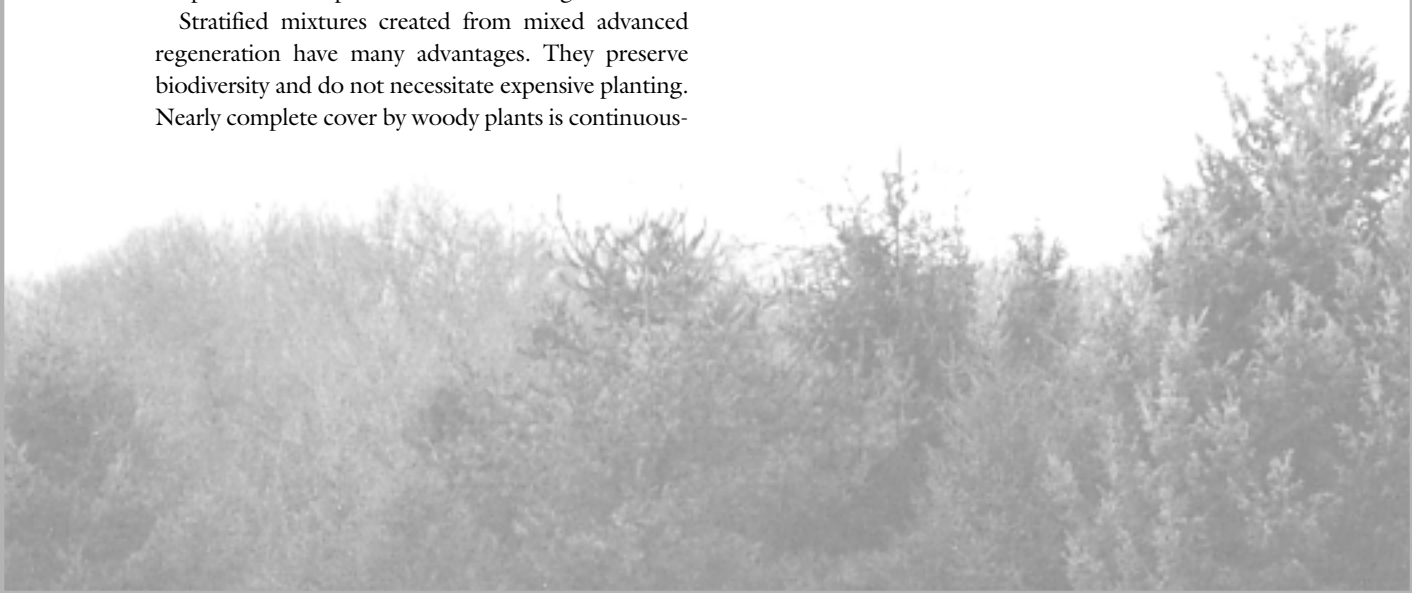
ly maintained, thus protecting soil and aesthetic values as well as reducing opportunity for invasive exotics to establish themselves. Their constituent species develop at different rates and push up to sunlight at a broad enough range of times that they can sustain continuing stream of harvests that are mistakenly reputed to come only from truly uneven-aged stands.

This range is often expanded at the time of the initiating removal cuttings by reserving scattered trees of desirable species such as white pine and red oak that have been slow to emerge but continue vigorously and economically rewarding growth to large size. If some such trees are, for example, 100 years old when finally harvested, it will help achieve sustained yield to plan to start the cycle again on a hundredth of the forest area annually or a tenth each decade.

The harvests during the cycle can be in the nature of thinnings. These can be guided as if one were managing an investment portfolio. Trees that are earning compound interest at an acceptable rate or can be released enough to do so are kept. Those that can't, but have become merchantable, are removed.

These ideas are nothing new and are so logical that foresters have been applying them in management for generations. In fact, the idea seems to have emerged from efforts to deal with natural mixed stands in Central Europe centuries ago but were thought to require uneven-aged stands.

David M. Smith is professor emeritus of silviculture at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. He is an honorary director of CFFPA.



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Rocks and pines on the summit.

Christine Woodside

THE ROCKS AND PINES OF MOUNT PISGAH

Mount Pisgah is one of the small peaks that – if only everyone knew about it – might find itself on the state seal or a specialty car license plate advertising the beauties of Connecticut. The open, rocky summit with its pitch pines and view of the distant Hartford skyline and Coginchaug Valley inspires reflection and appreciation of the natural wonders of the ridges along which the Mattabesett Trail runs.

Distance and Time

This hike to the summit and back from Pisgah Road covers a 2-mile round trip. Most hikers could complete it in an hour or so, but the summit is so beautiful that you wouldn't want to rush down.

To reach the beginning of a series of overlooks known as the Mica Ledges, walk another 1.3 miles beyond Pisgah, or a total (from the road) of 4.6 miles round trip; add another hour and a half to the round-trip.

Directions and Parking

Traveling north into Durham on Route 79, watch for Sand Hill Road on the left and turn onto it. Immediately turn left again onto Pisgah Road and park in a designated pull-off. From here, the blue-blazed Mattabesett Trail coincides with Pisgah Road for a .5 mile, an easy, flat walk.

Description of the Route

Follow Pisgah Road on foot for .5 mile, until the trail enters the woods on the right. The trail climbs steeply to a false summit at .8 mile. It descends and turns left onto an old road at .9 mile, and the open summit at 1 mile.

If you choose to continue on to Mica Ledges, from the summit, the trail turns right off the old woods road into the trees and soon begins a steep descent to the west. It then turns north and (at 1.3 miles from your original starting point) passes a spur trail, blazed with orange dots, to a vista.

Continue north, descending gradually and passing along the bottom of a rock ledge. As the trail swings south, cross Chalker Brook (at 1.8 miles) and follow the brook upstream. At 1.9, bear right and cross an unimproved section of Cream Pot Road. At this point, a blue-and-red-blazed access trail begins; it would lead back to the road in .3 mile.

Join and cross several old roads, traveling west. Turn left and pass a huge boulder known as The Pyramid and an orange-blazed trail (not maintained by CFPA). Climb steeply through hemlocks to the top of the ridge and the beginning of the Mica Ledges, which offer three viewpoints spread over the next few tenths of a mile.

Trail description from the *Connecticut Walk Book*, edited by Ann T. Colson and Cindi D. Pietrzyk. The Mattabesett Trail is included in both the east and west editions of the book. To buy a copy, see the CFPA Store in this issue.

White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

The White Ash is found throughout this region, but grows to best advantage in the rich moist soils of mountain coves and river bottomlands. It reaches an average height of fifty to eighty feet and a diameter of two to three feet, though much larger trees are found in virgin forest.

The bark varies in color from a light gray to a gray-brown. The rather narrow ridges are separated with marked regularity by deep, diamond-shaped fissures.

The leaves of the White Ash are from eight to twelve inches long and have from five to nine plainly stalked, sharp-pointed leaflets, dark green and smooth above, pale green beneath.

Except for the Boxelder Maple (*Acer negundo*), which has paired, winged fruit, and usually three leaflets but occasionally more, the Ashes are the only common trees of the region with opposite, pinnately compound leaves with five or more leaflets.

The flowers are of two kinds on different trees, the male in dense reddish-purple clusters and the female in more open bunches.

The fruit of the Ash is winged, one to one and one-half inches long, resembling the blade of a canoe paddle in outline, with the seed at the handle end. The fruits mature in late summer and are distributed effectively by the winds.

The wood of the White Ash is extremely valuable on account of its toughness and elasticity. It is preferred to all other native woods for small tool handles, such athletic implements as rackets, bats and oars, and agricultural implements. It is also used extensively for furniture and interior finish.

That familiar “thwack,” that sound of spring, that distinctive sound of bat striking ball – that is the sound of the white ash. Each native tree has its place in American culture, and no tree is more connected to our national pastime than is the white ash. Valued for its elasticity, white ash is the wood of the baseball bat. Many an American child has communed with white ash. He has run his hands up and down the



tapered cylinder, searching for just the right grip. He has stared nervously at the wavy, striped grain while waiting on deck. He has cocked the ash over his shoulder, waiting for just the right pitch. He has swung with all his might, and every so often that elastic ash has sent the ball sailing over the outfield fence.

White ash is an easy tree to recognize. Along with maples, dogwood and horse chestnut, it is one of the few opposite-leaved, opposite-branched trees in the Connecticut forest. Its bark is truly ashen in color, and its deep fissures make it distinctive. The leaves of the white ash are pinnately compound, meaning that many leaflets make up one leaf, with the leaflets opposite each other on a central petiole. Ash prefers rich soils, often growing in wetlands.

As those who heat their homes with wood know, ash makes the best firewood. Ash will even burn green, and should be the most sought-after species in any woodpile. Ash is also the wood of tool handles and other athletic implements. Its lumber can be fashioned into furniture

continued on page 23

continued from page 22

and cabinetry. The Camp-Ellsworth library at CFPA headquarters is, in fact, entirely furnished of ash. The library's handsome tables, chairs, bookshelves and cabinets are made of ash cut from the Jones farm in Shelton.

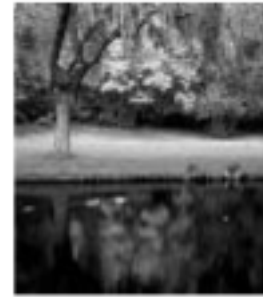
White ash is also a tree to be concerned about. Those who get about in the woods know that a number of ashes are dying. This has been referred to as "ash decline," and I have not read a good explanation of why it is occurring. In my view, these ash trees are simply dying of old age. The more serious threat, though, is the emerald ash borer. The emerald ash borer is an exotic, introduced pest that is spreading from the Midwest and bearing down on Connecticut. To date, no one has devised a way of controlling the emerald ash borer, and the only way of containing its spread has been to cut every ash tree in great concentric circles from observed outbreaks.

-A.R.M.

This page is modeled closely on CFPA's classic book *Forest Trees of Southern New England*. If you would like to buy a copy, contact the office at 860-346-2372 or see the CFPA Store page in this issue. The cost is not prohibitive.

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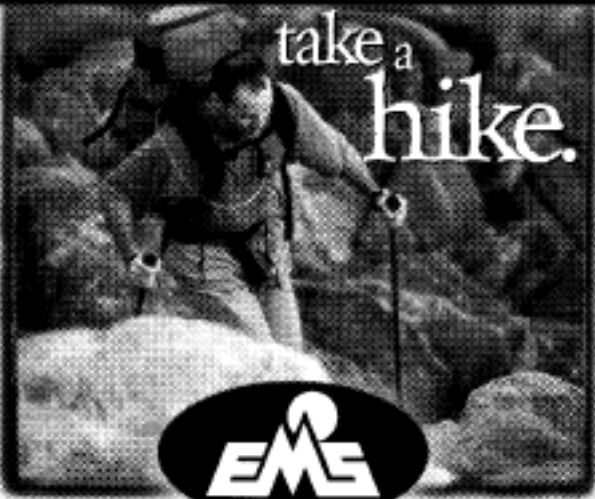
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Current prices for standing timber

This table summarizes 81 voluntary reports by foresters, loggers, and sawmills of prices paid for timber between January and March 2007 in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Prices are in dollars per thousand board feet using the international quarter-inch scale. Pulpwood and fuelwood are reported in dollars per cord. The Cooperative Extension Services of the University of Connecticut and the University of Massachusetts compile these quarterly reports, warning that these prices offer only a guide to prices, which can fluctuate due to many factors. See the Web sites http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/forest/price_sht.htm, or <http://forest.fnr.umass.edu/snes-tumpage.htm>.

SPECIES	EAST OF CT RIVER			WEST OF CT RIVER		
	no. of reports	median	range	no. of reports	median	range
Red oak	39	220	120 - 400	11	250	120 - 355
White oak	28	98	50 - 150	7	100	70 - 236
Other oaks	26	118	50 - 250	5	100	50 - 230
Ash	26	51	40 - 140	14	100	45 - 275
Cherry	11	200	200 - 415	10	450	220 - 900
Sugar maple	12	250	160 - 400	15	305	200 - 525
Red maple	26	50	25 - 100	14	68	25 - 150
Tulip poplar	2	119	50 - 187	3	60	0 - 105
Yellow birch	6	50	50 - 60	11	50	35 - 125
Black birch	21	55	50 - 115	9	50	40 - 155
Paper birch	4	50	-	6	28	0 - 50
Beech	1	20	-	8	25	20 - 50
Pallet hdwd	10	33	20 - 50	9	20	10 - 30
Other hdwd	12	33	10 - 100	2	88	20 - 155
White pine	33	90	50 - 185	15	60	50 - 100
Red pine	4	20	20 - 80	1	75	-
Hemlock	7	25	20 - 60	12	20	0 - 160
Spruce	4	20	20 - 25	4	75	50 - 75
Other sfwd	3	20	-	0	-	-
Poles, hardwd (\$/lin.ft)	0	-	-	0	-	-
Poles, sftwd (\$/lin.ft)	0	-	-	0	-	-
Fuel wood (\$/cd)	29	7	0 - 10	9	5	0 - 20
Pulpwood (\$/cd)	3	0	-	2	0	-
Biomass (\$/ton)	0	-	-	0	-	-

**Contest Winner**

This photo by Kim Kretvix, of a rainbow over Horsebarn Hill, won second place in the recent Environmental Expressions contest at the University of Connecticut. For more winners, see page 37.

EXHAUSTIVE TREE HISTORY COVERS TAXONOMY TO THE BEST WOOD FOR SEATS

The Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter, by Colin Tudge. New York: Crown Publishers, 2006. 459 pages.

By ROBERT RICARD

If you asked a forester, “What is a tree?” you would get one answer. If you asked a botanist, you could get another. A plant taxonomist definitely would give a different answer but might leave you wishing you never asked the question. Don’t go to the state statutes for a description either; you probably would find the 15-foot, single stem definition leaving you with more questions than answers. Veteran author Colin Tudge tackles this thorny issue – thorns are, of course, only modified leaves – relying heavily first on the natural history of trees and also the latest scholarship on tree physiology, taxonomy, and evolutionary biology. A master of taking simple questions that require complex answers, Mr. Tudge pleasantly integrates science with tree myth, legend, and folklore in a fine prose style. The outcome is a stout yet accessible book that should be on the shelf of anyone interested in knowing about trees.

Classification is no more than people’s need for a convenient way to make sense of the universe by organizing it. We can conceptualize just so much. This is not, of course, an accurate reflection of the natural order of things, but it’s a start. In *The Tree* you will find much more than a plant classification book; it is much deeper than that. Tudge does present the history and rationale of plant classification first and well. Many Connecticut Woodlands readers no doubt will already know some classification schemes like the forestry basis for distinguishing “softwoods” from “hardwoods” (a lumber

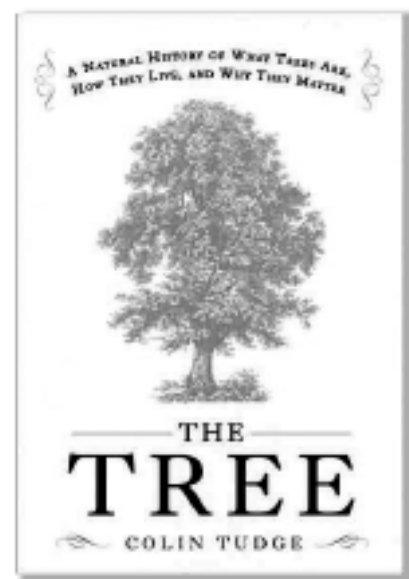
perspective), distinguishing “evergreens” from “deciduous” (a horticultural lens), or flower structure and function (Linnaeus’s plant sex orientation, and causing many problems with classifying algae and fungi).

What this book presents well and deeply is why and how taxonomists developed the schemes they did. For example, Mr. Tudge delves into what is known of the personal life of Erasmus Darwin (the grandfather of Charles). Apparently Erasmus was a “wild romantic” who “reveled in sex in all its manifestations.” This preoccupation influenced his translation into English Linnaeus’s classification scheme, one that, of course, used flower sex morphology to differentiate species.

None of these schemes have ever been satisfactory because they did not incorporate evolutionary science into the mix (the science was not yet sufficiently developed). Mr. Tudge does discuss post 1980s developments in DNA science and technology that is leading to a better understanding of plant origins and relatedness.

He does not limit himself to plant classification. One key tree ingredient, lignin, a chemical compound that binds together wood’s celluloid fibers, particularly fascinates him. He joyously claims this to be “one of the wonders of the universe.” In an age when people are less connected to trees and wood use and more connected to tree preservation (this in spite of our increasing consumption of wood fiber – a paradox of environmental versus behavioral values), Mr. Tudge waxes profoundly on what wood can do and has done throughout history. He marvels at the biological fact that a tree’s “living tissue is constantly replacing itself” and that no human invention to date comes close to replicating this.

Mr. Tudge correctly singles out photosyn-



thesis and carbon sequestration as a key weapon in mitigating climate change. Trees use photosynthesis to remove carbon dioxide from the air. Carbon molecules are “fixed” and become the branches, roots, and, most important perhaps, the stem or trunk. If the trunk becomes a log, which becomes a board that remains intact for years, then carbon is removed and stored for longer periods. Mr. Tudge is truly awed by all these practical issues while revering trees’ beauty amid such practical functions in nature.

He is the master of weaving the wonders of science besides the fascinating yet little known products trees provide. He points out, for example, that elm is favored in the manufacturing of “buttock-molded seats” and that basswood was the best wood for the front panels of pulpits. While, “The intricate knowledge that our forebears had of each kind of plant and its caprices and possibilities never ceases to astonish me,” he does have one lament: “Knowledge now largely lost, or at least confined to academic tracts of whimsical accounts like this one might become common place once again. Maybe when the fossil fuels run out and heavy industry has run its course, such wonders may be rediscovered.” This fine book goes far, helping to keep our perspective of the natural history of trees more in balance with much consideration for our health and the health of the planet.

Robert M. Ricard is a senior extension educator in urban forestry for the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System. Contact him at 860-570-9257.

Connecticut Woodlands

Since that was continuing, abandoned lands were consisted of those made of young trees, many of them low-grade species of deciduous trees. The obvious remedy seemed to be to have these lands reforested. The Association presented the program vigorously, among other efforts publishing a booklet, *Practical Forestry*, aimed at landowners and farmers, located booklet. This is done that was published after the 1930s.

Association Secretary Edgar L. Thompson was a key figure in these endeavors. He presented the development and use of forests, with two booklets, designed to allow efficient utilization of both the forest and game produced by logging wood. One is titled, *The U.S. South Co. of Hartford, Massachusetts*, designed to make and market such forests.

Most of the effort from 1930 took partly because the efficiency of the new woods and forests could not be reached by improvements in the harvesting and handling of wood.

Further trail research with wood harvesting was to occur later in the twentieth century and will be noted in due course. After the end of World War II, however, the woodlands returned to its former ecological state.

Publications and Communication

In the first half of the twentieth century, before public relations had become a profession, CFPA was the primary publishing house of the conservation movement in Connecticut.

Early publications included *Forest Trees of Southern New England*, *Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Guide*, *Team Forests*, and *Practical Forestry*.

Two publications have had the longest continuity. The first was *Connecticut Woodlands* as a publication for members and others interested in conservation, first published in 1936, with three or four editions per year, and for a time bi-monthly with generous underwriting of its cost by James L. Goodwin. It is a modest magazine with a character of its own, without glossy paper and bright colors. For its size it is extraordinarily meaty. Its articles have been written by members of the Association and scientists in the field of conservation, along with news accounts of environmental issues in Connecticut. The complete bound copies, carefully indexed, are in the Camp-Ellsworth Library at the Association Headquarters. They are a year by year primary source for the history of environment, forestry and outdoor recreation in the State.

The Association's other continuing publication is the *Connecticut Walk Book*, first issued in 1937 as a guide to the Blue Blazed Hiking Trail system and now in its seventeenth edition. The *Walk Book's* companion publication, the *Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Guide*, contains descriptions of all the state forests and state parks. It was first issued in 1936, with revised editions in 1966 and 1976, and is presently out of print.

Timely booklets on forestry, trees and pertinent topics continue to be produced and a list of major ones is included in the appendices. Other ventures in public rela-

George McLean Milne describes in the 1995 book *Connecticut Woodlands* how the Connecticut Forest & Park Association dedicated itself to publishing conservation and trail publications during an unlikely time – the Great Depression.

It is our hope that *Connecticut Woodlands* has lived up to its founders' goals of publishing environmental articles for members and the general public. Today many people talk about the demise of print journalism. We see a great need, still, for this magazine, 71 years after it started.

This excerpt is from pages 46 and 47 of Mr. Milne's book, published by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

IN THE DEPTHS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION, A CONSERVATION PUBLISHER SETS A COURSE

The Great Depression

tions in the pre-World War II period were two series of fifteen-minute radio programs on nature, recreation, parks and woodlands, aired by WTIC in Hartford and WELI in New Haven. To mention these is to recall great days in radio, when many programs of solid interest and value were locally produced in the 1930s and early 1940s.

At a later date (1980) the Association, with the White Memorial Foundation, produced a film with Ellsworth Cross entitled *Connecticut's Gold & Green*, a celebration of the state's forest heritage, which has had wide circulation.

Blue Blazed Hiking Trails – Early Years

The Connecticut Blue Blazed Hiking Trail System is one of the most widely used hiking systems in the United States and has been a major attraction to the recreational life of the state. The system is a product of the cooperation and development in the years prior to World War II. An antecedent to the 1930s there was a growing interest in hiking in the New Haven area. The first to make and cross around New Haven, an early guide published by James O. Cook.

The trail system began in many great undertakings begin with an idea and a few people of vision. Between A. Scott of Bristol and Stanley Roberts of the Yale School and a few interested friends, men to walk over the establishment of a trail system in Connecticut. As a result of this meeting, they sought the sponsorship of CFPA.

On October 6, 1936, the officers and directors of the Association met in New Haven and voted to establish a Trails Committee. The committee included persons such as Edgar L. Thompson, who served as its chairman until 1938 when he became secretary of the Association, and others who were to continue their interest in hiking for the remainder of their lives. To them, the realization was only a matter of time when they had a connection with the national world that was made through.

They were now established in December 27, 1936 New Haven, Woodbury, Litchfield and Hartford. The trustees began the trail system which has continued and which, already all trail work is done by volunteers. One volunteer organization has been set up as a result of membership, opening new sections of a network with the generation of members joining in the work in the work. In 1937 the authors for *Blue Blazes*, the Connecticut Trails, Middlebury and Green were added.

The *Greenways* was the first trail to be opened, and in 1937 the first major trail guide was published for individual trails. The 1936 trail meeting adopted a program to publish a complete trail guide. The first was published in 1937 with the list of the complete system of the Connecticut Trail Book.

Ever since 1937 the Trails Committee has held Annual Trails Meetings, a series of gatherings of members, landowners and their relations and administrative members. The speaker at the first annual meeting was Stanley Roberts, one of the first proponents of the Association. Trail CFPA works closely with its Trails Committee, assisting in connection with regular and arrangements for those which the public make a largely non-commercial side of guides.

IT'S NOT SAFER INDOORS:

Naming and Dealing with Risks in Nature

By LORI PARADIS BRANT

“Unlike television, nature does not steal time, it amplifies it. Nature offers healing...reinterprets fantasies...inspires creativity. In nature, a child finds freedom, fantasy, and privacy...”

—Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*

Summer is the perfect season for children to get outdoors and explore nature’s treasures and secrets. Whether on a hiking trail, in a city park, or in the backyard, children and their parents can become adventurers. We can experience the fresh air and—unfortunately—the itch of mosquito bites or a tick that has attached itself to our skin. It is a season of enjoyment and risk. Risk is a part of our daily lives. Each day we take risks through our decisions, whether business or personal choices. We are constantly identifying risks, weighing our options, and practicing risk reduction through our actions.

Should we allow our children outside to explore and experience the many lessons of nature, knowing that this exposes them to ticks that might carry Lyme disease, as well as other dangers? Is it better we keep them indoors, where we may increase their risk of childhood obesity and loss of appropriate creative stimulation? How do we find the facts and identify the appropriate amount of risk? How do we do what is best for our children?

Naming the risks

One of the concerns people express most frequently is exposure to **Lyme disease-carrying ticks**. According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, our state has the highest rate of Lyme disease in the nation. Lyme disease is transmitted to humans by the black-legged or deer tick, one

of several species of ticks found in Connecticut. Ticks, which prefer grassy, shrubby areas, are arachnids – related to spiders. They grasp onto a blade of grass or other low vegetation with several of their eight legs and hold out their remaining legs in the air, attempting to grasp the fur or clothing of a host as it walks by. While a tick usually grabs onto a person’s leg, it may take several hours before it finds itself a place to attach on another part of the body. According to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, the longer an infected tick is embedded, the higher the likelihood of Lyme disease being transmitted: after 24 hours, there is a 0 percent risk; after 48 hours, 12 percent; after 72 hours, 79 percent; and after 96 hours, 94 percent. Infected ticks in their nymph stage, akin to their teenage years, are most associated with Lyme disease as they are only about the size of a pinhead and not as easily detected as the adult.

An evening outdoors in the summer doesn’t seem complete without some pesky **mosquitoes** buzzing in the ears. As we exhale, mosquitoes find us by the carbon dioxide we release. Female mosquitoes need to bite because they require the protein found in blood in order to produce their eggs. They aren’t only annoying for the itchy welts their bites leave. A more serious hazard in this region is that a small number of them can carry West Nile Virus. Infected mosquitoes transmit this viral infection when they bite. In areas where infected mosquitoes have been found, fewer than one out of 500 mosquitoes will be infected, according to the Connecticut Department of Public Health. As of September 2006, the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program announced that nine people in Connecticut had been infected with West Nile Virus that season. Those are very low odds of infection when compared with the risk of being diagnosed with cancer. The American Cancer Society projects that in



*Education Coordinator
Lori Paradis Brant*

2007 close to 20,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in Connecticut. An extremely rare, but no less serious disease transmitted mostly by bird-biting mosquitoes, is eastern equine encephalitis. To date, there have not been any recorded cases in humans in Connecticut. The Ag Station coordinates

mosquito trapping and testing, and to date, all trapped mosquitoes have tested negatively this year.

Running barefoot through the grass is almost synonymous with summer. The cool blades of grass seem to gently tickle the undersides of bare feet. What risks can there be in this carefree delight? If the grass has been treated with **lawn chemicals** to kill insects or weeds, plenty of them. Environment and Human Health, Inc., a nonprofit organization of doctors and experts in public health and policies conducts research to identify environmental harms affecting the human population and promotes public education about the connection between environmental and human health. The organization warns that lawn chemicals are toxic and can cause a plethora of ailments, including cancer, birth and reproductive defects, neurological disorders, and more. Children and pets playing in the lawn that has been treated with chemicals are at risk. Many of the chemicals found in lawn care products also can contaminate ground and drinking water sources.

While this information can easily frighten us, knowing it can help us ascertain the risks and examine ways to reduce them. We then can take action so that we may enjoy time outdoors without surrendering to fear.

Reducing Risks

Check for Ticks Daily. This is a crucial and simple step to reduce the risk of Lyme disease. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station reports that Lyme disease is most likely transmitted after an infected tick has been attached for more than 36 hours, and most likely to occur after it has been attached and engorged in the skin for two to three days. An infected, but not engorged (flat in shape) tick does not transmit the bacterium that causes Lyme until it ingests the blood of the host. This means that a daily tick check is an excellent and widely recommended method to preventing and lessening the risk of Lyme disease. The Ag Station expresses that this is the most effective means of prevention. By making this part of a daily routine, such as part of the nightly routine of brushing the teeth, washing the face, and checking for ticks, we are more likely to remember to check every day, even if we've only been outside for a little while. By adding a tick check to our habits, we are accepting the fact that Lyme disease is a risk but that prevention, not fear, can reduce our risk of contracting it.

Ward off Mosquitoes. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends using products with DEET to repel these flying insects, but to use it sparingly as it can absorb through the skin. This chemical works by confusing the carbon dioxide receptors in a mosquito so it can't find the source of the CO².

In a 2003 report released by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the maximum concentration of DEET recommended for use on children is 30 percent. The report recommends using it sparingly, applying it no more than once a day, washing treated skin after going indoors, and buying the product with the lowest concentration that will be effective for the amount of time you spend outside.

A 10-percent DEET concentration provides approximately two hours of protection from mosquitoes. The American Academy of Pediatrics cautions against using products that combine DEET with sunscreen, because sunscreen tends to be reapplied over a day and DEET should not be applied that often.

The Connecticut DEP recommends reducing mosquito bites by making sure door and window screens are fitted properly and in good condition; limiting outdoor time at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active, using products with DEET according to the product's label, and reducing mosquito breeding habitats of standing water (empty bird baths and wading pools frequently).

Alternative bug sprays without DEET containing oil of lemon eucalyptus have proven to effectively ward off mosquitoes. A 2005 Consumer Reports study tested oil of lemon eucalyptus as a mosquito repellent and found at least one brand warded off aggressive mosquitoes for up to seven hours and less aggressive mosquitoes for more than 12 hours. Healthy Child Healthy World recommends planting marigolds, lemon thyme, scented geranium and other plants to help deter mosquitoes.

Here are some other recommendations: do not use scented soaps or perfumes; avoid dark clothing, which may attract mosquitoes; and do not use electric "bug zappers," which operate by drawing insects to light, meaning that many predatory insects which may hunt mosquitoes end up dying. (Remember, mosquitoes are drawn to the carbon dioxide we exhale.) The Connecticut Department of Public Health does not recommend limiting outdoor time unless you are in an area with evidence of mosquito-borne disease.

Avoid lawn chemicals. Maintaining a healthy lawn is possible without chemicals. Plant native plants, which are less vulnerable to pests. (Local soil and water conservation districts often sell native plants, usually in annual sales.) Native plants have evolved with Connecticut's climate and wildlife, so often need less care, water, and nurturing than exotic species.

Helpful public programs on healthy lawns include the City of Middletown's Project Green Lawn and Connecticut College's Smaller American Lawns Today, or SALT. As the state affil-

continued on page 38

Kids and Nature

► This past April, PBS Parents added a Connecting Kids to Nature feature to their program. This site offers caregivers simple things to foster children's natural curiosity about nature, includes information on some of the benefits of getting your family outdoors, and suggests age-appropriate children's literature – great for bedtime stories after a day of outdoor play. Visit their website: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/special/earthday.html>.

► Visit the Children & Nature Network for current research and studies on the benefits of outdoor interaction with children and the consequences that are related to the lack of these experiences. www.cnaturenet.org.

► A recent study found that American children plug into some type of electronic device for 44 hours each week. (That is, TV, computer, digital games, etc.) The National Wildlife Federation initiated a Green Hour. Green Hour recommends one hour of unstructured outdoor play a day for children and provides tips and inspiration to do so. See www.greenhour.org.

► *Zero to Six: Electronic Media in the Lives of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers* – Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, www.kff.org.

Information on Health Risks

Environmental and Human Health, Inc.: www.ehhi.org.

National Pesticide Information Center: 1-800-858-7378 or see www.npic.orst.edu.

Connecticut Department of Public Health: www.ct.gov/dph.

Connecticut Agricultural and Experiment Station: www.ct.gov/caes.

Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Environmental Health: www.cdc.gov/nceh.

Healthy Child Healthy World (formerly Children's Health Environmental Coalition): www.healthychild.org.

Protecting Children from Pesticides: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/kidpesticide.htm>.

TOMATOES – SUMMER DELIGHT AND AMERICA’S FAVORITE VEGETABLE

By JEAN CRUM JONES

I’m one of those tomato fiends who will eat fresh tomatoes only when they are in season, Connecticut-grown and vine-ripened. There are few summer pleasures as wonderful and satisfying as eating a juicy warm-from-the-vine tomato, either from one’s own garden or from the local farm market. Fortunately, the last few years have seen a fresh tomato revival, as enthusiasts have started demanding plants and seeds that grow richer, tastier tomatoes in the home garden and on the small farm.

People’s passion for a richer, truer, tastier tomato has led to an amazing boom in the production of heirloom tomatoes. Growers now sell many old-fashioned varieties. Fortunately, the abundant tomatoes of summer do not lose their fine flavor if you can them. We now can enjoy canned tomatoes out of season and then indulge in the unique, unforgettable flavor of local ripe tomatoes during summer.

The tomato pervades American cuisine in sauces, soups, and casseroles, in ketchup and salsa, as well as juice. Nearly every sandwich has a slice of tomato on it. The average American eats almost 20 pounds of fresh tomatoes and 70 pounds of processed tomatoes each year. They have become more American than apple pie!

Explorers balk at yellow fruit

One of the most amazing things about the current prevalence of the tomato in our diet is that it was practically unknown in this country 200 years ago. The tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) is a native American plant and was first cultivated in the Peru-Ecuador-Bolivia region of the Andes. Spanish explorers first discovered the fruit in Mexico around 1520, being grown by the Aztec tribes. This food was totally unfamiliar to them. It resembled a fruit, but it tasted too

acidic. It also did not seem like any vegetable they knew. The berry was the size of a cherry tomato and was golden yellow. (On subsequent trips, they discovered a red variety.)

Despite their doubts they found the plant attractive and the Spanish carried it with them to Spain, the Philippines, and the Caribbean. The tomato plant spread quickly around the Mediterranean basin – to Naples (which was under Spanish rule), to Provence, Greece, Turkey and North Africa – all had a favorable climate that allowed for its prolific cultivation. The tomato was found to be delicious cooked in olive oil and seasoned with salt and pepper and other native herbs. It is difficult to imagine today what Spanish or Sicilian or French or Turkish or Moroccan cooking would be like without it.

However, North and Central Europeans were not receptive to the tomato, except as an ornamental plant that grew in the gardens of the wealthy. Famous herbalists of the late 1500s in the Low Countries and England described the plant as unwholesome. Some even thought the tomato was poisonous (which its pungent stems and leaves are). One theory about that belief is that the tomato, which is a member of the Solanaceae plant family, is related to deadly nightshade.

Another explanation is that the rich in the 1500s used pewter flatware, which had a high lead content. Acidic food like tomatoes would leech the lead into the food, causing poisoning or death. Poor people who ate off of wooden plates or discs of bread did not have that problem.

The Portuguese also took to using tomatoes in a distinctive sauce. Slave traders carried the plant to Africa where it became widely cultivated and used in West Africa. The tomato arrived in North America in the early 1600s. The Spanish planted tomatoes along the Florida coast, and they gradually spread northward to the Carolinas. African slaves brought tomato seeds to America, where the tomato became an ingredient in many Southern savory soups and stews. French and Africans also introduced tomatoes into southern Louisiana and they became a distinct component of Creole cookery. Generally, tomatoes were known and eaten in the American South during the 1700s by people of modest means, though Thomas Jefferson was growing them in his Monticello garden in 1780.

Northern colonists slow to catch on

Meanwhile, the Northern colonists ate a



British-influenced diet and would not eat tomatoes. So, ironically, tomatoes' first major impact at the northern table came from the English colonists in the form of ketchup. The British loved their condiments. Ketchups had developed in England in the 16th and 17th centuries after British contact with the East Indies. The original sauce was either a fish or soy sauce, heavily spiced, and its name may be derived from a Malay word, *ke-tsiap*. After the Dutch traders and British sailors bought the product back, European versions were developed with such ingredients as anchovies, oysters, mushrooms and young walnuts, which were sweetened and seasoned with aromatic spices – cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and cloves.

Somehow, around 1800 in America, tomatoes began to be used for a sauce to which vinegar, sugar, and spices were added. This product could be made in August, stored, and then used when needed to add a taste of complexity to simple dishes of meat or beans. By this time, tomatoes were considered safe to eat if they were cooked for at least three hours. In the form of ketchup, the tomato became acceptable to mainstream America. There was a proliferation of tomato ketchups made in farm kitchens throughout the 19th century. In 1876, the Heinz Company produced the first commercially available ketchup and this product became the forerunner of a number of sweetened tomato preparations – soups, barbecue sauces, and salad dressings – all becoming an integral part of the American diet.

In the 1840s, the tomato experienced a dramatic turnabout – it went from a poisonous fruit to a popular vegetable. In the decade from 1830 to 1840, snake-oil salesman promoted tomato nostrums, in the form of pills or syrups. Though certainly not helpful for diseases like cholera or cancer, the “remedies” were not harmful and gave people the impression that tomatoes were a healthy food. Also during this period, seed catalogs increased the number of varieties that were available from two in 1830 to fourteen by 1840. In the 1850s, tomato canning became an important industry with New Jersey leading the way. During the Civil War, canned tomatoes became a staple

of the Union army and after the war, their consumption increased. Canned tomatoes were one of the few vegetables available in winter.

Centralized farms, bland taste

Concurrently, the hybridization of tomatoes was vastly increasing the number of varieties available. In the early 1900s, cooking school teachers and cookbooks popularized the use of tomatoes in “ethnic” recipes, such as Spanish rice and Spanish omelets. They encouraged putting tomatoes in salads and tomato aspic and stuffing them. The Campbell Soup Company introduced condensed soups to Americans in 1905; quickly, the number one seller became tomato soup.

As cities continued to grow, surrounding farms focused on growing perishable vegetables that were sold in central markets. In Connecticut, many of the truck farmers tended to be Italian and were expert growers of tomatoes. In the 1920s, there were 16 major market centers in Connecticut, and tomatoes became a very profitable crop.

After World War II began, tins of vegetables were scarce and homemakers were encouraged to grow their own vegetables in “victory gardens.” A small army of home economists with the Cooperative Extension Agency was dispatched to women’s groups to teach canning, using glass jars that were in good supply. Many homemakers learned how to grow tomatoes and how to put up stewed tomatoes, chili sauce, and tomato juice. (As a nutritionist, it is interesting to note how healthy Americans were during this so-called period of deprivation). Many folks continued growing tomatoes in their gardens after the war, finding tomatoes one of the most satisfying and tastiest vegetables to grow. It is estimated that today 85 percent of home gardeners grow tomatoes.

Another factor that made the tomato America’s favorite vegetable was the discovery of pizza, lasagna, and other Italian favorites. Soldiers who had served in Southern Italy during the war came home wanting to continue enjoying Italian food. As well, the famous Italian personalities of the 1950s, such as Joe DiMaggio and Frank Sinatra, were shown enjoying genuine Italian food on television. Many pizza

restaurants opened during this decade. Connecticut already had many Italian and pizza restaurants that had been established in the 1930s, but their popularity greatly increased. A similar tomato revolution occurred in the 1980s when Mexican food became nationally available. People began to appreciate the affinity of tomatoes with chili peppers—so much so that salsa now outsells ketchup as the most popular condiment in the United States.

Unfortunately, with the huge national appetite for tomatoes and the growth of national supermarket chains after World War II, the agricultural nature of growing tomatoes changed. The suburbs eliminated most of the small truck farms outside of cities and the growing of tomatoes began to be concentrated in California and Florida. Today, 80 percent of the total production of tomatoes in the United States is in California. During this period of agricultural concentration, tomato breeders began focusing on tomatoes that could be mechanically harvested, shipped easily across the country without damage and still be firm enough to sit in a store for a week until sold. The taste of fresh tomatoes became bland and unfortunately, most of the public didn’t seem to care. We are the only country in the world whose citizens have come to expect and demand tomatoes year-round.

Hopefully, we are changing. The recent growth of farmers’ markets in Connecticut is bringing back the old-fashioned flavor of all vegetables. Seek out a farmer’s market near you and find a passionate heirloom tomato grower. Eat – better yet, devour – fresh tomatoes, and keep that fresh taste in your mind all year long until you can once again delight in the pleasure of Connecticut homegrown tomatoes.

Jean Crum Jones is a registered dietician who with her husband, Terry, runs the Jones Family Farm in Shelton.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Please call CFFPA at 860-346-2372 for information.

FOR FAMILIES

WALKCONNECTICUT FAMILY GUIDED HIKES

Last weekend of every month

Want to bring your family in the outdoors but not sure what to do? Join us for fun family hikes on the trails led by education staff or volunteer Family Hike Leaders trained by CFFPA. Enjoy walking in the woods, traipsing through wetlands, sensing the coolness of streams and fern gullies, and much more! Each guided hike will introduce the beauty of Connecticut's lands to you and your family. We'll learn about safety, how to stay found and not get lost and find out what to fill in that day pack. Guided Family Hikes are offered at no cost as a public service to Connecticut's children and families as part of CFFPA's WalkConnecticut initiative, creating healthy families by connecting them to the land.

Pre-registration encouraged for all hikes. Locations are subject to change; please call us ahead of time to learn the correct meeting place and ease or difficulty of trail. Visit www.ctwoodlands.org for additional family guided hikes.

JULY

Saturday, July 28, 10-noon, McLean Game Refuge, Granby; all ages

A two mile loop of easy trails thru pine groves and oak forests to a lava outcrop for a snack. We will pass by several brooks and a small pond with plenty of time to examine rocks and plants. Birds and other animals are likely at the pond. Bring snack, water and sturdy shoes.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 29, 10-noon, Webb Mountain Park, for ages 4 and older

Cross a brook, check out the camping sites, climb the hill for views of the valley below, be above the birds, listen for chorus of frogs, enjoy the cool air of the for-

est Letterboxing: troll bridge, toy box. Run downhill as fast as legs can go.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 29, 10-noon, Case Mountain "Charcoal" hike, Manchester, for ages 10 and older

Let's discover remains of Connecticut's charcoal industry, going back to a time when the hills were cloaked in smoke, and forests were burned to make fuel for factories and mills. You may have noticed circular mounds in the woods, and wondered what they are. Come find out, on this moderately challenging hike with some steep and rocky areas.

FOR ADULTS

**WALKCONNECTICUT'S FAMILY HIKE LEADER VOLUNTEER TRAINING
Saturday, October 13, 9 a.m. – noon
CFFPA, Middlefield**

Do you want to share your enthusiasm for the outdoors with others? The Connecticut Forest & Park Association is offering a training program for adults interested in connecting children and their families to the natural wonders of our world. Become a trained family hike leader and share your enjoyment of the trails and the outdoors. Family Hike Leaders enjoy flexible schedules and are encouraged to lead just a few hikes a year. These hikes are part of Connecticut Forest & Park Association's WalkConnecticut initiative, an adventure in fostering lifelong health and connection to the land through a network of outdoor trails and programs. Join WalkConnecticut: the trail to health and happiness.

FOR EDUCATORS

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH PROJECT LEARNING TREE

For K-5th grade educators

**Wednesday, August 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
CFFPA, Middlefield**

Bring the outdoors into your classroom and your students out into the schoolyard. Project Learning Tree, an award-

winning environmental education curriculum teaches students how to think, not what to think about their environment. Discover classroom-ready, engaging activities that use inquiry and critical-thinking skills to explore the connection between science and the outdoors. Help your students develop the enthusiasm, interest and confidence of learning science by using the world outside the classroom window. Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide; 0.5CEU's; \$35/participant. Financial assistance available through CFFPA's Paul F. Pikula Education Fund.

PLACES WE LIVE

For high school and talented & gifted middle school educators

Friday, August 24, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

CFFPA, Middlefield

Engage your students the signature role of Connecticut in the birth of U.S. environmental history. Bring debate about environmental issues into the classroom and help your students understand the implications of land policy that is part of our Connecticut heritage. This workshop will illuminate three important historic figures in the conservation movement of the 19th century: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and Connecticut native, Gifford Pinchot. This workshop will help prepare your students for the November 9, 2007 staged dramatic reading about these conservationists at the Bushnell Center for Performing Arts in Hartford. Places We Live will help students apply their knowledge and understanding of land use to current issues as responsible citizens. Participants receive: Project Learning Tree Places We Live curriculum; CEU's. Meets the following Connecticut Social Studies Content Standards: Local, United States and World History and Human and Environmental Interaction. \$35/participant; financial assistance available through CFFPA's Paul F. Pikula Education Fund.

Environmental Matters CFPA Is Following at the Statehouse

BUDGETS: CFPA has urged the Connecticut General Assembly to increase funding for the Department of Environmental Protection, including \$5 million more for state parks; for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Council on Environmental Quality and the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.

LAND CONSERVATION: CFPA is encouraging the General Assembly to do far more to set aside farmland, open space, and trails.

PARK FUNDING: CFPA supports a significant increase in general appropriations to the operation of state parks. The Association also would support supplemental private funding for the state parks to augment public funding, and it believes that a private organization, not the state, should receive and disburse those funds.

FOREST PRACTICE REGULATIONS: CFPA believes it is important to develop a uniform set of statewide forest practice regulations.

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE REGISTRATION: CFPA supports a system to register and identify all-terrain vehicles and the use of relevant fees for safety and education programs and to help purchase land specifically for ATV use.

CLEAN WATER FUND: The Association supports restoring this fund, cut drastically in the last two years, with \$157 million for 2007. In late April, the General Assembly's Finance, Revenue and Bonding Commission recommended \$110 million in bonding for 2008 and 2009. The Clean Water Fund helps cities and towns build and upgrade sewage treatment plants to reduce high nitrogen levels and other pollution in Long Island Sound.

The General Assembly session closed as this magazine went to press. Watch for updates in our fall issue.

Lori Brant Named Environmental Educator of the Year

At its annual meeting in March, the Connecticut Outdoor and Environmental Education Association named CFPA Education Coordinator Lori Paradis Brant its Environmental Educator of the Year.

"Lori is a leader: she created the popular Forest Forensics program, she is the state co-coordinator of Project Learning Tree, she is the president of COEEA and she created CFPA's Family Guided Hikes program," said Adam Moore, the CFPA executive director. "Her enthusiastic approach causes young people to want to learn more about their environment."

Mrs. Brant has served as CFPA's Education Coordinator since 2004.

Connecticut's Trails Day Was Again Nation's Largest

Due to the Association's efforts, Connecticut once again hosted the largest Trails Day celebration in the nation, with 130 events scheduled for the weekend of June 2 and 3. Trails Day events were coordinated this year by Trail Conservation Coordinator Ann Colson and the CFPA Trails Day Committee.

Fred Borman retires from DEP Forestry

Forester and CFPA member Fred Borman retired from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Division of Forestry on June 29. On July 9, Mr. Borman was to begin a new position with University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension as the Rockingham County extension forester.

Mr. Borman began his forestry career in 1980 at Connwood Foresters, Inc., of Rockfall. IN 1984, he joined the DEP, to work in state lands management and in service forestry. Since 1989, Mr. Borman had administered the Forestry Division's Private and Municipal Lands program.

He chaired the Connecticut Forest

Stewardship Committee for many years and also chaired the Connecticut Urban Forest Council. He has been active in the Society of American Foresters and in the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, where he served as a property steward for the Clemence property in Eastford. Mr. Borman has received a number of awards, among them the H. Sharon Ossenbruggen Award for Meritorious Service to the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, the Outstanding Forester award from the Yankee Division of SAF, and the Toomey award for service to the New England Society of American Foresters.

CFPA congratulates Mr. Borman on his retirement and will miss him.

Laurie Giannotti Named to State Trails Position

Laurie Giannotti, a conservation advocate and CFPA member who leads family hikes, was named the Connecticut trails and greenways program coordinator for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection on May 11. She manages projects to rehabilitate trails and to build new ones using federal and state grant funds. CFPA has received grant funds for some trail projects.

Ms. Giannotti previously worked as an environmental analyst for the drinking water section of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. She is the former executive director of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition in Southbury. She lives in Haddam with her husband, Rob Butterworth, a volunteer trail manager for the Cockaponset Trail.

To reach Ms. Giannotti at her DEP parks division office, call 860-424-3578.

Annual Meeting Set for September 20

The annual meeting will take place on September 20. Watch for an announcement of this as the summer progresses.

had been the northern terminus of the Metacomet Trail asked that the trail be removed from his property. The Association honored his request, and several miles of trail to the south had to be closed to avoid a dead end at the property boundary. Given that the trails are often located along the edge of a cliff, and that the cliff edge is often the property boundary as well, road walks often result from property closures because the cliffs severely constrain reroute possibilities.

Road crossings are also a feature of the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails. Road crossings are clearly indicated in the maps published in the Connecticut Walk Book. Where the trails cross state highways, the Connecticut Department of Transportation marks the crossings with distinctive blue oval signs bearing the name of the trail. With Association encouragement, the Department has lately installed crossing signals and hiker crossing signs at some of the busier crossings. The Association is currently working with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to make safety improvements at certain crossings along the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails.

The Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails are footpaths, designed and maintained for hiking. The Association manages the use of these trails, and indeed all of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, in accordance with its policy entitled "Use of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails." Essentially, this policy establishes that these trails are to be used for walking, and are not established for multiple trail uses. Ultimately, however, the allowed use of these trails is determined by the landowner. Some landowners do indeed allow other uses along the trail or elsewhere on their properties, and it is their right to do so. Yet we, as an organization that maintains a trail that crosses land that we do not own, must limit what we ask of landowners to the trail use of the lowest impact, hiking. Without this policy, a trail user might conceivably ride from one property where riding is allowed onto one where it is not. This would defy the landowner's wishes and would increase the likelihood of trail closure.

There are occasionally deed restrictions or conservation restrictions that limit use. The deed granting Penwood State Park to the State of Connecticut, for example, prohibits equestrian use. In other state parks and forests, state statutes, regulations and policies establish the Metacomet and

Mattabesett Trails as designated hiking trails, except where these trails coincide with woods roads or multiple-use trails maintained by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. On public water supply lands, trail use is governed by regulations of the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study

The Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act was signed into law on December 16, 2002. The Association strongly supported the passage of this law, and Association Trail Conservation Coordinator Ann T. Colson offered supportive testimony before this committee in July 2001. Once Public Law 107-338 was enacted, the Association entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service and helped complete much of the work of the study in Connecticut. I participated in the regular steering committee meetings and the many meetings with landowners and municipalities held in various locations across the state, as did Ms. Colson and many Association volunteers.

The study employed a very collaborative process. First, a statewide steering committee was created. The steering committee was chaired by James Mahoney, Economic Development Director for the Town of Berlin, and the committee met quarterly. Through extensive research in town halls, we identified all the landowners on or within 250 feet of the trails. Each landowner was contacted, advised about the study, and invited to join the steering committee. Each landowner was also invited to public informational meetings, landowner-specific meetings, and meetings of the steering committee. We created a GIS database that depicts the trail and the properties that it crosses, thus allowing us to quickly identify trail landowners and possible alternative routes should a trail need to be moved. We offered to meet with each of the 20 towns that host the trail, and did meet with 17 of these 20. Landowner surveys were conducted and the ownership of the trail was analyzed. An ecologist completed a detailed ecological study of the trail and its environs.

The interaction between the Association, the National Park Service, towns and landowners that occurred during the study proved beneficial to the trails. We communicated with all towns, and in some cases were able to have consideration for the trails included in the town's plan of conservation and

development. The Association moved the trail off of several properties when landowners indicated to us that they did not desire the trail on their lands, and also conserved several sections of the trail through land purchases, donations, and trail easements when opportunities arose. Better knowledge of the land ownership surrounding the trails has also enabled the Association to eliminate certain road walks and to find routes around properties on which the landowner has closed the trail. The study also resulted in the creation of a Management Blueprint for the trail system.

The National Park Service completed the trail study in 2006. At its final meeting, the Steering Committee expressed its support for National Scenic Trail Designation. In the autumn of 2006, the National Park Service issued an Executive Summary of the findings and conclusions of the study as well as a comprehensive draft report entitled "Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail System: National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment." The preferred alternative of National Scenic Trail Designation, with a significant reroute in the Belchertown-Leverett area of Massachusetts, was endorsed unanimously by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's Board of Directors and its Trails Committee.

Support for the New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act

HR. 1528 and the identical Senate bill, S. 923, would designate the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails in Connecticut and the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail in Massachusetts, with a significant section rerouted, as the New England National Scenic Trail. The Connecticut Forest & Park Association strongly supports this designation.

We believe that National Scenic Trail designation is the best means of enhancing the long-term viability of these trails as a continuous, open-to-the-public resource. If the National Scenic Trail study offers a glimpse of some of the benefits that National Scenic Trail designation may bring, then National Scenic Trail designation will be very beneficial indeed. Through the study, the Association was able to identify all the landowners on or near the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails. Although the Association maintains 800 miles of hiking trails, the only trails for which we have identified all the landowners are the Metacomet and the Mattabesett, and this occurred because of National Park Service

assistance. While the Association strives to know all of its trail landowners and does know many, if not most, land ownership and trail volunteers do change over time. With trails that have been in place for decades, this sometimes results in the landowner not knowing that the trail is on his land, and the Association not knowing whose land the trail is on. For the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails, this problem was corrected by the study and would be eliminated by National Scenic Trail designation.

National Scenic Trail Designation will be a collaborative effort, just as was the study. Collaboration during the study benefited all interested parties. Landowners, for example, learned more about the organization maintaining the trail, expressed concerns and asked questions. In some cases, landowners asked that the trail be removed from their land, in other cases, landowners asked that the trail be located onto their land. Landowners were also able to learn about conservation options for their properties and means of protecting the trail. Prompted by the study, a Durham landowner gave a portion of his land containing the trail to the Town for conservation, a Meriden landowner entered into a revocable trail license agreement with the Association, and a Middlefield landowner developed part of his land that did not contain the trail and gave the Association a permanent trail easement on the part that did contain the trail.

Towns also benefited from this collaborative effort. By learning about the location of the trails and its importance in their community, some towns included the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails in their plans of conservation and development. By knowing where the trails are and recognizing their public importance, town planning and zoning commissions can place conservation set-asides on the trail when trail properties are subdivided and developed. If the collaboration that occurred in the study yielded such benefits, the collaboration that will continue under National Scenic Trail Designation will yield even greater benefits.

The Stewardship Council proposed in the Management Blueprint would prove valuable to the trail. With seats for landowners, town representatives, the trail maintaining organizations, user groups, agencies and other parties, the Stewardship Council would be a sizeable, yet inclusive, guiding organization. I found the Steering

Committee that was created during the trail study to be quite effective. It provide a forum for the discussion of issues, it kept interested parties informed, and it facilitated cooperation between our organization and others. For the National Park Service, the Stewardship Council would be very helpful as it would continually enable the Park Service to ascertain whether its work was aligned with the public and community interest.

I believe that a major reason that the New England National Scenic Trail proposal has garnered such public support – and generated so little opposition – is that it would not change the fundamental nature of the trail system. The trail will remain primarily a footpath. The trail will continue to exist at the good will of the landowner. Private property rights will be respected. The trail will continue to be maintained by volunteers of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club, the organizations that have maintained these trails for decades. Federal condemnation will not be used to take land along the trail. Although the trails are footpaths, even the use of the trail is ultimately determined by the landowner, and will remain so if the New England National Scenic Trail is created. Likewise, the trail will still exist at the good will of the landowner, even if designated a National Scenic Trail.

If a trail is to last, it may not be imposed upon a landowner or a community. If a trail is to last, it must be the result of cooperation between the landowner, the trail maintaining organization and the community. The Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails have always been cooperative efforts, and the New England National Scenic Trail will be a cooperative effort. That the trail will remain a footpath, maintained by the hard work of volunteers and the good will of civic-minded landowners, is a major reason that New England National Scenic Trail designation has enjoyed support.

Though the fundamental nature of these trails will remain as is, the future prospects for these trails will brighten markedly if the New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act is passed. The prospects will brighten because the amount of positive, beneficial trail activities will soar. In particular, willing-seller land conservation opportunities will certainly increase if the trail is designated.

It must be noted that the Metacomet and

Mattabesett Trails are located in a rapidly developing section of Connecticut. Since 1985, the amount of developed land in the 20 Connecticut towns hosting the trail has increased by 14%. Land values have risen, open land has grown more scarce, and land once marginally suited to development is no longer so. The study revealed that only 33% of the trails in Connecticut are fully protected due to their location on conservation land, and a further 10% considered “partially” protected. The majority of these trails, therefore, are entirely unprotected. Due to development, sections of unprotected trails have had to be routed onto roads. Absent designation, the long-term future of these trails is clouded with doubt, despite the trails’ decades of existence, despite their importance to millions of people.

Yet if a New England National Scenic Trail is created, the future will be bright. Willing-seller land conservation opportunities will increase. The presence of these trails on a property already gives that property a higher-ranking in the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection’s Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program; we expect the presence of a National Scenic Trail on a property to rank that parcel even higher. With a designated National Scenic Trail in town, we expect that land trusts and town conservation commissions will focus their conservation efforts on properties that contain –or could contain – these trails. Although the acquisition of land by the National Park Service is not expected to occur for a New England National Scenic Trail, if it does occur, it will be through willing-seller transactions only. Even if a trail property is developed, with National Scenic Trail designation, and the better knowledge of the trail system that will result, the local Planning & Zoning Commission would be more apt to place the conservation set-aside on the property in a manner that will protect the trail.

Brightened prospects include the potential for greater use of these trails. National Scenic Trail use would increase the wholesome, desirable trail use that is welcome. With more walkers on the trail, more families enjoying the scenery, more visitors to the region, undesirable uses such as destructive, unauthorized all-terrain vehicle users will decrease. A greater number of walkers in the area will also bring an economic benefit to the trail communities. Trail visitors will stay in local

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lodging, eat and shop at local establishments, and contribute to the activity of the community. Tourism already has a large and beneficial economic impact on Connecticut, and the presence of a New England National Scenic Trail will make this impact greater.

Designation as a New England National Scenic Trail can help landowners with liability concerns. Landowner liability is an issue that arose frequently in landowner meetings during the trail study. In 1971, through the efforts of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Connecticut passed a very strong landowner liability law. The landowner liability law protects landowners from liability if they allow people to use their land for recreational purposes, free of charge. While landowners are aware of this law, many still have concerns. We found that many landowners had a strong interest in the protections offered through the National Park Service "Volunteers in Parks" program, through liability programs in effect on other National Scenic Trails, particularly the North Country Trail, and in the possibility of creating a fund to defend landowners from liability claims if need be. While we have a good law in Connecticut, landowners would be even better served by the additional options possible through National Scenic Trail Designation.

The Draft National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment included a proposed annual operating budget of \$271,000.00. The budget would cover such items as part-time staff, with one half-time person for each of the two states, a small grants program, signage and kiosks, clean-up activities, mapping and landowner database upkeep, website maintenance, printing and the like. All of these expenditures are worthwhile, valuable, and more than either trail-maintaining organization has been able to devote to these trails thus far. While such funding would be of great assistance to the trails, we do not believe it would be a major impact on the federal or National Park Service budget. Considering the millions of people living near these trails, these federal funds will have a great impact when considered on a per capita basis.

New England National Scenic Trail Designation will benefit the trail itself and

will improve the Association's ability to maintain it. National Park Service funding can leverage additional funding, and can better enable our organization to seek private, matching contributions. We will have a greater ability to post signs, establish trail-head parking sites, make available hand-held maps and the like. We can create guide books and maps specific to this trail and post information at key locations in trail communities. With additional staffing, we will have a greater ability to coordinate with conservation law enforcement and search and rescue personnel, thus improving safety and security for hikers and landowners. National Scenic Trail designation will also enhance our ability to create universal access opportunities along the trail.

Connecticut's recently completed State Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Plan revealed that residents run, walk and hike more than they engage in any other recreational activity. The Plan also revealed that residents greatly desire trails as recreational amenities. If designated, I believe that the presence of a National Scenic Trail in town will become a strong source of civic pride. As a resident of the trail town of Durham, Connecticut, and one who lives in the shadow of the Mattabesett Trail as it crosses Mount Pisgah, I find it thrilling to think that that familiar trail, the one I hiked as a child with my father, the one I've hiked with my own children, may become the nation's ninth National Scenic Trail.

In conclusion, I return to the National Trails System Act, which states that "trails should be established...primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation." Two million people live within ten miles of these trails. Forgetting even the nearby metropolises of Boston and New York, the presence of two million Americans within ten miles of these beautiful trails is remarkable. With two million people within ten miles, a New England National Scenic Trail clearly meets this policy goal of the National Trails System Act, and does so strikingly.

We believe that the New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act is clearly consistent with the National Trails System Act. A New England National Scenic Trail will be a collaborative, cooperative effort between landowners, trail maintainers,

towns and the National Park Service. A New England National Scenic Trail will benefit the Metacomet, Mattabesett and Metacomet-Monadnock trails and will greatly enhance their long-term viability.

We urge you to join the Connecticut Forest & Park Association in support of HR 1528, the New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony, and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam R. Moore
Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPRESSIONS

The following poems were winners in a University of Connecticut environmental writing contest for which CFPA provided some prizes.

1st Place:

Earth Sonnet

By Brendan Galvin

*The Polar Ice Cap is succumbing to Man
How something seen by so few eyes, felt
By so few feet, touched by so few hands,
Something so vast having frosted so few lips can melt
Well, I don't understand. Something foul in the air
Has muffled the voice of reason from those in power
As it floats up to poke holes in the Ozone layer.
One could sigh and admit this is Earth's final hour.
Yet there are those who stand in the face of such facts
As rising sea levels and extinct species and say no longer
Can we enjoy it while it lasts. It is time to act
Like this is our home, like we belong here.
It is time to wake up and save ourselves from a permanent
eclipse;
A world under water, with no place for frosted lips.*



Emily Moser won third place in the contest's photo division for this shot taken in the Torrey Life Sciences Greenhouse.

2nd Place:

Need your help

By Andrew Sholudko

*Can't you all hear what the siren meant
Gotta start saving the environment
Do a little bit, every little bit that you can
Cuz we're cutting down on the human lifespan*

*And I need your help
In saving this place, that we call home.
And I need your help
I know that I can't, do it all alone
Now you gotta chance to save this mother of a pearl world
you've been whirling in*

*We've been destroying our forests, our oceans, and our planet
Now we gotta do something quick to stop it and can it
CFC's in the ozone
We've now just cast the first stone
But this earth's got a stone of its own
Ready to be cocked and ready to be thrown*

*But I need your help
In saving this place, that we call home.
And I need your help
I know that I can't, do it all alone*

All alone

*But you gotta chance to reverse what's been done
All you gotta do is just a little bit for everyone
Everyday just cleanup your fair share my friend
And we'll all be better off in the end
In the end*

*Now you gotta chance to save this mother of a pearl world
you've been whirling in*

*Big black smoke goes up in the air, when you burn that stuff,
but you just don't care
Now we gotta clean up after you, when it's not nothing that
we didn't do
But my advice to you, is just do a little bit every day
It'll be okay*

*But I need your help
In saving this place, that we call home.
And I need your help
I know that I can't, do it all alone*

*All alone
All alone*

3rd Place:

Haiku

By Jessica Larocca

*a drying river-
where the splash of life
is drained away.*

*This poem was prompted by
the drying of the Fenton
River in 2005.*

continued from page 29

iate for National Wildlife Federation, CFPA led a native plant workshop this past spring. Join us next spring for tips and information about native plant gardening, as this will become an annual program.

Play outside

Remember to have fun outdoors. Adults' fears can frighten children as they watch for our reactions to insects and other critters and model our actions. The more informed we are, the better we can be at assessing risky situations and making sound decisions. While a child should be aware of ticks and learn to

check for them, we also should stay calm, be smart, and keep our scare-o-meters at a low setting. We can show children that ticks are a part of life and we can prevent getting hurt by taking precautions and acting sensibly.

More and more studies are showing that experience in nature and unstructured free time to explore the outdoors has a wealth of positive benefits for our children. Free time outside helps children—and adults—embrace creativity, become physically active, improve health, and to de-stress. It is up to adults be educated about the risks that go along with outside play and to use information, not fear, to make the best decisions.

“Children who are less restricted in their access to the outdoors gain competence in moving through the larger world. Developmentally, they should gain the ability to navigate their immediate environs (in safety) and lay the foundation for the courage that will enable them eventually to lead their own lives.”

—National Association for the Education of Young Children (www.naeyc.org)

Lori Paradis Brant is the education coordinator of CFPA. Visit her blog at www.ctwoodlands.blogspot.com.

UPDATE ON PINCHOT-MUIR THEATER PROJECT

Playwright Stephen Most visits CFPA to Research Gifford Pinchot

CFPA hosted the playwright Stephen Most for two days in February during his week-long visit to the East Coast from his home in Berkeley, California, to conduct research on Gifford Pinchot. Last fall, Mr. Most was commissioned by CFPA to write a play based on the relationship between two icons of the early American environmental movement, namely John Muir and Connecticut-born Pinchot. The play will be performed at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts on November 9, 2007, to benefit CFPA's Education Program.

Mr. Most visited the birthplace of Pinchot in Simsbury, spent a day the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, toured Grey Towers - the Pinchot family estate in Pennsylvania - and examined the Pinchot papers at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

A three-character drama that takes place in the corridors of power, the play exposes the philosophical rivalry between Pinchot and Muir, as each seeks to gain advantage with President Theodore Roosevelt.

“It is our hope that audiences will come away from the performance thoughtful of the balancing act in the conservation debate and mindful of this balance as they make their own life's decisions and decisions regarding public policy,” said Adam Moore, CFPA executive director. The play

also illuminates the signature role of Connecticut in the birth of U.S. environmental history.

Governor M. Jodi Rell will declare November 9 Gifford Pinchot Day. CFPA members will be invited to attend the performance and a reception afterwards.

CFPA developing related study guide, writing workshop

The Association is coordinating the development of a two-phased educational component as part of this project. Phase I will begin this summer as CFPA creates a study guide to be used by adults and students as a tool for learning. A professional development workshop for teachers will be held in August with the Study Guide informing activities. Teachers attending will be invited to the performance with their students.

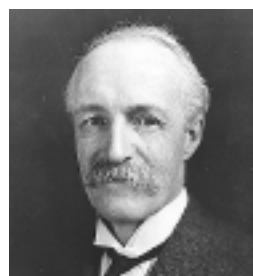
Phase II will engage teachers in a creative writing workshop that will lead to the development of a classroom module correlated to both the Connecticut Framework K-12 Curricular Goals and Standards and the National Standards of Social Studies and the Arts.

The play has been made possible by a grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council and a donation from Astrid and Fred Hanzalek.



Library of Congress

John Muir



Library of Congress

Gifford Pinchot



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We thank you for the positive part you play, through your membership, in the fulfillment of our identified public purpose – conserving the land, trails and natural resources of Connecticut. The rewards are yours to enjoy as you tramp the trails, pick your own at a local farm and pass through the country byways of our state. Thank you for joining us.

Includes new members from January 15, 2007 through April 30, 2007

Gavin Anderson and Kendall Gardiner	Gail Cameron	Bruce Grotta	Stephen Most	John and Natasha Sheer
Carol Ann Anyan	Lynn Charest	Frederick Hashemian	Everett E. Newton	Mrs. Leslie M. Stophel
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Cordalie Benoit	William L. Detlefsen	Frank Kromer	Leila Pinchot	Scott and Ava Tucker
Len Berton	Anthony DeVito	Jose S. Landin	Ed and Denise Poole	Marian Wrobel
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Maureen D. Budd	Melissa Emma	James McLaughlin	Arthur and Melissa Roti	Jason Yost
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Special welcome and thank you to new and renewing members in the following categories

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Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
Essex Garden Club
Fairfield Public Library
Friends of the Rose Farm*
Meshomasic Hiking Club
Shelton Conservation Commission*
South Windsor Public Library

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continued on page 40

DONATIONS

In the following lists, we honor those who, through their generosity and volunteer help, have supported the programs and public mission of CFPA. Thank you for your distinct service to and philanthropic investment in Connecticut conservation.

The Annual Fund

The Annual Fund reached a new milestone in 2006 topping \$95,000 for the first time in CFPA history. To those listed in the spring issue, we renew our gratitude, and to our recent donors listed here, we extend our heartiest thanks for your part in this success.

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\$5,000 and up
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The Hibbard Trust for Land & Trails

The Hibbard Trust supports the Association's topmost priority, conserving the land and trails of Connecticut. We extend our gratitude to the following donors who support our guiding purpose in this endeavor..

Ann Wilhelm and William R. Bentley

Mike Schumann

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Seiler

Other Donations

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Colleagues from CSMC and GMS at Pratt & Whitney in honor of Chris Demers

Matching Gifts

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The Heritage Society: Giving That Lasts

Profile: James H. Shattuck, Ardent Hiker and Quiet Supporter

Jim Shattuck was the first person to hike the entire Appalachian Trail in the winter, in 1966-67, at the age of 51.

In 2004, CFPA established The Heritage Society for individuals who envision a better world and wish to play a role in shaping it. The Heritage Society honors those who, recognizing that a sustained effort will always be necessary to preserve the well-being of our land and natural resources, make a lasting contribution to the Association in the form of a planned gift.

James H. Shattuck was such a person. Ardent hiker and lover of the wilderness and the outdoors, Jim Shattuck was the first person to hike the entire Appalachian Trail in the winter, walking from Maine to Georgia in 1966-67, taking only one or two breaks for holidays. Mr. Shattuck's resolve helped him survive brutal winter conditions most people associate with dramatic tales of the Himalayas. In volume one of *Hiking the Appalachian Trail* (Rodale Press, 1975), Mr. Shattuck described his unusual itinerary, which started, on Katahdin in Maine just as the summer was ending, on August 24, 1966, continued through the winter of 1966-67, and concluded on Springer Mountain, in northern Georgia, on May 23, 1967. (Most hike from south to north starting in the spring in order to take advantage of optimal weather conditions.) He wrote of lacing his frozen boots while praying that his numb "claws" would do the job. This happened after camping on a ridge in a temperature of 27 below zero.

Mr. Shattuck came late to hiking and approached it cautiously. He was 51 when he set out on the Appalachian Trail, having experienced only one camping trip in his life, a three-day canoe journey as a child. He progressed relatively slowly over a nine-month



period. So rare were Appalachian Trail hikers when he began in Maine that summer that a ranger radioed ahead to tell the next ranger to be on the lookout for him. Hauling a canvas tent and snowshoes, falling into the mud, looking bears and moose almost in the eye, picking his way across snow and ice, Mr. Shattuck made his way south, often alone.

Mr. Shattuck wrote: "One can't walk the Appalachian Trail without feeling gratitude for the many hours of non-walking activity that others have spent to make it possible. He added, "My sincere thanks go to all who have made such a journey as mine possible. The planning, the laying out and the maintaining of this wilderness footway was originally a labor of love and still remains so to a large extent. Therein, I believe, lies its

unique quality and variety."

His other hikes included the Glacial Crest Trail in Canada and the full length of Great Britain.

Mr. Shattuck was a native of Wisconsin. His family co-founded the Kimberly Clark Company in Neenah, Wisconsin, and one of his interests was in the work they did to promote sustainability in their forest management.

He left home as a teenager to attend the Choate School in Wallingford, from which he graduated in 1934. He earned bachelor's degrees from Tufts University and from Yale and after graduation became the assistant personnel director at Yale, a job he held until 1966. During one of his breaks from the Appalachian Trail hike, he was offered his next job, director of personnel at the University of New Haven, which he held from 1968 until his retirement in 1980.

Mr. Shattuck joined the Connecticut Forest & Park Association in 1988 and became a life member in 1999. A steady and loyal donor for 17 years, his legacy lives on. In December 2004, the Association learned that it would be recipient of the James H. Shattuck Charitable Lead Trust, representing a 10-year annual gift totaling over \$200,000.

On July 3, 2005, Mr. Shattuck died peacefully at his home in Guilford. A year later, consistent with his character which, as we came to know, was modest and unassuming, a check for \$435,000 from the James H. Shattuck Trust arrived in the mail, unannounced. The Association subsequently learned that the annual contribution from Mr. Shattuck's Charitable Trust would continue for the full 10 years.

Mr. Shattuck's wife, Martha, died in 2006. His survivors include his three sons, Brad, Alden, and Jonathan P. "Jape" Shattuck; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two sisters.

Mr. Shattuck was described in his obituary notice in The New York Times in the following manner: "Of equal importance with his

Gifts to the Connecticut Forestlands Council Fund

The Association is pleased to accept donations on behalf of the Connecticut Forestlands Council and to make disbursements to meet its needs in promoting forests and forestry in Connecticut. We extend our thanks to the donors listed below.

Connecticut Forestlands Council Members	Ann Wilhelm and William R. Bentley	East Coast Four-Wheel-Drive Association, Inc.	Helene and Will Hochholzer New England Orienteering Club	Donald H. Smith, Jr.
Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.				

The Camp-Ellsworth Library Collection

The Association's Camp-Ellsworth Library contains an outstanding collection of books and periodicals on forestry, trails, wildlife, botany, geology, educational curricula, planning and children's materials. We are pleased to report that the collection has been re-organized and catalogued to Library of Congress specifications. A computer catalogue is available to members and friends for their use. We extend our deep gratitude to Mal Bochner for his nearly two years of volunteer work on this project, and to the following for their recent donations to the collection:

Ann T. Colson, for *Burnham Brook Preserve of the Nature Conservancy*, 1960 to 2005, by Richard H. Goodwin

William Myers, for *Forest Trees Common to Southern New England and Adjacent Areas in New York State*, a pocket manual published by CFPA

Stephen C. Parsons, for a collection of books and materials from the planning library of Kermit C. Parsons

Sally L. Taylor, for a collection of books on trees, forests, gardens, country walks and tidewaters

A. L. "Pat" Wasserman and Edward A. Richardson, for a collection of bulletins and maps on Connecticut state geological and natural history

Donations of Gifts and Services in Kind

Ron Gerrity of the Connecticut Woodcarvers Association, for his gift of hand-crafted birdhouses for sale by CFPA

Foundations, Corporations, and Government Grants and Sponsorships

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 Connecticut Water Company
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 National Recreational Trails Program of the Federal Highways Administration and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
 Tilcon Connecticut
 USDA Forest Service, Forest Land Enhancement Program

Volunteers

For their invaluable assistance in the library and in the office, CFPA thanks the following people:

Mal Bochner
 Jose Landin
 Maggie Peterson
 Alex Turley

professional life was the continuous flow of extraordinarily generous acts of anonymous charity to everyone he met who was in need and the organizations that had impressed him with their good deeds and value." At CFPA we came to know his quiet generosity, and we are deeply honored to be among those touched by his benevolence.

The Heritage Society

Listing since 2001

John R. Camp*
 Ruth Cutler
 Grace W. Ellsworth
 Anonymous
 Edward and Marion Richardson
 James L. Shattuck*
 Katherine M. Stevenson*
 Leon W. Zimmerman*
 *deceased

For more information on how you may become a member, please contact CFPA Development Coordinator Starr Sayres at 860-346-2372.

AN INVITATION

Most of us would like to believe we can in some way leave the world a better place. If you cherish Connecticut's wild and natural landscape, you may wish to consider this invitation to make a lasting contribution to the Connecticut Forest & Park Association in the form of a planned gift. Gifts may be tailored to meet your particular financial requirements and philanthropic priorities. There can be significant tax advantages to you and to your heirs. You will become a heralded member of The Heritage Society.

We can help you explore the options. Here are some ways in which you can secure the future of CFPA for generations to come, and the land we love forever.

- ▶ Name CFPA in your will.
- ▶ Make CFPA the beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy.
- ▶ Establish a charitable remainder trust and receive income for life while passing assets to CFPA.
- ▶ Establish a charitable lead trust providing income to CFPA while maximizing assets for your heirs.
- ▶ Make the gift of a conservation easement or an outright gift of acreage worthy of conservation to CFPA.

If we may help you in your decision-making process, please feel free to call Starr Sayres, Development Coordinator at (860) 346-2372.

CFPA Store

Trail Gear

CFPA Logo Hats

Two-toned low-profile 100% cotton baseball cap with KHAKI CROWN, FOREST GREEN BILL, embroidered logo. Adjustable strap. (Hat not exactly as pictured here).

\$15.00 (plus \$2.00 shipping)



Books, etcetera



Forest Trees of Southern New England

a 56-page paperback publication of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. This manual is a simple description in accurate and nontechnical terms of the forest trees common in southern New England. It is intended for the general public to meet a pressing demand for a pocket manual which is easy to use and understand.

\$2.00 (plus tax and \$1.50 shipping)



Connecticut Woodlands

A Century's Story of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, by George McLean Milne, published by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association in 1995. A fascinating history, not so much of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association as it is of the dedicated men and women who have cared about Connecticut's forests and fields, hills, valleys, and parklands. Scattered through these pages are inspiring accounts of courageous struggles to protect the rich and varied natural environment of the state.

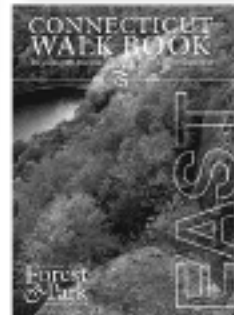
\$25.00 (plus tax and \$5.00 shipping)



A Shared Landscape

A Guide & History of Connecticut's State Parks and Forests, by Joseph Leary, published by Friends of Connecticut State Parks, Inc. in 2004. Richly illustrated in four-color with maps and photographs, this 240-page guide offers an intimate look at Connecticut's public lands and tells you everything you need to know about where to go if you love to hike, bike, camp, fish, swim, hunt, watch birds, learn about ecology or cross-country ski.

\$25.00 (plus tax and \$5.00 shipping)



JUST RELEASED!

The Connecticut Walk Book, WEST

This completely updated book, along with the *Connecticut Walk Book, East*, provide a comprehensive guide to hiking throughout the state. Published by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the two volumes are the 19th edition of the guidebook first released more than 75 years ago. Both volumes include the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails of Central Connecticut. Both volumes include detailed two-color topographic maps that are crisp, clear, and easy to read. Complete trail descriptions accompany the maps.

Each volume **\$19.95 members** (plus tax and \$5 shipping)

Each volume **\$24.95 non-members** (plus tax and \$5 shipping)

The Homeowner's Guide to Energy Independence

by Christine Woodside. Lyons Press, 2006. A book for ordinary Americans who want to move away from fossil fuels. Learn about the most viable and affordable alternatives such as solar panels, wood, hydroelectric, hybrid cars, and more.

\$14.95 (plus tax and \$5.00 shipping)



Trail Gear

CFPA Logo T-shirts

Hanes Beefy Ts - 100% cotton, heavy weight, double needle hems, taped shoulder-to-shoulder, Sizes: S-M-L-XL, WHITE ON FOREST GREEN / FOREST GREEN ON KHAKI. **\$15.00** (plus \$4.00 shipping)



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Chet Matczak

U.S. Rep. Chris Murphy, center, led a hike on the Metacomet Trail in Simsbury on June 1 for National Trails Day. Connecticut's guided-hike offerings were the most abundant in the nation.

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