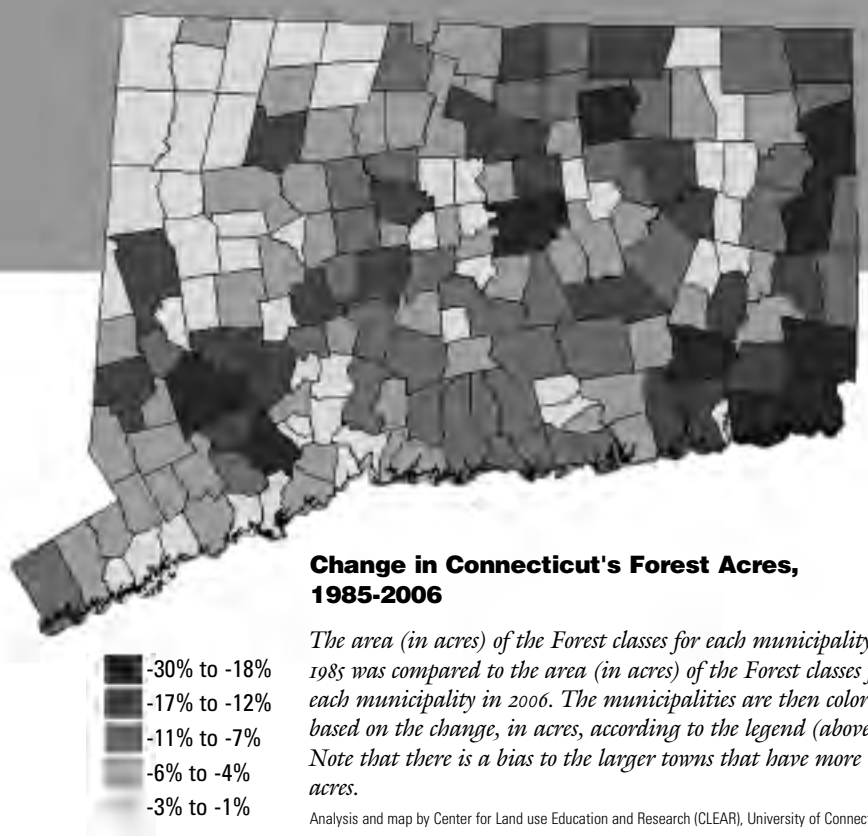
CONNECTICUT Woodlands

CLIMATE CHANGE CREEPS INTO THE FOREST

Also: Ned Anderson, Appalachian Trailblazer

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Winter 2010 Volume 74 No. 4

CONNECTICUT
Woodlands
The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association



Change in Connecticut's Forest Acres, 1985-2006

The area (in acres) of the Forest classes for each municipality in 1985 was compared to the area (in acres) of the Forest classes for each municipality in 2006. The municipalities are then colored based on the change, in acres, according to the legend (above). Note that there is a bias to the larger towns that have more acres.

Analysis and map by Center for Land use Education and Research (CLEAR), University of Connecticut

Connecting People to the Land

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association protects forests, parks, walking trails and open spaces for future generations by connecting people to the land. CFPA directly involves individuals and families, educators, community leaders and volunteers to enhance and defend Connecticut's rich natural heritage. CFPA is a private, non-profit organization that relies on members and supporters to carry out its mission.

We envision Connecticut as a place of scenic beauty whose cities, suburbs, and villages are linked by a network of parks, forests, and trails easily accessible for all people to challenge the body and refresh the spirit. We picture a state where clean water, timber, farm fresh foods and other products of the land make a significant contribution to our economic and cultural well-being.

Connecticut Woodlands
Published quarterly by the
Connecticut Forest & Park Association,
16 Meriden Road,
Rockfall, CT 06481-2961.
Indexed in the Connecticut Periodical Index,
ISSN 00106257.
Telephone: 860-346-2372.
Fax: 860-347-7463.
E-mail address: info@ctwoodlands.org
World Wide Web site:
http://www.ctwoodlands.org

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Contents

On the Cover:
Branches make shadows on a soft snowcover at the Connecticut College Arboretum in New London. Climate change eventually will greatly reduce the snow that stays on the ground.
Photo by Milton Moore.

CONNECTICUT Forest & Park ASSOCIATION

The go-to place for walking inspiration

CFPA President David Platt

BY DAVID PLATT

By now, most of you are aware that the Connecticut Forest & Park Association has successfully launched WalkCT, a first-of-its-kind program designed to make available all in one place information about free trails and walking routes throughout Connecticut. Trail information compiled by CFPA, much of which is contributed by organizations and towns throughout the state, is now available online at www.walkct.org. The site also includes information about outdoor events and healthy living, including our popular "family rambles" program. We aim to make this Web site the "go to" place for walking, hiking or biking routes near wherever you happen to be in Connecticut.

We can't overstate the importance of this resource. Too many people — even those who believe that they understand the important health implications of staying active — run into informational roadblocks that contribute to their tendency to be less active than they should be. Some do not have ready access to information about where to go. Others are intimidated not only by the task of ferreting out a walking or hiking spot and deciphering how to get there, but also how to be safe and have fun. CFPA's WalkCT program tells you where to go, how to get there, and how to be safe. This is good stuff.

Thinking about WalkCT the other day caused me to reflect on my own outdoor experiences, many of which are on trails of various kinds. I enjoy biking, running, and hiking, and place a premium on staying fit. I enjoy these activities by myself, with friends, and with my family; my outdoor experiences with my three children are among my most special memories.

On the surface, I tell myself that I do these things for the physical gains (or, more accurately, to stem the tide of the physical losses). Actually, I probably gain more benefit spiritually and mentally from my rides, runs, and walks. The time I spend exercising outdoors helps me reduce stress and refocus. Often, in these more stimulating environments, I find myself thinking about and tackling problems. Out there, I see different perspectives and work out solutions that had eluded me in more stale indoor environments. And here is the kicker: I cannot recall ever having a bad experience on the trails. If I am tired and lacking energy before a trail hike or run, I always—without fail—return feeling refreshed and energized. It does not seem to matter if it is a hot summer afternoon, a crisp fall evening, a bone-chillingly cold winter night, or a rainy spring morning. Going on a trail refreshes me physically and mentally and raises my spirits.

I hope that you share my feelings about the importance of outdoor experiences in your lives, or if you don't, that you will take a chance and start to explore. WalkCT is a great place to start. And don't forget to take a friend or two.

David Platt is a lawyer who lives with his wife and three children in Higganum.

Our ability to produce maple syrup could slip away

CFPA Executive Director Eric Hammerling

It is clear that maple syrup must taste even sweeter when it comes from your sugar bushes, your pails, your sugarhouse, and your evaporator.

BY ERIC HAMMERLING

My favorite part of *The Last Undiscovered Place*, a wonderfully personal ode to the charming town of Collinsville written by David Leff (a CFPA Board Member), is his chapter entitled "Maple Fever." In just eight stirring pages, David tells the story of his relationship with the maple trees in his yard, the volunteers who tend them during tapping season, and the sweet syrup they produce together. He concludes the chapter as follows:

> Naturalists Scott and Helen Nearing believed sugarmakers could eke out an existence of Thoreau-like simplicity. I dream of no such utopia. But sugaring can enable suburban dwellers to connect with seasonal cycles, refresh their sense of community, and steep themselves in something elemental, antique, exotic, and yet as practical as a backyard vegetable garden. One need not have a farm to feel some of agriculture's rhythm. Just find a tree.

— From *The Last Undiscovered Place*, by David Leff, University of Virginia Press, 2004 and 2007.

It is clear that maple syrup must taste even sweeter when it comes from your sugar bushes, your pails, your sugarhouse, and your evaporator. But even if you don't have the equipment, time, or energy to make it for yourself, you can feel good that this is a local product drawn sustainably from local trees. Of course, David and others would make sure to note, it's more than just the end product. Maple sugaring is, in Collinsville and many other places, a community bond that is just as sticky (in the community way) as it is delicious.

The response of the maple trees to the weather determines the magical conditions for collecting sap. In the later summer and fall, maple trees begin storing excess starches in their sapwood. This excess starch remains in storage until wood temperatures reach around 40 degrees Fahrenheit and enzymes in the trees change the starches into sugars, largely sucrose (sugar content in the sap will increase during prolonged periods of winter weather below 25 degrees F). These sugars then pass into the tree sap and flow best when temperatures are varying between freezing nights and warm days (typically between February and April). The freeze/thaw cycle results in water uptake from the soil, stem pressure, and flowing sap. Then, when a hole is bored into a tree, wood fibers that are water/sap carrying vessels are severed and sap drips out. When the nights no longer freeze, the enzymes stop functioning, sugars are converted back into starches, and the sugaring season is over.

I mention all of this, of course, because climate change experts are telling us that our ability to produce maple syrup in New England could slip away in fewer than 50 years. Sap will have lower sugar content because of warmer winters, and we will lose much of the freezing/thawing interchange because our spring will come earlier and earlier. Scientists also suggest that mild, dry winters will hurt the potential yields of sap for the following season. Already, in Vermont where about 60 percent of the maple syrup is currently produced, sap is being collected a full month ahead of when it was being collected just one generation ago. The process of losing our local syrup appears to be already underway.

Faced with the large, complex threats of climate change, it would be understandable if you decided to throw up your hands and submit to simply get your future syrup from Quebec (which already provides about 75 percent of the world's maple syrup). I feel that we all need to do something to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that have sped up the process that hurts maple trees. I hope that you will not simply give up and instead will consider doing two things:

1. Of course, see what you can do personally to reduce your carbon footprint (since you are a reader of Connecticut Woodlands, I'm guessing you have already taken significant strides in this direction).

2. Find someone who makes maple syrup in your community, and see how you might be able to either lend a hand or purchase a quart when the sap starts flowing again.

In 1663, English chemist Robert Boyle wrote to associates in Europe, "There is in some parts of New England a kind of tree whose juice that weeps out its incision, if it is permitted slowly to exhale away the superfluous moisture, doth congeal into a sweet and saccharin substance and the like was confirmed to me by the agent of the great and populace colony of Massachusetts."

This sweet syrup remains today a special community connector. Please do what you can to keep it flowing locally.

Eric Hammerling lives in West Hartford.

Editor's Note: Northern hardwood trees such as the sugar maple are at the southern end of their range in Connecticut. Although scientists predict that northern hardwoods will decline in the future, the rate and extent of this decline is still not definite and, therefore, it's fair to say that people can affect that rate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For helpful articles and links, see: "All Tapped Out," in The Daily Climate at http://wwwp.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/maples/All-tapped-out; and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's climate Web page at http://ctclimatechange.com/impacts.html.

CLIMATE CHANGE *Creeps into the Forest*

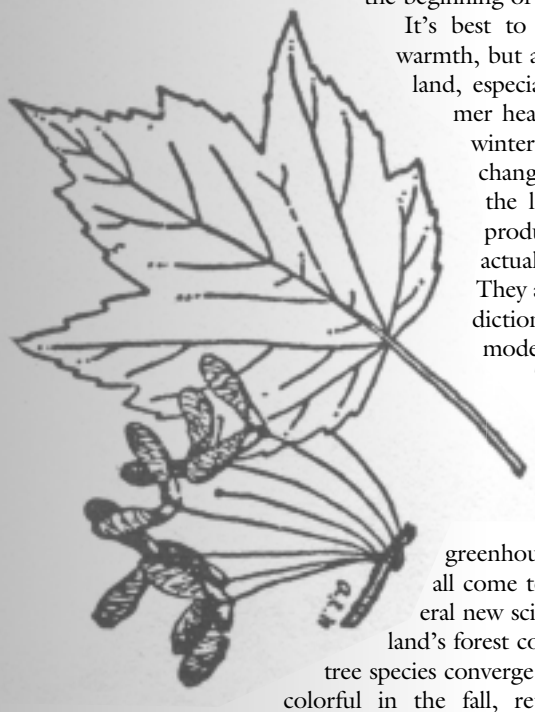
Scientists hone theories about southern New England's climate and forest

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

The term *global warming* means a rise in mean temperatures over the span of all the seasons and across all regions. But in the common lexicon, the words often make people talk about heat. That is no accurate way to understand how the climate is changing in New England. It is true that the mean temperature of this region, as in most regions of the world, is rising. It is also an accepted scientific fact that humans have quickened the rate of temperature increase by emitting high amounts of greenhouse gases since the beginning of the industrial age.

It's best to think of global warming not as warmth, but as a decrease in cold. In New England, especially southern New England, summer heat extremes are going up, but it is winter that brings the time of the most changes in temperature and weather. In the last decade, climate scientists have produced much new research based on actual conditions in the 20th century. They also have made a wide range of predictions, using numerous complicated models, for the future of the forest.

Trees, like everything living, tend to grow where conditions favor them. So the act of predicting the future of Connecticut's forest requires understanding how temperature, rain and snow, greenhouse gas emissions, and development all come together. Based on a review of several new scientific studies, southern New England's forest could end up at a point where many tree species converge. The forest also stands to look less colorful in the fall, retain less moisture, suffer longer droughts in the summer, and lose northern trees like spruce and the sugar maple. A list of the studies appears at the end of this article.



Trees grow where conditions favor them, and the sugar maple might find better climes northward in the next century. CFPA

Wait a Minute and the Weather May Change

New England has always been famous for wild shifts in weather, especially in the winter. Climate change will affect the makeup of the forest here, but not as a wild shift. It's more accurate to say that climate change is creeping into the forest through changes both visible, as in when it snows less often, and harder to see, as in the increase in water evaporating from the ground and plants.

Winter brings the most volatile weather because, as a meteorologist would say, in New England an always-shifting boundary between cold and warm air bisects the region. That boundary, the polar front (also called the polar front jet or the jet stream), is an east-west line. Temperatures south of this line are much warmer than those north of this line. In the winter, the polar front sits at roughly the Connecticut coast. In the summer, it shifts far north. Therefore, New England winters tend to be stormy, cold, and unpredictable, and summers tend to be hot and humid. (This is all extremely general, of course. Higher elevations bring other conditions such as shifting cloud cover and cooler temperatures.) Some climate change models predict that the polar front will eventually shift even farther north in the summer, making summers hotter in northern New England. In the winter, the east coast trough, an area of low-pressure air in the polar front that affects rain and snow, is expected to shift to the east. This could reduce the amount of winter precipitation. For many years, winter storms, especially Nor'easters, have greatly affected the severity of winters. These storms strike the New England coast more often than do summer tropical storms, especially hurricanes.

While we hear much these days about hurricanes increasing in intensity as the climate changes, New England residents might do best to think more about Nor'easters. We hear about hurricanes because scientists have found evidence that Atlantic Ocean hurricanes are increasing in intensity, mostly because of rising sea temperatures. But how these would affect New England is unclear. At least four other studies in the last decade have looked at data differently. Those studies conclude that it isn't all that obvious whether Atlantic hurricanes will continue to become more intense. Over history, too, the hurricanes that hit the land in New England—and thus affect the forest—have been very few. The stands blown down by the Hurricane of 1938, 72 years ago, remain on the tip of every forester's tongue. No hurricane that intense has come since (yet).

How the Forest Might Respond to Climate Change

The polar front, snow, melting snow, rain, and moving water define New England's landscape and climate. But during the past century—and especially during the past 40 years—these factors have all been changing. The annual mean temperature has gone up, with the most dramatic increases in the winter. The snow that remains on the ground through the winter has decreased, more water evaporates into the air, and therefore less water "runs off" into streams and rivers in the spring.

Yearly precipitation totals increased in New England during the 20th century by about 10 millimeters or just under 0.4 inch per decade, or just under 4 inches for the entire cen-

tury. The data seems to signify different rates of change depending on the period researchers emphasize. For instance, during the period 1930 to 2000, rainfall went up along the coast and down in inland regions. Since 1970, the trend seems to be reversing, but because that isn't that long ago, scientists aren't sure of this. Another important fact is that as annual rainfall has gone up, it hasn't tended to increase in the summer. This makes summers drier. And that too can affect trees.

Drier summers can lead to increased forest fires, which affect trees in both "bad" and "good" ways. "Bad" because a big fire will knock out a forest. "Good" in controlled conditions because some species, particularly the mighty oak that has led Connecticut's timber economy, benefit from periodic fires that open up the forest canopy.

Whether oaks will do well in a warmer climate is under debate for other reasons. Connecticut forester Emery Gluck said, "A warmer climate by itself is unlikely to give rise to a resurgence of new oak forests." He said that oaks are not doing well in southern climates that mimic the climate New England may eventually have. The current oak forests in Connecticut were established around 1900. At that time, the state had a population of 12 deer and an annual rainfall of about 40 inches (about 1 meter) a year. Today's deer population is estimated at 76,000, and today's annual precipitation is about 60 inches.

Foresters Try to Map Future Ranges of 134 Trees

Five forestry researchers looked at 134 species of North American trees in a study published in December 2007. Daniel W. McKenney and colleagues with the Canadian Forest Service (along with an Australian forester) analyzed potential shifts in tree ranges based on climate trends predicted by many models. They established "climate envelopes" for each species, which they said was the most straightforward way to understand the areas where trees would do well. They acknowledged that some experts criticize that method of establishing where trees would do well because it doesn't consider such things as how animals prey on one another, how humans develop land, and other factors. Still, it is one way to try to get a grasp on the future of trees.

That study predicts that 2 of the 3 most common trees in Connecticut—the red maple and the red oak—are among a list of 25 tree species in North America that stand to move the most dramatically. That is, those 25 trees, under the most dramatic scenario they envisioned, would move as much as 8.7 degrees north in latitude.

The study also listed 25 tree species that could lose the most habitat. No tree that is common in Connecticut made that list. Most of the species are southern species like the sweet gum and the bigleaf magnolia.

Mr. McKenney and his colleagues concluded, "It is critical that humans decide, in the next decade or two, which path they wish to follow with regard to greenhouse gas emissions." More emissions, many researchers have said, mean greater change, not only to the trees, but to everything that lives in them and helps or hurts them.

Whether oaks will do well in a warmer Connecticut is under some debate.

From the CFPA book *Forest Trees of Connecticut*

Courtesy of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Forestry & Horticulture

Hemlock branch infested with woolly adelgid

Considering Invasives along with the Rest

Foresters know that disturbances make forests what they are. Disturbances include invasions of the forest by nonnative species.

"The changes around here, in my own humble opinion, are caused by invasives," said Jeffrey Ward, director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. "Look at invasive pests, the potential impact that's going to happen. Chances are we're going to lose our ash, because of the emerald ash borer. And look what's happening up in Worcester (Massachusetts). What's going to happen if the Asian longhorn beetle gets out in the woods?" (This beetle has shown up in Massachusetts, but so far, not in Connecticut.)

Disturbances also include how people live, how they manage forests, storms, diseases, and, the granddaddy of disturbances, climate change. And, great numbers of scien-

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SAFEGUARDING CONNECTICUT'S FORESTS

It's happening — the climate is changing. Ways to help wildlife and trees adapt

BY STACY BROWN AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION STAFF

Connecticut can expect significant changes in climate during this century, changes that will alter the forested landscape and the wildlife species that inhabit these ecosystems. Although we don't know the precise nature of the changes, we can project climate change effects in many areas and actively work to safeguard our natural resources to ensure their continued presence on the landscape. Scientists predict that if we continue our heavy reliance on fossil fuels, the average temperature in the Northeast will increase 8 to 12 degrees F above historic levels in the winter and 6 to 14 F in the summer.* If we shift away from fossil fuels toward clean energy technologies, this lower emissions scenario would cause roughly half this level of warming.

As reported in many ways in this magazine over the years, forests in Connecticut are valuable, providing timber, wildlife habitat, opportunities for recreation and tourism, watershed protection, soil conservation, and carbon sequestration. Connecticut's forest products industry contributes $500 million annually to the state's economy. In 2006, more than 1.5 million people spent nearly $833 million on hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing in Connecticut. Water utilities that rely on surface water depend heavily on investments in forest conservation to avoid the much higher expenses associated with water treatment facilities. According to the *Climate Change Roadmap for Connecticut* (Environment Northeast, Hartford, 2003), the Connecticut landscape removes about 0.9 million metric tons of carbon each year from the atmosphere (the equivalent of 8 percent of current carbon emissions), so there is currently unrecognized economic value in carbon sequestration occurring as well.

Forests, covering about 60 percent of the state landscape, consist of northern hardwoods (maple-birch-beech) at the southern reaches of their range, oak-hickory forests (found throughout the state), hemlock, white pine, cedar, ash, and many other species. These forests are very diverse when assessed by the number of tree species present, but when considered with the lens of age-class diversity, they tend to be older. Both species diversity and age-class diversity are important factors in projecting the resilience and health of a forest under the stress of climate change.

The diversity of forest types as well as other ecosystem types across the state (including coastal plains, rocky mountaintops, swamps, and marshes among others) is reflected in a wide-ranging diversity of wildlife. According to *Connecticut's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy* (State of Connecticut, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Natural Resources, 2006), 335 species of birds, 84 species of mammals, and 49 species of reptiles and amphibians live in the state.

Climate Change Effects We Can Predict

There have been numerous studies projecting the effects of climate change on Connecticut and its forests and wildlife. Although the magnitude of effects will be determined, in part, by our decisions in coming years about acceptable emissions reduction targets, a number of effects can be anticipated with great certainty. The diversity of species is likely to diminish. The forests at the southern edge of their range, such as the northern hardwoods, will shift northward and slowly disappear from the landscape. Although a longer growing season may accompany climate change, so will forest stresses such as more extreme weather events (for example, high winds and ice storms), heat waves, and a more hospitable environment for insect infestations that harm forests and health (for example, more severe outbreaks of hemlock woolly adelgid and the gypsy moth). Winter precipitation is expected to increase 20 to 30 percent, largely in the form of rain, but so will the likelihood of short-term droughts during other seasons. These changes in climate and hydrology may leave forests more susceptible to forest fire in the northeast than they have been historically.

Among wildlife species, there will be

*See *Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast: Science, Impacts and Solutions*, a 2007 report of the Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment. To download a copy of this report by a team of scientists, see http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/.

"winners" and "losers" given the landscape shifts described. Generally, the species that can more easily adapt, the "generalists," will fare better under any climate change scenario than will "specialists" requiring very specific habitats for survival. Some wildlife species may attempt to move with preferred habitat, some will adapt, and others will simply disappear from Connecticut forests. Although birds are more mobile than many other wildlife species, their migration timing is often connected with the hatch of insects along the migratory route. If the hatches no longer synchronize with migration schedules, this may strongly affect the ability of these species to adapt despite their mobility. The breeding range of many species of songbirds (including several different flycatchers, swallows, and warblers) may be pushed out of Connecticut, leaving the forests quieter and the invasive pests such as gypsy moths and hemlock woolly adelgid more abundant without the appetites of hungry birds to limit their numbers.

Mammals are not as mobile as birds, and north-south connectivity of habitat, as well as vertical connectivity, will be important for movement and for continued genetic diversity. The white-tailed deer is one of the generalist mammals that is expected to benefit from less severe winters. Their increased presence is likely to add to the challenges of forest regeneration under changing climate scenarios. Amphibians' survival will be closely linked with the availability of water resources, so increased variability in the availability of ephemeral aquatic habitats such as vernal pools is likely to strongly affect these species. Reptiles are frequently more mobile than amphibians and some are better able to tolerate drought, which will benefit their ability to adapt.

The ecological impacts associated with climate change do not exist in isolation, but combine with and exacerbate other stresses on our natural systems. Leading threats to biodiversity include habitat destruction, alteration of key ecological processes such as fire, the spread of harmful invasive species, and the emergence of new pathogens and diseases. The health and resilience of many of our natural systems are already seriously compromised by these "traditional" stressors and changes in climate will have the effect of increasing their impact, often in unpredictable ways. Roads and buildings fragment natural habitats, hindering species' ability to move across landscapes to follow more favorable climatic conditions.

New Conservation Strategies Could Help Animals Adapt

How do we best manage and plan for the continued survival of Connecticut's wildlife species and forest types in a changing climate? Although the magnitude and details of the forest and wildlife changes that we will experience may not be clear for decades, we need to act now to safeguard the natural world from the inevitable impacts of climate change. Conservation strategies of the past century have been carried out under the assumption that climate, weather patterns, species and habitat ranges, and other environmental factors will remain consistent with historical trends. Natural resources adaptation, the paradigm that we must now work within, is far more ambitious than the previous approach to conservation. In essence, this new approach calls for anticipating harmful combined impacts to ecosystems.

In selecting conservation objectives and developing management strategies, whether for public or private lands, natural resources adaptation experts recommend adhering to the following five principles:

1. Reduce other, nonclimate stressors. Addressing other conservation challenges—such as habitat destruction and fragmentation, pollution, and invasive species—will be critical for improving the ability of natural systems to withstand or adapt to climate change. Reducing these stressors will increase the resilience of the systems, enabling them to recover from climate-related disturbances and return to a functional state.

2. Manage for ecological function and protection of biological diversity. Healthy, biologically diverse ecosystems are better able to withstand the impacts of climate change than are depleted ecosystems.

3. Establish habitat buffer zones and wildlife corridors. Wildlife then can more easily migrate or shift their ranges in response to changing conditions.

4. Implement "proactive" management and restoration strategies. Active efforts to preserve specific habitats—for example, enhancing marsh accretion, planting climate-resistant species, and translocating species—may be necessary to protect highly valued species or ecosystems when other options are insufficient.

5. Monitor ecosystems more often and manage lands expecting uncertainty. There will always be some uncertainty about future climate change impacts and the effectiveness of proposed management strategies.

Planning for Drought: One Management Example

Projects focusing on helping species adapt are already being planned or begun in every

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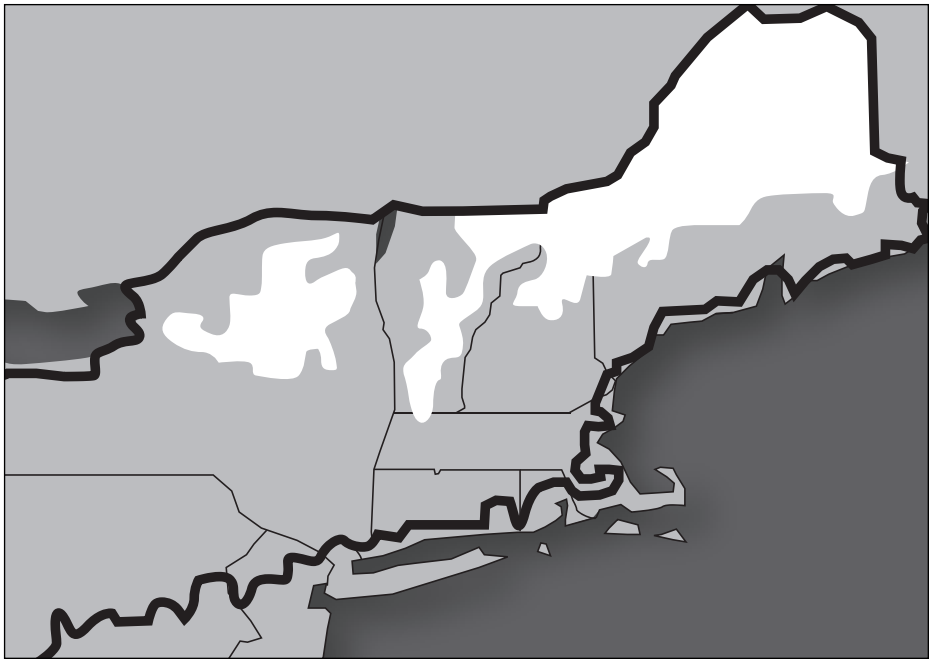

Union of Concerned Scientists

Snow that lasts more than a month in the winter is expected to retreat to the white areas in this map of New England. Snow lasted that long in all of the area within the black boundary line between 1961 and 1990. Map based on one in "Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast," 2007. See http://www.climatechoices.org/ne/resources_ne/nereport.html.

Safeguarding CT forests

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region of the country. One example is a project where the Forest Service and others are modeling future climate conditions and vegetative change to project potential impacts of climate change on natural systems in the Rogue River Basin of Oregon. They project that reduced snowpack, rising temperatures, and the occurrence of drought will dry out soils and make forests more susceptible to wildfires, leading to decline in the production of forest product. As a result, managers are considering adjusting forestry management practices and post-fire logging activities, as well as adopting policies that integrate fuel reduction efforts with small-scale biomass energy production.

We also should be looking at ways in which to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. At National Wildlife Federation, we have worked actively to support national climate and clean energy legislation that recognizes the importance of forests and their potential role in addressing climate change, as well as the importance of funding natural resource adaptation efforts. Legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in June 2009, as well as draft legislation pending in the Senate at this writing would support forests in a variety of ways, including higher demand for biomass energy and sustainable energy crops supported by sustainable forestry and land management practices, financial incentives to protect existing carbon pools in the forest ecosystem, creation of a market for carbon offsets in which forest operations can become offset providers by following practices that demonstrate additional quantities of carbon have been sequestered beyond a "business as usual" scenario, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions that will decrease the detrimental impacts of climate change on forests.

Forests are part of the solution to the challenges posed by climate change. Connecticut can maximize this potential by "keeping forests in forests." This will require the continued efforts of conservation groups to proactively conserve land, plan thoughtfully how to use it, and managing forests as changes begin. Climate change is already occurring on Connecticut's landscape and we need to act quickly before ecosystems become further degraded and species disappear.

Stacy Brown is a member of the National Wildlife Federation's Forests for Wildlife team at its office in Montpelier, Vermont.

National Wildlife Federation Programs

The mission statement of the National Wildlife Federation's Northeast Climate Safeguards partnership project says, "Global warming is already harming wildlife, natural resources, and our communities. A growing number of scientists, conservation organizations, businesses, and local, state and federal officials are mobilizing to respond to this daunting reality as well as planning for more dramatic future impacts. The goal of the Northeast Climate Safeguards Network is to build a diverse network of these entities to work together in designing and implementing effective, science-based, landscape-scale solutions, to safeguard wildlife, natural resources, and communities from the impacts of global warming."

For more information, visit northeastclimatesafeguards.net.

Climate change

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tists are telling us, the rate of human-produced greenhouse gas emissions during the next century will affect the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which will affect the climate and the forest. Altering the rate of greenhouse gas emissions can slow the rate of climate change, scientists have suggested. It also could help the forest—and the forest could help slow climate change. Robert T. Perschel and colleagues wrote in a report for the Forest Guild, "In the Northeast, climate change and forests are inextricably linked. Although the forests will be affected by altered precipitation and temperature patterns, they can also play a role in mitigating climate change. The Northeast's forests can sequester from 12 to 20 percent of current annual emissions from the region and therefore reduce the rate of climate change."

Nonclimate factors enter in, too. How people build on or manage forests, and what new invasive plants or diseases come along join with the other factors in influencing the future ranges of trees.

It's a time of new approaches to forest science. No longer can the historic record guide us in how to manage the forest. "We argue that although we have important lessons to learn from the past, we cannot rely on past forest conditions to provide us with adequate targets for current and future management," wrote Constance I. Millar and colleagues in a study of forests and climate change published in 2007 in the journal Ecological Applications. "This reality must be considered in policy, planning, and management. Climate variability, both naturally caused and anthropogenic, as well as modern land-use practices and stressors, create novel environmental conditions never before experienced by ecosystems."

The future can't be predicted reliably, but the studies under way and recently completed show that a range of predictions can drive how civilization conducts its activities. Think of climate change as a decrease in cold rather than a descent into hell.

This article relied on the following studies:

"Early Holocene Openlands in Southern New England," by E. K. Faison et al, 2005, published in *Ecology.*

"Past and Future Changes in Climate and Hydrological Indictors in the US Northeast," by Katharine Hayhoe et al, 2009, published in *Climate Dynamics.*

"Climate and Hydrological Changes in the Northeastern United States: Recent Trends and Implications for Forested and Aquatic Ecosystems," by Thomas G. Huntington et al, 2009, published in the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research.*

"Estimating Potential Habitat for 134 Eastern US Tree Species Under Six Climate Scenarios," by Louis R. Iverson et al, 2007, published in *Forest and Ecology Management.*

"Climate Change and Forests of the Future: Managing in the Face of Uncertainty," by Constance I. Millar et al, 2007, published in *Ecological Applications.*

"Potential Impacts of Climate Change on the Distribution of North American Trees," by Daniel W. McKenney et al, 2007, published in *BioScience.*

And the following sources:

"Climate Change, Carbon, and the Forests of the Northeast," by Robert T. Perschel et al, 2007, published by the Forest Guild of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate Web site: http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html.

Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment, Union of Concerned Scientists, Web site: http://www.northeastclimateimpacts.org/.

Christine Woodside is an environmental writer who edits Connecticut Woodlands.

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"Great things are done when men and mountains meet. This is not done by jostling in the street."

— William Blake

THE MISSION

The story of NED ANDERSON, *a quiet farmer from Sherman, who gave his free time to blaze the Connecticut section of the Appalachian Trail*

Editor's Note:
The following is an excerpt from *Ned Anderson: Connecticut's Appalachian Trail Blazer, Small Town Renaissance Man,* by Doris Tomaselli, published last year by the Sherman Historical Society. Ms. Tomaselli researched some sections of the book at the Connecticut Forest & Park Association library.

"He should never have been a farmer," Edna Anderson said simply of her husband. "A forest ranger or guide would have suited him much better."

While her words add to speculation regarding Ned's reasons for following his father into farming, they leave us with no question as to Ned Anderson's passions. He loved nature in all her challenging moods and varying seasons. Farming allowed Ned to work outdoors — his preference — and it may be for that alone that he took up the task—the plow, pitchfork, and scythe—with a grateful spirit, willing mind, diligent hands, and strong back. But when chores were done, Ned would tie around his head what many refer to as his "trademark red or blue bandana," and, looking much like a sailor of yore, he'd "set off to see" the beauty of nature.

His wanderings took him all over Connecticut. It was in the course of this walking that Ned came upon a man and a path—actually the convergence of two as-yet-unmarked paths — that would not only change the route of Ned's own life but lead him to enhance the lives of countless others.

Ned, eager outdoorsman, leapt at the opportunity to walk a number of these newly Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. It was the later 1920s, while out hiking, that he chanced to meet retired lawyer and judge Arthur Perkins. Mr. Perkins may have already been involved with Connecticut Forest & Park Association's fledgling Trails Committee but, as Ned quickly discovered, Mr. Perkins had allied himself with another forward preservationist thinker, Benton MacKaye, who had an even grander idea—a network of work camps or communities in the mountains, all linked by a trail that ran from the highest point in New England to the highest point in the South. He called it the Appalachian Trail.

The idea for a multistate, 2,000-mile-long contiguous footpath languished until the instrumental efforts of two men pushed the project forward. They were Mr. Perkins of Connecticut and admiralty lawyer Myron H. Avery of Washington, DC. It was, according to Appalachian Trail records, Perkins who "took the idea and ran with it, essentially appointing himself as the acting chairman of the Appalachian Trail Conference in the late 1920s and recruiting Mr. Avery to lead the effort in the area around Washington. Both began proselytizing the idea of the trail in 1928 and 1929, championing Mr. MacKaye's ideas to recruit volunteers, establishing hiking clubs up and down the coast, and actually going out to hike, clear brush, and mark paths themselves."

And so it was, fatefully, that Ned met Mr. Perkins, who, in turn, introduced Ned to Mr. Avery, who also lived in Hartford at that time. According to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy [today's name for the original trail conference], Mr. Avery was generally acknowledged to be "probably the single most dynamic individual to be associated with the trail's realization" in terms of actual completion. As a leading spirit of the AT, he soon

Ned Anderson, seated at right, found himself in the middle of delicate debates with the tireless Myron Avery, center, and CFPA officers, about whether to blaze the Appalachian Trail white or blue in Connecticut. The other two men are Howard Evans, left, and George Helmke of the Housatonic Trail Club.

Frederick S. Best, courtesy of Doris Tomaselli

ignited the fire within Ned to see the dream through to reality.

The Averys would become part of the Anderson "family" and very good friends. But, to start, Ned Anderson became a recruit—for dual trail work.

Ned immediately began work on the AT portion proposed to run through Connecticut. Well-versed in the area, he had a keen concept of the route the trail should take to link seamlessly with its counterparts in New York and Massachusetts. Assigned as chairman (officially or unofficially) of the newly declared Appalachian Trail Club, he took on the active role of planning and mapping the terrain from the New York State border at Dog Tail Corners in Webatuck, into Kent, Connecticut, and through the picturesque woodlands and hills, along river banks and up and down the mountains—avoiding connecting roads as much as possible —all the way up to Ashley Falls and Bear Mountain at the Massachusetts border. Ned did all

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the legwork and paperwork, meeting with landowners and town boards, officials and way-makers to get all the necessary permissions required. He creatively adjusted as needed around those with concerns or refusals—in the long process of coordinating, developing and, finally, to clearing of the trail.

Ned had already been inducted as the 49th member of the Appalachian Trail Conference and would serve on the ATC Board of Managers as a member of the New England District, leader of Housatonic Appalachian Trail Club.

And even though the Appalachian Trail was a different endeavor, the work on this Connecticut portion was done under the auspices of—and thus overseen by—CFPA.

From the CFPA archives comes the following letter from CFPA Secretary Robert Ross, sent to Ned on November 25, 1930:

> Dear Mr. Anderson:
>
> Mr. Heermance has just told me that you are going to shoulder the responsibility for much of the trail work in northwestern Connecticut. I certainly am glad to hear this, as I feel that with your knowledge of the country and interest in the work, much will be accomplished.
>
> I am having sent to you one of the trail kits which we sent to all our chairmen. This includes blue paint, paint pot and brush. A little later I will send you a supply of blue arrows. If at any time you need any equipment do not hesitate to write me. I am sending herewith a copy of the publications we have so far put out on trails, and also a membership blank. If you see fit to join the Association we certainly would be very glad to welcome you to membership.
>
> Sincerely yours,
> Robert M. Ross

Edna reflected of Ned's undertaking. "Since, outside his family, the love of nature and the outdoors was Ned's life, hiking, mountain climbing and spelunking were his pastimes and so the AT filled these needs."

Ned was a one-man dynamo but it would have been impossible for him alone to blaze the 30-mile stretch of sometimes-rugged terrain the trail would encompass. The concept of the AT had lain dormant for years because able bodies weren't forthcoming. Ned considered that it wasn't for lack of ability but lack of interest or education or fun. Ned, also born a natural leader, had it in mind to change people's views with regard to all three.

Courtesy of the Anderson family

Ned Anderson along the trail.

Ned had taken charge of Sherman's first Boy Scout Troop in 1931. What better willing and able bodies than young boys out to prove their mettle, earn their badges and seek adventure?

After his farm chores were done, Ned and his scouts labored at cutting and clearing, hacking and blazing. While the trail cutting was considered a work assignment for the troop, Ned always managed to fit in the fun for the Sherman Scouts. One such adventure, recounted in the May 28, 1931, New Milford Times noted,

> The trail up to the Great Ice Caves was a hard one but finding three-foot drifts of snow and exploring the underground passages made the trip well worthwhile. . . . Camp was made on top of Sam's Point with a regular gale blowing and clouds so low one could see nothing but fog. . . . Daylight brought a blizzard, a terrific gale driving snow, and it did seem that nature had set out to try a Scout's mettle.

Ned attended the October 16, 1931, CFPA meeting, held at the Graduate Club in New Haven, and filed this follow-up report on progress: "Trail complete to Bunker Hill—taken trail off highway in several places proposed and to Black Spruce Bog—Mt. Algo loop not completed—like to scout northern section this fall."

Ned was a conscientious coordinator between both trail organizations. Although he actively blazed under the CFPA purview, he kept the AT [group] in the loop and vice versa. In Ned's July 26, 1931, hand-written letter to Mr. Ross (on Appalachian Trail Conference stationery, where Ned's name appears on the sidebar as "Chairman Housatonic Section, Connecticut Forest and Park Association"), he wrote, "Mr. Avery was up last Sunday and we had a very interesting time on the Trail. When he comes again we are both coming your way possibly over the Quinnipiac Trail and I hope that we can see you then."

And smart in time and money management, in that same letter, he requested more arrow signs for the trail by saying: "If this package is delivered to the C. E. Smith and Sons Creamery, 72 Sherman Ave., it can be sent up on the milk truck which leaves there daily about noon for Sherman."

Ned's efforts to get people involved started with the Scouts and quickly snowballed to positive effect. As Edna Anderson put it, "The Boy Scouts were taught the labor and skills of trail making and by degrees, friends, old and new, got caught up in it."

Edna Anderson was, as noted, instrumental in helping Ned organize (in 1932) and run the Housatonic Trail Club for 14 years, feed and house and entertain both members and guests on many occasions, as well as drive the bus for their numerous adventures.

By 1933 as well, the efforts in development of a statewide Blue Blazed Trail System proved successful. Ned lent his drawing skills to the first official maps made available to hikers from the Blue Blazed Trail System as individual free booklets. The New England Trail Conference (of which CFPA was a member) also published its pocket-sized and concise, *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in New England*, in 1933.

Ned was instrumental in placing registers strategically along the route, where hikers signed in before setting out. It was both a safety measure and an accounting of the many visitors the AT attracted.

The 2,160 miles of the trail was finally completed in 1937, spanning 14 states and stretching from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia. [While the rest of the trail was marked in white paint blazes,] at this point in time, the Connecticut leg retained its blue-blazed markings.

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The Appalachian Trail in its entirety soon became a protected property. From the ATC historical documentation on its Web site: "The notion of a protected zone was first formalized in an October 15, 1938, agreement between the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service for the promotion of an Appalachian Trailway through the relevant national parks and forests, extending one mile on each side of the Trail. Within this zone, no new parallel roads would be built or any other incompatible development allowed. Timber cutting would not be permitted within 200 feet of the trail. Similar agreements, creating a zone one-quarter-mile in width, were signed with most states through which the trail passes."

In his June 26, 1938, letter, Ned updated progress, trips, and alluded to his own hard times as well: "Financially, we are having quite a hard time on the farm. Our milk checks have been held up and we are now some three months behind. I will try next month to send you my dues and a little extra for some signs."

Ned, in his letter, mentioned that the signs sent him did not have the CFPA logo stenciled on them. He thought them defective, to which the Secretary (Edgar Heermance) replied that the stencil use had been discontinued as the signs so emblazoned had become popular as take-home souvenirs.

Blazing the Appalachian Trail became a hot topic in 1939. Since the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service were already working with the ATC to formalize and protect the trail as a "Trailway," Myron Avery wanted the AT in its entirety to carry white blazes. Ned's June 19, 1939 letter to CFPA Secretary Mr. Heermance, excerpted below, acknowledged the increased tensions stemming from this:

> The only reason for Myron [Avery] writing to you as he did regarding my opinion as to your attitude towards changing the color of the blazes was from a legal aspect. In fact, the whole letter was worded as a legal document just to draw your final decision, possibly if you knew that I felt as Avery does.
>
> The tone of the letter rather provoked me as it put me between two "fires" even though I had told Avery it was entirely for you to decide. If it is true that the whole trail is turning white and there is a warranted amount of interstate use of the trail, then I should feel it ought to be white in Connecticut. Personally I like blue blazes.

Ned continued on in this letter with CFPA trail notations, but again, closed his thoughts on a personal note: "The Spring drought is affecting the farming business quite seriously around here."

On February 7, 1940, Ned wrote Mr. Heermance: "During the past year we have made a real effort to put the A.T. in good shape. As well: "Did you know that we have just reached a membership of 50 in our Housatonic Trail Club? And we have some A-1 trail men, too, with a very great interest in the A.T. I feel certain that this year will find the Conn. A.T. at the head of the list in woodland trail maintenance."

However, once again, Ned was caught between growing political "fires." In a letter to Mr. Heermance, he opened with an apology:

> Mr. Avery just sent me a copy of his letter to you and I feel so badly about the whole mistaken attitude that I must write . . . [State Forester, Austin Hawes, had offered Ned the assistance of the forestry service with regard to some isolated A.T. issues, which Ned had declined as unneeded.] . . . But evidently Myron feels that we should accept all help especially from the forestry dept. and I was wrong in thinking so lightly of the matter. . . .
>
> Of course, I am to blame for not letting Washington know of Hawes' offer instead of taking care of it myself. Avery should have inquired first if I knew of the offer instead of writing as he had.
>
> I note that he mentioned my buying the [blue] paint but that was only to help in the expense for the F. and P. association. You have always been most helpful to me in trail work and truly, Mr. Heermance, I cannot understand the feud between Myron Avery and you. If you have not written him in answer to his letter please do not give up the A.T. as one of the Connecticut Trail system. I don't care what kind of letter you get or I may get also—don't give it up. There is no reason why we all can't get along together and continue with the trail work.
>
> I cannot seem to express myself in this whole mistaken matter but it seems to me that a difference of opinion as to the color of paint, shape of blazes, etc should not make hard feeling.
>
> Please write me a few lines, for I know that you are very busy, and let me know how this all sounds to you. It sounds terrible to me and I don't want to miss too much sleep over it.

Edgar Heermance wrote his own assurances to peacekeeper Ned on March 19, 1940. In part: "Don't lose any sleep over the relations between Myron Avery and myself. I like and respect him, even if we do clash once in a while. I am as anxious as you are to keep the A.T. in Connecticut as part of our Connecticut trail system, maintained by you as our Section chairman according to the policies we have agreed on for the state as a whole."

Shortly after, Mr. Avery shipped white paint to Ned for re-blazing of the AT, but the matter was fittingly put into CFPA Secretary Heermance's hands. His letter to Ned on April 5, 1940, was succinct in its opening: "About the white paint, my advice is that you ship it back." At this time in the territorial struggle, the CFPA voted to retain its traditional blue markings.

Myron Avery, as chairman of the ATC Board of Managers, for all his forceful actions and verbiage, should not be viewed as the "bad guy." His passion made for a vociferous manner, but none can fault him such single-minded drive and dedication. He was a vehement advocate and champion of the AT since its early proposal stages, and as such, was instrumental in seeing the dream realized. As it was conceived as a solitary, contiguous footpath, Mr. Avery put into action his best defense of it.

In his own letter to Edgar Heermance of May 24, 1940, excerpted here, he made that position abundantly clear:

> We, of course, have the highest regard for the Connecticut trail system, which is very admirable in itself. But . . . there has become increasingly apparent a fundamental conflict of interest. We have no quarrel with what you may do to advance the interest of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association trail system. We do, however, object, and I think that no proper exception can be taken to our attitude, to a situation where The Appalachian Trail becomes a stepchild through this relationship.
>
> The Appalachian Trail is a single integral unit. It is to be treated as such a unit. Its practices and standards are prescribed by The Appalachian Trail Conference. It is not a federation of fourteen different state trails. Obviously, were the practice which you insist upon adopted generally, the prestige and standing of The Appalachian Trail project would be very much impaired. It is equally obvious that the Appalachian Trail Conference and not the Connecticut Forest and Park Association should designate the standards and practices for The Appalachian Trail.

Mr. Avery defended the point of fact that the Appalachian Trail was under construction before its connection—through Mr. Perkins's dual associations—to CFPA. He said,

> The existence of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut is, as both of us know, solely the result of the effort and expenditures by Mr. Anderson.
>
> This is not a matter of disagreement on minor practices. We have here a fundamental matter of administration and whether or not The Appalachian Trail is a separate project or is a system of fourteen state trails. It is the former and I think it high time to avoid further difficulties by discarding for all time any basis which would give rise to your suggestions in the matter.
>
> I should much prefer to have you agree with me that it would be most desirable for the Connecticut Forest and Park Association to voluntarily relinquish any claim to supervision over the Trail in Connecticut by reason of this very apparent conflict.

Still in the middle, Ned again wrote to Mr. Heermance, honorably trying to shoulder any blame for the "griddle being hot between the two fires." He disagreed wholeheartedly with Mr. Avery's dismissal of CFPA involvement. He offered his gratitude to Edgar Heermance for all his efforts and assistance, to which, Mr. Heermance replied:

> Please don't worry about Myron Avery and his attitude. The most charitable view to take of his case is that on certain matters he has fixed ideas that border on insanity. I have no feeling of enmity toward him, only admiration. …On trail matters in Connecticut, I am only secretary of the Trails Committee, and try to follow out the policy they lay down.

This was an extraordinarily difficult time and position for Ned, caught, as it were, between a rock and a hard place. He had allegiance to both organizations; he had tremendous personal admiration for both men and genuinely liked and considered them friends. The greater purpose of the trail was always Ned's aim. The politics of it, he certainly found distasteful. His disposition, by all accounts, was one of quiet understanding and gentle solutions. He was not given to anger or hotheadedness. Therefore, this discord in which he was firmly wedged both deeply distressed and frustrated him.

In this contest of wills and equally defensible positions—state or national—Mr. Avery's cause won out. The Appalachian Trail was deemed to be "an entity" and the blue blazes of the CFPA were replaced with white blazes, to coordinate with AT markings throughout the fourteen states it traversed.

Ned, though torn, had felt strongly that the AT should remain a CFPA trail. Myron Avery saw the bigger picture. And had he not, and not fought so strongly, the Appalachian Trail would not be the national landmark it is today.

No matter the defining blaze, Ned continued his efforts to maintain all his trails. During World War II, between 1939 and 1945, when much of the AT fell into disrepair because its workers were unable to keep up with maintenance (due to either military service or gasoline rationing), Ned and his various crews kept up constant care of his portion. His vigilance kept the Connecticut link viable while other parts of the trail fell prey to neglect and became overgrown. Some portions were completely lost. The ATC records report, "After the war, a concerted effort was made to restore it, and it was once again declared complete in 1951."

Outdoorsman Seymour Smith, who became involved with the trails, recounted,

> In 1945, it was noted that the original maintainer of the Connecticut AT could probably use help. So, I offered to help Ned. I

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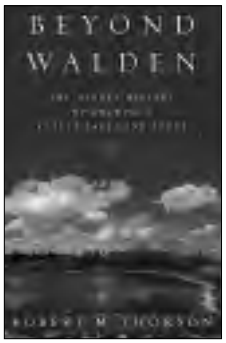
On Kettle Lakes and Ponds and 'Ecological Intelligence'



Beyond Walden:
The Hidden History of America's Kettle Lakes and Ponds,
by Robert M. Thorson. Walker & Company: New York, 2009, 308 pages.

BY DAVID K. LEFF

Natural and cultural phenomena are often inextricably tied together, as University of Connecticut geology professor Robert Thorson has demonstrated in his previous work on stone walls. His latest book exploring kettle ponds and lakes, of which Thoreau's iconic Walden is the best known, plumbs this nexus ever more deeply.

Found from Maine to Montana, these water bodies developed when melting blocks of ice left by the retreating glacier formed water-filled depressions in sand and gravel deposits that lie between the rocky Canadian Shield and clay dominated soils found south of the ice sheet's advance. Delightfully informed by Thorson's capacious technical knowledge and his emotional attachment to the lake he summered at as a child, his kettles simmer with a rich stew of geology, limnology, archaeology, literature, ethnology, physics, history, ecology, sociology, chemistry and biology. He makes eye-opening connections between these lakes and a broad array of phenomena from exploration of the continent to "concentric threads of food webs," from family recreation to ice harvesting, and from development of the environmental movement to the flow of groundwater.

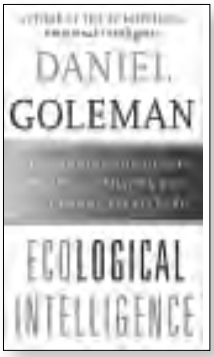
Thorson maintains that "the study of kettles helped shape American science" and that the water bodies are useful environmental and social indicators. Here in Connecticut, Branford's Linsley Pond played a significant role in the development of lake studies. Over several decades, Yale professor and father of American limnology G. Evelyn Hutchinson used the pond "as a veritable outdoor petri dish to teach students about the interaction between different species, water chemistry, and solar energy."

Resonating with his boyhood memories, Thorson is almost rhapsodic when describing the cottage lake culture that grew during the 20th century with the advent of the automobile and increased leisure time. But he's not sentimental about such lakes, noting that "most of the damage done to them is done by nice people" through overdevelopment, old leaky septic systems, spread of invasive species, and other perils. Some of the geology and other science may be rough water for laymen, but there is a generous glossary and a little effort to understand the material is well rewarded with valuable insights.

Along with shoreline development, climate change and apathy by younger people disconnected from nature form a destructive trident threatening the health of kettle lakes and ponds. Thorson poses a number of strategies to address these issues, "but perhaps the best thing that could be done to improve and protect our nation's small lakes would be to take a more creative and intensive approach to public education." Certainly the author has taken a Brobdingnagian step in the right direction with this book.

But solving the complex problems of lakes aside, Thorson has taken an ordinary element of the landscape that we typically see superficially and infused it with depth, meaning, and wonder. If, as Thoreau's friend and mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson observed, "the invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common," reading *Beyond Walden* would be a wise choice for anyone who wants to better understand the world around them.

David K. Leff is a freelance writer and CFPA board member who can be reached through his website at www.davidkleff.com.



Ecological Intelligence:
How Knowing the Hidden Impacts of What We Buy Can Change Everything,
by Daniel Goleman. Broadway Books: New York, 2009. 276 pages.

BY ROBERT M. RICARD

Veteran writer Daniel Goleman challenges even those who believe they are the most environmentally enlightened, conscientious consumers on the planet. He reveals plenty of examples of the negative consequences of products we buy and consume, even those purported to be ecologically benign or beneficial. He suggests how to improve buying decisions. Doing so, he argues, will be the outcome of understanding the production chain of consumer products.

Labeling products "green" can be misleading, Goleman says, because of the reach of the global economy. He argues that the chain of production is so complex and distant that neither seller nor buyer can see or understand what goes into products. For instance, some organic cotton T-shirts may contain dyes that put workers at risk of leukemia. Ecotourism can cause environmental damage—for example, when we dive down to coral reefs we might be wearing sunscreen that could contain an ingredient that feeds a specific type of virus that can kill the reef.

Goleman is an excellent investigative journalist, the author of two bestsellers, Emotional Intelligence and Social Intelligence. Goleman received his Ph.D. from Harvard, where he has also been a visiting lecturer. He is a co-chairman of The Consortium for Research on Emotional Intelligence in Organizations, based in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University.

Goleman turns a critical eye to new ideas in fields like neuroeconomics, information science, and the new discipline industrial ecology. (Industrial ecologists try, for example, to trace the materials of products so that their wastes can become new products.) Goleman sees all of this new science changing how we think. When we know more about the ecological impacts of products, he suggests that this marketplace transparency will give way to "radical transparency." Radical transparency "converts the chains that link every product and its multiple impacts—carbon footprints, chemicals of concern, treatment of workers, and the like—into systematic forces that count in sales." In other words, everyone, not just tree-huggers, will stop buying products if they perceive them as harmful. This is certainly a radical thesis. Whether or not Goleman is correct in his prediction is to be seen. His writing is taut and informative. I enjoyed this book, but it was not an easy read. I am unsure others will.

Robert M. Ricard is an urban forester with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension.

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drove to Cornwall many weekends to the school bus and Ned's group. We traveled various trail locations along the AT for a few hours of brush whacking.

Late in the year of 1945, I offered to take over a small section on my own if he, Ned, were willing. This offer was accepted and so Myron Avery, Chairman of the AT Conference, assigned to me the AT route Cornwall Bridge to Route 4 — thus the area thru [sic] Dark Entry over Coltsfoot Mountain, Cathedral Pines and Mohawk Forest became my responsibility.

In 1948, Ned's health problem was catching up on him. Myron Avery suggested that (the) Connecticut Chapter, (called the) Appalachian Mountain Club might become interested in taking over part of the Connecticut section. The Chapter Organization accepted, took over assignment west of the Housatonic and I accepted the remainder east of the River.

Ned then had the privilege of walking without cutting brush — but really Ned was an Axe Man. Ned retained maintenance of the Candlewood Mountain Trail; this Trail somewhere along the line has been renamed Housatonic Range Trail.

And as discussion of Ned was never without an anecdote, Seymour Smith had this to note:

> In Salisbury one day, we worked the A.T. route from Lion's Head Farm south to R. 41. About half way thru [sic] there was a queer looking lime stone rock. Ned said; "Looks like a chicken." Further along he decided we should back track. Well, we were already about half way. I said, "Ned, you and your boys continue along to [Route] 41; I will return to my car — drive around to R 41, bring you back to the Farm." So they continued on — I returned to my car, picked up the rock en route, put it in the front seat of Ned's car.
>
> So, the rock-like chicken became a feature along the path from his house in Connecticut to his barn in New York. The state line crosses between."

Seymour Smith also stepped in to take on the same dual role as Ned, actively involved with the AT and representative for the Housatonic Region with the CFPA, (although Ned was listed as chairman for many years to come). Of his report at the June 2, 1948, CFPA meeting notes recounted that he said, "Entire trail in fair condition and gave interesting trail register data from Bear Mountain. Ned Anderson may have to give up active work for health reasons. Charles Russ ready to help in north."

Also in these notes, Secretary Heermance wrote, "Ned Anderson is reported to be in ill health. His trails are in good shape." Yes, however difficult to face, Ned was 63 by then, and the many years of farming, hiking, and spelunking had, as Mr. Smith noted, begun to have an effect. Trail maintenance was grueling work, and Ned decided that although assistance had come readily, it was time to finally pass the torch.

Ned may have given up harder efforts of trail work, but he lost none of his enthusiasm for the hiking, exploration, education, and the all-important key ingredient, fun. He continued as "guide" for many of all ages, on hikes, cave explorations or sitting in his den, surrounded by his lifetime of "finds" and discussing rocks and science, animals and nature, ecology and preservation, respect and enjoyment, as well as his many life experiences.

Doris Tomaselli, a writer and graphic designer, specializes in historical books for individuals and organizations. To order her book, visit: www.shermanhistoricalsociety.org or call 860-350-3475.

Let the novelties of winter birds lure you on a walk

Look for owls in daylight, eagles, and other visitors

BY JENNIFER BENNER

This time of year is one of the best to get outdoors, especially if you are into birds. While our migratory birds have flown south, a fair number of splendid species stick around, and some fly to Connecticut from up north. Owls, eagles, finches, and waterfowl are some of the birds you will see out and about in the cold. With most of our leaves down, it is often easier to spot them. Mary-Beth Kaeser of Horizon Wings: Raptor Rehabilitation & Education, says it is not unusual to see owls during the day because food sources can be scarce and owls must extend their hunting hours.

Courtesy of Jennifer Benner

To get a good view, you will want to plan a walk in a prime location. The Connecticut Ornithological Association notes that the best sightings for waterfowl occur around coastal waters, and birds such as eagles can be spotted near open, fresh water sources. FirstLight Power Resources invites the public to reserve a space at its eagle observation area, which is perched on a hill above its hydroelectric station on the Housatonic River (see firstlightpower.com). The ornithological association also recommends taking your birding walks on a calm, cloudy days. These conditions make seeing birds easier. Visiting places at different times of day will also result in diverse sighting surprises. Of course, regular birders know about the prime spots. State parks and forests, preserves, and land trusts with open water are excellent places to start.

Several organizations lead guided bird walks during the winter months, and throughout the rest of the year. The Connecticut Audubon Society at Trail Wood in Hampton is offering an owl walk in January and February for a nominal fee of $5 for Connecticut Audubon members and $10 for others. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby offers free Saturday morning bird walks throughout the year, including the winter months. Stores such as the Audubon Shop in Madison guide eagle-watching walks for $20 (including lunch) in January and February. Local birding clubs and nature centers also often take part in winter birding excursions. Such groups as the Connecticut Ornithological Association, Connecticut Audubon Society, and the National Audubon Society offer a wealth of information on birding. Next time you think there is nothing fun to do outdoors during winter days, grab your binoculars, throw on a warm coat, boots, gloves, and a hat, and think again.

Birding Resources

Connecticut Ornithological Association, ctbirding.org

Connecticut Audubon Society, www.ctaudubon.org

Horizon Wings: Raptor Rehabilitation & Education, www.horizonwings.org

National Audubon Society, www.audubon.org

Jennifer Benner is the WalkCT Communications Coordinator. She enjoys spotting birds of prey while hiking.

LETTERS

Another Side to Burning Wood

The article by Steve Broderick, "Connecticut's Forests as Fuel" in Fall 2009 provides thoughtful information about sustainable fuels. But there is another side to burning wood, which this article does not address. The aroma we smell consists of polycyclicaromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen dioxide, dioxin, formaldehyde, and many other chemical compounds, some of which have been demonstrated to be carcinogenic.

The biggest danger, however, is the infinitesimally small particulate matter that lodges in the lungs. These particles are so tiny that they will infiltrate your home when your neighbor is burning his or her stove, even if you have storm windows, weather-stripping, shades, drapes, and air purifiers. I know: I live next door to a woodstove burner. For years, I suffered with an exacerbation of my asthma during winter months due to pollution from this woodstove. Even my cat developed asthma, which had to be treated with medication.

Dr. Wayne Ott of Stanford University states that "a single fireplace operating for one hour and burning ten pounds of wood will generate 4,300 times more carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons than 30 cigarettes. One home with a single wood-burning source can elevate indoor particulate concentrations in hundreds of surrounding homes." Dr. Ott compares the situation to living with a chain smoker. Even with technology such as catalytic converters in newer stoves, wood remains a dirty fuel.

Hartford County has one of the highest asthma rates for children in the United States. Asthma sufferers are especially at risk from wood smoke.

In March of 2009, a Connecticut bill (HB 6616) "establishing wood smoke to be a public nuisance" was passed by the Public Health Committee by a vote of 23–7. Dr. David R. Brown, a public health toxicologist for Environment and Human Health Inc., wrote an excellent piece in support of the bill. He states that "episodes of exposure… as short as two hours can produce significant adverse health effects."

I strongly believe in renewable, clean energy. However, the potential for adverse health effects in using wood on a commercial scale to produce energy are cause for great concern. Until such effects from burning wood on a large scale can be fully studied, and emissions minimized or eliminated, I do not believe that fuel from our forests is the answer to Connecticut's energy issues.

—Zellene Sandler, Bloomfield

The writer is a member of the Bloomfield Conservation, Energy, and Environment Committee.

Editor's Note: The bill HB 6616 did indeed pass in the General Assembly's Public Health Committee 32–7 on March 20, 2009, but it failed 11–15 in the Environment Committee on April 21, 2009 and was not therefore put to a full legislative vote. Some health experts have testified that wood smoke, like many airborne substances, can trigger allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Declaring all wood smoke to be a nuisance to all is a very broad statement that could make enforcement difficult, those who testified against it pointed out.

Wood burning, we believe, should be judged in a greater context as one alternative to many fuels, particularly because it is a renewable fuel and because in a residential setting wood burning in newer stoves that meet newer pollution standards is much cleaner than it was even a few decades ago. Woodstove owners should burn only dry wood, in approved stoves, and have the stoves serviced regularly. Too often, that is not the case. Outdoor wood boilers, which Mr. Broderick did not address in his article, have met opposition around the country because their stacks are low and owners tend to burn

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CHOWDER, A BOWL OF NEW ENGLAND MEMORIES

BY JEAN CRUM JONES

At my first job as an administrative dietitian with the Yale University Dining Halls in the early 1970s, there was only one absolute rule in menu planning: New England clam chowder must be served every Friday at lunch—fall, winter, and spring. I was from Philadelphia. Discovering a recipe for Manhattan clam chowder in Yale's recipe collection, I tried putting that on the menu one Friday lunch. The department chief, reviewing the menu, quickly erased that section.

Over my years in New England, I have tried to discover chowder's history and why this dish has such a strong hold on staunch New Englanders. The details are lost in the haze of history, but it seems chowder came into its existence about the same time that French and English fishermen established fishing camps in Newfoundland in the early 1600s. It was a creation of necessity and based on the limited ingredients available to sailors camping in the northern Canadian Maritimes. Their diet was basically onions, stale bug-infested ship's biscuits, salt pork, and the fresh fish they caught. They piled these ingredients into a large cooking pot and cooked them over a campfire.

The name chowder is thought to derive from the French word, "la chaudière," an enormous copper pot used in the early French coastal villages. Returning fishermen used to toss parts of their catch into la chaudière and the community would make a soup to welcome fishermen home. They carried their pots and cooking techniques to Canada. Europeans never took to this dish. Because chowder was a product of circumstances, rather than a cook's imagination, it became a dish that evolved as times and situations changed.

The first-known chowder recipe was published in the Boston Evening Post of September 23, 1751. It called for laying onions underneath thin-sliced pork in a pot; "Next, lay some Fish cut crossways very nice/Then season well with Pepper, Salt, and Spice/Parsley, Sweet-Marjoram, Savory, and Thyme/Then Biscuit next which must be soak'd some Time."

Slightly more familiar recipes date to the mid-1800s. One of the most famous of the time was attributed to Daniel Webster. He

dictated the recipe to General S. P. Lyman, who published it in his memoirs in 1842:

> First, fry a large bit of well-salted pork in the kettle over the fire. Fry it thoroughly. Second, pour in a sufficient quantity of water, and then put in the head and shoulders of a codfish, and a fine, well-dressed haddock, both recently caught. Third, put in three or four good Irish potatoes, and boil them together. An old fisherman generally puts in two or three onions. Fourth, when they are done, throw in a few of the largest Boston crackers, and then apply the salt and pepper to suit the fancy. Such a dish, smoking hot, placed before you, after a long morning spent in exhilarating sport, will make you no longer envy the gods.

Daniel Webster's recipe is noteworthy, because it contains potatoes. Potatoes became a familiar ingredient after the massive Irish immigration.

Next, the clams become a primary ingredient. There is a famous scene in *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville about clam chowder being served at the Try Pots, a chowder house in Nantucket, Massachusetts. Until this time, clams were mainly an adjunct ingredient. Clam chowder increased in popularity as the 19th century progressed, when Americans' infatuation with "taking the sea air" skyrocketed. Clam digging became a pleasant family activity, and chowder parties became all the rage.

The mid-1800s were also when tomatoes began to show up in the pot. Tomatoes were less popular in northern New England, mainly because the farmers did not have a long enough growing season, but farmers were growing them on Long Island and in Fairfield County. At Coney Island, a tomato-based clam chowder became very popular. At the same time in New York City, many fish restaurants were owned and run by Neapolitan Italians, who added tomatoes. But why would New Englanders disparage red chowders? Some speculate it began after 1919 when the Boston Red Sox sold Babe Ruth to the Yankees.

What about the Milk?

Milk did not become a common ingredient in chowder until the beginning of the 20th century. When refrigeration and modern day dairy farming regularized the milk supply, this enabled milk to become an unremarkable ingredient in chowder that was able to remarkably enhance the flavor of the whole dish.

During the first half of the 20th century, chowder became brothy and always included potatoes as a thickener. The crackers were then generally served on the side. Regional preferences emerged, spurred on by food writers. As cookbooks proliferated, recipes were developed for thick, chunky chowders, especially "farmhouse chowders" made with beans, parsnips, garden vegetables, and chicken. A queen of farmhouse chowders emerged: corn chowder.

However, after mid-century, a great decline in home cooking began, accompanied by the increased use of processed foods. Real fish and clam chowder became occasional dishes to enjoy while on vacation in New England. Was chowder destined for oblivion? At the dawn of the 21st century, basic American foods are being rediscovered and the appreciation of good food is increasing.

You don't have to cook it on a weeknight. Chowder only improves when it is made ahead, and it keeps well for several days if properly refrigerated. It's the ideal modern dish.

Chowder is greater than the sum of its parts. Salt pork (or smoky bacon), onions, potatoes, fresh fish/clams (or fresh farm produce), milk, and herbs create a singular American soup. It is the ultimate in local food. It can be individualized based on the cook's whim. The ever adaptable, New England inspired, chowder will endure.

Jean Crum Jones is a registered dietician who lives and works with her husband Terry Jones at Jones Family Farm in Shelton. She serves on the CFPA Board of Directors.

For further reading, see 50 Chowders, *by Jasper White (Scribner, 2000), or John Thorn's chapter,* "Down East Chowder," *in Serious Pig (North Point Press, 1996)*

Letters

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more than dry wood in them, producing a dirtier smoke.

Finally, as Mr. Broderick suggested, wood burning on a commercial scale raises many questions, some of which do not hold promise for the distant future. Our aim in publishing the article was to alert people to ideas now under serious discussion.

Solar PV Success Story

We just passed six months with our 4.9-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system. The [Connecticut] solar lease program made it feasible for us. The monthly lease ($94 and change) plus the Northeast Utilities charge to be connected to the grid ($16) is about how much our electricity bill was for our 15-kilowatt daily average (we had the renewable energy option, so it was about $5 more than the conventional). So far, we have made 780 kilowatt hours more than we used, so we have a net metering cushion to carry us through most of the short-daylight winter. There were no upfront charges, and our rate is locked in for 15 years, so I think we will come out ahead, even though that wasn't the main reason we pursued solar.

— Emery Gluck, Lebanon

Emery Gluck is a forester for the state of Connecticut and a frequent contributor to Connecticut Woodlands.

When a child asks, "What can I *do*?" about climate change

An answer arrived in the mail

"We have a responsibility to teach the next generation what global warming is and where the solutions lie."

—Will Steger, polar explorer

Education Director Lori Paradis Brant

BY LORI PARADIS BRANT

There I stood, in the front of a middle school classroom, chit-chatting to a group of sixth- through ninth graders at their career fair. I chatted about my education and professional experience as an environmental educator and led them in a hands-on activity to give them a better taste of what I do. Toward the end of my presentation, one student raised her hand. She shared that it was very depressing thinking about all the "bad stuff" she hears is happening in the environment. She wanted to know what it was that she could do to help the environment and feel good about her efforts. She added, in a plaintive voice, "What can I *do*?"

In a similar vein, what could I write about climate change education and feel good about sharing? The very thought was almost overwhelming. Such a variety of materials and information are available. Looking at my own resources, I could talk about the Project Learning Tree activities that focus on energy conservation and global warming. I could share information on the unique climate change backpacks created by the Northeast Science Center Collaborative or the EPA's *Climate Change, Wildlife and Wildlands Toolkit for Teachers and Interpreters*. I could keep the local focus and write about energy education in Connecticut, including its high school curriculum on energy efficiency. The ideas go on and on. How might this column help a parent or teacher or naturalist sift through the magnitude of offerings and provide them with high quality, accurate resources?

My answer arrived in the mail with a review copy of a juvenile literature piece on climate change, *How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming,* by Lynne Cherry and Gary Braasch (Dawn Publications, 2008). Ms. Cherry is well-known in the field of environmental education for her children's literary works such as *Flute's Journey: the Life of a Wood Thrush, The Great Kapok Tree, A River Ran Wild,* and many more. Right away, I saw that this book is written for children in grades four through eight. It is not meant for younger children, because the concept is about environmental issues, not basic environmental awareness. Yet it provides an empowering look at how children can grasp the concepts of climate change and do something about it. *How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate* is filled with gorgeous photos from Gary Braasch, a photojournalist who travelled the world to document the landscape, people, flora, and fauna. This book interprets the science of climate change for youth and presents connections to student work and scientists — in a positive, inspirational tone.

The book introduces many climate scientists and their work. Some of them are members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and were winners of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize along with Al Gore. Others, like Elizabeth Losey, a field biologist, conducted important field studies. Ms. Losey recorded bird migration data for more 50 years at a national wildlife refuge in Michigan. A recent analysis of her data showed a change in spring bird arrival dates. Young readers can learn ways to help scientists gather data from birding projects like the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's BirdSleuth program. Other stories about scientists and their work fill the pages, inspiring children to take action.

The resources section provides wonderful information on climate change science and ways to get involved in field studies. From finding resources on tree rings to tundra, Web sites and overviews of the many resources available are shared. Citizen Science projects listed such as Project Budburst and the Thousand Eyes Project provide ways for youth to get outdoors, gather information about their observations, and share that data online.

A Teacher's Guide to How We Know What We Know About Climate Change by Carol L. Malnor (Dawn Publications, 2008) correlates to the fifth through eighth grade National Science Education Standards and uses "flow learning" strategies. Flow learning was created by Joseph Cornell, a guru in environmental education who developed a process of learning by doing and observing outside. Flow learning first awakens enthusiasm about a topic, then focuses the students' attention, provides them with direct experience, and last, allows them to share what they have learned with others. This model is a wonderful, age-appropriate method because it first builds awareness and leads to understanding and inspiration.

A Boost to Do Good

What did I suggest the middle schooler at the career fair do? I told her that I believed that her desire to do something good would overcome her sense of hopelessness. I suggested several things that were in her grasp, such as recycling more at home or school and observing and recording the natural world around her. She said that she is interested in birds. We talked about the myriad opportunities for her there (such as joining in bird counts and learning about native plantings that feed birds).

How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate is an example of how young people and scientists investigate, protect, and care about their world. I encourage anyone teaching or talking to children about climate change to check out this resource. It is a hopeful book that gives the reader access to understanding climate change and suggests great ways to get involved. The next time a child asks you, "What can I do?" share this book with them and find a project to work on together.

Rachel Carson stated it beautifully: "If a child is too keep alive his inborn sense of wonder . . . he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in." Are you that "one adult" who can help a child untangle the mystery of climate change in a way that empowers them? If you are reading this, then I believe that you are.

Lori Paradis Brant is the education director of CFPA. "Essential facts of life" is a phrase from Walden, *by Henry David Thoreau. Learn more about Lori's work by visiting http://www.ctwoodlands.org/education.*

Allen Crepeau

He never met a problem he didn't want to solve

EDITOR'S NOTE: Allen Crepeau, a dedicated volunteer on the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails and volunteer manager of the Kettletown State Park trails, died October 7 at the age of 87. Connecticut Forest & Park Association honored him for his years of dedicated service at last May's spring trail workshop on the Pomperaug Trail in Oxford. CFPA trail workers built a special kiosk in his honor. It will be erected at a prominent location in Kettletown State Park. What follows is the greater part of a talk given at his memorial service and provided by members of his family.

Tom Brokaw wrote *The Greatest Generation* (Random House, 1998), and Allen certainly fit into that category. Nothing fazed him, whether it was climbing up into the church steeple, working on trails, or teaching his family the value of hard work and frugality. He lived by the old adage: "Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without."

During his childhood, Allen and his family were forced by the Great Depression to alter their way of life. For him and his brothers, spending the summers living in a tent out at Hammonasset was great fun. From sunup to sundown, the three brothers ran wild, crabbing, building rafts, and catching eels for their mother to cook.

He graduated from Hillhouse High School and attended Northeastern University. When the war came he enlisted in the Navy, entered the V-12 program (officers' training) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy.

Jayne and Allen met at the Westville Congregational Church and were married there shortly after the end of World War II. They had recently celebrated their 62nd anniversary. Allen was a lieutenant in the United States Navy. He, Jayne, and Roger moved to San Diego, California where they lived while Allen served overseas during the Korean War. He was the engineering officer on tank landing ship (LST). A slow boat. A very slow boat. It took 30 days to get to Korea from San Diego. Allen proudly served his country for 11 years.

His mathematical and engineering intelligence bordered on genius. He never met a problem he didn't want to solve. He could fix anything — cars, appliances, carpentry, skis, gravestones, and on and on. He never stopped learning or wanting to learn new things, most by teaching himself.

He loved exploring the outdoors hiking on and off trails, and camping. Although Allen had hiked the Alps, Rocky Mountains, and Pacific Trail, he considered the White Mountains to be the best hiking in the world. He conquered all 48 of the 4,000-footers.

He was a genealogy buff (fanatic, actually). If you'd like to know the family roots that date back to the kings of Italy, don't ask. Allen isn't here to explain it. If you'd like to know how our family is related to George W., don't ask. We don't want to talk about it.

He made our Halloween costumes. We would lie down on a piece of fabric and he would cut around us, then sew it up into the best costume ever. One Halloween we were leopards — paws and all.

He would gather the neighborhood kids together in the fall to cut ski trails in the woods; then pack and ski them when the snow fell.

He was a phenomenal hockey player. He played until he was in his early 70s. All of us learned to ski together when he was 40. He borrowed his brother's long wooden Army skis and leather boots, and used them for many years until the ski areas outlawed bear trap bindings.

Family came first. No matter how hard a day he had at work, when he walked into the house he did so with a smile on his face. Family vacations were fun, fun, fun and always involved being close to nature — hiking, canoeing, swimming, or skiing.

He was always on the go and never did anything the easy way. Never hesitated to help Jayne with housework, help the children with schoolwork, or show us how to fix our cars. Yet he could sit still for hours while he worked magic with needle and yarn as he created crewel embroidery masterpieces.

Allen has left an impact on all of our lives. His generosity, sense of adventure, love, and loyalty was and is extraordinary. He has filled us with a sense of purpose for being a better person. He certainly was.

Priscilla Wright Pratt

Priscilla Redfield Wright Pratt, an early advocate of protecting Haley Farm in Groton's Noank village, died last June 15 at home in Noank at the age of 84.

Mrs. Pratt was a founding member of the Groton Open Space Association, along with her late husband, Charles N. Pratt, who died in 2002. The GOSA was established in 1967 to protect the 264-acre Haley Farm. With the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, GOSA led a statewide fund drive that enabled the state of Connecticut to buy the land in 1970 and establish Haley Farm State Park. Mrs. Pratt served as president of GOSA from the mid-1980s until her death. In 2002, 57 acres more were added to Haley Farm State Park. In 2008, GOSA acquired the 75-acre Merritt Family Forest.

Mrs. Pratt, a native of Essex and graduate of Connecticut College, was a sculptor who had studied in New York at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students League. She and her husband moved to Noank in 1957. From her earliest years, Mrs. Pratt felt a kinship with animals and nature. The Pratts opened the Pratt-Wright Gallery in 1984 to show works by area artists. Mrs. Pratt's own sculpture still graces the gallery. Her animal studies of opossums, frogs, and squirrels were highly popular. Among her many other talents were playing the organ at the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Mystic, and volunteering for the Friends of Animals. She is survived by her daughter, Catherine Pratt, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and her son, Timothy Pratt, of Noank.

DEP's Deputy Commissioner Promoted to Replace Gina McCarthy

Amey Marrella, the new commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, says she wants to focus on environmental protection during these tough fiscal times as well as working on climate change issues. Governor M. Jodi Rell appointed Ms. Marrella as commissioner September 1. She had served as deputy commissioner since 2006.

Marrella said she hopes to improve the state's air and water quality, protect Long Island Sound, and continue to improve Connecticut's Climate Action Plan on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2010.

Marrella replaced Gina McCarthy, who was confirmed as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's assistant commissioner for air and radiation during the summer.

Marrella served for five years, 2001–2005, as first selectwoman of the town of Woodbridge and was a lawyer with the EPA.

— Michael Tidmarsh

CT Launches Farmland Plan

Thirteen hundred acres of Connecticut's state-owned farmland are currently being reviewed by a state board to determine the best way to preserve the property and keep it as farmland. The Farmland Preservation Advisory Board is scheduled to report to the state's agriculture commissioner by January 15. The different state agencies that own the 12 parcels of land under review have been working with the board since Governor M. Jodi Rell signed the farmland preservation bill (Senate Bill 1082) last June. The act required state-owned farmland to be assessed by the advisory board. Each year, roughly 8,000 acres of farmland is lost to development in Connecticut, according to state officials.

— Ellis Sant'Andrea

Bottle Bill Expands to Include Water

A five-cent deposit on all water-filled drink container began on October 1 in Connecticut. The only beverage containers not covered under the expanded law are sports drinks, teas, and juice. The new law passed earlier in the year by the Connecticut legislature also includes a recession-inspired change: Unredeemed deposits will escheat into the state's general fund instead of to the beverage distributors. This change will raise an estimated $41 million next year, says Dennis Schain, spokesman for the Department of Environmental Protection. Eleven states currently have some form of a bottle law, and some have expanded to include water. The original Connecticut law went into effect in 1980 and applied a five-cent deposit to all carbonated beverages.

— Jeremy Katz

stockxchng

Bobcat Sightings Increase

Bobcat sightings in Connecticut are higher now than any time in the last five years. Jenny Dickson, wildlife biologist for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, said she believes that there are between 200 and 400 bobcats in the state. The normally secretive cats are most active after dusk and before dawn, and they have thrived mostly in the northwestern corner of the state. "There's plenty of cover, which suits their hunting techniques and translates into a lot more food," said Ms. Dickson. Despite the recent population increase, bobcats remain a protected animal, and it is illegal to hunt or trap them.

— Jack Sullivan

Central Connecticut Bicycle Alliance Receives Grant

The Alliance for Biking and Walking, an advocacy group for bicyc*ling and walking,* awarded the Central Connecticut Bicycle Alliance $15,000 in November to transform from a regional to a statewide bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization. The group said it hopes to become a statewide voice for biking and walking and hire an executive director. It aims to accelerate the implementation of the recently passed Connecticut Complete Streets law, which requires that the rights of all road users be considered in road design.

— Alliance for Biking and Walking

Connecticut Towns Start E-Recycling Plans

All Connecticut towns are being required to provide opportunities to recycle electronic products, and as of January, a new financial source has become available to do that. To avoid dumping e-waste, which is often hazardous, towns are required to develop their own collection plans, according to Paul Nonnenmacher, director of public affairs at the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority. Beginning January 1, retailers are not allowed to sell electronics that have not been registered with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and manufacturers must pay fees on many of those products. The fees are placed into a fund that will finance e-waste recycling programs, Mr. Nonnenmacher said.

— John Kennedy

CT Landowner Wins 2009 Forestry Conservation Award

The American Forestry Foundation awarded Dr. William Jahoda of Lebanon, Connecticut its 2009 Forestry Conservation Award October 16 in Washington, D.C. He was honored for lifetime commitment to forest land stewardship and conservation efforts on his family tree farms in Lebanon and Pittsburg, New Hampshire.

On October 16, Dr. Jahoda, his family, and nominating forester Joan Nichols spent time with representatives from the American Forest Foundation on Capitol Hill. They met with staff from Senator Christopher Dodd's office, Senator Joseph Lieberman's office and U.S. Representative Joe Courtney before that night's awards ceremony.

— From press releases

The memo that started the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails

Several months after Connecticut Forest & Park Association established its Trails Committee in October 1930, Edgar L. Heermance, the father of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System, met with what was then the state environmental agency, the Connecticut State Park and Forest Commission, to request "authority to open trails through the state parks and forests."

The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails are a recreation resource, but they also inspire people to think about conservation by connecting them to the land. Mr. Heermance alluded to this in his proposal, reprinted here, when he wrote that two objectives of trail construction are "calling attention to and making more available the State's present resources in park and forest lands."

CONNECTICUT Forest & Park ASSOCIATION

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