CONNECTICUT

Woodlands

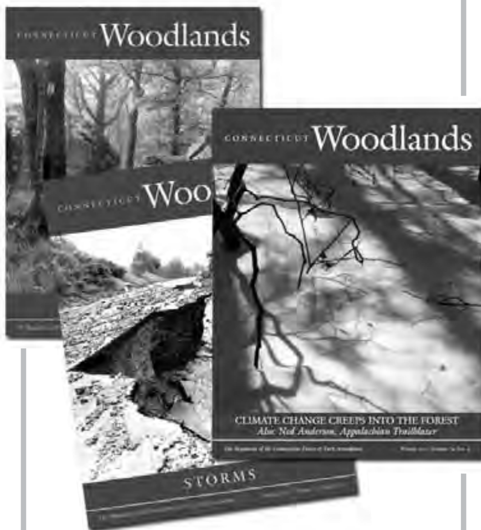
PROTECTING LAND AND TRAILS

ALSO: SAM DODD'S STORY • A FARM'S AFTERLIFE

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association

Summer 2011 Volume 76 No. 2

About
Connecticut Forest & Park Association and Connecticut Woodlands Magazine



Connecticut Woodlands is a quarterly magazine published since 1936 by CFPA, the private, non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the land, trails, and natural resources of Connecticut.

Members of CFPA receive the magazine in the mail in January, April, July, and October. CFPA also publishes a newsletter several times a year.

For more information about CFPA, to join or donate online, visit our newly expanded web-site, www.ctwoodlands.org, or call 860-346-2372.

Give the gift of membership in CFPA. Contact Marty Gosselin at 860-346-2372.

Advertising Rates for Connecticut Woodands

Half page: $180 per issue /$600 yearly (four issues)

Quarter page: $90 per issue / $300 yearly.

Eighth page: $60 per issue / $200 yearly

Design services available for a fee.

Vernon resident George Arthur, left, retired from running CFPA's Eastern Roving Trail Crew in May.

CFPA Archives

Connecting People to the Land

Our mission: 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.

Our vision: 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

Annual Membership

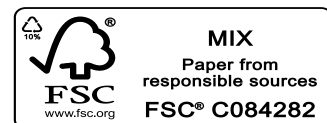
Individual	$ 35
Family	$ 50
Supporting	$ 100
Benefactor	$ 250

Life Membership $ 2500

Corporate Membership

Club	$ 50
Non-profit	$ 75
Sustaining	$ 100
Landmark	$ 250
Stewardship	$ 500
Leadership	$ 1000

Printed on recycled paper



CONNECTICUT Woodlands

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association

Summer 2011 Volume 76 No. 2

CONTENTS

FEATURES

6 THE FENTON RIVER WATERSHED. How the visions of a few individuals sparked projects to save hundreds of acres. *By Dan Donahue.*

10 THE DIFFICULT TRAIL AHEAD. Land protection on the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. *By Clare Cain.*

12 CONSERVATION HERO. Sam Dodd's half-century of land preservation. *By Christine Woodside.*

14 THE AFTERLIFE OF A FARM. A young woman reflects on her grandfather's land. *By Gwendolyn Craig.*

DEPARTMENTS

4 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. The case that got me here. *By Eric Lukingbeal.*

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE. Are we being good to the land? *By Eric Hammerling.*

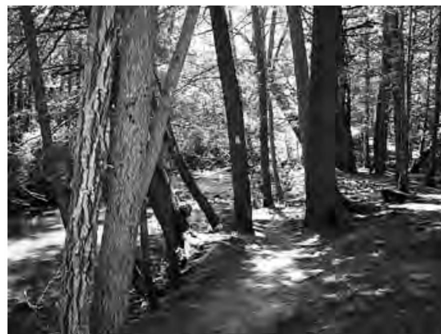
18 GOODWIN FOREST REPORT. Forestry and wildlife teaching for the people in Hampton: James L. Goodwin's gift. *By Steve Broderick.*

22 FROM THE LAND. Save Connecticut dairy lands the delicious way: Eat farm-made dairy products. *By Jean Crum Jones.*

24 WALKCT. Who protected this? Out walking, take a minute to recall the people who fought for this land. *By Leslie Lewis.*

26 ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE *News from around the state.*

27 OBITUARY. *Jennifer Schiller.*



On the Cover

The Nipmuck Trail follows the Fenton River on protected lands in Mansfield.

Claire Cain

CONNECTICUT Forest & Park ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The case that got me here

BY ERIC LUKINGBEAL

CFPA President Eric Lukingbeal

I've been a trial lawyer for the last 37 years at Robinson & Cole, which shows either a lack of imagination or a simple happiness in the legal world. It's more the latter, though I never thought I'd last so long in one firm. I should point out that two of the last three presidents of Connecticut Forest & Park Association have also been Hartford lawyers (Russ Brenneman and David Platt are the others. Richard Whitehouse is the exception). This is my first president's message, having just been elected in May, so allow me to introduce myself. I live in Granby, down the street from the most beautiful tree in Connecticut —the Dewey Granby oak. For more than 30 years, I've heated with a wood stove, and split the wood with a Sotz Monster Maul, a wonderful tool no longer made.

When I was in eighth grade, my class took a test to determine career preferences. My top score was for forest ranger. Nothing ever came of it. But on some spring days, I feel a twinge of regret for choosing such a sedentary occupation. The event that triggered my adult interest in conservation and forestry was a case I was assigned as a young partner in 1981. I had to defend the chief forester of the state of Connecticut, Bob Garrepy, a Yale graduate and career Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection man who lived in Norfolk. Two private foresters had sued him for striking their names from the DEP's public list of consulting foresters. The two foresters were claiming $14 million in lost profits as damages, a sum Mr. Garrepy did not have. After a three-week jury trial in federal court, and three days of deliberations, the jury found for Bob. There was no appeal. In my preparation for trial, I spent many days talking to potential witnesses, most of whom lived in Litchfield County. Many are familiar names to us today: the late George Milne (former CFPA president and influential conservationist), Star Childs (Great Mountain Forest preserver), Robert Ricard (urban forester), and Ned Zaglio.

I was struck by their love for the forests, by their deep knowledge of forestry practices, and by their unusual willingness to help me defend Bob. They figured out pretty quickly that I was a neophyte, and they worked to educate me. Of course, Bob was my chief tutor. I was also struck by how hard Bob worked for Connecticut's forests. He arrived at the office at 4:30 a.m. most days!

This issue includes articles on the work that goes into preserving forests and other lands. Land preservation, and forest conservation in general, is hard. And it is not getting easier. Our connections to the land are increasingly attenuated by the convenient electronic culture. One hundred and twenty years ago, we were still a nation of farmers. Kids knew where milk came from, and they all fished. Younger folks today spend far more time online than outdoors, let alone in the woods. Adults lead hectic lives, shepherding offspring to various athletic events, and then watching them perform. (On the "sort of a plus" side, the trails are rarely crowded.) It is hard to connect people to the land. But, as legendary Ohio State football coach Woody Hayes preached, "If it's easy, it ain't worth doing." And, as Aldo Leopold reminds us, "We shall never achieve harmony with the land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve but to strive."

In striving, we ought all to remember the words of Calvin Coolidge on the power of persistence:

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.

Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.

Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

Eric Lukingbeal lives in Granby.

THE CONNECTICUT FOREST & PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT, **ERIC LUKINGBEAL**, *Granby*
VICE-PRESIDENT, **WILLIAM D. BRECK**, *Killingworth*
VICE-PRESIDENT, **DAVID PLATT**, *Higganum*
VICE-PRESIDENT, **STARR SAYRES**, *East Haddam*
TREASURER, **JAMES W. DOMBRAUSKAS**, *New Hartford*
SECRETARY, **ERIC HAMMERLING**, *West Hartford*
FORESTER, **STEVE BRODERICK**, *Eastford*

DIRECTORS

RUSSELL BRENNEMAN, *Westport*
ROBERT BUTTERWORTH, *Deep River*
STARLING W. CHILDS, *Norfolk*
RUTH CUTLER, *Ashford*
LAURENCE DIAMOND, *Coventry*
CAROLINE DRISCOLL, *New London*
ASTRID T. HANZALEK, *Suffield*
JEAN CRUM JONES, *Shelton*
DAVID K. LEFF, *Collinsville*
DAVID LAURETTI, *Bloomfield*
MICHAEL LECOURS, *Farmington*
SCOTT LIVINGSTON, *Bolton*
LAUREN L. McGREGOR, *Hamden*
GEOFFREY MEISSNER, *Plantsville*
JEFFREY O'DONNELL, *Bristol*
DEBORAH C. SPALDING, *Guilford*
DAVID SULLIVAN, *Higganum*
RICHARD WHITEHOUSE, *Glastonbury*

HONORARY DIRECTORS

HARROL W. BAKER, JR., *Bolton*
GEORGE M. CAMP, *Middletown*
ANN M. CUDDY, *Lakeville*
SAMUEL G. DODD, *North Andover, MA*
JOHN E. HIBBARD, *Hebron*
PHILIP H. JONES, JR., *Shelton*
EDWARD A. RICHARDSON, *Glastonbury*
L.P. SPERRY, JR., *Middlebury*
SALLY L. TAYLOR, *Mystic*
HENRY H. TOWNSHEND, *New Haven*
SIDNEY VAN ZANDT, *Noank*

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, **ERIC HAMMERLING**, *West Hartford*
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, **JENNIFER BENNER**, *Roxbury*
EDUCATION DIRECTOR, **LORI PARADIS BRANT**, *Rockfall*
TRAIL STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR, **CLARE CAIN**, *Niantic*
FOREST & PROGRAM DIRECTOR, GOODWIN FOREST CENTER, **STEVE BRODERICK**, *Eastford*
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT, **LINDA CUNNINGHAM**, *Portland*
MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING DIRECTOR, **MARTY GOSSELIN**, *Durham*
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, **JAMES W. LITTLE**, *Hebron*
WalkCT DIRECTOR, **LESLIE LEWIS**, *Lyme*
OFFICE MANAGER, **TERESA PETERS**, *Durham*

EDITOR, **CHRISTINE WOODSIDE**
GRAPHIC DESIGNER, **KAREN WARD**

EDITOR'S NOTE

A forgotten book

One spring morning, I wrenched myself away from the kitchen table and went on a run. You know how that is. Work beckons but if you don't get some exercise now, you'll start snapping at people. It was starting to rain. I loped onto my 3-mile route, out Union Street in Deep River, crossing into Chester. At the end of Straits Road, I decided to push on a bit farther, across Route 148 and up the steep Pleasant Street. (Hiking season was here; I could use a little hill training.)

As I neared the hill crest, I noticed boxes of knick-knacks marked "Free" on two lawns. It was a Monday after the Chester townwide tag sale. The rain spattered one box of old books. I jumped onto the grass and bent down to flip through the volumes that smelled like 40 years of a damp basement. One green hardback looked interesting: *Chapters From My Childhood: On the Old Farm in Mount Carmel, Connecticut During the Nineteen-teens*, by Ruth Warner Robinson. What was this? I thought.

I told myself I had run most of the hill anyway, and so I tucked the mildewed book under my arm and ran home. Holding my nose at my kitchen table, I pried apart the pages. The chapters had originally appeared in The New Haven Register between 1963 and 1970, when she was probably in her 70s. Robinson was no writer, but she was honest. She told stories and drew folk-style scenes of children in a farmyard near what is now Sleeping Giant State Park in North Haven.

Ruth Robinson's family grew food, harvested wood for heat, and kept farm animals. Her father traveled to New Haven by horse and wagon to sell produce. She and her siblings had to help. They didn't have much to wear, but they didn't seem to mind. Families then took in traveling homeless men each season. One man they particularly liked came every spring and stayed through the fall, working every day. He was much beloved but an alcoholic. Her father once bailed him out of the New Haven jail and, finding a hidden bottle of hard liquor in the barn, filled it up with tea to make a point.

In that, I think, Ruth Robinson fumbled to paint an idyllic past because she left in the sharp edges of life—and so, perhaps, her writing wasn't so awkward after all. She wrote that despite their isolation and her parents' stern ways, she felt safe and happy. What changed things for the family was after World War I, when developers began buying up all the land on the outskirts of New Haven. Her father announced that it was time to move, and so they bought a farm 30 miles away, in Killingworth.

Since that day I found the book, I have been brooding over what it reveals about the past we idealize. Ruth Robinson's childhood universe seemed long gone by the 1960s. For years, her story was too quaint for modern minds and languished in the basement. Now her memories might guide the movement of idealistic locavores. But that stinky green book, innocent and stark, reminds me that Connecticut lost more than growing techniques. Pre-World War I, people placed themselves into strict categories: farmers, children, merchants, teachers, business owners, tramps. Today, we tell ourselves that we're broad-minded. Maybe we're all sort of trying to be like Odysseus. But we've lost that sense they had a century ago, when a farm family fed themselves but also fed the homeless, because they knew that everyone ought to take personal responsibility for the suffering around them. I went for a 3-mile run in the rain, and there in a stinky box of books was a missing piece of the past.

—Christine Woodside, Editor
Connecticut Woodlands

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Are we being good to the land?

BY ERIC HAMMERLING

Eric Hammerling

A few months ago, I was speaking with a Connecticut Forest & Park Association supporter about our extensive work in land conservation over the years, and he said, "I have always believed in the Native American proverb, 'Be good to the land, and the land will be good to you.' " I thought of this when we started work on this issue of Connecticut Woodlands. It inspired me to do some research on how good we actually are being to the land.

Putting aside any differences you and I may have over what constitutes being "good to the land," I thought it would be valuable to consider a few basic questions.

How Much Land Are We Protecting?

In 2007, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection updated its *Green Plan Guiding Land Acquisition and Protection in Connecticut 2007–2012.* This plan (which is widely available and is worthwhile reading), carries forward a goal the General Assembly set in 1997, to preserve 21 percent of the land area of Connecticut by 2023 for public recreation and natural resource conservation. The 21 percent would include state land (10 percent or 320,576 acres) and private- nonprofit-, and municipal-owned land (11 percent or 352,634 acres). As of October 2010, it appears that that state, and the cities and towns it has helped, together have purchased enough land to meet 73 percent of this goal (491,443 out of 673,210 acres). To meet the 21 percent goal by 2023, we will need to protect about 14,000 acres each year for the next 13 years. (The percentage of land preserved could be even higher. The state currently does not have an updated database of land other groups have bought without state help.)

How Much Will It Cost?

The *Green Plan* reported that the per-acre costs paid over recent years have ranged between $4,500 and $7,000. If a per-acre cost of $6,000 were allocated to the 181,767 acres remaining to meet the goal, land protection efforts would require a total of $1.09 billion through a combination of the state's land acquisition program (the Recreation and Natural Heritage Program) and its fund to assist cities and towns (the Open Space and Watershed Program) between now and 2023. Of course, this estimate is in 2007 dollars and is not adjusted for inflation or land price escalation.

Who's Doing the Work?

Connecticut protected its first state forest in 1901 (state parks came later). The state now owns more than 250,000 acres of forests, parks, and Wildlife Management Areas. But the rate of protecting state lands has been slowed in recent years by the recognition that there are insufficient resources for the DEP to manage its existing landholdings.

Land trusts deserve special mention among the other land conservation partners. According to Richard Walker, author of *The Country in the City* (University of Washington Press, 2007), the number of land trusts has just about doubled every decade since 1950. Today in Connecticut, more than 120 land trusts serve 169 towns. CFPA is one of them; we own interests (either easement or fee) in at least 2,000 acres of properties and trails.

As land trusts have proliferated, we have found our best role at CFPA is to protect land by working with other groups. In 2010, CFPA became the fiscal sponsor for the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. This umbrella organization is dedicated to enhancing the pace and effectiveness of land conservation in Connecticut. Amy Paterson, CLCC's dynamic executive director, literally works next to my office. Dan Donahue, CFPA's Land Committee chairman, is a true land conservation champion. Together, I believe we are being good to the land, we are making progress, and we look forward to working with you to help keep these essential efforts *strong!*

Eric Hammerling lives in West Hartford.

Clare Cain

A preserved section of the Nipmuck Trail along the Fenton River: It started with a phone call a decade ago.

THE FENTON RIVER WATERSHED

How the visions of a few individuals sparked projects to save hundreds of acres

BY DAN DONAHUE

For more than 115 years, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association has been working—often quietly and behind the scenes—to preserve forests and public access to the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. CFPA has played a central role in conserving many thousands of acres and, since the 1920s, building and maintaining the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. Nearly 10 years ago, the phone rang in my office. It was Willington First Selectman John Patton, who wanted to talk about how to preserve a woodlot near the Fenton River.

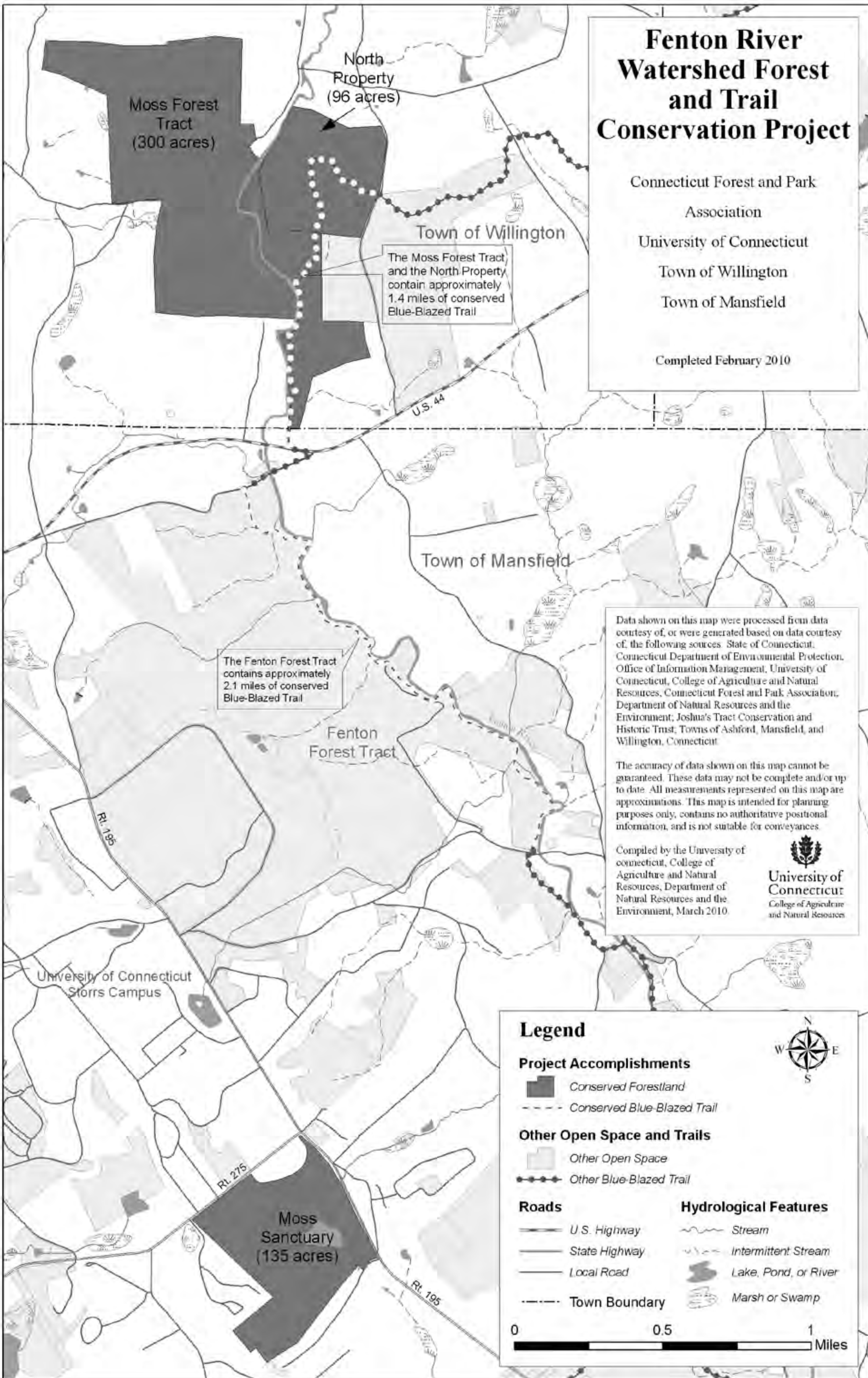
Soon after this, CFPA's extensive experience in forest and trail conservation joined this talk to lead an effort to preserve 531 forested acres and 3.5 miles of the Nipmuck Trail. Many partners cooperated to protect three forested tracts in the watershed of the Fenton River. Joining CFPA were the towns of Willington and Mansfield, the University of Connecticut, the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

For the first time, CFPA used funds from its Hibbard Trust for Land and Trails to purchase some of the land. In doing so, the Association played a significant role. The Hibbard Trust was established by CFPA in 2001 to honor retired Executive Director John Hibbard. The trust is a permanent source of funding for forest and trail conservation in Connecticut. Using funds from a no-interest loan from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation and a grant from the DEP, CFPA took title to the 96-acre North property and later conveyed it to the University of Connecticut.

Daniel North—One Generous Man

Although the collective efforts of a rather large team of people was necessary to bring this complex Fenton River project to fruition, one very generous man, Daniel North, planted the seed. Among his charitable interests, he developed a special appreciation for public libraries and provided financial support for them in multiple communities. He also had inherited 96 acres of forestland in Willington from his mother, a Willington resident. Upon

continued on page 8



FOR THE FIRST TIME, CFPA USED FUNDS FROM ITS HIBBARD TRUST FOR LAND AND TRAILS TO PURCHASE SOME OF THE LAND. IN DOING SO, THE ASSOCIATION PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE. THE HIBBARD TRUST WAS ESTABLISHED BY CFPA IN 2001 TO HONOR RETIRED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN HIBBARD.

Clare Cain

The Fenton River and Nipmuck Trail.

FENTON RIVER

continued from page 6

learning of the town's efforts to build its first stand-alone public library, he decided to donate his land to the town, stipulating only that the property be sold so the proceeds could be used to help finance the new library.

Mr. Patton, Willington's first selectman at the time, was thus presented with a dilemma. The stipulated sale was important to the library project because it would reduce the cost to the town's taxpayers. Equally important was Willington's growing commitment to preserve more of its undeveloped landscape. Just a few years before, the Willington Conservation Commission had led the way in facilitating the town's acquisition of 265 acres of forest, fields, and wetlands from Clarke Ruby and his wife, Margaret Fenton Ruby. The Rubys sold their land for only 10 percent of its market value. This generous act powerfully introduced the public to the benefits of proactive land conservation. The land was named the Fenton-Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve. It is clear and permanent evidence of the good that land preservation does our communities.

Because he saw the wisdom of protecting the North property from more residential development, Mr. Patton began seeking alternatives to selling the land to developers. It was not long before the idea of protecting this outstanding natural area began to generate serious interest among local conservationists.

In March 2010, three partners in Mr. Patton's dream announced that they had conserved 531 acres of forest and three miles of Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails in Willington and Mansfield. CFPA, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, and the University of Connecticut celebrated their joint effort, the total cost of which was about $350,000. CFPA used funds from the Hibbard Trust for Land and Trails, an open space grant from the DEP, and a no-interest loan from Norcross to acquire the first tract of forestland from the Town of Willington.

Towering Oaks and Brook Trout

The North property is located on scenic Mason Road in Willington and lies on the east side of the Fenton River near its confluence with Eldredge Brook. The land is occupied by an outstanding example of a mature oak-hemlock forest, thriving on the moist, fertile soils of a gently sloping, west-facing hillside. The higher elevations at the east end of this forest are home to an unusually diverse deciduous forest. The crowns of large red oak, white oak, white ash, and sugar maple trees dominate the upper forest canopy, providing nesting sites and hunting perches for resident red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks. Other common trees include black birch, shagbark hickory, black oak, red maple, yellow birch, pignut hickory, American hornbeam, and basswood. The forest understory is covered by a well-developed shrub community—consisting of witch hazel, highbush blueberry, and maple-leaved viburnum—that provides nesting cover and food for woodland songbirds.

At the lower elevations, approaching the Fenton River, the forest is shrouded beneath a canopy of eastern hemlock trees, lending a park-like atmosphere to the forest bordering the river. Groundwater seeps coalesce into moss-carpeted swales, punctuated by a number of vernal pools. By late spring, the vernal pool surfaces are dimpled by adventurous juvenile salamanders, wood frogs, and other amphibians that use this temporary water world to mate and raise young.

The bold presence of the Fenton River enhances the ecological and aesthetic qualities of this forest. It is among Connecticut's cleaner trout streams and an important regional wildlife corridor. The river begins as several small tributary brooks in the heavily forested hills of north Willington, converging at the Fenton-Ruby Park

and Wildlife Preserve on Moose Meadow Road.

By the time it reaches the project area, the Fenton is a broad, lively trout stream some 30 to 40 feet wide. On the North property it flows at the base of a shade-filled ravine fringed by towering white pine and hemlock trees, some more than 3 feet in diameter. During spring runoff, the river runs full and fast, drowning out all manmade noises and seeming wild. With a little patience, a quiet observer will witness a wide variety of wildlife using the river corridor. Great blue heron, belted kingfisher, red-shouldered hawk, pileated woodpecker, raccoon, beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, and other wetland-dependent species are instinctively drawn to the river to find food; water; cover for nesting, brood-rearing, and winter survival; and freedom from constant human activity and disturbance.

Project Expands into a Living Classroom

This desire to protect the North property evolved into a larger-scale effort to protect hundreds of acres and a wealth of natural resources—forest, wildlife, scenic, and recreational resources. Abutting the west side of the North property, across and astride the Fenton River, is the Carey-Moss Tract, a roughly 300-acre portion of UConn's forestland. Acquired by UConn in the 1960s, this forest has been used for decades by UConn faculty and students seeking a natural forest landscape to conduct field research near the Storrs campus.

David B. Schroeder, retired professor and former head of UConn's Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, had long recognized the need for a natural area where long-term forest research, sometimes requiring several decades, could proceed uninterrupted. Recognizing this forest conservation project as an opportunity to finally satisfy this research need, Dr. Schroeder played an instrumental role at UConn in effectively advocating for a permanent research forest to augment UConn's outstanding academic infrastructure.

The 400-acre forest encompassed by the North property and the Carey-Moss Tract is now owned entirely by UConn and is available for long-term forest research, forest management demonstration, and landowner education. It provides a living classroom for local college and high school students and elementary schoolchildren. Through UConn's Cooperative Extension Education programs, this research forest has the potential to provide untold educational opportunities for forest landowners, land use and conservation commissioners, and foresters and loggers.

Memorial Sanctuary Becomes Permanently Preserved

The Albert E. Moss Forest, Wildflower, and Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the junction of Routes 195 and 275 in Mansfield-Storrs, within walking distance of the UConn campus, E. O. Smith Regional High School, and Mansfield's Community Center. Established by UConn in 1989 on a tract of university-owned forest, the sanctuary honors the memory of Albert Moss who was a professor of forestry at UConn from 1914 to 1942. One of Dr. Moss's student's quest for a place to honor Moss led to the sanctuary's formal establishment. That student was Mary Sherwood, reportedly the first woman in America to earn a college degree in forestry.

The 135-acre Albert Moss Sanctuary was purchased by CFPA and conveyed to the Town of Mansfield, which has an outstanding record of municipal park acquisition and stewardship. The town is improving parking and signage, and CFPA's roving trails crew recently led an effort to revitalize the sanctuary's walking trails.

The Moss Sanctuary is a deciduous forest that is dominated largely by oaks, predominantly red and white. Other common cohorts include black oak, sugar maple, red maple, hickories, white ash, black birch, and black cherry. Scattered understory trees include American hornbeam, hop hornbeam, and shadbush. Various forest age classes are present, ranging from early successional forest to semi-mature stands of mixed hardwoods. Very large, open-grown oaks are found scattered throughout. These trees, approximately 150 years of age, are clear evidence that this forest was once maintained as semi-open pastureland. A number of coniferous plantations were established years ago, most likely during the 1930s when the Civilian Conservation Corp was active. Plantations of white pine and Norway spruce continue to thrive. Tift Pond, an aesthetic and recreational highlight today, also has a cultural past, having been built many years ago to power the local silk mill.

Dan Donahue is a certified forester and chairman of CFPA's Forest & Trail Conservation Committee. He is director of land protection and stewardship for Norcross Wildlife Foundation and has done forestry work for for many landowners, including the towns of Willington and Mansfield.

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES FOR CONSERVING THEIR LANDS WITH CFPA:

Atwood family, Wolcott
Bamforth family, Haddam
Block family, Willington
Camp family, Middletown
Caron family, Stonington/Groton
Clemence family, Thompson/Eastford
Cole family, Tolland
Field family, Durham
Glenney family, Lisbon
Green family, Ashford/ Eastford
Hull family, Union/Eastford/Ashford
Knowlton family, Willington
Masiello family, Woodstock
Milne family, Hebron
Noel family, New Hartford
Pope family, Eastford
Prior family, Woodstock
Rossi family, Haddam
Sanford family, Oxford
Sayres family, East Haddam
Shekosky family, Middletown
Stevenson family, Somers
Whitney family, Lebanon
Wyman family, Woodstock/Eastford
Zulick family, Ashford

YOU CAN HELP CFPA PROTECT MORE FORESTS AND TRAILS

CFPA could not have led the way on conserving these forests without the necessary financial resources. The Hibbard Trust for Land and Trails has provided the money necessary to accomplish several other forest or trail conservation projects around the state.

In addition to your current support of CFPA through your membership and contributions to the annual fund, we ask that you consider making a dedicated donation to the Hibbard Trust. If you are considering the possible benefits of planned giving, we can also discuss this with you. To conserve more of Connecticut's threatened forests and ensure public access to the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, CFPA will need your sustained support. Sincere thanks for all you do to support CFPA.

Clare Cain

THE DIFFICULT TRAIL AHEAD

Land protection on the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails

BY CLARE CAIN

As you hike along the ridge and slip through the woods, the unbroken ribbon of trail that you follow gives off the illusion of permanence. Rolling along the continuous contours of the ridgeline, it is easy to mistake the trail beneath your feet as an eternal and unchanging imprint on the landscape. Unfortunately, most of our Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System crosses a variety of ownerships. On the whim of a single landowner, the trail can be closed in a moment. Lacking the large tracts of forest typical of our northern New England neighbors, trails that connect long distances in Connecticut are forced to leave protected parcels of open space and travel over the unprotected plane of private property.

This vulnerability on our 825-mile trail system is troubling. Although Connecticut Forest & Park Association does have a handful of agreements with private and corporate landowners, for which we are most thankful, it is not nearly enough for comfort. Our trails pass through 88 towns, some of which mention protection of their local Blue Trail in the town's plan of conservation and development. But others do not. Some towns have active land trusts with whom we can partner on land protection efforts; other towns do not.

Our efforts to protect the trail system are further compounded by the fact that many towns do not have current electronic parcel data, which is the most efficient way to understand who owns land. A common misperception is that CFPA knows every landowner who hosts a portion of a Blue Trail. In fact, we are only beginning, with the help of current mapping technology, to paint an accurate portrayal of ownership along the trail system.

235 Owners Along the New England Trail

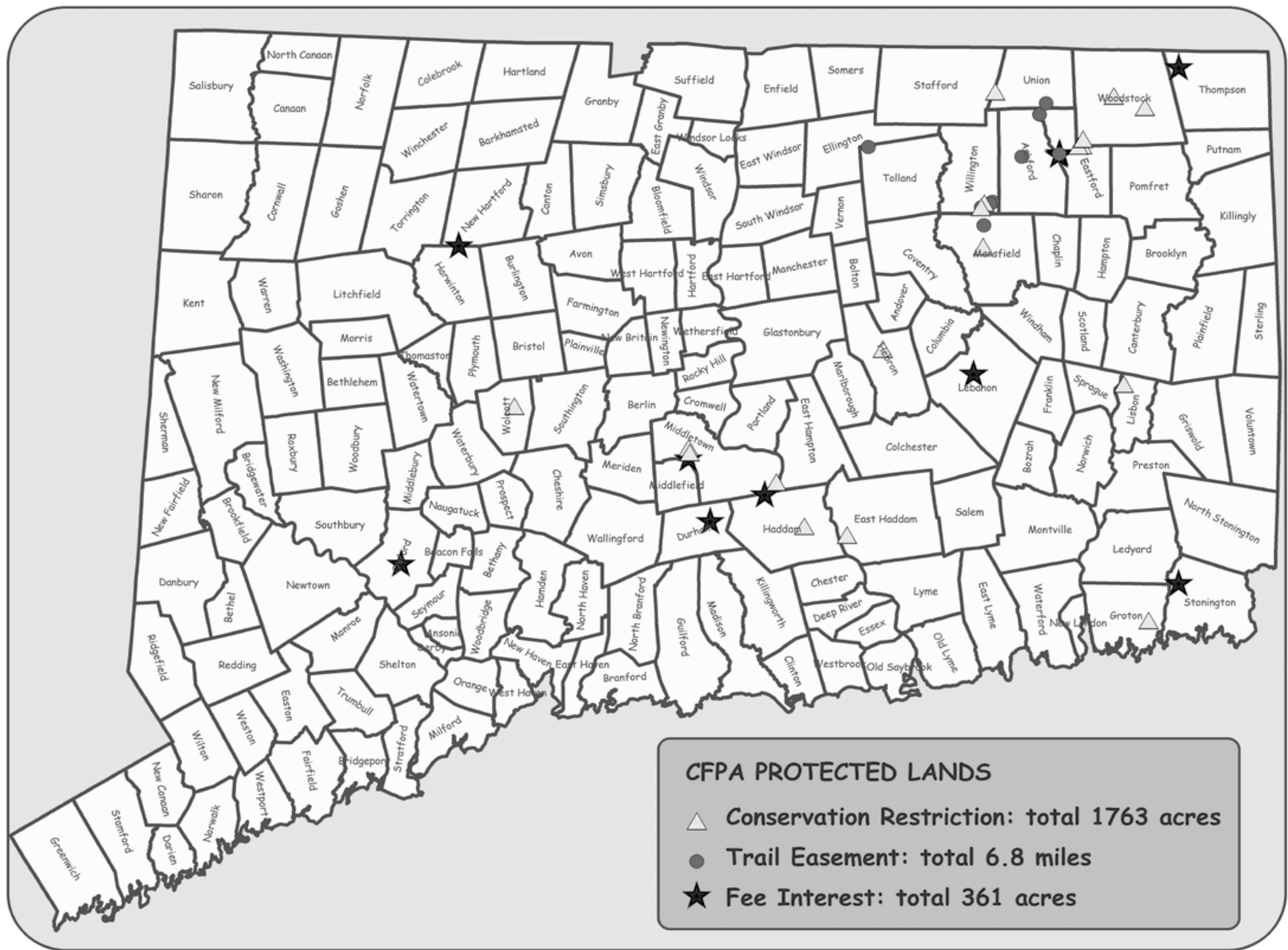
For example, the New England Trail in Connecticut, stretching 120 miles and comprising the Menunketuck, Mattabesett, and Metacomet trails, crosses approximately 30 miles of private ownership. Within these 30 miles are approximately 235 different landowners. Of these 235, CFPA has dozens of handshake or "gentleman's" agreements. Of these agreements, only 4 have been formalized into trail agreements and committed to paper. Of these 4 agreements, not a single one is permanent.

Like a National Park but Without Ownership

The NET, the most recent of the nine national scenic trails, was designated by Congress in 2009. Authorizing legislation granted the trail "willing-seller" authority. This means that owners along the trail corridor can sell their property or an interest in their property to the National Park Service but that the NPS cannot take the property through adverse possession (a method historically used on some federal lands). The NPS, though, will likely never accept property along the trail because it would be too difficult for it to manage single, potentially unconnected parcels.

But CFPA is able to hold property, as are local land trusts and municipalities. This authority allows the NPS the flexibility to work with both willing sellers and CFPA to protect the trail corridor in perpetuity.

Linking the Long Island Sound to the traprock ridges, the NET is in many respects a linear national park. It cuts up the Connecticut Valley intersecting such touchstone locations as Hubbard Park, Mount Higby, Ragged Mountain, the Metropolitan District Commission reservoirs, and Penwood and Talcott Mountain state parks.



Most of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails go through private land unprotected by any legal instrument. In recent years, CFPA has begun to work with many groups to protect vulnerable trail lands. CFPA

LANDOWNERS, LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Are you a landowner who hosts a portion of a Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail? Feel free to contact us at CFPA to discuss how we can ensure the trail remains on your land for years to come. We can help you understand:

- How to place your land under an easement.
- Forestry resources
- Research on growing timber quality trees on your land
- The 2010 Forest Assessment, a project of state, non-profit, and other groups to plan for healthy lands.

For additional information on protecting your property or your local section of trail, please visit the land conservation page on the CFPA Web site at: ctwoodlands.org/land-conservation.

But protecting this trail as a contiguous corridor will take time, partners, and resources. Although we've found many landowners amenable to hosting a portion of trail on their property, we've also learned that if permissions are not cemented with a permanent trail easement, new owners can easily ask that it be removed from their property.

A trail easement is an incredible tool that has been used successfully to protect trails nationwide. CFPA holds eight trail easements in the state. The Finger Lakes Land Trust in New York recently reported that, as part of its effort to permanently protect the 600-mile Finger Lakes Trail, the trust holds more than 50 trail easements. All of the easements were donated, and the trust's expenses are limited to their long-term stewardship.

The threat to our Blue Trails is obvious. A subdivision or a change in ownership could sever any of our beautiful, remote hiking trails. A trail closure often forces us to temporarily reroute the trail around the closed property usually resulting in an unpleasant and unrewarding road walk for hikers. Strategizing for effective trail protection is a long-term undertaking. It involves extensive landowner outreach, formalizing existing handshake agreements, advocating for and securing funding for land protection, and concentrating our efforts in areas where we already have strong partnerships. It's a long uphill climb, but every step toward a protected trail system is a step closer to ensuring that the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails are on the landscape for years and years to come.

CONSERVATION HERO

Sam Dodd's half-century of land preservation

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

Growing up in Caldwell, New Jersey, at the end of a trolley line, Sam Dodd appreciated woods, fields, and vacant lots. His father took him to the Museum of Natural History in New York City, and Sam became a regular backcountry rambler near home. But as time went by, much of the vacant land was claimed for buildings, and he noticed that Caldwell wasn't a country town, anymore.

And so, after Wesleyan University, Army service, and medical school, when Dr. Dodd and his wife, Dr. Anne Dodd, moved to Mansfield, Connecticut, "I decided that I would try to reverse that thing and save a little open space." It was the mid-1950s. For the next nearly half-century, Dr. Dodd quietly and persistently made land conservation history in his adopted home state.

Sam Dodd, left, out doing trail work. With him is the late George Russell.

Courtesy of Sam Dodd

The Dodds, both of them graduates of Temple University's medical school, started their practices in pediatrics and internal medicine, but early on, both changed to anesthesiology so that their schedules might have more predictability. They had a busy life, raising three sons while working in separate hospitals on different shifts, but the outdoors figured large in their off time. Dr. Dodd worked at Windham Hospital, which gave him every third afternoon off.

Soon enough, he noticed the Nipmuck Trail near his house in Mansfield, and he started hiking. "I managed to accidentally become friends with a CFPA member, Harrol 'Bill' Baker," Dr. Dodd said, referring to one of the most active volunteers of that time who lived about a block away. "I probably met him just walking." At Mr. Baker's urging, Dr. Dodd became a volunteer trail manager for the Nipmuck Trail, extending its route north of Route 44.

Through his work on the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Trail Committee and its Board of Directors, Dr. Dodd said he realized that the Metacomet Trail was a very important trail because it followed the traprock ridges. Former CFPA Executive Director John Hibbard and Dr. Dodd started working on routing the Metacomet through land that was permanently protected. They were "the match that lit the fire" of the effort to create the New England Trail, the national scenic trail that includes the Metacomet, Mattabesett, and Menunkatuck trails. Another field project Dr. Dodd took on was to develop the Natchaug Trail from Hampton to Westford in the 1970s.

Dr. Dodd also worked tirelessly on land preservation through town government. "I hate to keep saying it," the understated Dr. Dodd told me on a recent visit to his retirement home in North Andover, Massachusetts, "but I collected 50 signatures in Mansfield for my town to create a conservation commission. It passed, and I was elected chairman." The commission established the Joshua's Conservation and Historic Trust, the first land trust in the state, which today has preserved more than 4,000 acres total. Dr. Dodd wrote *The Joshua's Tract Walk Book* (Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, 1999).

"The 1960s were a very important decade, when conservation got underway," Dr. Dodd said. But the Dodds were always interested in the land—in medical school, the couple belonged to the famous Philadelphia Back-to-Nature Club (which developed a southern New Jersey trail, the Batona Trail).

The Dodds now live in a comfortable retirement complex at the edge of fields and woods in North Andover. Dr. Dodd turned 90 on May 23. Although he is no longer able to hike, he enjoys the many activities offered at their complex and is content to recall the mark he made in Connecticut. He keeps up with CFPA through its publications and greeted me by noting, "I wondered when you might come visit me."

Christine Woodside is the editor of Connecticut Woodlands.

SAM DODD'S CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1963–MID-1980S

Served for decades on the Mansfield Conservation Commission, which he helped start, including stints as chairman and vice-chairman. He was the driving force behind the town's first open space plan and inland wetlands regulations prepared and adopted the town's first open space plan and inland wetlands regulations, and purchases of land for town parks.

1981

Named Citizen Conservationist of the Year by the Tolland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

1966–1996

Volunteered for CFPA: trail manager for the Nipmuck Trail in Mansfield and service on the Trails Committee and (1967–1993) member of the Board of Directors. In 1996, Dr. Dodd was awarded CFPA's highest volunteer award, the Edgar L. Heermance Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail Award.

Gwendolyn Craig

The Craig family still lives on Four Winds Farm, but the last crops grew in the mid-1990s.

THE AFTERLIFE OF A FARM

A young woman reflects on her grandfather's land

BY GWENDOLYN CRAIG

Ivy spirals up the front of the red brick farmhouse with the blue door and horse-head door knocker. There is a small garden in the front lawn, with two stone troughs that now serve as birdbaths, and an old stone sundial to tell the time. But time has stopped here.

At the back of the house, the sweet smell of falling leaves and apples perfumes the air, as wasps and bees buzz by, feeding off the fermenting fruits scattered on the orchard floor.

The gray barn with the faded red door sits quietly off to the left. Shovels, spades, hoes, a wheel barrow, a rusted red tractor named Lizabelle, empty milk jugs and bottles, gasoline cans, and tools lay abandoned among the dirt and cobwebs inside.

Deep in the forest, crumbling stone walls weave in and out of trees. Rusty barbed wire hides in the leaves, than rises up from the ground, is swallowed by a tree, and spat back out the other side of the trunk.

Four Winds Farm in Goshen, Connecticut, was once a dairy farm, with 40 Golden Guernsey cows, 50 free-range chickens, an apple orchard, a rhubarb patch, a small vegetable garden, and rows of blueberry bushes in the backyard. It was my grandfather's farm.

After serving in World War II in the 10th Mountain Division and finishing his degree at the University of Connecticut, my grandfather bought the 1763 farmhouse in Goshen in 1950, for $22,000. To feed his wife and four boys, he gave up his dream of being a horticulturist for a few cows. A

Courtesy of Craig family

Gwendolyn Craig's grandparents, Fred and Jean Craig, at Four Winds Farm in Goshen in 1988.

few cows turned into 40 cows, of which 24 were for milking. Thus, the Four Winds dairy farm was born.

When my grandfather retired from farming in the early 1970s, the farm became idle. A little over a decade later, my uncles tried taking over. Money was tight, and the work was tough. Local farms, including Four Winds, struggled to compete with big business farm corporations, who mass-produce products and sell them at lower prices.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that living expenses of an average farm family exceed $47,000 per year. Many farms meet the U.S. Census's definition of farm, which is any land that produces $1,000 worth of crops or livestock each year. Most of those can't support a family. Fewer than one in four farms in the United States gross $50,000 per year, the EPA said.

Nature Took Back Four Winds Farm

By about 1996, no crops were planted at Four Winds Farm. The cows were gone. Foxes and coyotes snatched up the chickens and snow geese one by one. Trees sprouted in the fields. Bush and brambles climbed the stone walls.

Everyday I walk around this place I've grown up, this place I still live as it grows wilder. In some ways, it's heartbreaking watching man-made hard work crumble or be swallowed up. Other times, it's beautiful and breathtaking watching nature reclaim her space.

The University of Connecticut's Center for Land Use Education and Research found that forest is the single largest land cover category, by far, in the state. When farming declined in the 20th century, forests grew again in many areas. CLEAR said that never before have so many people lived within so much forest. A CLEAR study (*Agricultural Fields and Soils in Connecticut, 2006*) counted 1,348 square miles of "prime and important agricultural soil covers." Thirty-eight percent of that land is forest, but only 20 percent is agricultural fields.

As woodland cover increased, black bears returned. The Department of Environmental Protection keeps track of bears now. Coyote numbers have grown, too. The canines, which originated in the Great Plains, began migrating north around the 1930s. As farm fields continue to fall fallow and the land grows up, there are more places for meso-predators such as coyotes to hide.

Christopher Martin, director of the DEP forestry division, said that agricultural land returning to forest is neither good nor bad. When farm fields revert to forest, a habitat called "young forest" supports

continued on page 16

Gwendolyn Craig

FARM

continued from page 15

many early successional species of plants, such as aspens, birches, and cedar trees. It provides habitat for rare species such as the New England cottontail rabbit and certain species of grouse, a ground-nesting bird.

"It might be nice to bring some of those species back," Mr. Martin said. Many landowners, including farmers, have chosen to protect their property through conservation easements, or by selling the developmental rights of their land to the state. Four Winds Farm is an example of this. When the developmental rights are sold, the owner cannot build but does not have to continue farming.

Gwendolyn Craig

Without Cows or Crops

"Once a farm is preserved, there is no statutory requirement that the land be farmed," said Joseph Dippel, director of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. "It just can't be used for anything but agriculture. If it were to revert to forest, the land/soil would still remain, and be reserved and available for agricultural purposes."

"From a soil erosion perspective, eroded farmland on poor agricultural soils returning to forest is clearly a good thing," said Charlotte Pyle, a landscape ecologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"From a food production point of view, and from the point of view of birds (such as bobolinks) that depend on non-forested openings and do well on farmland, there is a loss when farmland returns to forest," Ms. Pyle said. "Conversely, some farmland returning to forest on a particular

Craig family

Above, Fred Craig, left, helps his sons and friends get ready for a 4H Fair.

Left, barbed wire left from the farming years pierces a tree.

Below, nature reclaims a field. Craig family

FARMERS RETIRE. SOMETIMES THE NEXT GENERATION DOES NOT WANT TO FARM. SOMETIMES THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO FARM. AS LONG AS THE LAND IS PROTECTED IN SOME WAY, PROTECTED FROM CONDOMINIUMS AND BIG BOX STORES, PARKING LOTS, AND BUSINESS CENTERS, NATURE WILL RECLAIM WHAT WAS ALWAYS HERS.

Craig family

Above, Gwen Craig with her grandfather, Fred.

Top right, Gwendolyn Craig's grandfather, Fred Craig, doing some farm chores with his children.

farm might provide habitat connectivity for birds and mammals that need to move from forest patch to forest patch, thus helping to keep those species in the landscape."

Farmers retire. Sometimes the next generation does not want to farm. Sometimes they cannot afford to farm. As long as the land is protected in some way, protected from condominiums and big box stores, parking lots, and business centers, nature will reclaim what was always hers.

A black bear bumbles out of the woods into the blueberry patch. It feasts on the tart little berries. Deer tip toe into the orchard. They nibble on the apple trees. Trees—pine, maple, oak, witch hazel—spring from the ground, soaking up sun and nutrients in the open space free of elderly competition.

When night falls and the empty field is bathed in a pale white light from a canopy of stars, the coyotes howl, yip, and run. It's time to play.

Gwendolyn Craig is a student at the University of Connecticut.

Editor's note: Agricultural Fields and Soils in Connecticut is available from the CLEAR Web site: clear.uconn.edu/projects/ag/index.htm.

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE TEACHING FOR THE PEOPLE IN HAMPTON

JAMES L. GOODWIN'S GIFT

BY STEVE BRODERICK

The year was 1928, and a brand new Connecticut Forest & Park Association director named James L. Goodwin agreed to host the Association's annual meeting at his Pine Acres Farm in Hampton. On October 9, CFPA President Salisbury Woolsey gaveled 100+ members to order, presided over the business meeting, and introduced Goodwin, who led the group on a tour of the then 13-year-old forestry operations at the farm.

This event marked the beginning of what is now a more than 80-year-old, remarkably productive, and mutually beneficial relationship between a man (Goodwin), CFPA, and the property now known as the Goodwin State Forest and Conservation Education Center. Goodwin, who over more than 35 years served as an Association director, vice-president, and president, was a Yale-trained forester who practiced intensive, state-of-the-art forest management at Pine Acres for five decades. This living demonstration area was the perfect spot for members to learn about forestry, and many more tours and meetings would follow, including Association annual spring meetings in 1941 and 1949.

In 1964, the same year he stepped down after a decade as CFPA president, Mr. Goodwin donated the entire 1,763-acre Pine Acres Farm to the state of Connecticut. Although the bulk of the property would be state forest, he endowed the house and 83 acres around it with the stipulation that they would forever be an education center, to provide "forestry, wildlife and general conservation education to youth and adult audiences."

For the first several years, the state contracted with CFPA to design and implement educational programs at the new Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center. Once this formal relationship ended in 1969, CFPA continued to be involved with center programming. Then, in 2008, after the DEP lost its full-time center staff position, CFPA once again stepped

Dr. David Schroeder distinguishes among dogwood species during last fall's tree and shrub identification course at Goodwin.

Steve Broderick

Courtesy of Steve Broderick

Top, in 1928, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association held its fall field meeting at the Goodwin Center.

Above, James L. Goodwin (seated, right) officially turns over the Goodwin Center and Forest to the people of Connecticut on September 14, 1964. Governor John Dempsey is seated at left.

to the plate and contracted to direct programs there.

Today, the center fulfills its mission through on-the-ground demonstration and learning by doing. In 2010 alone, 60 workshops, short courses, and interpretive hikes were offered to more than 1,500 people on topics ranging from tree identification to chainsaw safety to maple syrup production. In all, more than 9,000 people visited the Goodwin Center and its forest in 2010 to hike, ski, horseback ride, fish, picnic, or attend educational programs.

Lying within the 2,000-acre Goodwin State Forest, the center offers unique opportunities to demonstrate forest conservation and stewardship at multiple scales. With nearly 10 miles of Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails and loops and 14 miles of trails in total, CFPA is able to work closely with DEP Foresters to teach

continued on page 20

Visiting Goodwin Forest

Getting there:

The Goodwin Center is located off Route 6 at 23 Potter Road in Hampton, CT. From the intersection of Routes 6 and 198 in Chaplin, go east 3.1 miles on Route 6 and turn left onto Potter Road. From the intersection of Routes 6 and 97 in Hampton, go west 1.4 miles and turn right onto Potter Road.

Hours and admission:

The Goodwin State Forest is open from sunup to sundown, and there is no admission fee. The Goodwin Center and museum are open part time during the week but hours are variable; it's best to call ahead of your visit.

Things to do at Goodwin:

The Goodwin Conservation Center is located in the James L. Goodwin State Forest, a beautiful 2,000-acre property with 3 ponds and 14 miles of well-maintained trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. Educational signs along portions of the Air Line Trail and the Blue/Yellow loop trail provide information on the history, ecology, and management of the forest. In addition, visitors can pick up a copy of Goodwin's Forest Discovery Trail Guide. Eleven descriptive text passages in the guide correspond to numbered posts along this 2/3-mile loop trail.

Dozens of educational workshops, short courses, and interpretive hikes are offered each year. The spacious grounds include the 1.5-acre Richard D. Haley Native Plant Wildlife Gardens, where visitors can see and learn about dozens of native trees, shrubs, and perennials that offer food and cover value for wildlife. The nature museum contains numerous wildlife mounts and displays on both forestry and wildlife. A youth camping area can be reserved for scout and other youth groups wishing to camp overnight.

Learn more:
Go online at ct.gov/dep/Goodwin for a trails map, copy of the Forest Discovery Trail Guide, or a reservation form for the youth camping area. To receive e-mail announcements of workshops and events at the Goodwin Center, contact Steve Broderick at 860-455-9534 or sbroderick@ctwoodlands.org.

GOODWIN'S GIFT

continued from page 19

CFPA

Chainsaw safety instructor Bill Girard makes a point at last March's "Game of Logging" training session at Goodwin.

hikers and other trail users about the forest and wildlife management in place all around them. Regular workshops and interpretive hikes are complemented by educational signage on several trails. And this year, nine brand new kiosks built by CFPA volunteers stand at key trail junctions. The kiosks feature "you are here" forest trail maps and educational information about the surrounding landscape.

Individuals own more than 80 percent of Connecticut's 1.7 million forest acres. Most of these private tracts measure less than 100 acres. This fact of life makes the 83-acre Goodwin Center forest a perfect place to demonstrate management techniques for the thousands of private forest owners. We use a forest plan—written as though the forest actually were in private hands—in workshops. We teach the art of the possible. Multiple demonstrations of forest and wildlife management practices form outdoor classrooms along the Air Line State Park and Natchaug trails, both of which run through the area.

At the smallest scale, the native plant wildlife gardens occupy 1.5 acres adjacent to the center. Here, nine separate gardens feature different combinations of native plants that provide food or cover for wildlife. Visitors can stroll through different combinations of full sun, partial sun, and full shade, find sites similar to their own backyards, and learn about plantings they can replicate at home.

In 2009, the CFPA Board of Directors approved creation of a committee called the Friends of Goodwin Forest. This group exists to support, advocate for, and enhance the conservation and education activities of the Goodwin Center. There are some 50 members to date, about half of whom joined the Friends first and then joined CFPA for the first time. Active Friends projects include a new pictorial display on 100 years of history and forestry at the Goodwin Center, a rebuilt wildlife observation platform on a Blue Trail, and a growing partnership with students in the University of Connecticut's "Eco-House" dormitory, who assist with trail maintenance and education.

CFPA's goal is connecting people to the land, and our work at the Goodwin Center goes a long way toward fulfilling that goal. Because we have stepped forward to take the lead at a key education center that had been without staff, thousands of people are being introduced to hiking and environmental education who would not be without our involvement. The partnership is unique in Connecticut and is paying many dividends. CFPA's logo, materials, and general presence are ubiquitous at the Goodwin Center, raising awareness of and increasing goodwill toward our association in a region where membership has traditionally lagged. I'm pretty sure James Goodwin would be pleased.

Steve Broderick is the CFPA forester and program director at the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton.

Helping to protect
your treasured
land resources.

David Platt
Hartford
860.240.6062

Sara R. Stadler
New Haven
203.772.7717

BOSTON HARTFORD MADISON NEW HAVEN STAMFORD WOBURN

Conservation and Tax Planning

Murtha Cullina LLP | Attorneys at Law | www.murthalaw.com

WORKING WITH THE LAND

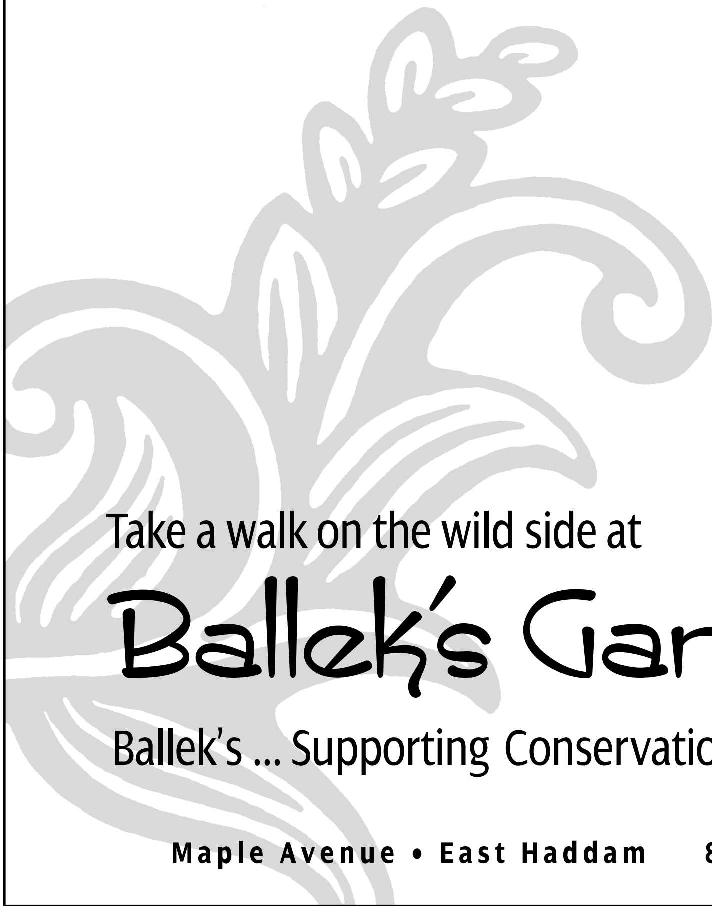
Managing Land
As a Renewable and
Profitable Resource

- Ecological Inventories
- Wetlands Analysis
- Forestry
- Environmental Impact Studies
- Easements & Estate Planning

E|E|C|O|S
Ecological and Environmental Consulting Services, Inc.

Offices in Lyme and Norfolk, Connecticut.
We provide informational interviews at no cost or obligation. **For more information, call (860) 434-2390 or (860) 542-5569 or visit us at www.eecos.com**

Starling Childs, MFS; **Anthony Irving**, MES



Native trees and shrubs

Woodland wildflowers and ferns

Hummingbird, butterfly & bird attractants

Water garden & bog plants

Environmentally friendly products

Take a walk on the wild side at

Ballek's Garden Center

Ballek's ... Supporting Conservation and Preservation

Maple Avenue • East Haddam 860-873-8878 Open year round

NEVER RUN OUT OF HOT WATER AGAIN

TANKLESS WATER HEATER

TOYOTOMI

"ON DEMAND" Hot Water typically saves 75% on your oil usage or up to $100 a month on your electric bill.

Typical US water heater life is about 10 years.

ON DEMAND water heater life is 25-40 years.

RINNAI

- ▶Available in Natural Gas, Propane or Oil Models
- ▶Factory Certified Technicians
- ▶Space Saving
- ▶Ask About Current Rebates
- ▶Stop Losing Money Heating Water
- ▶Stop Wasting Energy Heating Water

FREE IN HOME ESTIMATE!

MIDDLETOWN MONITOR (860) 343-9004

THE AREA'S #1 RINNAI AND TOYOTOMI DEALER

SAVE CONNECTICUT DAIRY LANDS THE DELICIOUS WAY

Eat farm-made dairy products

BY JEAN CRUM JONES

In March, Governor Dannel P. Malloy put up University of Connecticut Dairy Bar ice cream against a fine Kentucky country ham in a friendly wager over the outcome of the semifinal National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championship. Connecticut farm-made ice cream is the best!

We New Englanders love our ice cream and claim to have the highest per capita consumption of premium ice cream in all the United States. I cannot find data to back up this boast, but the New England landscape and culture suggest that it's true. Historically, New England had the richest cream that came from high-butterfat cows grazed on rich grass. Before refrigeration, the region's climate and terrain provided plenty of ice. Before electricity, New Englanders consumed more ice cream than Southerners because of that. After the long, cold winters, New Englanders have long devoured ice cream at every summer social event.

ICE CREAM IS CONSIDERED A QUINTESSENTIAL AMERICAN TREAT EVEN THOUGH IT ORIGINATED IN EUROPE AS A LUXURY FOOD. MAKING ICE CREAM—ONCE CALLED "ICED CREAM"— USED TO BE A LABORIOUS PROCESS. IT REQUIRED THREE PEOPLE (OFTEN SERVANTS) TO SHAKE AND TURN A POT HOLDING A CREAM MIXTURE.

Ice cream is considered a quintessential American treat even though it originated in Europe as a luxury food. Making ice cream—once called "iced cream"—used to be a laborious process. It required three people (often servants) to shake and turn a pot holding a cream mixture. They placed the pot inside a bucket filled with salt and ice. This turning and scraping of the pot's contents required constant attention for several hours.

George Washington first ate ice cream when it was served at a French consul's meal in Philadelphia. He loved it so much that he bought a "cream machine for ice," which was very expensive at the time. Thomas Jefferson also loved it and brought a handwritten recipe home from France.

The trendsetter who propelled the ice cream craze in America was Dolley Madison, wife of President James Madison. She served a tall pink tower of strawberry ice cream at the much-reported-on 1812 Inaugural Ball. The French Revolution did the most to spread the popularity of ice cream. Refugee confectioners who fled France settled in various American urban areas and set up shops for businesses from 1790 into the 1830s.

An American woman revolutionized ice cream making. With her invention of an "artificial freezer," Nancy M. Johnson, of Philadelphia, received Patent number 3254 on September 9, 1843. Her design featured a hand-cranked device attached to the top of a canister with a S-shaped paddle inside. The crank rested on a larger wooden bucket that could be filled with ice and salt (the same design used today by home ice cream makers). She did not have the money to manufacture her invention and sold her patent a couple years later to a Philadelphia housewares wholesaler. By the 1880s, the hand-turned ice cream machine was a common household utensil.

Lynn Gardner

Connecticut farm products went into this maple-bacon ice cream from J. Foster in Avon.

Beginning in the 1850s, commercial ice cream manufacturing plants were built in cities increasing the availability and consumption of ice cream. Confectionary shops transitioned to ice cream parlors with the service of light meals and fancy ice cream desserts. The ice cream social became a popular fundraiser for churches, as church grounds became pleasant picnic areas. Ice cream and strawberries became the traditional treat to eat during a New England Fourth of July picnic. Ice cream stands were put up at the "new" vacation resorts, especially along the seashore. Ice cream was fed to arriving immigrants at Ellis Island to give them their first taste of America. During Temperance and Prohibition times, sales of ice cream and ice cream sodas skyrocketed at drugstore refreshment counters and ice cream parlors. Ice cream became the national food, on sale on every main street.

Better freezing technologies came along in the late 1920s. A new type of store, the supermarket, sold prepackaged ice cream. During World War II, the military ran miniature ice cream factories near battle lines and sent ice cream to the soldiers. In Army camps, it became a staple of the GI's Sunday dinner. Ice cream perked up their monotonous diets. Some Navy ships were equipped with compact soda fountains, and the Navy commissioned a floating ice cream parlor in a barge that sailed the Western Pacific.

When sugar rationing ended in 1946, America went on an ice cream binge. The per-capita consumption hit 23 pounds per year, about 20 quarts per person. Levels stayed high between 1949 and 1987, even when packaged ice cream pushed out traditional ice cream parlors and soda fountains. Ice cream scientists and food scientists developed ways to increase shelf life. Ice cream filled with air, emulsifiers, and stabilizers lasted up to eighteen months.

Fortunately, the allure of old-fashioned, rich ice cream did not disappear. In 1960, a Polish immigrant and ice cream maker living in the Bronx decided to produce a high-butterfat, all natural ice

cream and sell it only in pint containers. He and his wife thought their ice cream might appeal to the "Danish modern" types, so they invented a fake Danish name and printed a map of Denmark on the lids of their first containers. Sold initially at gourmet shops in New York City, it became a word-of-mouth marketing phenomenon. Fifty years later, Haagen-Dazs is thriving. Its ingredients are remarkably pure and close to the original recipe, although the owner is now Nestle, the Swiss-based dairy conglomerate.

In 1978, two young men who had taken a correspondence course in ice cream making opened up a shop in Burlington, Vermont. Like Haagen-Dazs, they insisted on a high-butterfat content. They marketed Ben & Jerry's to a socially conscious crowd. Their creative twist was to use strong flavors and unique mix-ins. Ben & Jerry's sold to Unilever in 2005, which is based in the United Kingdom, but Ben & Jerry's still uses cream from Vermont cows for its American product.

Those two companies revived traditional, delicious ice cream at a time when mediocre packaged ice cream dominated. Since Ben & Jerry's and Haagen-Dazs (and many others that followed) came along two decades ago, Americans, on average, have been eating less ice cream but eat more of the premium ice creams than the mainstream brands. Americans also eat more frozen yogurt, sherbet, and other frozen desserts.

FIND CONNECTICUT FARM ICE CREAM:

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture lists wholesale and retail distributors of locally made ice cream at its Web site.

Visit www.ct.gov/doag and search for ice cream.

Also try visiting:

Rich Farm Ice Cream in Oxford.
www.richfarmicecream.com

Ferris Acres Creamery in Newtown.
www.ferrisacrescreamery.com/

Tulmeadow Farm, West Simsbury
www.tulmeadowfarmstore.com

Farm Ice Cream Is Back

Since about 1980, New England dairy farmers have suffered because Americans eat fewer milk products, the federal government's marketing system is (many believe) skewed, and the dairy industry is worldwide. Impossibly low milk prices are the reason thousands of acres of farmland have disappeared to other uses. But some savvy dairy farmers in Connecticut have come up with ways to deal with the new realities of Connecticut farming. To survive, they must sell directly to customers, create an identity for their dairy products, and provide good and unique products. Since the mid-1990s, at least 15 dairy farms in Connecticut have decided to sell real ice cream, made fresh on the farm.

When customers eat the ice cream at these farms, they can watch the cows that provided the most essential ingredient. For the farms that have made this difficult transition, the results have brought them income, preserved farmland, and given Connecticut customers better ice cream. Dare I say that it's udderly delicious?

As a final note, I want to tell you about the UConn Dairy Bar, the grandmother of farm ice cream in Connecticut. The university opened the College Creamery in the early 1900s as a research lab, to teach its students, and to feed the college community. In the early 1950s, the retail Dairy Bar opened. Sixty years and a new building later, the UConn Dairy Bar is a landmark.

Jean Crum Jones is a registered dietitian and, with her family, runs the Jones Family Farms in Shelton.

BEAT THE HEAT...
COME TO DEMO NIGHTS THIS SUMMER AT HARVEY'S BEACH, OLD SAYBROOK

Join Us This Summer From 5-7PM on Select* Wednesdays and Thursdays

*Subject to Changes in Weather and Tides. Visit our website for details!

Join **North Cove Outfitters** this summer, on-the-water at Harvey's Beach in Old Saybrook from 5-7 PM and demo a large selection of kayaks and SUP (Stand Up Paddleboards). Visit our website **www.northcove.com** click on events, for a complete listing of dates and details.

Hours:
M-F 10-8
SAT 9-6
SUN 12-5

Since 1988

Where Great Adventures Begin...

75 MAIN STREET • OLD SAYBROOK, CT • 860-388-6585
www.northcove.com

Hull Forest Products Inc.

Serving The Needs of Forest Landowners
Since 1972.

Providing Numerous Forestry Services:

Four Certified Foresters On Staff
Forest Management Planning
Tree Farm Certification
Wildlife Habitat Management
Timber Stand Improvements
CT Forestland Property Tax Classification

Purchasing Standing Timber.

For A Free Initial Consultation or Sawtimber Appraisal Please Call:

Hull Forest Products Inc.
101 Hampton Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259
(860) 974-2083 or (800) 353-3331
www.hullforest.com

WHO PROTECTED THIS?

OUT WALKING, TAKE A MINUTE TO RECALL THE PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT FOR THIS LAND

Christine Woodside

Land devotees crowded the balcony of West Hartford Town Hall in 2010. They were fighting for continued recreation on the Metropolitan District Commission lands following a biker's lawsuit.

BY LESLIE LEWIS

Now that summer is in full swing, many of us are out walking, cycling, paddling, and generally recreating at many of Connecticut's incredible outdoor venues. While taking advantage of these areas, do you ever stop to think about why they were preserved and why you are able to use them, often at no cost to you?

Chances are you have a number of places in your community where you can go to play, exercise, or just to enjoy nature. City and town park and recreation departments or conservation commissions own many of these properties. Generous individuals may have donated the land, or local dollars may have paid for it. If so, town officials set up an acquisition fund, possibly through a referendum in which voters decided that buying the land was a good use of their tax dollars.

To help offset the cost, state and federal grants have been available for several years. On the federal side, the Land and Water Conservation Fund provided money for both state and local agencies to acquire land, although the dollar amount has dropped considerably in the recent past. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has used state bond funds to assist towns, land trusts, nonprofit conservation groups, and water companies to purchase farmlands and open space.

Speaking of land trusts, they are the true grassroots organizations at work in the field of land conservation. Local or regional in scope, they rely on their members, foundations, corporations, and government grants to purchase land in fee or easement. Connecticut ranks third in the country in its number of land trusts, a testament to the passion that our residents feel about their trails, parks, and woodlands. Public support for these groups, including that of Connecticut Forest & Park Association, is essential for the land trusts to succeed. Consider joining or contributing if you have not done so already.

The next time you are out and about, think about all of those who were inspired by their love of the land to work to protect it for us, for our children, and for their children. Look around at what we have preserved, smile, and thank them.

Leslie Lewis is the WalkCT director of CFPA.

For the best native
shrubs and trees ask your
garden center or landscaper
for plants from

Summer Hill Nursery

Growing native plants for over 35 years

www.summerhillnursery.com

SCOTLAND HARDWOODS

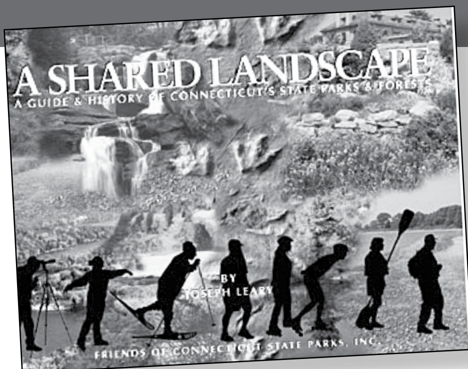
A ROSSI COMPANY

FORESTRY SERVICES DIVISION
P.O. BOX 328, SCOTLAND, CT 06264

- **Dedicated To Helping Landowners Meet Their Objectives**
- **In Business Since 1925**
- **Fully Automated Sawmill Facilities**
- **Complete Line of Forestry Services and Consultation Provided By A Full Time Staff of State Certified Professional Foresters**

TO FIND OUT HOW A ROSSI FORESTER IN YOUR AREA CAN HELP YOU MEET YOUR OBJECTIVES, CALL US TODAY AT (877)-209-9906

The CFPA Store is now online and better than ever



Order books, apparel, and historic maps, including the Friends of Connecticut State Parks' beautiful book by Joseph Leary, *A Shared Landscape,* an intimate look at our public lands.

Don't forget your copies of the *Connecticut Walk Book*, East and West editions.

Trees -
the original way to
go green.

Trees are a real asset to your property, adding beauty and curb appeal. Take care of your trees by calling a licensed arborist. In Connecticut, an arborist must be licensed by the state.

Hire a licensed arborist!

A non-profit association organized August 16, 1922

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association has worked to advance the care of Connecticut's trees since 1922! Learn more at **www.ctpa.org**

In closing hours of session, General Assembly passes three key bills

…On municipal liability, open space taxation, and timber on public lands

In the last hour of the legislative session, on June 8, the state Senate passed **HB 6557, a bill to protect cities and towns against frivolous lawsuits stemming from outdoor activities** on more than 150,000 acres of recreational lands. The state House passed the bill on May 17th. Final approval by Governor Dannel P. Malloy was expected as the magazine went to press.

Municipalities, including municipal entities like water companies, sewer districts, and special utility districts like the Metropolitan District Commission have been restored as landowners under the state Recreational Land Use Act. Cities and towns had lost their protection under that act after a 1996 lawsuit.

Municipalities will be protected against liability on recreational lands as long as the land is open to the public free of charge and the municipal landowner is not guilty of "willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity."

Compromises that allowed the bill to pass removed some proposed facilities. The protection against liability will not include swimming pools, playing fields or courts, playgrounds, buildings with electrical service, or paved public through-roads open to the public for cars. Those areas will remain covered under the municipal liability laws that have been used for the last 15 years.

Bicycling is now specifically covered under the Recreational Land Use Act. The strong provisions protecting private landowners (such as individuals, corporations, private utilities and land trusts) continue.

Also late on the night of June 8, the state Senate unanimously passed **HB 6263, An Act Concerning the Transition from the Ten Mill Program.** (House support had come earlier.) With Gov. Malloy's anticipated signature, this law will help protect more than 14,000 acres of forest taxed at a low rate of 10 mills under the state's first conservation law. After 50 years, 10-mill forest lands were required to be taxed at "developable" rates. Most land taxed under the program was due to reach the 50-year mark between this year and 2022. The new law will cap the property taxes of those landowners at the low levels of the more recent conservation law, Public Act 490. It will provide 10-mill landowners willing to place an easement on their land with the flexibility to keep their land in the 10-mill program or reclassify it under PA 490 without penalty. It also will maintain, without change, the yield-tax provisions and penalties associated with any change of use to a non-forestry activity. Finally, it will ensure that any agreements that might be in place between 10-mill landowners and municipalities remain in effect.

The legislature also passed **HB 6157, An Act Concerning State Forestry Programs**, which establishes a timber harvesting revolving fund. The state Department of Environmental Protection has been unable to extend its sustainable logging practices to more than one-third of the 32 state forests due to a lack of funds to pay for management plans and contractors to execute them. A Yale University study found the timber harvest potential in Connecticut under its potential. It said the sustainable timber harvest practices could be tripled. Timber can be a significant source of revenue to Connecticut.

Environmental Police Honored

Seven Environmental Conservation (EnCon) police officers were recognized for their work in the Department of Environmental Protection's western district. The officers received their awards at Dinosaur State Park on April 13.

The awards were

► Medal for Meritorious Service: Officer Erin Crossman of Norfolk and Officer Keith Williams of New Hartford

► Medal for Outstanding Service: Officer Harold Lindo of East Haddam, Officer Erin Crossman of Norfolk, Special Conservation Officer John Lambert of East Lyme and Officer Greg Ulkus of Vernon

► Boating Officer of the Year: Officer Paul Hilli of Goshen

► Conservation Police Officer of the Year: Officer Stephen Stanko of East Hampton

► Unit Citation: All officers from the DEP western district

—Department of Environmental Protection

Drug disposal program keeps them out of the rivers

Major drug store chains, including Walgreens and Rite Aid, announced this spring that they will sell customers inexpensive mail-back envelopes for unused drugs. The inititaive is designed to keep drugs out of waterways. Many people flush medications down toilets or sink drains, but research is beginning to show that the drugs end up in rivers and fish. Sharps Compliance Corp. of Houston provides the disposal envelopes and disposes of the medications. For more information, see www.sharpsinc.com.

—From press releases

New Blue Trail opens near CT River in Middletown

The new Blue-Blazed Scoville Loop Trails opened June 3 in time for Connecticut Trails Day weekend. Connecticut Forest & Park Association trail volunteers helped employees of Northeast Utilities, which owns Hubbard Brook Preserve off Aircraft Road, to establish and mark the trail during work parties this spring. The 2-mile loop trail passes a beaver pond and is on the riverfront. It can be reached from River Road near Aircraft Road. CFPA manages the 825-mile Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System with a cadre of volunteers.

"DEEP," new combined energy, environment department, is official

The state General Assembly passed a historic energy bill June 6 that merged the environmental protection and public utility control departments into one and allows the state's two largest electricity providers to go back into the generation business.

The commissioner of the new Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is energy expert Daniel C. Esty, whom Gov. Dannel P. Malloy had recruited from his Yale professor job in February. The Department of Energy and Environment Protection also brings in policy experts from the state Office of Policy

continued

OBITUARY

JENNIFER SCHILLER,

Dedicated trail manager who lived life to the fullest

Jennifer M. Schiller, who with her husband was a Connecticut Forest & Park volunteer trail manager of a section of the Metacomet Trail, died April 20. She was 48 and had battled cancer for eight years.

When she was diagnosed with cancer in 2003, Mrs. Schiller resolved to live to the fullest. Her greatest joy was in outdoor adventures with her husband, Steven P. Schiller, and their beloved son, Jordan T. Schiller. She loved wilderness camping, kayaking, hiking, biking, and gardening.

Mrs. Schiller was also an accomplished runner and past president of the Hartford Track Club. She had a special passion for ultra-marathon distance races and trail running. She won many races and holds women's speed records for a number of races, including the East Lyme Marathon and the JFK 50-Mile Run.

She was born May 1, 1962, in New Haven. Her father is Duncan Studley of Plainville, and her mother was the late Nancy Jean Studley. Mrs. Schiller graduated from high school in West Virginia and went on to receive her degree as a paralegal at the Hartford College for Women.

Photos courtesy of the Schiller family

Above, Jennifer Schiller on the Wilderness Trail, Pemigewasset Wilderness, New Hampshire. Left, on Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

She was employed for the past 15 years as a paralegal at the Hartford Law Firm of Berman, Bourns, Aaron and Dembo, LLC. Previously she worked for Friedle, Madorin and Ustach of New Britain.

In addition to her husband, son, and father, she is survived by a sister, Catherine Wolters of Texas; a brother, Michael Studley of Hampton, Virginia; and several nieces and nephews. Besides Mrs. Schiller's mother, her sister, Deborah Duchaime, also predeceased her.

A memorial service took place April 26 in New Britain. Memorial donations may be directed to CFPA, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06481. Memories or notes to the family may be posted at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com.

DEEP

continued from page 26

and Management with the goal of reforming the energy sector. Connecticut's electricity rates are the highest in the nation.

Connecticut Light & Power (the electricity division of Northeast Utilities) and United Illuminating, which under the 1999 deregulation law had to stop generating power, now may do so on a limited basis. The energy bill includes incentives, credit systems, and other programs for businesses and towns to increase their use of renewables. It is designed to reduce electric rages, increase clean energy, and create jobs in the energy-related economy.

—from Senate Substitute Bill 1 at cga.ct.gov, and reports by Mark Pazniokas and Jan Ellen Spiegel of the Connecticut Mirror.

Bear kills cocker spaniel in Avon

A black bear attacked and killed a cocker spaniel that was tied in an Avon back yard while its owner did landscaping work there on June 3. The dog's owner, Linda Jensen, told authorities she had left the dog, Max, for a short time to talk to another worker in the front yard of 38 Stonefield Road. when she returned to the backyard, she heard her dog, Max, yelp. The bear, a mother with two cubs in a nearby tree, was standing over Max and did not move until Ms. Jensen drove her car onto the lawn and honked the horn. The state Department of Environmental Protection conservation police and the Avon police went to the house. Avon Animal Control Officer Beverly LaPlume reported that a bag of birdseed rested on the house patio. The DEP discourages people from using birdseed from spring to the first snowfall because it attracts the growing bear population. The DEP tranquilized and tagged the bear and her two cubs before releasing them into wilder lands.

—from article by Jessie Sawyer, Avon Patch (avon.patch.com)

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 2386

16 Meriden Road
Rockfall, Connecticut 06481-2961

Address Service Requested

Conserving Connecticut since 1895

Christine Woodside

Hikers rest along the Mattabesett Trail—part of the New England Trail—overlooking the Asylum Reservoirs in Middletown.

THANK YOU TRAILS DAY 2011 SPONSORS

CONNECTICUT

CL&P

CT DEP

StanleyBlack&Decker

FOREST

Bank of America Charitable Foundation

Tilcon

Loureiro Engineering Associates

Crosswicks Foundation, LTD

TREE

Murtha Cullina LLP

Reid & Reige, P.C.

Robinson & Cole LLP

Farmington Bank

Aquarion

Horst Engineering

Union Savings Bank

Oakleaf Waste Management

CNC Software, Inc.

WALK

CT Water

Kaman