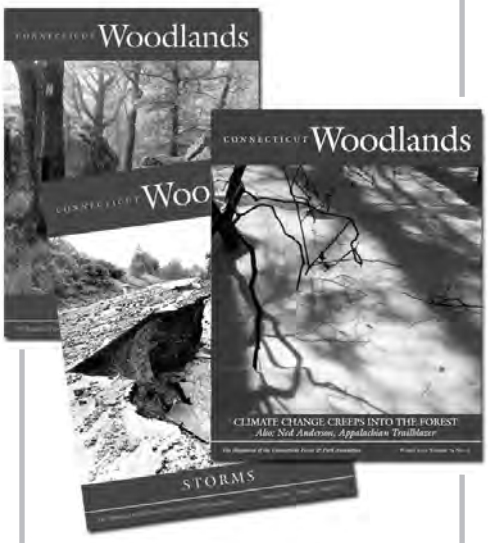
CONNECTICUT Woodlands

DOLLARS, JOBS, FORESTS, AND PARKS

ALSO: MAPLE SYRUP REFLECTIONS

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Spring 2012 Volume 77 No. 1

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 website, www.ctwoodlands.org, or call 860-346-TREE.

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CONNECTICUT Forest & Park ASSOCIATION

Diane Friend Edwards

A wooden footbridge spans the Tankerhoosen River on the Belding Path. See page 18.

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.

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On the Cover
Joseph Gribbins explores Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam.

Photo by Christine Woodside

DEPARTMENTS

Correction:
In an article about the history of Connecticut forest fires in our winter issue, the first name of a former state forester was incorrect. It is Austin Hawes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once gone, bears visit bird feeders

BY ERIC LUKINGBEAL

CFPA President Eric Lukingbeal

Before European settlement, black bears (*Ursus americanus*) roamed Connecticut's forests. They were our largest carnivores by far (adult males can weigh more than 450 lbs). Between 1840, when the last one was shot in Goshen, and about 1940, they were absent. But as our forests have returned and gotten older, black bears have returned and are thriving. By 1980, there was a small resident population in the Northwest Corner.

The resident bear population is now estimated by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to be in the hundreds, with annual population growth of about 10 to 15 percent. At this rate, the population doubles every 5 to 7 years. Bears can live into their twenties and thirties in the wild. Most are still in the northwest part of the state, centered around Barkhamsted and Hartland, where the density is estimated at one bear per 2 square miles. This is the same density as found in the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, one of the highest densities in the United States.

Bears killed by cars in Connecticut have gone from only 1 in 1990, to 14 in 2007, to 20 in 2009. Bear sightings are increasingly common, to the point where residents of some northwest towns no longer bother to report them. I've only seen one in Granby, but I almost hit one on my bike in Granville, Massachusetts. The DEEP Web site still asks that sightings be reported. Although there have been no reports of injuries to humans, the expanding population will no doubt lead to more human–bear interactions. Bears have destroyed many bird feeders and feasted on unsecured garbage. And at least one person has been arrested for shooting a bear destroying his bird feeder.

Bear biology has a lot to do with the likelihood of more frequent contacts with humans. Although bears are carnivores, 90 percent of their diet is vegetable-based. They eat soft mast (berries) and hard mast (acorns). Acorns are their most important food. Bears do prey upon fawns, but not to the extent of coyotes. Bears also eat carcasses of winterkilled dear. Their sense of smell is excellent, even superior to that of dogs, and bears are drawn to bird feeders and garbage. The state's greatest frustration is the failure of many of us to remove bird feeders from late March through November. Bear cubs studied in Connecticut have a very high survival rate—81 percent—for a wild animal.

Black bears are rarely aggressive and are the most solitary of our large mammals. Even during mating season, the male–female contact takes place over a few hours to a few days. Cubs (usually two) are born blind and hairless in January, and weigh 7 to 10 ounces. They remain with the sow for a little over a year. Bears have a litter every other year. The young males disperse to find their own territory, and these are the most likely to be seen by humans because they may have to travel many miles. Females wander much less, only 3 to 5 miles.

Bears who get used to being around humans and their dwellings can become nuisances. The DEEP does not trap and remove bears based on a bird feeder or garbage complaint, nor does DEEP consider a bear entering a garage to be a dwelling entry. Nuisance bears determined to be a serious risk to human safety may be destroyed, but this is very rare and has only happened three or four times. State wildlife workers cannot relocate bears to other states, but there are some relocations within the state. DEEP traps and tags bears for research. Jelly doughnuts are the best bait they've found.

Connecticut does not have a black bear hunting season. Twenty-seven states do, and those states all report that resident populations are sustainable with hunting taking less than 10 percent of the population annually. Word of the possibility that DEEP will ask the legislature to allow hunting has already generated a storm of comment in the press. Massachusetts has a bear hunting season, and the bear population is still growing by 7 to 8 percent per year. We at Connecticut Forest & Park Association will keep track of any hunting proposals that come up. In the meantime, I do suggest that we all take down those bird feeders in the spring to encourage the bears to forage away from our houses, and to live in the way they know best.

Eric Lukingbeal lives in Granby.

EDITOR'S NOTE

An independent outfitter closes

Only six weeks after my husband and I reentered normal American life following our thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, we moved to Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

No AT thru-hiker ever really leaves the trail, you know. We just pretend to live normally while our heads are still back there in the woods. Nat and I adjusted to running water, work, cars, bills, and brewed coffee. I became pregnant and started taking long walks. On one, I ran into a woman who told me about a new outdoor gear store opening nearby, North Cove Outfitters.

The store surprised me because it didn't cater just to hikers, or car campers, or boaters, or hunters, or anglers. It catered to them all. It hosted talks, by adventurers and wildlife experts, and events, such as the Banff Mountain Film Festival. Once a year, the store hauled its boats up to Cedar Lake in Chester and let people try them out.

When North Cove Outfitters announced abruptly in late February that it would close after 23 years, I went down there, on a Friday. I asked the co-owner, Norm Cavallaro, if it was really true. Mr. Cavallaro told me he and his partner, G. Edward Carney, had made the decision to close on Tuesday because the recession and the weirdly springlike holiday shopping season had slowed sales to the breaking point. It took only a year to go from prosperous to precarious. They could have sold the store to a chain, but they didn't want to do that.

I must disclose that North Cove has advertised in Connecticut Woodlands for about a decade, and the designer who makes these ads, Karen Lipeika, was my writing student at the Green Street Arts Center in fall 2010. I do not solicit or collect funds for the magazine's ads.

There is some quality other than mere business I'm trying to identify about the experience of going to North Cove. The business side by itself is very straightforward. I'm an entrepreneur myself (have been self-employed as a journalist since 2000), and I know that when enough people want what you're selling, you're in business, and when too few do, you do something else. That's the truth that North Cove has accepted now.

It's sad to watch the demise of an independent store because such stores always are more than stores. My brother and father owned a running and tennis store in New Jersey in the 1980s and 1990s. When the recession of the early 1990s hit, they decided to close. Their customers were hugging them on the street during the final sale.

Such affection was evident at North Cove in the late winter. The customers seemed plainly stunned at how quickly a recession can hurt a store that had seemed an institution.

This was more than just a store where people got in trouble with their spouses for buying too much. It was itself a rugged, wide-reaching, outdoor community in an area that used to be known only for beaches and sailing. It brought many of the woods seekers together. And although the economy has made the big-ticket purchases difficult today, those woods seekers compose a very large group. Thousands of them paid $15 apiece in late February to attend the Banff Mountain Film Festival held in three towns. The economics study I cover starting on page 6 couldn't count this kind of expenditure as it tried to value Connecticut's forests and parks. North Cove's community, scattered though it will be from now on, suggests the value of natural places. I haven't thought about this in years. It took a store's difficult year, and decision to close, to highlight the truth, again.

—Christine Woodside, Editor

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

If you care about money and jobs, you care about Connecticut parks

BY ERIC HAMMERLING

Eric Hammerling

New data shows that the public may use nearly 4,300 outdoor recreational facilities on 328,000 acres of state and municipal land in Connecticut. This land is specifically protected for recreation. This landscape is crisscrossed by 8,400 miles of rivers and streams and 6,000 lakes and ponds. The winding coastline adds up to 458 miles. The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails follow 825 miles.

This seems like a lot of options in the nation's third smallest state, but 3.5 million people live here. More than 10 people vie for each acre currently set aside for recreation. Many of these facilities are playgrounds, paved courts, and sports fields that may not be ideal for many kinds of recreation. Fortunately, the protected recreation lands in Connecticut include almost 250,000 acres of state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas devoted to recreational purposes. As the public interest in outdoor recreation continues to climb, the pressures are growing to manage, maintain, and protect these valuable areas.

I must note that the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's Board of Directors and membership have played an essential role in the protection of many of our state's best-known and revered state parks and forests. CFPA's impact dates to the protection of the first state forest in Portland, the Meshomasic, in 1903, and the first segment of the first state park at Sherwood Island in 1913.

As you'll read in these pages, the 107 state parks, 32 state forests, and 42 wildlife management areas, along with those state-licensed activities such as fishing and hunting that take place on private property collectively provide over $1 billion in revenues to the state treasury every year.

At CFPA, we have long espoused the economic, health/recreation, education, and other benefits directly tied to conservation of Connecticut's forests and parks, but it is truly gratifying to let the data of the economic study released by the University of Connecticut in December do the talking. (See the article on page 6.) But keep in mind that our scenic and historic state parks and forests also directly support tourism and travel activities that together have more than a $10 billion impact on Connecticut and support more than 13 percent of Connecticut jobs (more than manufacturing).

We must be mindful, though, that the UConn study comes with an explicit warning: If Connecticut fails to invest in managing, maintaining, and protecting its precious recreational areas, we will all lose the multifaceted benefits that they provide. Unfortunately, our track record as a state during the past decade has not been good. Connecticut has ranked at or near the bottom of the nation in its per-capita spending on state lands and natural resources. If we allow budgetary woes to kill our state's golden goose (even if may be through benign neglect), we will all share in the blame.

We have a perfect opportunity to avoid this: the upcoming centennial of the state parks. I am honored to serve on the State Parks Centennial Committee, which was convened by Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Deputy Commissioner Susan Frechette to plan for the celebration in 2013 and 2014. This committee is working to ensure that the stories, images, and local park friends' groups can highlight how far we have come in 100 years. As we celebrate, the value of these lands will become clear. Whether or not the state decides to invest in its parks, I hope you will find a way to get involved with your local state park to help celebrate the centennial with us.

Eric Hammerling lives in West Hartford.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Connecticut parks and forests bring more than $1 billion a year and 9,000 jobs into the state economy, a study concluded. The true figure could be double that.

The Metacomet Trail near West Peak.
Robert Pagini

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

Connecticut parks and forests bring more than $1 billion a year and 9,000 jobs into the state economy, a study concluded in December. The data—gathered by counting recorded data such as admissions, licensing and permit fees—was considered conservative because it counted only the most clearly measurable financial values of natural lands. But it marks the first time in recent years that state officials have acknowledged "the elephant in the room"—that is, the value of natural lands in the very image, and economic health, of Connecticut.

The study framers were clear that they did not try to guess at the impacts of the unmeasured uses of state lands—such as hiking—and the $1 billion was considered to just scratch the surface of reality.

"It probably is close to twice this," said Fred Carstensen, director of the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at the University of Connecticut, which did the study for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. He said the center took a conservative approach, counting only explicit, recorded data.

Many parks and forests don't charge visitors or count them, Mr. Carstensen noted, but critics could have questioned findings had they included guesswork about the many unstaffed properties.

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VALUABLE CONNECTICUT FORESTS

Although Connecticut residents are nowhere near supporting their needs with local forest products, the forest industry here yields many millions of dollars each year. The cultural value of these products? Priceless.

PRODUCT	MADE INTO:	ECONOMIC VALUE PER YEAR	CULTURAL VALUE
Timber	Framing and finish lumber Cabinets and furniture Millwork Flooring Doors Windows	$14 million. Growth exceeds annual harvest.	Beautiful natural landscape can be sustainably harvested.
Christmas trees	Decorations, including wreaths and pine ropes	$10 million.	Local source means fresher trees.
Sugar maple sap	Maple syrup	$1/2 million. Demand exceeds syrup supply, but many untapped trees.	Outdoor sugarhouses use age-old craft, bring people together.
Fuelwood	Heating source	500,000 cords annually displace about $130 million people would spend on heating oil.	Using new stoves and furnaces with proper emission controls, a pleasing and local way to heat. As a byprodut of other timber harvests, removing fuelwood can increase growth rate of forest or help wildlife.
Witch hazel, forest shrub	Astringent	$9 million.	A uniquely Connecticut product with strong worldwide demand.
Water supply protection	Cleanse and protect reservoirs and wells for 2 million residents	Untold millions saved in water treatment.	Local water source, beautiful landscape.
Public areas	Fun and renewal, wildlife habitat, beautiful landscape	$1 billion and 9,000 jobs.	Unmeasured and ubiquitous.


MAPLE SYRUP


WITCH HAZEL


PUBLIC AREAS

The source for most of this chart is the pamphlet, "A Resource for Everyone: Forests and the Connecticut Economy," published by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System. One of the authors was CFPA Forester and Goodwin Center educator Steve Broderick, who then was an extension forestry educator for UConn Cooperative Extension. The source for the public areas impact is the study released in December by the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, "The Economic Impact of State Parks, Forests and Natural Resources under the Management of Department of Environmental Protection."

FORESTS, PARKS, AND MONEY

Each year visitors pay:

► State park visitors pay about **$3 million** in entry fees each year. This figure is projected to rise.

► Those same visitors pay about **$94 million** on various services and goods in Connecticut.

► Anglers pay about **$8 million** each year for fishing licenses.

► Property owners who live near state forests and parks pay about **$4.2 million** in added taxes levied on the views.

$1 BILLION A YEAR AND 9,000 JOBS

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

continued from page 6

What this means is that even without hiking, kayaking, bird watching, or taking photos, the state's recreational lands are entirely self-funding.

For every dollar the state spends on parks, forests, fish hatcheries, and licensing, people spend $38 here. That could be on meals, gas, lodging, or supplies.

The outdoor recreation industry supports 9,000 jobs in Connecticut, the study says. If 9,000 sounds low, consider that Governor Dannel P. Malloy last year had an initiative to woo companies such as the Royal Bank of Scotland, which would bring only half the jobs outdoor recreation does.

The parks and forests have been vulnerable to budget cuts and neglect because no one ever studied their economic value, Mr. Carstensen said. "We've gone through times where we've closed parks. It's economically insane." He said even if people don't go to the parks, they still are valuable. "They're not a frill," he said. "They're an absolutely core component of the broad economic ecology. There is an ecology to the economy. You don't just come here to work."

The study is a crucial step in funding the parks, forests, and environmental programs, but the figures represent "a floor and not a ceiling in terms of the ultimate value of state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas," said Eric Hammerling, executive director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, advocate since 1895 of good forest practices and the agency that coordinates the care of the 825-mile Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. CFPA publishes this magazine.

"We are excited that this study provides hard economic data behind something

Driftwood sculptures on Meig's Point, Hammonasset Beach State Park.

Christine Woodside

A STUDY IN CONNECTICUT WOODLANDS (SPRING 2007) DETAILED 33,730 ACRES OF STATE LANDS THAT WERE ESSENTIALLY GIVEN TO THE STATE. "THE REVENUES GENERATED IN THESE AREAS HAVE BEEN ALMOST PURE PROFIT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING."

we have witnessed for many years," Mr. Hammerling said. "Our state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, fishing and boating areas, etc., represent enormous value to the state."

The study, Mr. Hammerling said, omitted key points:

► **Special clothing, binoculars, bicycles, horses, and other gear** people use in state parks and forests.

► **Real estate benefits** of owning property near a state park. The study includes only those properties that abut state natural lands. "I know many people who moved to a town because their home is within biking distance of state land," Mr. Hammerling told environmental officials when the study was released, "and their community investments are not considered."

► **The value of donations of land.** Many state parks and forests were created, wholly or partly, by gifts. A study in Connecticut Woodlands (spring 2007) detailed 33,730 acres of state lands that were essentially given to the state. "The revenues generated in these areas have been almost pure profit from the very beginning," he said.

Mr. Hammerling, who called the whole issue the "elephant in the room," said it leads to a question: Will the state invest in its natural resources that provide $38 for every $1? "Frankly, it is somewhat embarrassing that Connecticut for several years has appeared at or near the bottom of the list nationally on per-capita spending dedicated to managing our natural resources." He noted the following statistics:

► **Only 16 park supervisors** and **58 maintainers** care for **107 parks.**

► **Only 21 staffers** work **in about 190,000 acres** of state forests.

► **State wildlife managers** number only **44**.

► **State fisheries**, one of the big moneymakers, are **managed by 48 people**.

► Connecticut's **119 boat launches** are cared for by **11 people**.

► Only **51 conservation officers** enforce hunting, fishing, and state laws in parks and forests.

These figures don't include seasonal employees, "but we are neglecting our natural resources for most of the year," Mr. Hammerling said, "and we need to do better."

Christine Woodside, a freelance writer, is the editor of Connecticut Woodlands.

THE CASE FOR INTELLIGENT CONSUMPTION

CHALLENGING THE DEFINITION OF "NORMAL"

BY THOMAS E. WORTHLEY

An article not long ago on enn.com advocated the slowing of tropical deforestation as a key action to "significantly cut the amount of heat-trapping carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere." As a professional forester, I am always heartened when forest resources are recognized for their global environmental importance. The article described the tremendous amount of carbon released each year into the atmosphere by tropical deforestation and how it compares with the amounts released by fossil fuel consumption. By slowing or arresting the rate of deforestation, these areas would be able to "soak up vast amounts of carbon dioxide" instead.

That's wonderful, and I readily agree that, yes, they should stop clearing and burning tropical rain forests, for myriad reasons. It is an easy position to adopt, here in my comfy Connecticut office, not only because of my affinity for forests, but also because adopting such a position involves no particular action or behavior change for me. Creating this change will require different people, somewhere else, to modify their daily activities and how they make their living. The economic, social, environmental, and cultural policies of other countries will require alteration to achieve this global environmental benefit. My daily work, diet, travel, and entertainment routine, or even that of anyone else I know, won't likely be affected.

Herein lies a conundrum. Tropical rainforests are being cleared for some reason, and there are obviously strong economic incentives for it to be taking place. Trace these motives back to their underlying source, and I suspect we'll find a dirty little secret: That the motivations for such activities are the daily consumption patterns of millions of Americans and other citizens of wealthy, developed nations. The same case can be made wherever natural resources are threatened or overused.

And yes, natural resources and ecosystems globally are being threatened and overused. According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, approximately 60 percent of global ecosystem services the authors evaluated are being degraded or used unsustainably. From global climate change to fresh water supplies to fishery stocks to biodiversity, worldwide declines are recognized as resulting from human activity, demand, and consumption.

In 1928, Aldo Leopold wrote, "A public which lives in wooden houses should be careful about [criticizing] wasteful lumbermen until it has learned how its own arbitrary demands help cause the waste it decries. . . . Forest conservation depends as much on intelligent consumption as the intelligent production of lumber." Substitute any product and the natural resource from which it derives and the comment remains valid. In a 1999 essay, a U.S. Forestry Service forester, Doug MacCleery, stated how most people are disconnected from any direct role in the management of land, yet we all remain resource consumers. Few people connect their resource consumption, from pumping gas to eating broccoli, to what must be done on the land to make it possible. Adopting an environmental "ethic" is easy and relatively painless for most of us because it *imposes the primary burden to act on someone else.*

Urbanized populations depend on products and services from forests, fields, and other natural areas and demand them in ever-increasing quantities from an ever-shrinking natural resource base. Skilled resource producers such as ranchers, fishermen, loggers, and farmers find themselves the subject of negative publicity, arbitrary regulation, and disrespect from the very population that benefits from the products they produce. But in our consumer-driven economy, would anyone dare suggest that consumption be regulated? Or that we heap scorn on those who have acquired an abundance of material wealth? Hardly.

According to Harvard economist Juliet Schor in the 1999 Boston Review essay, "The New Politics of Consumption," it is difficult to make an ethical argument that people in the world's richest country need "more" while the disparity of the world's resource use is so vast and while strong evidence exists that we are consuming beyond the capacity of the earth to provide. Yet it seems that there are always some new status goods and a corresponding competition among the population to acquire them, often on credit, whether we truly need them or not. The associated stress, pressure on resources, and absence of real satisfaction make such behavior truly unsustainable, but it is considered "normal" in our society.

When average people are asked to examine how they would prefer to spend their time, three common themes often emerge. They wish to spend more time with friends or family, or more time outdoors (with "nature"), and more time doing something creative. Yet when more time becomes available people usually opt to spend it on more "work," paid or otherwise, in the constant pursuit of "more." In our society, it is considered normal to work more and longer, regardless of how much stuff we have, seemingly programmed to always want newer, bigger and better.

In their respective writings both Mr. Leopold and Mr. MacCleery advocate a "personal consumption ethic" to accompany an environmental ethic. Mr. MacCleery writes, "Any ethical or moral foundation for ecological sustainability is weak indeed unless there is a corresponding focus on the consumption side of the natural resource equation." This philosophy was apparent in one of the key environmental themes announced in Connecticut in 2008. Former Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy called it the "Pogo" theme, after the classic cartoon character whose famous line was, "We have met the enemy and he is us!" Her point was that our daily choices have an impact on our lives and planet, and she provides information about actions towns, businesses and individuals can take to operate in a more sustainable way and reduce environmental impacts.

A National Network for Sustainable Living Education was established a few years ago through the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food and Agriculture, and the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals. This network of interested educators from land-grant universities around the country, including UConn, has been working to assemble curriculum materials, create a database of publications, and construct an informational Web site on the topic. (Oregon State University's College of Forestry is coordinating the work.) The Sustainable Living Project is described as ethics-based education, where participants are encouraged to examine their environmental, social, and economic values in light of factual data and a reflection on their individual behavior patterns. An individual ethical foundation for developing a sustainable lifestyle thus evolves that is, "deeply satisfying, fulfilling and appealing, because it is environmentally, socially, and economically responsible."*

How do we change "normal" to "deeply satisfying, fulfilling and appealing as well as environmentally responsible?" According to author Bill McKibben, writing in National Geographic, more "stuff" is not making us happier, and yet as a society we can't seem break out of a cycle that simply offers more stuff as our only goal. Mr. McKibben makes the case that people are really seeking more community and meaningful contact with fellow human beings. Ms. Schor states that changes must take place at the individual level, each person examining their own personal values.

They may all be correct. Individuals examining personal values, establishing an ethical basis for sustainable living, and trying to adopt behavior changes accordingly can derive immense support from a group or like-minded community of folks who are doing the same thing. They learn from each other and obtain positive reinforcement, even when the rest of the world seems to be going the other way. There is strength in numbers and a group of people working together to explore sustainable lifestyles may attract others who may be seeking a more sustainable way of life.

At its very essence, sustainability is first about the capability of our environment to provide what is demanded of it. Sustainability is also about minimizing the use of finite resources (e.g., oil and minerals), reusing such resources and directing their limited use to enhancing and optimizing the function of renewable systems. As we come to understand this basic concept, then each of us will begin to look at consumer goods according to whether items can be reused, recycled, or repaired, and whether we can reduce our personal impact by simply refusing to buy items that are wasteful, over-packaged, or not built to last.

ADOPTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL "ETHIC" IS EASY AND RELATIVELY PAINLESS FOR MOST OF US BECAUSE *IT IMPOSES THE PRIMARY BURDEN TO ACT ON SOMEONE ELSE.*

In these days of an apparently shrinking economy, perhaps people will realize that they are simply overstressed and overburdened by the constant pursuit of more stuff, that they have had enough of cheap foreign junk and can begin to seek personal satisfaction in other ways. I tend to bristle at being described as a "consumer" or as "human capital" in some economic equation. I prefer to think of myself as a citizen and a contributor, and maybe at times a customer. Perhaps our society can collectively begin to understand that we are tired of being regarded only as consumers, as though it is our role to gobble up the resources of the planet just to enrich others. Perhaps we can realize that true satisfaction comes in creative, spiritual, social, and other ways. If that is the case, and our economy evolves to a more sustainable level, maybe there is nothing essentially wrong with that.

Thomas E. Worthley is an assistant extension professor in sustainable forestry and forest stewardship for the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension.

* *Living Sustainably: It's Your Choice* by Michele Adamski, Catherine Elliott, and Viviane Simon-Brown. Oregon State University Extension publication # EC1614, February, 2008.

Steve Broderick

Buckets await the sap run in early spring.

MAPLE SYRUP REFLECTIONS

Uncle Carl's influence and the potential for millions in income

BY STEVE BRODERICK

One of the strongest connections that led me to a life outdoors happened on a dairy farm in southwestern Vermont. Carl Howe, my great uncle and the owner of that farm, was a friendly man with a twinkle in his eye and a wry sense of humor. He did many things to make ends meet, one of which was making maple syrup.

Everything about maple syrup fascinated me from the earliest age. He actually made this delicious liquid, by taking stuff from trees and then doing something to it in that mysterious building on the edge of the pasture. By age 6, I was hooked.

Twenty years later, when I first had the opportunity to make my own syrup, I jumped at the chance. My first evaporator was made with an old 275-gallon fuel oil tank and a sheet of stainless steel that a machinist friend bent and welded into a flat-bottomed pan. My two children, barely big enough to carry empty 4-gallon plastic pails, enthusiastically joined in, and Uncle Carl's influence was already spreading to another generation.

Maple syrup is one of nature's great creations. It tastes wonderful by itself, or poured on any number of other foods. It can be further boiled into a wide variety of delightful spreads and candies. It enhances hundreds of recipes, is an excellent source of manganese, zinc, and other nutrients, and contains more antioxidants than raw broccoli or tomatoes. And, as if all this weren't enough, it's also worth money.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, the average price of syrup sold in Connecticut last year was north of $65 per gallon, by far the highest price in the maple world. The reasons for this are two-fold. First, our producers make excellent syrup. And second, we lie smack in the middle of what is probably the world's strongest market. A Quebec farmer may have thousands of maple trees to choose from, but if he wants to sell his syrup, he has to pack it into bulk containers and ship it hundreds of miles to market. Here in Connecticut, most producers sell all or nearly all of what they make retail, right out of their sugarhouse or at a few local stores.

Have you ever thought about trying your hand at making syrup? What's stopping you? It's easy to get started as a home producer,

and as I can personally attest, once you start, who knows where it might lead? The season is only about 6 weeks long, so by the time you've had enough, it's already over. Since you're boiling the heck out of the product, there's little or no human health risk (the only person I ever knew who got sick making maple syrup used firewood with poison ivy vines wrapped around it and inhaled the smoke). And rest assured, there's room for you in the maple world. We only tap about 0.01 percent of the sugar maples in Connecticut, and as our forest matures, the number of maples is increasing. Further, we only produce about 10 percent of the syrup that is consumed in our state each year.

Connecticut's fragmented landscape will never be conducive to huge, mega-farms with tens of thousands of taps apiece. What we do have, however, is tens of thousands of small family forests that could be managing for maple production but typically aren't right now. Taken together, they could produce orders of magnitude more syrup than they do and contribute many millions of dollars to our rural economies in the process.

At the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton, we teach a three-part short course on the basics of maple syrup production. Information is also available from the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut (www.ctmaple.org). Even if you don't own any maple trees yourself, if you learn what a sugar maple looks like and drive or walk around the neighborhood a bit, chances are you'll find some close to home. Most producers tap trees on other people's properties, and most tree owners are happy to allow you to tap in exchange for a little of the product at the end of the season.

So if you've ever thought about trying it, maybe now is the time. You can have a great time, enjoy a wonderful product, and maybe, just maybe, create one of those special places and moments in time that connects an impressionable youngster to the great outdoors.

Steve Broderick is the CFPA forester and the program director of the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Director.

A FEW MAPLE BASICS

Maple syrup production requires some information and some time during the season. A couple good information sources are listed below, but the best source may be a sugarmaker in your area. Most are friendly sorts who are happy to share information.

WHAT TO TAP

Either sugar maples or red maples. Sugar maples tend to have sweeter sap, but red maples can produce fine syrup as well. Check out CFPA's "Forest Trees of Southern New England" for good descriptions of each tree.

WHEN TO TAP

Sap begins to flow whenever daytime temperatures rise into the 40's, after night time low's that are in the 20's or colder. That starts happening consistently in Connecticut in early-mid February. Keep gathering sap until buds begin to swell in spring, when the sap turns milky and develops a sour "buddy" flavor.

HOW TO TAP

Proper tapping will not injure a healthy tree. At the end of the season, you need only remove the taps and the tree will heal itself. Do not tap trees less than twelve inches in diameter. (See table 1) New taps should be at least two inches to the side of, and six inches above or below previous years' holes. DO NOT stick to the south side of the tree, but tap all the way around the entire circumference.

Steve Broderick

A maple-sugaring class at the Goodwin Forest watches the saphouse in action.

THE STORY OF SHEEP IN CONNECTICUT

BY JEAN CRUM JONES

Library of Congress

The New England landscape looked vastly different when sheep roamed the hillsides.

When children visit our sixth-generation farm on school field trips and ask about all the Christmas trees, I tell them how farms change and adapt based on the economics and interests of the times. I explain that the first Philip Jones, who bought our land in the 1850s, was a sheep farmer. "Just think of all those Christmas trees as sheep," I say.

Sheep were scattered widely all over our hillsides as well as the whole landscape of Connecticut in the mid-19th century. We know very little about the Philip Jones sheep business. We don't know which breeds he raised, how many sheep he owned, or the ultimate use of the sheep, whether for wool, mutton, or both. We know he had butchering skills, so he may have cut them for fresh sale in nearby Derby, or he may have sold them as "fat lambs" for shipping to New York City, the South, or the West Indies. (*Lamb for export then was sold on the hoof because, unlike beef and pork, lamb does not preserve well by salting.*) During the Civil War, there was a high demand for wool for army uniforms and blankets. Did he have all his sheep shorn each year for processing at the local woolen mills? We just don't know.

We do know he came from Ireland in the late 1830s. His parents were Protestant landowners, so he must have been familiar with sheep husbandry. We do know he used border collies to help with herding the flock. The one tradition that has been handed down from the days of the Jones sheep farm is that each generation has owned border collies. We also know the demise of his sheep business was because of the packs of wild dogs that attacked the flocks.

The Disappearance of Sheep in Connecticut

The New York Times published an article on February 18, 1890, "Ravages of Dogs—How the Sheep Industry of Connecticut Is Destroyed," that mentioned a tally of 2,119 sheep killed and another 531 sheep injured by dogs in the 105 towns during the previous year. The Connecticut Board of Agriculture reported that not only "are the flocks ruined, but the owners are discouraged." The article said that there were about 50,000 sheep in the state and that without other stock, this number could quadruple because the soil and climate are good for sheep. One town official was quoted, "Were it not for dogs, sheep would be a leading source of profit to farmers."

Like most other livestock farmers in Connecticut, the Jones family began to focus on cow dairying in the late 1800s, early 1900s. It became easier as well as more profitable to produce fresh milk from cows for the growing populations of Connecticut's industrial cities and towns. Thus, nearly 300 years of extensive sheep husbandry in Connecticut ended in just a few decades.

The Historical Significance of English Sheep

Sheep were introduced into Britain early by the invading Romans. During the Middle Ages, European farmers discovered that sheep were the most productive of all livestock. Sheep could be eaten for their meat, their wool used for textiles, their skins used for making parchment paper, and their milk used for making butter and cheese. It was found that sheep convert forage more efficiently than any other ruminant and that sheep can forage where other animals can't.

Sheep and the wool industry profoundly influenced the history of England and subsequently, America. In 1337, King Edward III of England decreed no more imports of wool cloth into his country. He invited Flemish weavers to settle in England and help develop the weaving industry there, which they did successfully. These actions resulted in the birth of the extensive English wool industry. By 1660, wool textiles were two thirds of England's foreign commerce and were yielding profound wealth. During the 17th and 18th centuries, England tried to discourage the beginnings of a wool industry in the American colonies by forbidding the export of sheep.

Sheep Come to New England

The Pilgrims, unable to get English sheep, purchased sheep from the Dutch on Manhattan Island. Other colonists managed to smuggle sheep from southern England and began developing an American wool industry. By 1664, it was estimated that there were 10,000 sheep in the colonies. The Massachusetts General Court passed a law requiring youth to learn to spin and weave.

By 1698, America was exporting wool goods to France and Germany. England tried to outlaw the wool trade—if caught, the punishment was having one's right hand cut off. These restrictions became strong irritants that contributed to Revolutionary War fever. Spinning and weaving became patriotic acts. Home knitting was encouraged.

Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson raised sheep on their estates and encouraged others to do likewise.

Sheep in Connecticut

Sheep arrived in Connecticut when the first English settlers arrived in Windsor and Stratford. Connecticut required every adult male to work a day each year at clearing brush from the commons. Originally, most sheep were kept in a commons and protected by town shepherds from the marauding wolves and other predators. Sheep require lands free from thickets and briers likely to catch and tear their wool coats, protection from predatory animals, and careful, knowledgeable attention by humans. Initially, much of New England's surface was too untamed for their somewhat fastidious appetites. In the early days of colonial settlement, sheep fared well in Connecticut as they grazed along the coastal and river grasslands and marshes. Men of wealth had large flocks—for example, Governor John Winthrop, Jr., kept sheep on his Saybrook estate as well as on Fishers Island and other nearby small islands. (Islands provided good pasturage as well as relative freedom from wild animals.)

Ezra Stiles, in his preaching around Connecticut, occasionally commented on the large flocks of sheep. In 1770, he noted a flock of 3,000 in Branford and said that the town's shepherds thought the entire township's flock totaled 10,000 sheep. New Haven also had large numbers of sheep. Mr. Stiles mentions a flock of 1,300 out of a total of 4,000 in the First Parish alone (there were two other parishes).

As the Connecticut forested landscape was cleared and settlers moved to outlying hill farms, colonial farmers kept small flocks of sheep on their subsistence farms. Farm wives and their children would scour, card, spin, and weave the wool into cloth. Most of the wool was used on the farm, so a rough quality was good enough. The mutton was for home use—so a pleasantly flavored species for market sale was not necessary. As the colonial period progressed, good agricultural stewardship was not practiced. The same fields were cropped repeatedly without regard to building up fertility, and animals were haphazardly bred and nourished. The "native" sheep of New England became smaller and smaller, yielding less wool and meat.

The Rev. Jared Elliot, a physician and preacher from Killingworth, began airing his concerns that Connecticut agriculture was neglected in essays on "field husbandry" in 1748. Generally, however, colonial farmers continued their familiar ways of poor agricultural practices, and farm output declined.

By the end of the 1700s, Connecticut farms had expanded as much as they could. About 60 percent of the land was cleared and in production. Walls were built, orchards planted and established, and poor, rocky land put into woodlots. Soon, a variety of coinciding factors changed the nature of agriculture in Connecticut, and sheep played a significant role. After the Revolutionary War, new lands to the north and west opened for settlement for Connecticut's sons and daughters, and military war veterans were given land grants. They were eager to find new farms of their own on

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SHEEP WERE SCATTERED WIDELY ALL OVER OUR HILLSIDES AS WELL AS THE WHOLE LANDSCAPE OF CONNECTICUT IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY.

SHEEP

continued from page 15

virgin soils. Many people left the state in the late 1700s. Some of the remaining farmers took up the cause of improved farmland stewardship. Through agricultural improvement societies, they learned to grow crops more carefully and intensively on better lands. They started using fertilizers, plowing more deeply, and using better methods of drainage. They investigated improving breeds of livestock, especially sheep. Until that time, New England had basically two different breeds of sheep, neither particularly noted for the quality of their fleece.

Colonel David Humphreys

A prominent Connecticut citizen, little known today, introduced the Merino sheep breed to Connecticut and vastly improved the quality of the state's sheep. Colonel David Humphreys, born in Derby in 1752, is regarded as the founder of the woolen industry in America. Son of the town's Congregational minister, the colonel graduated from Yale in 1771 and became a schoolteacher. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, he joined the Connecticut militia and quickly became noticed by General Putnam because of his writing and administrative skills. Through the rest of the war, Mr. Humphreys served as an aide-de-camp to General Putnam, then to General Greene. In 1780, Mr. Humphreys was appointed to Washington's headquarters staff where he served until the end of the war. Mr. Humphreys then became Washington's private secretary and lived at Mount Vernon for a while following the war. After Washington became President, Mr. Humphreys was appointed to a commission to negotiate treaties of commerce with European nations. He served with John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. In 1791, Mr. Humphreys was appointed minister to Portugal, then, from 1796 to 1801, he served as minister to Spain.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture offers a list of livestock producers, including lamb farmers, at www.ct.gov/doag. In the search field, look for "livestock producers."

See also the Connecticut Sheep Breeders Association at www.ctsheep.org

While in Spain, he became interested in Merino sheep. The Merino breed was developed in Spain through many centuries and was considered to have the finest fleece in the world. A source of great wealth for the Spanish kingdom, the export of Merino sheep from Spain was strictly forbidden. When Mr. Humphreys retired from public life, having married while in Spain, he desired to return to Connecticut and become a farmer, like his close friend Washington, and invest in a factory to help build America's capacity in manufacturing. Because of Mr. Humphreys' relationship with the Spanish crown, he was allowed to import a herd of one hundred Merinos to Derby in 1802. He established his flock in Derby, set up a woolen mill in what is now Seymour, and quickly achieved the reputation as the best producer of broadcloth in the United Sates. Mr. Jefferson ordered some of Mr. Humphreys' finest black cloth to make a dress suit to wear at his final reception as President of the United States.

The Merino Sheep Craze of the 1800s

After the Napoleonic Wars created disarray in Spain, Americans were able to import Merino sheep into the United States in large numbers—so much so that a Merino sheep craze developed throughout New England. This resulted in the beginning of "commercial" agriculture, which was based on farmers specializing in limited crops or livestock that created a significant monetary profit for the farmer. During the Merino sheep craze, some farmers were able to buy up neighboring neglected farms to expand their flocks of sheep; consequently, the size and wealth of some farms grew considerably.

During the mid-1800s, however, the new railroads destroyed the profitability of raising sheep on a large scale in the East, because it was much cheaper to do so on Western rangelands. At that point, Eastern sheep farmers concentrated on developing breeds that were tasty to the burgeoning populations in the Northeast's mill cities. Farmers also worked on breeding high-quality replacement stock for western sheep farmers. Then wild dogs became an insurmountable nuisance.

As cows replaced sheep on the hillsides of Connecticut, the landscape changed. No longer were open, untilled, stone-fenced fields of grazing sheep the norm. Heavy cows do not climb to the tops of hills. They prefer grazing at lower levels. Farmers grow hay to supplement cows' diets when fresh grass is not available. The planting of forests encouraged by the Connecticut Forest Association (forerunner of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association) grew back on hillsides and other vacant lands and today provide us the Connecticut landscape look that we consider our unique heritage.

With the disappearance of sheep, consumption of lamb declined dramatically. What was a frequently consumed meat in Connecticut has now became an occasional treat enjoyed at Easter and Passover. There remains, however, an active group of sheep farmers in Connecticut, and fresh lamb meat is available from a number of sheep farmers around the state. Connecticut-produced wool yarn and blankets are also available.

Jean Crum Jones is a registered dietician. She serves on the CFPA Board of Directors. Her family runs the Jones Family Farms and the Jones Winery in Shelton.

Celebrate

CONNECTICUT TRAILS

ON JUNE 2ND AND 3RD

The 2012 Connecticut Trails Day Celebration will be held the first weekend in June. This year's theme from the American Hiking Society is "**America's Largest TRAILgating Party.**" Grab a friend and join in the fun. With more than 150 Connecticut events to choose from, there will be outdoor activities for everyone—including hiking, biking, horseback riding, trail maintenance, kayaking, educational walks, bird watching, letterboxing, and more. These events are guided by knowledgeable volunteers from local hiking clubs, parks and recreation departments, state agencies, conservation organizations, historic groups, naturalists, educators, and land trusts.

The weekend festivities will be kicked-off with a TRAILgating party of our own. Please join the Connecticut Forest & Park Association for an open house celebration on Friday, June 1st at the CFPA headquarters in Middlefield.

THE CT TRAILS DAY 2012 BOOKLET WILL BE AVAILABLE AT CT PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND ONLINE AT

WWW.CTWOODLANDS.ORG BY MID TO LATE MAY.

Diane Friend Edwards

The Tankerhoosen River cascades over rocks along the Belding Path.

WOODS, WATERS, AND WISDOM
ON THE SHENIPSIT TRAIL / BELDING PATH IN VERNON

BY DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

One day last winter, I walked through a tunnel-like thicket of old, gnarly mountain laurel on the Shenipsit Trail and thought, "This would be a great place to come back to in late spring when the laurel is in bloom." I will go back, and I suggest that you go, too.

The birds will be active—they were scarce on my December visit—and there's so much else to enjoy, year-round: the cushion-like moss covering rocks, the varied textures of tree bark, the serpentine path of the Tankerhoosen River, the tangle of roots exposed by erosion of the riverbank, the occasional view of a field beyond the forest. I appreciated the wisdom gleaned from interpretive signs along the trails in Belding Wildlife Management Area. The signs identify the various types of trees and point out their value to wildlife and people. According to one sign, for example, mice, turkeys, and songbirds feast on the seeds of red (or Norway) pine. People often plant red pine for its ornamental value and use its wood for construction.

The entire Blue-Blazed Shenipsit Trail is linear, extending 41 miles from Cobalt in the south to Stafford in the north, with many access points along the way. I began and ended my two-and-a-half-mile hike at Valley Falls Park in Vernon, combining a stretch of the Shenipsit with a loop consisting of a connector trail and the yellow-blazed Belding Path through Belding WMA.

This route wends through deciduous and conifer forests and passes ponds, streams, and a small cascade. One stretch follows the winding banks of the Tankerhoosen River, crossing the river several times via wooden footbridges. The water in the river is cool and clean enough to support populations of wild trout. (In fact, a section of the Tankerhoosen in the Belding WMA is designated a Class 1 Wild Trout Management Area.) In spring, the area abounds with birds—approximately 100 species have been found here (visit www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/wildlife/pdf_files/nongame/BeldingBirdList.pdf for a Belding Bird List). You might hear ovenbirds and waterthrush singing from the forest floor, or see indigo buntings and blue-winged warblers near the edges of fields. Black-throated green warblers and red-breasted nuthatches might flit among the conifers.

CFPA / *Connecticut Walk Book*

Belding Wildlife Management Area

The 282-acre Belding WMA, located in Vernon, provides a diversity of fish and wildlife habitats, maintained by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. DEEP staff members also lead walks and conduct educational programs here. For a Belding trail guide, map, and other information, visit the DEEP Web site at ct.gov/dep.

The Hike

The Shenipsit Trail portion of this hike begins on the north side of Valley Falls Road, opposite the parking area for Valley Falls Park. At first, the trail climbs a moderately steep hill, after which the trail descends through the mountain laurel thicket and then through the woods. After crossing Bolton Road, the trail reenters the woods, drops into a ravine, crosses a brook, and follows a stone wall until it reaches the southern end of the Belding Path. The route I followed continues on the Shenipsit Trail in a generally northward direction. The trail crosses several woods roads, skirts a small pond, and then follows the Tankerhoosen River to the northern boundary of the Belding WMA, 1.6 miles from the start of the hike. Here, the hike heads east on the short blue-and-yellow connector trail. The route then turns south on the half-mile-long Belding Path, ending back at the Shenipsit Trail, which you retrace to Valley Falls Park.

Note: A detailed description and trail map for this hike are included in the *Connecticut Walk Book East*.

Directions

To reach the trailhead: From I-84 exit 66, take Bolton Road south about 1.4 miles. Turn right on Valley Falls Road, and go about 0.1 mile, then turn left into the Valley Falls Park parking lot.

Diane Friend Edwards is a freelance writer, nature photographer, and life-long lover of the outdoors. She lives in Thomaston with her husband, Paul.

Diane Friend Edwards

Signs impart forest wisdom to walkers in the Belding Wildlife Management Area.

Justin Cuomo

A park and walkway went on an old industrial site known as "the Slab" in Shelton, seen here from the Derby Greenway across the Housatonic River.

TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, AND HEALTHY ECONOMIES: A CONNECTICUT SUCCESS STORY

BY LESLIE LEWIS

In my experience as a trails advocate, I have learned that forests, parks, and open spaces provide an economic benefit to society. One of my favorite stories happened in Shelton, a town that had hit some pretty hard times in the 1970s after a fire at one of its largest manufacturing plants.

After the wreckage was cleared, a large open area remained. Residents called it "the Slab." The town and the state planned to locate new industry there when the time was right. A funny thing happened in the meantime. The town's economic development agency started looking at trails, greenways, and open spaces and started a campaign to conserve and enhance these areas. The agency president, James Ryan, recognized how important these assets could be to Shelton. A brownfield renovation project of the Slab resulted in the Shelton Riverwalk, a beautiful riverside pathway replete with brick paving and reproduction light fixtures. In time, the town built a building for a farmer's market and other community events. The Slab became a destination, not a blight. The old downtown, which had been devastated by the fire, was coming back to life.

As for the plans to redevelop the area, town residents and officials began to question whether that was indeed the best use for the property. The New Haven Register quoted Mr. Ryan saying. "When the plan was developed, open space was a consideration and time has shown that keeping the Slab, as such, has been beneficial to the region." Mr. Ryan noted that concerts, carnivals, fireworks, and benefits attracted people, and disposable income, to Shelton. Mayor Mark Lauretti testified at the hearing that the Slab had enhanced downtown development, including a new Boys & Girls Club, the Shelton Farm and Public Market, and a veterans' memorial.

The happy ending to the tale is that the place left unbuilt was determined to be of great worth to Shelton. The area continues to bring people together to enjoy themselves, spend money, and strengthen their community. Trails linking to other areas of town continue to be built and enhanced. The result, as the saying goes, is priceless.

Leslie Lewis is the WalkCT director of CFPA.

Soil scientist Kolesinskas retires, becomes consultant

Kipen "Kip" Kolesinskas, the Connecticut soil scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, retired in January and became a consulting conservation scientist for the American Farmland Trust's New England office.

"I've been privileged to work with some amazing people both within the agency and the partners through my various positions, committee assignments, and details," Mr. Kolesinskas said in an e-mail to colleagues. "I feel our mission is critical to meeting the world's challenges, and essential to the path of sustainability." Contact him at kkolesinskas@farmland.org.

Conserve more land, Council on Environmental Quality tells legislature

The state's watchdog environmental agency called on the General Assembly to pass laws and a budget to protect more land in 2012. It also asked for tougher enforcement of all-terrain vehicles under laws now on the books.

In its annual "Recommendations for Legislation," the CEQ said the legislature should

► Authorize $20 million to preserve 12,000 acres per year in the form of grants to municipalities and land trusts. Land trusts—137 of them—listed this as a top priority.

► Pass laws to permanently protect state agency-owned farmland.

► Direct the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to assess undeveloped land owned by other state agencies that could be conserved.

► Maintain the farmland preservation program that buys development rights from farmers, which keeps the land as agriculture lands so they don't have to sell to developers.

► Improve laws on enforcement of all-terrain vehicles. Citing the problem of damage and danger when ATVs illegally ride on hiking trails and in other forbidden areas, the CEQ asked the legislature to "improve law enforcement agencies' ability to enforce existing laws by (1) requiring registration and (2) including forfeiture of the vehicle as a potential penalty."

DEEP Announces New Round of Open Space Grants Funding for Municipalities, Land Conservation Groups

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection announced in March that at least $5 million is available to assist cities, towns, and land conservation organizations to buy and preserve open lands.

The State Bond Commission allocated the funds to the Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program. Additional funds may become available under the state's Community Investment Act, known as CIA, which since 2005 has allocated supplemental funds.

Connecticut's open space includes recreation and conservation land owned or protected by the state and land owned or protected by municipalities and others, often with state financial assistance. These purchases are helping Connecticut meet its open space goal of protecting 21 percent of Connecticut's land – or 673,210 acres – by the year 2023. Since the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program began in 1998, DEEP has provided approximately $102 million in grants to assist with the purchase of approximately 26,000 acres of open space across the state in 120 municipalities.

The CIA, Public Act 05-228, was designed to protect the beauty and character of Connecticut—open space, farm land, historic sites, and municipal projects, among other purposes. The CIA established fees for the recording of all documents into municipal land records. Funds from this fee are shared by local governments and four state agencies: the Department of Agriculture, the DEEP, the Department of Economic and Community Development – Offices of Culture and Tourism, and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority.

The deadline for open space grants is June 28. See www.ct.gov/dep.openspace. Grant awards will be announced in the fall. Contact Dave Stygar at 860-424-3081.

—From DEEP press release

This table summarizes 52 timber sales from October through December 2011 in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Foresters, loggers, and sawmill owners voluntarily reported what their clients paid. Prices are in dollars per thousand board feet using the international quarter-inch scale. Pulpwood and fuelwood are reported in dollars per cord. As a sample of all timber sales, this report provides a general guide to prices, which can fluctuate based on how the jobs were bid and costs of logging a particular tract of land.

Quarterly stumpage reports, compiled jointly by the three states, are published online at http://masswoods.net/stumpage/pricereports/1994topresent.

	EAST OF CT RIVER			WEST OF CT RIVER		
SPECIES	NO. OF REPORTS	**MEDIAN**	RANGE	NO. OF REPORTS	**MEDIAN**	RANGE
RED OAK	24	**150**	50 - 300	**14**	258	120 - 350
WHITE OAK	17	**80**	40 - 200	**5**	165	100 - 300
OTHER OAKS	12	**103**	60 - 180	**4**	188	100 - 250
ASH	12	**45**	40 - 100	**9**	100	50 - 175
CHERRY	7	**100**	100 - 200	**9**	180	50 - 300
SUGAR MAPLE	11	**60**	60 - 200	**12**	200	125 - 450
RED MAPLE	15	**30**	25 - 70	**14**	40	25 - 50
TULIP POPLAR	1	**0**	- **2**	150	-	
YELLOW BIRCH	12	**40**	40 - 200	**9**	60	40 - 225
BLACK BIRCH	16	**50**	40 - 200	**13**	60	40 - 225
PAPER BIRCH	7	**25**	25 - 35	**2**	23	20 - 25
BEECH	3	**20**	20 - 35	**1**	5	-
PALLET HDWD	11	**25**	22 - 50	**4**	25	20 - 100
OTHER HDWD	5	**40**	30 - 100	**4**	28	25 - 30
WHITE PINE	24	**69**	50 - 180	**16**	65	25 - 100
RED PINE	6	**20**	- **0**	-	-	
HEMLOCK	14	**20**	20 - 35	**12**	25	10 - 80
SPRUCE	6	**20**	- **1**	30	-	
OTHER SFWD	1	**35**	- **0**	-	-	
POLES, HARDWD ($/LIN.FT)	0	-	- **0**	-	-	
POLES, SFTWD						
($/LIN.FT)	0	-	- **0**	-	-	
FUEL WOOD ($/CD)	21	**10**	0 - 20	**6**	10	5 - 20
PULPWOOD ($/CD)	5	**0**	- **0**	-	-	
BIOMASS ($/TON)	8	**1**	0 - 1	**0**	-	-

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CFPA MEMBERSHIP Our path to sustainability!

During these difficult economic times, we would like to reflect upon the future of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. Are the forests and Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails of Connecticut important to you? Is conserving the natural wonders of our state for generations to come a valuable endeavor? Is sharing your environmental concern and educating the general public a worthwhile goal?

CFPA is only as viable as our membership. If you are not a member: please ask a friend or two to join or consider giving a membership as a gift. The future of CFPA depends on you!

Save time — join us on-line
www.ctwoodlands.org/join-us

CONNECTICUT Forest & Park ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIPS

Personal	Organizational
Individual $35	Club $50
Family $50	Nonprofit $75
Supporting $100	Sustaining $100
Benefactor $250	Landmark ?250
Life $2,500	Stewardship $250
Leadership $1,000	

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Mail to: CFPA, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06481

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