CONNECTICUT Woodlands

THE WORLD OF CURTIS VEEDER

INVENTOR WHO DONATED PENWOOD STATE PARK.
ALSO: SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE BY USING MORE WOOD

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Fall 2013 Volume 78 No. 3

DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

Ferns on the Saugatuck Trail. *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.

Connecticut Woodlands

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DAVID K. LEFF

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DEPARTMENTS

Considering nonnative trees

BY ERIC LUKINGBEAL

I write from my kitchen table in upstate New York. About five years ago, my wife and I bought an 1850 farmhouse in Cazenovia, New York, near Syracuse. We've been modernizing it at a pace hindered by our meager skills. Our neighborhood is called Pompey Hollow, which is a broad valley about 500 feet lower than the north-south ridges on either side. Everyone has a sump pump; ours runs almost constantly in the spring.

Dave, our neighbor several houses to the south, is the retired owner of a landscaping business. He was born here, attended local schools and then the State University of New York for a degree in landscaping. In retirement, he runs a small tree and shrub nursery on the other side of the road, near the creek that winds through our valley. Now and then, I'll help him with some small landscaping job. My contribution is unskilled, manual labor—digging and hauling. I am supervised closely.

I've described Connecticut Forest & Park Association's work to him. Recently, I happened to mention the Two-Storm Panel that Eric Hammerling chaired. I told Dave about the effort to replace damaged roadside trees with native trees. And I told him about the "Right Tree, Right Place" list and about Kathleen Groll Connolly's article about replacement trees in the summer issue of this magazine. His reaction was not what I thought it would be.

"What the heck is wrong with nonnative trees?" he asked, adding, "Often they are better suited to street conditions than natives are. At least, be open to the possibility that a nonnative, noninvasive tree could work just as well as a native."

I had to admit to him that somewhere I picked up a bias in favor of native trees, especially as replacement trees for those we've lost in recent storms. With a single exception—a Dawn Redwood—all the trees I've planted myself have been natives. But I wonder if my friend doesn't have a point.

Dave showed me street tree plantings he's done in the past year for the town of Cazenovia, and for the City of Syracuse. These are either balled and wrapped in burlap, or grown in his nursery using the Missouri Gravel Bed system (irrigated gravel, nutrients added). This system results in a very dense root mat, with much more root surface area than bare rootstock. But it has the light weight and ease of planting that balled and wrapped in burlap lacks. Volunteers can manage it easily. You can pick up a 2.5-inch caliper tree and hoist it over your head. Try that with a balled and wrapped in burlap tree.

He has supplied a mix of natives and nonnatives to these two municipalities. His favorites among the nonnatives are Japanese tree lilac, village green zelkova, amur maackia, katsura, maidenhair (gingko) tree, Persian ironwood, hardy rubber tree, and stewartia.

Japanese tree lilacs are lovely. They line part of the main street in Cazenovia, and their snowy white blooms in June are a pleasant surprise. None of those trees he listed are particularly rare or any more expensive than natives. Dave grows some of them in the gravel beds. They are all hardy, and around Syracuse, that is saying something.

At CFPA, we have always thought that public policy—and our policies—ought to be based on sound science. It is certainly sound science to support native trees and shrubs as replacements. But my conversation with my neighbor in upstate New York leaves me uneasy to be too rigid. Nonnatives, as long as they are not invasive, could have a place in our efforts.

Eric Lukingbeal is an environmental lawyer for Robinson and Cole in Hartford. He lives in Granby with his wife, Sally King. He is the father of two grown daughters, serves on his town's planning and zoning commission, and likes to hike, bike, and renovate old houses, with supervision.

Make your plan and react to CFPA's

BY ERIC HAMMERLING

You never plan to fail, but you can fail to plan. If you have a management plan for your forest, you know what I mean. Each forest management plan for each landowner is unique, but there are several common elements (excerpted from the Forest Management Plan Criteria of U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in August 2012):

1. Background: map, existing practices, land use history, and any resource concerns

2. Landowner Goals: income, forest stand improvement, wildlife habitat, recreation, etc.

3. Resource Assessment: composition of forest, potential woodland products, natural and cultural features, roads and wildfire risks, insect and disease infestations, wildlife habitats, invasive species, water features, etc.

4. Desired Future Conditions: implementation steps to meet landowner goals in the future

Simply put, a forest management plan is critical both to understand where you are and to figure out where you want to go. After all, as Yogi Berra said, "If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up someplace else."

While we're on the topic of planning, I want to make sure you are aware that Connecticut Forest & Park Association is working on its next three-year strategic plan, which will cover 2014 through 2016. **We want to hear from you.** A landowner can determine his or her own desired future conditions independently, but an organization that cares about its members and supporters should not, especially if it wants to be vital for another 119+ years (and we do!).

Just as experts handle a forest management plan, we will consider fundamental questions from an organizational perspective, such as the following:

► What is unique about the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's niche? What are our mission, vision, values, and conservation programs?

► What are the most pressing political, financial, demographic, and environmental challenges CFPA will face in the next five to 10 years?

► What are the most tangible measures to assess objectively whether we are making progress and furthering our mission?

CFPA's strategic plan will be our road map showing where we are and where we want to go. Although we are planning concretely in three-year increments, we understand that many elements such as estate planning demand a longer planning horizon. Warren Buffet recognized this when he stated, "Someone's sitting in the shade today, because someone planted a tree long ago."

If you have thoughts or would like to meet to provide input to CFPA's next strategic plan, please send me an email (ehammerling@ctwoodlands.org) or give me a call at 860-346-TREE.

Eric Hammerling of West Hartford has served as CFPA's executive director since 2008.

Trail work musings

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

A decade ago, just after my husband Nat and I had been named volunteer trail managers for the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, some people got lost on our assigned trails in Middletown. They were not in physical danger, but they called the police.

We were so brand new to our duties that staffers at CFPA cut us a break and asked the Roving Trail Crew to go right out and repaint all the blazes on the side trail, using a new system CFPA was then putting in place. Blocks of yellow and blue would distinguish it from the plain blue blazes of the main trail.

This would fix a navigation problem on our section, which includes the stretch of the Mattabesett Trail near the Connecticut River and a side trail known as the Reservoir Loop Trail. (The Mattabesett is part of the New England Trail, the federally designated National Scenic Trail now attracting more hikers than back then.)

The problem was where the main Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail on our section intersects with the loop trail at a spot locals used to call Old Burn Crossing. I myself had gotten confused at this junction on one of my first scouting hikes as a trail manager. I'd grabbed my cell phone and called old-timer George Arthur. When he'd answered, I'd greeted him with, "George, where am I?"

"Chris, I don't know," he said.

He later had some fun reminding me of this.

Why did I and those other hikers get confused? At that time, painted circles marked many of CFPA's side trails. On our section, the circles were plain blue, just like the blazes on the main trail. In the woods, a blue circle doesn't look that different from a blue rectangle at Old Burn Crossing, so it looked as if the main trail went simultaneously in four directions.

On other side trails in the 800-mile trail system, hikers could easily miss the marks, which often were blue blazes with tiny colored dots in the centers. The year before I'd become a trail manager, I'd spent an afternoon traipsing on a side trail instead of the Metacomet Trail in New Britain, not noticing those little dots. I'd corrected myself by hiking through downtown New Britain back to my car.

All this initiated me. I really got it—why we must blaze side trails with blocks of color. I was humbled, too. For a few years, Nat

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CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Curtis Veeder.

CURTIS VEEDER, PENWOOD, AND THE CONFLUENCE OF NATURE AND CULTURE

The most famous Connecticut person you've never heard about

BY DAVID K. LEFF

Just north of Connecticut Route 185 and a few miles from Hartford lies a stretch of the Metacomet portion of the New England National Scenic Trail remarkable for its confluence of wild nature and human-made curiosities. With occasional distant views west beneath mature oak, hemlock, tulip, and other large trees, the path passes angular traprock outcrops, a boggy lake, wildflowers, and groves of ferns in an atmosphere alive with birdsong. Old roads and trails beckon—there's a stone pedestal, fragments of broken pavement, and large metal pins that look like truncated knitting needles embedded in ledge. Curtis Veeder cultivated or created them all.

Mr. Veeder may be the most famous Connecticut personality most people have never heard about. He invented counting devices, among many other marvels, and his mechanical genius is apparent each time you fuel your vehicle. Pennsylvania born and reared in New York, he is quintessentially characteristic of his adopted state of Connecticut, whose motto proclaims, "He who transplanted still sustains." He combined that signature Connecticut mix of creativity and drive, building a precision manufacturing business. In his life and legacy, he also illustrates the very heart of Connecticut identity, the marriage of nature and culture. He served for many years on the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's Board of Directors, and he willed his roughly 800-acre farm and private nature reserve bestride Talcott Mountain in Bloomfield as Penwood State Park. His home on Elizabeth Street in Hartford later became the headquarters of the Connecticut Historical Society, which holds the state's cultural and social artifacts.

Sometimes when walking along the ridge through Penwood or entering the hushed recesses of the Connecticut Historical Society, I feel as if I'm stepping into the lingering penumbra of Mr. Veeder's restless and somewhat eccentric genius. His singular ingenuity remains in evidence 70 years after his death despite myriad changes at both places and in the world at large. I find it hard to visit either place without feeling Mr. Veeder's presence.

The Curtis Veeder house, which today is home of the Connecticut Historical Society.

DAVID K. LEFF

Drive into the park on the very narrow entry road and you find your vehicle straddling mushroom cap drains in the center of the pavement, Mr. Veeder's innovation to keep water off the road without having to widen it by use of conventional side drainage. They remain not only a curiosity, but also a hazard to unwary cyclists and hikers gazing at the landscape. The brick and poured concrete barn built early in the 20th century has the structural integrity of a factory or bomb shelter, and even the loft has a concrete floor. On the first level, part of the floor is made from the butt ends of framing lumber for a purpose that has been lost, but perhaps to make standing easier on the feet. A meticulous hobbyist surveyor, Mr. Veeder left large steel pins set in cement at various reference points like the markings of some modern day druid. Throughout the park, there are old piping, stonework, some subterranean enclosures, and other quirky structures.

Completed in 1928, the two-story Hartford house looks relatively modest for an industrialist's mansion. Its facade is made of limestone blocks in a happy mix of colonial revival and French chateau styles. It has a hip roof with several prominent chimneys and an entrance with a formal porte-cochère. Despite much reconfiguration and additions to create a museum, an archive, and a library, the building still bears Mr. Veeder's idiosyncratic imprint. Beyond the limestone skin, the building is made of steel reinforced concrete and so over-engineered that it could be the last Hartford building standing after an apocalypse. Mr. Veeder's son-in-law, Charles Tilton Sr., described the "all cement and spotlessly clean" attic as "like the interior of a battleship."

Among the house's oddities is a wall of cabinets featuring narrow zinc-lined drawers in what is now the society executive director's office. Their purpose remains a mystery. Mr. Veeder hungered for the latest technology; the house features a central vacuum, an incinerator, an elevator, and a car wash in the garage tucked beneath the house. Servants used an electronic paging system. A telephone was placed in the front coat closet.

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From top, Veeder's former library, now an office at the Connecticut Historical Society; the entry hall; and the former dining room, now the CHS gift shop.

Despite his prominence, Mr. Veeder was an exceedingly private man, and little is known about his personal life. The Connecticut Historical Society holds a thin file and only one photo even though they occupy his home and recently researched his background to reinterpret the building.

Mechanical Genius

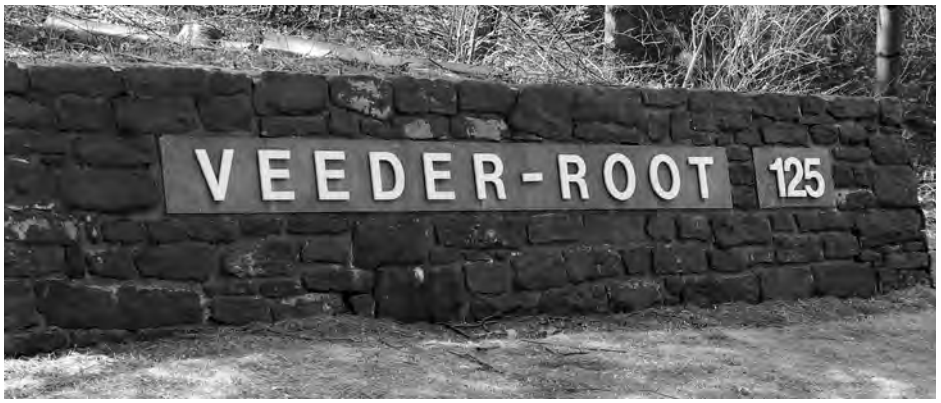
Born in 1862, Mr. Veeder had Dutch ancestors who immigrated to New Amsterdam in the 1600s. Early in his life, his family moved to Plattsburg, New York, where he completed high school before returning to Pennsylvania for an engineering degree at Lehigh University, graduating in 1886. Son of a mining engineer, he is said to have demonstrated mechanical ability from an early age. At 6, he had devised a waterwheel in a brook near home. At 10, he built some small furnaces in hard sandbanks in which he burned soft coal. When he was 12, he built a foot-powered jigsaw, and by the time he was 18, he'd created an old-fashioned high-wheeled bicycle from magazine pictures, spending most of his time after school riding and repairing it. The saddle of flexible leather stretched over a steel spring frame was so good that he had it patented in 1881. During college vacations, he made bicycle ball bearings, a two-speed gear for tricycles, many electrical parts, and photographic shutters. In 1883, he sold his American bicycle seat patent to Pope Manufacturing Company of Hartford for $1,000.

After college, Mr. Veeder worked for a number of companies, inventing mining hoists, locomotives, automatic regulating apparatus for naval searchlights, and the mechanical portion of the first three-phase motors built by the General Electric Company, among other devices. At his death, he held more than 150 patents.

His signature invention was the cyclometer, which arose out of his passion for bicycling in days when signs were few and stated mileages both seldom given and inaccurate. He invented complex machinery

and even designed power plant layouts, but he yearned simply to know how far he'd peddled his bicycle. Much tinkering led to a breakthrough in 1894—compound differential gearing. When Pope decided not to make them, Mr. Veeder formed his own business in Hartford, and by 1896 had sold 50,000 of the devices.

The Veeder-Root Company (so named after a 1928 merger with a Bristol, Connecticut, firm) made counting devices to control all sorts of manufacturing processes as well as parts essential to speedometers, odometers, tachometers, voting machines, cash registers, telephones, and other products. In World War I, Mr. Veeder's counting devices were used on aircraft machine guns and on battleship and submarine instruments. In 1930, the Hartford Courant declared that the company was "the world's largest manufacturer of precision counting equipment." In the decade that followed, Veeder-Root counters were incorporated into gas pumps. Today the company (headquartered in Simsbury and part of a larger conglomerate) touts itself as "the number one supplier of automated tank gauges in the world."



DAVID K. LEFF

Top, Veeder's former barn still stands at Penwood State Park. Above, the entrance to the Veeder-Root Company in Simsbury, now part of a conglamerate. Originally it was a large supplier of precision counting equipment; today it makes automated tank gauges.

Nature Lover

Mr. Veeder acquired Penwood in 1913 to indulge his passion for nature and the outdoors, a counterweight to his vigorous and demanding business life. He saw it as a forest preserve, farm, and wildlife sanctuary. It was a deeply personal place where he could preserve his equilibrium with fresh air and physical challenge, cultivate ease and contemplation, and find sanctuary from the noise and clutter of the outside world.

During his lifetime, Mr. Veeder shared Penwood's pastoral fields, rugged trails, and spectacular views with friends and family. He willed Penwood to the people of Connecticut to "be kept in a natural and wild state so that those who love nature may enjoy this property as I have enjoyed it." It's widely repeated that Penwood was so named because the word "veeder" means "pen" in Dutch, a charming notion that is, unfortunately, not true. More likely, the park is named for Curtis Veeder's Pennsylvania origins.

By 1919, Mr. Veeder had hired Fred Brooks as caretaker of Penwood Farm. Mr. Brooks and his wife lived in an old house that stood at the edge of the property until it burned in 1972. In 1921, Mr. Brooks was joined by William Hocking, a relative who came from England with his family and lived near the barn in a house that has since been demolished. At the request of Mr. Veeder's widow, Louise, both men continued to work at Penwood as state employees, Mr. Brooks retiring in 1954 and Mr. Hocking in 1961. As late as 1966, Mr. Brooks did contract work at Penwood for $1.25 per hour.

Among other duties, the men ran a small farm, mostly to supply themselves and the Veeders, though during World War II the cow herd was enlarged sufficiently to enable sale of milk to a local dairy. "Our recreation was getting the cows in for milking, gathering eggs, teaching the calves to drink from a pail, haying, digging potatoes, helping to put up a fence, picking the currants and raspberries, and helping with the harvest of cherries, pears, peaches and apples," Mr. Hocking's daughter Joan Hocking Goetjen recalled in a 2008 article for the Bloomfield Journal. "The best of the garden produce," she wrote, "fruit, milk, cream . . . homemade butter and eggs and sometimes firewood were taken to the Veeder residence." Ducks were raised, ice was cut on the pond, and vegetables stored over winter in the barn's lower level.

Just below The Pinnacle, the property's high point, and a bit beyond the bustle of the farm, Mr. Veeder built his sanctum sanctorum, a five-room chestnut log cabin. With bark left on the logs, it was a distinctive structure into which he injected a preservative of his own devising. Finished with pine, the interior included a dining room with a long table. Over the fireplace was mounted a trout taken from nearby Lake Louise, the high ridgeline pond Mr. Veeder named for his wife. The two bedrooms each con-

tained built-in bunk beds and a washbasin with running water, but the bathtub and toilets were in the lower level. A 12-by-6-foot open porch featured rustic wooden furniture. Mr. Veeder used the house as a family getaway and entertained friends. Ms. Goetjen remembered them arriving in chauffeur-driven cars and that Mrs. Brooks would do the cooking.

During World War II, when U-boats snuck along the coast and people feared Nazi saboteurs, the cabin became a secret safe house for the governor, whose staff was expected to occupy the farm buildings should an attack occur. In 1992, an illegal campfire, burning out of control, destroyed the cabin.

The Metacomet Trail goes by the site, now overgrown with brush and small trees. No evidence of the cabin remains. I've walked Penwood's trails and roads and bushwhacked its forest in all kinds of weather. It's seldom that I fail to feel Mr. Veeder's presence. From a rare photo, I imagine him tramping through the woods at just past middle age. He's a slight, dapper man with rimless glasses and a thick brush of a mustache looking for wildflowers and gazing skyward for birds. Ms. Goetjen described him as "a man of foresight . . . an intelligent man, constantly seeking more knowledge." He always addressed her uncle as "Brooks" and not by his first name, suggesting, perhaps, a patrician air. His friend, the legendary early 20th century Connecticut state forester Austin Hawes, noted that Mr. Veeder "loved to explore new areas and frequently took hikes in the State Forests."

The Pinnacle is "a very romantic place," my fiancée, Mary, remarked recently about this bare traprock knob. With a view to distant ridges, it rises almost 600 feet above the thickly forested and field-patched Farmington Valley, also revealing historic structures on Simsbury's Hopmeadow Street. Our picnic of cheese, strawberries, chocolate, and wine surely contributed to that romantic atmosphere, reprising perhaps the emotions swirling around Curtis and Louise when he proposed to her on this very spot.

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This strange-looking mushroom-shaped drain on the park entrance road was Veeder's design to keep water off the narrow driveway.

DAVID K. LEFF

This plaque at the entrance to Penwood State Park in Bloomfield introduces visitors to the park's donor, Curtis Veeder, "a great lover of nature."

Mr. Veeder's interest in forests and the outdoors was not limited to his own property. As an active member of the CFPA Board of Directors from 1915 until his death in 1943, serving stints as vice president and treasurer, he sought to promote parks and forests throughout Connecticut. He served a decade on the Hartford Park Commission and in 1924 was appointed by the governor to represent the state at the Fourth National Conference on State Parks.

Penwood State Park

Mr. Veeder was devoted to Penwood. But the property suffered extensive damage from the 1938 hurricane, and it's said that he was so distressed by the destruction of trees that he could no longer visit his ridgeline retreat.

Like many lands donated to the public, Penwood is not as well maintained as it was under private ownership. Louise Veeder reluctantly visited Penwood State Park at the urging of friends. In a 1949 letter to CFPA (which she often confused with the State Park and Forest Commission), she wrote, "I was absolutely horrified to see how the lovely place has been neglected, the roof of the house leaks, the road up the mountain is almost impossible, the wild flowers have completely disappeared while outdoor fire places have been built, which with their adjoining garbage cans are horrible eyesores." Even before seeing Penwood, Mrs. Veeder was not happy with the state and "exceedingly hurt" that no commemorative entrance plaque had been erected to memorialize her husband's gift. "I . . . wish the property had been sold instead," she wrote.

In November 1949, the State Park and Forest Commission ordered a bronze plaque from McAdoo Foundry Company in New Britain for $110. It was dedicated in a ceremony at CFPA's spring field meeting held at Penwood on June 10, 1950. Still attached to a boulder near the park entrance, it proclaims Curtis Veeder as donor of the land and "A Great Lover of Nature."

Fortunately, Mrs. Veeder's view of the park changed. In 1954, she wrote to parks director Donald Mathews that she was "immensely pleased to find so many picnic tables & benches in all kinds of fascinating spots and places and be told by Mr. Brooks that big crowds of families came out Saturdays and Sundays. It is just what my dear husband had wanted to happen."

While picnickers flooded the fields near the barn on weekends and family picnic suppers were common on summer weekday evenings in the 1950s, a couple of buildings near the

cabin served as a "security cloaked" state civil defense communications center. On the nearby Pinnacle, where the Veeders would hear hermit thrush calls, another kind of surveillance was conducted from a 60-foot-tall fire tower. By the late 1960s, both were obsolete and the structures demolished.

At about the same time, the crowds began to change at Penwood, and instead of families, the park was overwhelmed with young partiers. There was loud music, drunkenness, litter, vandalism, and trespassing on neighboring property, according to current park manager Vincent Messino. A 1971 letter from one neighbor complained of "carnival-like activities . . . with a great overload on the park's facilities." Although there have been controversies over snowmobile and equestrian use, a parachutist got caught in a tree in 1971, and a mountain biker fell off the precipice to his death in 1998, today Penwood is a quiet place, the crowds are gone, and the park is now a hiker's and nature lover's paradise, much as Mr. Veeder originally envisioned it.

Elizabeth Street

Although Mr. Veeder's legacy in the outdoors was carefully planned, his cultural contribution is serendipitous. The big Elizabeth Street house became too much for Mrs. Veeder, and in 1950, she moved to West Hartford, selling her home to the Connecticut Historical Society, long housed in cramped quarters at the Wadsworth Atheneum. There's no evidence that Mr. Veeder belonged to any historical or cultural institutions or had a particular interest in the past, but he built a substantial structure combining elegance and practical intelligence that was intriguing enough to attract those who did. Still, it wasn't until recently that the society realized that the house itself had historic value and started offering "behind the scenes" tours for the public.

Though the once meticulously gardened grounds along the Park River have largely been given over to building expansions and parking, and the second floor bedrooms have been reconfigured to accommodate exhibition space, Mr. Veeder's sense of dignity, proportion, and creative inventiveness are still very much in evidence. Visitors usually start in the living room, now a gathering space, which features quarter-sawn oak panels, a fireplace, and decorative plaster ceiling.

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Above, the site of Veeder's cabin. Right, Veeder's tank gauge in action at a New Hampshire gas station.

Along the beams and at the top of the walls is a frieze depicting various animals, reflecting Mr. Veeder's interest in wildlife. Across the grand entrance hall is the library, which also has oak paneling and an arched brick fireplace along with those curious cabinets bearing zinc-lined drawers that are labeled as map cases. What was once the dining room houses the society gift shop with a limestone fireplace, dark wood paneling, a hidden cabinet, wooden ceiling beams, and a brass-nailed swinging leather door leading to a butler's pantry.

The basement ballroom is now a rabbit warren of cubicles, and the partially below-grade garage that features chauffeur quarters with a shower and other accommodations has become a storage area. The elevator, with its big spool of wire and sliding birdcage door, well represents Mr. Veeder's mechanical interests and takes a visitor from the cellar to the second floor where a long, narrow hallway opening on small rooms is the least renovated portion of the house. This wing retains enamel heaters, a large linen closet, and common bathroom. Now used mostly as offices and storage, it was once the servants' quarters.

Perhaps it's fitting that the home of a man who liked to tinker and create practical products should become a grand repository for all things Connecticut, from tavern signs to clocks, silverware, furniture, hand tools, and the wide variety of manufactured objects that have long made this state known for inventiveness and craftsmanship. Curtis Veeder probably never contemplated such a use for his house, but it's unlikely he'd be surprised.

Legacy

Mr. Veeder's Hartford factories are gone, and the company that bears his name is tucked away in a suburban-style office park. Although his name has long slipped from public consciousness, he continues to have a tangible impact on our landscape. Penwood State Park and his Elizabeth Street home exist for all to explore the outdoors and the past. Together they epitomize the very essence of Connecticut. Yet it's not in the forests, a building, or inventive artifacts that Mr. Veeder so well represents the spirit of this place, but in the way in which his legacy stands at the confluence of nature and culture. Their proximity is the hallmark of our state. Each time we contemplate a walk in the woods, encounter an object evocative of our heritage, or top off the gas tank, we raise a toast to Curtis Veeder, regardless of whether we remember him.

David K. Leff is a writer based in Collinsville and a member of the CFPA Board of Directors. He was deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Visit Mr. Leff's website at www.davidkleff.com.

IF THE FOREST IS MANAGED SUSTAINABLY, THE MATURE TREES ARE HARVESTED AND MANUFACTURED INTO WOOD OR PAPER PRODUCTS WHICH CONTINUE TO STORE THE CARBON— AND THE FOREST IS REGENERATED WITH YOUNG TREES THAT ONCE AGAIN BEGIN ABSORBING CO2.

—"Tackle Climate Change—Use Wood" report

KAREN WARD

Campbell Grain Building in Pawcatuck, CT.

REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS—USE WOOD

Sustainable tree growth and using local wood products offer keys to slowing the rate of carbon dioxide emissions

BY GAIL BRACCIDIFERRO MacDONALD

In a weed-choked gravel lot, the old silver-colored grain building lies vacant. It towers above the nearby railroad, doughnut shop, and the once heavily industrial Pawcatuck River on the Connecticut–Rhode Island border. Still known locally as Campbell Grain for its original use more than a century ago, the building is one of countless industrial age giants in various states of decrepitude that line the state's waterways.

More than 50 miles north of Pawcatuck, thick stands of oak, hemlock, maple, and pine stretch north and east for 12 square miles from a slim gravel road in Ashford. The 7,840-acre Yale Myers Forest links with numerous private and public forests ranging in size from tiny to vast, forming the typical leafy and serene landscape of Connecticut's "Quiet Corner."

The expanse of trees spilling into Massachusetts from the northern reaches of Tolland and Windham counties might seem to have little in common with the rundown grain storage building. But the old building and the large forest hold potential keys to better forest management as the rate of climate change has accelerated. Four years ago, a report concluded that the key to slowing the rate of carbon dioxide parts per million in the atmosphere lies in growing trees sustainably and using more local wood products. If that's true, then both the old Campbell Grain building and the nearby Yale Myers Forest could be integral to shrinking the state's carbon footprint.

. . .

A West Haven–based nonprofit worker cooperative is hoping this fall to begin training a team of military veterans in deconstruction techniques using the grain storage building as its initial project. An estimated 200,000 square feet to 500,000 square feet of wood in the building—from staircases to floor planks to framing—will be dismantled and "repurposed"—made into other products. At the Yale Myers Forest, graduate forestry students are writing forest management

BIOFUELS SUCH AS ORGANIC WASTE, WOOD RESIDUES AND AGRICULTURAL FIBER ARE CONSIDERED CARBON NEUTRAL AND ARE NOT COUNTED IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CALCULATIONS.

—"Tackle Climate Change—Use Wood" report

plans for nearby private forest landowners. The plans aim to encourage more sustainable forestry that in turn will mean increased carbon sequestration.

Connecticut's carbon footprint can shrink through these two techniques, deconstruction and sustainable forest management, according to Thomas Worthley, an assistant extension professor at the University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension who has studied and taught forestry for many years. "Trees harvested and manufactured into durable goods double the sequestration time of carbon," Mr. Worthley says. But he and other foresters believe that without new public policies and economic incentives, putting such knowledge into widespread practice will take time, even though some promising efforts are under way or planned.

"We've had tax incentives to keep forest land forested. But forest management is more or less voluntary." It is up to the private citizens who own most of the state's forests. Connecticut's land was open farmland a few hundred years ago. When many farms stopped operating, the land reverted to its natural state. When that happened, the trees all grew, more or less, at the same time. "What we have now (in forest land) is like an unweeded garden," Mr. Worthley says. "It just grew up."

The 2009 report called "Tackle Climate Change—Use Wood" was a project of the British Columbia (Canada) Forestry Climate Change Working Group and the California Forestry Association. The report urged three actions:

- ▶ Increase sustainable forestry practices
- ▶ Recycle and "repurpose" older wood products
- ▶ Burn "woody biomass" for heating

Many Connecticut residents consider themselves green thinkers, but they retain an inaccurate equation in their heads: that logging equals bad practice. Not so. "People drive by a logging site and think, 'Oh, how terrible,'" said Rob Viani of Pomfret, who is president of the Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association and the Wolf Den Land Trust. "But if they drive by again the following spring, they'd see all kinds of new growth."

Campaigns that spread the word about the ecological devastation of deforestation hit a nerve or hit too many nerves. North America is not losing too many trees. Housing and commercial developers have cut down some forests, but, over time, other forests have sprouted on former agricultural land. Foresters say that the healthiest forests, those that sequester the greatest amount of carbon from trees growing most robustly, are those that are sustainably managed.

Sustainable management includes selective harvesting of older trees, using those harvested trees for local building products, and aiming for a diverse forest in age of trees and types of habitat provided.

More Forests, But How to Manage?

About 58 percent of Connecticut is considered forest. That percentage has shrunk during the past two decades, but recent land conservation efforts have held it steady. Alex Barrett, forest manager for Yale school forests, said Connecticut has one of the highest densities of land trusts in the nation. "We've done a very good job of conserving the land," he said.

Once a forest is conserved, however, too often landowners consider their job done. An even-aged forest does not present a diversity of habitats and, as trees age and weaken, cannot present a strong defense against the more frequent, more severe storms the state has experienced in recent years. A more uniform forest also is less resilient to pest infestations and can't sequester carbon to its full potential, foresters say.

A sustainably harvested or thinned forest will produce more brushy growth and young forest that grows more quickly. Such a forest can hold in more carbon. This younger growth has other ecological benefits, such as serving as "rabbitat" for the dwindling numbers of New England cottontails, Mr. Barrett said. Making flooring, cabinetry, and pine siding out of older local trees sequesters more carbon because it prevents those trees from rotting in the forest and releasing CO_2 that way.

But to manage and make products out of local forests, the forest owners must know about those practices. "How do you get people to manage their forests? That is really the $64,000 question," Mr. Barrett said. The challenge is especially great in Connecticut, where an estimated 80 percent of the forestland is privately owned.

One project aimed at encouraging better forest management is the Quiet Corner Initiative now in its third year in the northeastern part of the state. Students at Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies are working to build a strong network of private forestland owners. The main outcome: student-written forest management plans for privately owned forestland.

"We've written two groups of plans so far," Mr. Barrett said. "A long-term goal is to both write the plans and revisit them." This would allow for follow-up measurement of management plan effectiveness.

USING LUMBER AND WOOD FURNITURE STORES CARBON—THOSE ITEMS ARE ABOUT HALF CARBON BY WEIGHT.

—"Tackle Climate Change—Use Wood" report.

Private School Burns Biomass for Heat

The Hotchkiss School, an independent boarding secondary school in the Litchfield County hills, has a goal to make its 827-acre campus carbon neutral within seven years. The school took a leap toward the goal when it completed a 16,500-square-foot biomass heating facility in the summer of 2011.

Instead of burning some 375,000 gallons of heating oil annually, the facility's heating plant burns wood chips from forests that ar e both local and sustainably managed. The estimated two barrels of ash waste produced weekly by the facility is used to help fertilize the Hotchkiss Farm. Josh Hahn, assistant head of school and director of environmental initiatives, said the school supports local timber companies and the cost of wood chips is equivalent to spending 55 cents a gallon on oil. The biomass plant saved them $800,000 in heating costs, Mr. Hahn said. Although the price of heating oil is difficult to predict, given current prices, the $14 million biomass facility could pay for itself in five to seven years while also reducing the campus' carbon footprint nearly in half.

Older wood stoves release too many particulates, but newer stoves meet revised federal standards. Wood pellets burn hottly, quickly, and more cleanly than logs. Biomass is a green project that also has economic benefits. That fact motivates consumers to switch to biomass stoves, foresters believe. "With the unpredictability of oil prices, it just really makes sense," Mr. Hahn said.

From Old Timbers to New Furniture

Christopher Duffy points a flashlight beam toward the century-old planks in a dank-smelling, cavernous room inside the Campbell Grain building. He envisions the chestnut timbers illuminated by his flashlight repurposed as new floors or furniture. The once-prolific hardwood commonly used by local carpenters and cabinetmakers in the early 1900s is now relatively rare because blight decimated the chestnut population a century ago.

Mr. Duffy oversees a workforce training cooperative called Union Rangers, which focuses on hiring military veterans. The planned Campbell Grain building deconstruction is another example of a project that would produce both economic and environmental benefits. Planned deconstruction of old buildings yields wood products that will continue to sequester carbon as their useful life is extended as new flooring, siding, furniture, or mulch. The old wood also can be repurposed as carbon neutral wood chip fuel. Recycling the wood also prevents demolition debris from ending up in already clogged landfills. As for economic benefits, such projects will create jobs, in this case primarily for underemployed veterans, and provide municipalities and landowners with new opportunities for economic development on formerly blighted sites.

Mr. Duffy and Mark G. Roberts from Nightingale Cooperative, a New London-based worker-owned green industry cooperative, praised state officials responsible for making Connecticut the first state to formally recognize deconstruction as an official trade. They hope 15 workers will be trained on the site as the building is deconstructed. Mr. Duffy and Mr. Roberts are hoping to begin work this fall, although the project hinges on a state grant that has not been officially awarded.

"Wood is a fun product to work with. It can be put to work in so many ways," Mr. Duffy said. "We'll take the wood out of the building. We'll create jobs. People will use the repurposed wood. I'm excited about it."

Gail Braccidiferro MacDonald, a longtime reporter from Pawcatuck, teaches journalism at the University of Connecticut.

HOW TO USE FORESTS IN AN AGE OF ACCELERATED CLIMATE CHANGE

Given the contention that sustainable and local wood products are keys to dealing with climate change, forest experts say Connecticut lawmakers should

► Teach consumers that buying local wood is as important as eating local food.

► Offer economic incentives to sustainable forest management

► Establish an undergraduate forestry degree at a Connecticut college or university.

► Increase the number of public foresters in the state. Each of the state's eight counties had field foresters at one time. Today, just three field foresters cover the entire state.

► Encourage public procurement of wood in public buildings—such as biomass to heat prisons or universities and Connecticut timber to furnish public buildings being renovated, for just two examples.

► Make it easier for people to buy Connecticut wood so that local timber producers don't resort to shipping it overseas.

► Lure more people to go on educational forest walks and to attend lectures and workshops the land trusts and forest groups (such as the Connecticut Forest & Park Association) offer.

► Connect local timber producers with such groups as the Connecticut Homebuilders Association to use more local wood products in buildings.

These suggestions were derived from conversations with Alex Barrett, forest manager, Yale School Forests; Katherine Blake, partnership coordinator, MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership; Steve Broderick, forester, CFPA, and program director, Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center; Chris Martin, director of forestry, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Joan Nichols, president, Connecticut Timber Producers Association; Ken Sigfridson, owner, Sigfridson Wood Products, Brooklyn; Rob Viani, president, Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association and Wolf Den Land Trust; Thomas Worthley, assistant extension professor, University of Connecticut Middlesex County Extension Center.

Christmas tree farm, Suffield, Connecticut.

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CONNECTICUT-GROWN CHRISTMAS TREES

BY JEAN CRUM JONES

The first recorded observation of a decorated Christmas tree in America was in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, in 1777. This seems incongruous because the predominant Puritan religion actively discouraged the celebration of Christmas. Legend has it, though, that a German Hessian prisoner of war named Hendrick Roddemore (who had been captured at the Battle of Bennington that August) was working as a farmhand for Samuel Denslow in Windsor Locks. He cut a small tree and decorated it. A commemorative stone marks the location of his cabin at Noden-Reed Park in Windsor Locks.

Throughout the Americas in the early 1800s, as Germans settled into East Coast communities, their neighbors from Britain noticed their quaint Christmas tradition of "dressing a German tree" with gingerbread wafers. The publication of a sketch of Queen Victoria and her family celebrating Christmas around a bright, candle-lit, festively decorated evergreen tree in *Godey's Lady Book* magazine in 1850, however, created a huge stir and started the winds of change. Within a few years, fashionable Americans began gracing their homes with decorated trees for the Christmas holidays. Availability of beautiful shimmering glass ornaments at F. W. Woolworth's and other department stores after 1880 accelerated the desire for a holiday tree. By 1900, one in five American households were setting up Christmas trees.

Cutting Down a Red Cedar

Rural residents could easily find a native grown tree in their back woodlots. For our Jones family ancestors, it was usually a red cedar tree. City folks relied on entrepreneurs who went out into forests and cut down wildlings. What quickly distinguished the American style of Christmas trees from their European counterparts was the size of the tree. Americans favored trees that reached from floor to ceiling. European trees sat on tabletops.

As the Christmas tree craze spread through the last half of the 19th century, entrepreneurs searched farther from cities and became more ruthless to meet the growing demand for tees. They showed little regard for replanting or forest conservation. The fuel, lumber, and paper industries put an even heavier toll on the land. One-half of the original timber stands in the United States were depleted by 1900. President Theodore Roosevelt, who took office the next year, banned Christmas trees in the White House. (His sons, Archie and Quentin, cut a tree from the White House grounds and hid it in a closet!)

Mr. Roosevelt's head of the new Bureau of Forestry was Gifford Pinchot (who became the chief forester). Mr. Pinchot knew that forests can replenish themselves if seed trees are left standing. He suggested that Christmas trees could be gathered sustainably. He had started to promote the practice of scientific forestry as he had seen in Europe, where the forests were well tended and still able to produce materials people needed.

New Methods of Cultivation

By the 1920s, most Americans were putting up Christmas trees in their homes. Most were still being cut from naturally reseeded forests or from abandoned farms and pastures and then transported by rail or water to market. A few pioneers began to consider the idea of Christmas tree farming. Several of the initial effective efforts were in Pennsylvania. The Christmas tree entrepreneurs learned that naturally reseeded wild trees did not grow into quality Christmas trees, even when shaped. Andrew Abraczinskas, an immigrant from Lithuania, became in-

terested in lumber and Christmas trees. The family had settled in the anthracite coal region where Scotch pine was being planted to transform the ugly scars from mining into green ridges. He noted that the trees stolen for Christmas trees were the slower-growing, dense trees. The idea of seriously planting and culturing trees for Christmas use was born. In the 1920s, Mr. Abraczinskas began a Scotch pine plantation on his farm and then developed a technique for shearing the trees that attracted the attention of university foresters and other tree growers. Today, most of the Christmas trees grown in North America are pruned into this conical shape, like an ice cream cone upside down.

Another pioneer, Fred Musser, of Indiana, Pennsylvania, rapidly expanded the market for planted Christmas trees by promoting good green color and long-lasting needle retention. He produced his own seedlings in a nursery, which he expanded for other growers. He became a major supplier in the Northeast.

Another important pioneer in Christmas tree farming was President Franklin D. Roosevelt who, as a teenager, had studied forest practices in Germany. FDR planted his first plantation of Christmas trees (Norway spruce) in 1926. They were harvested from 1936 to 1940 and sold to a chain store food company. His plan after retiring from the presidency was to return to Hyde Park to further pursue the occupation of Christmas tree farming.

By the early 1950s, more than 30 million Christmas trees were being grown in the United States and Canada. My father-in-law, Philip H. Jones Jr., was inspired in the 1930s to plant trees. He was a teenager. The United States was still recovering from the Dust Bowl years, and as part of a 4-H project, he began planting evergreens around the boundaries of the family's dairy farm in Shelton. He enjoyed working with trees, so he decided he wanted to grow trees to have a sawmill and shingle mill. Philip went to the Bartlett Tree School, and after the hurricane of 1938, he spent two years clearing up tree debris on Long Island and around New Haven. During World War II, he was required to stay on the farm to produce food for the war effort. He continued to plant pines and spruce on the rocky soil patches of the farm. After the war, Philip began his shingle business, which did well as the Cape Cod house suburban movement spread through Fairfield County. As there was a shortage of Christmas trees, the new suburban neighbors asked if they could come to the farm and cut down a tree. In 1947, he sold about 15 Christmas trees, and a new business idea germinated. While still running the family's dairy business, he began planting Christmas tree varieties.

Cows Sold, Christmas Trees Thrive

In 1966, my family sold its cows while our cut-your-own Christmas business prospered. Now almost 95 years old, Philip has the pleasure of watching his family tend 200 acres of Christmas trees and seeing the third generation of many original customers still come to the farm each year to harvest the family's Christmas tree.

As one of the pioneer Christmas tree farmers in the state, Philip collaborated with other innovative growers, to establish the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association. Floyd Callwald, extension forester at the University of Connecticut (later president of Connecticut Forest & Park Association from 1967 to 1975), had been urging the growers to form an association in the late 1950s to share Christmas tree research and to furnish information on the production and marketing of Christmas trees. However, it took a crisis to galvanize the early growers. In early December 1959, the state's fire marshal ruled that all places of public assembly should not use a Christmas tree because of fire danger. The well-publicized order and aggressive enforcement had the effect of alarming the state's citizens about Christmas tree fires. In actuality, the Christmas tree retailers that season got "burned." The tragic fire at the Niles Street Convalescent Hospital in Hartford, where 21 patients died on Christmas Eve of 1945, was often cited as evidence that Christmas trees were dangerous. (Analysis of the tragedy revealed multiple problems, only one being the extremely dry Christmas tree.)

In 1960, a dozen Christmas tree growers met with the state fire marshal and deputies. They worked out a kindlier set of rules. Artificial lights were banned from public display trees, and freshly cut Connecticut trees in a container of water would be used. Archibald Hurford, executive secretary of CFPA from 1952 to 1963, facilitated the meeting. In June 1960, the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association incorporated with 149 charter members.

Growing and selling quality Christmas trees is a never-ending quest. Former CFPA Executive Director John Hibbard helped the fledgling organization starting in 1963 by serving on the publicity and nominating committees for several years. Tree farms in Connecticut combine Christmas tree growing along with woodlands management. Christmas tree farms have been sites for CFPA field meetings.

Fewer Christmas Tree Farms

Around the year 2000, Connecticut had about 500 tree farms and 5,000 acres devoted to Christmas tree production. Today fewer than 4,000 acres grow these trees, and the number of farms has declined to about 400.

The Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association is concerned about this downward trend and has begun to offer workshops for beginning Christmas tree growers. Consider the benefits of Christmas tree farming for Connecticut's environment. Growing trees can help mitigate climate change. Real trees are rooted in the soil that is not tilled, so they are able to sequester carbon. Only 10 percent of a farm's Christmas trees are cut a year, so the air cleaning process of absorption is constant. Christmas tree farmers replant immediately, often at the ratio of two trees for every one tree removed. Christmas tree farms preserve open spaces because they are generally grown on marginal soils not suitable for other profitable agricultural uses.

And as I can readily attest, tree farms are homes for many species of birds and other wildlife as well as habitat for native vegetation and bees. Local Christmas trees are the best environmental and economic choice for communities, environmental groups now are saying. Some community-supported-agriculture farms include Christmas trees as part of a special holiday winter pickup. Year-round farmers' markets are encouraging the participation of local Christmas tree growers. Christmas tree farms have been a beneficial component of Connecticut's landscape, health, and economy as well as being places of many happy family memories.

Jean Crum Jones works with her family running the Jones Family Farms and Jones Winery in Shelton. She is a registered dietician.

CONNECTICUT FOREST & PARK ASSOCIATION HISTORIC MILESTONES

1895 Connecticut Forestry Association founded in the Weatogue section of Simsbury, Connecticut, on December 30, 1895, at the residence of Reverend Horace Winslow.

1901 Facilitated establishment of the first state forester position in the nation.

1901 Initiated a state forest acquisition policy, making Connecticut the first state in the nation able to acquire land for state forests.

1903 Encouraged the acquisition of the Portland (now Meshomasic) State Forest, the first state forest in New England.

1905 Secured enactment of the Connecticut Forest Fire Law, the first such law in New England.

1913 Secured enactment of the 10-Mill Law, the first reducing taxation on land committed to forestry.

1920 Envisioned, acquired, and donated Peoples State Forest to the state of Connecticut.

1921 Secured enactment of a bill authorizing state purchase of the first 100,000 acres of forest.

1923 Secured enactment of a bill requiring spark arrestors on railroad locomotives.

1928 Became incorporated as Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

1929 Established the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System. The Quinnipiac Trail was the first.

1930 Established the prototype for the Civilian Conservation Corps at Peoples State Forest.

1936 Published the first issue of Connecticut Woodlands magazine.

1937 Published the first volume of the *Connecticut Walk Book*.

1963 Secured enactment of Public Act 490, the first law in the nation to allow forests, farms, and open space to be taxed based upon use rather than development value.

1971 Secured enactment of the Landowner Liability Law to protect landowners hosting trails.

1986 Established the James L. Goodwin Forest & Park Center in Middlefield.

1986 Coordinated Project Learning Tree in Connecticut.

1991 Secured enactment of the Connecticut Forest Practices Act.

1993 Began as Connecticut coordinator of National Trails Day, the American Hiking Society's initiative. Connecticut Trails Day features more hikes than any other state.

2002 Secured enactment of the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act of 2002, directing the National Park Service to study the feasibility of making these trails a National Scenic Trail.

2009 The federal government designated the 220-mile-long MMM Trail in Connecticut and Massachusetts as a National Scenic Trail, called the New England Trail.

2011 Led efforts to amend the state Landowner Liability Law to restore liability protection to municipalities on recreational lands.

CFPA CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

CONSERVATION ADVOCACY

Every year since 1897, CFPA has provided legislators with an Agenda for Connecticut's Land and People. CFPA's advocacy priorities have included securing adequate resources for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to manage state parks and forests; support the preservation of working forests and agricultural lands; and lead efforts to secure National Scenic Trail designation and ongoing support for the New England Trail.

BLUE-BLAZED HIKING TRAILS

The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System, established in 1929, is one of CFPA's most visible and lasting contributions to recreation. The Blue Trails total more than 825 miles in 88 towns. The infrastructure for managing this massive area consists of CFPA's trail stewardship director, the CFPA Trails Committee, and more than 100 volunteer trail managers who through work parties and ongoing maintenance activities donate more than 15,000 hours of volunteer time each year.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Three elements make up CFPA's Environmental Education program: (1) CFPA co-sponsors the nationally acclaimed Project Learning Tree (PLT) Program and offers hands-on professional development workshops for teachers and non-formal educators on forests and related natural resources topics; (2) The James L. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton features native plant wildlife gardens, an 80-acre demonstration forest, a museum, hiking trails, and a classroom to provide forestry, wildlife, and general conservation education programs for youth and adults; and (3) CFPA has long been known for its conservation-themed publications such as Connecticut Woodlands (published since 1936), the *Connecticut Walk Book*s (published since 1937), and *Forest Trees of Connecticut* (recently republished in 2012).

LAND CONSERVATION

Over the past 100 years, CFPA has been instrumental in the acquisition of more than 100 state parks and forests for public use and enjoyment. CFPA owns properties or holds conservation restrictions on approximately 2,000 acres. The conservation priorities for the program are in lands associated with working forests and/or hiking trails.

WalkCT

Describing 130 walks and growing, CFPA's WalkCT.org website provides information on places to walk throughout Connecticut. CFPA sponsors free WalkCT Family Rambles. Volunteer leaders are trained to connect families to the outdoors with fun, engaging, family-friendly walks every month of the year.

Visit ctwoodlands.org for more information on CFPA programs and activities.

MEET THE CFPA BOARD MEMBERS

CONNECTICUT FOREST & PARK ASSOCIATION'S volunteer Board of Directors members are the guardians of CFPA's conservation mission and leading ambassadors for CFPA in the community. In June, CFPA welcomed three new talented board members to its ranks and said farewell to a wonderful veteran of its board who, fortunately, will continue to contribute to Connecticut Woodlands magazine and be a dedicated friend.

THOMAS DEGNAN graduated from University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a bachelor of science in Forest Management in 1991. Tom worked as a private consulting forester and arborist in Connecticut and Massachusetts for 15 years, serving municipalities, conservation groups, fish and game clubs, and private landowners. He has also served as auditor and certification forester for Smartwood, working with forestry and lumber companies throughout the Northeast. Since 2006, Tom has been with Burns & McDonnell, an engineering, environmental, and construction management firm in Wallingford as a senior environmental scientist. Tom also serves as the tree warden in Old Lyme, where for eight years he chaired the Inland Wetlands Commission. Tom also serves on the Board of Managers for Connwood Foresters, Inc.

MIRANDA MICHIYO LINSKY has been the coordinator of WesCFPA, CFPA's affinity group at Wesleyan University, for the past two years. She expects to graduate in 2014 as an East Asian studies major with a concentration in language, literature, and film. She coordinates the Outreach Program at the East Asian Center and works at the Center for the Arts. She plays on the Varsity Squash Team and in her free time likes to take photographs. She was born and raised in Hawaii and has also spent time in Taiwan.

JEFF LOUREIRO is president and CEO of Loureiro Engineering Associates Inc., a group of engineering, construction, waste management and property development companies headquartered in Plainville. In this role, Jeff is responsible for leading the development, and implementation of the strategic plan for continued growth and profitability of the business; ensuring an efficient organizational structure; and fostering a culture that reflects Loureiro's core values of integrity, client satisfaction, work environment, quality, safety and health, and sustainability. Jeff earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Northeastern University in 1978, is a licensed professional engineer in Connecticut and is a licensed environmental professional in Connecticut. He currently serves on the Board of Examiners of Environmental Professionals, appointed by then-Governor John Rowland in March 2000, and is currently chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Wheeler Clinic having served on the board for more than 10 years. Jeff lives in Canton with his wife, Sheryl, and their four children.

JEAN CRUM JONES is retiring from CFPA's board after serving with distinction since 1998. Her passion has been supporting the education mission of CFPA. Jean manages, with her family, Jones Family Farms, a seven-generation hospitality farm in Shelton. More than 200 acres of the farm are devoted to Christmas trees and woods. Jean earned a master's degree in public health from Yale University and a bachelor of science from the University of New Hampshire. She is a registered dietitian and operates the farm's Harvest Kitchen cooking studio, where guests learn healthy approaches to eating. She will continue her column, "From the Land," in Connecticut Woodlands magazine. Jean recently was appointed an honorary director of CFPA.

THE SAUGATUCK TRAIL

Enjoy pristine woods, water views, and wildlife in Centennial Watershed State Forest

BY DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

On a warm day in late July, it was a good thing I had chosen a relatively short hike. My friend Donna Potwin and I set off at 10 a.m. on a stretch of the Saugatuck Trail in Weston. We finished the 4.8-mile roundtrip four hours later. No, the hike wasn't hard; it was easy to moderate in difficulty. We simply enjoyed savoring the pristine woodlands in Centennial Watershed State Forest, home to the Saugatuck Trail. The trail parallels the southern, western, and northern shorelines of the Saugatuck Reservoir in Redding and Weston.

As trained master wildlife conservationists, Donna and I both see the woods as a place to hike and as a habitat where every rock, log, and stream might reveal a critter or two. We felt like two kids at a candy counter pointing at all the "goodies" we found: Three green frogs plopped into brooks at the sound of our approach and peered up at us through the water. A chipmunk kept popping in and out from behind a log, as if torn between caution and curiosity. Wood peewees, vireos, and great crested flycatchers

A hiker navigates the beautiful fern ground on the Saugatuck Trail.
DIANE FRIEND EDWARDS

sang out (Donna was the one with the birding ear). A woodpecker tap-tap-tapped into a tree. A robin flitted among the branches. Two swallowtail butterflies skittered along the muddy shore of the reservoir before wafting away. A red-tailed hawk flapped across the water, then soared off over the forest.

The flora—including triple-trunked trees, lush ferns, velvety moss, and many mushrooms—also kept our rapt attention.

The Hike

We hiked enough uphills and downhills to provide a mild workout that wasn't too taxing on a humid day. We hiked in the summer, but in fall the trail should be especially pretty because the maples, oaks, birches, beeches, shagbark hickories, and sassafras are turning color. If you hike there after the foliage has fallen, you'll have wonderful views of the reservoir. Even in midsummer, we enjoyed one good view and several others partially obscured by leaves.

The blue-blazed Saugatuck Trail is 6.9 miles long, from Redding in the north to Weston in the south. Ten parking areas spaced out along the trail give you many options. To hike the whole trail, you would no doubt want to spot a car at each end. Donna and I didn't want to do that, though, because we live near each other, about an hour's drive from the hike. So we took one car to the southernmost parking lot, on Davis Hill Road in Weston, hiked 2.4 miles up the trail, and then turned around.

Along the way, we walked over footbridges or stepped on rocks to cross small streams or wetlands. We passed through openings in stone walls, musing about the backbreaking work it must have taken to build them. After crossing Godfrey Road, we saw a steep, boulder-strewn hillside directly ahead of us. Fortunately, the trail veered left, taking a roundabout route to the top of the hill.

At Valley Forge Road, we followed the blue blazes to the right, walking along the road a short distance, then back into the woods. Right after that, the trail traversed a shallow stream a few dozen feet from where it trickled into the reservoir. We sat on rocks there to enjoy our lunch and the great view of the water.

We continued past a rock promontory that in late fall should offer a fabulous view of the reservoir and the surrounding forest. When we reached a blue-blazed spur trail at the 2.4-mile mark, we turned back and retraced our steps to the car.

Directions to Davis Hill Road Parking Area

From the intersection of Routes 57 and 53 in Weston, drive north on Route 53 for 3.5 miles. Turn right onto Valley Forge Road. Go 1.8 miles, then turn right onto Davis Hill Road. The trailhead and parking are about 500 feet up the road, on the right.

For other trailhead parking areas, see the *Connecticut Walk Book West* or the trail maps.

Diane Friend Edwards is a writer, photographer, and lifelong lover of the outdoors. She lives in Harwinton with her husband, Paul.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE HIKING THE SAUGATUCK TRAIL

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association Trails Committee adopted the Saugatuck Trail as a Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail in 2005. Nearly the entire trail lies within Centennial Watershed State Forest, Connecticut's newest state forest. Centennial resulted from a partnership formed in 2002 among the state Department of Environmental Protection (now Energy and Environmental Protection), the Kelda Group and its Aquarion and Bridgeport Hydraulic Company subsidiaries, and The Nature Conservancy to preserve more than 15,000 acres of water utility land as open space. The watershed protects the water quality of the Saugatuck, Far Mill, and West Pequonnock reservoirs, which supply drinking water to Greater Bridgeport.

To keep the area waters pristine, you should know some important requirements before heading off on this hike. Among other requirements:

- You must carry a trail-use permit. A trail map serves as the permit. The map is available in the *Connecticut Walk Book West* (Connecticut Forest & Park Association) or as a free download from the Aquarion Web site (aquarion.com; click on "Connecticut," "Recreation," and then on "Trail Use") or the Connecticut DEEP Web site (ct.gov/deep; click on "Outdoor Recreation," and then on "Maps, state park and forest recreational areas, hiking and camping maps.")
- Pets and horses are prohibited.
- Bow hunting is permitted in the forest surrounding the Saugatuck Trail from September 16 through December 31, 2013. If you hike during that time, wear blaze orange or hike on a Sunday, when hunting is banned.
- A small section near the northern end of the trail is closed February through July to protect nesting goshawks.

CHRIS DONNELLY

Steve Hladun, the Bridgeport parks department's special projects coordinator, inspects the baffling vandalism done to several London plane trees along the walkway at St. Mary's by the Sea.

THE BRIDGEPORT CHAIN SAW MASSACRE

Vicious attack, motivations unclear. An urban forester assesses the evidence

BY CHRIS DONNELLY

It was a dark and stormy night. So begins a rather sad story of tree vandalism in Bridgeport that is also a story of tree resilience, people stepping forward to help trees, and, ultimately, survival as a natural force. But, we need to start at the beginning.

On March 13, 2010, a severe wind and rainstorm hit southwestern Connecticut, Westchester County, and Staten Island. In lower Fairfield County, many trees fell. The damage was significant and extensive. Cleanup went on for days.

During the cleanup operations, the tree crew from the City of Bridgeport worked its way through the Black Rock section of the city, adjacent to Fairfield. St. Mary's by the Sea is in Black Rock. St. Mary's, as most people know it, is a beautiful sidewalk along a seawall that runs from Ash Creek to Black Rock Harbor. It is a distance of about six-tenths of a mile, often full of walkers, joggers, people fishing, or others just sitting and enjoying the scenery, especially in the summertime, when most of the walk is shaded by several mature London planetrees.

ANYONE WHO KNOWS A LITTLE BIT ABOUT TREES KNOWS THAT GIRDLING A TREE IN THIS MANNER OFTEN SPELLS THE DEATH OF THAT TREE. KILLING THESE TREES WAS APPARENTLY THE INTENT OF THE PERSON WHO DID THIS.

During the cleanup, as the crew members moved along the roadway adjacent to the sidewalk, they came across one recently planted London planetree that had snapped off during the storm. What caught their attention, however, was that the storm alone was not responsible for this tree's failure. They were astonished to see that this tree, and 14 others along the walkway, had been cut partly through by a chain saw. Someone had run a chain saw completely around the trunks of these trees, about 2½ to 3½ feet off the ground, and an inch or so into the wood of the tree. Anyone who knows a little bit about trees knows that girdling a tree in this manner often spells the death of that tree. Killing these trees was apparently the intent of the person who did this.

Altogether, 15 of the 18 trees on the western half of the walk were attacked. The trees ranged in size from 5 inches in diameter at breast height to 23 inches dbh. Because one of the smaller trees had already snapped, the

CHRIS DONNELLY

Following the attack with the chainsaw, duct tape helped the trees to send up shoots. But it is the growth of new tissue from the inner bark that is saving these trees.

4 remaining smallest, all less than 9 inches in diameter, were removed, leaving 10 damaged trees and 3 undamaged.

No one knows what actually happened, but the likely scenario is fairly bizarre. Neighbors report hearing a chain saw about 11:30 p.m. during the height of the storm, when that section of the city was blacked out. At the time, no one thought much of hearing a chain saw because trees had been coming down all over the place. High tide was at 11 p.m., and peak gusts from the storm were reported in Bridgeport at 60 mph. The scene along the seawall must have been harrowing, with the wind blowing and huge waves crashing over the wall onto the adjacent street, where sand, shells, and seaweed could be seen for all of the following week.

Whoever did this to these trees chose the cover of darkness and of a tremendous storm to undertake this well-planned and deeply malicious attack.

The Response

Word of the damage spread fast. The Black Rock Garden Club began raising money for a reward for finding the perpetrator, and soon had more than a thousand dollars to offer. The mayor, Bill Finch, condemned the vandalism in the strongest possible terms and ordered the police to investigate. Passersby lamented the damage caused, and one local artist wrote poems that were placed on stakes in front of each of the trees. Theories,as to the who, what, and why, abounded. Sadly, during the past three years, no perpetrator has yet been found.

The vandalism also brought forward many tree experts from throughout the state. Scientists, arborists, and foresters all volunteered their time and expertise to help save these trees. The hope was that somehow the trees would be reconnected across the girdle. This would allow the phloem tissue within the inner bark of the trees to rejoin, and each tree to carry sugars from its crown down to the roots, as is essential to keep a tree alive. Several arborists suggested bridge grafts, in which a twig is grafted across the girdled bark, one end below the girdle and one above, providing the lost connection through the twig. Many foresters had themselves girdled undesired trees as part of a timber stand improvement operation and so knew that girdling often does not work. They suggested waiting and allowing nature and the trees to respond.

The decision was left in the hands of Steve Hladun, special projects coordinator for Bridgeport's Department of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Hladun consulted Dick Jaynes, owner of Broken Arrow Nursery, and Jeff Ward, station forester at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Both advised that the damage was too extensive. If the trees were to survive, they had to make it on their own. Mr. Jaynes did suggest putting duct tape over the wounds, as moist air around the cut ends of the bark might encourage callus growth from the bark, and so the trees could then survive by reconnecting themselves—if they could live that long.

The Outcome

I have kept close watch on these trees during the intervening three years. Nine of the 10 trees that were left standing are still surviving. For several, their vigor is surprising and impressive. A quick inspection of those crowns would not indicate at all the severe trauma they suffered. Others are not doing as well. Superstorm Sandy was not nice to these trees, and probably contributed to the death of the one that did not make it.

This story of survival is a powerful story. Trees and people are inextricably linked, especially in cities. Despite the outrageous action of one individual, all but one of these trees are still alive today. They became the focus of a great deal of positive energy and good will, as people became aware of just how important these trees are to them. At the time of the immediate aftermath, appreciation of trees had probably never been higher. People could readily see that we need to have healthy trees if we ourselves are to survive and to live as we want to live.

In the end, however, it was the trees' own life force, the tree's intrinsic ability to overcome, that has allowed the trees to survive. In turn, these trees continue to support the buzz and energy of so much human activity along the St. Mary's by the Sea walkway—which is still one of Bridgeport's most pleasant and active spots.

Chris Donnelly is an urban forester for the state of Connecticut.

A JOHN STEINBECK-LIKE TAKE ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CULTURE

Stumbling Thru: Hike Your Own Hike (Book One)

By A. Digger Stolz. Follyworks Publishing, LLC, 2013

BY ROBERT M. RICARD

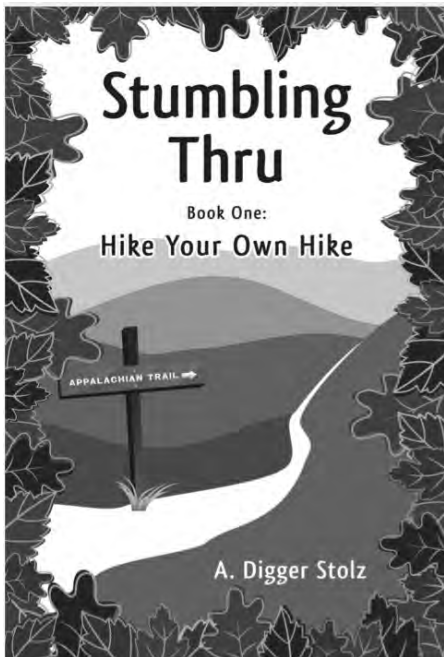
The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (generally known as the Appalachian Trail or AT) seems to be the gold standard of trail systems in the United States. "Thru-hikers"—hikers who make the approximately 2,200 miles from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Katahdin in Maine (or reversed) in a single season—are the trail's rock stars.

Outdoor adventure literature has morphed and blossomed dramatically the past two decades. Most of it is wrapped around survival and survivor narrative, often about search and rescue with many tales of mishaps and body retrievals. The modern outdoor literature is not so much a descendent of Henry David Thoreau and John Muir. It is more akin to James Fenimore Cooper and The Leatherstocking Tales, filled with risk, romance, and rewards.

Digger Stolz's book is different. Very different. This book is more John Steinbeck than Jon Krakauer; more *Cannery Row* than *Into Thin Air*. *Walking the AT* is mostly about endurance and fortitude rather than high risk (some stretches of the AT are dangerous, especially in foul weather); risk does not seem to be a prime thru-hiker motive. Mr. Stolz's book reflects this.

The book is a work of fiction yet often reads like nonfiction. It is also something of a memoir and first-person narrative ("write what you know"). Mr. Stolz deftly tells what it takes to make it on the trail regarding best clothes, best gear, planning, and preparation; something you would find in many AT trail guides and hiking/wilderness manuals. (He should know. He thru-hiked in 1999 and has spent some months on long-distance treks since.) Only about 10 percent of people attempting to thru-hike make it all the way.

The best part are the many stories of what, first, drives a person to thru-hike, and then, what makes a person succeed at it. Mr. Stolz



also is fascinated by the ridiculousness of trail life—and he describes it well. That is the best aspect of his book.

The book's protagonist is Walter. "Nothing. Walter felt nothing," is our introduction to Walter and the book. He is out-of-shape, ill prepared, and not wanting his wife to dump him off at the trail in Georgia. This grabs our attention.

We then follow Walter's hike for a while as Mr. Stolz introduces hiker after hiker (all have some quirk or quirkiness) to us first by means of Walter but for the most part independent of him. We learn of how scary the start of a thru-hike is through Walter's eyes. Walter encounters hiker after hiker and learns their "trail names" mostly, rarely their real names. A second primary character is introduced—"A silky blonde pony-tail bobbed along in her wake"—and we learn more about her ("Flutterby") later ("tanning away her ring finger"). After watching hiker after hiker, Walter is struck by the image of "Romero's old school zombies," and meets a third primary character, Jack—trail name "Bawdy" chosen for him by Walter, now called "Bartleby" (a name Bawdy chose).

By the end of the first third of the 263-page book, we learn why Walter/Bartleby is hiking the trail, and it is an interesting story. But then we lose track of him for a while. Walter resurfaces much later, and he has transformed some after making it that far, suggesting Mr. Stolz is setting the reader up for book number two. We do follow and learn more about Bawdy and Flutterby and a bit about all the other characters Mr. Stolz wishes us to know.

I am not a hiker. I prefer the challenges of rivers and surf. (And deer flies don't snorkel.) So I have not experienced the AT, but I appreciated the rich narrative in *Stumbling Thru*. I enjoyed the many characters (I counted 26, and I am sure I missed a bunch). I did, though, become lost and confused often with so many characters in this menagerie and with real and trail names. I would have preferred that a select few characters were better developed, notably Bartleby, Flutterby, and Bawdy. I wanted to care about them more than I did for Walter.

What I enjoyed most is Mr. Stolz's ability to use multiple senses to help the reader experience the AT. I assume this is because as a thru-hiker, you are mostly alone and so all your senses are more fully engaged. He creates great images with sound: "Walter heard the spring-slap of an outhouse door whinging closed." Who doesn't remember this sound from campgrounds and summer camp? And the visual: "He was spindly thin, grayed over and weatherworn. Like how teak patio furniture gets after being left outside for a few winters."

This is the first book (part one) of what might become (I am unaware of specific future publishing plans) of a series of books. Mr. Stolz's first book is likely to be most enjoyed by hikers who have thru-hiked and who dream of thru-hiking the AT. Some readers may simply enjoy (I did) the Steinbeck nature of the character development. It is certainly a good and fun read for Connecticut's hikers.

Robert M. Ricard is a senior extension educator for the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension.

FINDING INSPIRATION IN A PATIENT NATURALIST'S NEW ENGLAND

In the Company of Light

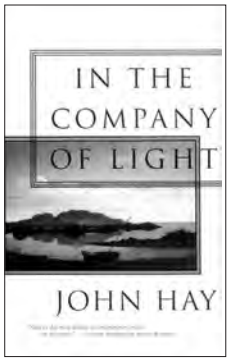
By John Hay. Beacon Press, 1999

BY SCOTT GRAY

The essays in John Hay's *In the Company of Light* were published years ago, and they touch on natural sites in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, but I find many strong connections between Mr. Hay's ideas and the forests, waterways, beaches, and estuaries of Connecticut. We can embrace Mr. Hay's thoughts, images, controversies, and experiences with equal intensity.

Mr. Hay (1915–2011) was one of New England's premier public naturalists and writers and published In the *Company of Light* when he was 83. This became his last released book of essays, followed by *Mind the Gap*, a memoir of his life, released in 2004.

Over a 50-year span, Mr. Hay wrote 18 books, winning the John Burroughs Prize in 1963 for *The Great Beach* (Doubleday, 1963). That collection of essays on Cape Cod is often ranked among classics such as Thoreau's *Cape Cod* (Houghton, Mifflin, 1893) and Henry Beston's *The Outermost House* (Selwyn & Blount, 1928); they all share an ability to capture the essence of the primitive, natural aspects of what was once an undeveloped and wild North Atlantic shoreline.



Mr. Hay co-founded the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in his hometown of Brewster and served as its president for 25 years. Peter Matthiessen and Annie Dillard praised him for this work. Robert Finch noted, "Mr. Hay is an observer of what most of us don't see—he shares well-honed insights from the wisdom of age."

In the *Company of Light* takes the reader from the shores of Cape Cod, to the forests and lakes of New Hampshire, as well as to Downeast Maine, where several essays focus on birds. Mr. Hay observes barn swallows through their annual rituals as they raise their young and follows the life cycles of terns out on the ocean's edge. Describing the swallows nesting in his barn from the essay, "Tern Island":

> I am always surprised, no matter how many times it has been repeated, by the shortness and intensity of a season of nesting birds. Courting, nesting, brooding, and rearing chicks is accomplished with such dispatch, flying through all accidents and disasters. But the swallows' performance during this vital season is never hasty. Theirs is a ceremonial with an earth experience and rhythmic consistency behind it. When the swallows leave, they carry the great principals of space on their wings.

At various locations both along the Maine coast and Cape Cod, Mr. Hay captures the magical essence of patiently following the ebb and flow of tide, the sweep of shorebirds, and the ever-changing sky and seascape. He goes beyond mere observation to fully immerse himself in the richness and vastness of the connection.

Mr. Hay grew up in New York City, the son of an American Museum of Natural History archeologist, spending summers at Lake

Sunapee, New Hampshire. In the essay "The Source of the Brook," Mr. Hay returns to that lake and traces the course of a mountain brook near his grandparents' cottage. Bringing us along from the lake shore through a wooded hillside, Mr. Hay shares his detailed observations of the flora and fauna, historical aspects of the landscape, and his reminiscent thoughts:

> I once peered in at an early age and sensed the magic in that brook, but I was never fully aware of how much promise it carried with it. This time, I remembered my father, a sensitive and generous man, who knew that we can never tell the land what it is meant to contain; you have to wait for it to tell you.

At the source of the stream, he encounters a large tract of land under development. The top of the hill was shaved of its trees, scarred with wide access roads leading to excessively large summer homes under construction. Mr. Hay speaks cautiously of unchecked development and growth, of the disregard for and uprooting of local people, animals and places. He believes we humans are at our best when connected to nature on an intimate and daily basis, allowing that these connections affect our lives in ways we can't quite understand or explain.

Within *In the Company of Light*, other essays touch upon such topics as bioluminescence found both on land and in water, intimate tree and fungal relationships, stargazing experiences, the work of beavers, and migrating birds and fish. A theme threaded throughout examines how human population affects our ever-changing landscape.

But Mr. Hay always seems to be drawn back to the ocean. He accurately evokes that atavistic stir we all feel, but can't always describe, when we sit and quietly contemplate life at the edge of the sea. Mr. Hay succeeds where we often stumble.

Scott Gray calls home a snug log cabin overlooking Spring Lake in Wallingford. He and his wife are retired and volunteer as trail managers for the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and stewards of Wallingford's Tyler Mill Conservation property.

RARE BOOK ON CONNECTICUT'S GEOLOGICAL MARVELS

Trap Rock Ridges of Connecticut: Natural History & Land Use

By Penelope C. Sharp with Ralph S. Lewis, David L. Wagner, and Cara Lee. Connecticut College Arboretum and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, 2013

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

The trap rock ridges of Connecticut represent a string of small hills stretching from the coast of Long Island Sound to the state's northern border. Each hill is a freestanding hump (to put it unscientifically), with a west-facing cliff and a very gradual incline facing east. Because the trap rock ridges rise less than 1,000 feet above sea level and overlook interstate highways and cities, many people don't notice them. The authors of a new bulletin, *Trap Rock Ridges of Connecticut,* contend that these ridges, which harbor threatened animals and plants, remain vastly undervalued as habitat in southern New England.

Most of the ridges remain in private hands. Development threatens from all sides. Quarries still remove 7,000 metric tons of stone, crushing it for mostly local roadbeds and foundations. But more than a hundred miles of hiking trails allow access to these beautiful hills, which provide long views and a refuge from the nearby road noise. During the past decade and a half, some of the ridge town officials have passed zoning rules that forbid certain actions or building on the ridges. A Connecticut state law gives further protection.

This research bulletin, which languished in state offices for a decade until the Connecticut College Arboretum got involved, joins important work environmental manager Cara Lee compiled in *West Rock to the Barndoor Hills* (State of Connecticut, 1985) with summaries for the layperson of pertinent data gleaned from wider-range taxonomic surveys. Penelope C. Sharp, a private natural resources consultant, wrote most of the 57-page volume. Former Connecticut State Geologist Ralph S. Lewis explains the violent past of glaciers and volcanic activity that pushed the hills into position. The section on insects is by David L. Wagner, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Connecticut. Their collaboration begs the question: Shouldn't scientists spend more time on these amazing, if small, natural communities? The trap rock ridges so far have inspired few separate scientific studies, but this book could push others to do more.

The ridges are nothing short of incredible. They line the state's Central Valley. About 250 million years ago, continental rifting (tearing apart) that followed continental collisions of earlier epochs caused blocks of rock to drop lower than surrounding regions, creating some of the trap rock hills. Other ridges formed from lava flows, which created layers of rock, which then tilted to the side when other rocks crashed into the layers. Later, glacial ice smoothed the surfaces of the trap rock ridges and left behind sediments, or till. Connecticut highways offer the amazing sights of these tilted layers and the steep cliffs overlooking flat valleys. It's a wonder people can stay on the road. As Mr. Lewis explains, the ridges' asymmetrical shapes, the steep slopes with loose talus (rock debris) below, and the sediments on top create unique natural communities. The rock itself, he adds, is high in iron, which makes the soils in this region basic (with a high pH). The rock also is very high in minerals. Ms. Sharp notes that most of the endangered, threatened, or "species of special concern" plants and animals in Connecticut are those living on the edges of their normal ranges. Northern species at this southern end of their ranges rely on the trap rock ridges because the ridges provide colder climates beneath the cliffs. Warmer species find refuge in the ridges, too, because as a whole, these massifs hold heat. The two microclimates on the ridges, plus the high-pH limestone soils, increase species diversity.

Therefore, the gentler eastern slopes provide moist forestland, where sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) and spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) thrive. In the cracks of the steep western cliffs, Canada (red) columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), lives. On the west-facing talus slopes, so-called because blocks of basalt shade the soil, northern

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KATHARINE TRUMAN SMITH COLEY

Katharine Truman Smith Coley, 89, who was known as Kätchen, died on August 19, 2013 of pancreatic cancer at her home in Middletown. She had lived in Middleteown since 1955. Mrs. Coley was an ardent conservationist and environmental activist. She worked with many Connecticut organizations, including the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, as an environmental advocate, and she participated in efforts to preserve large swaths of open space in Middletown and elsewhere. She, along with others, spearheaded the preservation of the Wadsworth Mansion at Long Hill Estate, a Middletown landmark, and served on its Parkland Committee. She had an active role as conservation chair of the Middletown Garden Club, and she served on the Middletown Conservation Commission, and the Steering Committee of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.

Mrs. Coley was the co-founder, in 1972, of The Connection, one of Connecticut's most successful social-service agencies, and the former wife of William Coley, Wesleyan University professor emeritus in English.

She was born on May 15, 1924, in New York, the daughter of U.S. Army Col. Truman Smith and Katharine Alling Hollister Smith. Her mother had returned to the United States from Germany after her father's first posting there. She attended U.S Army public schools, German and Swiss schools, the Master's School in Dobbs Ferry, New York, and Smith College, from which she graduated in 1944. Mrs. Coley's early career was as a reporter and columnist for the Washington Times-Herald. She then moved to New York in public relations at the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), where she was instrumental in starting the UNICEF Christmas cards and the fundraising boxes known as Trick or Treat for UNICEF.

While her daughters were still young, in 1963, she received a master of arts degree in psychology from Wesleyan for her research on Navajo tribal government. She then taught anthropology at Middlesex Community College.

Mrs. Coley begin volunteering at Connecticut Valley Hospital, where her experiencs with young heroin addicts would lead to the founding of The Connection, in 1972, with late friend Nancy Flanner. A small initial program of counseling and support has become a statewide, multi-million dollar social service agency, on whose board Coley remained for 41 years. Coley's outgoing nature, instinctive generosity and leadership also led her to begin, with other parents, the Independent Day School in Middlefield.

Mrs. Coley was the mother of Phyllis (Lissy) Dewing Coley (who is a professor of biology at the University of Utah) and Katharine "Kitty" Lancaster Coley, a geologist and naturalist in Austin Texas.

Her daughters have established two memorial funds: the Kätchen Coley Conservation Fund, for the preservation and enhancement of open space in Middletown and adjacent towns—please make checks payable to CFMC-Katchen Coley Conservation Fund, Community Foundation of Middlesex County, 211 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457. And in tribute to her work with The Connection, the Kätchen Coley Society has been established to give successful participants a hand up—write The Connection Fund, c/o Kätchen Coley Society, 100 Roscommon Drive, Middletown, CT, 06457.

A service was scheduled for October 3 at Wesleyan University.

JOHN S. GREACEN, *former Blue Trail manager*

John Stuart Greacen, who maintained the Tunxis Trail for many years, died June 14 in Bloomfield. From the 1970s through 1990s, hikers on the Tunxis and on the Connecticut section of the Appalachian Trail were guided by signs he made.

Mr. Greacen was born October 28, 1921, the son of Joseph Wiggin Greacen and Ethel Halsted Greacen of Morristown, New Jersey. Mr. Greacen graduated from Phillips Exeter

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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would stand up at the annual trail workers' dinner and announce, "As usual, we got lost on our own trail this year."

Therefore, one of our first projects was designing a trail sign for Old Burn Crossing. The Sign Subcommittee of the CFPA Trails Committee made the signs and procured the posts. Nat and I grabbed our friend Skip Weisenburger, and the three of us spent an afternoon digging a deep hole and installing the sign, which has saved (I hope) a lot of people from getting lost at the intersection of the Mattabesett and Reservoir Loop trails in Middletown.

When hikers get lost today, they tend to write about it on trail blogs. If they go out before I've cut back brush that season, they post remarks like, "The trail is a bit overgrown, so you might have to search a bit."

Or this one, from hikethegiant.blogspot.com, in 2011: "If you've ever hiked utility corridors and power lines, or better yet tried to maintain a trail there, you know how fast the bushes and vines take over a clearing. . . . Don't get me wrong, it's still a great trail here—nothing a chain saw, brush cutter and a little blue paint wouldn't fix!" It's annoying, in a way, but it serves a purpose.

But the main reason trail managers spend so much of our time marking the way is that old trails and woods roads crisscross the Blue Trails. In the section I maintain with Nat, a veritable warren of unmarked paths and rogue dirt-bike tracks branch off the Mattabesett Trail. Every few tenths of a mile, you come to another fork of some kind. Hikers must be vigilant for the blazes here. I feel as if I never stop reevaluating where we need blazes or turn-blazes (double blazes marking a right or left turn), or where we should move or change the height of a blaze.

Getting it right on my section is a work in progress. And that work is very, very different than hiking. I'm not very mathematical, but I've developed a formula. I believe that I spend about 10 times as long maintaining a section of trail as I do walking it. I want the work to count. Of course, people who go into the woods must take responsibility for themselves, but trail managers' mission is this: Make it better for them.

Christine Woodside is a writer who has been editing Connecticut Woodlands since 2001. Visit her at chriswoodside.com. She and her husband, Nat Eddy, live in Deep River and maintain a section of the Mattabesett Trail (part of the New England Trail) in Middletown.

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES?

Here at CFPA, we talk a lot about the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. We are proud of them, and rightly so. It's quite an accomplishment to develop and maintain trails that now cover more than 825 miles with only volunteer labor. What is a blue blaze, though? How should one follow them?

Here is a quick refresher course on how to follow these markings on our Blue-Blazed HikingTrails:

Name:
Confidence Blaze

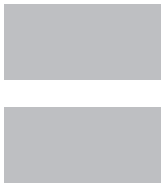
Meaning:
Continue in this direction

Name:
Turn Blaze (left)

Meaning:
Trail Turns Left

Name:
Turn Blaze (right)

Meaning:
Trail Turns Right



Name:
End Blaze

Meaning:
Trail Ends Here

Name:
Alternate Trail

Meaning:
Loop, Side or Access Trail

Name:
Alternate Trail

Meaning:
Loop, Side or Access Trail

Keep in mind that blazes may fade over time or that trees can come down, so it is important that you keep your eyes peeled and that you have a good idea of where you are going before you start out. I can't tell you how many calls our office gets from people who have lost their way and want to know where they are. Saying, "I'm by a big rock," or, "I see a stream," doesn't help much.

Leslie Lewis is the WalkCT director at the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

Things to take on a hike

► **Take a map.** CFPA's Connecticut Walk Book volumes contain excellent maps of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. Some trailhead signs allow you to download maps. The state park maps can be found at ct.gov/deep.A note on cell phones and GPS units: Keep in mind that cell phone coverage is not universal and that a 911 call from a cell phone does not necessarily supply your location. That is information you must provide. GPS units can be useful in giving location coordinates, but accuracy varies depending on the unit you are using. You will still need to provide a reference related to a map landmark, e.g., nearest state highway. It is your responsibility to know which town you are in and your approximate location.

► **Take a friend.** Four-footed is good, two-footed even better. This is especially true if you are not an experienced hiker. Always try to let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back, just in case.

► **Take refreshments.** Water is most important, but a small snack won't weigh you down, and it could keep you going in a pinch.

► **Take out your trash.** Do not litter. This is a basic tenet of trail etiquette.

► **Take stock of your ability.** If you are a novice or a lapsed hiker, don't expect to be able to do a day's worth of challenging hiking right away. It can be scary to get down a big hill and then realize that you have to get back up again.

► **Take your time.** For most of us, the journey is as important as the destination. The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails traverse some of the most beautiful countryside in Connecticut. Give yourself the chance to soak it all in.

► **Take a whistle in case you need to be heard/ found.**

► **Take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints.** Do not disturb or damage vegetation or wildlife habitat.

NEW ENGLAND TRAIL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE MOUNTS EXHIBIT

A photography exhibition by National Park Service Artist-in-Residence Barbara Bosworth will be on display through November at nine venues, including three in Connecticut, along the New England National Scenic Trail.

Renowned photographer Barbara Bosworth spent the fall and summer of 2012 hiking sections of the New England National Scenic Trail (NET) as the National Park Service's first artist-in-residence for the trail. Taken with her large-format view camera, Bosworth's photographs of the NET are a striking visual responses to the vistas and paths she encountered.

From September through November 2013, the National Park Service, in cooperation with the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club, will present "To Be at the Farther Edge: Photographs along the New England Trail," which features 20 of Bosworth's photographs of the trail. They will be on display at nine different sites—each with its own relationship to the trail—in a unique exhibition that viewers can experience at their own pace as they follow their own paths. Works on view at each site will range from single large-scale, multipanel panoramic images to small groupings of single photographs.

A free map will accompany the exhibition, providing information about where viewers can find Ms. Bosworth's photographs on display and guiding them to spots along the NET where the photographs were taken. A full color catalogue will also be available.

The exhibit will create its own "trail" that runs alongside the NET at the following sites in Connecticut through November 2013:

▶New Britain Museum of American Art, 56 Lexington Street, New Britain, CT 06052, 860-229-0257.

▶Connecticut Forest & Park Association, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06481, 860-346-TREE.

▶Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117, 860-768-4393.

Visit the NET artist-in-residence exhibition blog for updated information about exhibition-related events and programs, a new video showing the artist at work on the NET, interviews with the artist, and much more at net-air.com/BarbaraBosworth.

Learn more about the NET at newenglandtrail.org, and follow NET activities on the NET Facebook page at facebook.com/NewEnglandNationalScenicTrailNet.

—Source: press releases

BOOK REVIEWS

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species such as striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*) and American yew (also known as Canada yew) (*Taxus canadensis*) live. The talus piles help northern trees such as mountain ash to live beneath the cliffs. These trees usually live in northwestern Connecticut, where the elevation is much higher. On a 93-degree Fahrenheit day, scientists have measured soil below a talus cliff at 34 F.

Animal experts believe the trap rock ridges provide refuge to mammals, reptiles, and birds, including the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) and porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), the Northern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) and (in vernal pools on the slopes) the Jefferson's salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), and the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Insects thrive there, too, including 25 species of butterfly. The Xerces Society's annual butterfly count on West Rock in New Haven has enumerated more butterflies in a single day than any other counts in Connecticut; the columbine duskywing (*Erynnis lucilius*), one of the state's rarest butterflies, lives only on the trap rock ridges. Some moths like the orange sallow *(Rhodoecia aurantiago*) only live on these ridges, because its caterpillars rely on the yellow false foxglove (*Aureolaria flava*), a rare plant that only grows on the ridges.

Hikers experience this intense trap rock world on the New England Trail, the National Scenic Trail (combining the Mattabesett and Metacomet Trails) that climbs and descends the string of trap rock ridges. These trails are part of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, maintained by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. Rock climbers explore Ragged Mountain and hang-gliders jump off Talcott Mountain. These adventure-seekers compose a small but fervent constituency for conservation of the trap rock ridges.

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in 1940 and Yale University in 1944. He served in the U.S. Army as a field artillery first lieutenant in the Philippines during World War II. His engineering career centered on the design and construction of research reactors for universities and equipment for nuclear submarines and commercial power plants—for which he was awarded two patents. He liked to sail in places ranging from the Caribbean to Nova Scotia, and in the waters of British Columbia.

A serious, kind, and service-minded person, Mr. Greacen also volunteered as a tax preparer for the AARP, delivered Meals on Wheels, and built homes with Habitat for Humanity. He built fine furniture. He served on the board of the Avon Land Trust and as a deacon of the Avon Congregational Church.

He is survived by his wife, Enid Robertson Greacen; daughter Anne Beerits and her husband Peter of Deer Isle, Maine; his sons Stuart Halsted Greacen and his wife Davida of Collinsville and James Robertson Greacen and his wife Heather of Groton, Massachusetts. A private interment took place in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Tarrytown, New York.

—Source: Death notices

LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI

Tick researcher who directed Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Louis A. Magnarelli, 68, of Durham, who directed the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven for nine years, died July 11 at home after battling a long illness. Dr. Magnarelli was known internationally for his work on ticks, tick-associated diseases, serological testing for vector-borne pathogens, and many other scientific accomplishments. His contributions to Connecticut and science were extensive and appreciated. Through the course of his Acareer, he published more than 218 scientific articles.

Dr. Magnarelli received his Ph.D. in medical entomology from Cornell University and came to the Experiment Station in 1975. He served as chief entomologist and state entomologist from 1987 through 2004, served as vice director from 1992 through 2004, and was appointed the agency's eighth director in 2004.

Mr. Magnarelli was born in Syracuse, New York, on March 27, 1945, son of the late David and Genevere Impeciato Magnarelli, and was husband to Sharon Dishaw Magnarelli. The funeral was private.

"Lou was not only our director, he was our colleague and most of all, our friend," station employees announced. "His keen scientific and analytical mind was only exceeded by his desire to bring this institution's scientific knowledge and experience to the benefit of the citizens of Connecticut. He was a strong supporter of Connecticut agriculture, the state's trees and woodlands, and the green industry. Lou's wisdom and skillful stewardship as our leader will be sorely missed. Even through his illness, his thoughts were always of the Experiment Station. All Station staff, both present and future, will take tremendous pride in honoring and continuing Dr. Magnarelli's unwavering commitment for "Putting Science to Work for Society."

—Source: Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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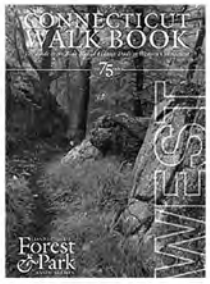

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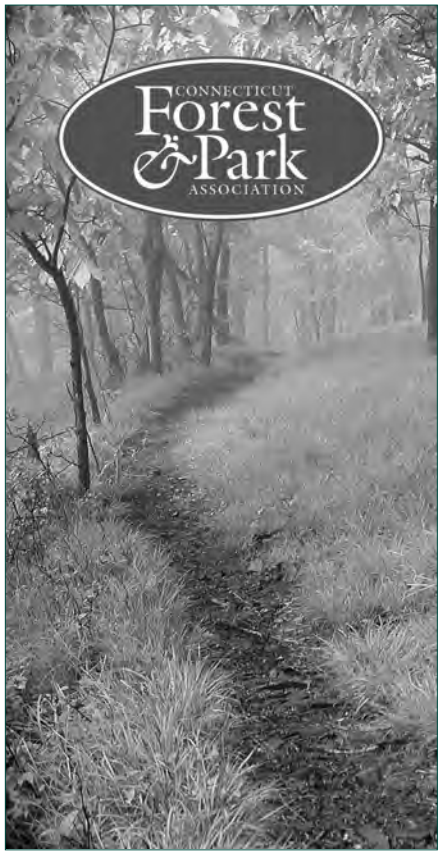

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