

Photo of the Shenipsit Trail
courtesy of J. Koteen Photography



SPECIAL EDITION
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WRITTEN
& EDITED

BY WOODROW
W. TURTLE



Connecticut Forests are the Perfect Place to Call Home

And it's thanks to your continued support!

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Dorothy is Right

Even turtles watch
classic movies!

There's no place like *(our)* home. Filled with beautiful rocks, trees, rivers, and streams.

I love being able to say Connecticut forests are my home. You too, I hope. And there's nothing else quite like it. It's also the homes of salamanders, flying squirrels, bats,... my friends and neighbors.

I cannot thank CFPA volunteers enough for their help.

Connecticut could not—would not—have the lovely green forests we call home without volunteers. Every day volunteers advocate, teach, build trails, and protect our forests.

That's why I'm so grateful when you support my friends at CFPA.

Your support helps get more volunteers out there doing good!

One of CFPA's dynamic trail volunteer wife and husband teams is Harry and Weezie Perrine. The Perrines' efforts epitomize all that is good about our trail volunteers.

Can you believe they have been managing the northern Shenipsit Trail **for 30 years?! That is six flying squirrel generations!**

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...)



Weezie (left) teaching new volunteers to move a large boulder.

Read about
Bart inside...!



I'm grateful for your support. Your support helps get more volunteers out there doing good!



Harry (left) teaching another volunteer how to install a bridge

That's why Sabrina Flyer, whose family of Northern Flying Squirrels has been admiring their work for generations, is the perfect animal to talk to about them. Here's what she had to say:

"Harry and Weezie are some of the first trail managers my great-great-great grandmother discovered working. She passed down many stories about them she saw from her tree nest. Like the time Harry took a development director out into the woods to try trail work.

'When I heard them talking about using rocks for water bars and working with local landowners and CT DEEP, I knew Harry would be a friend for life,' she said. 'I could tell he understood the importance of protecting my home.'

Harry and Weezie may not have met my family, but they

established my family's image of the CFPA trail volunteers. **From our tree nest, we saw how committed they are to their trail and thoughtful about the work they do.**

Harry and Weezie Perrine have been a part of the CFPA family since 1992. They both served as Trail Representatives, as well as co-trail managers. Weezie was the first woman Chairperson of CFPA's Trails Committee. Thank you for all your time spent protecting Connecticut's forests and trails.



My family and I love watching the Perrines work from our hidden tree nest!



TERRI'S RETIREMENT

Teary Eyes for Terri's Goodbye

Terri Peters is CFPA's Swiss knife—capable, practical, and endlessly helpful. She does a myriad of critical tasks that others can't or won't do. She's a good friend to all who depend on her, **even to woodland creatures like me.**

When you call CFPA, Terri answers the phone. When you stop in the office, she is the person who greets you.

This January, Terri takes on a new task: retiring. She will have more time to travel, hike, and make stained glass pieces! It is hard to think about since Terri is a big part of CFPA. She's been the the Office Manager for 18 years! During that period, CFPA grew – in staff, volunteers, complexity, revenue, and expenses. New systems and challenges came along and Terri handled them all with grace.

Those who are lucky to work with her, **cannot thank her enough for her support and patience.** I look forward to seeing her again in the woods!

Woodrow W. Turtle, V.E.R. (very educated reptile) Explains All

Forests are critical for many reasons. Forests can save your life and your world, and make you feel healthier. Forests are essential to our health and well-being and to the state's economy.

- Forests **boost** your property values
- They **improve** your quality of life
- They **combat climate change** by removing carbon from the air

- Just one tree can grab more than 50 pounds of carbon each year
- They are a **positive** economic engine!

Outdoor activities on state lands alone have an economic benefit of more than \$1 billion a year. Your forests help the economy, you, me, and all woodland creatures. **Please support CFP's effort to resuce and protect forests by making your year-end donation to protect my home.**

*Our forests are simply amazing!
And I LOVE being able to call them my home, don't you?*

CONSERVATION Champions

MONTHLY GIVING

Will You Try This Challenge?

Turn \$10 into \$120.

Here's how to do it--give a monthly gift of \$10.00, an amount most of us wouldn't miss, and **one year later your gift has grown to \$120.00!** Monthly giving is a great tool to multiply your impact in the fight to protect CT's land.

Learn more at
ctwoodlands.org

Crazy A-Bat Caves

I may be a very educated reptile, but I still have much to learn. Like about my good friend Bart the Big Brown Bat. Let me tell you a fun fact I learned about my friend Bart.

Fall had just begun. The woodland creatures and I gathered to say goodbye. Winter was coming. It would be a long time before I would see my friends and neighbors again.

See, some creatures prepare to hibernate while others start migrating south. Others will even stay out in the cold snow.

Did you know that Connecticut has 6 cave bat species and 3 tree-roosting species?

Keep an eye out for the different species this summer.

As I watched the geese leave in their "V" formation, I was shocked to see Bart was still in the forest. Oh no, I had thought. Bart's going to miss his migration!

When I told Bart this, he taught me something new. Bart the Big Brown Bat didn't migrate. In fact, he hibernated like me! Bart told me that he and his



Cave bats are more sociable and hibernate together with their colonies in a cuddle puddle.

colony liked to find a cozy cave, mine, or building, one with the perfect environmental conditions, cuddle up, and hibernate all winter. Five other cave bat species do this. But three tree roosting species do migrate south.

Sleep tight Bart. See you next spring!

Info from CT DEEP

A Legacy Helping Others

How you can protect me and my neighbors even after you're gone.



Thanks for making me feel safe. Be sure to shout "Salamander" when you see me to say hi!

Every time I hear about Sidney Skolnick I smile. I first heard about Mr. Skolnick in 2004, when he gave his first gift of \$35 to my friends at CFPA. I was very grateful for his help at the time. And then he did something amazing. Mr. Skolnick started a legacy donor fund to protect me, my home, and your place of respite.

When I heard about this, I had to learn more.

"Legacy gifts are a great way to reflect your conservation ethic," said Jim Little, CFPA Development Director.

"These unique gifts are a wonderful legacy you leave to protect the future of people and organizations like CFPA that you love."

A few years ago, Mr. Skolnick set up a fund to benefit CFPA and other non-profits at the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven. Every year, CFPA receives a gift from Mr. Skolnick to use for protecting forests, wildlife, and trails. This year, his fund helped build a bog bridge on the Cockaponset Trail (with additional trail projects funded by the Rockfall Foundation).

I asked my neighbor, Sal the Salamander, about

Ode to the Bog Bridge

Ahhh... the lowly bog bridge. Simple but effective. Bog bridges are important for hikers on the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. They keep your boots dry and clean during the wet season.

But bog bridges are also important for plant life and wildlife along trails. Bog bridges stop trail braiding. They keep walkers, hikers,

and runners on the trail. Not in sensitive areas trying to avoid getting wet.

Though not very elegant, they are critical to the trails, wildlife, and land you love. And our homes.

A bog bridge might cost anywhere from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on location and length. Please consider a year-end donation to adopt a bog bridge. **You'll save many plants and creatures from wayward walkers and hikers.**

♥ CFPA is funded 100% by donors like you. Thanks for creating a lifetime of fun outdoors.



this project. He said the new bog bridge is "**life-changing**".

"I feel much safer now. When I hear boots coming, I no longer fear a wayward step and know my favorite plants and I are protected," said Sal.

I can't think of a legacy better than protecting Connecticut's forests, wildlife, and trails.

Thanks for reading,
I'll see you in the woods!

