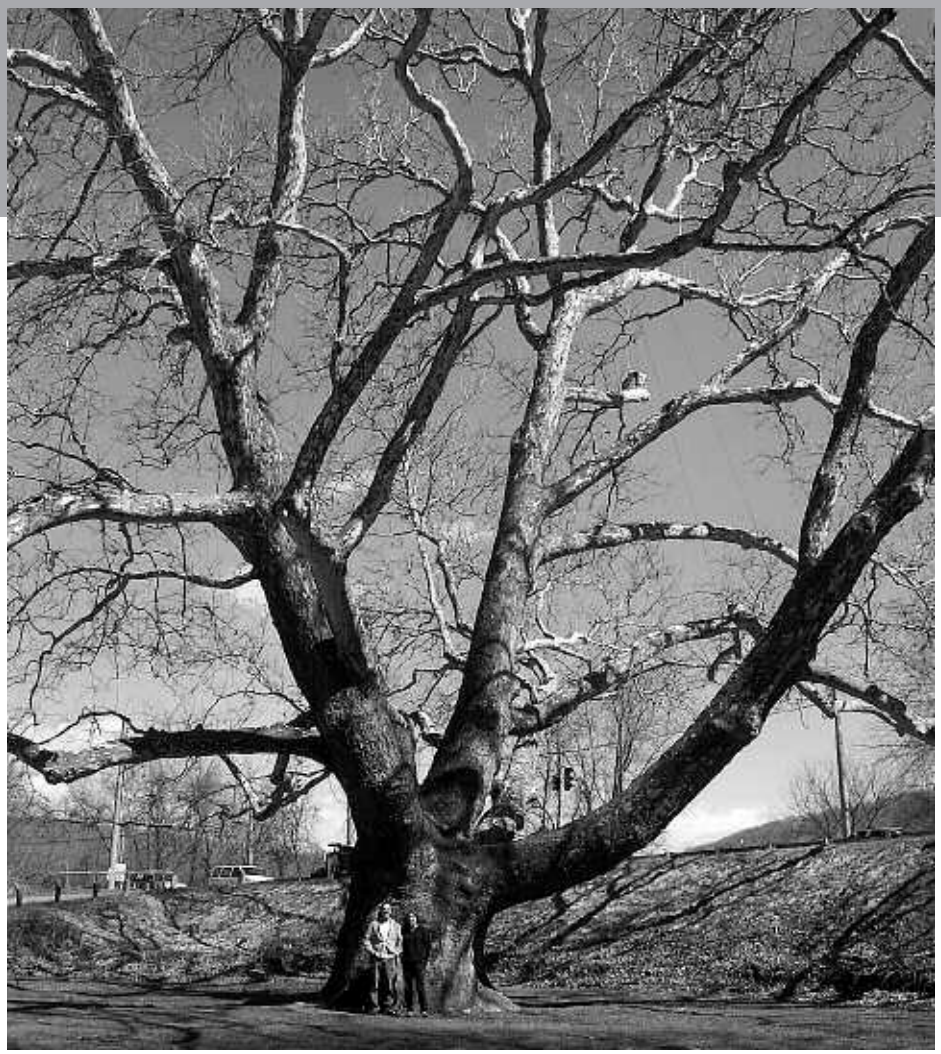
CONNECTICUT Woodlands

THINKING ABOUT TREES

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Summer 2008 Volume 73 Number 2

CONNECTICUT
Woodlands

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association



Glenn D. Dreyer

The state's largest tree is this sycamore in Simsbury, named for former resident Gifford Pinchot, first U.S. Forest Service chief. See page 8.

Conserving Connecticut

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association is a private, non-profit organization dedicated since 1895 to conserving the land, trails, and natural resources of Connecticut.
The Connecticut Forest & Park Association is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation, the National Woodland Owners Association, the American Hiking Society, and Earth Share.

Connecticut Woodlands

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

Annual Membership

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

Life Membership $ 2500

Corporate Membership

Club	$ 50
Nonprofit	$ 75
Sustaining	$ 100
Landmark	$ 250
Stewardship	$ 500
Leadership	$1000

Printed on recycled paper

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Summer 2008 Volume 73 Number 2

Contents

FEATURES

DEPARTMENTS

On the cover:
This 211-year-old black walnut tree on the old Waldo Homestead in Scotland is the largest known black walnut in New England. Photo by Glenn D. Dreyer.

CONNECTICUT Forest & Park ASSOCIATION

The Next Generation: We Speak for the Trees

BY DAVID PLATT

It's been a month since Connecticut Forest & Park Association coordinated the largest Trails Day in the country, with 130 events. I have always liked Trails Day. Think about it: for a whole day or at least a good part of it, the kids and adults have a good reason to turn off their TVs and computer games to go outside to experience the Connecticut landscape!

Christine Woodside

CFPA President David Platt

CFPA played a big role in Trails Day, and we're proud of that. It is one of our signature events, which makes great sense given our commitment to conserving and creating forests and parks, and our work to carve out and maintain the over 800 miles of Blue Blazed Hiking Trails. This year CFPA sponsored 19 hikes and trail maintenance workshops, all led by dedicated volunteers. This is what the Blue Trails and CFPA's WalkConnecticut program are all about. On Trails Day, and for the last few years, we have been working with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection on its "Great Park Pursuit," a component of DEP's "No Child Left Inside" program (see www.nochildleftinside.org). This year, hundreds of families participated in this seven-week, statewide event, and the level of participation continues to grow. DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy and her terrific staff are to be commended for this program because it helps cultivate a new generation of environmental stewards.

Trees are the focus of this issue of Connecticut Woodlands. At CFPA, we like to say (in true Dr. Seuss "Lorax" parlance) that "we speak for the trees." Working with land trusts, DEP, and other groups, CFPA has conserved thousands of acres of forests across the state through our land and trail conservation programs. These efforts focus, in approximate order of priority, on protecting lands that host any of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, lands that are "working forest lands," and lands that enhance state forests and parks.

This is our niche, and it is an important one given the sprawl-style development that threatens these vital natural resources. Our land and trail committees and volunteer trail managers work very hard on this part of our mission, as does our staff. The next time you are enjoying a walk on the trails or a visit to the forest, realize that your support of CFPA (www.ctwoodlands.org) plays a large part in helping to make your experience possible.

FROM THE EDITOR

Connecticut Woodlands magazine will be entering a new phase starting in the fall. Its publishers, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, will print much of the member news, development news, and program listings, in a new newsletter. The newsletter will be packed with information that is up-to-the-minute. Ultimately it will be available on the CFPA Web site (www.ctwoodlands.org).

We have long talked about covering more environmental and conservation news in Connecticut Woodlands. With the creation of the newsletter, Connecticut Woodlands will devote more pages to reporting these stories that are so important to its members. We also will publish essays, photographs, and musings by and about CFPA's staff. Adam R. Moore, the former executive director, will write a column about New England.

Please feel free to contact me at christine.woodside@gmail.com if there are matters you would like to read about.

— Christine Woodside

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUES OF

CONNECTICUT WOODLANDS

Fall 2008

WASTE

Has trash incineration worked?

Pharmaceuticals in our water

"The dump"—historic relic?

Winter 2008

INVASIVE SPECIES

NEWS OF THE CONNECTICUT FOREST & PARK ASSOCIATION

CFPA photos

On June 7, Eric Hammerling begins the National Trails Day hike up Talcott Mountain on the Metacomet Trail. Behind him is a staffer of U.S. Rep.Chris Murphy, who introduced the New England Scenic Trail Designation Act in January.

Eric Hammerling Becomes Executive Director

Eric Hammerling, an experienced conservation professional who headed the Farmington River Watershed Association for five years, became executive director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association in May. He replaced Adam R. Moore, who had led CFPA since 2001 and who departed in April for a new job heading the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation on Martha's Vineyard.

Mr. Hammerling said he had become interested in CFPA while watching its staff members speaking before the General Assembly on all sorts of issues, especially that of all-terrain vehicles. "I loved the way that CFPA took on the issue," he said. He added that he was excited when the opportunity arose to work with CFPA.

The West Hartford resident earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1990 and a master's degree in range management at the University of California at Berkeley in 1997. He then worked as program director and deputy director at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in San Francisco. He became director of that foundation's Northeast region office in 2000, awarding grants in New England and managing a fund for Atlantic salmon restoration in Maine.

He advised the Massachusetts Environmental Trust on grant programs from 2001 to 2003. As a waste management specialist for the Center for Ecological Technology in Northampton, Massachu-setts, from 2002 to 2003, he coordinated the Massachusetts Material Exchange, a program to reduce waste by brokering exchanges between waste producers and those would re-use the waste; and worked on an integrated pest management project at facilities where children are present.

He became executive director of the Farmington River Watershed Association in 2003. During his time there, Mr. Hammerling worked to encourage the U.S. Congress authorize a three-year feasibility study to evaluate whether the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook would be eligible for federal Wild & Scenic protection.

To begin his presence in Connecticut Woodlands magazine, we asked Eric to write about the recent designation of the Eightmile River as Wild and Scenic. His article follows on page 7 under the heading Environmental Update.

The land conservation program of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association

continued on page 6

304-Acre Easement in Lisbon Illustrates the Heart of CFPA's Land Conservation Program

seeks to protect working forests. A perfect example of a successful project came at the end of 2007, when the Glenney family granted CFPA an easement for the 304-acre Old Stone Mill Preserve in Lisbon, a black walnut and pine plantation near the foundation of a historic mill.

Dr. Christopher Glenney, his wife, Marcia and several of their grown children and their families, agreed that the land should be protected permanently. The easement preserves the tree plantations and adjacent band saw operation; Old Stone Mill Creek; the remaining foundation from the mill; and — for anyone driving by the perimeter — beautiful views from a town road.

Damon Hearne, CFPA's land conservation coordinator, worked for months with the Glenneys, discussing how best to meet their goal of conserving this land. Mr. Hearne was struck by the Glenneys' love of this land. "It came from their desires to keep the land and leave a legacy," he said.

Dr. Glenney, a retired orthopedic surgeon at the William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, has lived in Norwichtown since 1963 and bought the first parcel of the Lisbon forestland that year. The family added to it in 1980 and in the early 1990s. The family wanted to make certain it would never be developed, Dr. Glenney said.

Three branches of the family live at the edge of the property: two daughters and their families, and the wife of their late son, Brian, and their children. Two other sons, Christopher, a doctor in Berlin, New Hampshire, and Daniel, a Colchester surgeon, are part owners of the land. The Glenneys have five other children.

They have a small band saw mill, which they can use to make boards from harvested logs. Dr. Glenney does this as a hobby. "It's a really neat example of sus-

Dr. Christopher Glenney, his wife, Marcia and several of their grown children and their families, agreed that the land should be protected permanently. The easement preserves the tree plantations and adjacent band saw operation; Old Stone Mill Creek; the remaining foundation from the mill; and — for anyone driving by the perimeter — beautiful views from a town road.

tainable forestry turned into local products at a local scale," Mr. Hearne said, "at a scale and pace that works for the local community."

Dr. Glenney said that Mr. Hearne had been a great help to the family, which had struggled to identify how best to protect their forest from development into the future. Land conservation can take other forms. In some cases landowners might sell their land to conservation organizations if they need to raise some money. CFPA's Hibbard Trust for Land and Trails is used to buy land in such cases. CFPA also will work with land trusts, other conservation groups, and government agencies to protect land. CFPA will assist landowners in securing land surveys and doing other research. A new federal law that increased the tax deduction from 15 to 50 percent on the tax burden for land protected by easements has made this method of conservation more viable. That law has had a huge effect on conservation, Mr. Hearne said.

Easements and land sales are not the only way to protect land. "We have a whole toolbox" of ways to restrict development on land, Mr. Hearne said.

CFPA also works to conserve land around the 800-mile-long Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System, much of which exists on handshake deals with the property owners. Connecticut has a law that protects landowners from liability, but informal agreements can end when land changes hands. CFPA is working on an action plan to protect the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, Mr. Hearne said. "It's our goal to at least have the people along the trail know who we are and that we do trail protection. We want to move from reactive to proactive." They hope to avoid holding emergency meetings with conservation groups on hearing that a developer has plans for a piece of land.

Mr. Hearne is a native of West Virginia. He grew up on a farm that was a second income for his parents. He graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and earned a master's degree at the University of Michigan. Before coming to CFPA last year, he was project manager for the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Study. (See the article by Eric Hammerling on page 7.) He and his wife, Megan, have worked on conservation biology and cultural studies in East Africa. Megan currently works as the Connecticut river steward for the Connecticut River Watershed Council.

A Tale of Public-Private Partnerships: the Federal Wild & Scenic Designation for the Eightmile River

BY ERIC HAMMERLING

Quick, think of a federally-owned park, forest, or refuge near you. Unless you are familiar with the 60-acre Weir Farm National Historic Site in Wilton or the 10 units of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge dotting 70 miles of shoreline from Westbrook to Greenwich, you will quickly realize that federal lands are simply not a significant part of our landscape. Indeed, the federal government owns less than 0.5 percent of Connecticut's land base. Contrast this with western states like Nevada (77 percent federal lands) or Alaska (61 percent federal lands), and it becomes obvious that in a state like Connecticut, conserving natural resources requires committed private groups and many levels of government working together.

Based upon the patchwork of private, municipal, and state lands that comprise 99.5 percent of Connecticut, it is no surprise that more communities are asking for assistance from the National Park Service's Wild & Scenic Rivers and Trails programs. You might wonder if these are federal programs and if "Wild & Scenic" isn't a federal designation. The answer to both questions is "yes," but this does not mean that the federal government will own or control any additional land in the state. Indeed, a key piece of these programs is often to protect natural resources from potential future degradation *by* the federal government.

For example, in May, the government passed a law naming as Wild & Scenic the Eightmile River, which flows through East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem and enters the Connecticut River at Hamburg Cove. It joined a group of 10 partnership Wild & Scenic rivers along the eastern seaboard stretching from New Hampshire to Florida that are established on three decidedly Yankee principles:

► Resource conservation and protection should be fully integrated with traditional patterns of use, ownership, and jurisdiction, relying on existing authorities;

► Management of the river should be based on a cooperatively developed plan that establishes resource protection standards and identifies key actions accomplished through cooperation among all public and private organizations with an interest in the river; and

► Any land conservation initiatives related to a Partnership Wild & Scenic designation will be based solely on voluntary, willing seller arrangements.

Maintaining local control, managing resources cooperatively, and forbidding harmful projects or eminent domain by the federal government are also fundamental to efforts by CFPA and many partners to officially designate the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett/New England National Scenic Trail. At the time of printing, a designation bill for the MMM/New England National Scenic Trail has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and perhaps by the time you are reading this the Senate will have taken similar action. With this designation, the Trail receives recognition and enhanced local protection, and the federal government provides funding and helps coordinate fulfillment of a resource management plan for the Trail.

These Wild & Scenic initiatives provide some "adhesives" through local, state, and federal buy-in that help cement long-lasting partnerships.

All of the parties – private or non-profit organizations, towns, and the state and federal governments – take on responsibilities spelled out by the feasibility study and management plan. The parties typically sign an agreement that formalizes their commitments, such as towns and private/non-profit organizations providing local citizen-representatives to implement the management plan, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection will provide guidance on complementing state environmental priorities, and the National Park Service will provide some combination of funding, coordination, staffing, and technical support to implement the resource protection management plan.

This collaborative effort often results in an advisory group such as the Farmington River Coordinating Committee, which has been meeting monthly since the Upper Farmington River was designated as Wild & Scenic in 1994.

Through serving as the Farmington River Watershed Association staff representative to the Farmington River Coordinating Committee for the past five years, I have witnessed first-hand how these Wild & Scenic partnerships bring focus, funding, force, and (thank goodness) fun to local resource management. This is why I made a personal priority in my former position as director of the Farmington River Watershed Association to see if we might be able to successfully confer Wild & Scenic status to the rest of the Farmington River in Connecticut. Today, a study committee, representing 10 towns in the Farmington Valley, is in its second year of a three-year feasibility study focused on protecting this outstanding resource. I'm excited to have been part of the genesis of this effort in the Farmington Valley and remain thankful that the Connecticut Congressional delegation has been so strong and unified in support of conservation protection in the state.

Now that the Eightmile River has attained Wild & Scenic status, and the combined Mattabesett, Metacomet, and Metacomet-Monadnock trails in Connecticut and Massachusetts should soon gain status as a National Scenic Trail, I encourage all members and supporters of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association to consider doing a few things.

First, thank our Congressional leaders who have been so wonderfully supportive. Second, encourage our new administration to fund the National Park Service's Partnership Wild & Scenic River and Trails programs. Third, contact CFPA if you would like to know more about how local, state, and federal partnership opportunities can protect the most special natural resources in our region.

Eric Hammerling became the executive director of CFPA in May. He directed the Farmington River Watershed Association from 2003 to 2008.

The NOTABLE TREES Project

Dedicated volunteers document Connecticut's big and historic specimens, because this connects people to the deeper importance of trees

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

In the late 1980s, Connecticut College botanist Glenn Dreyer and others in the Connecticut Botanical Society responded to a wave of tree-cutting for houses, highways, and malls by creating a modern database of unusual Connecticut trees. These trees were the biggest and those with long histories, the sort of trees that shouldn't be cut down to make room for a parking lot.

Many of the notable trees were spectacular because, long ago, people had planted them deliberately, on a farm or at a field's edge or to commemorate an event. With few other trees to crowd them, these trees had spread their crowns wide and grown to gargantuan proportions. In many places, like abandoned farms, they'd done so relatively unnoticed, until people started to look carefully.

Mr. Dreyer, who is director of the Connecticut College Arboretum, wrote the story of the database and those who helped compile it in the 1989 book, *Connecticut's Notable Trees* (Memoirs of the Connecticut Botanical Society No. 2, June 1989). Key figures in the movement were the late William Linke of New London, who began the modern notable trees project; and, going back 74 years, Katharine Matthies, who compiled the first list of important trees in the book *Trees of Note in Connecticut* (Daughters of the American Revolution, 1934). Two decades later, a small and dedicated group of volunteers, including Connecticut Forest & Park Association Honorary Director Edward A. Richardson, spend untold hours each year to update the notable trees database updated. (See the online database at http://notabletrees.conncoll.edu.)

The notable trees project is important because big trees inspire people to think about taking care of forests and trees, Mr. Dreyer said. Trees grow everywhere here, but the unfragmented forest is in trouble, he said. So the big trees inspire an ethic. The notable trees list also should nudge us to study the trees we have, Mr. Dreyer said, perhaps to prune around them and help the good ones thrive, or maybe to think carefully before cutting. "One of the uses for this information, certainly, has been to try to preserve individual trees that were threatened by development or road widening," he said.

For example, a few years back, highway engineers were prepared to remove a pin oak on the Farmington Village Green to widen

The state champion white oak towers over forester Robert Ricard on the University of Connecticut's West Hartford campus.

Glenn D. Dreyer

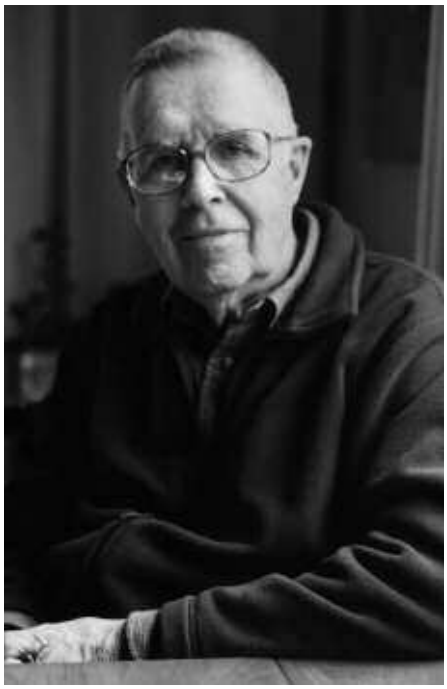
Route 4 at Main Street. The tree wasn't the largest of its kind, although its 237-inch trunk circumference would give any driver pause. The tree was known as the McKinley Oak, planted in 1901 to commemorate the assassination of McKinley, with President Theodore Roosevelt in attendance. The tree isn't even in the top 10 on the notable trees list, but that's not the point. The point is that history, especially expressed in a large tree at the center of a village, is at least as important as a highway.

Then there are the 1902 pin oaks. That year, Connecticut held a convention to update the state constitution. Participants voted it down, but U.S. Senator Joseph R. Hawley had already decided to commemorate the event with tree plantings. He distributed pin oak saplings to representatives from 168 towns. Mr. Dreyer surveyed the trees when they were a hundred years old, in 2002, and found 74 still living. They ranged in height from 48 to 115 feet with branch spreads from 27 to 88 feet. He noted the irony that the trees have become more important than the event they commemorated. (His 2002 report is available on the notable trees Web site.)

The 1934 list by Katharine Matthies had 67 entries (some of them for multiple trees planted together). It was probably the first time anyone paid attention to big old trees in this way. The list included elm, oak, and sycamore trees planted in 1812 in Fairfield, East Glastonbury, Watertown, and Litchfield; the Cathedral Pines in Cornwall; oak trees named for McKinley, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and others; a descendant of the Charter Oak in Redding; and the "Giant Oak" of West Ashford, which was once the largest in the country. That tree has died; Giant Oak Lane off Route 44 is named for it. Mr. Richardson confirmed that all of the trees on this list now are dead. The last one to go was the Gaylordsville Oak in New Milford.

The Charter Oak

Of course, 1934 was already too late to list the state's most famous tree, the Charter Oak. Because it never made any of the lists, let's tell the story again, because it highlights the emotional ties people can feel to old trees. The famous 1857 painting of the Charter Oak, by Charles De Wolf Brownell, reveals that it wasn't even symmetrical but in fact looked gnarled and as if it were barely holding on in its spot on an incline. But it did stand at the edge of an open area, and therefore had grown with the luxury of space. Also, the legend around it makes early Connecticut people stand out as brave and forward-thinking.



Christine Woodside

Ed Richardson.

This white oak with a hollow trunk stood on the 7-acre property of the Wyllys family in Hartford, Dreyer writes in *Connecticut's Notable Trees.* In 1687, after King James II had annulled Connecticut's Colonial charter and appointed new leaders, a newly designated New England governor, Sir Edmund Andros, had arrived with soldiers to take control. During a nighttime meeting with the Colonial leaders, the candles were suddenly extinguished. In the darkness, Captain Joseph Wadsworth grabbed the charter and hid it in the tree. It did not stop Sir Andros from taking control, and the story never was told until 1879, but the moment must have been a grand one. The charter had been saved and after the Revolution was used as the basis of Connecticut's constitution.

"By 1800, what might be described as a cult of veneration concerning the Charter Oak was well established," Mr. Dreyer writes. "Already hollow in the 1680s, the giant oak had begun to deteriorate rapidly by the 1850s. Crowds of people would come to visit the legendary tree and each twig and branch blown down was preserved as a relic or fashioned into ornaments." The tree died in a storm in 1856, touching off a city-wide mourning. The tree, after all, was humongous. Only a few years earlier, after putting out a fire in its hollow trunk, 27 firemen were said to have stood inside the trunk. The tree's wood was made into furniture, picture frames, and three pianos. Some of the artifacts are on display at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford. Acorns from the Charter Oak were saved and planted, and descendants live around the state.

Thousands of notable trees

Today's database includes about 2,600 trees, representing 350 varieties. Two of these trees have made it onto the American Forests database of national tree champions (see http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/). Connecticut national champions are a 44-foot-high hawthorn tree with a trunk circumference of 100 inches in Old Saybrook; and an 80-foot-tall black oak with a 233-inch trunk circumference in East Granby. Mr. Richardson nominated the black oak in 1989. This April, after the deadline for the latest biennial national list had passed, Mr. Richardson and notable trees volunteer Frank Kaputa documented what will certainly be another Connecticut national champion — a serviceberry in Glastonbury. Mr. Richardson described it as a monster, although a beautiful one, with multiple trunks and an average branch spread of 57 feet.

The Pinchot sycamore is the state's largest tree, was already old when it was dedicated in 1965 to the memory of Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, co-founder of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a key advisor to President Theodore Roosevelt during the creation of the national parks. The Pinchot sycamore is one of the few notable trees marked with a monument, erected in 1978. The tree stands in a park off Route 185 in Simsbury. Its base measures more than 25 feet in circumference.

In this article, we've noted measurements

continued on page 21

Hartford is a city in a forest. Over a quarter of its area is covered by trees, and that is remarkable because about half of the city is covered with buildings, pavement, or water.

Istockphoto

Hartford Connecticut skyline

Hartford's Urban Forest – the Challenge

BY JACK HALE AND
CHRISTOPHER DONNELLY

A "tree canopy survey" conducted during the summer of 2007 provided that information and more. It indicated how valuable our urban forest is for pollution reduction, energy conservation and other purposes.

Based on survey results, Hartford is challenged to learn more about our urban forest, to plant many more trees in a thoughtful and effective way, to maintain its stock of large, valuable trees, and to protect important trees from damage or loss.

The Survey of Hartford's Trees

The City of Hartford, Knox Parks Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Forestry participated in this tree canopy survey of the city's urban forest. The data collection and analysis method, called UFORE after "Urban Forest Effects," has the potential to inform and direct efforts on behalf of the trees of Hartford for a while to come – if we take advantage of what the survey shows us.

Four college interns hired by the Knox Parks Foundation collected the data used in this survey. Data came from 200 sample points randomly selected throughout the city by the Hartford Department of Public Works, using the city's Geographic Information System technology. The U.S. Forest Service provided the funding for this project through a grant awarded and administered by DEP Forestry. DEP Forestry also contributed its technical expertise to the survey.

What We Learned

Viewed from above, about 26 percent of the total surface area of Hartford is covered by trees. This canopy cover compares favorably with other major cities in the Northeast, including Boston (22 percent), New York (21 percent) and Washington, D.C. (29 percent). Of the remaining surface area, about 16 percent could be planted with trees and so, potentially, be used to increase the city's canopy cover.

As for the actual ground cover, the survey showed that 28 percent of Hartford is maintained grass, while 26 percent is covered by asphalt. Buildings make up 11 percent of Hartford's surface area. Water, including the Connecticut River, makes up 4 percent.

Approximately 40 percent of the city's surface area is covered by materials impermeable to penetration by water. Hartford has roughly 568,000 trees, counting every tree trunk greater than 1 inch in diameter (dbh). If only the larger trees (above 4 inches in diameter) are counted, the city has about 268,000 trees; of these approximately 55,000 are greater than 20 inches in diameter. These largest trees, although less than 10 percent of the total number of trees, account for about 50 percent of the total tree canopy. The largest tree found during the sample is a silver maple that is 54 inches dbh, while the tallest tree is a 138 foot tall cottonwood. The replacement value for these trees in sum total would run about $590,000,000!

The most common tree in Hartford is the red maple, followed by the tree of heaven, black cherry, American elm and red oak. If

the criterion is greatest leaf area rather than most individuals (important because leaves do the most to reduce pollution and provide shade) – red maple still ranks first, followed by silver maple, pin oak, American beech and red oak.

Norway maple, often mentioned as a tree that is over-planted and invasive, comes in only seventh on the list of most common trees, and it does not make the top ten for leaf area.

What These Trees Do

While the benefits of Hartford's trees based on this survey are still being analyzed, some early results are apparent. Hartford's trees store about 143,000 tons of carbon, and continue to remove carbon from the atmosphere at about the rate of 2,440 tons per year. An average car in the U.S. produces about 6 tons of carbon each year, so Hartford's trees could be said to balance the effects of over 400 cars The city's trees also help reduce energy consumption within the city by about 1,800 megawatt hours per year. Since the average Connecticut household uses about 8.4 megawatt hours per year, this balances the energy impact of over 200 households. This is a saving of about 2,400 barrels of oil not burned in local power plants.

The air quality benefits provided by the trees in Hartford also include substantial reductions in ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter. The survey showed that the trees of Hartford filter out about 37 tons of particulate matter a year. They also remove about 8 tons of carbon monoxide, 7 tons of nitrogen dioxide and 4 tons of sulfur dioxide annually. By shading and cooling our streets, trees also remove or help prevent the formation of about 15 tons of ozone each year.

In improving the quality of the air, trees directly improve the health and physical well-being of those who live and work in Hartford. Particulate matter consists of those small pieces of dust and other irritants that penetrate deep into the lungs and cause respiratory and other problems, including asthma and heart disease. Without trees, many of these air pollutants would be breathed in by people in the city. Air pollution reductions are particularly important in Hartford, which has the highest rate of emergency room admissions for asthma in the state.

The overall value of the services provided by trees in cleaning our air is estimated to be on the order of $305,000 each year. Trees also contribute to the reduction of stormwater runoff, noise abatement and increases in property values – benefits not quantified as a part of this survey.

The Challenge

The challenge for the city and citizens of Hartford is to take action – to do what is needed to plant, preserve, protect and maintain our trees – including those on both public and private properties. Specifically, we should:

1. Plant a lot more trees, with the goal of achieving a 30- to 35-percent canopy cover. Large, tall trees are better for achieving this goal than are smaller trees.

2. Choose where we plant these trees with care and with awareness as to the benefits these trees can provide, including the removal of pollutants, reductions in energy use and the improvement trees make to the quality of life in our city.

3. Devote greater resources to the maintenance of the city's larger and more valuable trees – including the city's very important street tree resource.

4. Undertake further studies of our forest. Hartford should have a full street tree inventory to guide maintenance efforts. A full inventory and a canopy cover analysis will help modernize our approach to urban forest management.

5. Continue the work already underway on developing a strong and consistent Hartford tree ordinance. All of this can be done. It will require efforts, of the city of Hartford and its citizens, the Connecticut General Assembly and those state agencies that work with the city. As is often said about trees, we need to take care of them, not just for ourselves but for the benefit of those future generations who will gain from the trees we leave to them.

The following organizations are participating in Hartford's Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) analysis: Knox Parks Foundation, 860-951-7694, the Hartford City

Forester, 860-543-8765, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Urban Forester, 860-424-3178.

Hartford's Urban Forest—a Summary

Number of trees: 568,000

Number of larger trees (over 20 inches in diameter): 55,000

Most common trees: red maple, tree of heaven, black cherry, American elm and red oak

Tree canopy cover: 26 percent

Amount of carbon trees remove annually: 2,440 tons

Amount of major air pollutants removed annually: 73 tons

Oil saved due to the trees' energy reduction: 2,400 barrels a year

Cost to replace these trees: $590 million

Christopher Donnelly is an urban forester for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Jack Hale is executive director of the Knox Parks Foundation, a non-profit organization that works with residents to plant trees and beautify the city. This article is reprinted with the authors' permission from a pamphlet published this year.

Tree Page Back in the Fall

For obvious reasons, the Tree Page is on hiatus this issue and will return in the fall.

In Old Saybrook

Some Truths About Trees — Convenient and Inconvenient

BY KATHLEEN GROLL CONNOLLY

Urban trees have never been more praised for their environmental value or more challenged by people and their practices and beliefs. Some people look at the planting and care of trees as one of the ways almost anyone can help our environment. Others look at a tree and only see 20 bags of leaves waiting to give them a bad back in early November.

"This diversity of opinion is certainly worth noting," says Bill Peace, member of the Board of Selectmen in Old Saybrook. "It surprises some people that anyone could object to the planting of a tree, and it surprises other people in a negative way when someone plants new trees near their properties."

Peace helped start the Old Saybrook Tree Committee in 1998 and reestablished the position of town tree warden. Since that time, the committee has overseen the planting of nearly 500 trees and shrubs in public spaces around the town.

"It's been an education in Urban Forestry," says Peace. Urban forestry is the study of managing trees in a populated setting. "There are some surprising challenges, chief among them are summer droughts," he says. In 1999, for instance, we went nearly 20 weeks without rainfall. "But this is closely followed by human challenges. State tree authorities say that it's not unusual to lose up to 50 percent of new urban trees."

Peace notes that we have enjoyed much better luck because homeowners have watered some of the trees and the fire department has been helpful in watering trees during periods of severe drought. "We've learned a few things along the way such as the need to protect the trees from mowers and weed whackers. Even minor damage to the bark can kill a tree," he says.

The Tree Committee is just one of Old Saybrook's environmental initiatives. In 2007, for instance, the town selectmen started a new 2020 program to encourage a 20-percent reduction in the town's energy usage by 2020.

We should encourage trees for three reasons, he says: environmental, economic, and aesthetic. "We need to find thoughtful ways of managing the objections to trees," says Peace. "Not just taking them down on a whim." There are ways for Old Saybrook residents to encourage healthy urban trees and obtain their many benefits. These include the following:

Water, water, water: If there's a newly planted tree near your home or business, give it some water during summer droughts.

Use good landscaping practices. Top dress the soil under trees with compost each spring, but keep mulch away from the bark of trunks! Avoid the bad landscaping practices I discuss later in this article.

Place carefully. Observe lines of sight, power lines, views, and existing shade or sunlight before choosing a spot.

Select carefully. Choose tree varieties that will thrive in challenging conditions. That information is available from many sources, including our state extension offices (860-345-4511 in Haddam) and other organizations such as the Arbor Day Foundation.

Prune routinely and judiciously. Reduce safety hazards on both public and private property by budgeting some money and time for this important practice.

Educate yourself and others. This is the key to living with trees successfully.

Some Challenges with Town Trees

►**Landscaping can damage trees.** Bill Peace notes three problems here. First is the weed whacker, which strips bark off the bottom inches of a tree. Depending on the species, this can kill the tree within a season. Second is the widespread use of "mulch volcanoes," in which mulch is mounded high around the base of the trunk. This has multiple negative effects on the tree, including the encouragement of weak, fibrous roots on the above-ground portion of the trunk. Third is the indiscriminate use of lawn chemicals around the base of trees, which can burn trees roots and have other negative effects.

► Trees are not universally loved. We all know that trees drop leaves, but they can also drip sap on yards and even on buildings, harbor insects, give more shade than wanted, and drop flowers and seed pods. Trees can be difficult to mow around. Trees can create anger among neighbors, as in the Leaf Wars that can occur every fall in any town among neighbors.

►Trees can become unattractive. Surrounded by hardscapes, utility lines, landscaping equipment, and automobiles, urban trees have a hard time achieving the natural good looks of their forest cousins. In addition, the Shoreline's summer droughts are particularly tough on young trees. All these conditions undermine their appearance.

►Trees can have unsafe aspects. Roots can create uneven walking surfaces. Fallen flowers and leaves can create road hazards. Though relatively rare, weak limbs and even whole trees can fall unexpectedly with unpredictable consequences.

►Trees can block views. Merchants often object when trees obscure their store's visibility. Homeowners object when trees block desirable views. Motorists have safety concerns when trees obscure important lines of sight. This is even more of an issue near the waterfront, where views have economic value.

►Trees can interfere with power and telephone lines, creating service and safety issues.

►Some people are afraid of trees. There's even a clinical name for this: dendrophobia. Like other anxieties, it can be treated by medication and therapy—but it sometimes results in the unnecessary removal of trees.

To reach Bill Peace or Old Saybrook's tree warden, Guy Pendleton, call the town selectmen's office at 860-395-3123.

Kathleen Groll Connolly is a writer, gardener, and volunteer tree-planter who lives in Old Saybrook with her family.

George McLean Milne, Influential CFPA President

The Rev. George Payne McLean Milne, a retired Congregational minister who served as president of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association for 15 years in the 1980s and 1990s, died on April 8 in Colchester.

As the leader of CFPA's Board of Directors, Mr. Milne was influential in a critical period of growth during which CFPA built and funded a new headquarters in Middlefield on land donated by John R. Camp. He first joined the CFPA board in 1977, two years before retiring to a tree farm in Gilead, a village in Hebron. Mr. Milne served on CFPA's long-range planning committee formed in 1979, succeeded David M. Smith as president of the board in 1981, and soon after became deeply involved in the building fundraising campaign that ultimately raised $1.1 million. He wrote the book *Connecticut Woodlands* (CFPA, 1995), which told the century-long history of CFPA's evolution from a small organization promoting healthy forests to a broad one that started the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, promoted state parks, and advocated for conservation.

Mr. Milne often quoted Bible passages and compared the Association's quiet presence behind major initiatives including trails, new state parks, and education, as a moral endeavor. "Looking back over more than sixty years of records and of Connecticut Woodlands [magazine]," Mr. Milne wrote 13 years ago in his book, "one is struck by the realization that the story of CFPA is not so much that of an organization as it is of people. Here is a hundred years' cavalcade of men and women who have cared about Connecticut's people and their heritage of field and forest, valleys and hills. What they thought and believed and did, speak for themselves in the pages of the past. They sought, often in unassuming ways, not for personal glory, but for what would prove right and good.…

"As generations followed one another over the century of time, death has reaped its inevitable harvest. Scattered through the pages are the thoughts of those who remained, concerning those who had gone before, blazing the trails, leading the way in civic and political duty and in care for the beauty and bounty of the earth. There is the sense that mortality and the wonder of nature are reconciled.…

"The list of the worthies is long and extends up into the present—too long to record adequately. They are missed from our midst, for their wisdom, work and laughter, but the inspiration of their goodly company still lives on, unforgettable, unforgotten."

CFPA Archives

George Milne, center, on the momentous day CFPA broke ground for its own headquarters in Middlefield. Former executive director John Hibbard wears the suit. The man in the plaid shirt is Clyde O. Fisher, building committee chairman.

* * *

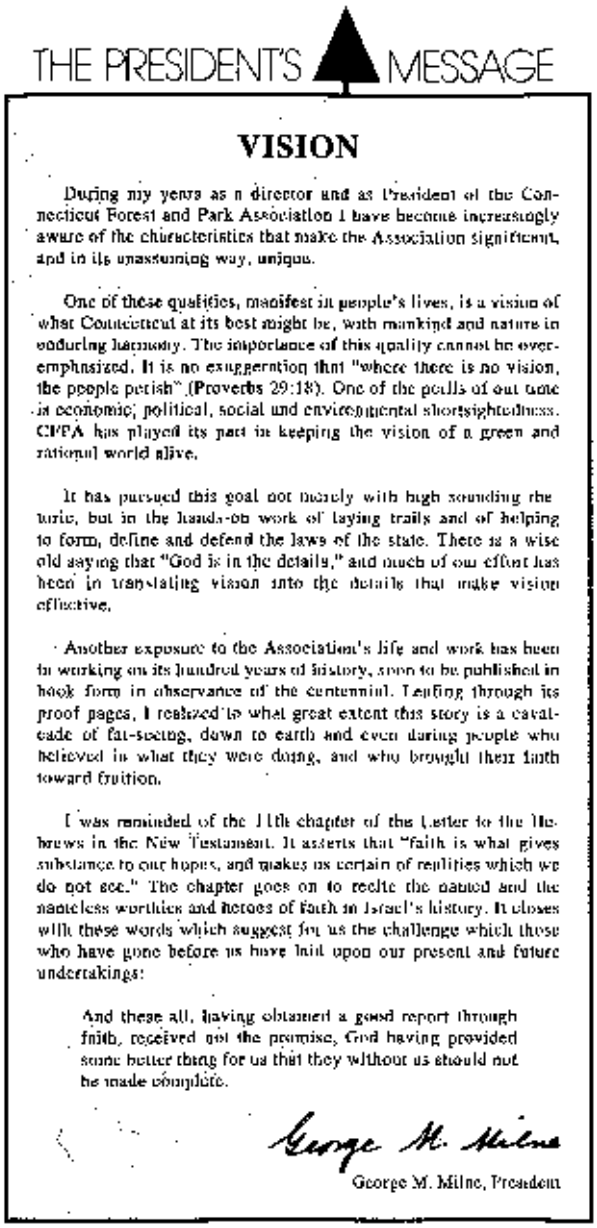
Mr. Milne was born in Simsbury on October 18, 1915. His parents were Lorna Woodford McLean and William Durant Milne. He grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts and earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1931. He received his master of divinity from Yale University in 1940. He also studied at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, from 1948-1949.

In 1942 he married Janet Odell Milne; they became parents of four children and were married for 61 years, until her death five years ago. Over the course of four decades, he served as minister of the Congregational parishes in Gilead and Hebron, chaplain in the United States Navy during World War II, and minister of the Woodbridge Congregational church for 27 years. Combining his lifelong interest and pleasure in working with young people and bicycling, he led youth cycling trips through New England and the British Isles, creating relationships that have endured over the years.

It was after his retirement to Gilead in 1979 when Mr. Milne became interested in CFPA after learning about it from a friend. He tended his tree farm and held interim pastorates at the churches in Hebron, Lebanon, and Gilead.

Drawing on his love of writing and community service, he authored four other books besides the one about CFPA. Two recorded his ministry of prayers and sermons; he also wrote two histories, of Lebanon and Gilead.

He is survived by four children and their spouses, George McLean Milne and Carol Milne of Niantic and Boca Grande, Florida; Margaret Milne Moulton and Peter Moulton



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VISION

During my years as a director and as President of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association I have become increasingly aware of the characteristics that make the Association significant, and in its unassuming way, unique.

One of these qualities, manifest in people's lives, is a vision of what Connecticut at its best might be, with mankind and nature in enduring harmony. The importance of this quality cannot be overemphasized. It is no exaggeration that "where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). One of the perils of our time is economic, political, social and environmental shortsightedness. CFPA has played its part in keeping the vision of a green and rational world alive.

It has pursued this goal not merely with high sounding rhetoric, but in the hands-on work of laying trails and of helping to form, define and defend the laws of the state. There is a wise old saying that "God is in the details," and much of our effort has been in translating vision into the details that make vision effective.

Another exposure to the Association's life and work has been in working on its hundred years of history, soon to be published in book form in observance of the centennial. Leafing through its proof pages, I realized to what great extent this story is a cavalcade of far-seeing, down to earth and even daring people who believed in what they were doing, and who brought their faith toward fruition.

I was reminded of the 11th chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament. It asserts that "faith is what gives substance to our hopes, and makes us certain of realities which we do not see." The chapter goes on to recite the named and the nameless worthies and heroes of faith in Israel's history. It closes with these words which suggest for us the challenge which those who have gone before us have laid upon our present and future undertakings:

> And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise, God having provided some better thing for us that they without us should not be made complete.

George M. Milne

George M. Milne, President

Above, one of George Milne's many President's Messages in Connecticut Woodlands magazine.

of Concord, Massachusetts; Duncan Shand Milne and Constance Brown of Durham; and Janet Emily Milne and John Kuhns of Etna, New Hampshire. He also leaves seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

His memorial service was held April 19 at the Gilead Congregational Church.

Contributions in George Milne's memory may be directed to the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, Connecticut, 06481.

Additional obituaries on page 26.

ELEGY FOR GEORGE

I want a hero: an uncommon want,
When every year and month sends forth a new one,
Till, after cloying the gazettes with cant,
The age discovers he is not the true one;
Don Juan, Canto 1

BY JAMES W. LITTLE

All of us want a hero, models of right behavior to emulate, and all too often we seek in the wrong places, finding mere cyphers instead. When I found the Rev. George McLean Milne, I was not seeking a hero but information to write a research paper about the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. In my research, I read Mr. Milne's history of CFPA, *Connecticut Woodlands*, a book given as a gift when I first joined CFPA's Board of Directors. In the book I found not only a history of CFPA, but a lyrical voice that educated and inspired me. I never met George Milne, but he was a hero worth finding, one who contributed to the positive change in Connecticut's landscape and did so with quiet grace, leadership, humility, and an inspired voice.

Mr. Milne's voice is that of another age, an age that realized the necessity of understanding the continuity of history. He was not afraid to embrace his spirituality in his writing, in which he liberally quoted scripture and literature. George Milne was a husband, father, pastor and farmer who left a light footprint on the environment. He preached to his flock and cut wood from his woodlot to keep them and their church warm. He was an everyman living his life in service to his fellow man.

For 14 years, from 1981 through 1995 Mr. Milne led CFPA. During these productive years, he continued on the path of common sense, a practical approach that has defined CFPA. During his tenure, CFPA built its first permanent home in 90 years. It established an endowment to sustain the building and the Association's financial well-being. It worked to expand the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails and revitalized the teachers' environmental workshop program Project Learning Tree. He continued the CFPA tradition of seeking to understand all sides of a debate and finding the balance point of consensus, not compromise for the sake of agreement or majority, but the practical, common sense answer amidst a storm of contradiction.

At the end of his tenure as president, he wrote a book to explain and explore the first 100 years of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. Since I had never met Mr. Milne, he exists for me in this book, in which he described CFPA's critical place in the history of Connecticut conservation. In writing about his predecessors, George Milne wrote about himself. As Emerson said, "There is properly no history, only biography." One can find the essence of the historian in the crafting of his history. In interpreting the roots of CFPA, he reveals his own sense of what worked and we understand what moved his own actions. He tells us in the book *Connecticut Woodlands* about the narrow road that CFPA had to navigate between those who sought to preserve the land and those who wish to work the land. As he wrote on page 5:

> Over the years, as this history will relate, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association has recognized the validity at both ends of this spectrum. It has been committed to the practical endeavors and activities

continued on page 30

KORNEL BAILEY on the History of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails

These are excerpts of two articles former CFPA Trails Committee chairman Kornel Bailey wrote for Connecticut Woodlands magazine in 1983. He included the text of a press release sent to newspapers in 1931 that inspired him to go hiking on the new Mattabesett Trail.

CONNECTICUT FOREST AND PARK ASSOCIATION Press Bulletin No. 152
Release Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1931

NEW FOREST TRAIL OPEN

Edgar L. Heermance, chairman of the Trails Committee of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, announces the opening of a new forest trail on the hills east of Wallingford and Meriden. It has been named the Mattabesett Trail, after the Indian tribe which lived in the vicinity of Durham and Middletown.

The brushing is not completed, but the blue paint marking has been applied, so that the route is easy to follow. The present southern terminus is at Coe's Mill on the New Haven-Middletown highway, about 13 miles from New Haven, just past the North Branford-Durham town line. The trail goes over Pistapaug Mt., with its beautiful hemlock-shaded cliff overlooking the pond. It continues north over Fowler Mt. to Trimountain, where from the sharp southern peak, one can observe one of the most charming panoramas in this part of the state. The trail has been carried by the Meriden Section over Beseck and Higby, with fine outlooks from the western cliffs, and will be continued over Lamentation Mountain. Mr. Heermance states that, for a day's tramp, it is now possible to take the early Middletown bus to Coe's Mill, and walk to the north end of Mt. Beseck, meeting the bus from Middletown to Meriden, which makes a walk of about ten miles.

A new trail section has been organized at Middletown, with Professor Karl P. Harrington as chairman. Mr. Harrington was formerly in charge of the Appalachian Trail in the White Mountains. It is planned to develop for tramping the interesting country on both sides of the Connecticut River. Much of the work will be done by the new Wesleyan Outing Club. This is the ninth local trail section to be organized in the state, under the direction of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

I saw the above news release in the New Haven Register and three of us hiked from Coe's Mill as far as Trimountain, and returned by roads. Contrary to the news release it was not blue blazed and very little brush cutting had been done. We had a hard time following this route although we were experienced hikers. I have learned since that Mr. Heermance sometimes got his publicity ahead of the actual trail work.

Professor Karl P. Harrington was formerly Counsellor of Trail of the Appalachian Mountain Club and was responsible for the laying out and building of many trails in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The reader must not confuse these trails with the present Appalachian Trail, which came much later and then utilized the A.M.C. and other trails already built in the White Mountains.

Shortly after his appointment as Middletown Section chairman, Professor Harrington, who was Advisor to the Wesleyan Outing Club, used this group to construct the Mattabesett Trail eastward from Coe's Mill to the Connecticut River.

The first section, to Route 77 was completed before March 6, 1932 when I hiked it with the New Haven Hiking Club. It was completed to Route 79 before the end of 1935.

The Old Apple Tree

BY JEAN CRUM JONES

All the colonists, young, and old, drank cider, and they did it everywhere: at vestry meetings, at ordinations, at church raisings, at weddings, at funerals and at all times of the day. Laborers, ministers, delicate women, old men, infants in arms, and children drank cider. It was as popular as soft drinks are today.

On the high brow of one of our farm's hills stands an ancient apple tree. How the tree still stands is a mystery. On close examination, it appears the inner trunk is all gone. Its huge head of branches and leaves seem only to be supported by a wall of sturdy remnants of trunk. When I ask my 90- year-old father-in-law, Philip Jones, who grew up on this hilltop farm in Shelton, about the lone apple sentinel, he said that it was a fully mature, remarkable tree when he was a young lad.

Looking more closely about the tree, one can see the piece of an old fence post buried nearby in the building soil layer. Once upon a time in the early 1800s, a farmhouse and a small sheep barn stood near here, halfway down the hill. Today a partial stone barn foundation remains. Philip said that there was a scattering of apple trees by the sheep barn hillside. He remembered with fondness, the delicious, perfect little lady apples that he and his sisters gathered in the late fall.

Up on the hill by our apple tree survivor, I look a mile to the east, and I can see a neighboring hilltop farm, another fugitive from the creeping suburban development all around. Recently revived, this farm has built a new cider mill and produces a delicious sweet apple cider using a mix of varieties from its heirloom orchard—blends of Winter Banana, Russets, Baldwins, and Winesaps—as well as some modern apple varieties from the newly planed dwarf trees. Gone are all the nearby distilleries and cider mills which used to pepper the rapid streams in these hills and which produced prodigious amounts of hard cider and apple brandy only one hundred years ago. These stills and mills are clearly marked on an old map of our town, circa 1860, which is framed and hung on a farmhouse wall.

The English influence

To ponder the old apple tree and its surroundings leads to reflections about the importance of apple trees in the settlement and identity of New England. The English who arrived nearly four centuries ago at the Massachusetts Bay Colony were religious refugees who wanted to continue eating their familiar English diet. One major component of that diet was beer. At that time, everyone drank beer all the time in England, because water was deemed unhealthy and associated with deadly fevers. However, their English barley did not grow well in the hostile New England climate and they had to resort to the Indians' "pomkins and squashes of divers kinds" in their earliest years to produce a kind of beer.

The settlers from the South and West England, who were cider drinkers due to their agricultural heritage, had brought along apple seeds and cuttings on their voyage to America. After a year, they requested the delivery of some bees, which were nonexistent in North America until then, and the apple seedlings then flourished. Within a decade of settlement, English apple trees were established around Colonial homesteads, and apple cider became the American beverage. The imported English apples seemed especially adaptable to the New England soil and climate. The ease of production, the generous crops, and the juiciness of the fruit caused the apple tree to become an indispensable aide to settlement. The only native apple trees discovered were crab apples with small, bitter, inedible fruits, but these trees later proved useful for grafting purposes. The Native Americans quickly adopted English apples into their diets, and some Indian trails became marked by rows of apple trees where cores were discarded along the way.

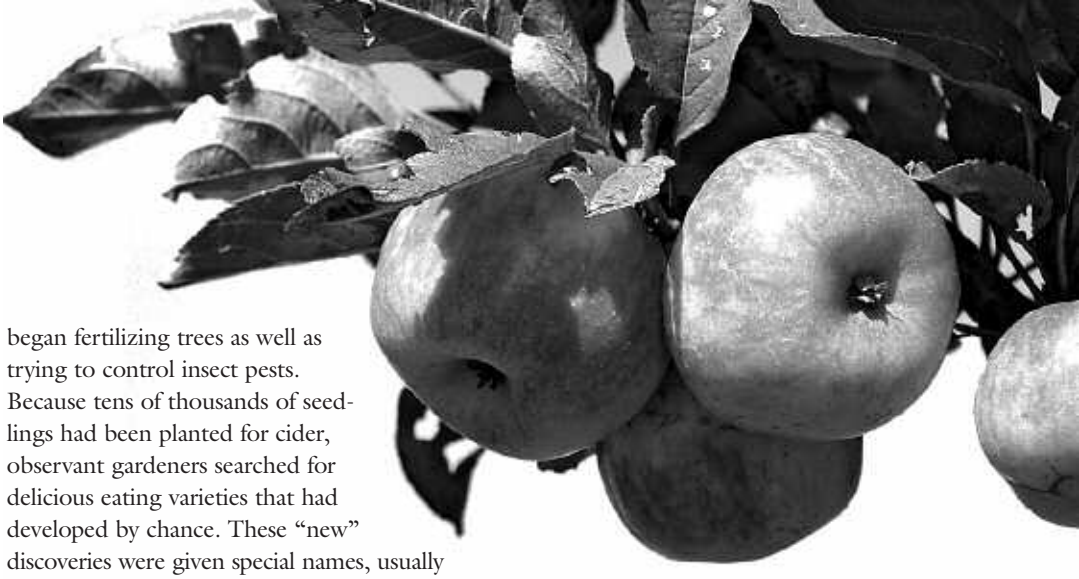
All the colonists, young, and old, drank cider, and they did it everywhere: at vestry meetings, at ordinations, at church raisings, at weddings, at funerals and at all times of the day. Laborers, ministers, delicate women, old men, infants in arms, and children drank cider. It was as popular as soft drinks are today. Since sweeteners were very expensive and almost non-existent, the slightly sweet cider enhanced their fairly mundane meals. All cider was what is now referred to as "hard" cider. Prior to refrigeration, cider was the most efficient way to preserve apples, and apples were mainly grown to drink. Mushy, soft varieties were preferred.

Because of the natural yeasts that exist on apples, apple juice ferments when left at room temperature. Allowed to ferment for just a few weeks, apple juice yields a mildly alcoholic beverage just about half the strength of wine, from 3 percent to 8 percent alcohol. Not until refrigeration became available around the turn of the 20th century was a distinction made between "sweet" cider (unfermented, unfiltered apple juice) and "hard" cider.

The other valuable by-product of squeezed apples was cider vinegar, made by allowing the cider to continue to ferment until tangy. They used vinegar extensively as a flavoring and preserving agent. They believed that cider vinegar had medicinal powers and therefore considered it at times a health drink. From the Dutch, the New England housewife learned to make apple butter by boiling down sweet apples with apple cider until it became a thick brown paste. This apple product would keep well in cool crocks and lasted from one apple harvest until the next.

Connecticut's fine varieties

Connecticut, from its very beginning, became known for its fine apples and cider.



Amongst the first settlers at Windsor was the Wolcott family. They developed a prosperous farming enterprise with beef and dairy cattle as well as extensive arable crops. True to their Somerset origins (Somerset is still recognized for its delicious cider), they established orchards for cider and for perry (pear cider). Henry Wolcott, Jr., was especially famous for his apple and pear orchards that became the largest on the Connecticut River. His trees were bearing as early as 1649 and his cider presses were at work the following year. For thirty years, he sold apples by the bushel, young apple trees by the hundred, and cider by the hogshead. At the time of his death, he owned some 34 acres of orchards in Windsor.

Most Connecticut settlers grew their apple trees from seeds. Apple trees were planted along fencerows, along cow lanes, and in odd nooks and crannies, because farmers reserved productive cleared lands for grain crops. Those familiar with growing apples know that the only way to get a true variety of apple is by grafting a bud piece from a parent onto a rootstock. When apple trees are grown from seeds, they do not grow true to their parentage genetics but become their own unique variety. The majority are sour or "quick spitters." But the purpose of growing the seedlings was for cider and the mix of tartness and tannins made for excellent cider. In the late 1700s, French exile Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, famed epicure and gastronome, drank at a Connecticut farmhouse from "vast jugs" of cider. It was, he said, "so excellent that I could have gone on drinking it for ever."

Following the American Revolution, distilling reached considerable proportions; by 1810, Connecticut was said to be furnished with 500 distilleries. Gin and cider were Connecticut's most valuable exports. Considerable amounts of brandy were being made from apples and the resulting brew was known as "apple jack." Cider making reached its zenith in Connecticut in 1830. But life changed. The temperance crusade caused many cider orchards to be cut down or abandoned. Concurrently, there was a growing interest in scientific agriculture and there was much promotion of varietal selection, grafting, and general orchard improvement.

Alert apple men set out new commercial orchards in fenced plots in a grid pattern and began fertilizing trees as well as trying to control insect pests. Because tens of thousands of seedlings had been planted for cider, observant gardeners searched for delicious eating varieties that had developed by chance. These "new" discoveries were given special names, usually associated with their town of origin or the name of the discoverer, after which they were sold to plant nurseries for propagation. By the end of the 19th century, it is estimated there were more than 10,000 named American varieties. (The current number is about 2,500.) The quintessential New England apple, the McIntosh, was discovered as a chance seedling in 1811, put in a home garden, and then was propagated in the 1870s. For New England growers, the McIntosh, which had good resistance to cold weather, began its domination of the orchards. A crispy sweet tart apple, it became a favorite fresh eating variety.

As the result of the development of improved fresh eating apples in the last quarter century of the 1800s, the New England apple industry flourished. Pomological societies were begun and strove to improve all aspects of apple production and marketing. In an address to the St. Louis Exposition of 1904, J.T. Stinson, notable 20th century fruit specialist, proclaimed, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Consumption of fresh apples soared. Depending on the variety, they could be stored well through the winter. The key was to pick unblemished fruit and to store them carefully so that they would not bruise and then keep them in a cool, damp spot, preferably in a cellar. Apple pie became a mainstay at meals, even at breakfast. Applesauce and apple butter were made and canned in the fall and dried apples were also prepared for winter use. Apple bees were a favorite autumn party at which many hands help "put up" apples for winter storage.

Dark days, the early 20th century

However, in the first half of the 20th century, the decline of the golden age of apples began. Factors responsible included developments in long-haul transportation and large fruit storage facilities, as well as the disappearance of thousands of varieties of apples. Further insults in the 1920s and 1930s included the proliferation of apple pests and diseases and the emergence of the soft drink and orange juice industries. Larger and larger fruit tree nurseries focused on fewer and fewer varieties. American producers chose a dozen or so major commercial varieties for high volume, long shelf life, and looks. Taste was of minimal concern except for sweetness. The red delicious apple became the predominant American apple with few other options available by 1950. Hopefully that was the low point of American apple agriculture.

Today, people want good-tasting apples in many varieties. More than 60 varieties of apples are grown in Connecticut as compared to the 10 to 15 available in traditional markets. There are about 75 commercial orchards in Connecticut and all are family-owned and operated.

Connecticut has been blessed with the gift of good apples. The apple tree and its fruits have been a part of our history as long as we've been Connecticut. And, like my wizened old apple tree, standing proudly on the hill, the famed Connecticut apples thrive because they adapt, survive neglect, and respond beautifully to care and affection.

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

Be a Citizen Frog and Toad Scientist

I've yet to meet a child whose eyes didn't shine upon hearing and watching the slimy, web-toed inhabitants of a murky pond

BY LORI PARADIS BRANT

"Rubber boots. Rubber boots. Rubber, rubbbber boots." The call of the bullfrog is a sure auditory sign that summer is well underway. So are the unique "Katy-did, Katy-didn't" and buzzing of cicadas, as well as the inevitable, "I'm bored" from the human kids.

It is to be expected that within a few weeks of summer vacation's beginning, the kids begin to whine about being bored and having nothing to do. Here's a fun solution for the summertime doldrums: participate as a family in a citizen science program. Citizen science programs, often natural history or ecology oriented, invite the public to become a part of a network of volunteers who make observations, collect data and take measurements to share with scientists.

Studying frogs for scientists is sure to delight the whole family. Ponds, frogs and children seem to go hand in hand with the meaning of summer. Ponds are full of exciting critters and smells to explore. I've yet to meet a child whose eyes didn't shine upon hearing and watching the slimy, web-toed inhabitants of a murky pond. Good listening skills, a watch, pen and paper, and a yearning for learning are all the tools that are necessary for the citizen science program, FrogWatchUSA™. This program is managed by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) in partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS). It relies on volunteers who are interested in frogs and toads to help scientists from the USGS gather information.

Because amphibians are susceptible to pollutants and UVB light, they are often considered canaries in the coal mine. Many rely on wetlands for breeding, juvenile, and adult life stages. When these wetland areas are degraded, it is the amphibians that often bear the damage. When citizen scientists collect and share data on where, when, and which frogs and toads are calling, scientists can study the population trends across the country. Programs like FrogWatch USA™ expose children and youths to the outdoors, science, and the value of volunteerism. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to be outside together as a family.

Ready to sign up? It's simple. First, locate a swamp, pond, brook, or other wetland area that is open to the public or which you have permission to study. Selecting a water body where you know frogs live is a wise place to start. Next, register online at www.nwf.org/frogwatchusa and follow the online instructions. Once registered, NWF will send you a packet of information to your home to help you get started as a FrogWatcher. If there isn't Internet access at home, a stop at your local library is next in line for things to do. While there, be sure to check out field guides and audio CDs or tapes so your family can begin to learn how to identify the common frogs and toads of Connecticut. There are only 10 species of frogs and toads in our state, so this can be a fun part of the project. An online nature guide, www.enature.com, is another interesting resource for learning the calls and habitats of frogs and toads; this is fun to do while you're waiting for your packet to arrive.

Once you have trained your ear to distinguish between the trilling of the American toad, the quacking of the wood frog, and the "chung chung chung" of the green frog, and you've registered with NWF, it is time for the frogging to begin. Your family will learn simple steps to record information about weather conditions and how to collect the frog call data. You'll be listening for which frogs or toads are calling and recording the intensity of their calls. Be familiar with the area you'll be visiting, as the protocol requires the observation to begin shortly after sunset, when most frogs and toads are calling.

It is always important to consider safety first; watch out for poison ivy, pay attention for the weather, and make sure someone knows where your family will be and when to expect your return. Establish safety rules with your family before heading outdoors, and ask your children to help create and keep the rules. Modeling safe behavior will establish a respectful and fun time for the family.

Picture a quiet summer evening with your family sitting quietly by pond's edge. Everything, and everyone, is calm and still. After a few moments of silence and kids shifting around in the grass, a deep "rrruuubbbberrr boooots" bellows from the water's edge. Then another, and another from around the pond. Your children's eyes are bulging with excitement; they think it's almost too good to be true. As they sit focused now on the sounds from the pond, they are smiling, mouths partly open in silent "ooohhhs." For three whole minutes, your family exists in the middle of the evening's cacophony of nature's sounds. All of you feel a quiet sense of exhilaration as you connect to a piece of the world that is larger than yourselves.

If you participate in FrogWatchUSA™, please send me a drawing, photograph, or short story of your experience in frogging. We may share it in a future CFPA publication. Please email me at education@ctwoodlands.org.

Happy frogging.

Lori Paradis Brant is the education coordinator of CFPA.

Noteable Trees

continued from page 9

of trunks, branches, or heights that might grab people's attention. In the world of documenting champion trees, all of the various ways to measure trees must be considered in assigning a number of points to a tree. Mr. Richardson explained that the total number of points a tree earns depend on the tree's height, its trunk circumference measured (usually) at 4.5 feet from the ground and a rating based upon the average spread of the branches. The American Forests database currently lists as the champion serviceberry a tree that earned 155 points. Mr. Richardson and Mr. Kaputa calculated the Glastonbury serviceberry at 181 points. "We'll submit our tree for the 2010 issue (of the national database)," Mr. Richardson wrote in a note to the editor. "With luck, Connecticut might well have another champ."

The Importance of Volunteers

Mr. Dreyer, whose responsibility for the Connecticut College Arboretum extends to the entire campus and its collection of native trees, shrubs, and plants, must rely on volunteers like Mr. Richardson and Mr. Kaputa to keep the statewide notable trees project dynamic. For many years, Mr. Richardson, who is retired and lives in Glastonbury with his wife, Marion, has dedicated himself to field measurements and records. His interest started when he read an article about Mr. Dreyer's search for notable trees in 1987 in The New York Times. ("In Search of the Biggest Trees," by Joan Lee Faust, May 24, 1987). For the last five years or so Mr. Kaputa, a 42-year-old stay-at-home father from Glastonbury, has been helping to measure trees and making several improvements to the Web site (http://notabletrees.conncoll.edu). Mr. Kaputa said he became interested when he saw a slide show by Mr. Dreyer several years ago and offered his services as a software engineer. His goal, he said, is to make the latest information available immediately to the public.

When a big tree stands near a proposed new building or road, the tree must figure in the earliest planning if it's to be saved, Mr. Dreyer said. Giant trees can't survive a move, and so architects and planners would have to design around them. (See Greening Connecticut Cities and Towns: Managing Public Trees and Community Forests, edited by Robert M. Ricard and Glenn D. Dreyer; University of Connecticut, 2005). People can be unnecessarily emotional about trees, but on the other hand, "They're not just built objects. They support a lot of life," he said.

Christine Woodside is the editor of Connecticut Woodlands.

Forest Gardening, Not for Sissies

Edible Forest Gardens, Volume Two: Ecological Design and Practice for Temperate-Climate Permaculture,
by Dave Jacke with Eric Toensmeier. White River Junction, Vermont: Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 2005. 655 pp.

BY ROBERT M. RICARD

In the early to mid 1970s, a plethora of "how-to" books on small-scale farming, organic gardening, permaculture, and other associated "back-to-the land" publications appeared on bookstore shelves and into the hands of people eager to adopt less intensive, more ecologically sensitive methods of producing life's necessities of food and fiber. Books published by the likes of Helen and Scott Nearing, J. Russell Smith, Bill Mollison, Wendell Berry, John Todd, and extolled mostly the virtues of ecological agriculture and environmental forestry. At that that time, however, they could provide little science based evidence or time-tested practices demonstrating that these methods could be sustained economically. To embark on a quest for sustainable landscape practices in which the practitioner would be able to support the land but also a family, one needed mostly to be passionately devoted to a land ethic as evidence of likely success was scarce.

Times have changed. Decades of practical field and farm experience coupled with university and experiment station agricultural research on organic or ecological agricultural methods have produced strong evidence that such practices can, in fact, work. (Farming, of course, has always been a precarious enterprise and this no doubt will remain a constant.) The newest buzz word for this trend in environmental agriculture and natural resources management is "sustainable." This new word is now well entrenched in agricultural and natural resource policy and professional jargon. As a concept, of course, it is nothing new—it has grabbed professionals and legislators attention, at least for the time being.

Books on this topic are again appearing. They contain a great deal more science based information and demonstrated environmentally friendly gardening, farming, and forestry practices than their predecessors in the 1970s could. *Edible Forest Gardens* is just such a book. Here in this second volume of two is a tome intended to provide the would-be permaculturalist all he needs to know to grow healthy food, to improve rather than deplete soil, and to recycle items produced outside the forest garden by incorporating them into the system. The goal of the book is to help an individual or family lower their "carbon footprints" by developing edible forest gardens.

Volume one extolled the vision of forest gardening as a "practice that reintegrates humans with the natural world." They lay out a foundation of understanding the ecosystem of the forest as well as socials sciences, "underground" economics, and vegetation dynamics.

In volume two, the authors progress from this world view and intellectual foundation and move on to the practical application of what they espouse. Here they provide the tools of a forest gardener, which are different from those of a vegetable gardener. The first four of seven chapters address design—that is, thinking things through thoroughly ecologically before ones acts practically. This design process includes assessing the forest and land, what it could grow and what the gardener needs for food. It also requires thinking about on-site and external energy needs, and how to reduce them. Continuing the design theme, the first chapter explains how we (the current scholarly forest science literature as well as anecdotal evidence and demonstrated examples) mimic forest ecosystem structure and function and as such it provides an overview of the author's forest gardening perspective and of ecological foundations. Chapters two, three, and four provide a step-by-step conceptual framework assisting the forest gardener in developing a cultivation design plan in what the authors describe as a "robust, full-fledged, all-out design process."

This design phase seems to me to be the toughest challenge because it simply does not sound like much fun – one spends a considerable amount of time with "paper and pen in hand" thinking what to do. People garden for many different reasons, but for me it is largely to get outside and to get dirty. And this is what the next chapters (site preparation and garden establishment) fortunately are all about.

The authors don't pull punches and tell us that forest garden site preparation is hard work; a significant amount of time and energy is invested at this stage. Interestingly, this is the stage where people often "cheat" – that is, instead of using low energy input systems (such as ones own back muscles) people will use energy intensive and external sources of energy (gas) to power bulldozers, trucks, and trackers. This is the phase that separates the true sustainable gardening systems from the faux sustainable systems. It is relatively easy to install drought hardy plants, but what energy requirements did it take to prepare the site? This is where moral and environmental ethics arise in earnest. The final chapter discusses management, maintenance, and coevolution. The authors maintain that if you did your homework and spent much good quality time in the planning phase, then maintenance should be easier than it would with a traditional garden. This is a fun book to have, but tough to read – a paradox indeed. Maybe it's just me, but there is such an enormous amount of information that it seems to miss the actual practice of getting outside and working. There are ample tables, references, sources of seed and tools, and guides to numerous associated organizations one can belong to. Make no mistake; this is a well researched, well written book. This is not a "lightweight" volume. To succeed in what the authors profess, the reader must be committed to a specific way of living and caring for the land. And this would be better for all of us, but a challenge for most.

Robert M. Ricard is a senior extension educator in urban forestry with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System in West Hartford.

STUMPAGE REPORT

Current prices for standing timber

This table summarizes 74 voluntary reports by foresters, loggers, and sawmills of prices paid for timber between January and March 2008 in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Prices are in dollars per thousand board feet using the international quarter-inch scale. Pulpwood and fuelwood are reported in dollars per cord. The Cooperative Extension Services of the University of Connecticut and the University of Massachusetts compile these quarterly reports, warning that these prices offer only a guide to prices, which can fluctuate due to many factors. See the Web site http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/forest/pricesht.htm or http://forest.fnr.umass.edu/snestumpage.htm.

	EAST OF CT RIVER			WEST OF CT RIVER		
SPECIES	no. of reports	median	range	no. of reports	median	range
Red oak	30	203	0 - 510	12	183	100 – 475
White oak	26	80	0 - 300	4	93	0 – 200
Other oaks	25	105	0 - 350	4	105	0 – 200
Ash	20	50	30 - 275	12	75	50 – 150
Cherry	9	200	50 - 275	10	300	200 – 550
Sugar maple	14	200	0 - 388	14	250	150 – 450
Red maple	22	45	20 - 100	13	50	25 – 129
Tulip poplar	0	-	-	3	150	30 – 155
Yellow birch	7	50	40 - 65	11	70	40 – 150
Black birch	19	50	40 - 375	12	50	40 – 150
Paper birch	6	41	40 - 50	9	50	20 – 96
Beech	0	-	-	6	25	5 – 25
Pallet hdwd	13	25	0 - 40	9	10	5 – 25
Other hdwd	7	15	5 - 50	3	14	5 – 40
White pine	24	83	40 - 125	19	60	35 – 127
Red pine	8	25	22 - 125	4	100	70 – 100
Hemlock	10	35	10 - 50	12	20	5 – 35
Spruce	4	25	25 - 145	3	70	20 – 75
Other sfwd	3	20	20 - 20	0	-	-
Poles, hardwd ($/lin.ft)	0	-	-	0	-	-
Poles, sftwd ($/lin.ft)	0	-	-	0	-	-
Fuel wood ($/cd)	30	5	0 - 50	6	5	4 – 12
Pulpwood ($/cd)	8	2	0 - 50	2	1	0 – 1
Biomass ($/ton)	1	0	-	0	-	-

THE MOUNTAIN

Scale the petrified giant

Explore the blissful, welcoming trail

Maneuver over the massive boulders

And finally reach the summit

Be serenaded by the lone pine trees

And the parched bushes

As well as the spectacular view of the county

Have a granola bar or maybe some root beer

And then complete what you really came here for…

Prepare your parachute!

—Eric Peters, age 13

Taxes and other Policies to Preserve Connecticut's Forestlands

BY WILLIAM R. BENTLEY

Connecticut initiated an experiment in tax policy for open space preservation in 1963. Public Act 490 allowed rural land owners to apply for tax rates that reflected current land use for crops, pasture, forest, or open space instead of assessments based on "highest and best use." The policy goal was to reduce pressure on land owners because it was clear that high taxes encouraged land use conversion.

Landowners have to commit to 10 years of rural land use, with penalties for early withdrawal. Towns have control of designating farmlands that qualified, and whether open space would be an allowed designation. The state forester had the authority to designate lands as forests, but the role was transferred to certified foresters in 2005 and a modest forest inventory is required. Use values in dollars per acre are established by state agencies.

Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies hosted a forum on April 28 and 29 to review the success of PA490 and explore additional tax and other policies that might encourage more preservation of Connecticut's private forest land.

The speakers presented landowner, town government, and other perspectives. Experts from Maryland, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts described policies they have to encourage forests remaining as forests. One common point is that the policy target in each is forests; farming and other open space are dealt with by other policies.

The forum participants agreed that the PA490 tax policy has worked. It has encouraged landowners to commit to at least 10 years of land preservation in some form of open space and many of the lands that came into PA490 are still under the program. The only serious change the group might recommend is to take away the arbitrary power some towns and assessors have to ignore the state determined use values.

The forum looked at several means to encourage forest owners to retain their lands as working landscapes. The changes discussed would be a new policy layer directed at forest owners, not all PA490 participants.

Tax changes considered include deductions for charitable giving of conservation easements or bargain sales that are useable over a 15-year period, sales tax exemptions, and various other kinds of state income tax deductions. The Connecticut state income tax does not have many ways that landowners can deduct at present because the state income tax calculations are not tied closely to the federal tax form 1040 or to Form A deductions. Any new policies along these lines, the group felt, should require that a forest owner have a management plan and demonstrate implementation to qualify.

A related idea would be to give forest landowners a tax credit for the public benefits they produce. Examples might include clean water, bird habitat, carbon storage, and local vistas and scenery. A simple system would estimate such values for all of Connecticut's forestlands or for broad regions (e.g., the old counties). Again, eligibility would require a certified plan and demonstrated implementation. Higher credits might be given for public access for hiking (on places such as the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails) and selected other recreation.

Experts discussed emerging biomass energy technologies, community forest bonds, and ecosystem service markets. These might add new sources of revenues to the mix, especially from private sector sources, and new values like biomass energy. In each case, the creative trick will be developing versions that are adapted to the relatively small scale of Connecticut ownerships and the town-level for much of government.

William R. Bentley is a principal in Salmon Brook Associates of North Granby and a CFPA member. He is doing research on policy means for encouraging maintenance of working forests in Connecticut under auspices of CFPA's Farnam Endowment.

Get Out the Hiking Shoes….

Metacomet-Mattabesett Hike Series Planned

In celebration of the proposed New England National Scenic Trail, CFPA is organizing an extensive series of section hikes of the Mattabesett and Metacomet trails.

Twelve section hikes of between 5 and 12 miles each and six "sampler" hikes each 5 to 10 miles and going to notable outlooks or views will be scheduled on weekdays and weekends between September 1 and November 30. The section hikes total more than 100 miles and the sampler hikes, 38 miles total. The Metacomet and Mattabesett trails are part of a proposed New England National Scenic Trail.

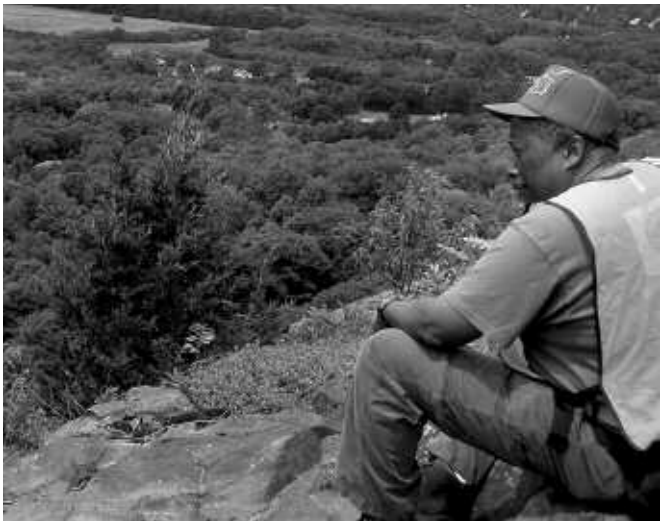
For details of the hikes, see the Web site www.ctwoodlands.org or call 860-346-2372.

Janet Ainsworth

National Trails Day on June 7 included a hike on a new section of the Mattabesett Trail in Meriden. At left, another hike summited Mount Higby in Middlefield.

CFPA

Volunteers created a log waterbar at the CFPA spring trail workshop in Cockaponset State Forest



Ann T. Colson

Joe King, shown here on the Metacomet Ridge in Berlin, looking over Southington, has been elected vice-chair of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's Trails Committee.

Jane Brawerman

Canoeists and kayakers enjoyed a stretch of the Mattabesett River in Cromwell on National Trails Day.

Fom the ***WalkConnecticut*** Director

A Walk Among the Trees

BY LESLIE LEWIS

Arboretums—we won't get too fussy about our Latin plurals—are collections of trees and shrubs, often those not native to the area. Connecticut is home to several excellent facilities, but I have chosen three in different parts on the state where a pleasant walk can be had no matter the season. As you would for any walk, dress appropriately, bring water, sunscreen and insect repellant, and prepare to have a great time.

The Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens is a 91-acre nature preserve located in North Stamford. Open year-round to visitors and students of natural history and horticulture, the property was once the home of noted tree expert Dr. Francis Bartlett. It contains thousands of plants, including several champion trees (the largest of their species in the area) and a large permanent collection of plants from around the world in its greenhouse and gardens. The pond, swamp, and stream sustain abundant wildlife. All of the Bartlett's programs focus on the interrelationship of people, their gardens and landscapes, and the natural world around them. For more information and directions, go to www.bartlettarboretum.org.

The Connecticut College Arboretum encompasses 750 acres in New London and Waterford. The arboretum is a research site for college botany, biology, and environmental studies students. It is a place for the public to recharge and enjoy nature. The main section is across Williams Street from the college chapel. The Mamacoke Natural Area is east of Route 32 by the Thames River.

All trails are open to walkers. Runners are asked to use only the cross-country running trail in the Mamacoke section. A map of the trails is posted at the Williams Street entrance. The arboretum is open every day, dawn to dusk, and serves as a park for the surrounding communities. Dog walkers, parents with young children, and office workers out for a quiet lunch break are all frequent users. Visitors to the Native Plant Collection will find a notice board and a free self-guided tour brochure at the main entrance on Williams Street. Additional information is available at the Arboretum Office in 103 Olin Science Center directly north of the main college entrance from Rt. 32. For visitors arriving after office hours, a variety of informational brochures are available on a rack outside the office door. For more info, go to www.conncoll.edu/ccrec/greennet/arbor/.

Another unique arboretum is located at **Dinosaur State Park** in Rocky Hill. Although best known for its 2,000 dinosaur tracks first discovered in the 1960s, the park also features the Arborteum of Evolution. There are more than two miles of nature trails containing more than 250 species and cultivars of conifers, as well as katsuras, ginkgoes, magnolias and other living representatives of plant families which appeared in the Mesozoic Era. According to Joe Leary in his book *A Shared Landscape* (Friends of Connecticut State Parks, 2004), it "represents one of the most unusual collections of botany in the state." For information, visit www.ct.gov/dep and click on the state parks link. You can also contact the park office directly at 860-529-8423.

Leslie Lewis directs CFPA's WalkConnecticut program.

OBITUARIES

Ted Burghart

Theodore Burghart of Woodbury, a former trail manager for CFPA, died December 14, 2007 at home.

Mr. Burghart, a retired manager and consultant in light industrial, commercial, and municipal building projects, had been a partner in Garnet Consulting Services Inc. In addition to his several years as a trail manger, he loved to hike and learned to play tennis after his retirement.

Mr. Burghart was born October 5th, 1926, in Bridgeport, the son of Otto F. and Myrtle Borstelman Burghart. He was a longtime resident of Nichols, where he met and married Carlys Johnson Burghart, his wife of 58 years. He and his family moved to Woodbury in 1970.

He was an avid volunteer, serving the town of Woodbury for many years. He was on the original committee to establish a senior center and the first Public Building Commission. He was on the Board of Directors of the Flanders Nature Center for almost 20 years, volunteered with the Friendly Visitors of Southbury, and volunteered at the Woodbury Library, where he learned to mend books.

He is survived by his wife; three daughters, Pam Hogarth and her husband, John, of Durham; Judy Singer and her husband, Don, of Sandy Hook; and Kate Sault of Thomaston and her friend, Len Mandile; a son, Theodore R. Burghart, Jr., and his wife, Sarah, of Mendon, Mass.; and 10 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, Peter Burghart of Guilford.

Perley B. Robinson

Perley B. Robinson, a longtime trail volunteer for the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and for the Appalachian Mountain Club, died April 22 at home in Storrs. He was 83 and had lived in Connecticut since 1950. Mr. Robinson was a native of China, Maine, grew up in Douglas, Massachusetts, was a Navy veteran of World War II, and retired in 1988 from a career at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. He was a skilled fix-it man, a passionate recycler, and loved to fly. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty, and four children. A memorial service took place April 27 at the Storrs Congregational Church. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Joshua Trust, P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, 06250. or to the Storrs Congregational Church.

Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome you as a member of CFPA and we thank you for your interest and support. As a member, you become an important part of the conservation community. We hope you will find your membership informative, satisfying and fun, and that you will introduce yourself personally at one of our many events throughout the year. This listing includes the names of those who joined or renewed their membership between February 1 and April 30, 2008.

Stephen D. Bates

Timothy Brunner

Kathryn Burton

Diane Marie Ciano

John J. Conklin

Michael and Kim Cunningham

Paul M. Cuoto

James L. Dionne

Nancy and John Driscoll

Ethel H. Feltham

Joan L. Frost

Jaime Gerber

Susan P. Green

Robert Hardy

Richard D. Haviland

Edward King

Andrew Knott

Andrea J. Kulak

Edward Loughlin

Richard Maguire

Viola Day Mullin

Nicholas T. Noyes

Tim Petranek

Terry Rettger

Jonathan Richardson

Kevin Serpa and Marcia Hancock

Stephany Smith

A special welcome and thanks to the following new and renewing members

Benefactor $250

Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Curry

Peter G. Dorpalen

Mr. and Mrs. Scot Mackinnon

L. George Rieger*

Paul J. Volpe*

Supporting $100

Jack E. Becker

Eleanor J. Bielak

Elizabeth B. Borden

Dr. William D. Breck

Mr. and Mrs. Belton A. Copp

Wayne A. Fenton

Ronald and Bonnie Gingerich

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gworek

Randolph Brown and Diana R. Hodgson

Walter W. Butler, Jr.

John and Barbara Donahue

Penny and Ralph Eno, Jr.

Joanna M. Erikson

Peter Good and Jan Cummings

Elizabeth K. Harvey

Charles Iselin

George H. Jackson, Jr.

John Klingenstein

Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Kosman, Jr.

Valerie and Philip LeMontagne

Katherine Lindbeck

Andrew W. Lord

Eric Lukingbeal and Sally S. King

Audrey and Greg Meredith

Nancy and L. John Meyers

Daniel N. Michael

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Miller

Curtis Morgan*

Thomas and Carol Odell

Margaret Pechar

James R. Pronovost

Mr. and Mrs. James G. Speth

William W. Stowe

Mark Van Horne

Patricia L. Wales

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Whitehouse

A. Kirkwood Young

Organizations

Landmark $250

Conn Valley Mycological Society

The Scenic Company*

Sustaining $100

American Hardwood Industries, Inc.

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

East Lyme Land Conservation Trust*

Fairfield Public Library

Mashantucket-Pequot Tribal Nation

Nonprofit $75

Connecticut Woodcarvers Association

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Inc.

Essex Garden Club

Girl Scouts of Connecticut

Highstead Arboretum

Meshomasic Hiking Club

New Canaan Nature Center

Town of Farmington

Club $50

Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

* denotes new member

The 2007 Annual Fund

The Association launched the 2007 Annual Fund in late October with enthusiastic Board commitment and a first–time goal of $100,000. We offer our thanks to those whose contributions were received between 2/01/2008 and 4/30/2008, making it possible for CFPA to exceed its ambitious goal.

Charter Circle

$500 to $999

Mr. and Mrs.
Gordon L. Anderson

Foresters' Circle

$250 to $499

Dr. William D. Breck

Patron

$100 to $249

Mr. and Mrs.
Carlyle F. Barnes

Ronald and Bonnie
Gingerich

Susan P. Kirk

David J. LaPierre

David and Barbara Preston

Steep Rock Association

Zellene Sandler

Sponsor

Up to $99

Jeffrey A. Adams

Mr. and Mrs.
David A. Anderson

Branford Garden Club

Hilma Carter

Joseph H. Cobrain

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Cox

Martin J. Cuddy

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Dresner

Henry Edmonds

Timothy E. Ellsworth

Ellsworth S. Grant

Charles and Sally Haddad

Katherine Kane and
Dennis DePaul

Donald E. Marquardt

Kenneth W. Martin

John D. Nelson, Jr.

Mary E. Nevius

William B. Novoa

Brian J. O'Connor

Mark D. Ogonek

Leila Pinchot

Cristin Gallup Rich

Mr. and Mrs.
Frederic M.Richards

Carol A. Rudert-Lyons

Henry E. Sauer

Walter J. Sekula, Sr.

Debra A.Tedford

Joseph R. Vasselli and family

William N. Wallace

William Walters and
Carol Parker

Frederick O. Wilhelm

David A. Yarochowicz

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Zeller

Hibbard Trust for Land & Trails

Established in honor of long-time CFPA Executive Director, John Hibbard, the Hibbard Trust for Land & Trails supports the Association's topmost priority – conserving the land and trails of Connecticut.

Mr. and Mrs.
Charles C. DeWeese

William D. Shaffer

David R. Shoup

Eric Corbin Sweeney
and family

Endowment Fund for Land Protection

Starr Sayres

Donations in Honor of Adam Moore

Nancy and David Bull

The Heritage Society

If you have questions about The Heritage Society or wish to speak to someone about a bequest in your estate documents, please call Jim Little at 860-346-2372 or e-mail him at jlittle@ctwoodlands.org

a member of Earth Share
OF NEW ENGLAND

Donations in Memory of George McLean Milne

Ethel A. Alexander

Becky and Martin Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Anderson

Martha D. Austin

Marianne and John Bartlett

Charles S. Beach

Griffith and Carol Bedworth

Nan Birdwhistell

Janet R. Carville

Charles River Laboratories

Timothy and Pamela Cronin

Lorna M. Daniells

Diana, Jack and Debbie Davison

Hal, Melissa and Sarah Davison

Mr. and Mrs. William Drakos

Lucy DeVries Duffy and family

Chris and Kerrie Flanagan

Friends at Camp Horizons

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Gilbert

Harry J. Gray, Harry Gray Associates

Win and Katherine Hubbard

Joyce B. Humphrey

Thomas Hains and Sarah Kimnach Hains and daughter

Jonathan and Cassandra Kimnach and sons

Wilson and Carole Kimnach

John and Mary LaMattina

David Miner and Stephanie Robiner

Judith B. Moore

Alexander and Charlotte Motyka

Dorothy North

Pete and Janne Petersen

Lee Porter

Lillian L. Rhodes

Mr. and Mrs. Murry Rubin

Doris Schenck

Sea Research Foundation, Inc.

Richard A. Whitehouse

The Rev. Joseph B. Whittel

Francis and Gwendolyn Zaborowski

Other Donations

Theodore F. Bade

Stephen D. Bates

Barbara Brockhurst and Robert Lavoie

Douglas G. Christie

Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Curry

Earth Share

East Lyme Land Conservation Trust

James A. Heaney

David E. Hungerford, II

Alan R. Hurst and Gail K. Hamm

Sandra Kalinowski

Charles L. Larkin, III

Eric Lukingbeal and Sally S. King

Douglas H. McKain and Ruth Penfield

Eleanore Milardo

Robert E. Morehouse

Network for Good

Norma O. Paggioli

David L. Reynolds

Lillian L. Rhodes

Mike Roccanti

Andy E. Scoville

Gerard H. Somma

Joan S. Tait

United Way of the Capital Area

Arthur L. Wasserman, Jr.

Robert J. Zdankiewicz

Matching Gifts

Chubb & Son

IBM International Foundation

Pfizer Foundation

The New York Times Company Foundation

United Technologies

Gifts to the Connecticut Forestlands Council Fund

The Association accepts donations on behalf of the Connecticut Forestlands Council to meet its needs in promoting forests and forestry in Connecticut.

New England Trail Rider Association

Office Volunteers

Sophie Makuch

Volunteer Librarian

Mal Bochner

Spring Trail Maintenance Workshop:

Thanks to over 88 volunteers who attended the Workshop on April 26, 2008

continued on page 30

PLANNED GIVING

How to ensure that your estate will benefit causes important to you

There is an old cliché in the financial planning business that most of us spend more time planning our vacations than we do planning our finances. The reason is easy – planning your vacation is fun, while contemplating the complexity of one's financial plan is hard work. Within the financial plan, less planning is done on estate work than other parts for many of the same reasons. It's easier to think about building and spending one's assets than thinking about who gets what when you're gone.

The problem is that if you don't plan for yourself, someone else will, and it might not suit your ultimate desires. The concept behind planned giving is to plan both to benefit your heirs and, if desired, charitable organizations that are important to you. The National Council on Planned Giving writes, "Planned gifts are a variety of charitable giving methods that allow you to express your personal values by integrating your charitable, family and financial goals." Planned gifts can provide tax benefits, lifetime income and—important to organizations like the Connecticut Forest & Park Association—a charitable legacy.

The most basic planned gift is an outright charitable bequest through a will or a living trust. A will directs assets in your name alone to the beneficiaries you designate. Assets given to a charitable organization are not taxed as part of the estate. In many cases, individuals use this planning tool both to fulfill their charitable legacies and reduce estate taxes (if the estate is large enough to be taxed). A bequest is generally simple and inexpensive to create in an estate plan. It is a tool to address one's charitable and tax planning.

CFPA has benefited over the years from careful planning by members who wanted to leave a legacy that conserves Connecticut's land, trails, and natural resources. We hope that you might consider doing so as well. When planning, please keep in mind CFPA and the work we do.

Elegy for George

continued from page 15

> in both the use and the protection of Connecticut woodlands. The remarkable ongoing power which has kept this effort vital springs from a deep appreciation and devotion toward that corner of creation which is ours to tend and care for. No labors are more enduring that those which are labors of love.

Reading his words, and what those wrote of him at the end of his presidency, one sees that his fellow man and the world, the Eden, he inhabited were his labors. What he has passed on to us, the woodlands, the trails, and the history of the Association are now our labors.

To find him, and to find a hero, take a few moments to read *Connecticut Woodlands.* He describes others like himself who chose to take individual action and make Connecticut a better place to live. These individuals were not acting for personal gain but for everyone's gain.

Since I was in high school many years ago, I have admired Theodore Roethke's lovely poem, "Elegy for Jane." Only recently have I understood the emotional depth of its final stanza. I wish I had known George Milne and grieve for him though I was neither friend nor son. My consolations are that his voice will continue to live in his work and that his spirit is found in those who continue his labor of love.

James W. Little is the development director of CFPA.

For the latest about CFPA programs and events, see www.ctwoodlands.org or call 860-346-2372.

CFPA *Store*

Limited Edition Reproduction Commemorative Maps

Quinnipiac Trail (1931)
$3.25 (plus tax and $4.00 shipping)

Original Appalachian Trail (1934) $3.75
(plus tax and $4.00 shipping)

Trail Gear

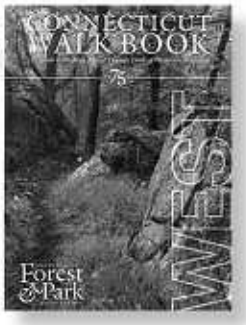
CFPA Logo Hats
Two-toned low-profile 100% cotton baseball cap with KHAKI CROWN, FOREST GREEN BILL, embroidered logo. Adjustable strap. (Hat not exactly as pictured here).
$15.00 (plus $2.00 shipping)

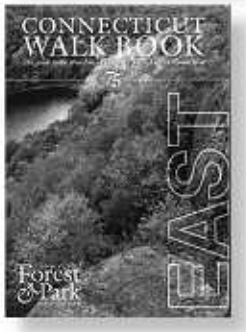
Books, etcetera

Forest Trees of Southern New England, a 56-page paperback publication of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. This manual is a simple description in accurate and nontechnical terms of the forest trees common in southern New England. It is intended for the general public to meet a pressing demand for a pocket manual which is easy to use and understand.
$2.00 (plus tax and $1.50 shipping)

Connecticut Woodlands,
A Century's Story of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, by George McLean Milne, published by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association in 1995. A fascinating history, not so much of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association as it is of the dedicated men and women who have cared about Connecticut's forests and fields, hills, valleys, and parklands. Scattered through these pages are inspiring accounts of courageous struggles to protect the rich and varied natural environment of the state.
$25.00 (plus tax and $5.00 shipping)

A Shared Landscape,
A Guide & History of Connecticut's State Parks and Forests, by Joseph Leary, published by Friends of Connecticut State Parks, Inc. in 2004. Richly illustrated in four-color with maps and photographs, this 240-page guide offers an intimate look at Connecticut's public lands and tells you everything you need to know about where to go if you love to hike, bike, camp, fish, swim, hunt, watch birds, learn about ecology or cross-country ski.
$25.00 (plus tax and $5.00 shipping)



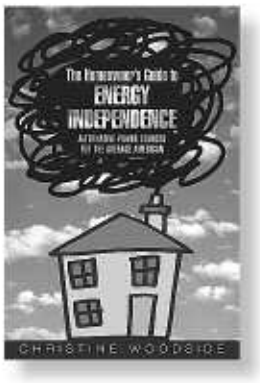


The Connecticut Walk Book, WEST, and the Connecticut Walk Book, EAST, provide a comprehensive guide to hiking throughout the state. Published by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the two volumes are the 19th edition of the guidebook first released more than 75 years ago. Both volumes include the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails of Central Connecticut. Both volumes include detailed two-color topographic maps that are crisp, clear, and easy to read. Complete trail descriptions accompany the maps.

Each volume **$19.95 members**
(plus tax and $5 shipping)

Each volume **$24.95 non-members**
(plus tax and $5 shipping)

The Homeowner's Guide to Energy Independence,
by Christine Woodside. Lyons Press, 2006. A book for ordinary Americans who want to move away from fossil fuels. Learn about the most viable and affordable alternatives such as solar panels, wood, hydroelectric, hybrid cars, and more.
$14.95 (plus tax and $5.00 shipping)



Trail Gear

CFPA Logo T-shirts
Hanes Beefy Ts – 100% cotton, heavy weight, double needle hems, taped shoulder-to-shoulder, Sizes: S-M-L-XL, WHITE ON FOREST GREEN / FOREST GREEN ON KHAKI. **$15.00** (plus $4.00 shipping)

Please send me the following:

Item	Size	Color	Qty	Price	6% Sales Tax	Shipping	Total

Total amount of check $_____
Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone_____email_____
For credit card orders: Mastercard _____ Visa _____
_____
Exp.Date _____
Signature _____

Please make check payable to:
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
16 Meriden Road,
Rockfall, CT 06481

860.346.2372
info@ctwoodlands.org

Hikers and officials marked the common boundary of Guilford, Durham, and Madison on the Mattabesett Trail on June 7. Madison inn owner Chip Adams dressed as 18th-century East Guilford resident Frederick Lee.

Ann T. Colson

CONNECTICUT Forest & Park ASSOCIATION

16 Meriden Road, Rockfall
Connecticut 06481-2961

Address Service Requested

Conserving Connecticut since 1895