

CONNECTICUT **Woodlands**



LAND CONSERVATION FROM THE GRASS ROOTS

CONNECTICUT  
**Woodlands**

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Inc.

**Officers**

PRESIDENT, David Platt, *Higganum*  
 VICE-PRESIDENT, Jean Crum Jones, *Shelton*  
 VICE-PRESIDENT, Eric Lukiingbeal, *Granby*  
 VICE-PRESIDENT, David Sullivan, *Haddam*  
 TREASURER, Gordon L. Anderson, *Glastonbury*  
 SECRETARY, Eric Hammerling, *West Hartford*  
 FORESTER, Dan Donahue

**Directors**

Mark Ashton, *New Haven*  
 Richard A. Bauerfeld, *Branford*  
 William Breck, *Killingworth*  
 Russell L. Brenneman, *Westport*  
 George M. Camp, *Middletown*  
 Starling W. Childs, *Norfolk*  
 Ruth Cutler, *Ashford*  
 Laurence Diamond, *Coventry*  
 James Dombrauskas, *New Hartford*  
 Caroline Driscoll, *New London*  
 Astrid T. Hanzalek, *Suffield*  
 David Leff, *Collinsville*  
 Scott Livingston, *Bolton*  
 Geoffrey Meissner, *Southington*  
 Karen Mignone, *Fairfield*  
 Thomas Mongillo, *North Branford*  
 Bob Morrison, *Manchester*  
 Randall Miller, *Hamden*  
 James Ritchie, *Sandy Hook*  
 Starr Sayres, *East Haddam*  
 Donald L. Snook, *Westport*  
 Deborah Spalding, *Guilford*  
 Colin Tait, *Norfolk*  
 Richard Whitehouse, *Glastonbury*

**Honorary Directors**

Harrol W. Baker, Jr., *Bolton*  
 Richard F. Blake, *Milford*  
 Clyde S. Brooks, *Gibsonia, PA*  
 Ann M. Cuddy, *Lakeville*  
 Samuel G. Dodd, *North Andover, MA*  
 John E. Hibbard, *Hebron*  
 Philip H. Jones, Jr., *Shelton*  
 Edward A. Richardson, *Glastonbury*  
 L.P. Sperry, Jr., *Middlebury*  
 Sally L. Taylor, *Mystic*  
 Henry H. Townshend, *New Haven*

**Staff**

Executive Director, Eric Hammerling, *West Hartford*  
 Trail Conservation Director, Ann T. Colson, *Clinton*  
 Director of Development, James W. Little, *Hebron*  
 Office Manager, Teresa Peters, *Durham*  
 Financial Management Assistant, Linda Cunningham, *Portland*  
 Land Conservation Director, Damon Hearne, *Higganum*  
 Education Director, Lori Paradis Brant, *Beacon Falls*  
 WalkCT Director, Leslie Lewis, *Lyme*  
 WalkCT Communications Coordinator, Jennifer Benner, *Roxbury*  
 Forester & Program Director, Goodwin Forest Center, Steve Broderick, *Eastford*

EDITOR, Christine Woodside  
 GRAPHIC DESIGNER, Karen Ward



JWILL HOCHHOLZER, top; MARY HULL, bottom

Top, contract logger Matt Fontaine of Gibson Hill Forest Products fells a tree destined for the state sawmill. Bottom, a cabin Hull Forest Products of Pomfret built with local timber. For more, see page 11.

**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

# CONNECTICUT Woodlands

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association

Spring 2009 Volume 74 Number 1

## Contents

### Corrections:

Due to an editing error in the winter issue, Robert E. Marra's last name was misspelled. Dr. Marra was the principle author of the feature on invasive species and Connecticut's forests. Dr. Marra is an assistant agricultural scientist studying pathogens and microbiology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. Please accept our apologies.

On page 8 of the winter issue, the picture of the emerald ash borer was labeled as the beech scale insect. The photos below show a beech tree damaged by the beech scale insect and the properly labeled emerald ash borer.

Beech scale damage



Emerald ash borer

## FEATURES

- 6 Tales from the Field . . . of Grass Roots.** Events push citizens to become passionate advocates. We talk to those who became motivated to take action in Middletown, Canton, and Guilford. *By Christine Woodside.*
- 10 State Forests Underutilized, Yale Study Concludes.** Could generate \$1 million or more in timber profits while remaining healthy. *By Christine Woodside.*
- 11 Stories from the Field: Connecticut-Grown Timber.** A state forester describes sustainable timbering techniques. *By Emery Gluck.*

CONNECTICUT  
**Forest & Park**  
ASSOCIATION



*On the Cover:*  
The fiddlehead of the royal fern (also called flowering fern) unfurls in the wild lands of southeastern Middletown known as Maromas. See page 6.  
*Photo by Barrie Robbins-Pianka.*

## DEPARTMENTS

- 4 President's Message.** Ordinary individuals, making things happen. *By David Platt.*
- 5 Executive Director's Message.** How much wood could a wood-fired plant chuck? *By Eric Hammerling.*
- 15 Try This Hike.** Wolcott Trail, Torrington. *By Stephen Wood.*
- 16 Essential Facts of Life.** Learning a sense of community with outdoor projects. *By Lori Paradis Brant.*
- 18 New England Musings.** How the Great Depression led CFPA to new heights. *By Adam R. Moore.*
- 20 From the Land.** A return to gardening. *By Jean Crum Jones.*
- 21 From the Archives.** A communication from Mr. Edgar Heermance. *By James W. Little.*
- 22 Book Reviews.** Glancing back at a century of saving land. *By David K. Leff.* John Muir never could explain where his love of wilderness originated. *By Robert M. Ricard.*
- 23 On the Trails.** Learn trail skills. Connecticut Trails Day 2009. Spring and summer trail races.
- 25 Outside View.** Spirituality and Trees: Pondering how they have spawned conservation movements. *By James W. Little.*
- 26 Obituary.** David M. Smith, Yale Forestry professor and Association board member, dies. *By Christine Woodside.*
- 26 Environmental News Briefs.** Headlines from around the state. *By Chris Zurcher.*
- 28 Stumpage Report.** Prices for standing timber.

# ORDINARY INDIVIDUALS, MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

BY DAVID PLATT

The powerful, grassroots nature of the land conservation movement in Connecticut has always amazed me. No matter which way you turn, it seems that every conservation project, at its roots, gets its "juice" from any number of ordinary individuals dedicated to making something happen.

The storied history of the conservation movement in the Nutmeg State has long been told and understood in disjointed segments. The accuracy and completeness of this history vary, depending on who is talking and who is listening at any particular moment. This changed recently with the publication of *Twentieth-Century New England Land Conservation: A Heritage of Civic Engagement* edited by Charles H. W. Foster [Editor's note: See the book review on page 22.] a marvelous history of the land conservation movement in each of the six New England states. Russell L. Brenneman, a longtime Connecticut Forest & Park Association Board of Directors member and environmental lawyer, contributed the Connecticut chapter. Russ does a splendid job of sifting through the many conservation happenings and focusing on the key events. Connecticut has always been a leader in innovative conservation strategies and energy, and I hope it will continue to be. By all means, pick up a copy of this book if you want to learn more about our robust contribution to conservation in New England.

Connecticut's land trusts, and their special role in conserving critical open space, are a particular interest of mine. Astonishingly, Connecticut has more than 120 local land trusts striving to preserve prop-



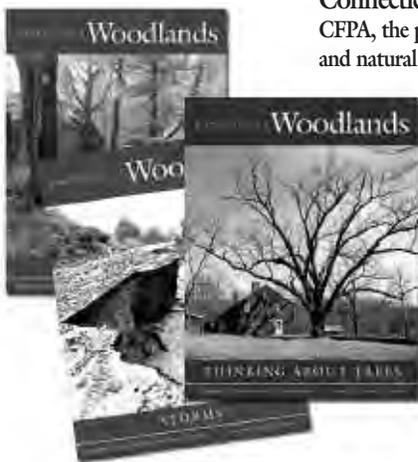
CFPA President  
David Platt

erties in their own particular pockets of the state. Each land trust is incorporated, has attained tax-exempt status, and is run by a board of directors manned by community volunteers. Few have much in the way of resources to speak of, and even fewer can employ a staff of any kind. Most land trust volunteers, though dedicated and well meaning, are relatively short on professional training on the myriad of matters such as real estate, land use, taxes, and other issues. Even when members can get up to speed on these issues, the volunteer workforce is always turning over, so the learning cycle constantly starts over.

Despite these odds, or maybe because of them, the land trust community continues to make an enormous contribution to our land saving efforts. It is true that larger, statewide organizations tend to get much of the credit and publicity. These include CFPA, which preserves working forests and lands hosting the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails; the Connecticut Farmland Trust, which preserves working farmlands; and the Nature Conservancy, which preserves critical plant and animal habitats. But local land trusts occupy a truly special niche. New Englanders are famously parochial about things like town political boundaries, and even though natural resources don't recognize such things, land trusts typically do. When town land-use regulations require developers to set aside open land, land trusts serve an important purpose. Town residents who want to preserve lands through local organizations also turn first to their local land trusts. The result? Land trusts have permanently preserved thousands and thousands of acres, almost literally one acre at a time, oper-

*continued on page 27*

## About Connecticut Forest & Park Association and Connecticut Woodlands Magazine



Connecticut Woodlands is a quarterly magazine published since 1895 by CFPA, the private, non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the land, trails, and natural resources of Connecticut.

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

For more information about CFPA, to join or donate online, visit our newly expanded website, [www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org), or call 860-346-2372.

Give the gift of membership in CFPA. Contact Jim Little at 860-346-2372.



### Advertising Rates for Connecticut Woodlands

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

**Quarter page:**  
\$90 per issue  
\$300 yearly.

**Eighth page:**  
\$60 per issue  
\$200 yearly  
Design services available for a fee.

## HOW MUCH WOOD COULD A WOOD-FIRED PLANT CHUCK?

BY ERIC HAMMERLING.

I was listening to National Public Radio recently and heard an interview with Benny Golson, the great tenor saxophonist, composer, and arranger who played with such groundbreaking artists as Count Basie, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, and Dizzy Gillespie. When asked to describe the improvisational element of jazz, Benny said, "It's like going to the same forest every time with different trees." When reflecting on his comment, it hit me that this is one of the reasons we can go hiking in the same forest repeatedly and have such a wide variety of experiences. Depending on the season, the prevailing weather conditions, the time of day, and so forth, the forest's "notes" are always changing.

At the same time that our forests are ever changing, so are the ways we view our forests. In the 1800s, the forests were primarily viewed in a utilitarian way as fuel (charcoal and firewood), something to be cleared to create agricultural land, or as a multipurpose building material. In the 1900s, the forest values associated with wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and aesthetics gained significant ground. Today, we also value forests for ecological functions such as carbon sequestration, clean air and water protection, soil formation, and maintaining biodiversity, and others.

Healthy forests sustain so many economic and ecological uses, but are they being managed sustainably to keep them healthy? The Yale School of Forestry's Report estimating the sustainable yield from Connecticut's state forests (see the article about the study and Connecticut State Forester Christopher Martin's comments on page 10) suggests that we may be under-harvesting our state-owned forests and that increased harvests can benefit both forest stand diversity and overall forest health. This may be so, but what would our increased harvests be put toward?

One option may be in clean wood-burning energy facilities, or as some have coined, biomass or bioenergy plants. In January, I attended a conference on the potential for biomass-to-energy in Connecticut and came away with mixed feelings on whether such an ongoing use of our forests is indeed sustainable.

On one hand, the Connecticut forestry industry is hurting. Relatively low wood prices, high energy prices (making transportation and basic operations more costly), inadequate local wood-processing infrastructure, inconsistent town-by-town regulations, and fragmented forest land ownership in a suburbanizing state have combined to present numerous challenges to those who want to be certified forest practitioners. Professionals who want to make a decent living off the land and who are committed to do it the right way are



CFPA  
Executive Director  
Eric Hammerling

*... investors are hungry for energy production options that help reduce our dependency on foreign oil. Because of these incentives, an energy-production "gold rush" is taking place — despite the fact that several energy production proposals have run out of funding or stalled for various reasons.*

having a hard time making ends meet.

Several forces are conspiring to prime the pump for bioenergy options. Large grants have been available through the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, power production premiums have been put into place for producing "clean energy" (burning wood biomass qualifies), and investors are hungry for energy production options that help reduce our dependency on foreign oil. Because of these incentives, an energy-production "gold rush" is taking place — despite the fact that several energy production proposals have run out of funding or stalled for various reasons. Little analysis has been done on whether the clean wood needs of multiple bioenergy facilities can actually be met.

Where will this wood fuel come from? The sources presumably will be clean wood (no painted, treated material or demolition waste), trees and forestry residue (including much standing biomass that would otherwise be left in the forest with ancillary decomposition benefits), pallet waste (with nails removed), urban wood waste (land clearing debris, yard trimmings, stumps, and utility line trimmings), and mill residue (sawdust, bark, and slab wood). For example, the 30-megawatt facility proposed by Tamarack Energy for Watertown, Connecticut, would utilize wood coming from approximately 40 percent forests, 40 percent urban waste, and 20 percent pallets.

According to Adam Sherman of the Biomass Energy Resource Center in Vermont, a 30-megawatt facility would burn an estimated 375,000 tons of wood per year. Tamarack estimates that approximately 500,000 to 1 million tons of wood could be sustainably available in Connecticut. What the company does not consider is that there are multiple bioenergy facilities on the drawing board: in Plainfield (27.5 megawatts, combination of chicken manure and wood waste), Clearview in Montville (30 megawatts, a retrofit from coal to wood), and two wood- to- energy facilities within a 90-minute drive in Fitchburg, Massachusetts (13 megawatts), and Russell, Massachusetts (50 megawatts). Together, these facilities would presumably need more than 1.5 million tons of clean wood each year. Where will all of this wood come from? How much will energy producers pay for the wood they need? How much energy could a wood-fired plant chuck?

Trying to answer these questions could likely fill an entire issue of Connecticut Woodlands, but because of the importance of this issue to both our local energy production potential and the future health of Connecticut's forests, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association expects to work closely with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Division of Forestry as it wrestles with developing bioenergy guidelines for the state.

# Tales from the Field

## . . . of GRASS ROOTS

*Events push citizens to become passionate advocates.  
We talk to those who became motivated to take action  
in Middletown, Canton, and Guilford.*



Barrie Robbins-Pianka

*Wildlife and scenes from the Maromas area of Middletown: a mixed group of fruticose lichens, left; a waterfall off River Road; and a 5-foot-long black rat snake, right.*

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

**A**s the pace of development marches across Connecticut, grassroots activism to preserve open land is alive, well, and shaping people's attitudes toward the landscape and, in some cases, the landscape itself, as we speak. In the three towns discussed here, ordinary people found themselves fighting for better towns after they grew to love the land.

In Guilford, on January 27, in the dark days of this new recession, voters in that waterfront town approved spending almost \$15.4 million to buy the largest undeveloped tract left in town: 624 acres of fields and high marshes in the Duck Hole Road section. After an expected federal grant of \$3 million, the decision will cost the owner of a \$300,000 house about \$81 extra tax dollars a year for 20 years.

The sellers were descendants of the Goss family, early landowners who established a farm, sawmill, and cranberry bog. Family members will keep the homestead and some acreage, selling the rest of it for a park, open space, and for the extension to Long Island Sound of the Mattabesett Trail, which is soon to be designated a National Scenic Trail.

The first selectman, Carl Balestracci, said he was jubilant. "I can't tell you how proud I am of people, in times like this, to have the courage to bond this kind of money. But we knew if we didn't do this, it would be lost forever." The Gosses actually had plans in hand for a residential development. They have scrapped that.

Still, Mr. Balestracci said he wasn't surprised at the vote because majorities of residents have indicated in surveys over the years that they value the rural pockets of Guilford. People in town have felt this way ever since the Connecticut Turnpike first came through in the late

1950s and the first of many farms was sold to commercial interests near one of the exits.

The president of the Guilford Land Trust, too, said the vote's outcome was no accident. Steve Besse said he'd heard many stories of people responding well to months of outreach such as phone banks and speeches by the land trust, the town's land acquisition committee, the Connecticut Audubon Society, and individuals. Mr. Besse counts himself as one of those committed individuals although he confesses he is really "a carpetbagger by Guilford standards," having lived there "only" 20 years or so. One of the formative experiences that drove why he cares so much about open land happened in the mid-1980s. "I was living in Wilton, and we were relatively near Emery Air Freight's world headquarters," he said. "They wanted to expand. They succeeded in getting the whole neighborhood, up to and not including us, rezoned. We would have had a nice little Colonial house next to their world headquarters. I was not happy. We ended up selling to them, but it was not a cordial transition." Then, after all that, "The whole thing never happened."

His family then moved to Guilford when he moved his business, Gravy Master, to Branford. Thinking of his experience in Wilton, "I really did not want to be kind of clueless and not aware of what was happening in town," he said. And so he joined the land trust.



For Mr. Balestracci, his convictions as an individual blended with his drive as a politician. “I know I’m talking a lot,” he said in an interview. But he had to tell about a maintenance staffer for the town finding a 1974 pamphlet that reprinted a speech about development by former Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Dan Lufkin. He’d given the talk at the Coast Guard Academy, and afterward, it was printed in a beautiful letterpress edition. Mr. Balestracci put one of them in the mail. He highlighted the sections of the speech that matched his views so closely that he thought maybe someone would think he had plagiarized Mr. Lufkin.

Here’s the section that hit him:

*Now, unfortunately, the ultimate and only responsibility of the land owner is to himself and to the first commandment of real estate, which is: “Thou shalt make the best deal possible.” And this has meant getting the best price without the necessity of estimating the true cost to the community and to the country — both short and long term.*

*On the local level, this has usually led to unrestricted development of open or agricultural land regardless of its ultimate impact on the character of the environment, the tax rate, the school system or the proliferation of services needed to support new population growth or a new influx of tourists, industrial workers, or shoppers.*

*Growth in itself is not the enemy. We cannot nor do we wish to decree an end to growth or the mobility that offers the greatest economic and social benefits to our people. . . . We deceive ourselves into thinking we can plow under an inexhaustible supply of open land to handle this growth. But that simply is not true. . . .*

*The survival problem of land use cannot be solved unless we are willing to make hard, informed and potentially unpopular decisions. Decisions not to halt growth or preserve the status quo — but to channel balanced growth into those areas best equipped to contain it and to make certain that the life supporting characteristics of the land are preserved for quality of life as well as life itself.*

*This will require an intellectual honesty and moral courage we have not yet demonstrated.*

*On Bear Hill, along the Mattabesett Trail in Middletown.*

Barrie Robbins-Pianka

If Dan Lufkin’s words sound a little like a call to battle, this might ring true with a dedicated band of residents of Middletown who have spent the last several years speaking out against industrial development within a roughly 16-square-mile section of the city known as Maromas. The land is bounded on the east by the Connecticut River and on the west by Route 9.

Three of the city’s largest taxpayers, Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, NRG Power (formerly Northeast Utilities) and the under-construction natural gas plant, Kleen Energy, share the land with forests, fields, reservoirs, streams, and substantial rock ledges. The city reports that this area makes up 38 percent of the city’s land, but only 5 percent of the population live there. Driving out River Road past Middlesex Community College into the heart of Maromas feels like a trip back to the early 20th century in Connecticut, in some ways. Meadows and forests roll up from the train tracks and road that follow the steep riverbank. Despite the three industrial plants, the overall landscape is rural.

That’s because a good deal of the settlement was removed in the 1940s and 1950s when the federal government was considering building a nuclear test facility. It did not get built, but Pratt & Whitney has operated a plant there since World War II.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am a volunteer trail manager for a section of the Mattabesett Trail that runs through the heart of this property. This area is a place that feels isolated. It was possible for a hiker not to understand which land is industrial and which isn’t, until the group, the Advocates for a Maromas Plan, started speaking



up in public about five years ago.

At that time, Pratt & Whitney asked the state of Connecticut for help to extend municipal sewer pipes to their plant so that the company could close the small sewage treatment plant it was running.

“We started a group when the city decided it wanted to run a sewer line from downtown to the river along River Road,” said Linda Bowers, a former city environmental planner who got involved with the group as a citizen. Ms. Bowers knew Katchen Coley and Ellen Lukens from their service together on the city’s Conservation Commission. They joined with Barrie Robbins-Pianka, who lives with her family in the Maromas area, and John LeShane, who was a volunteer trail manager on the Mattabesett Trail, along with some others. They continued to do research, write letters, and speak at hearings when, last year, the U.S. Army considered and rejected a tract in Maromas for a training facility.

At first, they spoke at public hearings about the state environmental impact statement for the sewer line. When the Connecticut General Assembly passed a provision saying the environmental impact statement would be unnecessary, and the sewer line was approved, the citizens then turned their energies toward limiting the sewer hookups to the existing industrial land down by the river, joining with the Connecticut Fund for the Environment. Next came hearings for a permit for the new natural gas power plant run by Kleen Energy on the property of an old feldspar mine, just north of the Mattabesett Trail and the Northeast Utilities plant. Kleen Energy was approved and was still under construction in early 2009.

After Kleen Energy was approved, the Friends of Maromas decided to change its focus, asking what forward-looking project members could initiate to further their conviction that the Maromas land was unique and should be permanently preserved. First, they raised about \$20,000 in grant money and hired a planner, Erin O’Hare, to conduct an inventory of natural resources on the land. Around the same time, a group of Wesleyan University students conducted a study of the area. The residents, reviewing the data showing the natural beauties of Maromas, said they realized that they needed “something to hang our hat on,” and they settled on the Mattabesett Trail,

*continued on page 8*

## Grass roots

continued from page 7

which runs through the land.

Today, the Advocates for a Maromas Plan are focused on four new goals:

- ▶ Protecting land from development along the trail. Connecticut Forest & Park Association Land Conservation Director Damon Hearne is working on an effort to reach out to property owners in this area.
- ▶ Seeking an easement from the state of Connecticut around the reservoirs.
- ▶ Perhaps most ambitious, submitting an application to the federal Silvio Conte Refuge to designate the Maromas area as a division of the refuge. The refuge is not a contiguous piece of land the federal government owns but a loosely defined region owned by multiple owners, private and public, along the entire length of the Connecticut River. Conte division status would gain attention Maromas has so far not inspired.
- ▶ Seeking permanent easements for the several tracts of land in the area owned by Rocky River Realty, a division of Northeast Utilities.

Their zeal has put some city officials on the defensive. City Planning Director William Warner said that most of the land within Maromas is too difficult to develop for industry because of its pitch, rock ledge, and thin soils. The Kleen Energy plant under construction had an easy route to permitting, he said, because it was a former mine, complete with deep pits, “almost a brown-field. This was not a 100-acre farm. It was very much a disturbed area.”

Mr. Warner pointed out that the city has spent millions of dollars on open space in Middletown, a couple of hundred thousand dollars to analyze the impacts of the sewer line to Maromas, and \$50,000 on a 2005 title search of state-owned properties around the reservoirs in Maromas. Clearly, the city’s Plan of Development echoes the sentiments of the Advocates for a Maromas Plan when it identifies the property as unique and beautiful, the “last frontier” of Middletown.

But Mr. Warner acknowledges that the city’s stance about Maromas is that there can be a balance of industry and rural land. There are two industrial areas, he noted, one of which — Pratt & Whitney — includes a vacant tract that could be further developed



Barrie Robbins-Pianka

*Another scene in the Maromas area of Middletown.*

for industry. But much of the rest of the land, even though the owners include private individuals as well as the state, would not be suitable for development, he said. Asked if the activists helped or hurt the city, Mr. Warner said, “It would be one thing if the city wanted to develop 1,000 acres of industrial land. That was never our plan.” The city wants the state to permanently preserve much of the land around the reservoirs, he said. But the city, with a median household income of just \$47,000, needs the taxes from industry, he said.

For their part, the Maromas advocates feel the land remains vulnerable. They feel that city and state officials have stated dual goals for the land, both growth oriented and preservation oriented. “I’m most proud of the fact that we have opposed projects as they have come along,” Ms. Bowers said, “but we have moved beyond opposition to being proactive in trying to preserve the Blue Trail.”

Ms. Coley said that Maromas is like the wilderness in this region. “When I was younger, I used to canoe down to the mouth of the Connecticut River, and this was as beautiful a spot as you have on the river,” she said. “I love it for what it is, a habitat with biodiversity. It’s everybody’s responsibility to protect it.”

A decade ago, Jane Latus decided she was not in favor of new malls and big-box stores in her town, Canton. She decided to form a group, Canton Advocates for Responsible Expansion, or CARE, in the town, an outer-ring suburb of Hartford and neighbor of Bradley International Airport that nevertheless had escaped some of the strip-style growth that altered so many other towns starting after World War II.

The first project that got her attention was when the town allowed a developer to change the zoning for a former golf course where he planned a small athletic center. After the zone change, the developer decided to build a mall instead.

“It changed the whole quality of the town of Canton drastically,” she said. “It could have been prevented. It could have been done more carefully.” The town responded by altering its zoning so that zone changes must be tied to a particular project. But then, a large developer proposed building a Target store. That was when Ms. Latus formed CARE. The project did not go through.

“Like mercury moving up the thermometer, the commercial sprawl is spreading out from east to west,” she said, “all the way to Simsbury and then, next, Canton. It’s

continued on page 14



# Heavy mowing to complete land clearing

Our services cover a wide variety of vegetation management, including:

**Field Mowing • Brush Mowing • Land Clearing • Woodland Grooming  
Wildlife Habitat Creation/Maintenance • Field Restoration • Stump Removal  
Invasive Species Removal • Vistas • Grubbing • Grading • Seeding**



FIELD MOWING



TREE/SAPLING MOWING



SCRUB OAK MOWING



EMBANKMENT MOWING



WOODLAND GROOMING/THINNING



WOODS TO PASTURE

More info and pictures at: **[TRLandworks.Wordpress.com](http://TRLandworks.Wordpress.com)**

### **Notable Customers Include:**

MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife • CT Department of Environmental Protection  
National Wild Turkey Federation • Yale School of Forestry • McLeans Game Refuge

### **Projects also completed for:**

Land trusts • Hunting Clubs • Utility Company • Private Landowners

# STATE FORESTS UNDERUTILIZED, YALE STUDY CONCLUDES

*Could generate \$1 million or more in timber profits while remaining healthy*

BY CHRISTINE WOODSIDE

**A** study by the Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, completed in October, has calculated that the state could sustainably harvest more than twice the amount of timber from public lands as it does now, doubling the revenue from timbering to roughly \$1 million or more each year. To do so would require the state to hire more foresters.

A sustainable harvest means that a certain amount of wood could be harvested each year for an indefinite period, meaning that younger trees would always be growing up as larger ones were removed. Trained foresters decide which trees to cut, using techniques that allow the forest to regenerate.

The October 2008 report, by Aaron Hohl and Chad Oliver of Yale Forestry's Global Institute for Sustainable Forestry, concluded that about 102,000 acres of public lands could yield at least 6 to 7 million board feet per year indefinitely while continuing to be healthy, if there were sufficient foresters to monitor them. This would be more than twice the current annual harvest on that land of about 2.7 million board feet. The current harvest generates about \$500,000 a year.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy commissioned the study in 2007. Its conclusions matched estimates the DEP has made in-house, said Connecticut State Forester Christopher Martin, who directs the department's forestry division. State forests total about 169,500 acres, and the Yale study concluded that about 60 percent of this acreage is suitable for harvesting timber. This is similar to a conclusion in a 2006 study by former Connecticut State Forester Donald Smith, which assumed that 64 percent, or 108,500, acres, were suitable for timbering. Land not considered suitable would include land where cutting some trees could disturb rare or endangered wildlife, or land too rocky or wet.

"We've been saying all along that we're underutilizing this resource," Mr. Martin said. Timber in Connecticut's mostly oak-hickory forest is made into furniture, flooring, pallets, firewood, and "almost any forest product imaginable," he said. Connecticut is world renowned for its quality oak. The potential of Connecticut forests seems especially notable now, Mr. Martin said. "There's an awful lot of illegal logging going on overseas with irresponsible practices, and it would be nice to contribute more to the world's wood basket with wood that was harvested responsibly," Mr. Martin said.

In the last few years, international timber activists, the U.S. Congress, and several media reports have all publicized disturbing stories of endangered trees logged without permits in Indonesia, Russia, and elsewhere, ending up in products manufactured in China and sold in America. Toothpicks, furniture, cribs, toilet seats — anything made of wood — sold at major chains in the United States have often originated in the violent underworld of illegal timbering abroad. In May 2008, the U.S. Congress passed a new amendment to the century-old Lacey Act that made it a crime to import or export illegally logged timber (that is, any timber logged in ways that violate this country's own laws). The amendment also outlawed false records or identifica-

*The October 2008 report, by Aaron Hohl and Chad Oliver of Yale Forestry's Global Institute for Sustainable Forestry, concluded that about 102,000 acres of public lands could yield at least 6 to 7 million board feet per year indefinitely while continuing to be healthy, if there were sufficient foresters to monitor them. This would be more than twice the current annual harvest on that land of about 2.7 million board feet. The current harvest generates about \$500,000 a year.*

tion of such timber. This step is considered a beginning for Americans, who use about a third of the world's timber.

The figures from the Yale study strongly suggest that sustainable timber cutting could generate significant income at a time when the budget is in a major deficit and the DEP is struggling to function on a flat allocation. It would take legislation to assign timber profits to the DEP. Currently these revenues go into the state's general fund.

Mr. Martin said that the forestry department now runs on a staff of 7 "full-time equivalent" forestry jobs, down from 16 in 1986. Any increase in sustainable timber operations would pay for itself and more, but only after an initial outlay of funds to hire more foresters, he said. Timber harvesting's main costs are the foresters themselves to decide what and where to cut. For every individual hired, the department estimates that the revenue coming in from timber sales they managed would equal one and a half to twice that person's salary.

The Yale study said that the state forests could support an annual harvest even more than 6 to 7 million board feet—as much as 9 or 10 million board feet—for about 50 years. After 50 years, the harvest would need to be reduced to about 6 million board feet to allow tree growth to catch up to tree removal, they wrote. "However, it would be prudent to implement a more rigorous inventory system if this level of harvesting is to be carried out," the study warned.

Mr. Hohl and Mr. Oliver estimated the forests' future productivity using a new database at the University of Connecticut that covers about 93,000 acres of the state forestry division's lands. "It was assumed that the stands included in the database were representatives of all stand throughout the forests," they wrote, adding that the figures could be updated as more complete information is available.

The forests analyzed for this study are now growing at almost 2 percent per year. But if no harvesting takes place, over the next 50 years, the study said, the rate of growth would fall to below 1 percent per year. See [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep) and search on "sustainable yield."

For further reading, see "Estimating the Sustainable Yield of the State of Connecticut Division of Forestry's Commercially Suitable Timberland," available at [www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/forestry/sustainable\\_yield\\_study\\_ct\\_timberlands.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/forestry/sustainable_yield_study_ct_timberlands.pdf).

Also, "The Stolen Forests: Inside the Covert War on Illegal Logging," by Raffi Khatchadourian, *The New Yorker*, October 6, 2008.

# STORIES FROM THE FIELD: CONNECTICUT- GROWN TIMBER

*A state forester describes sustainable  
timbering techniques*

BY EMERY GLUCK

For more than 35 years, Ray Gordon has guided logs toward the saw head with the pull of levers at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's sawmill on the edge of Meshomasic State Forest in Portland. Like his father, who started sawing for the state after World War II, Ray and the crew provide the vital service of producing low-cost specialty lumber needed for picnic tables and other DEP projects in state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas. This year, the DEP mill will saw about 300,000 board feet (a board foot measures 1 foot by 1 foot by 1 inch thick) with a part-time crew. It is unlikely that DEP would be able to buy all the lumber it needs for these projects if it did not operate its own mill.

The logs the DEP saws are a product of the state's managed forests. The forests are managed to maintain a diversity of wildlife habitat and forest ecosystems, maintain healthy trees, and produce a sustainable harvest of forest products such as timber. The judicious harvesting of trees is the most economical way to sustain biodiversity in upland forest ecosystems. The DEP logging crew helped to restore an uncommon pitch pine sand plain ecosystem in Hopeville Pond State Park Natural Area in Griswold by removing aggressive white pine that was shading out the shorter pitch pine. The logging also allows sunlight to dry the forest floor and provides fuel needed for postharvest prescribed burns that helped establish pitch pine and scrub oak seedlings. More harvesting and burns are planned in and adjacent to the natural area to expand the pitch pine ecosystem's realm.

Most of the logs sawn at the Portland mill are cut by a commercial logger who is contracted to cut trees on Meshomasic State Forest and deliver the logs to the sawmill. Meshomasic State Forester Will Hochholzer designates each tree that will be cut by marking it with paint. Before marking timber, state foresters develop a written plan with the objectives of the harvest, what proportion of timber sized trees and smaller trees are needed to be harvested to reach the harvest's objectives, the change to wildlife habitat, necessary environmental safeguards, and much more. Wildlife and fisheries biologists, recreation supervisors, inland wetlands analysts, and other DEP staffers review the plan. Before this site-specific plan is written, a forester compiles a forest inventory and writes a 10-year forest management plan. The plan covers large blocks of state forests or entire state forests, considers associated resources and uses, and identifies which forest stands will be treated with forestry operations during the 10-year period to meet the plan's goals and objectives. The plan is



EMERY GLUCK

*The author built this timber-framed shed with trees he had planted and harvested.*

also vigorously reviewed by DEP staff and sent to local conservation commissions for comments.

Much more wood is grown on state forests than DEP needs, so the forestry division sells the right to harvest trees from most of the designated timber sales to loggers and sawmills who offer the highest bid. The division administers timber sales that harvest a total about 3 million board feet annually. A 2008 state forest sustainability study by Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies found that the timber in state forests is growing at a rate more than twice as fast as it is being cut. [Editor's note: See related story on page 10.]

## **Yesterday's Woodlots, Today's Working Forests**

The original charge of state forests was "to grow oak, pine and chestnut suitable for timber." This original policy was set a little over a century ago when local timber was not readily available as most privately owned woodlots were routinely clear-cut before they reached timber sized to produce firewood and charcoal to power Connecticut's industry and heat homes. The state legislature authorized the state forester to purchase cutover land with the 1901 "An Act Concerning the Reforestation of Barren Land," which allowed acquisition of land up to \$4 per acre.

Growing timber back then was a risky business, because the high incidence of forest fires made it a gamble that the investment would not burn up before it grew to marketable timber. Because wood was crucial to the power industry and it was often in short supply, many companies back then bought forests to secure their own sources of wood.

As fossil fuels replaced wood as the main source of energy and the threat of fire fell precipitously, timber became the primary product from the woods. Unlike the industries that depended on wood and charcoal, sawmills in Connecticut rarely owned their own forests. Hull Forest Products of Pomfret is a notable exception. Bill Hull started buying forest land for his company around 1983. "I'm a forester. I hate to see land developed," he said. Mr. Hull bought the property around Myers Pond in Union to protect private land that was surrounded by Yale forest. His company has accumulated 13,000 acres of forestland. Though most of it is in Massachusetts, Mr. Hull owns a few thousand acres in Connecticut. A "minor" amount of timber that the sawmill processes comes from its own forestland. This land is certified by Smartwood, a program of the Rainforest Alliance's sustainable forestry division and serves as a third-party green-certification program that independently verifies sustainable

*continued on page 12*



PETER OTIS, left; BILL COLEMAN, center; KEN METZLER, right

## Backyard Grown Timber

A passion for forests drove me to grow my own forest. I planted native white pine and a minor amount of other trees on the back 2 acres, a wet hayfield, shortly after buying the house and land in Lebanon 23 years ago. Luckily, deer weren't a problem in town at that time, as they could have wiped out the planting in the absence of precautionary measures. I spent many hours battling resurgent multiflora rose for several years until they mostly capitulated when the pines formed a canopy that brought killing shade. Red maple along the stone walls that overtopped the pine was cut for firewood. The most crooked weeviled pine I culled out (The white pine weevil kills the terminal leader when it lays in eggs in it. The side branches will then start to grow upright to become multiple leaders thus producing misshapen trees). Eventually, pines voraciously compete among one another for nutrients and sunlight as their crowns becomes tightly packed. The lower parts of their crown start to die off in moderate shade. Healthy pines have at least one third of their total height in live crown.

To avoid significant loss of live crown and vigor as well as to increase the growth rate, the plantation is periodically thinned. Starting in 2002, the thinned pine logs were taken to Woodcreek Sawmill in Franklin. The pines were sawn into 2-inch (thick) boards for the flooring of a timber-framed loft and 1-inch boards for pantry shelves. In 2007, I thinned more pines, and the logs were sawn into 4- and 6-inch timbers and 1-inch boards for a timber framed shed. To date, more than 1,000 board feet has been thinned out to help the forest stay healthy, produce a product, and grow more timber. There is still almost 5,000 board feet left standing on vigorously growing trees with additional trees that will grow to timber size in a few years. The thinned pines have been growing one-quarter-inch to more than one-half inch in girth annually, which is much higher than un-thinned pines.

Even something that seems as well rooted as a forest can be wiped out before it can reach its natural life span. It is expected that the plantation will be destroyed by the next hurricane as white pine is extremely vulnerable to uprooting. More than half of the conifers in eastern Connecticut were destroyed in the 1938 hurricane. This was when the forest was young and less vulnerable to windthrow. The same hurricane virtually eliminated white pine from an old growth forest in southwestern New Hampshire. Similar strength hurricanes have historically hit Connecticut about once a century. To prepare for the post-hurricane environment, I am nurturing sporadic wildings (eastern red cedar, swamp white oak, white ash, white oak, and black oak). These volunteers have seeded naturally in between and underneath the pine. They are being tended as replacement trees in preparation for the expectant death of the pines. Overtopping pine (even if they are not big enough for timber) or their branches are cut to allow the volunteers adequate sunlight.

*At left, oak harvested from the Yale-Myers Forest makes the paneling of the Kroon Building at Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. Center, Sawyer Ray Gordon processes a log at the state sawmill in Portland, while William Flannery, foreground, removes a sawn board. Right, Hopeville Pond Natural Area as it looked after state park personel Ted Zajac and Greg Vantine harvested white pines.*

## Connecticut-grown timber

*continued from page 11*

forestry operations.

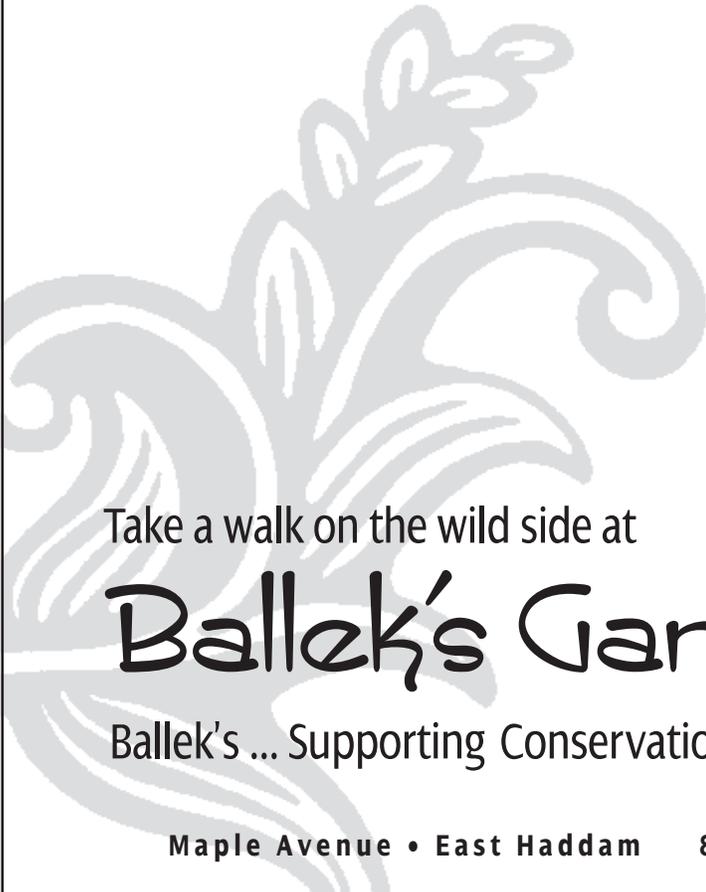
Like Hull Forests, the 7840-acre Yale-Myers Forest is also third-party certified but by both the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. The Yale-Myers Forest recently supplied almost half of the oak for paneling for the new home of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (the Kroon Building). According to Yale Forests Manager Richard Campbell, the Kroon Building is Leadership in Energy Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certified, the highest level of green certification given by the U.S. Green Building Council. Mr. Campbell states that for the Kroon Building to qualify for the LEED program, Yale has to use wood from an FSC certified sawmill to meet a requirement for a process called "the chain of custody," which tracks the source of the wood from tree to end product. To use wood from the school's forest, Yale had to sell the timber to a FSC-certified mill, which in turn sold it to the contractor building its new building.

The Yale-Myers Forest was donated to Yale by George Myers, an alumnus of its forestry school's first graduating class in 1902. Mr. Myers purchased about 100 farm holdings in Ashford, Eastford, and Woodstock, which he turned over to the school in 1930. Yale conducts about 300 acres of sustainable harvests annually from the Yale-Myers Forest. Its management goals are to provide educational, research, and professional opportunities for faculty and students; serve as a sustainable financial asset by reaching economic self-sufficiency (so the forest can pay expenses such as upkeep of buildings on the forest, equipment, and salaries); and maintain the overall integrity and health of the forest ecosystem.

### Locally Grown Wood Can be a Green Asset

Wood products are among the most environmentally sound building products. With the exception of recycled materials, lumber is the least energy intensive construction material. By-

*continued on page 14*



Native trees and shrubs

Woodland wildflowers and ferns

Hummingbird, butterfly & bird attractants

Water garden & bog plants

Environmentally friendly products

Take a walk on the wild side at

# Ballek's Garden Center

Ballek's ... Supporting Conservation and Preservation

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

## Are you paying too much for Electric Heat?

## Tired of that Pellet Stove, yet?

We can get your heating cost down to **around \$700** per year\* with a monitor outside-exhausted heating system. *No chimney required*

*\* References*

*Calculations for condo or small ranch in Connecticut based on fuel costs / rates as of 2006. Estimates given for comparison purposes only.*



**CLEAN • SAFE • RELIABLE • WARM**

## Call now for a free quote.

### ANNUAL HEATING COSTS

**\$715** MONITOR PELLET STOVE - WOODSTOVE

**\$1,410** FUEL OIL - NATURAL GAS

**\$2,125** PROPANE FURNACE

**\$2,850** ELECTRIC BASEBOARD

# MIDDLETOWN MONITOR (860) 343-9004

lic# B1-388232

## Connecticut-grown timber

continued from page 12

products from local wood production, such as chips and firewood, can offset some of the need for fossil fuels needed to produce electricity and heat homes. Local wood products offer added benefits similar to local food production. It is much more energy efficient to transport local wood to local and regional markets than to buy wood produced at the other end of the country or import it. Additionally, much of the wood harvested from tropical countries and Russia is not sustainably, and often is illegally, harvested. Outsourcing the procurement of wood that we use transfers environmental impacts of our consumption abroad to those who are least able to afford or mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Wood from properly managed local forest can also add ecological value by restoring unstable forest ecosystems and uncommon habitats (such as young forest habitats, pitch pine forests and oak forests). Potential income from wood production or farms can serve as an incentive for landowners to retain their land instead of developing it.

Forest landowners are starting to use conservation easements as a way to permanently protect forestland from development. Some easements allow the landowners to actively manage their forests with timber harvest. The Connecticut Forest & Park Association and Wolf Den Land Trust hold easements on such properties. Communities have long been collaborating with other organizations to use conservation easements to preserve farmland. It is generally in a town's interest to at least partially fund conservation easements for farms and forests—not only from an environmental perspective, but also from



ALEX SOKOLOV

*This Adirondack style shelter is made of pine from the state sawmill in Cockaponset State Forest.*

a financial aspect. Several studies have documented that residential subdivisions are tax liabilities to town whereas forests or farms provide more revenues than they cost in town services (you have to send kids, but not trees or cows, to school). Much of Hull Forest Products land holdings have deeded conservation easements that will protect the land from development.

As with the procurement of our food, we have the mixed blessings of being able to buy inexpensive wood from around the world. It could be argued that the ability to obtain much of our food and wood cheaply elsewhere may contribute to Connecticut's suburbanization and a partial loss of our regional identity. These phenomena sever our Yankee roots of self-reliance as we lose the capacity to produce our own food and wood and become less unique. It also greatly diminishes our ties and connections to the land. Locally grown wood and food reinvigorates those ties, supports local jobs, and powers the remnants of Connecticut's

rural economy. If we want to keep the last vestiges of a semi-rural landscape in Connecticut's future, it is critical that its citizens support Connecticut's rural economy by buying and advocating for locally grown wood and food.

Managing a forest is not just about reaping the benefits from a harvest. One does it to leave the forest in better shape for the future. It involves investing the time and effort to care for the forest even though there is no immediate product to be sold or tangible gain realized. The intangible gains come from within.

*Emery Gluck is a forester for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and a frequent contributor to Connecticut Woodlands.*

Additional information about why the DEP Division of Forestry cuts trees can be found at [http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=322878&depNav\\_GID=1631](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=322878&depNav_GID=1631)

## Grass roots

continued from page 8

spread with the construction of that mall. When that gets built it encourages other retailers to cluster around that.”

Last year, she noted, Lowe's Home Centers applied for a permit to build on a steep and windy section of Route 44 on the Avon-Canton town line. Ms. Latus said she was astonished when town officials approved it. When the economy went south, Lowe's announced it would not build in Canton.

Like the Maromas group, CARE, which numbers more than 100 members, has turned to projects to educate and inspire the public. Each election, members survey candidates on their stances about growth. The group started a farmers' market in the Collinsville section of town. Ms. Latus organized sessions on sprawl for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hartford. And their advocacy work helped push the town to establish an open space fund and buy its first property.

“There are multiple obstacles, but the biggest problem is the outdated property tax structure,” said Ms. Latus, a former newspaper reporter. “There is the never ending pressure on municipalities to raise more money, and the only way they can do that is through property taxes. Yet you can't build your way out of the budget deficit that every town seems to find itself in every year.”

*Christine Woodside, a freelance writer, has edited Connecticut Woodlands since 2001.*

# Wolcott Trail, Torrington

BY STEPHEN WOOD

**T**railblazing and hiking in one of the smallest and most populated states in the country certainly presents us with some unique challenges. One is never too far away from roads, houses, or air traffic patterns. Yet, I tend to view the urban proximities as an opportunity rather than a hindrance. It is far easier to encourage friends and coworkers to hit the trail if it is nearby and gives the assurance of easily obtained safety.

I also am continually impressed by the sense of solitude many of our trails give hikers. With so many trails near bigger cities such as New Haven, Manchester, Bristol, Middletown, and Waterbury, many people may feel that “getting away from it all” would be impossible. This is certainly not the case! The Wolcott Trail at Burr Pond State Park in northern Torrington is one such place.

Just a few miles north of downtown Torrington and south of Winsted’s bustling Main Street, Burr Pond State Park offers what many Connecticut hikes offer: Easy access, beautiful scenery, and a rich local history.

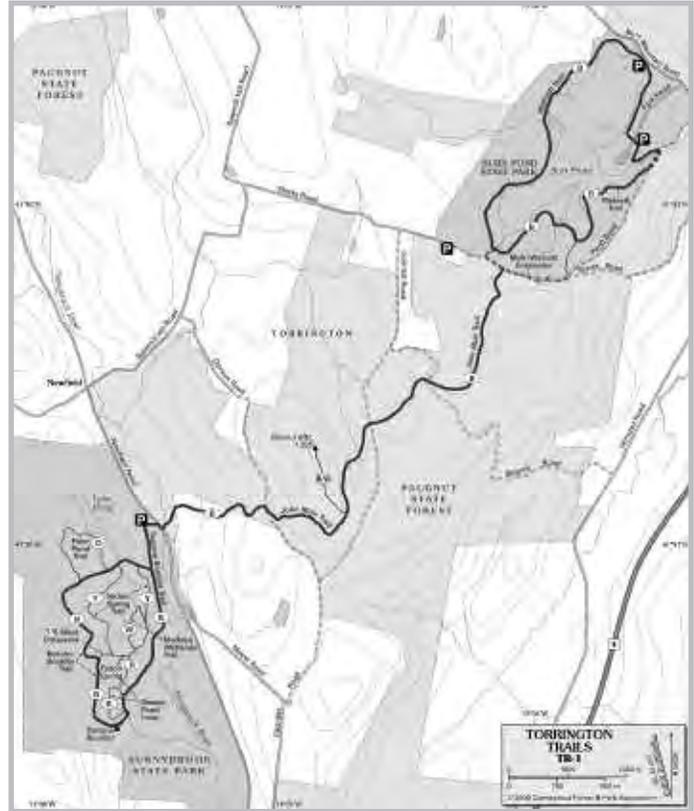
In 1851, well before the area was a state park, Milo Burr placed a dam across the confluence of several mountain streams harness their power. Burr’s tannery and three active sawmills erected downstream consumed the finest pines and oaks for miles around to meet the needs of lumber production, helping to build up local industry. Later, a Milo Burr descendant, John H. Burr, donated the land to the state. It was a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp first, named after former Connecticut Governor Oliver Wolcott, Jr., who was from nearby Litchfield. The CCC developed the trails and recreation area under the supervision of Philip Buttrick, who was secretary-forester of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association from 1923 to 1929.

Another interesting bit of history: Gail Borden, discoverer of the process of milk preservation by evaporation and condensation, built the world’s first condensed milk factory here in 1857. Fire destroyed it in 1877, and Borden moved his operation to New York. Imagining a different era while walking the easy 2.5 miles around Burr Pond adds an element of fun.

## The Hike

Beginning at the main parking area at Burr Pond, Wolcott Trail begins at the west side of the access road. There is a small sandy beach and picnic area here — a great way to end your hike on a warm day! Hiking counter-clockwise, pass the historical sign about the area and continue across several small streams. A bronze tablet, which is somewhat hidden during the summer months, is embedded into a large boulder on the right side honors Mr. Buttrick.

Also off to the right north of the pond are the ruins of Borden’s condensed milk factory. Continuing around the pond, several interpretive signs describe the various trees dotting the landscape. Once the trail turns south, it widens and follows a smooth grade through white pine and laurel—always hugging the shore of the pond and



CFPA, CONNECTICUT WALK BOOK

*The Wolcott Trail circumnavigates Burr Pond, in the upper right of this map.*

offering many pretty scenes along the way.

Along the south shore, many glacial erratics dot the hillside. There are several massive boulders of note, including one (accessed by a very short side trail) with an overhang and natural bench for a nice cooling rest among a rare stand of hemlocks. The trail does navigate some rocky areas, but is never too difficult or steep. Once back near the parking area, the sights include a large dam and another gurgling brook to cross.

For a longer day in the woods, follow the connector trail along Starks Road to access the John Muir Trail, which leads 2.1 miles south to the many trails of Sunnybrook State Park.

## Directions

Off Route 8: Exit 46. At end of the ramp, take a left onto Pinewoods Road. At the first stop sign, go left onto Winsted Road. Follow Winsted Road for approximately 1 mile and take a right at the blinking yellow light (turn is marked with a park sign). The park is 1 mile on the left. There is a parking fee between Memorial and Labor Day.

*Stephen Wood lives in West Hartford and chronicles his ongoing quest to hike all the CFPA trails at [ctmuseumquest.com](http://ctmuseumquest.com). Visit the site and click on “Hikes.”*

# Learning a sense of community with outdoor projects

BY LORI PARADIS BRANT

*You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's a little thing, do something for others—something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.*

—Albert Schweitzer

Each year, a group of energized and excited Connecticut high school students take to the woods and the trails, wielding drills, hammers—and even homemade muffins. These students from vocational technical schools are involved in a program called Skills Day USA. On that day, they use the technical skills they are learning at school to work in the field.



*Education Director  
Lori Paradis Brant*

Where do the muffins come in? What student, teacher, and trail manager wouldn't appreciate home-baked goodies after their hard efforts working on a trail and cleaning up a river? That is precisely how the culinary students share their skills in baking and serving others. Heidi Balch, the director of Skills Day USA in Connecticut, believes that this community service promotes goodwill and understanding through student work and instills in those students a lifetime commitment to community service. This day is a strong example of how students, teachers, volunteers, and nonprofit organizations can

work together to find creative ways for teaching, learning, and volunteering.

Several of the Skills Day USA groups have gone on to continue to help with other outdoor projects. They and their teachers became engaged and wanted to do more to help. The outdoors can help develop a sense of place and a sense of community, as it has with these students. Service learning projects offer positive opportunities in which students can see first-hand the difference they make in their local environment. These projects give the students a sense of responsibility to their community and can help them understand how they, as individuals, use resources. Projects that are environmental in scope can boost students' understanding of local environmental issues and have a positive effect on their role in the environment.

Carpentry students put their technical skills to the test when building a new outdoor learning lab table or fixing a boardwalk that crosses a wetland. A previously vacant lot next to a schoolyard blossoms as a classroom garden only after the students work with the property owner and working with local agriculture college students in the research and planting. They are learning by doing, and at same time, the community takes part in the education of its youth.

Service learning has its roots in community action projects, many of which connect to the environment. Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933 to reduce the unemploy-

ment numbers, as well as to care for our natural resources. Along with the War Department and Department of Interior, the Office of Education was also a key player in the CCC. In 1961, the Peace Corps was established as a way to connect American volunteers to working at the local environment in other countries and promoting better understanding among the people in those countries, the volunteers, and American public. The Youth Conservation Corps, conceived in the early 1970s, brought together American youths from diverse backgrounds to work on conservation projects on federal lands. The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 was created to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation (see [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)).

## Connecting Environmental Projects and Service Learning

GreenWorks!, a program of the Project Learning Tree program, an environmental curriculum for secondary schools, readily incorporates the previous components of service learning into its framework. GreenWorks! creates opportunities for a variety of groups to work together on environmental action projects. Educators who have been trained in PLT are eligible to apply for GreenWorks! grants for as much as \$5,000. Projects must involve students in working on an environmental issue, have solutions that meet their community's needs and integrate community service into the academic curriculum. An environmental action project can enhance the natural outdoor areas, such as the creation of a native wildflower garden or the reduction of noise pollution near a town park or school.

In Connecticut, four school districts incorporate service learning into their high school curricula. Twenty-seven districts require some type of community service, from general volunteering in the community to civic-based projects. The Connecticut Forest & Park Association, as the state co-sponsor of PLT, reaches out to these districts to let them know there are readily available tools as well as funding sources to help their teachers and students incorporate environmental action projects into their community service requirements. PLT's free online teacher resource guide, GreenWorks! (see [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)) helps connect the service to the curriculum and provides case studies and ideas for environmental action projects.

Service learning students strengthen and practice skills taught in the classroom. Service learning also connects students strongly to their community because they may develop a greater sense of stewardship, especially understanding their role as conservationists. It can help students understand how their learning connects to the real world and help them care about it more deeply.

*Lori Paradis Brant is the education director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.*



**FERRUCCI & WALICKI, LLC**  
FOREST MANAGEMENT SERVICES

*Serving Southern New England for over 25 years*

**Services Offered**

- Comprehensive Forestland Management Services
- Professionally Managed Timber Harvests
- Timber Appraisals, Inventories & Management Plans
- Property Tax Reduction Services
- Timberland & Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Private and Municipal Watershed Resource Management Services
- Comprehensive GIS and GPS Mapping
- Environmental Oversight

**Main Office:**

6 WAY ROAD  
MIDDLEFIELD, CT 06455  
PHONE: 860-349-7007  
FAX: 860-349-7032

EMAIL: FW@FWFORESTERS.COM

**WWW.FWFORESTERS.COM**

**Satellite Forestry Offices in Connecticut:**  
COVENTRY, CHESHIRE, SIMSBURY, MADISON

**Senior Forestry Staff:**

DAN PERACCHIO, PHIL CASPAR, MARK KASINSKAS  
THOMAS WALICKI AND MICHAEL FERRUCCI

**JOIN NORTH COVE OUTFITTERS  
FOR NEW ENGLAND'S LARGEST  
ON-THE-WATER PADDLE DEMO WEEKEND  
SAT. MAY 2ND 10-5 - SUN. MAY 3RD 10-4**



**"Try Before You Buy"**

**CAMP HAZEN YMCA, CEDAR LAKE • CHESTER, CT**

Test Paddle 100's of Canoes & Kayaks - Bell Canoe, Epic, Elite, Freedom Hawk, Wilderness Systems, Mad River, Necky, Old Town Canoe & Kayak, Ocean Kayaks, Eddyline, Impex, Liquidlogic, Native Watercraft, Ranger Canoe, & Vermont Canoe.

**Admission:  
\$18.00**

Good for the whole weekend of paddling.



Visit our Website:  
[www.northcove.com](http://www.northcove.com)  
for details

*Where Great  
Adventures Begin...*

**75 MAIN STREET • OLD SAYBROOK, CT • 860-388-6585**

**[www.northcove.com](http://www.northcove.com)**

**BURKE RIDGE  
CONSTRUCTION**

Bill Burke 860.875.0280  
[www.burkeridge.com](http://www.burkeridge.com)

**CAPABILITIES**

- Public Works and DEP vegetation management
- Forestry applications. Selective thinning of parks and woodlands, pre-harvest thinning, post-harvest slash reduction, plantation and nursery maintenance
- Fish and wildlife habitat maintenance and diversification
- Commercial and residential development clearing, including selective thinning and clearing of building lots and roadways
- Clears around stone walls and other obstacles with ease
- Excavator reaches branches and removes them within seconds



**BRONTOSAURUS  
BRUSH MOWING DIVISION**

# How the Great Depression led CFPA to new heights

## *An opportunity, not an impediment, to working on trails and parks*

BY ADAM R. MOORE

A depression is no obstacle to conservation. For conservationists, a depression or a recession can be a time of great promise. Hard times offer a chance to do something that will help people in need and get some work done. For the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's citizen-conservationists, the prospects are bright despite the pressures upon us. It was during the Great Depression, after all, that CFPA rose to perhaps its greatest heights.

It was December 1929. The stock market had collapsed just two months prior. The entire country had fallen into what we now know as the Great Depression, with about a quarter of the population unemployed. Stock certificates became worthless paper and savings in the bank were lost because there was no FDIC. People piled into apartments with relatives, took in boarders, and did what they had to do to pay the bills.

People lost money and jobs and homes, but not vision. During those dark December days, the Rev. Edgar Heermance, Secretary of the CFPA, had a vision. Mr. Heermance called several compatriots to join him, and they gathered December 27, 1929, at the Graduate Club in New Haven. He called the meeting to order, and then Mr. Heermance laid on the table his vision: the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System.

On that day on Elm Street in the Elm City, the CFPA's illustrious Trails Committee met for the first time and the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System was born. Many of us know the history: the first trail was the Quinnipiac; the Metacomet and the Mattabesett trails were established in 1931, and the system grew, all during the Great Depression.

### ***Conservation looks forward. Conservation has vision. Conservation is optimism.***

Yet, the CFPA did not confine its energies to trails. Observing that many were out of work, yet there was work to be done, CFPA Forester Robert Ross and State Forester Austin Hawes did something about it. They established a work program at the People's State Forest in Barkhamsted. There, they put unemployed young men to work on forest projects. Idle young men pose problems for any society. Through the CFPA work program, these men became industrious. The men in the work program earned room, board, and wages, a portion of which they sent home for their families. They gained pride, found camaraderie, and accomplished something. The work program employed and housed these men, but achieved other benefits as well. By employing these young men, the work program freed jobs for other, older men and women. The program eliminated the need for

families to house these young people. And the program got work that needed doing done.

Clearly a success, Messrs. Ross and Hawes were invited to a conference at President Franklin D. Roosevelt's White House. Based on their experiment, the Association's experiment, the Civilian Conservation Corps was formed. Marty Podskoch expertly shared the history of the CCC in the previous issue, and it need not be repeated, except to state that the CCC was a smashing success.

University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Forester Robert Ricard has noted in his articles for Connecticut Woodlands the "social" nature of some forestry programs, particularly the visionary work of Benton MacKaye, who established the Appalachian Trail. Indeed, the social nature of these two CFPA programs, trails and work, made them such a success. These programs served two distinct social needs of the time.

The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails met a spiritual need. The trails allowed, and still allow, people to escape the cities, to escape the pressures of daily life and hike in the woods that surround them. In fact, the trails were sited expressly to be proximate to the many small cities of Connecticut. The Conservation Corps—which Governor M. Jodi Rell proposed reestablishing in her February budget address—met a social need as well. It employed, fed and housed unemployed young men and accomplished conservation projects statewide and nationwide.

The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System and the CCC stand out as extraordinarily successful conservation programs. They succeeded because they were not just conservation programs. They were social programs as well. Both programs were created during the Great Depression, both of them sprung from the vision of the CFPA and its people. On the trail, one's heart was lifted after reaching the summit of Mount Higby and surveying the view. In the CCC camp, one felt great satisfaction sitting down to a meal after a day's hard work well done.

Such vision is what conservationists are capable of in tough times. Conservation looks forward. Conservation has vision. Conservation is optimism. Given that, and given the CFPA's history, I see not a depression, but rather a grand opportunity for conservation, and a challenge that I know we will rise to meet.

*Adam R. Moore is the former executive director of CFPA. He now directs the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, a land trust, on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.*



# BIODIESEL

- ▶ CLEANER BURNING
- ▶ DOMESTIC
- ▶ RENEWABLE

*Hale Hill offers  
Bioheat &  
Biodiesel Blend  
for Home Heating,  
On Highway  
& Off Highway use*

**Bioheat** is a blend of home heating oil and biodiesel.  
**Biodiesel** is a cleaner burning, renewable fuel that is made in the USA and can be used with your existing equipment without any modifications

## HALE HILL BIOFUELS

Connecticut's Biodiesel Experts

# 888.425.3445

BRANFORD / PORTLAND CONNECTICUT [www.halehillfarm.com](http://www.halehillfarm.com)



**BIOFUEL DELIVERS!**

### WORKING WITH THE LAND

## Managing Land As a Renewable and Profitable Resource

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

# E|E|C|O|S

Ecological and Environmental Consulting Services, Inc.

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

Starling Childs, MFS; Anthony Irving, MES

## SCOTLAND HARDWOODS A ROSSI COMPANY

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

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

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



### Connwood Foresters, Inc. SINCE 1945

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Forest Stewardship Plans       | Expert Witness Services       |
| Property Tax Savings (PA490)   | Timber Sales & Appraisals     |
| Baseline Documentation Reports | Boundary Location/Maintenance |
| Tree Protection Plans          | Invasive Species Control      |
| Permit Acquisition             | GIS and GPS Mapping           |

860-349-9910

Foresters & Arborists In Central, Western and Eastern Connecticut  
[CONNWOOD.COM](http://CONNWOOD.COM)

### PROFESSIONAL PRINTING SERVICES

**Scott D. Smith**  
Print Broker

13 Lexington Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
Telephone 860.721.6952  
Facsimile 860.721.6934  
[servicepressct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:servicepressct@sbcglobal.net)



Mention this ad for  
**\$100.00 FREE** type and  
layout services on your  
first printing order.

## Service Press CONNECTICUT

Proud Member of Connecticut Forest and Park Association

# A Return to Gardening

*Nonfarming Americans respond to tough times by planting their own food*

BY JEAN CRUM JONES

Home gardening is back in vogue. When economic and political systems fail to work, many retreat from national and world preoccupations to private gardens. Plants promise no miracles for society, but they pay people off in the comfort of food, stress relief, and nostalgic memories. Neighbors might have nothing else in common, but if they garden, backyards are bridged with a new sense of sharing — information, tools, and vegetables.

We are in the midst of a significant economic and ecological crisis. Is that a bad thing? It depends on how we adjust to the new realities — what we do to stock our pantries and raise our spirits. Fortunately, people's responses to earlier tough times can guide us through what lies ahead. Home gardening has helped before.

The kitchen garden became a major remedy for urban hunger in the worst economic depression of the 19th century. When unemployment reached 35 percent in American cities by 1894, the mayor of Detroit began a charitable vacant lots program. Mayor Hazen Pingree acquired the use of vacant land around the city, simply by asking the landowners, and he asked well-off citizens to donate money for seeds and tools. Almost a thousand needy families were then given plowed plots on 430 acres in Detroit. They grew more than 40,000 bushels of potatoes that summer of 1894, along with enormous yields of beans, squashes, pumpkins, pride, and goodwill. The program was replicated in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and other cities across America.

Twice in the 20th century, Americans have resorted to gardening as a patriotic response to wartime. It is intriguing to note that the national government never led public opinion in either crisis. American citizens initiated the victory gardening movements and then pressured the government to become involved.

Throughout World War I, with the aid of the National War Garden Committee (a vol-

unteer group) Americans planted gardens to replace the factory-canned vegetables to send overseas to the soldiers. First Lady Edith Wilson grazed her sheep on the White House lawn in 1918. Local and regional committees arose and created a network of support for neophyte gardeners. Gardeners learned to store and preserve food.

During the 1920s, home gardening declined, until the Great Depression, when urban gardening resumed anew as the Relief Garden program. When World War II began, money, food, and fuel all were in short supply. The government and civilian groups such as the Red Cross and garden clubs organized committees to coordinate victory gardens. Eleanor Roosevelt had a large one planted on the White House lawn in 1943. Gardening classes and literature came out. The results were amazing. Twenty million victory gardeners grew gardens that yielded as much as 40 percent of the country's nonmilitary produce.

After World War II, gardening became mostly a hobby in the 1950s and 1960s as Americans perceived fuel would never run out and that modern agriculture could not fail. However, during the 1970s, the "back to the land" movement plus the severe energy crisis led to more serious interest in self-sufficient gardening on a wider scale. This gardening revival never reached the scale or garnered widespread backing as during previous war times, though President Gerald Ford was an advocate for the WIN "Whip Inflation Now" Garden program. Interest in urban gardens increased: In 1972, for instance, the Knox Foundation established community gardens in Keney Park in Hartford. The Knox foundation still sponsors multiple community gardens in Hartford. Other cities maintain community gardens, but residents of most of the suburbs lost interest in kitchen gardening during the 1980s and 1990s.

Which brings us to today. Environmental and economic concerns have created a new interest in home gardening. At W. Atlee

Burpee & Co., sales of seeds for herbs and vegetables rose 40 percent last year. In recent years, with renewed interest in local produce, organic and sustainable agriculture, and concerns about food and fuel security, Americans are pushing for a victory garden revival movement. Alice Waters, the California restaurateur who encouraged the transformation of Yale University's food service to one sourced with local Connecticut foods, and journalist Michael Pollan, a former Connecticut resident, have strongly encouraged the Obama family to plant a victory garden on the White House lawn. In February, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack launched the People's Garden, a project to demonstrate sustainable gardening at U.S. Department of Agriculture facilities.

The advantages of home gardening are clear. Growing and eating home-grown food would reduce the enormous environmental impact of our fossil fuel-dependent food production and transportation systems. Small gardens provide useful exercise and better food. Gardening usually saves money, and it's fun to do.

So I urge you to put in a kitchen garden, no matter how simple, or to be a mentor to a beginning gardener. Gardening brings people in touch with the realness of the land and the sky, heat and cold, wind and rain, and the life cycle itself. It's necessary now.

## For Further Reading

"Farmer in Chief," by Michael Pollan, *The New York Times Magazine*, October 9, 2008  
 Connecticut Community Gardening Association: [ctcommunitygardening.org](http://ctcommunitygardening.org)  
 Connecticut Chapter, Northeast Organic Farming Association: [ctnofa.org](http://ctnofa.org)  
 University of Connecticut Home and Garden Education Center: [ladybug.uconn.edu](http://ladybug.uconn.edu)

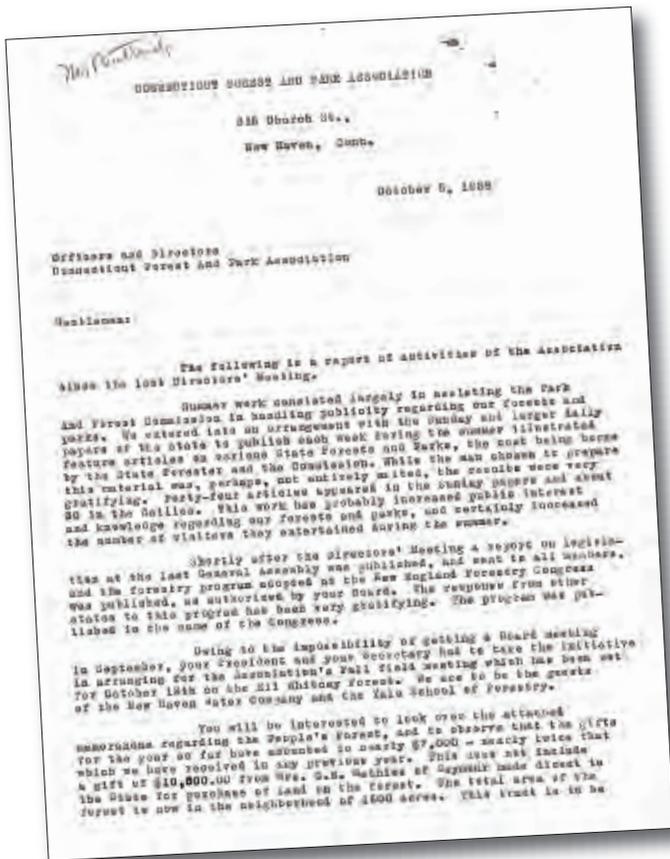
*Jean Crum Jones is a registered dietician and, with her husband, Terry Jones, runs Jones Family Farms in Shelton. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.*

# A communication from Mr. Edgar Heermance

BY JAMES W. LITTLE

It started with a communication to the Connecticut Forest & Park Association from Mr. Heermance, who said he was “greatly interested in construction of a system of trails through Connecticut.” The communication asked that CFPA lead a movement for trail construction, which the Association promptly agreed to. This was typical of CFPA, being asked to help and lead and then making it happen. Colonel Woolsey thought the best way to proceed was to create a special committee “to canvass the situation and do what seems best.” At the board meeting on October 5, 1929, it was voted to authorize the President to appoint a trails committee and to authorize the secretary to inform the Appalachian Trails Conference that the CFPA would welcome an invitation to join the Conference. The President stated that he would announce the committee at the next meeting.

With the communication followed by the vote, the Trails Committee and the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails were born. Today, the 825-mile Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails are the most visible representation of CFPA’s commitment to Connecticut and its land. It started with a bold idea and a committed group willing to take action.



James W. Little is the director of development of CFPA.

## Hull Forest Products Inc.

Serving The Needs of Forest Landowners  
Since 1972.

Providing Numerous Forestry Services:

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

### Purchasing Standing Timber.

For A Free Initial Consultation or Sawtimber Appraisal Please Call:

## Hull Forest Products Inc.

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

## CONSERVATION AND TAX PLANNING

*we help you protect your treasured land resources*



DAVID PLATT  
HARTFORD  
(860) 240-6000

SARA R. STADLER  
NEW HAVEN  
(203) 772-7700

## MURTHA CULLINA LLP

A T T O R N E Y S A T L A W

www.murthlaw.com

# Glancing back at a century of saving land

**Twentieth-Century New England Land Conservation: A Heritage of Civic Engagement, edited by Charles H. W. Foster.** Harvard University Forest: Boston, 2009. 384 pages.

BY DAVID K. LEFF

Land conservation is at least as much about people as it is about land. More precisely, it's about the relationship of people to a place. This is the take-home lesson of the recently published *Twentieth-Century New England Land Conservation: A Heritage of Civic Engagement*, edited by Charles H. W. Foster, a long-time pillar of the conservation community who is a former Massachusetts state forester and first secretary of environmental affairs, as well as a past president of the Nature Conservancy and dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Rather than a comprehensive history, the book tells the story of each state in highly individual essays written by people who were witnesses to, and sometimes participants in, some of the more recent events described. Thus, the volume not only lays out the facts of what lands were saved and how, but also reflects the spirit of the region through each author's distinctive voice. This collage of conservation tales includes a section on federal involvement in the area and is tied together by Foster's opening and concluding chapters that provide historical and political context. He also reflects on six common themes that thread through the state stories: self-determination, innovation, individual leadership, commitment to place, civic engagement, and moral and ethical concern for the environment.

Connecticut's story is ably told by Russell Brenneman, a giant of the state's environmental movement and a key player in development of conservation easements. (Mr. Brenneman is also a long-time member of CFPA's Board of Directors.) In a chapter entitled "Rescuing Connecticut," he begins with an 1895 gathering in a

Simsbury home where a handful of people held the state's first focused discussion of forestry and land conservation. Out of that meeting, CFPA was also born.

"The genius of Connecticut land conservation," Brenneman shrewdly observes, "is that it happened at all" in such a small and thickly settled place. He ascribes early preservation efforts to "a growing awareness on the part of many of the responsibility to be frugally as mindful of tomorrow as we are of today." It is this quality of mind, and embodiment of the virtues that Foster adopts as his six themes, that enabled this state's leaders of land conservation to make things happen during the tumultuous decades of the 20th century.

These leaders include foresters, business people, academics, landowners, and politicians. To mention just a few individuals hints at the range of talents it took to preserve the lands that exist today for our enjoyment and economic and ecological well-being.

Philanthropist Alain C. White's generosity resulted in the creation of six major state parks and forests. Iron-fisted State Forester Austin F. Hawes put our publicly owned lands on a sound scientific footing and skillfully built

the land base. Forester James L. Goodwin established a model of private land stewardship and then donated thousands of acres to the state. Botanist and the Nature Conservancy co-founder Richard H. Goodwin pioneered the partnership between science and land conservation. The courage of world-renowned wetlands authority William A. Neiring to give public testimony and advice to legislators and

bureaucrats was instrumental in the development of regulatory techniques to preserve land. State Representative Dorothy McCluskey stood up to powerful interests and secured legislation protecting tens of thousands of acres of water company property.

This book marks both great accomplishments and the struggle to achieve them. Of course, the battle is ongoing. These pages offer abundant inspiration to carry on the fight.

*David K. Leff is a writer, member of the CFPA Board of Directors, and former deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.*

**A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir, by Donald Worster.** Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2008. 535 pages.

BY ROBERT M. RICARD

Much has been written about first-generation American conservationists such as George Perkins Marsh, Frederick Law Olmsted, Henry David Thoreau, John Wesley Powell, and Gifford Pinchot. Yet, we seem to not get enough of them. One might argue that the most fascinating person in this group is John Muir. We are now most fortunate that in *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir*, celebrated American historian Donald Worster has provided a most comprehensive examination and narrative of the granddaddy of the environmental giants life and how this might have shaped the man's ethos and actions.

The story begins on April 21, 1838, with Muir's birth in a seaport village on Scotland's eastern shore. It concludes with his death the day before Christmas in 1914, the same year the Guns of August fired in Europe and when construction of Hetch Hetchy Dam commenced. Worster explores the "special self" Muir becomes and finds that Muir was influenced significantly by his father, Daniel. Prominent was the strict Presbyterian theology and the Scottish ethos of work, logic, and progress. The historian persuades us that the elder Muir drove his son toward success and upward mobility but also toward resistance and rebellion against much what the father stood for, thus shaping

*continued on page 27*



## SPRING AND SUMMER TRAIL RACES: ONE WAY TO SEE MORE IN LESS TIME



BY SCOTT LIVINGSTON

SCOTT LIVINGSTON

*Runners on the starting line for the Nipmuck Trail Marathon.*

In our family, we like to hike, but we love to run. Connecticut has fabulous trails for running, and I think that they are some of the most technically challenging anywhere in the world. Connecticut trails have it all; single-track, rocks, roots, leaves, and lots of contour.

Some people enjoy trail running on their own, but many others run in the many organized events in this area, many of them part of a series colorfully named the New England Grand Tree Trail Running Series. Races start in April and continue through November. The New England trail running community has wonderful camaraderie.

A great place to start running offroad is on one of Connecticut's unpaved rail trails, such as the Hop River State Park (off Route 6 in Bolton and Andover) and the Airline Trail (the southern end is off Smith Street, near Route 66, in East Hampton). Rail trails are wide and usually graded. Cross-country running in many of Connecticut's great parks, such as Wickham Park, is another way to build strength. Work your way up to more rugged foot trails such as the Shenipsit Trail, Nipmuck Trail, or Tunxis Trail. These off-road gems offer real technical challenges.

There are races of all distances. You can go to one of the shorter events, such as the 4-mile Soapstone Sampler for runners and walkers, (May 17, see sidebar). Or, you can go to an ultra-marathon event like the Bimble's Bluff (in Guilford in late October), which

*continued on page 24*

### Find a Trail Race . . . like the Soapstone on May 17

For more information on the New England Grand Tree Trail Running Series and for a calendar of trail races in Connecticut and New England, see the Western Massachusetts Athletic Club Web site at [www.runwmac.com](http://www.runwmac.com), the Shenipsit Striders Web site at [www.shenipsitstriders.org](http://www.shenipsitstriders.org), or the Bimble's Sound at [www.mrbimble.com](http://www.mrbimble.com).

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association is one of the sponsors of the 25th annual Soapstone Mountain Trail Races on May 17. They start and end at the Reddington Rock Riding Club in Stafford. Choose a 14-mile race and a 4-mile "sampler," both of which climb Soapstone Mountain and wind through Shenipsit State Forest, including sections of the Shenipsit Trail. This is one of New England's oldest and most popular trail races. The Shenipsit Striders are the host club. Jerry Stage and Deborah Livingston are the co-race directors. The event benefits the Northern Connecticut Land Trust, local high school cross-country runners, and, also this year, CFPA. In 2009, proceeds from the race will also benefit CFPA. If you would like to volunteer at the race, contact Jim Little, CFPA director of development, at 860-346-2372.

## ON THE TRAILS

### Learn Trail Skills

#### SPRING TRAIL WORKSHOP MAY 2

Land trusts, conservation commissions, trail volunteers, and land owners are invited to brush up on trail maintenance skills at the 2009 Spring Trail Maintenance Workshop sponsored by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Trails Committee.

The workshop will be held at Kettletown State Park in Oxford and Southford, on Saturday, May 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Led by seasoned trails workers, participants will have the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, including bridge-building, waterbar construction, invasives control, trail relocation, and brushing and blazing.

Wear heavy shoes or work boots, dress for the weather, and bring work gloves, two quarts of water, and lunch. Tools will be provided but bring your own if you have them.

Directions: Meet at the pavilion at Jackson Cove Recreation Area, Oxford. From I-84 exit 15, travel south on Kettletown Road. Pass Georges Hill Road and continue straight to Jackson Cove Recreation Area (note that Kettletown Road changes to Maple Tree Hill Road, which then becomes Jackson Cove Road).

For further information contact Terri Peters at CFPA, 860-346-2372, email [tpeters@ctwoodlands.org](mailto:tpeters@ctwoodlands.org), or check the CFPA Web site, [www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org).



## Join Us for Connecticut Trails Day 2009 — Take in the Outdoors

National Trails Day will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7 this year, with events taking place throughout Connecticut. The Trails Day theme for 2009 is “Take in the Outdoors,” an invitation to get outside and experience everything Connecticut’s great outdoors has to offer. Events range from hiking and biking to paddling, horseback riding, trail maintenance, orienteering, letterboxing—a variety of fun activities for everyone.

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association has served as American Hiking Society’s state coordinator for National Trails Day since 1993. We’re proud to say that, with enthusiastic participation by more than a hundred groups and organizations, Connecticut has consistently held the highest number of events of any state in the nation.

Want to get outdoors and join one of the many Trails Day activities? Check our Web site ([www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)) in mid-April, when we will post the CFPA Trails Day brochure with a listing of all the Trails Day events. If you’d like to be added to the brochure mailing list, send an e-mail to [info@ctwoodlands.org](mailto:info@ctwoodlands.org) with “TD brochure” in the subject line, or call Terri Peters at 860-346-2372.

## Connecticut offers variety in trail running venues

*continued from page 23*

covers 50 kilometers (just over 31 miles). In my years of racing competitively in various sports, I have found that trail runners are some of the most down-to-earth people that I know. They love the land. The races offer much more than a number and a time. Most trail runners compete to be outdoors and for the sense of accomplishment. They are out there to finish, not necessarily to finish first. Most events end with potluck dinners or cookouts.

When running trails, you can see more in less time. Trail running is very different from road running. It affects the body and the mind in many different ways. I get tired of the monotony and repetition of road running, but I really enjoy the variety and peacefulness of trail running. It is also a great cardiovascular and full body workout.

People ask me if trail running is dangerous. Not once you have conditioned yourself to navigate the roots, rocks, and steep hills. You are better off on trails than on the road, where many end up with repetitive use injuries. I feel safer on the trails, where I can avoid potholes, glass, and motorists.

Yes, I have had my share of trail running injuries, but they were mostly from falls during competition. The most common fall injuries are sprained ankles, cuts, and bruises. My wife, Debbie, who runs long distances on trails, reminded me that she has been relatively injury free and that people often twist their ankles stepping off sidewalks. So, you shouldn’t worry too much about running trails, especially if you condition yourself to handle the more challenging terrain.

Many of Connecticut’s trail running races need help from volunteers. These events are low-budget affairs that rely on the contributions of a dedicated group of individuals.

So, get out there—drop your pack and pick up the pace. You won’t look back.

*Scott Livingston is president and CEO of Horst Engineering & Manufacturing Company, in East Hartford. A member of the CFPA Board of Directors, he lives in Bolton with his wife, Debbie, and son, Shepard. Mr. Livingston is an avid cyclist, trail runner, hiker, kayaker, and photographer.*

# SPIRITUALITY AND TREES: Pondering how they have spawned conservation movements

BY JAMES W. LITTLE

*God is the experience of looking at a tree and saying, "Ah!"*

—Joseph Campbell

What is it about trees that moves us? The Buddha found enlightenment under a tree, and a fruit-bearing tree caused the downfall of Adam and Eve. Trees move people spiritually and emotionally and often play unexpected roles in history.

In his quest for power, Julius Cesar waged war against much of the world. In one campaign, he confronted the Celts, who saw trees as spiritual entities, rather than simply fuel or building materials. The Celts considered the oak the “king of trees” because of their great size and longevity. The Celts also used the forests that bordered the paths Caesar used to move his armies as cover in a brutal guerilla war. Caesar solved the problem by ordering his men to cut down massive groves of oak trees and let them rot. It was a message that he, Caesar, was more powerful than the Celt’s gods. He won, at

least in the short term. In the end, like the oaks, the great Caesar was cut down in the very prime of his life.

A much more pleasant story about trees exists in Indian culture. It is the lovely, lyrical story of Siddhartha, the Buddha, who on a moonlit night in May sat under a Bodhi tree to meditate on his journey to enlightenment. Under the tree, he is tempted by the evil one to leave the path of virtue, and under the protective overhanging limbs of the tree, he defeats evil and reaches enlightenment.

An oak tree, back in the land of the Celts, is instrumental to the story of Ireland’s Bridget of Kildare. Bridget was a remarkable woman, a person of great charity, compassion, and leadership. She built her cell under the spreading arms of a great oak tree. The name Kildare, is from the Irish, Cill-Dara, which means “cell of the oak.” This was the root of her great convent, where many of the great illustrated manuscripts of the world were created, and around which the cathedral city of Kildare was built.

The spirituality of trees and great forests continue to inspire us. This spirituality spurred the conservation movement in the

United States and Connecticut. The pioneers of the conservation movement, Gifford Pinchot, John Muir, and Theodore Roosevelt, all found solace amid trees. As Muir said, “The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness.” Even today, an unexpected voice has reached out to the world. Pope Benedict XVI has passionately called for action to protect the environment. Unlike Cesar, he did not cut down a forest but planted one. The Vatican is restoring 37 acres that had been cut down in the Middle Ages, enough forest to offset the emission from fossil fuels used to run the Vatican.

For many, peace, calm, and comfort are found walking among Connecticut forests, and they are re-energized. Without realizing it, perhaps, they walk in the steps of Siddhartha, Bridget, Muir, and millions of others. Connecticut Forest & Park Association is about doing more than simply enjoying the spirituality of trees — CFPA is an integral part of protecting the trees that provide solace and hope to us all.

*James W. Little is the director of development of CFPA.*

## Try These Trail Races

Date	Event	Distance	Location	Hiking Trails
April 5	Bimble's Bash	10 km	Westwoods, Guilford	Westwoods
April 11	Northern Nipmuck	16 miles	Bigelow Hollow State Park, Union	Nipmuck
May 17	Soapstone Mountain	24 km	Shenipsit State Forest, Somers	Shenipsit
May 17	Soapstone Sampler	6 km	Shenipsit State Forest, Somers	Shenipsit
June 7	Nipmuck Marathon	26.4 miles	Ashford	Nipmuck
July 19	Soapstone Assault	5.5 miles	Shenipsit State Forest, Somers	Shenipsit
August 1	People's Forest	7 miles	People's State Forest, Barkhamsted	
October 4	Breakneck	13 miles	Bigelow Hollow State Park, Union	Nipmuck
October 25	Bimble's Bluff	50 km	Genesse Preserve, Guilford	Lone Pine

## OBITUARY

# David M. Smith, Yale Forestry Professor and Association Board Member, Dies

David M. Smith, an emeritus professor of silviculture at Yale University, author of a widely used forestry textbook, and a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, died in Hamden on March 7. He would have been 88 years old on March 10.

For four decades, Dr. Smith was either a director or the president of both CFPA and the forest landowners' cooperative Connwood Foresters, Inc. He previously served on the Connecticut Forest Practices Advisory Board and on the Hamden Land Conservation Trust.

"Dave was a major figure in CFPA's role and direction, as well as a wonderfully kind and gentle man," said Ann T. Colson, trail conservation director for the Association. "I was fortunate to go out in the field with him on two occasions and was truly amazed at his store of knowledge and his easy way of imparting it to others."

That skill was evident in an article for Connecticut Woodlands in summer 2007. Dr. Smith wrote that Connecticut's climate is more tropical than European. "The natural forests are almost as chaotically diverse as tropical rain forests and can seem hopeless to foresters imbued with the centuries-old principles learned from simple stands composed mainly of one species," he wrote.

### Coming in the summer issue: An illustrated tribute to David Smith

In a letter to Dr. Smith's daughter, North Granby forestry consultant William R. Bentley wrote, "I am one of the legion of people who enjoyed your father and learned from him over many years – sometimes about forestry but more often about life."

Dr. Smith was born in Bryan, Texas, grew up in Kingston, R.I., and received a bachelor of science degree in botany from the University of Rhode Island in 1941. He then trained to be a U.S. Air Force meteorologist at New York University and served in World War II as a weather forecasting officer in North Africa and Italy.

At Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, he earned a master of forestry degree in 1946, a faculty appointment in 1947, and a doctorate in 1950. He retired in 1990. He was an expert on silviculture, the technology of growing forests. He was the author or co-author of four editions of *The Practice of Silviculture* (John Wiley & Sons). He wrote numerous research papers and commentaries. His most important scientific contributions were in developing the concept that complex mixtures of tree species can be managed as even-aged aggregations, in which different groups of species occupy different levels

in stratified mixtures; and that they often arise from "advanced" seedlings that naturally appear beneath forests.

His awards and honors included the Distinguished Service Award from American Forests (1990), the Distinguished Service Award for New England twice from the Society of American Foresters, of which he was a fellow, and honorary degrees from Bates College and the University of Rhode Island. In the early 1970s he was silvicultural consultant for the President's Advisory Panel on Timber and the Environment. He advised the U.S. Forest Service and government agencies in Australia and British Columbia.

He leaves his wife of nearly 58 years, Catherine V. A. Smith; two daughters, Ellen D. Smith of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Nancy V. A. Smith of Carbondale, Colorado; a grandson; and his brother, Allen Smith of Hendersonville, N.C.

A memorial event will take place at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at Yale University's Marsh Hall, 360 Prospect Street, New Haven. Direct memorial contributions to the David M. Smith Forestry Scholarship Fund, care of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, 195 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511.

—Christine Woodside, with thanks to Ellen Smith.

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Information provided courtesy of Chris Zurcher, who compiles the CT Environmental Headlines. For a daily posting of news summaries, visit [www.ctenvironmentalheadlines.com](http://www.ctenvironmentalheadlines.com).**

### Lawmakers Consider Bottle Bill

Legislators are predicting that the state's 31-year-old bottle deposit law will be expanded to increase the nickel deposit on cans and bottles to 10 cents and include water and sports drinks if the governor's budget passes.

But industry officials warn the bill will result in a huge wave of illegal containers purchased in neighboring states and higher consumer prices. The current program affects only bottles and cans containing soda and beer.

### Agreement Means Cleaner Air

Officials from nine states, including Connecticut, reached an agreement in January with the federal Environmental Protection Agency that will result in tougher regulation of mercury emissions from cement plants nationwide.

The new federal regulations will apply to New

York's three Portland cement plants—all of them located in and around Albany.

### Green Start-Ups to Benefit from \$9 Million Fund

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced the Connecticut Clean Tech Fund—a \$9-million fund that will make investments in start-ups focused on innovations that conserve energy and resources, protect the environment, or eliminate harmful waste.

The fund will be administered by Connecticut Innovations, the state's quasi-public authority responsible for technology investing and innovation development, the New York Times reported.

### U.S. Supreme Court Rejects Islander East Proposal

When the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal filed by Islander East Company in a case involving a certificate needed for construction of a natural gas pipeline across Long Island Sound, Governor M. Jodi Rell said, "First Broadwater—now Islander East. With today's Supreme Court announcement, we have succeeded in turning back two ill-conceived energy projects that would

have caused irreparable harm to Long Island Sound."

### Clean Water Fund Receives Bond Commission Approval

The State Bond Commission has approved \$135 million in bonding for clean water projects in six Connecticut communities.

The contribution to the Clean Water Fund program will move the state toward the goal of achieving a sewage-free Long Island Sound by 2020 and of restoring the oxygen-depleted dead zone in the Sound by 2014.

### \$45,000 Slated for Study of Plainville Rails-to-Trails Plan

State Sen. Thomas Colapietro (D-Bristol) and state Rep. Elizabeth "Betty" Boukus (D-Plainville) announced that they have secured a \$45,000 grant that will clear the way for Plainville to conduct a study for a possible Rails-to-Trails project that could include a bicycle and walking path.

## Books *continued from page 22*

a fighting spirit in an otherwise private person.

Worster's narrative of Muir's youth is most fascinating. He explains that Muir spends his childhood not in wild areas but in Dundar, a commercial village with a sea trade surrounded by monotonous fields of wheat and barley — Muir was never able to explain where his love of wilderness originated. He did find pleasure in nature in these urban environs and became an avid bird enthusiast. The family migrated from the Scottish Lowlands when the boy was but 11, arriving in America in 1849. They headed west to the Wisconsin fields and forests that would shape Muir's evolving conservation perspective.

Because a good deal of primary source material exists about Muir, Worster wonderfully describes in detail the youngster's ramblings in Wisconsin. Indeed, there is much to tell about the transition of Muir from a willful, rowdy youngster to an independent, ever wandering, restless young man. As Muir searched for a role in life as an adult, his restlessness took him on many wanderings and numerous jobs, all described and analyzed by Worster.

Of course, environmentalists will be most interested in the role Muir played in shaping American conservation and subsequent environmental thinking and institutions. Recently, for example, the Con-

necticut Forest & Park Association presented a play, *Forces of Nature*, by Stephen Most, that told the story of the relationship between Muir and Gifford Pinchot, the father of American forestry. The two contrasted in their perspectives on federal land use (Muir the preservationist, Pinchot the utilitarian). The two also came from quite different backgrounds. Both were consummate politicians and tacticians with a love of the land and the natural world. They would both admire and frustrate each other.

Anyone interested in conservation should read this book. Students of American history will also find this essential reading for understanding the formation of the conservation ethic peculiar to the United States. If you simply love to learn about what makes people tick, then you will find this a good read as well. Worster has given us a remarkable book about a fascinating man. I suggest that it should be on your shelf next to Char Miller's *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism*.

*Robert M. Ricard is a senior extension educator in urban natural resources and public management with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.*

## President's Message

*continued from page 4*

ating mainly through grassroots efforts on a town-by-town basis. And all this on shoestring budgets with relatively little expertise. Good stuff, to be sure.

Because of the land trust movement's success, I somewhat hesitatingly pose the question: Is there, perhaps, a better way? I read somewhere that tiny Connecticut's total of 120-plus land trusts represents approximately 10 percent of the number of land trusts in the entire United States (our neighbor to the north, Massachusetts, chips in with another 15 percent of the total). I wonder whether this apparent New England obsession to stick to local boundaries, and avoid regional efforts at all costs, is healthy. Imagine for a moment if the collective resources of our land trusts — I mean the money and the vol-

unteer talent and enthusiasm — could be pooled into just a few well-staffed, well-financed regional land trusts organized, say (gasp!), by county.

Might the good results that we have achieved be turned into fantastic results over time? Would we really lose anything by pooling our resources in this way, and focusing strategically on the bigger picture? I know, who am I to question Yankee tradition, ingenuity, and hard, on the ground, results? But it does seem like food for thought.

Enjoy this, another fine issue of Connecticut Woodlands put together by our talented and faithful editor, Christine Woodside. As always, please feel free to contact us at CFPA with your thoughts about what we do well and how we could do better. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your support.

## Winter Workshop Attracts Full House

Connecticut Forest & Park Association's winter trails workshop held indoors at the CFPA headquarters in Middlefield attracted 47 new and experienced trails volunteers from the ranks of many organizations, including the Meshomasic Hiking Club, the Middlesex Land Conservation Trust, the East Granby Land Trust, and CFPA.

Seasoned trail workers for CFPA, whose volunteers maintain the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails in the state, spoke on skills the individual can learn. CFPA Executive Director Eric Hammerling welcomed the group. Rob Butterworth, who organized the workshop, spoke on techniques of painting trail blazes. Bob Schoff, head of the CFPA Western Roving Trail Crew, described simple trail bridge designs. Elaine LaBella, a CFPA trail manager, demonstrated tool safety, and Mr. Butterworth talked about maintaining tools.

At lunch, people took a walk in the snow around the CFPA Demonstration Forest. Then CFPA Trail Manager Paul Mei explained how to design and build a simple kiosk, to hold maps and information, at the start of trail. He showed a sample box to hold a hikers' log built by Brian Desmond.

*Purchase items from the  
CFPA Store online at  
WWW.CTWOODLANDS.ORG*

## COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF CONNECTICUT WOODLANDS

Summer 2009  
VICTORY GARDENS  
REVISITED

Everyone Can Farm  
Community gardens — tales from the field  
The Organic Movement  
*Coming in July*

# STUMPAGE REPORT

## Current prices for standing timber

This table summarizes 41 voluntary reports by foresters, loggers, and sawmills of price paid for timber between October and December 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.

*See stories about local timber beginning on page 10.*

SPECIES	EAST OF CT RIVER			WEST OF CT RIVER		
	NO. OF REPORTS	MEDIAN	RANGE	NO. OF REPORTS	MEDIAN	RANGE
Red oak	18	200	120 - 361	7	200	150 - 200
White oak	13	50	25 - 130	4	100	-
Other oaks	7	138	100 - 200	5	90	25 - 100
Ash	7	40	40 - 84	8	65	50 - 125
Cherry	11	150	125 - 301	8	200	200 - 400
Sugar maple	6	125	-	8	200	150 - 400
Red maple	13	30	25 - 66	9	50	20 - 125
Tulip poplar	0	-	-	1	20	-
Yellow birch	7	40	40 - 50	8	58	40 - 200
Black birch	9	40	40 - 200	7	50	40 - 100
Paper birch	8	25	25 - 50	6	18	0 - 75
Beech	0	-	-	9	10	0 - 50
Pallet hdwd	10	25	25 - 83	8	10	0 - 20
Other hdwd	0	-	-	2	0	-
White pine	27	90	60 - 135	9	55	45 - 100
Red pine	8	20	20 - 120	4	25	20 - 30
Hemlock	11	20	0 - 45	10	15	0 - 20
Spruce	6	20	-	3	25	25 - 65
Other sfwd	3	20	-	0	-	-
Poles, hardwd (\$/lin.ft)	0	-	-	0	-	-
Poles, sftwd (\$/lin.ft)	0	-	-	0	-	-
Fuel wood (\$/cd)	22	10	5 - 20	6	5	0 - 5
Pulpwood (\$/cd)	2	0	-	1	1	-
Biomass (\$/cd)	6	3	0 - 4	0	-	-



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

16 Meriden Road, Rockfall  
Connecticut 06481-2961

Address Service Requested