

CONNECTICUT **Woodlands**



**Trees as Livelihood**

*The branches of the oak are easier to see in the winter, making pruning a clearer task.*

Robert Ricard



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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.

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# CONNECTICUT Woodlands

The Magazine of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association

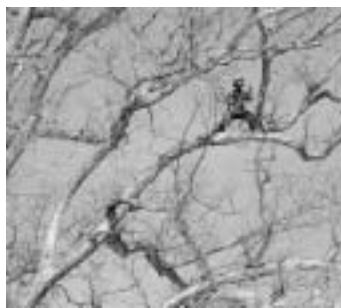
Winter 2004 Volume 68 Number 4

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Christine Woodside

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Robert Ricard

*On the cover: David Slade is unfazed by heights as he prunes the giant oak in West Hartford.*

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# Working with trees – hard work, and a state of grace

**W**orking as a forester in my previous job with Connwood Foresters Inc., in Middlefield, trees were truly my livelihood. What struck me first about the forester's livelihood was what just plain hard work it was. To make this livelihood a living, even a meager one, one must go hard at it all day, every day.

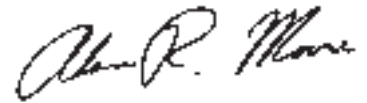
At Connwood I sheared Christmas trees under the July sun and cut, dragged and baled them in the December snow. I hobbled over hardscrabble, marking timber, balancing a paintgun, Biltmore stick, tally book and pencil in both hands while trying to keep balanced myself. I kept track of how much time was budgeted for the job

and how much time it was really taking. I dragged brush and planted seedlings. I cut down hardwoods with a chain saw to give more space to white pines. I ran into a bear on Ratlum Mountain and ran down that mountain as fast as I could. I drove an old F-150 that handled so poorly in the snow that driving it was like driving a flexible flyer, except that one can steer the flexible flyer.

Our first child, Madeleine, was born when I worked for Connwood. Sometime after she was born, I still pondered the difficulty of this work but also began to notice something else: the baby was healthy, the apartment was warm, no one was hungry, the bills were paid. What

struck me then was that our family was, in a way, living off the trees.

I realized I was making a living by teasing trees out of the ground a bit faster and a bit better than they otherwise would have grown. I came to see in this livelihood a certain state of grace. I could come home from work, kick off my boots, sit down, fatigued, at the dinner table, and see the link between the food on that table, the family around it, and the woods, the earth, the waters and the heavens. I came to see Providence in every log truck rolling down Route 17.



## The power of '&'

### Editors Note:

**I**n this issue of Connecticut Woodlands, I introduce a style change so subtle that you might wonder, why bring it up? For years I dutifully have twitched at the sight of symbols replacing words, as in “fun & games,” “lots of \$,” or, “spaghetti + meatballs.” There is a time for an ampersand, though, and for the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, that time is now.

Introducing “&” reflects the changes in the Association's new logo. It includes a good-looking ampersand. The former logo had none.

For more than a year, the association board has spent time and funds on making its public image easy to remember. One aim is to make it impossible for anyone to ask if this is a state agency – which, of course, it isn't. The new logo emphasizes

the words “forest” and “park,” rather than the name of the state.

Connecticut Woodlands magazine is working to cover environmental news that is either ignored or covered in less detail in newspapers, magazines, on the radio, and on television. For example, our issues on climate change, insects, the Yale Myers Forest, and the trap rock ridge included studies and views not available in other places.

CFPA's work does not cater to a small group of insiders. Instead, it reaches to a wider public that values conservation. How I name this group in this magazine matters. When the logo changed over the summer, incorporating an ampersand where none had been there before, ampersands crept into my thoughts.

One morning I woke up thinking, “Whoa, the “&” looks like a branch.” I realized that it belonged in the magazine.

It would stir environmental consciousness. It would reinforce the logo. It would help people remember the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

To those who have better things to do than worry about editorial style, I'll suggest that these changes make a deeper mark on your mind than you might think.

In one of my many calls to Adam Moore to discuss this and other magazine matters, the final reason to make the change hit me.

Erin Hanley answered the phone with the usual, “Connecticut FOREST & PARK.” She can't say the ampersand aloud, but it sounded to me as if she were doing that. Her way of answering the phone broadcasts what matters most in the name.

By using the ampersand, the magazine closes the link between those two words. It distinguishes CFPA's mission from any other group.

*Christine Woodside*

## Landowners along trail route attend public forums about National Scenic Trail study

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association has identified every landowner whose property is crossed by the Mattabesett and Metacomet trails from Guilford to Suffield. It also has found every owner of land abutting these properties, and every owner of land within 250 feet of the trails.

In November, many of these property owners attended public forums about the study by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, of whether the trails could be named a National Scenic Trail.

For example, Andrea and John Herlth, who attended the Durham forum on November 6 at Coginchaug Regional High School, said they had not realized until recently that the Mattabesett Trail went across their land in Higganum. “Someone rang our doorbell – he had

lost his dog,” she said during a break. “That’s OK.”

She and her husband said they would like to mark their land as private property. “I love the trail,” Mrs. Herlth said, “but I’m really concerned because people are sue-happy. I’m concerned because it’s ledgy.”

These concerns characterize the early stages of a dialogue about preserving the trail route, a communication that has been years in the planning.

In September, the work to identify the landowners was complete. CFPA Trail Conservation Coordinator Ann Colson led the team consisting of interns Dan Hubbard and Kate Moran and volunteer Larry Lunden. They created a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) map and a comprehensive database consisting of property-related information for each of the 20 towns along the trail corridor.

The association wrote to each of the landowners in October, informing them of the study and inviting them to participate

in the three public forums about the trail study. At the same time, the National Park Service sent a similar letter to the larger landowners, municipal officials, conservation districts, watershed associations and trail user groups and invited their participation on a steering committee.

Besides the Durham forum on November 6, many landowners attended others in Berlin on November 13 and in East Granby on November 20.

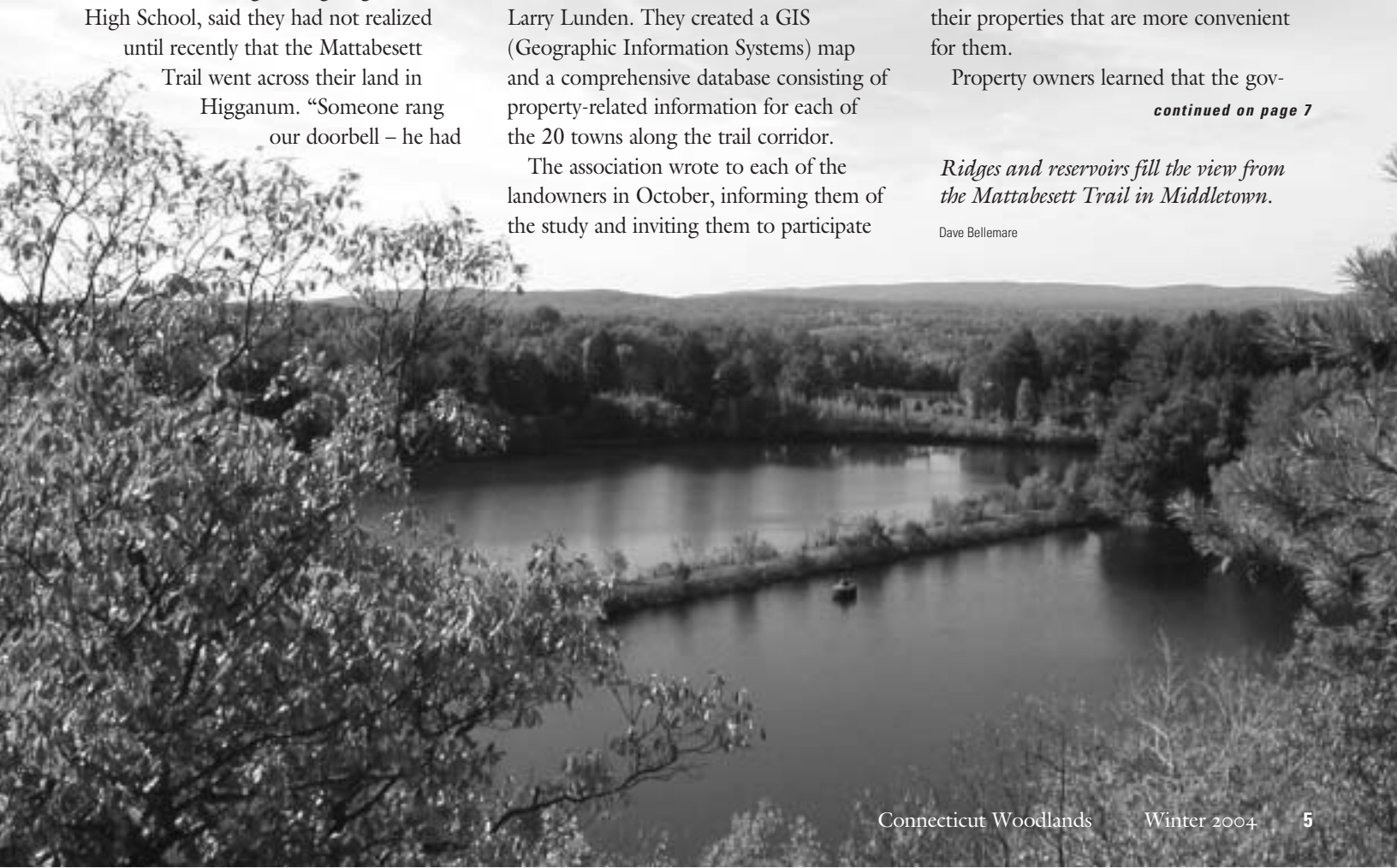
At the Durham forum, the audience asked questions, viewed maps, and expressed some anxiety. Mrs. Colson reassured them that the Connecticut Forest & Park Association would work with them to relocate the trails to other locations within their properties that are more convenient for them.

Property owners learned that the gov-

*continued on page 7*

*Ridges and reservoirs fill the view from the Mattabesett Trail in Middletown.*

Dave Bellemare



## Thirteen win 2003 trail awards

**Editor's note:** *At the annual dinner for trail workers on November 7 in Newington, the following volunteers were honored.*

### **Outstanding trail managers**

#### **ERWIN GOLDSTEIN**

For service since 1991 as trail manager for the Pachaug Trail between Mt. Misery and Route 138. For cheerful willingness to take on the Pachaug's Hell Hollow to Mt. Misery section, an additional seven miles; and for continuing dedication to leading nature walks for hikers in southeastern Connecticut.

#### **JOHN HANKINS**

For his dedication since 1996 as trail manager for the two southern branches of the Nipmuck Trail; for working in partnership with the Town of Mansfield and Joshua's Trust to relocate and permanently protect a 3,000-foot section of the trail; and for consistently maintaining the trail to the highest CFPA standard.

#### **JOE KING**

For his dedication to new responsibilities as manager of both sections of the Narragansett Trail, which he quickly brought to the highest CFPA standard; for outstanding effort to relocate a portion of the trail threatened by development; for enthusiastic participation in the CFPA Roving Trail Crew and the GPS trail mapping project; and for his sense of humor and positive outlook.

#### **DALE HACKETT**

For invaluable and outstanding service since 1980 as trail manager for the Ragged Mountain Memorial Preserve Trail, which he helped to lay out and paint with the familiar blue/red-dot blaze almost 25 years ago. Mr. Hackett has contributed many hundreds of hours to this rugged six-mile loop trail.

### **Outstanding trail volunteers**

#### **PAT WASSERMAN**

For skillful participation in the never-ending projects of the CFPA Roving Trail Crews, for assistance and support to Blue Trail managers and CFPA staff; for keen alertness to trail issues and an instinctive ability to quietly bring about effective resolution; and for outstanding dedication to the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System.

#### **JOHN MARREN**

For dedication over the past eight years to maintaining the Paugussett Trail, Indian Well section, to the highest CFPA standard; for skillful assistance to fellow trail managers; and for contributions of time and expertise to the work of the Roving Trail Crews.

#### **ED SELBY**

For stepping up to the call for new trail volunteers and accepting the position of acting trail manager for the Cockaponset Trail, which he restored to high CFPA standards. For recruiting and training a reliable crew of eight skilled section volunteers; for overseeing and participating in the clearing and blazing of 12 miles of Blue Trails within the Cockaponset system. Upon his retirement, he recommended and trained his replacement.

### **Outstanding new trail volunteer**

#### **HOWARD PECK**

For stepping up to the call for new trail managers and immediately starting restoration of the Old Furnace Trail, for his work as a leader in the spring Trail Maintainers Workshop at Bigelow Hollow State Park, and for outstanding work with the CFPA Roving Trail Crew.

### **Outstanding youth volunteer**

#### **JONATHAN ROSS**

For planning and execution of his Eagle Scout project on Case Mountain in Manchester. He led Troop 880 Boy Scouts and other volunteers to plant native species

to improve wildlife habitat and build and construct blue bird houses.

### **Outstanding volunteer**

#### **LARRY LUNDEN**

For his time, expertise, and enthusiasm as he worked many hours in town halls researching property owners along the Metacomet and Mattabesett trails. Mr. Lunden's work is an important component of the ongoing National Park Service study to determine if these two trails should be designated National Scenic Trails.

### **Outstanding organization**

#### **GUILFORD LAND TRUST**

For its work on land and trail conservation in Guilford, for working to protect the Mattabesett Trail, for its management of the Westwoods trails, for its work to remove diseased hemlocks from Westwoods.

#### **NORTHERN CONNECTICUT LAND TRUST**

For its work to eradicate non-native invasive plants from its properties, work to create native plant and animal habits, and its role in revitalizing the Scantic River Watershed Association.

### **Edgar Heermance Award**

#### **ROBERT MORRISON**

For exemplary service and dedication over the past 11 years as a champion for trail protection planning; for working with property owners, land use agencies, and land trusts in a positive way to conserve trail sections throughout the state; for vision and persistence in beginning and seeing through the electronic mapping of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System over four years; for being a natural leader who organized, trained, and worked with two volunteer GPS crews who gathered satellite-tracking data for 700 miles of trails; for his highly regarded work as chair of the CFPA Trails Committee for the past two years; for motivating trail workers by example, clear direction, and a sense of humor.

## Trail managers appointed

At its meeting of September 23, 2003, the Trails Committee appointed the following people to serve as trail managers:

Robert Butterworth as trail manager of the Cockaponset Trail (13.5 miles), replacing Ed Selby;

Robert Andrews as trail manager of the Pequot Trail (7.6 miles), replacing Doug Ford;

Doug McKain as trail manager of the Route 79 to Route 77 section of the Mattabesett Trail (6 miles), replacing a portion of the trail section formerly managed by Ed Merry.

CFPA thanks the three retiring trail managers, who have each moved out of state – Ed Selby to Florida; Doug Ford to Virginia, and Ed Merry to Maine. We wish them well in their new locales.

## Public forum

*continued from page 5*

ernment does not intend to take over any of the land along these trails. Mrs. Colson and Kevin M. Case, project manager for the National Park Service in Pleasant Valley, told the audience that the park service's aim at this early stage is to help the landowners learn about the trails, and for both parties to listen to one another.

Some landowners said that they had not realized a hiking trail existed. Others said that they hike on the trails, and one said he had built his own trail for personal use near the Mattabesett Trail. Some expressed anxiety about hikers straying off the trails and asked about liability. David Platt, a member of the CFPA Board of Directors who is a lawyer, told the audience that Connecticut has a law protecting landowners. They are not liable if they have allowed public recreational use of their land without charging them for it. (For further information, see Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 52-557f, printed in the introduction to the *Connecticut Walk Book*.)

Mrs. Colson talked about the history of the trails, which were blazed in 1931 and have followed mostly the same route since then. Her presentation included photographs of points along the traprock ridge that runs up the center of the state. The Mattabesett and Metacomet trails follow this ridge closely.

During a break in the forum, Mrs. Colson said she is glad to be making contact with these property owners. She has said she believes that cooperation with landowners is the key to protecting all of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails.

The public forums were conducted as an integral part of the park service's study in order to better inform a wide audience of the goals and process of the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act of 2002.

The comments from forum participants will be summarized and become a valuable component of the study record. The study includes other chapters, such as a geological narrative. The study will continue through 2004, and results are expected to become available to the public in early 2005.

## Fall and winter workshop updates

Birge Dayton is preparing a first-ever Winter Trail Maintainers Workshop with assistance from Rob Butterworth. This workshop will be held on Saturday, January 24, at the Connecticut Forest & Park headquarters in Middlefield.

Mr. Dayton will lend his expertise in bridge-building and other trail-related structures, and general trail construction and maintenance methods. Mr. Butterworth will demonstrate trail-blazing techniques, how to "black-out" old or oversized blazes, and provide a how-to manual on creating your own blaze-painting kit.

Trails Committee Member and American Hiking Society Volunteer of the Year Bob Davis organized a successful fall Trail Maintainers Workshop on Saturday, October 18, 2003 at Macedonia Brook State Park in Kent. Projects included waterbar installation, barberry control, trail definition work and refreshing blue blazes.

## Trail closures and relocations

The portion of the Narragansett Trail that crosses land of the Groton Sportsmen's Club will be closed through March 31.

CFPA is pleased to report that a portion of the Metacomet Trail has been relocated to land of the Farmington Land Trust, thus eliminating the need for a long road walk. The association is grateful to the Farmington Land Trust for allowing the Metacomet Trail on its property.

The Southington Sportsmen's Club has allowed a portion of the Tunxis Trail to be relocated to its property. Roughly 3,000 feet of the Nipmuck Trail has also been relocated between Crane Hill Road and Puddin Lane in Mansfield, along the Sawmill Brook and largely on land owned by the Town of Mansfield and on land protected by a town trail easement. The new trail connects to adjacent land owned by the Joshua's Trust.



*Bidding on a private  
timber sale in Mansfield  
begins with a field walk*

*By Christine Woodside*

**F**ive men wait at the edge of a hardwood forest where an overgrown woods road, last used for logging in the 1980s, meets a back road. Hardwood trees, 526 of them, which could become about 88,700 board feet of lumber, stand on this private 42-acre tract in Mansfield. Art Talmadge, a forester with Connwood Foresters Inc., has invited the others to place bids for the right to log roughly one-third of this forest. These trees are between 80 and 120 years old. They are large enough to sell for wood products that include veneer, pallets, railroad ties, flooring, and boats. The landowner will rely on the cash as a way to hold onto the land rather than selling it for development.

The potential bidders are: James Kuester of Durham, a procurement forester for Perma Treat Corporation; Gerald Bellows, a logger certified as a supervising forest products harvester by the state who owns G.B. Firewood and Logging in Sterling; Tom Trowbridge, a procurement forester who is an owner of Trowbridge Forest Products of Eastford; and Michael Bartlett, a procurement forester for Hull Forest Products in Pomfret.

Connecticut's timber industry is small. These men know each other and occasionally do business with each other. They are cordial even though they must take these walks to compete for work. They seem to share a sympathy born

*f*riendly  
competitors  
in a small industry

---

Christine Woodside

*Foresters and loggers walk the forest.*

of the fact that they work in an industry little known by the public, conservationists included.

The goal for this forest is to maintain an even-aged forest of hardwoods, encouraging the growth of oak trees. There are several stages necessary in this sort of approach. This will be the second of two thinnings. The first thinning was in the early 1980s. In another 20 years, according to plan, more trees will be cut. That will be the start of the regeneration process. A new forest then can be nurtured in large gaps created when more of the larger trees are cut. In order to grow oak, which is not tolerant of shade, open areas of sun are necessary.

Because it takes knowledge to evaluate which trees to cut, landowners often hire a consulting forester to evaluate how to thin their forests. Connwood is a forest owner's cooperative in Middlefield. The Connecticut Forest & Park Association founded Connwood in 1945 specifically to help forest owners in situations like this. Mr. Talmadge handles Connwood's work in eastern Connecticut because he lives in Ashford. His role is to evaluate the saleable timber, mark which trees to cut, invite logging companies to place bids, and then act as the landowner's agent.

These four men will bid what they are willing to pay for the right to log the marked timber. The timber becomes the winning bidder's property, to sell in whatever way he chooses. Two of the potential buyers, if they win the job, would take the timber directly to their sawmills – PermaTreat and Hull Forest Products, where it would become railroad ties or lumber. The other two would sell timber as brokers, to buyers who pay based on species and grade.

This will be a small to medium-sized timber sale, by Connecticut standards. In other ways, it is typical. It is a hardwood forest on private land. Private citizens own almost 88 percent of the timberland in Connecticut, or more than 1.5 million acres. The government owns only 12 percent of timberland, with the forest industry owning a fraction of a percent, about 4,000 acres.

### **Every tree marked**

Art Talmadge explains to the group that this land is a northeast-facing slope with good soil. Black oak, white ash, red oak, red maple, hickory, and birch trees dominate. The land can be slick when wet, he says. His rubber and leather boots are splattered with blue paint, the reason to be revealed shortly as the group starts into the woods.

Every fourth to eighth tree, more or less, is marked with blue paint. Trunks ringed with a single stripe should be cut

*This will be a small to medium-sized timber sale, by Connecticut standards.*

*In other ways, it is typical.*

*It is a hardwood forest on private land. Private citizens own almost 88 percent of the timberland in Connecticut, or more than 1.5 million acres.*

for timber. Double-striped trees are timber trees also, but they mark the boundary of the cutting area. Trees with an X should be cut but they might be difficult to reach because of their proximity to other trees. "I'd like to see them hit the ground, but I don't want anybody hurt," Mr. Talmadge says.

Trees marked with a dot above and below the stripe mark the wetlands boundary. Just beyond, a seasonal stream meanders downhill toward the road. Downed wood left in this area must not impede the water flow, Mr. Talmadge says. If it does, the loggers must move it.

The color blue, slightly darker than the marks on the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, holds no special significance in timber marking. Mr. Trowbridge notes that he has worked with trees painted orange,

white, green, and even purple. Orange can be a problem because people who are color blind have trouble seeing it. White can blend in with snow. Mr. Talmadge says he avoids using blue when the land is near the Blue Trails.

### **Dealing with the culls**

In this forest, Mr. Talmadge has marked 250 trees as culls. The contract will call for the logging company to remove them. Culls are removed to encourage growth of other trees, because they are not in a good location to grow well themselves, or to release space to cut down a nearby large tree. In the managed forest that is Connecticut, they are the weeds.

The men learn that the landowner would prefer to keep the culls or to sell them separately. This offer is somewhat unusual. Often timber companies sell cull trees for firewood, and bidding forms include a section to estimate the value of this wood. But culls don't generate enough money that bidders would be eager to pay extra for them.

Mr. Talmadge says he has told the landowner that it's unlikely. The bidders nod in agreement.

This land is nicely situated for logging. There is room for equipment such as a skidder or a forwarder to drive a wide circular route, the same one used in the 1980s, when Mr. Trowbridge's company last thinned this land.

The group finishes its wide sweep through the property and heads back to where it started. Bids are due in two weeks, by mail or FAX. The contract will cover a period through January 2005. This will give the logging company ample time to complete the job despite rain, snow, or mud. They say goodbye and head on to the next site, or back to the office.

### **The job awarded**

The day the bids come in, Mr. Bellows, the highest bidder, is awarded the job. His bid, totalling more than \$24,000, is \$4,000 higher than Connwood's estimate of the highest bid. (The lowest bid was just over \$15,000.) Mr. Bellows plans to finish around mid-January.



# One man, a chain saw, and a forwarder

*Lee Baxter's expertise  
and go-lightly logging  
equipment helps a  
land trust meet its  
goals in Hampton*

*By Christine Woodside*

Lee Baxter, owner of Double-L Logging of Glocester, R.I., works alone in a northeastern Connecticut forest. With a chainsaw he fells a scarlet oak with a trunk with a diameter of about one foot. He works his way along the trunk, cutting off every branch while simultaneously pulling along a measuring tape he has secured to one end.

Mr. Baxter divides his day into trees, and he mentally divides the trees into board feet. He is paid by the thousand – that is, thousand board feet of timber.

“I try to average 40 trees, or 4,000 board feet a day,” Mr. Baxter says. Working alone, he can handle five trees an hour. Mr. Baxter does not need to join a gym.

After he fells, trims, and measures the log, he drives his forwarder, a giant tractor with chains and metal tracks that diminish the pressure of the wheels on the ground.

The forwarder's back wheels exert only 7.5 pounds of pressure per square inch with the tracks on.

While the engine hums, Mr. Baxter maneuvers a giant arm with grippers to the log. It lifts the log, swinging in a circle, up into the air and then places it on a flatbed at the front of the forwarder. By the end of the day, he will drive out of the forest with a load of logs.

## **Cutting to improve the forest**

Last fall, the Wolf Den Land Trust logged its Rad Ostby Memorial Forest in Hampton. The land is named after the late Rad Ostby, whose widow lives across the road. The land trust's mission is to teach forest landowners how to care for the woods to attract wildlife and grow healthy trees. It uses this and other properties as demonstration forests.

There are many reasons to thin a forest, and sometimes several reasons combine to

make a compelling case. First was the fact that opening the forest canopy would encourage growth of healthier trees and improve a hiking trail there. Second, the sale would bring vital income to the group that manages it.

Mr. Baxter is a subcontractor for Hull Forest Products, which won the job. While Hull was the second highest bidder, the highest bidder would not commit to who would cut the trees. Some harvesters have better reputations than others do, and Mr. Baxter, whom Hull promised would do this job, has a good one, according to Art Talmadge of Connwood Foresters, the consulting forester for this sale.

“The mentality that logging is bad, trees are good – many people don’t understand the value of managing a forest,” Mr. Talmadge says. He notes that Patrick Moore, the original founder of the environmental activist group Greenpeace, wrote a book *Trees Are the Answer* to espouse the view that income from timber sales can actually preserve forests so that owners don’t sell to housing or industrial developers.

The trees at the Ostby preserve are 80 to 100 years old. Because the soil is dry, these trees are not as tall or healthy as they would be in a different place,

according to Mr. Talmadge. The plan he came up with as the consulting forester had the following goals:

■ Increase growing space for trees by cutting less healthy ones.

■ Encourage wildlife – from mammals to migratory songbirds to game birds. One way to do this is to leave white oaks, which provide food for many animals. Another way is to open up some gaps, where berry bushes will seed.

■ Provide the land trust with income, giving it money to care for this and other properties it manages.

■ Increase the number of hiking trails without a huge cost, furthering the land trust’s goal of teaching the public about forests. The logger is not cutting trees in the area of one established hiking trail. Also, the new skid route – where Mr. Baxter drives his forwarder to haul out the logs – can itself become another hiking trail.

By next summer, the next stage of this forest will begin. In some of the new gaps in the forest, blackberries and raspberries might already be seeding. Several years from now, white pine seedlings might be taking hold. It takes some time to see the benefits, but they will come.

## Memories of a Tree

*I am all about memory,  
About cyclical warmth that swells my limbs  
with growth,*

*And cold that takes the growth  
back again.*

*I am buckets of spring rainfall and empty  
summer buckets.*

*I am the story of insects that flourish on my  
foliage,*

*Then die of their own numbers.*

*I am all about the success of bees,*

*The hunger of birds,*

*The nesting of small mammals.*

*I am about blazes that lick the ground and  
try to swallow me whole,*

*About particles that luff along for miles,  
then settle on my leaves.*

*My tale includes soil,*

*And the microscopic society it hosts.*

*I am about a place,*

*A location where people build,*

*Don’t build,*

*Build and tear down,*

*Build and abandon.*

*I am about the people who think me senseless,  
deaf, and dumb.*

*And I am about the people who care for me,*

*Who teach others to care for me.*

*They know that my reach, leaf, bend, and  
fork are all the memories of a tree.*

*They know I am the very recollection of a  
place,*

*The fingerprint of each and every event  
withstood.*

*I am the sum of memories.*

*-Kathleen Groll Connolly*

In memory of Donald Swan, a great teacher of green and growing life.



Christine Woodside

*Left, Art Talmadge, the consulting forester, visits logger Lee Baxter to check on work in Hampton.*

*Above, Mr. Baxter uses his forwarder to lift a log. Chains on the tires prevent damage to the forest floor.*



*By Christine Woodside*

**T**he second-largest white oak in Connecticut overlooks a parking lot on the University of Connecticut campus in West Hartford. It is 71 feet tall, or the height of a five-story building. Its average limb spread is 117 feet, which is nearly two tractor-trailer lengths. Last winter, David Slade pruned this tree.

Mr. Slade, a licensed arborist and an owner of Family Tree Care in Guilford, is one of about 500 licensed arborists in Connecticut. They make their living by climbing, removing dead parts, or taking down whole trees, many of them huge specimens. They prune, attach cables and braces, and decide when to treat for insect damage. Mr. Slade chose his work because trees fascinate him. He has loved to climb since he was a child but today moves through branches with a rock climber's skill.

It's popular in these times to seek recre-

## 71 FEET UP, CARING FOR AN OAK

*An arborist spends hours in the air in all conditions. The work combines science, maintenance, and climbing techniques*

ation by hanging off cliffs, preferably icy ones in distant lands. Mr. Slade is as unfazed by jumping across gaps at high elevations as a mountaineer. Arboriculture, like rock climbing, has improved in technology and technique in the last few decades. Where he once advanced through the branches by flinging a rope ahead of him, tying himself in as he went, today's harnesses and hydraulics provide more security.

His work is his passion, and he takes it seriously. Mr. Slade frequently volunteers his time to prune trees on public land. The pruning of the oak at UConn was a volunteer job. He received an award for his efforts from the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

### **Bonding with the bark**

To understand the value to the public that an oak like this inspires, consider the story of the official state tree. The Charter Oak, long dead, used to stand outside a house in Hartford.

Colonists hid the state charter in a hole in this tree in 1687, when they were fighting King James II's annulment of the document. In truth, the memory of the Charter Oak is the official state tree. Admiring crowds used to snatch the oak's

*continued on page 23*

*The branches of the oak are easier to see in the winter, making pruning a clearer task.*

Robert Ricard

# POT 'N POT

*method saves water and soil*

*Jim Messier tried something few are doing in the East*

James Messier got involved with his first wholesale nursery while he was in college, in 1978. Hop River Nursery of Bolton (which he started with his uncle) has been a success, selling shrubs, grasses, and vines and providing him and his family with an income.

In 2000, Mr. Messier leased land on a former dairy farm in Mansfield. There, he began growing trees using methods few Connecticut growers have tried.

Each of the 6,500 trees at this new nursery, the Hat Creek Nursery, grows inside a pot sunken into a second pot in the ground. This technique is called "pot 'n pot."

The trees grow outdoors all year. When they are ready to be moved, the pots lift out of the liners. It is not necessary to cut around the roots and "ball" the roots with burlap. No soil is lost from the farm.

Hat Creek does not start trees from seed. Mr. Messier buys two- to three-year-old trees from nurseries that specialize in starting stock. Here in northeastern Connecticut, the young trees grow for a few more years, benefiting from fertilizers, watering, and pruning, before garden centers (mostly) buy them. There are no retail sales at Hat Creek.

Mr. Messier waters the trees with a drip irrigation system. He learned early on that few Eastern growers use this method. "We use 2,000 gallons a day per tree, or a total of 12,000 gallons a day," he said. "If we used overhead irrigation, we would use 50,000 to 60,000 gallons a day, and we'd be wasting three-quarters of it. If we'd overhead irrigated two years ago, we'd have run out of water."

Besides the benefit of conserving water, drip irrigation uses less energy and costs less to operate, Mr. Messier said. There is no runoff.



Hat Creek Nursery grows 75 varieties of trees. Buyers come from Connecticut, New York's Westchester County, and all over New England.

Which trees to grow is always a question.

"Everything is grown on speculation," Mr. Messier said. He tries to anticipate trends by studying landscapers' blueprints. Right now, fruit trees are popular, accounting for about a quarter of sales, and those grown in an espalier (trained to grow flat against a wall) sell well.

Mr. Messier said one of his favorite trees is the Katsura tree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, which has reddish purple leaves that

*continued on page 27*



## The Connecticut nursery industry

Industry's gross income:  
**\$949 million**

Services offered:  
**production and sale of plants, flowers, and trees; lawn care, landscaping, and tree care.**

Number of acres used in nursery industry: **35,000**

Number of those acres that are open space: **9,800**

Number of companies: **2,500**

Number of those firms that are growing: **1,400**

People employed: **41,000**

Jobs available: **13,000**

Connecticut's ranking, nationwide, in per-capita buying of flowers and plants: **First**

*Source: "The Connecticut Green Industry and the Connecticut Economy," a report by University of Vermont, February 2003.*

*Above, Jim Messier, owner of Hat Creek Nursery, and his marketing staffer, Ed Gregan, say that the katsura tree is one of their favorites.*

*Below, they inspect a row of Japanese snowball trees.*

Christine Woodside

# BACKYARD MAPLE SYRUP

*In Durham, amateurs test their patience in a Yankee enterprise*

*By Adam Moore*



*Above, Melissa Moore and daughter Isabel place a tap.*

*Right, Mrs. Moore tends the boiling sap.*

**I**n the darkness of winter, there is only one thing to do in my hometown and that is to attend the Taste of Durham, an annual fundraiser. About a dozen local restaurants offer samplings of their fare at the Durham Public Library. Partway through last winter's event, I was deliberating over whether to have seconds on crabcakes or meatballs, when I noticed that my wife, Melissa, was gone.

Eventually I located her in the stacks talking to another man. Feeling a little miffed, I approached, only to see that it was my friend, Terence, holding out a paperback book that Melissa and I needed. My mood improved and I said thanks.

The name of the book was *Backyard Sugarin'.*

For at least a few months – probably since David Leff, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection deputy commissioner, gave a maple syrup demonstration at the Connecticut Forest & Park Association headquarters in Middlefield – Melissa and I had been planning to make our own maple syrup.

In September 2002 we bought a house in Durham at the base of Mount Pisgah. What I like most about our house is what is outside it: a backyard barbecue made of stone, cement, firebrick, and rebar, and seven mature sugar maples, four of them open-grown shade trees, ranging in diameter from nineteen inches to thirty-six. There was maple syrup stopped up in those trees, I knew. All I needed was to figure out how on earth to get some.

Reading *Backyard Sugarin'* helped. I learned the basics of how to reduce 40 or so gallons of sap into 1 gallon of syrup and learned that, first, we must buy equipment. So, the weekend after the Taste of Durham we packed the kids in the car and took a ride down to Page Hardware on

the Guilford Green. An excellent hardware store, Page carries metal taps and anything else that you might need. We bought 18 taps and hooks for \$1.39 each.

I next learned that two things happen when you tell others that you plan to make maple syrup. The first is that a whole underground society of other sugar makers emerges, all with slightly different equipment and methods. Some have sugar houses, oil-fired evaporators, and the worthy goal of making a little money at this endeavor. Others, like us, are backyard hobbyists who want to have enough syrup for ourselves and perhaps some to give away as gifts. What all of them share is a keen eye for the weather and a great deal of enthusiasm.

The second thing that happens is that everyone pitches in to help. Our friends, Ralph and Katharine Chase, gave us extra plastic taps and green plastic tubes. My brother-in-law, Darin Overton, offered the sap from his three sugar maples and offered to collect it for us, and he procured about a dozen five-gallon pickle buckets to store the sap. My friend, Brendan Rea, offered to boil any extra sap that we couldn't use. My father, Bob Moore, gave us a stainless steel pan and loaned us his carpenter's brace, for which I purchased the proper bits. My father-in-law, James Haglund, offered to lend a hand every weekend.

We spent the month of February drinking gallon after gallon of milk. We drank more milk than usual to collect enough empty milk jugs. We also got some from friends. We rinsed the empty jugs with hot water, cut wide flaps just below the rims to attach to the taps, and then hung them on a clothesline in the basement to dry.

I purchased a couple of 32-gallon trash cans in which to pour the collected sap. We started watching the weather, especially the five-day forecast. What we were

waiting for was a time when the daytime temperature would rise above freezing and the evening temperature would fall below freezing – that is the weather that makes the sap run. Tap too early, and your tap holes may seal up on you if there are too many days between periods of thawing weather. Tap too late, and you are missing your sap.

The time came near the end of February. I watched as the thermometer rose to about 40°F during the day and fell below 32°F at night. The sap started running during school vacation, but I had a problem. My problem was that we were spending the school vacation on Martha's Vineyard. Our trees were untapped. The milk jugs were hanging on the clothesline. The sap was running, and I was snow-bound, and icebound, on an island, with my nose pressed against the windowpane, watching the mercury rise and fall, unable to do a thing about it.

The thaw caused a “run,” a production of sap that lasts a few days and then stops. When we returned from the island the run had stopped as the temperature fell to 0°F some mornings. I learned, however, through the sugaring network, that most people had not tapped due to the two or three feet of snow that a late February blizzard had deposited. The Chases did tap that week, and they collected 150 gallons of sap in that run.

By February 26, a Wednesday, the forecast was promising. It was time to tap. With my daughters Madeleine and Isabel, I went outside with a paper bag of taps, a trash bag full of milk jugs, a brace and bit and a hammer. We broke through the frozen crust of ice atop the snow and

tromped to the first tree, our largest sugar maple. I held the brace to the south side of the tree, angled it just shy of perpendicular, so the sap would run down the spout of the tap and into the jug, and started turning.

Part of the joy of making maple syrup is using a brace and bit. The sharp point of the bit caught immediately and required no pressure to begin boring its way into the tree. Out spiraled brown shavings of bark and then a ribbon of cream-colored maple sapwood. The bit drilled inward and upward, silently and almost effortlessly. Madeleine drilled two holes herself. With the hole drilled, we cleaned out the shavings with a twig, gently hammered in each tap so that it angled slightly down, and hung the plastic milk jugs on the taps where I had cut the openings below the rims. Two days later, we had sap.

It is no small thrill to see for the first time that tapping a sugar maple actually works. Down the metal spout of the tap, over the tongue and into the jugs, flowed sap clear as water. With a steady drip, drip, drip, it fell from the spout into the jug. I caught a drop on my fingertip and tasted it. It was cold, with just a hint of sweetness.

We tapped seven trees, and my sister and brother-in-law tapped three. Some trees produced while others did not, and certain taps produced more than others. In general, the more the tree was in the open, the more sap that it produced.

By Saturday, March 8, we had collected more than 40 gallons of sap and had about 30 gallons in pickle buckets in Middlefield waiting. We were ready to boil – or so I thought. I woke up at 7 a.m. to find that it was only 10 degrees F outside. Worse, I went outside to check the trash can full of sap and it was frozen – solid.

Faced with this setback, my instincts took over, and I promptly gave up. I went inside to make breakfast and consider the situation over a cup of coffee. Having reconsidered, I went back outside, made a fire, and experimented with melting the ice. I constructed an aluminum reflector oven on the surface of the 32-gallon sap ice cube. No melting. Thinking of the leaves I had incinerated as a youngster by

*continued on page 20*

## The 2003 maple syrup season

The winter started off cold and warmed up quickly at the end. Sap started running late in southern New England because of excessive snow.

### **Opening and closing dates for maple syrup tapping:**

**Connecticut:** February 2-April 28

**Maine:** February 11-May 2

**New Hampshire and Vermont:** February 15-April 30

**Massachusetts:** February 19-April 28.

### **Maple syrup production, 2003**

#### **New England:**

795,000 gallons, down 7 percent from 2002

#### **United States:**

1.24 million gallons, down 11 percent from 2002

#### **Connecticut:**

8,000 gallons, unchanged from the previous year.

#### **Vermont:**

430,000 gallons, down from 500,000 gallons. (Vermont, the largest maple syrup producing state, makes 54 percent of New England's maple syrup and 35 percent of the country's.)

#### **Wisconsin:**

76,000 gallons, down from 79,000 in 2002

### **Number of taps, 2003**

**New England:** 3.8 million, down 3 percent from the 3.9 million set last year and making up 57 percent of the country's taps.

### **Maple syrup retail prices, 2002**

#### **Connecticut:**

\$37.50 per gallon, \$7.30 per pint

#### **Maine:**

\$34 per gallon, \$6.50 per pint

#### **New Hampshire:**

\$33.30 per gallon, \$6.80 per pint

#### **Vermont:**

\$31.40 per gallon, \$7.10 per pint

#### **Massachusetts:**

\$35 per gallon, \$7.90 per pint

**Wisconsin:** \$27.80 per gallon, \$3.30 per pint

#### *Sources:*

*For most data except retail prices:*

*New England Agricultural Statistics Service, a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture.*

*See [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/). For retail prices:*

*Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.*



## Adam Moore's plan for the Field Forest

Association Executive Director Adam R. Moore has completed a management plan for the 152-acre Field Forest in Durham. Assisting him was the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Environmental Review Team, which helped with the inventory of species, and Connecticut DEP foresters Fred Borman and Robert Rocks.

The Field family donated this land to CFPA in (2002.) The plan calls for improving trails, managing forest resources, installing signs and boardwalks, improving information about birds and other wildlife, and developing an educational program about the land.

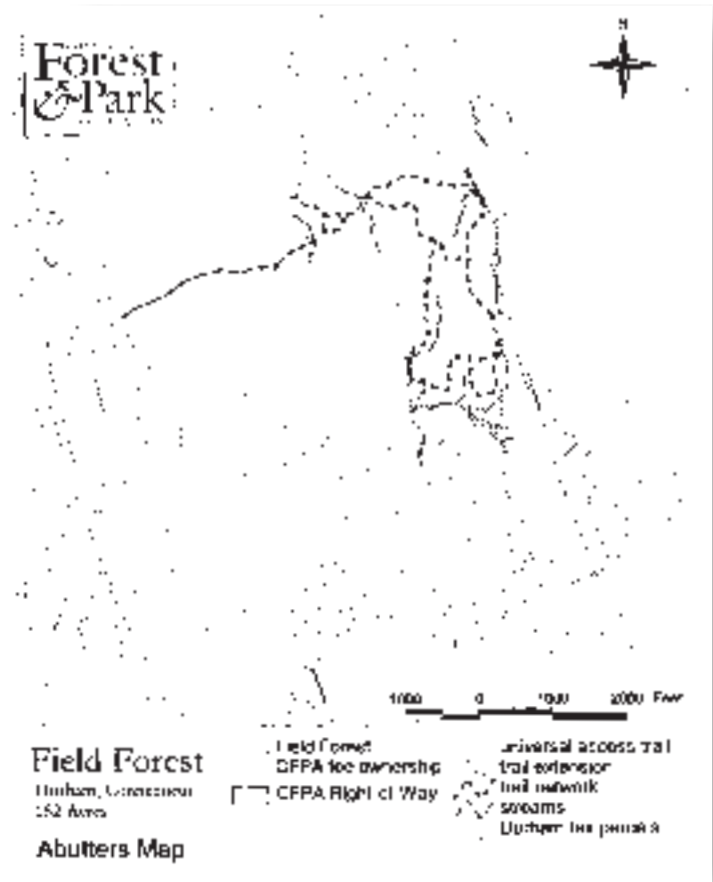
For a full copy of the plan, call CFPA at 860-346-2372.

### Highlights of the goals for the Field Forest are:

- Provide long-term conservation of the vegetation, fish, and wildlife.
- Continue the inventory of the forest.
- Encourage the growth of the forest as, generally, a mature, mixed hardwood forest.
- Protect rare and endangered species.
- Control the spread of invasive plants and monitor for pests.
- Thin hardwood stands at northern and southern ends of property.
- Improve wildlife habitat and aesthetics.
- Seek opportunities to conduct research.
- Other management: leave wetlands alone; consider producing maple syrup and harvesting witch hazel.

### Allow the public to use the property, provided it does not get in the way of forest management.

- Create official entrances.
- Create a scenic loop trail network.
- Link the forest trails to others, such as the Mattabesett Trail on nearby Bare Rock Mountain, enabling a hiker to go from the nearby Coginchaug Regional High School to Miller's Pond while crossing one paved road.
- Open the land to hiking, nature study, cross-country skiing, and (on a limited basis, if possible) horseback riding, mountain biking, and dog-walking.
- Establish and maintain views through judicious cutting of trees and placement of trails.
- Maintain stone walls and old foundations.
- Allow community groups to use the land and assist with its care.



### Manage forest resources

- Generate saw timber through occasional thinning, selling logs directly to mills.
- Generate firewood.
- Harvest non-timber products such as witch hazel, maple syrup, sassafras roots, highbush blueberries.
- Allow hunting by heirs of Howard Brigham Field Jr., the donor of the land. This is spelled out in Mr. Field's will. Other hunters will not be allowed.

### Help the community use the land.

- Make it easy to find the Field Forest by posting maps on the CFPA website, posting signs on roads, providing trail maps at entrances.
- Provide information about the land through signs and copies of the management plan.
- Work with Regional School District 13 to use the land for field

trips, student research and its environmental education curriculum, and work with Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to create permanent forest measuring plots. Prepare and lead hikes.

■ Maintain good relations with local community by inviting people to walk on the land, informing neighbors of activities, posting news about the forest in newspapers, and working with state police to address any problems.

#### **Administer the land**

- Limit use by maintaining set hours.
- Allow motorized vehicles only for emergencies.
- Maintain boundaries.
- Keep records of all management and natural events.
- Work with the neighbors.
- Maintain a right-of-way to Fowler Avenue.
- Preserve archeological sites.
- Prohibit fires and camping.

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## **CFPA will sponsor research panel**

CFPA has also been awarded two grants to support the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel on America's Forest Research Priorities. The Association has received a grant of \$7,000 from the American Forest and Paper Association and a grant of \$9,630 from the USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service. For more information on the Blue Ribbon Panel, please contact Bill Bentley at 860-844-0008.

## **Graphics steer the public right**

### **Logo helps Connecticut Forest & Park stand out as independent**

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association has been working on ways to be more visible to the public. One challenge has been to dispel any assumption that CFPA is a state agency. The Board of Directors believed that it would not make sense to remove any words from the name because of the Association's long tradition.

The board retained a graphic artist to design a new logo. They sought a symbol that would reflect the Association's goals, look elegant and fresh, and be consistent on all printed materials.

On August 29, the Association unveiled the new logo designed by Peter Good of Cummings & Good Concept and Design, of Chester. Mr. Good's design diminishes the words "Connecticut" and "Association" and enlarges the key words, "Forest & Park."

Cummings & Good also designed CFPA's stationery, annual fund brochure, and the 19th edition of the *Connecticut Walk Book*. It will redesign The Blue Blaze (the trail managers' newsletter), the Connecticut Trails Day brochure, and the CFPA website. Finally, Mr. Good and his staff created a new cover concept and designs for the Table of Contents and masthead of Connecticut Woodlands magazine.

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## **Federal grant helps forest landowners**

The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service awarded the Association a \$71,150 grant to administer the cost-share components of a new program, the Forest Land Enhancement Program, or FLEP.

FLEP is a new version of the former Forest Stewardship Program, which helped forest landowners care for their land through foresters' advice and professional services.

The program will provide financial assistance to private landowners in Connecticut. They will be able to hire professionals to assess and manage the forests. For certain forestry practices that have been approved by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the landowner may receive financial assistance to offset the costs of the service.

CFPA will issue these cost-share payments to landowners who have drawn up "practice project outlines," completed the work and had it approved and inspected by a DEP service forester.

For additional information on this program, please contact Fred Borman at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Division of Forestry at 860-424-3630. The FLEP program is a partnership between the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the USDA Forest Service, the DEP Division of Forestry, and the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.



**Editor's Note:**

**In this excerpt of**

*How to Burn Wood: New Methods and New Markets, Wartime Edition*, readers learned that cordwood was an important source of fuel during wartime shortages.

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association published this fifth revision in September 1942.

# HOW TO BURN WOOD: NEW METHODS AND NEW MARKETS

Wartime Edition, September 1942

## NEED FOR FUELWOOD MARKET

Cordwood is not generally a profitable crop, but it is an essential by-product of forestry operations. Woodland brings the highest return when producing saw logs of high grade. To strip off the stand by clear-cutting, or to cut out the better trees as soon as they are big enough to use for fuel, is a losing proposition. In the long run the owner will make more money by judicious thinning. This leaves his timber capital intact, besides increasing the rate of growth. (See our pamphlet on Practical Forestry, 25 cents post paid.)

But the average timber owner cannot be expected to improve his woodland by thinning unless there is some immediate return; he must be able to sell the fuelwood which he takes out. A profitable market for fuelwood is one of the biggest needs in American forestry today.

## WOOD AS AN EMERGENCY FUEL

To meet the fuel shortage in New England, it will be necessary to use wood wherever possible, to supplement the reduced supply of domestic fuel oil and a possible shortage of hard coal. There is plenty of good fuelwood on the nearly 2,000,000 acres of woodland in Connecticut. At least 300,000 cords, for which there has been no market, should be taken out each year in the form of improvement cuttings. National defense requires that we make the fullest possible use of this fuel that is at our doors. Every additional cord of wood that can be burned will relieve the pressure on other essential fuels and their transportation.

The present pamphlet suggests various methods of burning wood, and the equipment that is available at the present time for those who are able to secure a wood supply. All metals are hard to obtain under war conditions, and some of the equipment listed may be limited in quantity. The Government is restricting the purchase of new stoves to essential needs, and doing everything possible to encourage conversion from oil to coal or wood. According to order No. L-79 of the War Production Board, any person wishing to purchase a cooking or heating stove or water heater must present to the dealer this statement, duly signed and dated:

"The following equipment ..... is required by me for use in my place of residence in which there is no equipment of the type listed. Further I do not have available any other equipment which I can use in my place of residence instead of the above equipment."

## COMPARATIVE FUEL VALUES WOOD

In heat value, wood compares favorably with other fuels. Our best species, if well seasoned, are capable of producing as much heat per cord as a ton of coal or 200 gallons of domestic fuel oil. Whether wood will be an economy in any particular case, depends on the price of wood as compared with the price of other fuels. In a fuel shortage the use of

wood may be a necessity. The heat value of wood is roughly proportional to its dry weight. In the following table, the first column of figures gives the weight of green wood per cord, and the second column the weight of a cord of wood in air-dry condition (20% moisture content), on the basis of 75 cu. ft. of solid wood per cord, which is a fair average for New England hardwoods. The gross fuel value of air-dry wood in the third column is stated in Btu (British thermal unit, the amount of heat required to raise one pound of water through one degree Fahrenheit), figures at 6880 Btu per pound (7200 Btu for red and white pines). In fuel consumption, the percentage of efficiency, that is the proportion of the gross fuel value actually utilized, ranges from 50 to 75 per cent. With modern equipment, wood compares favorably in efficiency with other fuels.

| Species          | Weight per Cord, green | Weight, air dry, lbs. | Gross heat value, air dry, Btu |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Shagbark hickory | 4800                   | 4010                  | 27,600,000                     |
| White oak        | 4650                   | 3860                  | 26,600,000                     |
| Beech            | 4050                   | 3620                  | 24,900,000                     |
| Sugar maple      | 4200                   | 3540                  | 24,400,000                     |
| Red oak          | 4725                   | 3540                  | 24,400,000                     |
| Birch            | 4275                   | 3540                  | 24,400,000                     |
| White ash        | 3600                   | 3380                  | 23,200,000                     |
| Red maple        | 3750                   | 3060                  | 21,000,000                     |
| American elm     | 4050                   | 2810                  | 19,300,000                     |
| Red pine         | 3150                   | 2730                  | 19,600,000                     |
| Aspen            | 3230                   | 2130                  | 14,600,000                     |
| White pine       | 2700                   | 2010                  | 14,500,000                     |

**Maximum Btu, based on Connecticut experience:**

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Domestic Anthracite, per ton:        | 25,000,000 |
| Buckwheat Anthracite, per ton:       | 24,000,000 |
| Steam Coal, per ton:                 | 29,000,000 |
| No. 2 Domestic Fuel Oil, per gallon: | 140,000    |
| No. 5 Domestic Fuel Oil, per gallon: | 150,000    |

...Why has wood, with its high heat value, been steadily losing ground to competing fuels, such as coal and oil? The answer is that, under present methods, it costs too much to burn wood, from the standpoint of both money and convenience. Fuelwood in the forest is relatively cheap, but by the time it reaches the consumer, antiquated methods of logging and distribution have offset this advantage. Furthermore, the efficiency of the old fashioned type of wood stove or boiler may be low, and the fire must be stoked at frequent intervals.

*Coming in future issues of*

C O N N E C T I C U T  
**Woodlands**

*The Magazine of Connecticut Forest & Park Association*

**SPRING 2004**

**The Merritt Parkway**

- History of a landscaped highway
- Rush hour tales
- Keeping up with progress

**SUMMER 2004**

*75th Anniversary issue*

**The Blue Trails**

- A small group's vision
- Progress in protecting the trails
- How trails preserve habitats

**FALL 2004**

**Air Pollution**

- Can tree damage be measured?
- Are coal plants cleaner?
- Latest on haze in the East

*Blue Trails 75th Anniversary*

## Maple syrup

continued from page 5

focusing the rays of the sun, I added a magnifying glass to the reflector oven. Nothing. Fortunately, my sister, Bridget Poturnicki, came by and said, “Why don’t you just put the trash can next to the fire?”

That did it. Finally I had enough melted sap to start boiling. I ladled a couple gallons into the pan, perched precariously on some rebar rods, and started boiling.

Actually, it was steaming. I put a dining room chair outside in the snow, sat back, and watched the steam lift off the pan. It steamed while a great-horned owl roosted in the spruces nearby. It steamed while red-tailed hawks soared overhead. It steamed until the Chase family came over to see how I was doing. They made observations, and, in a diplomatic fashion, suggested that if I kept boiling at that rate I would be late for church the next morning.

Well that got us going. I write “us,” for by now, fathers and fathers-in-law and sisters and brothers-in-law and grandmothers and great-grandmothers (and later aunts and uncles and cousins) had all gathered to help. To keep it boiling, we had to keep the flames high and the fire hot.

For the rest of the day and into the night, we warmed sap, poured it in the pan, split wood, and fed the fire, non-stop. The steam smelled of maple syrup and the drops that sizzled on the fireplace smelled like cotton candy. A great cloud of steam hung over the pan, a column of smoke lifted into the air, a pool of melted snow gathered around the barbecue, and when darkness fell, orange sparks and tongues of flames shot from the top of the chimney. By 10:30 pm, all the sap from the trash can, plus that which we had collected that day, was in the pan, reduced, boiling and simmering. To my novice eye, it was time to pour it through some filters and bring it inside to finish.

I went inside to run a gauntlet of uncles offering \$20 bills for me to go to the store and simply buy a quart of syrup, but I did not flinch. I grabbed the filters, and went back out. But something had gone wrong. The sap had spilled.

Somehow, in the course of feeding the fire the precariously perched pan tipped and spilled a wave of sap, or, by this time, perhaps we could say “syrup,” into the fire.

The fire crew estimated the amount to be “about two quarts.” We poured the rest off into a lobster-boiling pot and brought it inside. The crowd dispersed, the children fell asleep, and Melissa and I worked in the kitchen past midnight until we had finally made maple syrup.

Or so we thought. We had pancakes the next morning, but the syrup tasted a bit weak, and seemed too runny. We then borrowed the indispensable tool for making syrup, the hydrometer, which measures the density of the syrup. Maple syrup must be a specific density for it to be truly maple syrup. Too thin, and the syrup will ferment. Too thick, and the syrup will crystallize, and will later form maple cream and maple sugar if kept boiling.

We poured the syrup back into the pot and began boiling again. We then saw a tell-tale sign of boiling sap becoming syrup – a great mound of yellow foam rising up the sides of the pot. Our pot was tall enough that the foam did not come over the sides, but if you do not have such a pot, and look the other way at the wrong time, you can lose about a week’s worth of work in an instant, and have a grand mess to clean up as well. We kept ladling syrup into the hydrometer, checking its density, until finally it was right, and then shut down the stove at once. We poured the syrup into mason jars, and ended up with about two quarts.

We kept at it each weekend and into April, and ultimately made about four gallons of maple syrup. Each week, the sap grew cloudier and the syrup changed from a golden color, almost the color of honey, to a dark amber. To my taste, the flavor improved as it strengthened.

Our boiling methods improved as well. We placed the pan on the rebar rods a different way so that it did not tip. We heated a coffee can of sap above the chimney stack before pouring it into the boiling pan, so as not to “kill the boil.” We stacked the firewood in the front of the fire chamber, and closed off airspaces with sheet metal to keep the heat on the pan.

On our last day of making syrup, I made a modification that I am most proud of and only wished I had discovered earlier. It is not terribly unusual for me to have my discarded Christmas tree still lying in some

recess of my property at the end of March. Such was the case during syrup season, and on that last day of boiling, I looked at the tree, cocked my head, raised an eyebrow, and thought, “why not?”

I cut up the Christmas tree and fed a branch into the fire. The flames leapt upward, the heat radiated outward, the sap began boiling at a pace fiercer than a geyser. I had to add cold sap to prevent the pan from boiling over. I immediately began making arrangements to collect Christmas trees from everyone I know for next year.

The whole process of making maple syrup, whether a hobbyist like me or a commercial producer, is delightful. It is a family affair. It has a splendid result. It connects you to the trees and the weather, and makes you notice whether the sun is shining, the snow is melting, the temperature is rising, the buds are opening. It starts in winter and ends in spring, and passes the slushy days in between.

But what most amazed me about the making of maple syrup was how much sheer work it is. Tapping trees and collecting syrup is part of it, and a large part if you have a number of trees to tap, or are setting up a system of collection lines in a sugarbush, or have a long way to travel between trees and your sugarhouse. But for our family, the work was in the boiling. These were 16 hour days spent in front of a fire that has to be kept raging. The activity was constant – tending the fire, adding sap, splitting wood, skimming foam.

What matters in sugar-making is the heat of the fire and the surface area of the pan exposed to the fire. The only way to cut the boiling time is to make the fire hotter or get a bigger pan, and these are the areas that I decided to spend the rest of the year plotting how to improve.

Or so I thought, once again. I am now plotting another improvement, or trying to do so. I entered our maple syrup in the Durham Fair, and proudly claimed a second-place red ribbon. The judges comments, however, read: “good density, not enough flavor.” Not enough flavor? Now how do I improve that?

*Adam Moore, the executive director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, grew up in Durham and returned there with his wife and children in 2001.*

# A Year at Tiffany Farms

*New photography book is tribute to a dairy's hard work*

**Editor's note:** *This is the introduction to a book about the Tiffany family and their farm on Route 156 in Lyme. A Year at Tiffany Farms is a photographic record by Judy Friday, an artist who lives near the farm. Her book is a window into a life of hard work and connection to the land of the Connecticut River Valley. This life was once a common experience, but today it is rare. The book came out in December and is available at the Happy Carrot Book Shop and the Florence Griswold Museum Shop, both in Old Lyme.*

By Judy Friday

I have always loved animals, and over the years I have spent a lot of time painting and hand sculpting the cows at Tiffany Farms. A few days before the end of 2002 the idea came to me to spend the next year photographing and writing about the local dairy farm in Lyme, Connecticut, in order to get a good record of it in all four seasons. The more I got involved with the project, the more I realized how much work is required to keep a dairy farm of its size going. Tiffany Farms is not considered a large farm, but it is not a small one either. Part of my motivation for recording the farm in detail is that I learned it is becoming more and more difficult for a small dairy farm to survive. Tiffany Farms used to be one of many such farms in Lyme, but over the years most of the farms have either ceased to exist as farms or have been sold. In 1940, there were 6,233 dairy farms in the state of Connecticut and as recently as 1990 there were 356. Today there are 195.

The reasons for the disappearance of the farms are many. The costs of the land, equipment and feed keep going up drastically while the price paid to farmers for the milk is going down. Small dairy farmers are actually losing money every year now, as

*In 1940, there were 6,233 dairy*

*farms in the state of Connecticut*

*and as recently as 1990 there*

*were 356. Today there are 195.*

they are paid less per gallon of milk than it costs them to produce it. In order for small farms to continue they have to increase the number of cows they milk. Tiffany Farms milks a hundred head and covers 140 acres, but they can't get any larger because they don't have the land or buildings for it. As it is, they plant corn and other fodder crops in fields all over Lyme that do not belong to them in order to get enough silage for the cows they have.

I guess one could ask, "What would be the harm in small farms ceasing to exist in favor of larger farms?" Aside from the fact that the farmers would have to stop doing what they know and love to do, we, the people who live in an increasingly technological, fast-paced world, would lose the pleasure of seeing the open space and scenic views that farms provide. When a small farm goes under, the land is usually sold and more houses go up in its place.

**A Year at Tiffany Farms  
by Judy Friday**



The value of these farms cannot be measured strictly in terms of the milk produced, but also from the peace of mind that comes from having them in our midst.

I hope to convey through photographs and writing not only how much thought and effort goes into the production of a gallon of milk, but also the spirit of the animals and the people who tend them. Some photographs in the book show the work being done on the farm and some are included simply for the fun of it because there were many glimpses of humor and joy along the way. Obviously, one of my favorite photographs is the one of the cow poking her head out of a hole in the barn wall in order to get a glimpse of what's going on outside. This book is my glimpse at what's going on inside the barn wall as well.

## Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

The sugar maple is a common sight along Connecticut roads. It was a commonly planted shade tree, and flanks many of our scenic highways. It is at its most majestic in the fall, where its foliage turns color that ranges from yellow to red to a fluorescent orange, sometimes with all three colors on the same leaf. Sugar maple is, of course, the chief maple to tap to collect the sap from which maple syrup is made. A good way to distinguish the sugar maple from the red maple, both of which have three main lobes on their leaves, is through use of the mnemonic device, “red, rough; sugar, smooth.”



SUGAR MAPLE  
Leaf, one-third natural size.

A very shade-tolerant tree, sugar maple will grow in the forest canopy among oaks and other trees, but will also grow and reproduce beneath them in the shade. Sugar maple develops a dominance of the forest by growing in the shade, waiting for taller trees to die, and taking their place in the stand. It is often found in association with American beech, another very shade-tolerant tree. Sugar maple is site-sensitive and generally does not naturally reproduce on sites that do not have fertile soils.

**The bark** on young trees is light gray to brown and rather smooth, but as the tree grows older it breaks up into long, irregular plates or scales, which vary from light gray to almost black.

**The leaves** are three to five inches across.

**The flowers** are yellowish-green, on long thread-like stalks.

**The wood** is hard, heavy, strong, close-grained and light brown in color.

According to the list of Connecticut champion trees, published on the website of the Connecticut Notable Trees project of the Connecticut College Arboretum, the largest sugar maple in Connecticut is found in the Town of Roxbury.

If you want to share any ideas about the sugar maple tree, write to the editor of Connecticut Woodlands in care of Connecticut Forest & Park Association, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06481-2961.

This page is modeled closely on CFPA's classic book, *Forest Trees of Southern New England*. If you would like to buy a copy, contact the office at 860-346-2372.

The cost is not prohibitive.

falling twigs in the 1850s, during its demise. The Charter Oak finally collapsed during a storm in 1856, when it measured 33 feet around the bottom and was roughly 800 to 1,000 years old. Even in its last days, the undulating branches reaching out from the gigantic trunk made an impressive subject for artists.

Majestic white oaks continue to command attention. Offspring of the Charter Oak (planted from its acorns) grow in Bushnell Park in Hartford. White oaks are the most common tree to reach a very large size, according to Glenn Dreyer, director of the Connecticut College Arboretum, writing in the book *Connecticut's Notable Trees*. Mr. Dreyer reported that the white oak on the University of Connecticut campus in West Hartford has a circumference of 21 feet 6 inches. Only a tree in Sharon, on a farm Its height of 71 feet is dwarfed only by a tree in Sharon, on a farm along Amenia Road. That one is 93 feet tall.

### High standards

Connecticut established the first arborist licensing law in the country in 1919. The law defines standards for proper tree care. To be certified, arborists pass a test that includes tree identification and techniques for pruning, removal, and safe climbing.

“At that time (in 1919) the law was established to protect the public from charlatans,” said Christopher Donnelly, an urban forester for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and a former executive secretary of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association. “To this day, the reason that the law continues to exist, and the reason that groups like the CTPA are behind it is it allows standards to be set for the tree care profession.”

Not everyone who works in trees is an arborist. But the law requires that those who make money supervising tree care to be licensed, Mr. Donnelly said.

For two examples of how techniques have changed in a generation, arborists no longer do “flush-cutting,” or trimming a limb flush with the trunk. It’s better to trim at the branch collar, the bulge where the branch meets the trunk. Arborists also have stopped painting over where a limb was cut. Research by a New Hampshire professor, Dr. Alex Shigo, showed that painting actually encouraged parasites rather than stopped them.

Tree care companies traditionally are small, but some are starting to be part of national chains, Mr. Donnelly said.

Mr. Slade’s company, formed seven years ago, is one of the smaller ones. He and his partner believe in avoiding pesticides and fungicides. He says that if a tree is unhealthy, there is a reason for it – something near it interfering with its growth, for instance.

He says he fell out of a tree once, but only a few feet. The technology has improved so dramatically since he started that he doesn’t worry about this at all. In the old days, he free-climbed using spikes or ropes. You get the sense that he’d do that again without blinking.

“The most fun for me is climbing the tree,” Mr. Slade admits. His wife, Gigi, who keeps the books for the business, says, “It’s like an art form. He does it so fluidly. It’s unbelievable to watch him up there. He’s such a natural.”

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

For further information: Contact the Connecticut Tree Protective Association. The book *Connecticut's Notable Trees: Memoirs of the Connecticut Botanical Society No. 2, 1989*, is published by the Connecticut Botanical Society, Inc.

## Robert C. Sprong

Robert C. Sprong, who managed a section of the Mohawk Trail for 15 years, died October 21 at his home in Newington. He was 80 years old and the husband of Anna Nardini Sprong.

Mr. Sprong, a native of Buffalo, worked for Stanley Works for 37 years and had lived in Newington for 45 years. He became a trail manager for Connecticut Forest & Park Association in 1988, when the Appalachian Trail was rerouted to the west in Cornwall, and the former loop became part of the Mohawk Trail. Mr. Sprong maintained the section of the Mohawk Trail in Cornwall, between Lake Road and Route 4, starting in 1988, when the Appalachian Trail was rerouted to the west. He resigned his volunteer position in January of this year. He was a member of the Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, the New Britain Camera Club, and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, Frank R. and Gene E. Sprong, both of Manchester; his brother James V. Sprong of Chagrin Falls, Ohio; and four grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Harry Duren Scholarship, care of Dick Don, Appalachian Mountain Club, 403 West Center Street, Manchester, 06040.

# The not-so-simple act of tree planting

By Robert M. Ricard

It is difficult to imagine that trees need to be planted at all in this state. They don't. We live in an area where trees regenerate with relative ease due to favorable climatic and ecological conditions. In fact, if land here lays fallow long enough trees will eventually dominate. We may not know what tree species will take over – we may not even want them – but they will come.

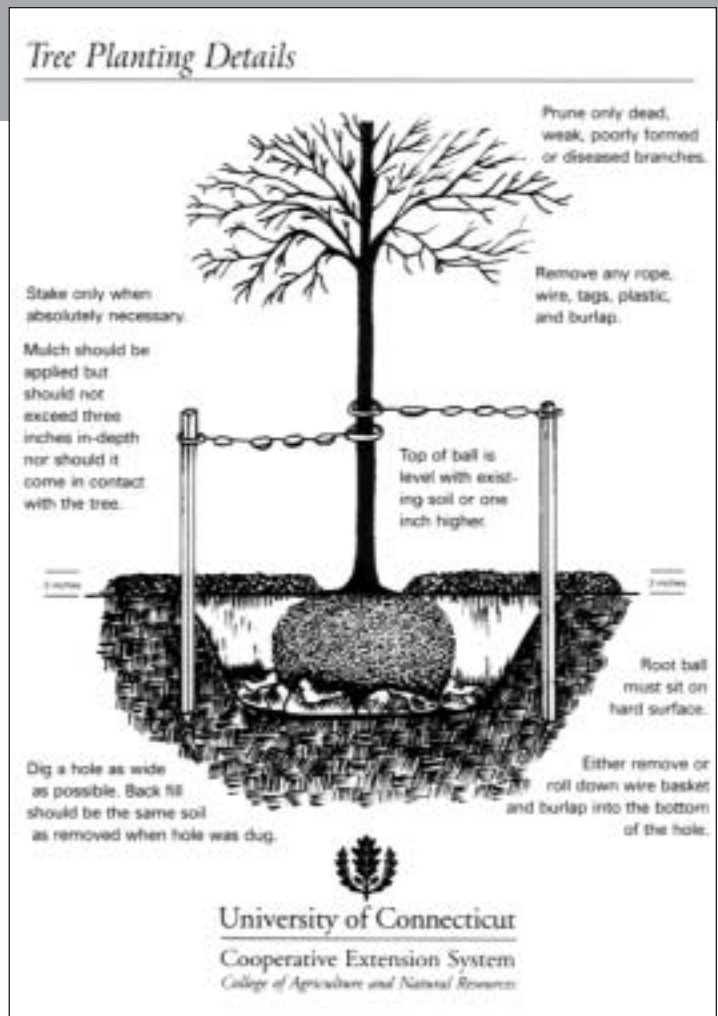
Sometimes, however, we may want a tree for a specific purpose on a specific site. For instance, we may want to plant balsam fir for Christmas trees, eastern white pine for timber, American mountain ash for attracting ruffed grouse, a cultivar of northern white cedar to develop a screen around a swimming pool, or a sugar maple for fall color on the town green.

In the very popular book *The Simple Act of Planting a Tree*, Andy and Katie Lipkis use the idea of tree planting as a simple and positive environmental act to motivate people to reforest cities. However, simple as it may be, tree planting requires good technical knowledge and a willingness to do the job right. Trees may be tough and resilient, but too many trees are planted incorrectly and die within a few years. Sometimes a poorly planted tree can even become a risk to life and property.

### Types of Transplants

Trees for transplanting usually come in two types: bare-root and balled and burlapped (B&B). Bare-root seedlings are commonly planted in forest regeneration and Christmas tree planting schemes since they cost much less than B&B trees. In this case trees are generally young, often only two to three years old at harvest time. They are raised in planting beds in which case they are lifted easily. The roots will have little soil attached, so they may be exposed. Bare-root seedlings are usually planted usually a simple tool such as a dibble that punches a slit into the soil. The bare-root seedling is then slid into this opening with the roots spread downward and outward by hand. The soil opening is then closed by pressing down with your heel or a shovel.

B&B tree planting is more involved than bare-root tree planting, mostly because of the larger size of the tree and because the tree has experienced great trauma in the transplanting process. Typically a B&B is 1 to 5 inches in diameter six inches above the root collar. A tree this size may have been raised in the nursery for as long as 15 years. When a tree is removed from the nursery bed, a great number of roots are cut and removed. This radically decreases the



ability of the tree to take in water and mineral salts needed for tree growth. When transplanted, the tree will spend considerable energy in reestablishing a healthy, effective root system. This will come at considerable expense of stem and branch growth. Planting a B&B tree correctly is essential if the tree is to survive and thrive.

### Establishing the planting hole

The depth of the planting hole will always depend on what is known as the trunk flare of the tree. A trunk flare is the very point where roots begin to branch from the trunk. The top of the root ball or nursery container is not always the trunk flare. Be sure to fold back burlap, and remove excess soil or mulch until root flare is exposed. The depth of the planting hole should be the same as the distance between the trunk flare and the bottom of the root ball. The planting hole should be roughly three times wider than the root ball or spread of roots.

Dig the hole so that it is saucer or bowl-shaped, with the sides sloping gradually. Do not cultivate the bottom of the planting hole in any way. This will cause the root ball to settle, making the tree sink deeper into the hole. Do not amend the soil with fertilizer, topsoil or manure, unless planting in soil heavily compacted or damaged by construction.

## Planting the B&B tree

With the burlap (and wire basket, if there is one) still on the root ball, place tree upright, in the center of the hole by handling the root ball, not the trunk; orient the tree in the hole to achieve optimum visual balance. Remove burlap (or nylon wrap and wire) from the top and sides of the root ball to allow roots to grow beyond the planting hole into adjacent soil. It is an old myth that burlap decays fast enough in a few years allowing root growth. Do not remove the burlap from the bottom of the ball if there is a risk of the root ball crumbling; root hairs could be damaged as a result. An alternative to removing the burlap is rolling it down into the bottom of the hole. Prune cleanly any dead or crushed roots and straighten or cut encircling roots.

Fill soil around and underneath the root ball. Do not stomp on soil with boots. Instead, gently tamp to avoid compaction. Once the hole has been backfilled by half, fill the hole partially with water to evenly settle the soil. Continue back filling once water has drained but never plant too deep; this may kill the tree. Backfill until the trunk flare of the tree is level with the perimeter of the planting hole (the grade). Any tree wrap, tape or string on trunk should be removed. These materials should only be used to protect the tree during transit to the planting site. Stake and brace trees only when planted in high pedestrian traffic or windy areas. Support the tree to allow it to move or sway in the wind, while preventing the root ball from shifting in the ground.

## Caring for newly planted trees

Water a newly planted tree at least twice a week for two months and during dry spells thereafter. Soak the soil by allowing the water to run slowly at the perimeter or edge of the planting site. Create a mulch circle around the tree that is three times the size of the root ball. A mulch circle will keep lawn mowers and string trimmers away from the tree, thereby avoiding trunk wounding. Even the smallest wound could potentially cause disease that could kill the tree.

Mulch lightly and evenly with three inches of composted material to three times the size of the root ball. Do not mulch around the trunk. Instead, leave a three-inch circle of bare soil around the trunk. Avoid mulching excessively, or above three inches; deep layers of mulch will only harm the tree.

Remove stakes after one year unless the site is extremely windy. Do not stake longer than two years. It is critical to encourage the best possible branching pattern of a tree, which is best achieved when it is still young. Remove all crossing branches and, if possible, do not allow for more than one branch to originate at the same location. There is no need to prune live branches to decrease the leaf surface area. This is an old myth that remains with the plant industry. Also prune branches that are dead, diseased, broken, touching other branches, or form weak V-crotches.

*Robert M. Ricard is an urban and community forester with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.*

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Starling Childs, MFS; Anthony Irving, MES

## Nursery

*continued from page 13*

become blue-green in the summer. He also likes the Japanese snow-bell. This small tree grows bell-shaped white flowers in the spring.

He grows one variety of sugar maple, the Legacy sugar maple. He said that the sugar maple is difficult to grow in a nursery setting because it is so sensitive to modern problems like air pollution.

Hat Creek sells a few varieties of Norway maple, which is considered invasive in Connecticut. However, the Norway maple still is recommended for city plantings in New England, and buyers still request it.

Mr. Gregan and Mr. Messier said that Norway maples are not going to stop seeding the woods unless someone removes every single tree. In urban settings, they can be controlled by pulling out any seedlings. The problem of invasive plants goes beyond the nursery industry, Mr. Messier said, and he believes that it is unfair to blame growers.

Three years into the Hat Creek project, the trees are doing well, and the orders are coming in. Mr. Gregan is pursuing the possibility of grants for more research into the new techniques the nursery is using.

Why take on a new enterprise 25 years into his career? Mr. Messier, a former president of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, admitted that three years ago, things were going well at his other nursery – maybe even too well. “I was bored. I was looking for something else to do. I learned that no one in the Northeast knows anything about drip irrigation.”

*– Christine Woodside*

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# CFPA introduces The Heritage Society

*The Heritage Society recognizes individuals who make enduring gifts to the Connecticut Forest & Park Association through bequests in their wills.*

## Camp family continues years of devotion with bequest

**G**eorge and Camille Camp belong to a family that has devoted resources, land, and time to further Connecticut Forest & Park Association's work for many years.

George Camp grew up on the land known as Highlawn, a tree farm on the Middletown-Middlefield line, which the family established as conservation land in 1913. His father, John R. Camp, began a long service on the Board of Directors in 1971. In 1982, he donated more than three acres of his property to build the James L. Goodwin Forest & Park Center, CFPA's headquarters. He served on the board until 1989 and was named an honorary director from then until his death in 1995.

Later, John Camp donated an easement for the demonstration forest behind the Goodwin Center. The Camp Forest provides an outdoor venue for teaching, guided walks, and reflection.

### Introducing The Heritage Society

In 2003, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association received a generous bequest from John Camp's estate.

George Camp was elected a director in

1997. Earlier this year, George and Camille Camp hosted a party at Highlawn, their home, to launch the Association's new graphic identity.

Through their generosity, interest, and wise counsel, the Camp family has had a significant impact on Connecticut conservation.

### A legacy program for CFPA

The roots of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association reach deep into the history of conservation in Connecticut. When Association founders convened in Simsbury in 1895, they were among the first in the nation to give voice to concerns that the natural resources of the land are not expendable, and a sustained effort will always be necessary to preserve the well-being of forest and field, lake and stream, for future generations.

Today we recognize that, to maintain a strong guiding voice in land conservation matters for the next 100 years, CFPA must build a permanent fund adequate to carry out critical programs in education, advocacy, and land and trail conservation. There is nothing more important to the future of the Association than the building of its endowment.

In the context of both our long tradition and our future needs, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association introduces The Heritage Society, a bequest program



Christine Woodside

*Caption here*

that provides an opportunity for our loyal members and friends to make an enduring contribution to our work by making the Association a beneficiary in their will.

### Advantages of making a bequest

- It ensures that your wish to contribute meaningfully towards the future of conservation in Connecticut is met.
- It provides a means through which to perpetuate your support of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and affect long-term outcomes.
- It offers an opportunity to foster specific

programs that are of particular importance to you.

■ It is a way in which you can make a more significant gift than you might otherwise be able to do.

■ It effectively addresses the association's urgent need, going forward, to build its endowment.

■ By making a bequest, you may be able to significantly minimize estate taxes while maximizing benefits to CFPA.

■ You will be honored and recognized as a member of The Heritage Society and invited to join periodically with other members of this special group for conversation and refreshments.

If you would like more information, please contact:

**Starr Sayres**  
Development Coordinator  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
16 Meriden Road,  
Rockfall, CT 06481-2961

860-346-2372

If you have already included the Connecticut Forest & Park Association in your estate plans, we would be pleased to acknowledge your generosity. Please call Starr Sayres at 860-346-2372. Requests for confidentiality will be honored.

## Welcome to our new members!

*We are glad you have joined us and we thank you for your support of our programs.*

*Please come to any or all of our events in the months ahead, and be sure to introduce yourself to members of our staff. We look forward to getting to know you*

Anni and Vahe Bedian  
Elmer E. Clark  
Matt Edwards  
Elinor W. Ellsworth  
Dan Esty  
Russell French  
Michael Green  
Frank Higgins  
Kelly Hoffpauir  
David Hughes  
Mr. and Mrs. John Killeen  
S. Lee Laplante, M.D.  
Lynn Marshall  
Betsy Morgan  
Eleanor Pendergast

Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Rescek  
Jeffrey Robbins  
Mary Sherwin and Henry Murray  
Polly M. Silva  
Allen Stein  
Steve Wright

## A special welcome to the following new or upgraded members

### *Life Members*

Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Belding

### *Benefactors*

Mary W. Edwards  
Andrew Palladino  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Steitz  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Wallace

### *Supporting Members*

Sandra A. Lee  
Judy Ode  
Kenneth Owen  
Louise Perkins and Jeff Glans  
Jim Morrill  
Jack Nowakowski  
John Ritchie, Jr.  
Lucille Rottjer  
Mr. and Mrs. William Schrenk  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shepard  
Nelson H. White

### *Sustaining Members*

The Lyman Farm Inc.

*Includes new members from July 15, 2003 to October 30, 2003*

## Thank you!

We extend our gratitude to members, friends and supporting organizations for their generous contributions to the Association since our last issue. We also thank those who made memorial donations, and corporations which generously matched employee contributions.

Special thanks to the foundations, corporations and government agencies that supported the Association with grants and sponsorships.

Gifts listed on these pages include those made from July 25, 2003 to November 7, 2003.

If we have inadvertently left out the name of any donor, please let us know so that we may correct the error in the next issue.

## Annual Fund Update

As we go to press with this issue, the 2003 Annual Fund is well under way with 100% staff and Board of Directors participation and many generous gifts from our members and friends. Our goal is \$50,000. Especially important to us this year is to increase member participation. While large gifts are vital, small gifts are important, too, and broad participation is often considered by major donors, foundations and corporations when making grants and donations.

There is still time to participate, and we hope you will. Donations to the Annual Fund may be made through March 31, 2004.

## 2003 Annual Fund Donations

(as of November 7, 2003)

### 1895 Society

\$1,895 to \$4,999

Richard Blake  
Mr. and Mrs. George M. Camp  
Susan E. Olmstead

### Centennial Society

\$1,000 to \$1,894

Clyde S. Brooks  
Richard A. Whitehouse

### Charter Circle

\$500 to \$999

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Anderson  
Russell L. Brenneman  
Starling W. Childs  
Ruth B. Cutler  
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Little  
Eric Lukingbeal and Sally S. King  
David Platt  
David M. Smith

### Foresters' Circle

\$250 to \$499

Jill Barrett  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Bauerfeld  
Daniel F. Donahue  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Hanzalek  
John E. Hibbard  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Richardson  
Mr. Donald Snook  
Sally L. Taylor  
J. Stanley Watson

### Patron

\$100 to \$249

Mark Ashton  
Harrol W. Baker, Jr.  
Samuel G. Dodd  
Nicole J. Herbst  
Ronald J. Manzi  
Randall Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Adam R. Moore  
Rep. Brian O'Connor  
John Olsen  
Stephen Parsons  
Leavenworth P. Sperry, Jr.  
Colin C. Tait

### Sponsor

Up to \$99

Ann T. Colson  
Erin Hanley  
George Letz  
Patty Pendergast  
Starr and Philip C. Sayres, Jr.  
David C. Sullivan

## Donations

### General Donations

|                                 |                       |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Justus Adiss                    | S. Lee Laplante, M.D. | Mr. and Mrs. Edgar P. Wyman |
| Dr. and Mrs. Bertrand P. Bisson | Thomas L. Lentz, M.D. | Anne K. Zopfi               |
| Ann B. Davis                    | Katherine Lindbeck    |                             |
| Jessica B. Kirk                 | Edgar J. Page         |                             |

### Donations of gifts and services

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Cummings & Good<br>for concept, design and layout of invitation                                 | Louise Perrine<br>for gift of a 1976 Bicentennial Edition of the Connecticut Walk Book       | Richard A. Whitehouse<br>for gift of Textbook of Dendrology, 7th Edition |
| Jean Crum Jones<br>for gift of autumn decorations for the James L. Goodwin Forest & Park Center | Sally Taylor<br>for gift of planting materials for the James L. Goodwin Forest & Park Center |  |

### Thanks to our most recent volunteers

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Birge Dayton   | Sophie Macuck  |
| Susan Gudaitis | Louise Perrine |
| Larry Lunden   |                |

### Foundations, Corporations and Government Grants and Sponsorships

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| U.S. Department of Agriculture,<br>Forest Service | U.S. Department of Agriculture<br>CSREES | U.S Department of the Interior,<br>National Park Service |
|---|--|--|

### Memorial Gifts

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Agnes Trombley and family* | Richard Whitehouse* |
|----------------------------|---------------------|

*\*These gifts were made in memory of Peggy Byrne*

## Winter wish list

**25- or 50-cup stainless steel coffee maker**

**Lecturn**

**Locking file cabinet**

**Fireproof cabinet or file cabinet**

**Standing 4-foot fireplace screen**

**Fireplace tools and andirons**

**Please contact Starr at 860-346-2372.**

# Stumpage Report

## Current prices for standing timber

This table summarizes 69 voluntary reports by foresters, loggers, and sawmills of prices paid for timber between July and September 2003 in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Prices are in dollars per thousand board feet using the international quarter-inch scale. Pulpwood and fuelwood are reported in dollars per cord.

The Cooperative Extension Services of the University of Connecticut and the University of Massachusetts compile these quarterly reports. They warn that this is a guide only and that prices can fluctuate due to many factors, including varying timber quality, whether the sale was competitively bid or directly negotiated, and the logging costs.

For more information, see the website [est.fnr.umass.edu/stumpage.htm](http://est.fnr.umass.edu/stumpage.htm), or [www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/forest](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/forest).

| SPECIES                     | EAST OF CT RIVER |        |           | WEST OF CT RIVER |        |           |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------|-----------|------------------|--------|-----------|
|                             | no. of reports   | median | range     | no. of reports   | median | range     |
| Red oak                     | 25               | 280    | 100 - 400 | 10               | 375    | 275 - 650 |
| White oak                   | 15               | 100    | 50 - 150  | 6                | 125    | 80 - 300  |
| Other oaks                  | 22               | 150    | 50 - 260  | 3                | 150    | 80 - 400  |
| Ash                         | 8                | 78     | 50 - 250  | 11               | 100    | 45 - 250  |
| Cherry                      | 4                | 250    | 100 - 300 | 7                | 500    | 350 - 800 |
| Sugar maple                 | 4                | 225    | 200 - 300 | 11               | 450    | 110 - 750 |
| Red maple                   | 15               | 50     | 25 - 70   | 12               | 50     | 25 - 400  |
| Tulip poplar                | 5                | 50     | 20 - 60   | 2                | 83     | 65 - 100  |
| Yellow birch                | 5                | 65     | 50 - 110  | 11               | 80     | 50 - 250  |
| Black birch                 | 10               | 68     | 50 - 136  | 11               | 80     | 60 - 300  |
| Paper birch                 | 5                | 50     | 25 - 70   | 5                | 25     | 20 - 30   |
| Beech                       | 3                | 25     | 20 - 30   | 4                | 28     | 25 - 30   |
| Pallet hardwood             | 8                | 28     | 20 - 120  | 5                | 20     | 10 - 25   |
| Other hardwood              | 6                | 40     | 30 - 60   | 0                | -      | -         |
| White pine                  | 23               | 105    | 65 - 370  | 12               | 70     | 50 - 140  |
| Red pine                    | 7                | 60     | 50 - 150  | 0                | -      | -         |
| Hemlock                     | 12               | 33     | 20 - 60   | 12               | 30     | 0 - 55    |
| Spruce                      | 3                | 50     | 30 - 80   | 1                | 100    | -         |
| Other softwood              | 1                | 30     | -         | 0                | -      | -         |
| Poles, hardwood (\$/lin.ft) | 0                | -      | -         | 0                | -      | -         |
| Poles, sftwd (\$/lin.ft)    | 0                | -      | -         | 0                | -      | -         |
| Fuel wood (\$/cord)         | 25               | 5      | 0 - 10    | 9                | 0      | 0 - 10    |
| Pulpwood (\$/cord)          | 7                | 1      | 0 - 4     | 1                | 0      | -         |
| Biomass (\$/ton)            | 0                | -      | -         | 0                | -      | -         |



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