



Upcoming Events

Night Hike

Saturday, March 25th

8:30-9:30

Pine Acres Pond Loop

Saturday, March 30

10:00 am- 1:00 pm

Friends of Goodwin Meeting

Thursday, May 9th

1:00 pm

You can check out the program descriptions and register on our [website](#).

Happy 60th Anniversary!

James L Goodwin donated the forest and conservation center to the people in September 1964. [Let us know](#) if you'd like to help us plan a celebration.

The Friends group lost one of their founding members, [Al Kausch](#) this month.. He was literally quite a trailblazer and loved the Goodwin Forest. The family has requested memorial contributions to be made to [The Friends of Goodwin Forest](#) or the [South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank](#).



Updates

In December 2023, the service contract to run the Goodwin Conservation Center expired between DEEP and CFPA. The CFPA board did not want to sign a new contract before their new director, Andy Bicking, started. We are waiting to see what CFPA decides during their transition to new leadership.

Meanwhile, Beth Bernard could not work at the Center because there was no contract. In January, Beth left to take a new position as Outreach Forester for the CT DEEP forestry division.

Elections were held at our January meeting and the new slate of officers is: Lynne Warren, President; Lynn Kochiss, Vice-President, Bruce Spaman, Treasurer; and Linda Wenner, Secretary. We thank the former President, Jim Giana for his service.

Lori Brant, Assistant Director of State Parks, announced that the state would not be replacing Beth and would not be hiring back our seasonal educators. This would have effectively shut the Conservation Center down as volunteers are not allowed to use the building without a DEEP staff to supervise. However, the Friends stepped up and Adam Drouin is going to be rehired later this spring. We also have a second seasonal, Chelsea Knyff, an archivist, who began working at Goodwin on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9-4. Please stop in to introduce yourself and say hello.

Continued

Updates continued

The new staff at CFPA is working with Lynn Kochiss to figure out active memberships. Renewal forms were mailed a few weeks ago. For questions about membership, contact [Lynn](#). We appreciate your support. The friends have been able to upgrade the trail system, create the Connecticut Master Naturalist Program, and put pressure on the state to finally get the main house fixed. We are committed to having the Center open full-time and will let you know what you can do to help when the time comes.

We know that we have a light schedule of programs for March. Due to a lack of DEEP supervision, as Adam is an FGF contracted educator during the mandatory 3 month break as a seasonal, he is limited in what he can do. The state provided supervision so that he could finish the programs that were already planned. Volunteers were asked to submit requests for supervision if they wanted to run a program but were not going to be guaranteed that there would be coverage.

In January, the state announced a new Partnership in Parks Initiative. The state wants to build partnerships between profits/non-profits to expand outdoor recreation in the state parks. The Friends of Goodwin submitted a [proposal](#) to operate a Welcome Center in the museum which would allow us access without the need for DEEP staff. The proposition was submitted for the March 1st deadline to start this year. We are still waiting to hear if it will be granted. I don't know if contacting the office would help; but if you would like to voice your support, here is the [email address](#).

Despite the current hurdles, we are having our 10th! Annual Goodwin Forest Trail Run on Sunday, June 2! Drop us [a line](#) if you'd like to help with planning or to volunteer.. [Registration](#) is starting to pick up so reserve a spot if you want to participate.

If you are unable to make our meetings, you can always read through our [minutes](#) and [email](#) us if you have any questions or concerns.

A final note: It will be in our best interest to form our own 501(c)3 at this time. We have begun the process and welcome help and support from any member(s) with experience in this process. Contact [Lynne Warren](#) if you are interested.



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participants of all ages attended programs on forestry, conservation, wildlife and outdoor recreation

25 Goodwin Master Naturalist participants learned about the natural world and shared that knowledge state-wide

120+ Volunteers helped as Friends of Goodwin members, in gardens, on trails and at events, educational programs

These are the numbers we celebrated from 2023.

We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to celebrate. 2024 will be a year of challenges and change but we view it as an opportunity to grow.

Thank you for all your support.