



# FRIENDS OF GOODWIN FOREST

Education & Conservation

Spring News

Volume 10

Issue 1

Join us for our

**Open House**

## Education at Goodwin

Spring is here, and the Goodwin Conservation Center and State Forest are bustling!

We are excited to welcome about 530 students from Windham Middle School in May. They will be experiencing wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation opportunities at Goodwin, many for the first time.

They will leave with a better understanding of forestry, wildlife, and outdoor recreation experiences including hiking and fishing. Thank you to all of the volunteers who are helping us provide quality experiences for these students! In addition, the Friends of Goodwin Forest has covered bus fees for two schools that would not otherwise be able to visit Goodwin, helping to grow the next generation of Goodwin supporters.

cont. page 3



Bill Marshall, Linda Wenner, and Bruce Spanan represented the Friends at the Capitol this year.

As the Friends' President, I delivered testimony by mail for Raised Bill No. 6482 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDING FOR BIKEWAYS, GREENWAYS AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS. I emphasized how financial support from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has helped the Friends leverage member support, volunteer labor, and other grants to extend the benefits of our ongoing work for trail users throughout the Forest. Current funding from the RTP program supports the following important projects at Goodwin: trail maintenance, trail reconstruction and erosion amelioration. For the DEEP budget, I emphasized that the current limit of field staff at 83 was far too low and wanted the level increased by 117 back to the staff level in 2000, when park attendance was much less. Lori Brant of DEEP provided us with a laundry list of the sites that comprise the 21,000(!) acres for which Matt Quinn is responsible. You will find a site list in the minutes of the last Friends meeting on our web site.

Please attend our next Friends meeting on May 9 and our open house on May 19.

Stay safe and well.

Jim Giana, President, Friends of Goodwin Forest



[Order T-shirts Here!](#)

Have you taken the [DEEP](#) survey on outdoor recreation in Connecticut?

Consider using information from [83](#) is [not enough](#) to let them know how understaffed our recreational areas have become.

### **Dues!**

Have you renewed your membership?

We began with 17 members 11 years ago in response to state cutbacks and have grown to over 200 strong.

During this time, we've been able to upgrade trails, establish an online presence, enhance the gardens, make improvements for accessibility, extend our educational programming throughout the year, and more!. This group effort has made the Goodwin Conservation Center and Forest a not-to-be-missed destination.

We are so thankful to all of the volunteers and members who make this such a great place and appreciate your continued support. Drop us an [email](#) if you're not sure when or if you've renewed your membership.

Thank you for your support.

## 9th Annual Goodwin Forest Trail Run!

Preparations are well under way for the 2023 edition scheduled for Sunday, June 4th. Both a 10K and 30K course are featured exploring trails in the Goodwin State Forest and adjacent Natchaug State Forest.

The Planning Team began meeting in January to work through the details for another successful event. Will we meet or exceed the highest registration level of last year at 209 runners? Perhaps, but the key goal is to introduce the wonders of the Goodwin Forest will having a safe and fun experience.

Our volunteers really make the run special! Many are returning year after year to cheer on the runners ... their energy level is amazing ... THANK YOU!! More volunteers are always welcomed ... please let us know your interest on [Volunteer Page](#) .

Goodwin Forest Trail Run performance t-shirts with the signature CFPA blue blaze on the back were introduced in 2022 and are again available for purchase this year. (Click the link under the t-shirt graphic)

The Hampton and eastern Connecticut community, both businesses and runners, are invaluable supporters of the Run ... THANK YOU!!

It is time to lace up your shoes or just come on out to experience the event. [Registration](#) closes on June 2nd.

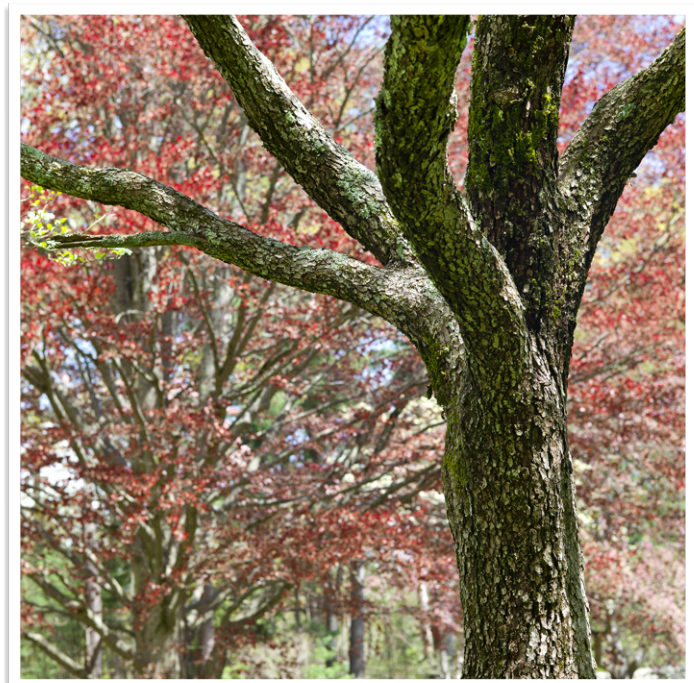


Photo credit: Pete Vertefeuille

## Education notes cont.

In addition to our school programs, the 2023-2024 Goodwin Master Naturalist program was launched in April. We are especially excited about some changes to the program that will keep the program current and relevant, including new speakers, field trip locations, and a new class structure. As a Friends of Goodwin keystone program, the Master Naturalist program to continue to thrive in its 9th year due to their steadfast support!

Our Center Naturalist Educator, Adam, along with some devoted volunteers, are offering some great programs for all ages this spring and summer. Check out the CFPA or FGF websites for a current program list. Join us in the fun, we'd love to see you at the Center!

## On the Trails

Our new trails crew leader, Gabe Zorabedian, worked with a group of Eastern Connecticut State University students on Earth Day. In two hours, they managed to spread about **10 TONS** of stone on a muddy area of the Blue Trail at the intersection of 11th Section Road. Also assisting was Andrew May of the AMC.

The trails crew is also making sure that the courses for the upcoming trail run are in perfect shape for the annual trail run. They've done a fabulous job of creating some of the best trails in the state (according to feedback from trails users!)



**Pure Poetry**  
Poet and UCONN English professor, Penelope Pelizzon led a nature writing workshop for students at the Goodwin Conservation Center in March. The Friends of Goodwin covered the busing expenses for the trip.

[Click here](#) to read the anthology of writings by the students from Windham Middle School.



We had a garden volunteer orientation in March and have a good crew to help maintain the native plant arboretum, propagation beds and Children's Discovery Trail (CDT). The plan for this season is to keep things tidy, make records of when plants are in bloom (for a future what's in bloom board), remove invasive species (both in the garden and along some trails.) and address issues as they arise.

We've done some fun activities, including building fairy houses (to be positioned on the CDT the first week of June), tool sharpening, and helping finish trophies for the upcoming trail run.

Let us know if you'd like to join in the fun. Most workdays are Tu/Wed but we do have at least one weekend day per month as well as independent volunteer opportunities.

## Native Plant Sale on hiatus

**Due to the proliferation of invasive jumping worms, we currently can not responsibly offer plants for sale.**

Do you have jumping worms in your garden? woods? lawn?

Currently, there are no solutions to easily get rid of these pests. Right now, they are just beginning to hatch and can be found in the top 4" of your soil. Keep a bucket of soapy or vinegary water with you to drop them in as you dig. Each worm you kill will prevent 90 eggs from being laid.

As new research emerges, we'll keep you posted.

Comments, questions, suggestions? Let us know!

