



FRIENDS OF GOODWIN FOREST

Education & Conservation

Volume 13 Issue 2

Upcoming Events

October 28

Pine Acres Pond Loop

9:00-12:00

RSVP: [Pine Acres Pond Loop](#)

November 4

Orchard Hill Hike

9:00-11:30

RSVP: [Orchard Hill Hike](#)

November 14

Friends Meeting

1:00 - 2:00

Our plan is to try and keep meetings to an hour. Agendas and minutes will be emailed to members about a week prior to the meeting. If you would like to have an issue addressed or any suggestions, please contact [Jim Giana](#).



PRESIDENT'S LETTER, FALL 2023

OMG, it's Fall, already! What happened to summer? OK, so let's deal with it. The maple tree by my window is doing its red leaf thing, not as fiery as in past years, but still outstanding. It's the first tree to leaf in Spring, at least on the foothills of Case Mountain here in Manchester, and it brings joy to see the snow finally disappear. Yes, I do like to snowshoe, but where's the warmth already? Then I'll complain about the heat.

You may have heard that DEEP want us to break off from the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, (CFPA), who is currently our fiscal sponsor, to become our own 501c3. This is, I think, a result of the State Auditors' report, which questions who these Friends groups are (all 20+ of us) and why we are raising money on state land. You can read [the report](#) (begin on page 21). Had they asked us we could have told them how we at Goodwin maintain 19-21 miles of trails (depending upon what you count), fund Master Naturalist classes (having trained over 150 Master Naturalists, including yours truly), brought busloads of students to the woods for the first time for hands on nature workshops, conduct in-house/ ZOOM classes in a variety of topics, and have a trail run with so many participants, we limit the field to 250!!

A 501c3 discussion is a part of our [five year plan](#). Nothing will be finalized without the concurrence of all the membership. So please, if you have any experience in running a small not-for-profit, a small business, an opinion on this or ANYTHING you'd like us to do, let me know.

Please continue to stay safe & well. We live in trying times but the woods are still there for us all to enjoy. Check out our web site.

Jim Giana, President
Friends of Goodwin Forest

Goodwin was buzzing over the past few months with the voices of excited children, Naturalists-in-Training, happy hikers, and of course, the pollinators that our gardens support! We are looking forward to a busy fall season. The turning leaves over Pine Acres Pond and the school buses loaded with visiting students make autumn my favorite season at Goodwin.

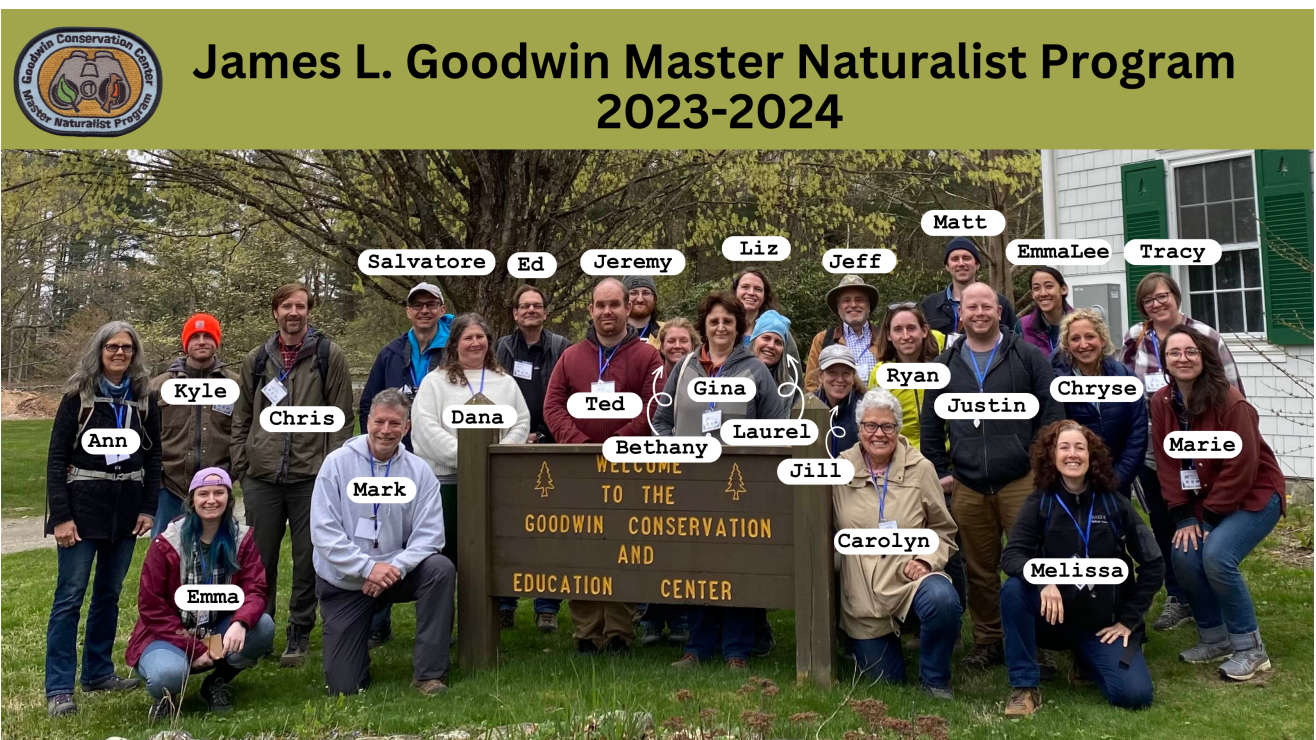
In October, we welcomed over 600 students from Windham Middle School. Each student learned about forest and wildlife ecology, native plant gardens, and outdoor skills. It is wonderful to see students return to enjoy the forest with their friends and family after they learn about this resource on their field trip.

The Master Naturalist 2023 cohort has been learning for about 6 months. Students have explored aquatic, coastal, forest, and meadow habitats throughout the state. These students will finish their year of study in March 2024, and as Master Naturalists will helping us spread the word about the importance of nature in their communities.

Autumn is the time to stop and reflect on our volunteers. Over 100 volunteers have helped at Goodwin in 2023. They have maintained trails, taught educational programs, and cared for our native plant wildlife gardens. I cannot mention volunteers without recognizing the Friends of Goodwin, who keep this special place running in so many ways. FGF members have taken on increased leadership over the past year, planning new events and adapting to changes in our forests, gardens, and human resources.

Thank you to all!

Please consider attending a Friends of Goodwin Forest meeting to find out how you can support this great place. And, check us out this winter for some great guided outdoor adventures and natural history webinars!



Trails Updates

This past summer was basically just maintenance as usual - tree/brush trimming, trail cleanup, etc. Nothing new and shiny.

We will need volunteers to help with the annual maintenance/water sealing treatment of the Governor's Island Lookout, Fran's memorial site, and benches at the garden and outdoor classroom area.

We're waiting for fresh maps to install from DEEP and will be staining some of the remaining kiosks.

We're also working on plans for trail hardening/flood control in a few locations.

Please email [Gabe Zorabedian](mailto:Gabe.Zorabedian) if you're interested in helping out on the trails.



Children's Discovery Trail remediation

Garden Update

This past season has been challenging. Many days forced us inside due to smoke from Canadian wildfires or massive amounts of rain. Plants responded by displaying massive growth (not great when you've planned for layers) and contracting powdery mildew (not fatal but it makes everything look terrible.)

In the main garden our goal was to try to tame the invasive plants: garlic mustard and narrow-leaved bittercress were predominant. We also tried to make a dent in the population of jumping worms. We do not foresee any good solution for their eradication but hope we can bring the overwhelming amount down to a more sustainable level.

On the other hand, we have begun reclaiming the entrance to the Children's Discovery Trail (CDT). With the help of our seasonal maintainer, Jerry, we were able to get the area covered with cardboard and Woodchips. The tractor ended up in the shop so we weren't able to complete the area but are happy with the 90% that's done. The CDT also now has a story walk!

We'll be planning for 2024 during the winter months. The main objectives are to redesign a few key areas of the garden as well as obtain a grant for a universal access trail for the main garden paths. Wood chips just encourage the growth of the worm population and aren't a viable option. We'll also be designing the entrance to the CDT.

We are planning a big workday on October 28 with students from Yale and maybe Quinnipiac University. We'll be starting at 9:00. If you'd like to join us, please email [Lynne Warren](mailto:Lynne.Warren).

Thank you doesn't seem quite enough to all the volunteers and groups who have helped in the garden this summer. We can accomplish so much when we put our hands together!