

Monthly Newsletter***FRIENDS OF PACHAUG FOREST***

<http://www.friendsofpachaugforest.org>



Connecticut Trails Weekend June 1st and 2nd



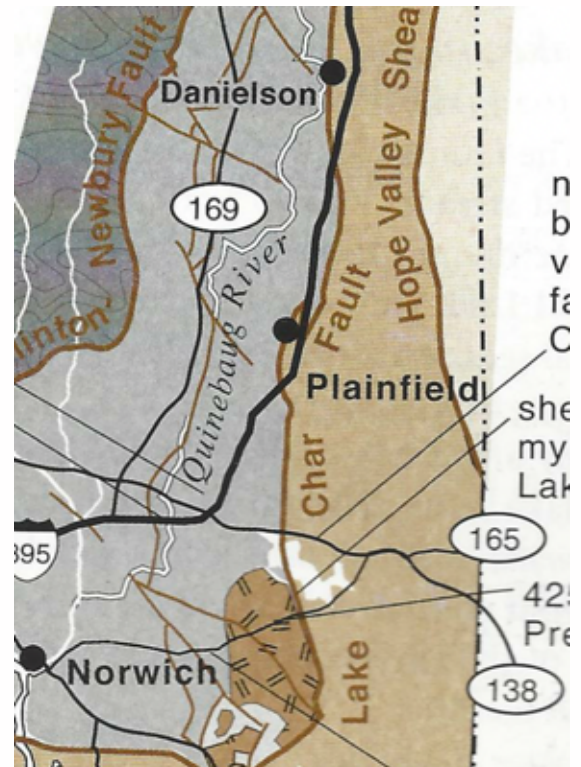
Friends of Pachaug Forest hosted three hikes for Connecticut Trails Day, the annual event that the CT Forest and Parks Association has been holding annually since 1993 as part of a Federal effort to get more people outside and excited about nature. On June 1, Vice-President Bob Panko led a 3.25 mile hike on the Hodge Pond South Loop Trail. This trail has many points of interest. There are some very special tall trees, beautiful rock formations, a waterfall, an old homestead, and some ancient Native American rock art. The Pre-Revolutionary war cemetery of the Kinney family is also to be found on that trail off Hodge Pond Road in Voluntown.



On June 2nd our hikers explored the area near the Park entrance off Rte. 201. Our knowledgeable Vice-President Bob Panko regaled us with fascinating geological facts about the land. As we followed the trail from Trail 2 heading toward Heron Marsh we walked on some interesting ground. In places the trail appeared to be in the center of a trough with higher ridges of rock on either side of us. In reality we were walking on a geological fault line, the Lake Char Fault. This visible depression is where the 600 million year old volcanic Avalon Terrane crashed into the continent of Laurentia about 400 million years ago

When the Avalon Terrane crashed into Laurentia, it sandwiched between it other terranes that consisted of seabed sediments in the then Iapetus Ocean east of the Laurentian continent. So as we walked, the rock to our left (east) was of ancient volcanic granite origins. To our right (west) the rock was seabed sand and finer particles that had been compressed and heated by this continental plate collision and was now what is called "sedimentary" rock. Its origins are from sediments deposited by erosion into the seabed.

Connecticut has an incredible geologic history that spans over 1 billion years from the days of the supercontinent Rodinia to the receding of the continental glaciers 10,000 years ago when Glacial Lakes Pachaug, Voluntown and Quinebaug were formed. Sediment in the bottom of Glacier Lake Pachaug is now known as Geer Sand and Gravel on Hwy 138



Later that same afternoon, President Ryan Snide lead a hike through the Rhodedendron Sanctuary. From the entrance off Chapman field, the trail leads to a brook then loops back. You will find unusual, very large almost prehistoric looking, evergreen Rhodedendron trees filling the area. They bloom in early July. This little walk is beautiful in the winter too! The trail is wheelchair accessible. A sturdy well-constructed deck extends along the path.



👨🎨 Plein Aire Painting 👩🎨

On **June 8**, a small group of artists met at Heron Marsh and spent four hours attempting to capture the colors and the light of the vanishing pond and surrounding woods. A family of Canada Geese also came by to add to the idyllic scene



*Heron Pond - first glazing.
To be continued....*



On **June 11**, President Ryan Snide, Treasurer Sue Lane, Mike Lane and Sharon Viadella gave a well received presentation at the Griswold Senior Center. People were appreciative of the role Friends of Pachaug Forest had in keeping the State from placing a Firing Range facility adjacent to the Forest, and were excited to hear about the goals and plans the group has for the future. We gained six new members!



Daisy Fleabane



Photos by Juliana V T Lewis

June 15th found another troupe of intrepid hikers enjoying the forest through the lens of their cameras. To celebrate Nature Photography Day, the group met at Green Falls Pond and set about to capture some of the exquisite wildlife and plantlife of the spot.



Make every day Earth Day!

Some of our Friends have decided not to wait for next April to keep our roadsides free of litter. Please join us in this endeavor by adopting a road! It is most convenient to pick one near your home, but anywhere in the six towns* that have a share in Pachaug Forest are welcome.

Contact Sharon @ Viadella.L@att.net

*Voluntown, Griswold, Plainfield, Sterling, Preston, North Stonington



CCC News

The funds for the new statue to be placed in Camp Longeran have been submitted to CCC Legacy, and the statue is on it's way to being created! We can look forward to a dedication some time this fall. This is quite the accomplishment considering it took twelve years for the first statue to be made and dedicated.



Growing Season



Happy Summer solstice! Unbelievably, we have reached the peak of daylight hours, but as of this writing, the typical summer weather has not reached us. This is not necessarily a problem for us gardeners. I for one relish a rainy day for the opportunity to see nature take over in the watering department. Of course the flip side to this is that damp weather encourages fungal growth. Most fungi

are great to have around the garden, but there are fungal diseases that are definitely not welcome, such as the black spot plaguing my grape vines. I did not have the opportunity to get on top of it early enough, and regretfully will most likely have to wait for the fall for a good application of fungicide (Copper Octinoate, considered 'safe' for organic gardens) Also, as the weather warms, it is important to change out the food in the Hummingbird feeders and wash them in hot water, making sure that there is no trace of black mold. Some of you are fortunate to have Lilys, Roses and Iris in bloom as many of the other spring blooms have gone past maturity.



We are looking forward to another burst of color when the Bee Balm, Black-eyed Susans, and Coneflower will be in bloom. Don't forget to check out the wild Rhododendron on the Trail near Chapman Field in early July!
(illustrations by Lauren Blair Churchill)

Upcoming Programs for July–September 2019

July

- ◆ **13 – Moonlight Kayak:** 8–10 pm (could be later) Open to members and non–members aged 10+ Meet at Pachaug Pond Boat Launch, Rte. 138, Griswold, CT. Bring your kayak or canoe, flashlight, bug repellent, and snacks. Life jackets and whistles are mandatory. To register or for more information contact Sue at: susan.fopf@outlook.com. Program is free for members. Suggested \$10 donation for non–members. **
- ◆ **14 – Blooming Rhododendron Sanctuary Walk:** 9:00 am, Rhododendron Sanctuary, Pachaug State Forest, Rte. 49 Entrance, Voluntown, Follow the signs to meet at Chapman Field. Allison Joslyn, Goodwin Forest Naturalist Apprentice, and FOPF Liaison Director will be leading this picturesque and educational 12 mile walk. Handicap accessible.
- ◆ **18 – Rock Painting:** 9:30 am – 11:30 am Griswold Senior Center. We will be painting FoPF rocks to hide on the trails or to take home to our gardens. All ages are welcome!

August

- ◆ **17 – Moonlight Paddle:** 7:30 pm, Beach Pond, North Shore Boat Launch. Open to members and non–members aged +10. Join us as we enjoy paddling Beach Pond under the light of the Full Sturgeon Moon. Bring your kayak or canoe, headlamp/flashlight, bug repellent, and snacks. Evening paddlers are required to have a white light flashlight onboard. To register or for more information, contact Sue at: susan.fopf@outlook.com. Program is free for members. Suggested \$5 donation for non_members

September

- ◆ **7 – Scavenger Hunt:** 10:30am–1:30pm Location TBA. Join FoPF for a scavenger hunt led by two of our youngest members! Cold water will be provided. Wear your bug repellent!
- ◆ **14 – 2nd Annual Member's Picnic/3rd Quarterly Meeting:** 12 noon, Hopeville Pond Pavillion, Rte 201 Griswold. Food, Fun & Games and Live Music! If you have a favorite dish you would like to share, please feel free to bring it along! **We would like to invite your friends or neighbors who would like to become members on the day of our picnic to please join us.** We look forward to seeing you and celebrating with you!

***It is mandatory all participants wear an approved Life Vest. Life Vests must be Type I, II, III, V or V-Hybrid. Attach a whistle to your life jacket The sound of a whistle will travel farther than your voice and attract attention. Connecticut and federal laws require a sound producing device onboard at all times.*

Programs are free to members and non–members unless otherwise noted. Donations are encouraged. More Details @<http://www.friendsofpachaugforest.org>

Photo by Juliana V T Lewis

