



## ***FRIENDS OF PACHAUG FOREST***

<http://www.friendsofpachaugforest.org>

### **April Clean-ups**

There were two weekends scheduled to do clean-ups for Earth Day in partnership with the Last Green Valley. We were washed out of a very needed maintenance of trails in the Green Falls area on Saturday April 20th, but were able to tackle picking up trash on Route 138 and other areas the following Saturday, joining other groups for a town-wide celebration of Earth Day.



Groups met at Hopeville Pond, and from there were assigned areas to pick up litter. Representative Brian Lanoue, Hopeville's 'Adopt a Park' legislator also joined us.



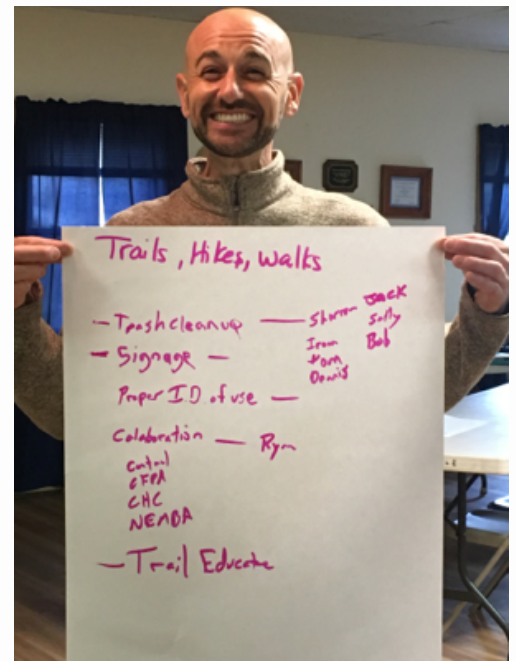
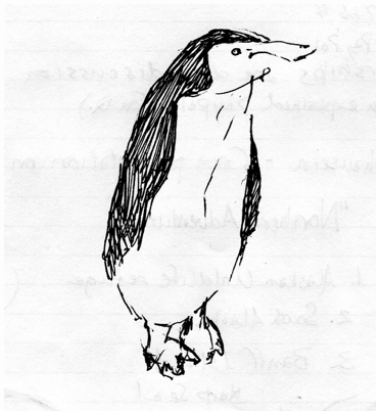
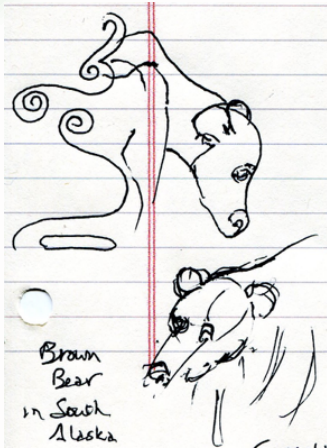
The trash was tallied, and the results were passed on to the Last Green Valley for assessment. They will use this information to find out what we need to focus on to encourage people to litter less.





# Members Quarterly Meeting May 4, 2019

Friends of Pachaug Forest held their second quarterly meeting at the Ekonk Grange Hall on Saturday morning for a light breakfast and a presentation by member Bob Rafhausein who is a world traveller and outdoorsman. He shared slides he took during several trips in the North country, including a backpacking hike across the Alaska Wildlife Refuge, and a trip around Greenland by kayak. He also shared some slides on a trip he took to South Georgia Island in the Antarctic. After Bob's presentation, we split into four groups to discuss our goals along four categories: Trails, Hikes and Walks; Educational and Recreational Events; Fundraising; and Promotion/Outreach. Everyone was encouraged to give their ideas, and at the end of the short time allocated, a year-end goal was envisioned and people were energized to participate.







Left to right: Mike Caruso, Sharon Viadella, Harold Oehler

On May 11th, the first memorial statue to commemorate the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps was dedicated in Killingworth at Chatfield Hollow State Park. Two members of the Corp, Harold Oehler, 101 years young, and Mike Caruso, 96, were on hand for the event and to share their memories. It took twelve years to fundraise enough money to make this memorial happen. It has taken only a short six months to raise enough for a second statue to be placed at Camp Lonergan in Pachaug State Forest. Expect an unveiling and dedication this fall!



Harold Oehler with the CCC memorial statue.





Looking for a great day trip? Visit the **CCC Museum in Stafford Springs**! It is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 10 to 4. Don't forget to sign the log book! Free



<http://www.friendsofpachaugforest.org> is **under construction!** Please excuse us for any unintended issues this may cause!

Enjoy the beauty of Connecticut's forests! There are wonders to be found in our Pachaug as well as in other State Parks! See how many cool things you can take pictures of on your adventures this summer and then send them to [lauren.b.churchill@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.b.churchill@gmail.com) before the 15th of the month so they can be included in the next newsletter!







## Growing Season

It's the glorious month of May! There are still a few weeks to go to plant before the really hot weather begins, and meanwhile in the forest and in yards surrounding it, the colors have been blooming! Many of the spring ephemerals, such as Bloodroot, and Spring Beauties have come and gone. You may still find Jack in the pulpit still in bloom at the end of the month, however. When you consider which perennials to plant, try to find species that are common to the area, rather than exotics. They will do better, for one thing and in the past, exotics have become a nuisance such as the "Winged Euonymous", otherwise known as "Burning Bush". There are even perennials that you can eat such as certain varieties of Kale. Plant a Cherry Tomato or two and you can be sure to have some come up in the same spot year after year!



# Upcoming Programs for June–August 2019

## June

- ◆ **1 – CT Trails Day Hike:** 10am –12:30 pm Hodge Pond South Loop Trail. Pack a lunch and water. The hike will be led by Vice-President Bob Panko. It will begin and end at a parking lot near Hodge Pond Road at Myron Kinney Brook.
- ◆ **2 – CT Trails Day Hike:** 10am – Noon Heron Pond. This hike will be led by Liason Director Allison Joslyn. We will meet at the head of Trail #2, Rte 201 park entrance,
- ◆ **2 – CT Trails Day Hike:** 1 pm – 1:45 pm Rhododendron Sanctuary. This wheelchair accessible hike will be led by President Ryan Snide. Look for the life size Smokey the Bear sign at the Rte. 49 Voluntown Entrance, Follow the signs to meet at Chapman Field, and enjoy this walk through one of the most magical trails in the forest.
- ◆ **8 – Plein Aire Painting:** 9am– 12pm Phillips Pond Picnic Area, Trail Road 1, Voluntown, CT. This will be an intermediate to experienced painting class exploring new techniques with acrylic paints led by instructor Lauren Churchill. Information and materials list available upon registration to lauren.b.churchill@gmail.com. Program fee \$20 for members/\$25 non-members.
- ◆ **15 – Nature Photography Day Hike:** 10am – 12 noon Location TBD Join Friends of Pachaug Forest, Inc. as we celebrate Nature Photography Day!
- ◆ **30 – Kayak/Paddling Lesson:** 10am – noon Hopeville Pond State Park. FOPF member Robert Raufeisen will lead us in a gateway course to the sport of kayaking. The course will be taught in calm, protected water and by day's end you'll feel ready to head out on your own excursion! Registration is required to susan.fopf@outlook.com. Program fee, free to members, \$10 for non-members \*\*

## 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. Registration required to susan.fopf@outlook.com \*\*
- ◆ **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 1/2 mile walk. Handicap accessible.

## 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. Suggested donation for non\_members \$5 Please register with Sue: susan.fopf@outlook.com\*\*

*\*\*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>**