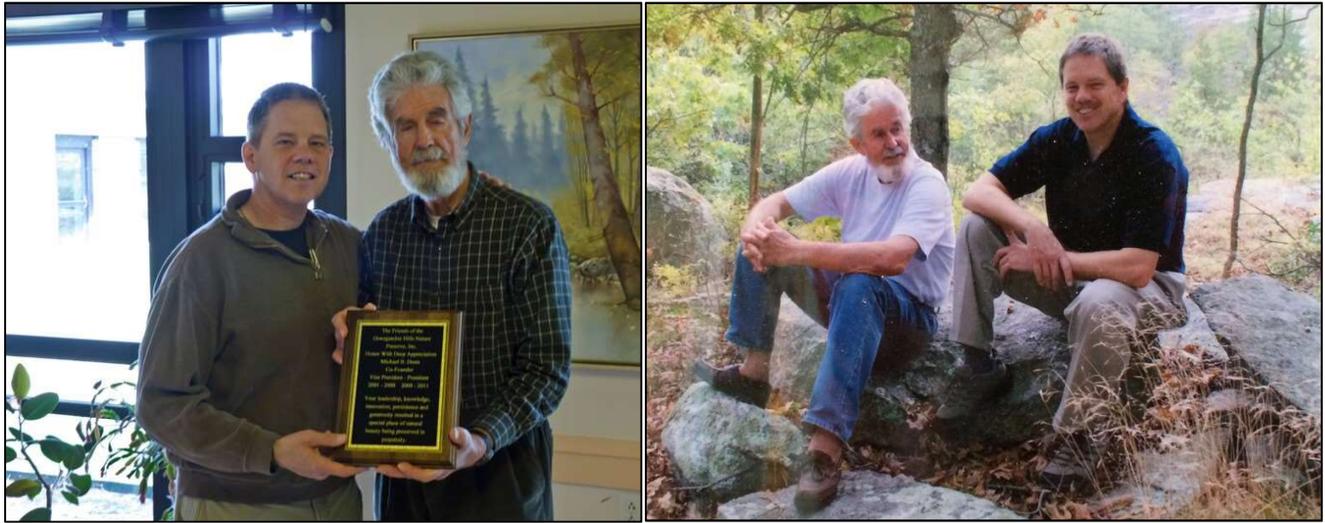


# Marvin Schutt – Visionary; Co-Founder; Friend

Shortly after I took up the gavel again as president, we learned the sad news of Marvin Schutt's passing. It seemed only appropriate for Mike Dunn, co-founder with Marvin of the Friends, to pay homage to a man whose vision and determination resulted in the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve. I know his spirit will forever live in his beloved Hills. *Kris Lambert*



*When visiting the Hills, you'll see a beautiful tribute to Marvin at the kiosk, then walk toward the bridge and see the plaque that recognizes his lasting contribution forming the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve. The family has asked that gifts in Marvin's memory be made to the Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve.*

Please read Mike Dunn's tribute to Marvin below:

Marvin Schutt, as observed by friend Paul Whitehouse, brought the concept of civic-mindedness to a whole new level. When the East Lyme Rotary Club honored him as Person of the Year in 2012, and read his accomplishments, Marvin's response was "I did all that?"

I worked shoulder to shoulder with Marvin for almost 20 years in the effort to save Oswegatchie Hills. He called me "brother" and us "partners in crime" as we created the foundation of the Friends organization in 1999. The Friends grew into a full-fledged non-profit corporation with Marvin as its first president and we worked nearly full time together for years. It was both challenging and rewarding weaving together the fabric of the many people who created the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve.

Marvin was a "people person" and it was important to him that *everyone* be acknowledged for their efforts. At one point, he typed up a list naming hundreds of people whose combined efforts created the Nature Preserve. That list survives Marvin, as does the beautiful 465 acre Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve that is now protected for future generations.

Above all else, Marvin was caring. He was also hardworking, intuitive and sometimes stubborn. The latter trait fueled his perseverance to "get the job done".

Marvin's wife Marilyn was both the love of his life, and the wind beneath his wings. She helped him keep his numerous priorities organized and was the invaluable compass he relied on when the waters got rough. Every year, the two would paddle their canoe from Saunders Point to Grimsey Beach for the annual Niantic River Kayak Regatta. Being connected to his natural environment, Marvin knew that the odds were high a southerly breeze would pick up, making the afternoon return trip quite difficult. But with unsinkable determination, and for years after more "reasonable" couples would have decided it was too much, M&M would climb into their canoe each August and head up the river. Marvin knew that trip home would be a battle against the wind. But he also knew that sometimes the things most difficult to do, are the very things that are most worth doing!

Marvin my brother, you paddled strong and accomplished much! It's your turn to float gently now and rest with a warm breeze at your back. It was an honor and a pleasure to share some of your journey. *Mike Dunn*