



Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve

© Patricia Frank Sher



© Patricia Frank Sher

Newsletter—Fall 2016

FOHNP thanks Dominion for printing this newsletter

A Message from The Veep

Editor's Note: FOHNP VP Dave Hughes is pinch-hitting for Kris for this newsletter!

The days are getting shorter, the nights longer and colder, a sure sign winter is here. The "Hills" are waiting for the first snow and many "summer" citizens are snug in their burrows waiting for spring to return. Now is the time when the Friends plan for next year's projects.

Greg Decker and the Stewardship Committee are re-routing trails to make your next hike easier and less invasive to the ecosystem.

Mike Dunn of the Land Acquisition/Legal Committee is planning the next round of legal defense to try to expand the Preserve and protect it against future development.

Kris and the Directors are diligently working with CT Fund for the Environment and Save The River/Save The Hills to build the Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition.

We are working on a schedule of guided tours for next year. We had great success on Saturday October 15, discussed below. We are also providing speakers for talks such as one at the East Lyme Library on October 5.

Protecting the Hills continues to be the major focus of the Friends. The work is never-ending, and our goal is to acquire the remaining land. Your financial support of the Friends of

Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve is so important. Have you made your gift this year? If not, please consider one as the year closes. Gifts can be made online at www.oswhills.org or sent to our Membership Chair at P.O. Box 163, Niantic, CT 06357. Thank you in advance for your support.

Now don't spend this time of year snug in your burrows, get out and take a hike in the Hills and enjoy the New England winter at its best. With all good wishes for the holiday season.

Oswegatchie Hills Presentations

Rich Gallagher and Greg Decker recently presented a "Discover Oswegatchie Hills" talk at East Lyme Public Library.



Come to our next talk, Saturday, Jan. 21, 3 to 4:30 pm at Waterford Public Library

ELHS Archaeological Club Digs into Clark Pond's Past

This Fall, the East Lyme High School Archeological Club, led by HS teacher Will Reed, conducted an investigative dig around the dam section of Clark Pond in the Preserve.

The focus was to try to locate evidence of the icing operation that took place at the Pond during the late 18th and early 19th century. Photos of the icehouse and ice harvesting are the only current evidence of the operation.



The students built the sifting devices prior to beginning the project and put them to work in looking for some small fragments that might have been associated with the operation. They discovered some ceramics and bits of coal in the sifters but nothing that could be directly linked to the icing operation. It does appear the foundation of the icehouse may have been encapsulated by truckloads of fill years ago when the ball fields were created along with what is now Memorial Park Drive.



Even though the group did not make any significant discoveries they did learn the basics of conducting an archeological dig in the field and processing the resulting data in the lab.

October 15 Head for the Hills Day a Rousing Success!

On Saturday, October 15, the Friends, STR-STH, and the Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition held a Head for the Hills Day at OHNP. The public open house included maps, exhibits and information on the effort to save the Hills.



Greg Decker briefed the crowd on the history of the Preserve and logistics for the hike.

It was a rousing success, with approximately sixty participants, including residents from several southeastern CT towns, and thirty ecology students from East Lyme High School.

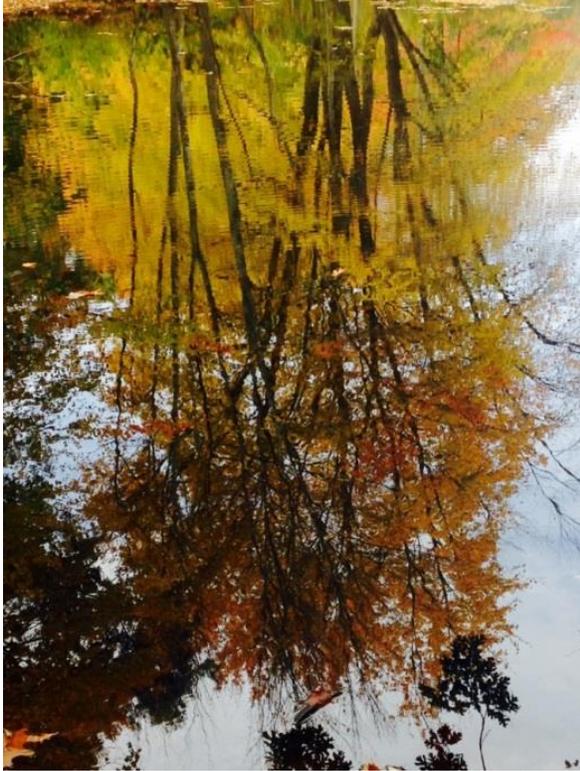
When such events are scheduled, they are posted on our website and Facebook page.



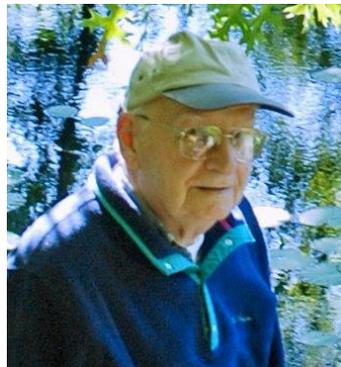
Greg discusses the wildlife found on the preserve with the ELHS Ecology class.

Seen Around the Preserve

Photos courtesy of Paul Parulis.



A Memorial to a Founding Member



Carl Stamm, of Niantic, passed away Nov. 1. He was the husband of Jean Elizabeth (Margelot) Stamm who predeceased him on July 16, 2012.

He served in the U.S. Army in World War II, and retired from the CT Department of Environmental Protection where he worked on several state parks.

He was a founding board member of the Friends, a member of STR-STH, and was involved with the startup of the Children's Museum in Niantic. Carl was full of knowledge and stories about the Hills, including getting bitten by a copperhead snake as a child climbing ledges in the Hills. He will be missed by us all.

Cleanup of Clark Pond Dam Area

Several members of the FOHNP Stewardship Committee took advantage of the low water in Clark Pond and spent a morning removing some exposed items from the Pond. The piping of one of the two devices used to control the pond's level, known as a "Beaver Deceiver," was no longer needed and were removed. Tires and large timbers were also removed from the entrance area near the dam. Some members quickly discovered that the sediment (muck) near the shoreline is pretty sticky. "Now I know what it might be like to get stuck in quicksand," commented one member.



Membership in Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve is an important way to ensure that the hills we love so much are preserved for future generations. Renew your membership today.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

(Please note that the Friends of Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve does not share or sell member information.)

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

If your company matches gifts to non-profit organizations, please be sure to enclose a matching gift form. **Thank you for your gift!**

Please make checks payable to FOHNP, Inc. and mail to: Friends of the Oswegatchie Nature Preserve, ATTN: Membership Chair, P.O. Box 163, Niantic, CT 06357.