



# Friends of the OSWEGATCHIE HILLS NATURE PRESERVE

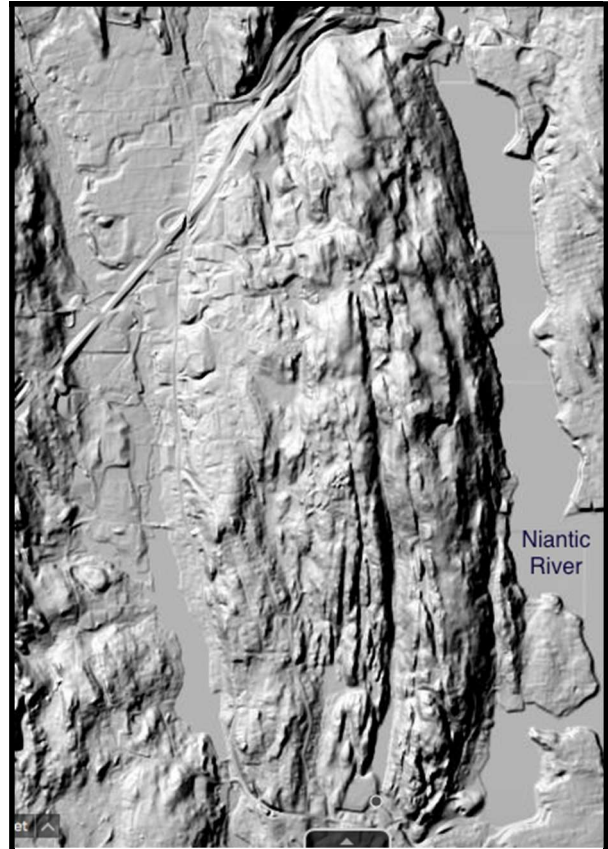
## Newsletter—Winter 2018

### A Message from the President

The impressive black and white photo to the right shows the latest UCONN elevation imagery of our Hills. It's striking in that it highlights the sharp contrast and steepness between ridges and valleys that make hiking in this terrain a good workout. Hiking in the Hills requires some planning, good shoes, staying hydrated, energy for maintaining stamina for the uphill climbs - and a map. Like any hike, we never know what we will encounter and one needs to be prepared.

This is similar to our effort to save the remaining mile of our precious coastal forest. We need to be prepared for whatever comes along. Who knew this effort would carry on for 16 plus years? But we have prepared ourselves for this hike uphill, getting our strength from all of you who cherish and love this place. With your support, we are carrying this effort over the rocky terrain of legal battles.

But when we do summit this effort, it will be well worth it. All who cherish the Hills will appreciate the feeling of accomplishment and the fact that being properly prepared allowed us to conquer this quest.



### FOHNP Annual Meeting to be Held Saturday, May 5

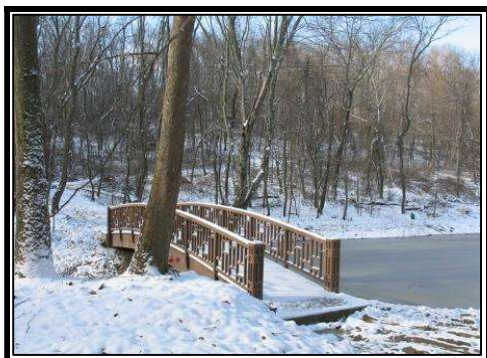
Please join us on Saturday, May 5, for the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the East Lyme Room, located in the Library.

## Clark Pond Bridge Moving Ahead

Winter, especially this one with its seemingly endless string of Nor'easters, is not the ideal time to build a bridge. Nonetheless, progress on realizing our goal of having the project completed by fall 2019 is being made. In February all the parts and pieces of the Diamond Pier Foundation (illustrated below, a generous, in-kind donation from United Builders Supply), were delivered and are ready for installation. This type of foundation is wetland-friendly and is used frequently in ecologically sensitive environments. Once weather permits, we will begin work on removing invasive species and preparing the area for construction.



Franz Edson, a member of the Friends' board and key member of the bridge crew, will provide an update at the Annual Meeting. Be sure to come and hear about this important undertaking that will not only enhance the main entrance to our beloved Hills but will also mitigate numerous environmentally damaging issues.



*The bridge above is representative of the bridge approved for Clark Pond Dam*

## Pitch Pine Conservation Effort in the Hills Finds some Great Partners

As seen in the Winter 2017 newsletter, the Hills are home to an increasingly threatened pitch pine/scrub oak ecosystem.

On March 20, members of our Board of Directors led members of the Groton Open Space Association (GOSA), Avalonia Land Trust and STR-STH on a tour of the Hills' Pitch Pine stands.



GOSA also has existing stands of these imperiled pines and is actively managing them to ensure their survival in the future. The goal of the hike was to meet with others who have expertise and knowledge of successful pitch pine conservation methods.



*Whitney Adams and Greg Decker remove pitch pine cones for processing*

FOHNP extends a special thanks to Sue Sutherland and Whitney Adams for sharing their knowledge about pitch pines, collecting cones and extracting the seeds.

All the information provided was very useful and our attending FOHNP board members are very thankful for the cooperation.

## Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition Legal Update

CFE continues to represent us in ongoing legal battles to protect and preserve the remaining 236 acres of undeveloped, unprotected Oswegatchie Hills. Roger Reynolds, CFE Chief Legal Director, provides us this Legal Update.

### **Zoning appeal to Superior Court**

After over a year of inactivity on this case, the Court held a status conference on November 27, 2017, in which the Court addressed Landmark's anticipated response to CFE's motion to dismiss the appeal. Follow-up telephone conferences were held in December, January and February with the judge. No further calls are scheduled, and we expect a decision on our motion to dismiss Landmark's appeal in the next several months.

### **Sewer Appeals to Appellate Court**

The sewer appeals (both our appeal and East Lyme's) are scheduled to be argued in the Appellate Court on April 10, 2018. The case is fully briefed. We will argue that in overturning the Sewer Commission's decision to limit the amount of sewage capacity granted to Landmark, the Superior Court judge improperly usurped East Lyme's authority to make decisions on allocation of this scarce and environmentally important resource. The cases are A.C. 39804; 39806.



*CT Land Conservation Council steward Humphrey Tyler at the annual conference held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at Wesleyan University.*

## CT Trails Day Hike Will Feature New Trail and Map

FOHNP will celebrate CT Trails Weekend by hosting guided hikes on Saturday, June 2. Hikes will get underway at 9:30 a.m. and will leave from the main entrance. One of the hikes will include exploring a newly cut trail.

Hikers, who have previously visited two current "points of interest" – a small crawl-through cave and Quartz Pit – located on the dead-ended .2 mile Blue/White spur trail, will now be able to continue past the Quartz Pit and continue south back to the main entrance. The new trail, blazed in red, creates a loop along a ridgeline, providing hikers with the opportunity to explore around glacial boulders and enjoy wonderful vistas of the wetlands on either side of the ridge.

A revised map will reflect this new trail as well as notable changes to the way different entrances/exits to the Preserve are marked.

Visit our website at:

[www.oswhills.org](http://www.oswhills.org)

And our Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/fohnp](https://www.facebook.com/fohnp)

## FOHNP thanks the following members for their generous support in 2017

Alan Alfano	Nancy and George	Stephen Mullen
Stephen Alligood	Glendenning	Arlene and Tom Nebel
Dorothy Anselmo	Linnea Golubchik	Niantic Plumbing
Lori and Frank Balantic	Jay Clark and Susan Gonzalez	Eileen and Ken O'Pasek
Anne and Jeff Barnhart	Cordette and Fred Grimsey	Janice and Tony Orsini
Florence Barth	Stefanie and Jim Hall	Liz and Jim Paganetti
Jane and Ralph Bates	Richard Hall	Margaret Parker
Edward Ruete and DorisBeebe	Penny and Ray Heller	Patti and Paul Parulis
Barbara and John Birmingham	Molly and Donald Helms	Neil Passman
Kathleen Bitgood	Regina and Joseph Hitchenry	Pat and Ken Payne
Karen and Stanley Boustine	Donna and Donald Hobbs	Norman Peck
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Lisa and Don Burch	Dorothy and Nelson Hulme	Pamela and Creig Peterson
Margo and Harold Burr	Carol and James Indorato	Maggi and John Prokop
Holly Camerota	Donna and Edwin Jutila	Richard Rice
Jane and Al Capozza, Jr.	John Kanabis	James Rives
Margaret Caste	Christine and Peter Karpinski	Deb and Larry Roberts
Julie Clements-Reagan	Claire and Gerald Kavarnos	Pat and Josh Rovero
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Cathy and Don Danila	Jack Kohanim	Alice and Tony Spinelli
Denette and Bruce Dasinger	Kris and Brian Lambert	Brenda and Lloyd Steen
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Anne Davis	Caren and Bob Linden	Jeanne Manfredi and
Alda and Michael Debboli	Janet Littlefield	Jackie Sullivan
Ceil and Greg Decker	Tess Deshefy-Longhi and	Gay and Jack Suplicki
Michele and Charles Dexter	John Longhi	Jane and John Templeton
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Pamela and Franz Edson	Floy and Steve Marks-	Mimi and Greg Vymola
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Shirley and Raymond Gaito,	Beverly and Gerald Mayer	Sandra Winslow
Sr.	Angela and Jack McLean	Alison and Mark Woods
Joyce and Rich Gallagher	Nicole and Paul Michaud	Bill Young
Marjorie and Edward Geary	Carol and George Milne	Christine and Bob Young
Mary Ellen and Wil Gladue	Mimi and Philip Mountain	

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list, however if you find an error, please let us know.

To join the effort and become a member, contact us at: The Friends, PO Box 163, Niantic, CT 06357