

To enhance and encourage
the public use and awareness
of Sessions Woods



Volume 12, Number 3
Summer 2014

The Friends of Sessions Woods was established as an all-volunteer organization in 1998 to facilitate projects and programs that enhance the value of Sessions Woods.

Friends of Sessions Woods
c/o Sessions Woods WMA
PO Box 1550
Burlington, CT 06013-1550

www.fosw.org

FOSW Meeting & Plant Sale a Success!

One of the most important environmental issues today is the impact of non-native invasive plants and animals on the biodiversity of an area. The FOSW helped educate their membership and the general public on this important issue during the recent annual meeting which featured a presentation by wildlife biologist Peter Picone on planting native species. Pete provided an overview of the choices that can be made when planting and landscaping a backyard. For example, rather than planting invasive species such as barberry or winged euonymus, Pete advocated choosing native blueberry instead.

Invasive species can dominate a landscape and impact the wildlife associated with the habitat. Native wildlife have evolved to feed on native plants. Invasives often do not provide the same nutritional value as native plants.

A native plant sale followed the presentation. Earth Tones Nursery, from Woodbridge, offered many great plants for wildlife. The plants included those that will provide nectar for pollinators; seeds and berries for birds, mammals, and turtles; and even some leaves for caterpillars which will later turn into beautiful moths and butterflies!

Open Center Day Attracts 400!

On May 24, the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center hosted an "Open Center Day" with a variety of activities for families. An early morning bird walk, led by CT DEEP Wildlife Photographer Paul Fusco, spotted over 40 different kinds of birds on the property, including scarlet tanager, yellow warbler, tree swallow, and ruby-throated hummingbird.

"Survivor Skills," a workshop presented by Hillary Clifford, drew over 60 participants! Hillary showed the audience how to pack a backpack and helped the group assemble small survival kits to take home. (See the calendar inside for information on a "Survivor Skills" repeat program in August.)

Other activities include archery instruction with the CT Conservation Education/Firearms Safety Program; a special art class, featuring salamanders, led by local artist Judy Bird; salamander crafts; and the very popular "tattoo" station with Renee Geiger, mom to CT Wildlife Editor Kathy Herz. The Friends of Sessions Woods were on hand to sell books from the book cart and provide information on membership.

Overall, there was positive feedback from the many attendees and the CT DEEP Wildlife Division staff and Friends of Sessions Woods are considering hosting additional "Open Center Days" in the near future.



Welcome New Friends!

The Friends of Sessions Woods would like to welcome several new members to our organization:

Aaron and Susanne Festa
Melissa Gaudet Family
Jacklin Rod & Gun Club
Ryan Lemieux
Samuel Perry Family
Josh and Yuko Peters
David Rutkowski
Richard and Susanna Shirlock
J. Fenton Williams

What's New at Sessions Woods

Artist Renee Geiger will be displaying her original artwork during June, July, and August in the hallway of the Conservation Education Center. Renee's work features endangered wildlife in addition to other environmental topics. The work is available for sale with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Friends Of Sessions Woods.

The art hallway of the Conservation Education Center is available for artists to display their work through appointment with the CT DEEP Wildlife Division's Outreach Program. Generally, artwork should have a wildlife or other environmental theme. Photographs, paintings, pastels, and other original artwork are acceptable. Each artist can display for a period of two to three months. For additional information, please contact Laura (laura.rogers-castro@ct.gov or 860-675-8130).

Many Thanks

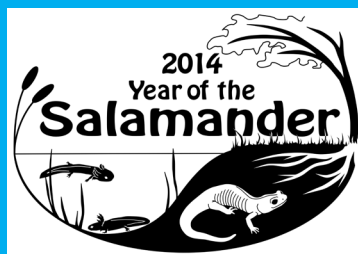
The Friends of Sessions Woods would like to thank the friends and family of Mary Sessions Morier for their generous donations in her memory.

Sessions Woods Calendar of Events

The Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center's Public Program Series is a cooperative venture between the CT DEEP Wildlife Division and the Friends of Sessions Woods. Please pre-register for these programs by calling 860-675-8130. Programs are free unless noted. An adult must accompany children under 12 years old. No pets allowed!

Salamander Day July 20, 2014, 1:00 to 4:00 PM!

Learn about Connecticut's 12 different salamanders during this special afternoon for families as we celebrate "The Year of the Salamander." Discover what makes salamanders unique in the animal world and why they are considered to be nature's barometers. The afternoon will include a viewing of live salamanders; crafts; art activity with local artist Judy Bird; children's art contest results, and more! Pre-registration (860-675-8130) is not required but appreciated!



July 16, 2014 (Wed.), 10:00 a.m. Butterfly Walk

Visit the flowers and fields at Sessions Woods to identify the local butterfly fauna with Wildlife Division Natural Resources Educator Laura Rogers-Castro. Participants will learn the basics to butterfly identification, including tips on distinguishing the various butterfly families. This program will begin in the classroom area located in the exhibit room of the Education Center.

August 19, 2014 (Tues.), 6:00 p.m. Beaver Marsh Evening Hike

Join Wildlife Division Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro on an evening walk to the beaver marsh at Sessions Woods. Learn about beavers and other marsh critters as we explore this beautiful and serene location in the wildlife management area. Dress appropriately and bring water for the 2-mile roundtrip trek.

August 13, 2014 (Wed.), 10:00 a.m. Survivor Skills

Wildlife Division Outreach Program Assistant Hillary Clifton will present a program for children, ages 10 years and older, on tips and skills for surviving in the outdoors. Hillary will introduce participants to map reading and orienteering; how to pack a backpack; and more! Each participant will make a mini-survival kit to take home. Be sure to register early for this "back by popular demand" program. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

September 13, 2014 (Sat.), 10:00 a.m. Stream & Marsh Exploration

Explore the streams and beaver marsh at Sessions Woods with Wildlife Division Outreach Program Assistant Hillary Clifton. Hillary will introduce participants to the critters, including salamanders, discovered in a freshwater stream. Then, the group will walk to the marsh to identify the wildlife found in this unique habitat. The hike will total over 2 miles roundtrip. Please bring water and wear appropriate shoes since there is a possibility of getting wet feet!



Membership Renewal & Special Projects Fund Donations

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I am renewing my membership _____

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Annual Membership Levels:

Student (under 21) \$6

Individual \$15

Family \$20

Patron \$50

Corporation \$100

\$_____ Donation for Special Projects Fund
Memberships run annually from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. Each membership receives *Connecticut Wildlife* magazine.

For new members only: Memberships received during the months of January to June are effective through June 30 of the following year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We gratefully accept your contributions. Fees and contributions are fully tax deductible. My check for \$_____ is enclosed. Please send your check, made payable to Friends of Sessions Woods, to:

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PO Box 1550
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