

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



Volume 12, Number 4
Fall 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

Ex Officio Peter Good Retires

Wildlife Division Supervising Biologist and FOSW Board of Directors ex officio member Peter Good has retired from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection following over 30 years of service. Peter became an ex officio of the FOSW after the retirement of Wildlife Biologist Steve Jackson in 2003. Peter assisted the FOSW with many efforts, including spearheading each CT Hunting and Fishing Appreciation Day. Peter intends to remain active with the FOSW, coordinating membership enrollment, renewals, and mailing lists. Ex officio Laura Rogers-Castro will continue to assist the FOSW Board of Directors.



Ex officio Peter Good, retired Supervising Wildlife Division Biologist, poses with Rocky Raccoon (Jane Good) during CT Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day in 2011.

Salamander Day Enjoyed by Many

What animal serves as an excellent indicator of changes in environmental quality? How many different kinds of salamanders are found in Connecticut? What is one of the most common vertebrates found in the northeastern forest? All those questions and more were answered on July 20 during Salamander Day at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center. Participants discovered there are 12 species of salamanders in Connecticut and they serve as early warning signs to pollutants and changes in the environment. The 50 or so "Salamander Search" participants located several red-backed salamanders, a common vertebrate in the Connecticut forest, as they turned over logs and large rocks during a walk in the woods.

Other activities included a salamander presentation by herpetologist Dennis Quinn; various salamander crafts; a featured art project with local artist Judy Bird; storytelling by Wildlife Division Outreach Assistant Hillary Clifton; face painting and tattoos with volunteers; and the presentation of awards for the recent Salamander Art Contest for children in grades K-5.



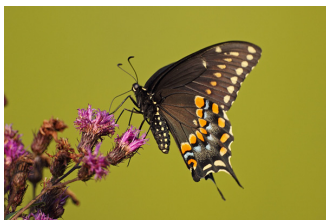
Volunteers Needed!

Sessions Woods hosts many special events during the year and assistance is needed occasionally to help staff the FOSW welcome table; book cart; and/or refreshment table. If you would like to be on a "Call List" to volunteer during these events, please contact Paul Willis (oceans1@cox.net) or Laura at Sessions Woods (laura.rogers-castro@ct.gov or 860-675-8130).



What's New at Sessions Woods

- There's new pavement in the parking lot at Sessions Woods! The grassy islands were removed creating a better parking scheme, along with easier winter snow plowing. There is now an additional location for handicapped parking. The flagpole garden has been modified and there is easier access to the building.
- FOSW members Donna Potwin and Janet Bumstead have been maintaining the butterfly garden behind the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center. The garden has been attracting eastern tiger swallowtails, banded hairstreaks, dun and silver-spotted skippers, and many other butterflies. MonarchWatch, a butterfly conservation organization based in Kansas, donated several swamp milkweed plants this year but monarch butterflies seem to be absent. The resident woodchuck, however, has been making its presence known!



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!

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!



October 4, 2014 (Sat.), 1:30 p.m. Tree Identification Trail Hike

Join Wildlife Division Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro on a hike along the Tree Identification Trail at Sessions Woods. Laura will discuss Connecticut's native trees and their wildlife value. The hike will be approximately 2.5 miles roundtrip. Participants should wear appropriate shoes for hiking on a woodland trail and bring water as needed. The program will begin at the flagpole in front of the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center.

October 14, 2014 (Tues.), 1:30 p.m. Fall Foliage Walk

Take a leisurely walk to the Summer House at Sessions Woods with Wildlife Division Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro. We will view the woodland foliage and signs of the season! Learn about the Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area along the way. Please meet in the Exhibit Area of the Center.

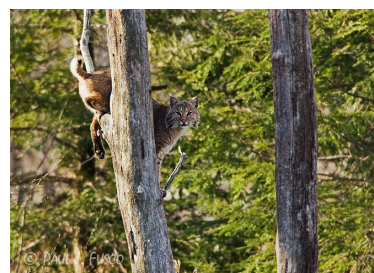
November 1, 2014 (Sat.), 9:00 a.m. Yoga & Hike

Join Friends of Sessions Woods Director and Appalachian Mountain Club Hike Leader Jan Gatzuras for a short yoga session, followed by a 5.5 mile-hike on the Tunxis and Sessions Woods Trails. Participants will enjoy a pretty woodland loop which includes "The Great Wall," a steep rock escarpment nearly 70 feet high. Meet at the pavilion behind the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center. Please call Jan (860-212-6067) with questions. Heavy rain cancels.



January 17, 2015 (Saturday), 1:30 p.m. The Bobcat: CT's Secretive Wild Cat

Wildlife Division Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro will provide an introduction to the bobcat, Connecticut's only wild cat. This Powerpoint presentation will include information on the natural history of bobcats, including diet, breeding habits, and habitat requirements. Participants also will learn how to identify bobcat tracks and compare them to other mammals. This program is suitable for ages 10 and older.



Bobcat photo taken by Wildlife Photographer Paul Fusco at the Beaver Marsh, Sessions Woods.

Membership Renewal & Special Projects Fund Donations

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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:

Friends of Sessions Woods
PO Box 1550
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