

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



Volume 13, Number 2  
Spring 2015

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.

## In Memoriam: Bob Merriman

The Friends of Sessions Woods is deeply saddened by the passing of one of the founding members, Bob Merriman. During his lifetime, Bob helped to found or serve many community organizations in Bristol and Burlington. In 1998, Bob and several other conservation-minded individuals, formed the Friends of Sessions Woods to facilitate projects and programs that enhance the value of the property. Over the past 17 years, Bob provided invaluable guidance and support to the Friends of Sessions Woods. The Merriman Family Fund and the Main Street Community Foundation (which he also founded) have provided funding for many projects, materials, and programs to benefit wildlife and visitors to Sessions Woods.

Bob was 96 years old when he passed on March 3. The FOSW thanks him for his many years of service and send condolences to his family and friends. There will be a special gathering to celebrate Bob's life on April 12, at 1:00 p.m. at the Carousel Museum in Bristol.

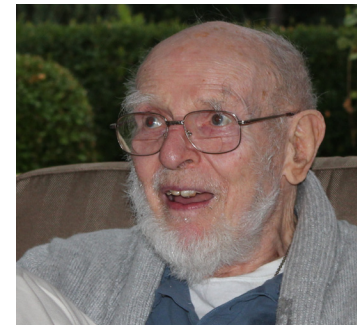


Photo courtesy of Susan Sadecki

## Help Us Conserve Wildlife

**Dogs off leash can have a detrimental effect on nesting wildlife. Many forest birds, including wild turkeys and ovenbirds, nest on the ground. Please help us conserve wildlife by keeping your dog on a leash when at Sessions Woods. THANKS!**

## FOSW Board of Directors

**The Board of Directors for the Friends of Sessions Woods are elected to 3-year terms.**

*The following individuals will be starting a new 3-year term:*

M. Charles Bird, Vice President  
Sandy Mazeau, Treasurer  
Alissa Bumstead  
Ann Jesup  
Elmer Madsen

*The following individuals seek to be on the Board for an initial term:*

Ruth Faasen  
Emily Burzynski (Student)  
Mallorie Iozzo (Student)  
Emily Wilcox (Student)

*The following individuals are currently in either their second or third year of their terms:*

Jan Gatzuras (2nd)  
Paul Willis, President (2nd)  
Henry Perrault (3rd)  
Heather Perrault (3rd)  
Josh Peters (2nd)  
Clark Spencer, Vice President (3rd)  
Cheryl Spencer (3rd)  
Dave Zabel (2nd)

*Ex Officio:* Laura Rogers-Castro

## Thanks Newman's Own Foundation!

The Friends of Sessions Woods appreciates the generosity of the Newman's Own Foundation following the receipt of a generous \$7,500 grant! The grant will be used to replenish the bus transportation fund for school field trips; provide nature observation programs; and purchase additional educational materials. Sessions Woods has become an ideal location for school field trips with new and returning schools visiting each year.

## Welcome New Friends!

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

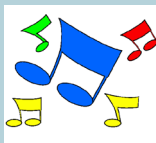
Ruth Faasen  
Lance Hansen  
Ken Kirkby Family  
Bob & Carol Mumford Family

## What's New at Sessions Woods

- Environmental Consultant Dennis Quinn is currently displaying his photo images of insects and spiders in the Art Hallway at Sessions Woods. The framed photographs are available for sale with a portion of the sale benefitting the Friends of Sessions Woods.
- Wildlife Division staff are busy completing the final exhibit "cube" in the Exhibit Area. This cube will feature the diversity and importance of wetland habitat.
- While frigid outside this winter, visitors indoors at Sessions Woods were able to view many different birds through the bird viewing Observation Window in the Exhibit Area. A partial list includes red-bellied, downy and hairy woodpeckers; juncos; tufted titmouse; goldfinch; and a hungry Cooper's hawk!

## Special Live Music Event at SW

All are welcome to attend a fundraiser for FOSW on Saturday, April 25, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Sessions Woods. There will be original songs, both acoustic and electric, by local residents and performers Con Doty and Life Station. Donations are appreciated!



# 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 860-424-3011. Programs are free unless noted. An adult must accompany children under 12 years old. No pets allowed!*

## FOSW Annual Meeting with Live Hawks and Owls April 26, 2015!

The 2015 Friends of Sessions Woods Annual Meeting is on Sunday, April 26, beginning at 12:30 with the Dessert Extravaganza Potluck. At 1:00 p.m., the FOSW will conduct a brief, 10-minute business meeting before the featured presentation. This year's program, "Hawks and Owls" will be presented by Sharon Audubon and include live animals. All are welcomed and the program is free!



May 9, 2015 (Sat.), 1:30 p.m.

### Backyard Birds for Kids

Come join us for a fun and interactive bird program for children under age 13 and their caregivers, presented by educator Laura Rogers-Castro. Children will learn about birds they see in their backyards; what they eat; and the materials used in nest construction. Meet in the exhibit area of the Education Center.

May 23, 2014 (Sat.), 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
**Open Center Day**

The Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center will be open with a full day of scheduled, fun activities for all ages. There will be guided walks and hikes in the morning and a special art activity led by local artist Judy Bird in the afternoon, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Master Wildlife Conservationists will staff wildlife-related activities, including a wildlife track-making activity. Best of all, it is FREE!

June 6, 2015 (Sat.), Trails Day Hikes

Since 1993, the first Saturday of every June has been designated "National Trails Day," inspiring the public to celebrate America's trail system. Sessions Woods will host two hikes designed for participants to learn about the unique habitats at this wildlife management area. The first hike is a 5.5 mile excursion that begins at 9:00 a.m. and is led by Jan Gatzuras and Jeff O'Donnell. The second hike, beginning at 1:30 p.m., is 3 miles roundtrip and led by Karen Geitz and Wildlife Biologist Peter Picone. Meet the hike leaders in front of the Education Center. Bring water, a snack, and wear proper walking shoes.

July 18, 2015 (Sat.), 1:30 p.m.

### Butterfly Walk

Back by popular demand...Wildlife Division Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro will provide participants with a lesson on the basics to butterfly identification, including tips on distinguishing the various butterfly families. Following a brief indoor program, Laura will guide the group on a walk to identify the local butterfly fauna at Sessions Woods. Meet in the classroom located in the exhibit room of the Education Center.

## Membership Renewal & Special Projects Fund Donations

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

I am a new member \_\_\_\_\_

I am renewing my membership \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

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:

Friends of Sessions Woods  
PO Box 1550  
Burlington CT 06013-1550