

## **FALPS NEWS AND ACTIVITY UPDATE**

**March, 2024**

**“I have never been for a walk in the woods and been disappointed.”**

**– A quote by Walt Landgraf**

**Remember: The state requires pets to be on a leash no longer than 7 feet.**

Did we really have a winter this year? Our trails are open and it is a beautiful time to get out and enjoy. Soon the frogs will be courting in the vernal pools and the beaver swamp. The first will be the wood frogs, whose calls sound like ducks quacking. They will be followed by the shrill call of the spring peeper.

### **FALPS Events**

**March, 2024**

#### **A Leash on Life: Hiking with Your Dogs**

Sunday, March 3, 1 p.m. Meet at gate at Austin Hawes Campground, West River Road, Barkhamsted, American Legion State Forest.

Join FALPS Board member Jean Miller and her dog, Jamie, and FALPS Board President, Erik Landgraf, for a 4-mile round trip hike up Legion Road to Turkey Vulture Trail. It will be an invigorating hike for both you and your dogs. Dogs must be leashed. Rain or snowstorm will cancel.

#### **Wildlife Tracking and Animal Signs**

Sunday, March 10, 1 p.m. (site to be announced). Ever wonder what those tracks are out in the woods? Join retired, long-time Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Furbearer Biologist, Paul Rego, for a walk in the forest to learn just what those tracks and signs left behind might be.

Dress appropriately for the weather. Free and open to all ages. Heavy snow, rain or ice will cancel. Check FALPS' Facebook page or website in case of inclement weather.

## **Photographing Where the Wild Things Are**

Sunday, March 17, 1:30 p.m., Squire's Tavern, 100 East River Road, Peoples State Forest, Barkhamsted. Join photographer Tom Hester as he discusses wildlife in Barkhamsted, particularly around the West Branch of the Farmington River. Tom will display some of his photos and give tips on how best to photograph the wildlife in our midst. Free and open to all.

## **Annual Wildflower Walk**

Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., Henry Buck Trail, American Legion State Forest, Barkhamsted. Join Erik and Helen Ann Landgraf for their Annual Wildflower walk on the Henry Buck Trail. Erik, FALPS Board President, will discuss the various types of wildflowers in this area resplendent with many species. After the wildflower walk, folks can choose to continue hiking on the Henry Buck Trail for a moderately strenuous 3-mile+ walk.

## **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Barkhamsted Earth Day Nature Festival:**

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-5 p.m., Matthies Grove Pavilion, Peoples State Forest, East River Road, Barkhamsted. Come get your Nature at this beloved event co-sponsored by the Town of Barkhamsted and the Friends of American Legion and Peoples State Forests. Learn about Connecticut fish and wildlife, construct bird boxes (for kids), and listen to experts on everything from Bald Eagles to native plants. There's something for everyone at this event, which is free and open to all. Come enjoy the day alongside the West Branch of the Farmington River.

**May, 2024**

## **Learn to Bird with an Expert's Bird's-eye View**

Saturday, May 18, 7-10 a.m., site in Peoples State Forest to be announced. *Registration required. **Please e-mail** [ctfalps@gmail.com](mailto:ctfalps@gmail.com).* Join expert birder John Weeks and get tips on how to spot birds using your senses such as hearing to recognize birdsong, sight to gain familiarity with flight patterns and habitat. Bring binoculars as well as a willingness to watch and listen.

## **Floating on the (Farmington) River: Safe and Fun Ways to Enjoy the Water**

Sunday, May 5 at 1 p.m. Meet at Matthies Grove Pavilion, Peoples State Forest, East River Road, Barkhamsted. Thinking about paddling, stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) or canoeing on the Wild and Scenic West Branch of the Farmington River that runs through American Legion and Peoples State Forests? Join FALPS Board Member Jean Miller and other local paddling experts to learn about safety on the river, how to pick a kayak, SUP or canoe and watch what each of these crafts can do on the water.

## **Work Party Update**

The Work Parties will be starting up. Stay tuned for opportunities to help.

## **FALPS Gear**

**Riverton Store:** Items for sale: Short & long sleeved tee shirts, hats.  
Stop in for a yummy bite to eat and treat yourself to a new hat or tee shirt

## **Peoples State Forest 100 Anniversary**

It is never too early to plan ahead. We are in the planning stages for the 100 anniversary of Peoples State Forest. This will occur the first weekend in October 2024. More information will follow as the date gets closer.

A photo contest is under way to help show off the beauty of the local forest. Go to the [FALPS web page](#) to learn more about this contest and how you can become part of history in preserving the views of today for the future to come.

## **Quote of the Month**

When spring came, even  
The false spring, there  
Were no problems except  
Where to be happiest

**-Ernest Hemingway**