

Giant News



Newsletter of The Sleeping Giant Park Association

Winter 2004

Number 78

President's Letter



Sometimes a few dedicated people can make a difference. March 4th marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Sleeping Giant Park

Association. The Association was founded in 1924 by a small group, led by James W. Toumey, Arthur E. Woodruff, J. Walter Bassett, Bancel LaFarge and Arnold G. Dana to save Sleeping Giant as a park.

Back then it must have seemed like an impossible dream. The entire mountain was privately owned and as owner of The Giant's "head", Judge Willis Cook had leased the land to the Mount Carmel Traprock Company. Since 1912 they had been blasting away at The Giant's scalp. Traprock was in big demand, the company was making a large profit and they had no intention of giving up their lease on the property.

The Association had little money and at first, little public support. It may not seem extreme now, but in 1924 it

took a good deal of courage to promote something that many people felt was anti-progress. In the aftermath of the First World War, with the automobile becoming popular, the people wanted paved roads and traprock was in great demand. Also, the quarry operation was a source of both jobs and money for the town and must have been a help to many local businesses.

The following, taken from the Articles of The Sleeping Giant Park Association, captures the purpose of its founders:

"...to secure, acquire, preserve, and maintain land in the towns of Hamden, North Haven and Wallingford on or in the vicinity of Mt. Carmel with whatever improvements there may be upon it, for use as a park, forest, or game preserve and with the purpose of transferring the same for the use and benefit of the public."

The founders of the Association persevered. Slowly they gathered public support to save The Giant. Donations, both in money and land, came

(continued on page 2)

Celebrating Our 80th Anniversary

The day was March 4, 1924, when Bancel LaFarge, J. Walter Bassett and James E. Wheeler, identified on the document as the Subscribers, signed their names to the new Articles of Association of the Sleeping Giant Park Association, Incorporated and your Association was born. On March 4, 2004, we will celebrate the 80th birthday.

So many milestones throughout these years contributed to the success story of this Association, milestones made possible because many of you made it happen. These 80 years can be looked upon as VOLUNTEERISM at its best. Today, the Sleeping Giant State Park offers a trail system of about 32 miles extended over an area of more than 1600 acres. Today, your Association has more than 2300 members. We have reasons and causes to celebrate.

No wonder then that your Board of Directors decided to make sure that we have opportunities to celebrate. Here are our plans: *(continued on page 2)*

President's Letter

(continued from page 1)

in. Finally, in 1933, after years of negotiation and legal battle, the Giant's head was saved. However The SGPA didn't stop there. Continued work over the years has added land to the park and the Association built and maintains the park's 32 mile trail system.

Today the Association may be a little older and have a few more members but we haven't lost our spirit nor lost sight of why we're here. The Giant still finds itself under attack. Every year more land on the flanks of the mountain is lost to development and over the years The Sleeping Giant Park Association has battled and defeated such "improvements" as pipelines and radio towers.

Just as in 1924, the reason we can protect the mountain is because of the support and determination of our members. We all need to stay active and involved with the park. Encourage friends to join the Association. Get out and enjoy the trails. Join us on some of the fourteen SGPA sponsored hikes scheduled for this year. Come celebrate with us at the Hike-a-Giant and 80th Birthday Picnic in June. Consider volunteering to help the Association. And every now and then stop and think about that small group, eighty years ago, that saved the Giant.

Thank you, enjoy the park and I'll see you on the trails.

Mike Miller

Celebrating Our 80th Anniversary

(continued from page 1)

- 1) We are offering an opportunity to participate in a PHOTO CONTEST (see separate write-up in this issue).
- 2) On Sunday, June 6 we will have a picnic on the grounds of the Sleeping Giant (hot dogs and hamburgers) followed by an 80th Anniversary Hike (for those members who like to hike).
- 3) We will have a booth at the North Haven Fair in September.
- 4) We will strive to sign up 800 new members during this year.

Details for items 2 and 3 will be published in the next issue. As for the membership drive, we must spread the word around about this great outdoor resource available to people who like the outdoors. We will do this by making a mailing to all residents of Hamden in zip code 06517.

You too can help. Now! How? By sponsoring or asking a friend to become a member of your Association. We have a motto for this. It is a simple one that says: **"Come and hike the Giant with a friend"**. In fact, you have an application form in this issue which you can use to sponsor a friend or to be used by a friend to sign up. That will be a great way to help celebrate and participate in the 80th Anniversary activities. The strength of this Association is in its membership. Enjoy the Sleeping Giant Park. It is all yours. All the best.

Dag Pfeiffer, Secretary

Park Supervisor's Column



Winter is here in full force with plenty of snow and frigid temperatures, but that doesn't stop our park patrons from getting out and enjoying the Giant. We've had people out hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and building snowmen in the bitter cold, but they are enjoying themselves.

The crew has been busy this fall and winter, building new picnic tables, cleaning up leaves in the park, and cleaning the culverts on the tower trail.

Mother Nature blew over some of our trees in the picnic area, leaving them in precarious positions. These were cut down and cleaned up.

The streambed in the picnic area had to be cleaned out after a heavy rain. The stream jumped its bank and ran through the picnic area, so with help from the park's operation crew and their backhoe, the streambed was dug deeper. With the help of the operation crew a new waterline was installed to the toilet building in picnic area, as the old line needed to be replaced.

The crew has also been repainting old signs, and painting new signs to get the park ready for spring. I hope it comes early this year.

Lori Lindquist

Quotation

Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed.

Wallace Stegner



Check out our website for color pictures and articles on the Giant's history, hike schedules, nature trails and much more! <http://www.sgpa.org> will get you in touch.

Nature's Journal

Who Was Arthur Graves (1876-1962)

Arthur H. Graves was a native of New Haven, Connecticut, and earned his Ph.D. from Yale in 1907. He taught at Yale and at Connecticut College before taking the position of Curator of Public Instruction at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden in 1921. He wrote more than 200 papers on botanical subjects, many of them about breeding disease resistant chestnut trees. His "Illustrated Guide to Trees and Shrubs" (with illustrations by Maud H. Purdy) remains a standard for tree identification. In 1914 he wrote: "The most hopeful indications for chestnut in North America in the future lie among the line of breeding experiments....Work of this kind is extremely valuable and, continuing the existence in our land of a greatly esteemed tree."

In 1930 he undertook such a breeding project, using the land that he had retained in Connecticut where he planted more than 2000 chestnut trees. This land is now the Chestnut Plantation at Sleeping Giant. In 1962 he reported that he and his associates at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station had made more than 250 combinations of all the species of chestnuts. He divided chestnuts into twelve species, and had representatives of all of them in his plantings. He released many cultivars which are still grown today for their nuts, and provided the solid basis for the continued breeding of timber trees. His hybrids and species have been used by The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (who retain the right to use his plantings next to Sleeping Giant State Park) and by The American Chestnut Foundation. We are as far as we are today because of the foresight of A. H. Graves.

Sandra Anagnostakis, *Park Naturalist*

New Park Land Sought

Currently (within the past year) we have had discussions with, and in some cases have negotiated with, various owners of properties totalling about 49 acres. We are hopeful that one or more of these efforts will bear fruit in the coming year. Our park expansion committee is active, has walked these properties and meets to discuss pertinent issues as necessary. The committee is enthusiastic and responsive with members living in Cheshire, Hamden, Harwinton, New Haven, North Haven, and Wallingford. In the past 4 years we have added 5 acres on Squire Lane and 4.3 acres (with red barn) on Mt. Carmel Ave. We invite suggestions for acquisition, with a focus on properties bounded by Whitney Ave., Tuttle Ave., Mansion Road, Hartford Tpke. and Mt. Carmel Ave.

John Kotchian, *Park Expansion*

Happy Trails for You

I would like to thank the trails crew for all their hard work this past year. Our volunteers nearly completed painting of all the colored trails. The crew also picked up several pounds of trash along the trails and painted over graffiti. Members removed numerous blow downs in the effort to keep our trails clear. New volunteers are always welcome. We will have a kick off meeting in April. We will be doing trail work on Sunday mornings up to Memorial Day, then we start painting the red trails on Monday evenings through the summer. If you are interested in joining the group please contact me at ptthing@yahoo.com.

Paul Trzciensky, *Trails Maintenance*

Sleeping Giant Notes

Get Ready for our 80th Year

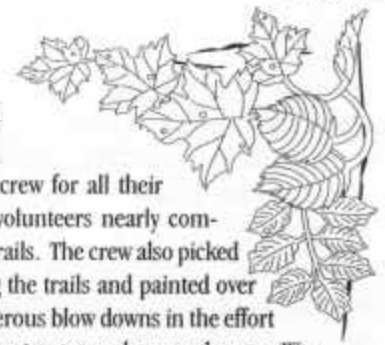
Our Trading Post will help you greet the Giant's 80th year. We have just received a fresh order (1,100 of them!) of colorful Sleeping Giant logo stickers that are 3½ x 5". They are not expensive and they look great on any vehicle's bumper or trunk. They are not controversial and won't incur the wrath of anyone who may not share your political feelings. They show you are a Sleeping Giant aficionado and supporter. You can order some now and other interesting and desirable Sleeping Giant items using the Trading Post form in this newsletter.

Johanna Becker, *Merchandise Manager*

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Hikers on the Giant and readers of the Newsletter probably are familiar with the "anatomy" of the Giant: they recognize The Head, the Chin, the Chest, the Right Knee and Left Knee and possibly even The Esophagus as detailed in a previous issue. But, perhaps not as much considered is, "where is The Heart?". The answer, of course, is that VOLUNTEERS are the real heart of Sleeping Giant. Without the unwavering attention of the many volunteers in all aspects of the Park's well-being, we would not have the valuable resource that the Giant has become.

Please take a look on our back page and note the dedicated board members and their areas of interest, the services they provide to keep the Park alive and well. New volunteers are always welcome on the various committees and you can increase your own enjoyment of Sleeping Giant in having the satisfaction of helping protect its natural beauty. Our Park is unusual in that ALL support of the Park is volunteer with no paid positions on the board. Give one of us a call — you will be welcomed...



Tower Path Improvements

As reported in the last issue of the Giant News, Eagle Scout candidate Mike Byrne (*Photo 1*) of Troop 811 North Haven was about to move into the construction stage of his project to rebuild a portion of the wall bordering the Tower Path. He completed work on schedule.



Photo 1



Photo 4

SGPA Volunteer Projects Committee chair or park Supervisor Lori Lindquist at 789-7498.

Lastly, "many hands make light work" is the saying. But with the large rocks that had to be moved, a special thanks is due to Mr. Bob Barone of Southgate Nurserymen, a scout father, who donated his time and backhoe to the effort.

Ross Lanius,
Volunteer Projects

Mike's crew rebuilt approximately 150 feet of wall at the second hairpin turn that opens to the west on the Tower Path. On Saturday, September 13, Mike gathered his crew in



Photo 2



Photo 5

the parking area for instructions before moving to the site. His work crew included scouts, parents from the troop and SGPA board member Dick Majka. The site was cordoned off and work began. One scout used a blower to clean loose matter from what was left of the old wall (*Photo 2*). Crew members climbed down the slope below the path to uncover rocks that were once part of the wall. The rocks were rolled into the bucket of the backhoe and lifted to the path (*Photo 3*).



Photo 3

Then others meticulously rebuilt the wall to a height of two feet (*Photos 4 and 5*). The next day construction equipment was gone and hikers were enjoying a hike up the path (*Photo 6*).



Photo 6

The Tower Path was open during the work and hikers could watch the volunteer's progress. To learn more about volunteering to help improve the Sleeping Giant State Park, contact Ross Lanius, 248-5851, the



Meet the newest members of the SGPA. Dave and Cathy Edman came out on the New Year's day hike. They had such a good time, that they joined on the spot

80th Anniversary Photo Contest

by Dag Pfeiffer, Secretary

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the launch of a photo contest in celebration of the Association's 80th Anniversary in 2004.

Eligible to Enter:

Sleeping Giant Park Association members.

Deadline:

Entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, May 19, 2004.

Categories: There are three

- A) Scenic
- B) Human Interest
- C) Artistic

Prizes will be awarded to the top 2 entries of each category.

Media:

Digital or Film, in Color or Black-and-white prints.

Photographers are limited to one entry in each category. All photographs should have been taken recently and should not have previously been entered in any other photo contest. Photographs must be taken in or of the Sleeping Giant State Park. The presence of recognizable park sites in

the photos may be taken into consideration as part of the judging criteria.

Print Size and Format:

Entries must be matted or mounted, but not framed. Print and mat to be at least 8 x 10 inches, but not larger than 11 x 14 inches.

Print Submission:

Each photograph must be submitted with an official entry form (see below) or a copy thereof. No markings (names or titles) are to appear on the face of the photograph. The photographer's name, address, phone number and category must be shown on the back of the mat.

Entries are to be suitably packaged and mailed to:

Dag Pfeiffer, SGPA Secretary
120 Hartley Street
North Haven, CT 06473

SGPA will take reasonable care of each entry, but cannot assume responsibility in case of accidental damage or loss. All submissions will be returned, if so requested. Winning entries will be announced and exhibited at the June 6 festivities, the North Haven Fair and published in the GIANT NEWS.

ENTRY FORM: SGPA 80th Anniversary Photo Contest

Please use this form for **each** submitted photograph and print or type all information:

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home telephone: _____ Office Telephone: _____

Category: _____ Media: _____

If you want us to return your picture(s) to you, please check below:

YES: return the picture: _____ **No:** _____

Mail this entry form (or a copy thereof) with your picture(s) to:

Dag Pfeiffer, SGPA Secretary, Photo Contest
120 Hartley Street, North Haven, CT 06473

All entries must be postmarked not later than Thursday, May 19, 2004. Late entries will not be judged.

Membership Application
The Sleeping Giant Park Association

Please enroll me/us in The Sleeping Giant Park Association as follows:

Please print _____ Date _____

Ms/Mr/M/M _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

C: _____ M: _____

DUES (Jan. 1 - Dec. 30):

Single (annual) \$5

Family (annual) \$10

Life Member (one person) \$100

Corporate or Commercial (annual) \$100

Corporate or Commercial (life) \$1000

Gift or Land Fund \$ _____

TOTAL _____

Make checks payable to: **The Sleeping Giant Park Association**
PO Box 185340
Hamden, CT 06518-0340

SGPA is a volunteer, non-profit organization. Dues and gifts are tax deductible

GIFT FROM:

Ms/Mr/M/M _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send membership package to _____ YOU _____ RECIPIENT

SGPA TRADING POST



To order any of the following, please send your check for the full amount, including postage and handling (p&h), payable to SGPA, at PO Box 185340, Hamden, CT 06518-0340. Include your name and mailing address below.

Item	Qty.	Amt.
Color Poster 18" x 24" The Giant Fall Colors \$6.00 each p & h \$4.00	_____	\$ _____
Book <i>Born Among the Hills: New Third Edition The Sleeping Giant Story</i> . 77pp., pictures. \$5.00 each, p & h \$1.00	_____	\$ _____
Color Patch 4" long, great for packs \$4.00 each, p & h \$0.50	_____	\$ _____
Sticker 3 1/2 x 5" long, same design as patch \$2.00 each, p & h \$0.50	_____	\$ _____
Map 18" x 24" Trail Map of the Giant \$3.00 each, p & h \$1.00	_____	\$ _____
Postcards Full color of the Giant 5/\$1.00, p & h \$1.00	_____	\$ _____
T-Shirts Gray or white background; Med, Lg., X-Lg \$12.00 each, p & h \$2.00 Size _____ Color _____	_____	\$ _____
Sleeping Giant Cap Khaki and green with green embroidery. \$10.00 each, p & h \$2.00	_____	\$ _____
Total	_____	\$ _____

Prices Subject To Change

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Sleeping Giant Park Association GIFT Membership Application

A Gift From: _____ Name of Recipient _____

Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership Type Single (\$5) _____ Family (\$10) _____ Life \$100 (per individual) _____

Thanks for your support

Sleeping Giant Park Association Membership RENEWAL Application

Name of Recipient _____

Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership Type Single (\$5) _____ Family (\$10) _____

Thanks for your support

Welcome New Life Members

Renewals have been pouring in lately. If you have not yet done so, please send your renewal in to ensure that you will receive this year's hike schedule and our newsletters. Many have taken advantage of multi-year memberships and gift memberships have also been popular. Please note that your newsletter address label will indicate each member's membership status and

any member with 2003 on the label still needs to renew.

There has been a surge in new Life members. We extend a warm welcome to the following: Marjorene Ainley, Ben Blake, Richard Blake, Beth Brooks, Jeanette Chavira, Betty Collins, Nina Garrett, Kathy Gentile, Alan Hendrickson, Anthony Julianelle, Brian Lanius, Edna L. Luysterbarghs, Stephen F.

Marsh, Diane Kaplan, Stephen Mayer, Alexandra Pappas, Nancy Pfeiffer, Cynthia A. Sibley. Additional new life members will be listed in the next issue. Each new life member receives a laminated personalized membership card and gifts from the SGPA store.

Chuck Schall, *Membership*

HIKES FOR 2004

The SGPA Hiking Committee has planned the following schedule of hikes for 2004. Unless noted otherwise, all hikes will leave from the bulletin board at the park entrance on Sunday afternoons. The Sleeping Giant Park is on Mt. Carmel Avenue in northern Hamden, about a quarter of a mile in from Whitney Avenue, on the left-hand side of the street. Hikers should wear comfortable, supportive shoes and bring snacks and water, as desired, and dress for the weather. You may wish to bring a camera and start accumulating some prize-winning shots for the SGPA Photography Contest (deadline May 19). Please do not bring pets on SGPA hikes. These events are open to the public, and there is no fee. For further information, check our web site at www.sgpa.org or contact Barbara or Irwin Beitch at (203) 272-7841, beitch1@cox.net.

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADERS
February 29	Winter Tree Identification Hike	Chris Fagan , Cindy Abate, Barbara & Irwin Beitch, Dick Majka, Ross Lanius, Ham Milroy, Laura Nelson, Chuck Schall, and Gilbert Spencer.
March 14	Spring Hikers' Hike (11:00 AM) — EXPERIENCED HIKERS ONLY! A strenuous hike over rough terrain	Linda Olender , Jean Incampo, Dick Majka, Randy Miller, Karen Niesyn, and Chuck Schall
March 28	History-of-the-Giant Hike	Gilbert Spencer , Tom Vocelli , Cindy Abate, Barbara & Irwin Beitch, Chris Fagan, Jean Incampo, Laura Nelson, Karen Niesyn, Chuck Schall, Gary Zempel
April 25	Spring Wildflower Hike	Chris Fagan , Dick Majka , Cindy Abate, Barbara & Irwin Beitch, Jean Incampo, Ham Milroy, Laura Nelson, Chuck Schall, and Jim Sirch
May 2	Early Bird Watchers' Hike (8:00 AM)	Ham Milroy , Jim Sirch , Barbara & Irwin Beitch, Jean Incampo, Dick Majka, Chuck Schall, and Gilbert Spencer
May 23	Nature Trail Hike	Tracey & Tom Harrington , Dick Majka , Cindy Abate, Chris Fagan, Jean Incampo, Laura Nelson, Chuck Schall, and Gilbert Spencer
June 6	HIKE-A-GIANT 2004	Hosted by the SGPA Hiking Committee
July 18	A Midsummer Day's Hike (9 AM)	Chris Fagan , Dick Majka , Herb Etter, Elaine Herlihy, Jean Incampo, and Chuck Schall
September 12	Geology-of-the-Giant Hike	Dan Zibello , Barbara & Irwin Beitch , Cindy Abate, Herb Etter, Tracey & Tom Harrington, Jean Incampo, Ham Milroy, Laura Nelson, and Chuck Schall
September 26	Fall Wildflower Hike	Dick Majka , Chris Fagan , Cindy Abate, Barbara & Irwin Beitch, Tracey & Tom Harrington, Elaine Herlihy, Jean Incampo, Chuck Schall, and Jim Sirch
October 17	East End Hike (on seldom-visited trails, including a special letter-boxing event)	Chris Fagan , Gilbert Spencer , Barbara and Irwin Beitch, Herb Etter, Tracey & Tom Harrington, Jean Incampo, Ham Milroy, Laura Nelson, Chuck Schall, and Gary Zempel
October 24	Fall Foliage Hike at 1:30 PM, after the Annual Meeting of the SGPA	Dick Majka , Barbara & Irwin Beitch, Herb Etter, Chris Fagan, Tracey & Tom Harrington, Jean Incampo, Laura Nelson, Chuck Schall, and Gilbert Spencer
November 7	Fall Hikers' Hike (11:00 AM) EXPERIENCED HIKERS ONLY! (A strenuous hike over rough terrain)	Linda Olender , Jean Incampo, Ross Lanius, Dick Majka, Randy Miller, Karen Niesyn, Chuck Schall, and Gary Zempel
December 5	Holiday Hike and Social — Hike starts at 1:30 PM Social and carols at 3:00 PM	Hosted by the SGPA Hiking Committee and SGPA Board of Directors
January 1, 2005 (Saturday)	New Year's Day Hike (start the new year "on the right foot")	Herb Etter , Barbara & Irwin Beitch, Chris Fagan, Jean Incampo, Ross Lanius, Ham Milroy, Laura Nelson, and Chuck Schall

The Book Corner

SGPA members have some good reading in store. Check out the 3 books listed below:

Sleeping Giant friends of the late John Menta are happy that his long-awaited book, "The Quinnipiac Cultural Conflict in Southern New England" was published by Yale's Peabody Museum in October. John was a dear friend of many Sleeping Giant board members and hikers, and was responsible for the upgrading of the wonderful trail system we have today which he revitalized with his Trails committee leadership in the 1980's, according to Skim Gemmell who regarded John as a role model for succeeding Trails committee leaders.

In October a reception for family, friends and fans was held at the museum to debut this Yale University publication in Anthology. Deb Townshend writes that John would have been pleased with the handsome orange cover with Armand Morgan's sketch of a bark wigwam. Armand Morgan is the artist of the



Sleeping Giant sketch used as our familiar log on the Giant News. He writes that he and John started going to the Giant together beginning in high school years and it became a favorite haunt for both of them. The book includes text, references, index and many illustrations. Nancy Ferrucci Rigulot, Board Member, notes that at the reception the book was

recognized as the definitive history of the Quinnipiac, and contains the enormous body of research that John accomplished over the years in preparation for a thesis. Unfortunately, John did not live to see it published. Today we are privileged to be able to learn so much of the early history of this area and the Quinnipiac resident people from this book. It brings to life to those times and a background for our own exploration of such historical ground as we walk the trails. The book is available at Peabody Museum and at Barnes and Noble bookstores.

Photos this issue: Irwin Beitch, John Kotchian, Tom Vocelli.

Giant News is published by The Sleeping Giant Park Association, a non-profit volunteer organization. Comments and suggestions are welcome. See address below.

Sleeping Giant Park Association

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