



The Forest Lyceum

Lecture Series at the Douglas, Hunt, and Norfolk Libraries
January through June 2013 – Reservations are required*

January 12 — Norfolk Library (4 pm reception, 4:30 pm talk)

Charles Canham, Forest Ecologist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY

Resilient Forests in a Rapidly Changing World

February 2 — Hunt Library (4 pm reception, 4:30 pm talk), Falls Village

David K. Leff – Essayist, Poet, Lecturer (book talk and signing)

Hidden in Plain Sight: A Deep Traveler Explores Connecticut

March 2 — Norfolk Library (4 pm reception, 4:30 pm talk)

Tim Maguire, National Park Service, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller N.H.P., Woodstock, Vermont

George Perkins Marsh: Pioneer Conservationist

March 30 — Norfolk Library (4 pm reception, 4:30 pm talk)

Mark Prezorski, Landscape Curator, The Olana Partnership, Hudson, NY

Olana on a Timeline: Design, Art and the Environment

April 13 — Douglas Library (4 pm reception, 4:30 pm talk), North Canaan

Judy Wilson, Wildlife Biologist, Connecticut DEEP Wildlife Division

The New England Cottontail Initiative in Connecticut

May 11 — Hunt Library (2:30 pm) and Norfolk Library (7:30 pm), receptions, 30 minutes prior

Paul Barten, Exec. Director, Great Mtn. Forest and Professor, Univ. of Massachusetts

The Catskill Forest Preserve: Template for Public Land Conservation

June 1 — Norfolk Library (7 pm reception, 7:30 pm talk)

Stephen DeStefano, Research Professor, Univ. of Massachusetts & U.S. Geological Survey

Meet Your New Neighbors—Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*)

Great Mountain Forest, Norfolk and Falls Village, Connecticut, 860.824.8188*

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Douglas Library, 108 Main Street (Rt. 44), North Canaan, CT 06018, 860.824.7863

The David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031, 860.824.7424

Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, CT 06058, 860.542.5075

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January 12 — Charles Canham, Forest Ecologist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Resilient Forests in a Rapidly Changing World

Building on over 20 years of research at Great Mountain Forest, this presentation will highlight the resilience of northeastern forests in the face of the broad spectrum of human impacts, including climate change, invasive species, and air pollution. (Dr. Canham is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Great Mountain Forest.)

February 2 — David K. Leff, Essayist, Poet, Lecturer (...and former Deputy Commissioner of Conn. DEP)
Hidden in Plain Sight: A Deep Traveler Explores Connecticut

In the course of the mundane routines of life, we encounter a variety of landscapes and objects, either ignoring them or looking without interest at what appears to be just a tree, stone, anonymous building, or dirt road. But the “deep traveler,” according to *Hartford Courant* essayist David K. Leff, doesn’t make this mistake. Instead, the commonplace elements become the most important. By learning to see the magic in the mundane, we not only enrich daily life with a sense of place, we are more likely to protect and make those places better.

March 2 — Tim Maguire, Chief of Interpretation/Visitor Services, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller N.H.P.
George Perkins Marsh: Pioneer Conservationist

George Perkins Marsh (1801-1882) left a lasting legacy with his book "*Man & Nature*" published in 1864 (...with the added subtitle of "*Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action*" in subsequent editions). The book was a product of his extraordinary life and is filled with astute observations of nature and cultures from around the world. This presentation will highlight his life and the multidimensional career that led him on his world renowned journey and, ultimately, to the book that has been aptly called "The fountainhead of the conservation movement."

March 30 — Mark Prezorski, Landscape Curator, The Olana Partnership, Hudson, NY
Olana on a Timeline: Design, Art and the Environment

Frederic Church, a key figure of the Hudson River School, is well known as a landscape painter, but his legacy transcends painting. As a conservationist involved with early wilderness and park ideas, Church created a three-dimensional naturalistic landscape called Olana, which today serves as a focal point for preservation and protection of scenic vistas in the Hudson Valley.

April 13 — Judy Wilson, Wildlife Biologist, Habitat Program, Wildlife Division, Connecticut DEEP
The New England Cottontail Initiative in Connecticut

New England cottontails were once abundant, but are now being considered for protection under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Largely due to dwindling habitat (brushy fields and young forests at least 10 acres in extent) this species range has been reduced by more than 80 percent. Learn about the collaborative efforts underway in Connecticut to prevent listing and how interested landowners can become involved in helping with this effort.

May 11 — Paul Barten, Executive Director, GMF and Professor, Univ. of Massachusetts
The Catskill Forest Preserve: Template for Public Land Conservation

The Catskill Forest Preserve was established in 1885 and protected as “wild forest, forever” with an 1894 amendment to New York’s Constitution. This designation represented a major change in public opinion and political will as well as an early success for the fledgling conservation movement. The landscape paintings of Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, and other Hudson River School artists, the stirring fiction of Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper, and the writings of George Perkins Marsh and John Burroughs had a dramatic and formative influence on societal values and attitudes. This opened a new era in which the damage to forest ecosystems by tanbark peelers, “cut and run” loggers, and market hunters could no longer be reconciled with the “the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run” and a thriving tourism industry.

June 1 — Stephen DeStefano, Research Professor, Univ. of Massachusetts and USGS Unit Leader
Meet Your New Neighbors—Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*)

Deforestation and unregulated hunting extirpated black bears from southern New England in the mid-1800s. In the 1980s, a few breeding pairs wandered south and established the current population of several hundred bears in Connecticut. Black bears are intelligent and opportunistic omnivores that live about 20 years. Their size (up to 250 lbs. for females and 450 lbs for males) and shuffling gait belies their ability to run at up to 35 mph. They also are agile climbers and strong swimmers and possess an incredible sense of smell. The bear population is expected to double every five to seven years so now is a good time for us to learn how to be good neighbors with this denizen of the North American forest.