

# Sessions Woods WMA Updates

The Friends of Sessions Woods has assisted the CT DEEP with several projects at Sessions Woods! Memberships and donations help these projects happen!

The bridge repairs over Freeman Brook (near the Scout Camping Area) have been completed! Connecticut Forest and Parks worked on the bridge the past several months and now the bridge is improved and provides better access.

There are now additional butterfly-attracting, native plants in the garden behind the Conservation Education Center. The butterfly bush has been removed as it is considered



invasive in some areas of the country. When choosing plantings for butterfly gardens, it is important to include those blooming at different times of the season and caterpillar host plants.



Work is currently underway by DEEP staff in developing a carnivore display in the exhibit area. The FOSW has assisted by providing funding for the taxidermy and painting of the background. This exhibit will feature bobcat and cougar mounts, noting the size difference between the two cats, as well as additional identification tips.

## Boardwalk Work

The boardwalk over the Beaver Marsh has been closed for several years due to safety concerns and finally, work to replace it has begun! Part of the delay was due to the necessity of a new, engineered plan to ensure it will last for a long time! Covid didn't help and State retirements resulted in less staff to take the project on. But, the pilings are in as of press time! As the work continues, please respect signage closing the area and hopefully, the boardwalk will be open soon!



Beaver marsh at Sessions Woods.



Boardwalk under reconstruction

L. Rogers-Castro

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



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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.



# Ask a Naturalist

## Is this a good pine cone crop year?

Last year was a very good pine cone crop year and there are signs in some areas, that this year may be just as good! Wildlife activity increases during good years. Nuthatches and chickadees, along with the less commonly seen pine siskin, are pine seed-loving birds.



Black-capped chickadee



Red-breasted nuthatch

Drought can influence the production of cones by trees. Normally, trees have “boom” and “bust” years with wildlife populations influenced by these cycles.

## Are beavers active this time of year?

Beavers are very busy in fall gathering branches to eat all through the winter! Beavers store the branches into the mud underwater near the entrance to their lodge.



They will eat the woody branches, bark, and twigs and particularly like willows and aspen.

# 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. For more information, please email [friendsofsessionswoods@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsessionswoods@gmail.com).

## October 19, 2025 (Sunday), 9:00 a.m. Fall Trees & Birds

October is a wonderful time to take a walk outside! Join Wildlife Photographer Paul Fusco and Naturalist Laura Rogers-Castro for a 2-mile roundtrip hike at Sessions Woods to the Beaver Marsh and back. Paul and Laura will provide insight on fall migrating birds and talk about Connecticut’s beautiful trees at this time of year! Meet at the gazebo in the parking lot. Bring water and wear proper shoes for hiking on a gravel path.



American tree sparrow



Chipping sparrow



Savannah sparrow



Song sparrow



White-crowned sparrow



White-throated sparrow



Swamp sparrow



Fox sparrow

## Know Your Sparrows

Sparrows are often thought to be drab, little brown birds but they are really quite interesting! Sparrows can be spotted in fall busily eating all kinds of seeds. Three easy to recognize sparrows (and a great way to start learning sparrow identification) include song, white-throated, and chipping. Song sparrows are recognized by the streaks on the breast which meet on a central spot. They have reddish stripes through the eye and the crown of the head. Song sparrows are found in a variety of habitats, including shrubby and other low vegetation areas.

White-throated sparrows are beautiful sparrows with white throats! There is yellow above the eye toward the bill and a black eye stripe. They are a forest sparrow.

The smaller chipping sparrow is very common near backyards, but also seen in the woods. They can be recognized by the red cap on top of their heads.

Take a minute and enjoy looking at sparrows. They are said to have “big personalities” and often very social!

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Memberships run annually from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

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