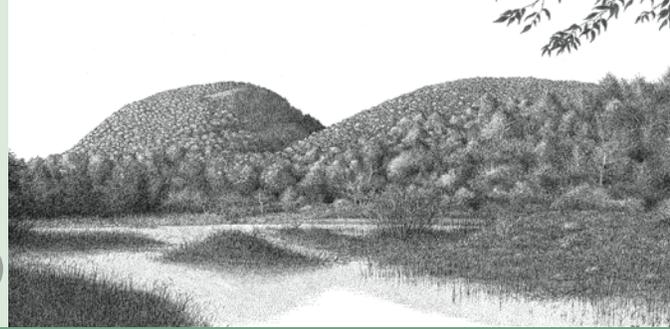


GIANT news



Newsletter of the Sleeping Giant Park Association

June 2016 • Issue 114

Trinity Sweeney: Giant Master #324

—by Deane Hetric, *Giant Master Program Coordinator*

Congratulations to Trinity Sweeney, who has become the 324th person to achieve the rank of Giant Master.

George Sweeney recently submitted the completed *Giant Master* log for his daughter, Trinity Sweeney, along with an interesting and informative letter. (This article is based on the information contained in George's letter.) He said that Trinity is unique because she is a "Fourth-Generation Giant Master." Although Trinity's father, great-uncle, and great-grandfather hiked all of the trails on the Sleeping Giant before the establishment of the *Giant Master* Program, Trinity is the first member of her family to submit the official *Giant Master* log. She has the double honor of being the "First Official Giant Master" in her family along with the distinction of being the "First Fourth-Generation Giant Master" in her family. That's almost a tongue twister, but let us explain.

In the 1930s, George's grandfather, Joseph Pogmore, moved to the current Sweeney house on Mt. Carmel Avenue in Hamden with his young family. He kept them all fed by trapping and hunting on the Sleeping Giant; this was long before the days of park rangers and hunting laws, but he covered all of the trails on Sleeping Giant in his activities.

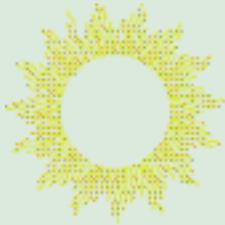
George's uncle, also named Joseph Pogmore, was Ranger of the State Park in the 1960s and 1970s. He lived in the house at the base of the mountain. Some of George's fondest memories are centered on his Uncle Joe's barbecues and patrol walks with his dog named Midnight. Joe's wife, Lilliana Pogmore, still lives on property bordering the park. Joe walked all of the trails on the Giant, patrolling,

keeping litter in check, and removing people who camped there illegally. He also managed the campground, an endeavor that had its own unique challenges. He made sure that everybody treated the park with respect and followed the rules.

George's first summer job was at the park in the 1980s. He worked with Mark Rickert and was part of a maintenance crew that made improvements to Sleeping Giant State Park, along with Wharton Brook State Park. West Rock Ridge was acquired during those times, and George spent a lot of time there clearing the roads. Back at Sleeping Giant State Park, he hiked every trail on the Giant, picking up litter, putting out fires with backpack firefighting pumps, and clearing blowdowns from the trails. This all happened years before the *Giant Master* Program was in existence, but George got to know every trail at least twice.

George's daughter, Trinity, has now discovered the beauty and pleasure of Sleeping Giant State Park. She completed the trail system with her father's guidance, filled in all the sections on her *Giant Master* log, and, as a member of the Sleeping Giant Park Association, became *Giant Master* #324. Her father showed her where the cottage used to be on the chin; he also showed her the Doberman dog and the Webb on the Tower, along with their meaning. Trinity knows about Dead Man's Cave. She also knows that the backside of the mountain is the most peaceful section of the park. George explained to her the devastation that the quarry caused and

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the widening of the trails from heavy use. He tried to instill in her the importance of the preservation of the park for future Giant Masters. He said that he looks forward to the day when there will be a "Fifth-Generation Giant Master" in his family. 🍌

Three cheers for Trinity!



Trinity Sweeney: Giant Master #324

(Photo of Trinity Sweeney is courtesy of the Sweeney family.)

PLEASE NOTE: PHOTO OP FOR ALL GIANT MASTERS! —

Deane Hetric, Giant Master Program Coordinator, has informed us that there will be a group photo op for all Giant Masters immediately following the Annual Meeting of the SGPA on Sunday, October 16, 2016. If you are a Giant Master, you are cordially invited to participate. Deane stressed that the group shot will take place right after the October 16th Annual Meeting which will begin at 12:00 noon. All Giant Masters are invited to attend both the meeting and the photo op. The picture will be published in a future edition of the *Giant News*.

GIANT MASTERS UPDATE

—by Deane Hetric, *Giant Master Program Coordinator*

Apologies to Robert Irwin, Giant Master #319: First of all, we extend our sincere apologies to Robert Irwin, whose name was listed incorrectly in the February 2016 issue of the *Giant News*. Robert Irwin is Giant Master #319, and we begin the list of new Giant Masters with him.

Congratulations are in order to the following new Giant Masters:

- #319 - Robert Irwin
- #320 - Robert Irwin's canine companion "Murphy the Dog"
(Robert and Murphy are both members of the SGPA.)
- #321 - Peter Stock
- #322 - John Burton
- #323 - Wendy Burton
- #324 - Trinity Sweeney
(Please see the article about Trinity Sweeney in this issue.)
- #325 - Pat Madigan
- #326 - Linda Post
- #327 - Donna Arbas
- #328 - Judy Abood
- #329 - Norm Berg

And a round of applause is given for the following two new Four-Season Giant Masters:

- Eva Szigeti (Giant Master #136)
- Donna Caraglio (Giant Master #310)

Information on how SGPA members can become Giant Masters can be found in the October 2015 *Giant News* (Issue 112, p. 3). For descriptions of the three other special Giant Master categories (Four-Season, Twelve-Month, and Marathoner), go to the SGPA web site, www.sgpa.org, or specifically <http://www.sgpa.org/hikes/masters.html>.

Counting Calls – Citizen Science Through FrogWatch

—By Jim Sirch, Education Coordinator - Yale Peabody Museum

FrogWatch USA is a citizen science program of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) that provides individuals, groups, and families with an opportunity to learn about wetlands in their communities and to report data on the calls of local frogs and toads. Volunteers collect data during evenings from February through August and have been submitting data for over 15 years.

FrogWatch USA volunteers learn how to identify local frog and toad species by their calls during the breeding season and how to report their findings accurately. By mastering these skills, volunteers gain increased experience and control over asking and answering scientific questions which, in turn, augments science literacy, facilitates conservation action and stewardship, and increases knowledge of amphibians.

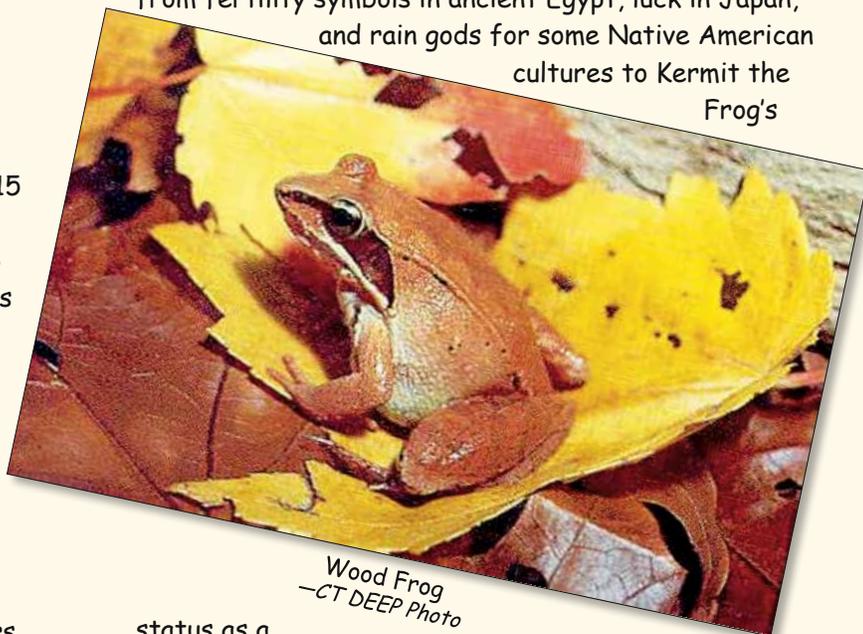
What is citizen science? It usually refers to a collaboration between scientists and volunteers that provides scientists with scientific data while also providing access to scientific information for



Eastern American Toad
—CT DEEP Photo

community members. Many citizen science programs, including FrogWatch USA, address research questions that are long-term and/or large-scale in nature, that no one volunteer could compile alone. Long-term data collected by many citizen scientists has provided more information about species distribution as well as identified some impacts climate disruption has had on wildlife. As the pace of large-scale ecosystem change increases, data collected by citizen scientists will continue to grow in importance.

Why frogs? Frogs and toads have served as important cultural symbols through time; this can range from fertility symbols in ancient Egypt, luck in Japan, and rain gods for some Native American cultures to Kermit the Frog's



Wood Frog
—CT DEEP Photo

status as a modern-day celebrity. Frogs and toads have been vitally important in the field of human medicine, and compounds from their skin are currently being investigated for anti-cancer and anti-HIV properties.

Frogs and toads also play an important role in nature, serving as both prey and predator, and like many animals in wetland ecosystems they are considered indicators of environmental health. Many previously abundant frog and toad populations have experienced dramatic population declines both in the United States and around the world, and it is essential that scientists understand the scope, geographic scale, and cause of these declines. It has been estimated that about one-third of all amphibian species are threatened with extinction today. David Skelly, Director of the Yale Peabody Museum and Frank R. Oastler Professor of Ecology, has been researching the effects of pollutants on local frog species and has found eggs in the testes of male green frogs. He suspects that pharmaceuticals flushed through septic and sewage systems are causing these abnormalities.

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Counting Calls continued from page 3 -

I started the project by becoming a FrogWatch USA Chapter Coordinator in 2012. In 2014, we began a partnership with staff from Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, which allowed us to reach more potential participants. Thus the Peabody



Northern Spring Peeper
—CT DEEP Photo

Beardsley-Chapter was born.

Since the project began, we have reached hundreds of people

through training workshops. Many of these certified

participants carried through and are now dedicated volunteers, monitoring a local wetland that they chose near them.



—Public Domain Photo

Volunteers begin the program by attending a training workshop to become a certified frogwatcher. These are usually held in late winter either at the Yale Peabody Museum or Beardsley Zoo. Potential volunteers learn the calls of all 11 species of frogs and toads in the state and then take a quiz on the calls during the workshop, as well as an open book assessment of important points in the reference manual.

For years, there were only 10 recognized species in the region. But, in 2014, a new species of leopard frog, the Atlantic Coast Leopard Frog, was discovered in one of the densest places on the planet....Staten Island! Part of the identification in its discovery was the characteristic call, which sounds like the "quack" of a wood frog, but only one syllable instead of two. A few

sites for this species have subsequently been found in Connecticut and more information on new potential sites for this frog is needed.

Once someone attends the workshop, monitoring frogs at a nearby wetland is actually very easy. Twice a week, one half an hour or more after sunset volunteers stay quiet for 2 minutes, listen for 3 minutes, and write down all the frog species heard and also rate the call intensity. Then they enter the data into an on-line data program called FrogWatch-Fieldscope.

I hope next winter you can join us at a training workshop! Hikers, walkers, outdoor enthusiasts, and nature buffs are all welcome.

For more information about this program visit <http://peabody.yale.edu/events/become-peabody-beardsley-frogwatch-citizen-scientist>.

2016 is an SGPA election year !!

In accordance with its Bylaws the SGPA holds elections for Board positions in even-numbered years. This is an election year, and we are always interested in adding energetic members to our Board of Directors. Descriptions of the positions listed below can be obtained by contacting sgpa.nominating.committee@gmail.com.

As stated in the Bylaws of the SGPA, "Any Association member may recommend in writing one or more candidates by sending the name and qualifications of each [for vetting] . . . to the Nominating Committee Chairperson" by August 16, 2016. You may send such recommendations to sgpa.nominating.committee@gmail.com.

Board positions include officers, directors-at-large, and standing committee chairpersons:

President	Giant Master Program Coordinator
Vice President	Giant News Editor
Corresponding Secretary	Hiking Committee Chair
Recording Secretary	Historian
Treasurer	Land Acquisition Chair
Construction & Volunteer Projects Coordinator	Membership Chair
Community Outreach Chair	Merchandise Manager
Environmental Stewardship Chair	Park Naturalist
Fund Raising Chair	Trail Maintenance Chair
	Webmaster

Nominations will be presented at the Annual Meeting, starting at noon on October 16th, 2016 in the picnic area of the Giant. All SGPA members are invited to attend and participate.

Trading Post

Most items can be seen at www.sgpa.org/post/post.html		
NEW! BANDANA Forest Green, printed w/ map of the Giant	\$5.00	P&H \$2.00 ea.
ADULT T-SHIRT, (NEW DESIGN) U.S. made, White, with full color image of the Giant S, M, L, XL, and XXL	\$18.00	\$3.50 ¹
ADULT T-SHIRT (short sleeved, old design) Available in White or Gray in X-L only	\$10.00 ²	\$3.50 ¹
ADULT T-SHIRT (long sleeved, old design) Available in White in L or X-L only	\$12.00 ²	\$3.50 ¹
KID'S T-SHIRT (short sleeved) Black or White: kid's large only - <i>Plenty available</i>	\$10.00	\$3.50 ¹
SLEEPING GIANT CAP Khaki & Green with Green embroidered letters	\$10.00	\$2.50 ea.
BOOK <i>Born Among the Hills</i> Fourth Edition of The Sleeping Giant Story	\$7.00	\$2.00 ea.
BOOK <i>The Giant's Treasure Chest</i> A wonderful alphabet book about the Giant, illustrated in full color.	\$20.00	\$3.00 ea.
NOTE CARDS , 12 different cards with envelopes	\$15.00	\$3.00 ea. set
COLOR POSTER ³ 18" X 24" - The Giant in fall colors	\$6.00	\$3.00 ea.
EMBROIDERED PATCH 4" wide oval with Sleeping Giant design, to sew on packs	\$4.00	\$1.00
DECAL 4 1/2" wide - same design as patch	\$2.00	\$1.00
TRAIL MAP (Black and White) ³ 18" X 24" trail map of the Giant	\$3.00	\$3.00 ea.
POSTCARDS (4 for \$1.00) The Giant in fall colors	\$1.00	\$1.00

- ¹ \$2.00 P&H for each additional T-shirt ordered
- ² There are no more old design T-shirts in Medium.
Email the Trading Post before ordering.
- ³ Poster and map are rolled up and mailed in a tube and are
suitable for mounting or framing.

Email your questions to: sgpa_trading_post@yahoo.com



Old T-shirt design - 1/3 off



SGPA Patch



Back of old shirt



SGPA Decal



Cap



Available as poster and also postcards, both in fall colors

ORDER FORM

quantity	item description	size	color	price each	price total
				subtotal	
				P&H	
				total	

Fill out order form (please print), and make a check payable to the **SGPA**. Be sure to include the total amount, including postage and handling (P&H).

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail to: **The Sleeping Giant Park Association**

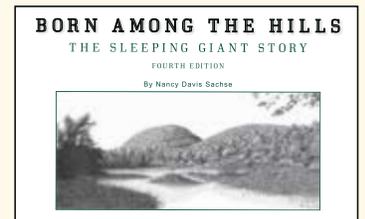
P.O. Box 185340, Hamden, CT 06518-0340

NOTE FROM JOHANNA BECKER, SGPA Merchandise Manager

1. Our merchandise is guaranteed to be of good quality. If you are unhappy with your purchase or if it is defective, you may return it for an exchange.
2. Limited numbers of the popular old-style T- Shirts are still available, at a reduced rate. See chart on the left for sizes and colors.
3. We still have a limited number of copies of *The Giant's Treasure Chest* for \$20.00 plus \$3 P&H. The book has gorgeous photos of the Giant and a charming text.



Note Cards
(twelve different images)



Fourth edition

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Peregrine falcon at the Giant
—Photo by Tom Granucci

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Credits:

The *Giant News* is published three times a year by the Sleeping Giant Park Association, a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, maintenance, and expansion of Sleeping Giant State Park. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Send your thoughts to "Giant News Editor" at the address shown above, or send an e-mail to giantnews@juno.com.



—Public Domain Photo