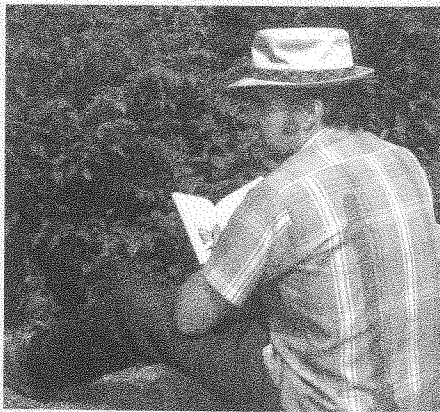


RICHARD WHITEHOUSE



Richard Whitehouse, a former president of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association Board of Directors who dedicated many decades to the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, died on December 11, 2015, at home in Glastonbury, where he had lived since 1965. He was 78.

Mr. Whitehouse started maintaining the Shenipsit Trail as a young man, in 1968, and continued working on trails the rest of his life. For many years he cared for the trails on Case Mountain in Manchester. He was CFPA's Trails Committee chairman from 1995-1999 and served as board president from 2000 through 2007. (He also was a friend to Connecticut Woodlands magazine and is the reason the editor took on the job.)

He loved the forests, farms, and trails; he dedicated his life to sharing them with others. Outdoor adventures punctuated his childhood and his long marriage to the late Mary Joanne Whitehouse (who died in 2001).

He was born in 1937 and grew up the youngest of six children—he had three brothers and two sisters—on a small working farm in Broad Brook, Connecticut. He graduated from Ellsworth Memorial High School in 1955, and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1957. He attained the rank of captain and flew an F4-B in Vietnam. He earned his degree in electrical engineering at North Carolina State University in 1963. Mr. Whitehouse worked at Southern New England Telephone Company for many years.

He also volunteered for the Appalachian Mountain Club and took students from Cheney Technical High School onto the



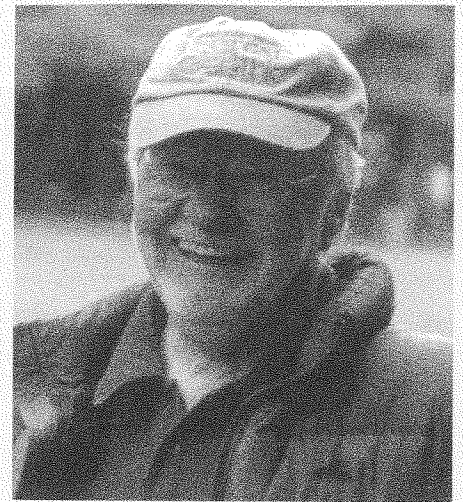
COURTESY OF THE WHITEHOUSE FAMILY

Case Mountain trails, teaching them about drainage and bridge building.

He leaves four sons, James Whitehouse of Chaplin, David Whitehouse of Hebron, Tim Whitehouse of Poolesville, Maryland, and Mark Whitehouse of Arlington, Virginia; one daughter, Maureen Teubert of Dodgeville, Wisconsin; 11 grandchildren; and many in-laws and friends.

Mr. Whitehouse's large family, friends, and associates shared stories at a memorial service December 19 in Manchester and by email with Connecticut Woodlands. His dedication to the land and trails grew out of his background and his attitude. As a teenager, a cousin recounted, he rallied his family to grow cucumbers to sell to the Silver Lane Pickle Factory in East Hartford. He taught his children how to grow vegetables, tap maple trees and boil syrup, keep bees and gather honey, and watch birds, a life-long interest.

"At the root of it all, was a gentle and playful kindness in my father's spirit. He loved to quietly share his love of the outdoors," wrote Jim Whitehouse. "As a child



it took on many forms, regular camping trips with the family, backpacking trips with the children, mountain climbing and above all, sharing his knowledge of the plants and animals that were around us wherever we went."

He added, "I remember the cans of blue paint in the basement! I also remember the bond he formed with the many staff and volunteers who worked with CFPA. It was a high point in his life."

Mr. Whitehouse took some of his grandchildren to see a former charcoal pit off the Shenipsit Trail, his son Mark Whitehouse recalled. "He also showed them a witness tree in old farmland that had been taken over by the forest. He brought to life what seemed to them to be a large tree in the forest near a falling-down stone wall."

Mr. Whitehouse had once built a skating rink by a brook and invited the neighbors, and he and his wife raised money for charity with a backyard fair.

Echoing remarks he made at his father's service, Tim Whitehouse listed the themes he saw in his father's life: "His love of the outdoors, and his drive to share this with others; his love of place—he was truly a Connecticut Yankee; his reverence for the old ways combined with a focus on the future; and, most of all, his love of family, immediate and extended, and his willingness to do whatever he could to support them."

Memorial donations may be directed to the Hibbard Trust of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

—Christine Woodside