

Nan Finkenaur, Friends of Georgetown Rowley State Forest

An amazing the number of people from Nan Finkenaur's area have written heart felt comments requesting that the woodland designations for Georgetown Rowley SF, Bald Pate Pond State Park, Cleaveland Farms SF and Harold Parker SF be changed to parklands. There are no form letters, just individuals, well informed on the process, the criteria, the resources on the properties and their own use of the properties. All of this is a huge credit to Nan. Nan has her own business and family responsibilities, yet she has rallied this entire area. Nan made flyers and walked neighborhoods to get people involved. She has involved the media, contacted local and statewide politicians, and used Facebook as a communication tool for citizens of all ages. Even after holding meetings with DCR representatives who defended their woodland designation, there are final comment letters from her state senator and representatives requesting parkland designation in agreement with Nan's position. She took the lead by herself at Boxford and Georgetown Rowley on many occasions, and then was able to encourage others to join her. She has always been respectful and courteous, but firm in all her communications. She has built a huge following of thoughtful and respectful people who now take an active interest in the stewardship of the DCR properties near them. Her influence has led to a concern for those properties in the Northeast section of the state that now has a "life of its own". She deserves to be nominated as a volunteer of the year by our Network.