



Matching funds double your impact!

October 30, 2020

Dear [Salutation],

When you think about your favorite Connecticut forest, you probably think about the trees . . .

Those powerful, peaceful, amazing trees. They make the outdoors feel like a cathedral. They fill the air with that wonderful leafy scent.

The trees make you glad you live here!

But I'm going to tell you about something much, much smaller than the trees, but just as important to the life of the forest . . .

The blue-spotted salamander. This little guy is tiny. Maybe you've never seen one. But it's a critical part of our forests. And it really needs your help! Before I tell you about this amazing little creature, I want to give you the good news . . .

You hold twice as much power in your hands right now to save our forests . . . because, if you give right away, your gift will DOUBLE.

Every dollar you give now will become \$2 for our forests.

That's because of matching funds from a group of generous supporters who believe, as you do, that keeping our forests healthy and alive is our responsibility.

So when you give, the power of your donation will DOUBLE! Let me show you how:

turn over to keep reading →

- Your gift of $\$XX1 \times 2 = \$YY1$ that can be put right to work protecting our forests.
- A gift of $\$XX2 \times 2 = \$YY2$ that will make an even bigger difference for the land you love.
- And your gift of $\$XX3 \times 2 = \$YY3!$



It works for *any amount you give*, until we raise a total of \$100,000. After that, your donation will not be doubled. The deadline is midnight, December 31.

So please donate right away.

You'll protect the forest you love. And preserve it for our children and grandchildren to love.

You can use the enclosed giving form, or you can give quickly and securely online at: www.ctwoodlands.org/donate.

I'm sure I don't need to tell you that our forests really need our help right now. With the warming climate and fast-moving development, **there's a real danger that our forests as we know them could become unrecognizable in our lifetime.**

It's hard to imagine those great trees being gone. But it could happen.

That's where the blue-spotted salamander comes in.

They're 3 to 5 inches long, and they spend their lives hiding, first in temporary wetlands, and then underground. That's why they're seldom seen. But they are there! And, yes, *they really do have blue spots!*

The blue-spotted salamander is an **indicator species**. A sort of "canary in the coal mine." If he's in trouble, the whole forest is in trouble.

And the blue-spotted salamander is in trouble.

Your donation today will help save them. Which means saving the forest you love! Remember, with matching funds, you have **TWICE THE POWER**

continued . . .

to save the forest and the salamander. Every \$1 instantly turns into \$2. That means . . .



- You have twice the power to save forests from development.
- Twice the power to advocate for smart laws that keep the forests healthy.
- Twice the power to teach kids (and adults!) to care for the forest.
- Twice the power to maintain the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails — because when more people enjoy the forests, more people will defend them!

All of that adds up to healthy, lasting forests that we love so much. That boost property values. That combat climate change by removing carbon from the air.

And some very happy salamanders!

What makes blue-spotted salamanders so important is this: They spend the first part of their lives in vernal pools — temporary wetlands that show up in the spring and last until mid-summer. They spend the other part of their lives on the forest floor, under old logs or leaves.

They need plenty of both habitats. And they need to be able to get from one to the other — and back. A poorly designed housing development, a parking lot, or a road can turn that trip into a death-defying dash that many of them don't survive.

And because of their extremely sensitive skin, any kind of chemical in their habitat can harm them. Lawn chemicals, oil and gas, even polluted air.

Any time a blue-spotted salamander dies, it tears a hole in its world. The things it eats. Those that eat it. All the ways it touches the environment get disrupted. **That disruption echoes through the entire forest, hurting every living thing.**

over please 

Including you and me!

That's why I'm hoping you can make a donation now.

It's been a rough few months for all of us, with the pandemic and social distancing. I don't know about you, but walks in the woods have been so very important for me!

But even if you haven't been able to get into the woods, you know they make life in Connecticut special!

One of my favorite walks is the Jesse Gerard Trail at Peoples State Forest. If you've been there, you may have counted the 299 stone steps leading to the trail's scenic overlooks. When the leaves are changing, the view can take your breath away!

That, and many other places, are what your donation today will protect.

This is a time for all of us to pull together for our forests. With matching funds doubling your donation, it's a great opportunity for you to really make a difference!

For Our Forests,



Eric Hammerling
Executive Director

P.S. Remember, matching funds will DOUBLE whatever amount you give – up until we raise a total of \$100,000 or until December 31! Grab this opportunity to stand up for our forests . . . and the blue-spotted salamander!

P.P.S. You can speed your gift to work
even faster by giving online at
CTWOODLANDS.ORG/DONATE.