

HAMPTON Connections

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Chelsey Knyff

Goodwin Forest Curatorial Specialist and Seasonal Supervisor



Chelsey Knyff brings enthusiasm and hard work to her position as Curatorial Specialist and Seasonal Supervisor at James L. Goodwin State Forest and Conservation Education Center in

Hampton. Her multiple, advanced degrees and varied work experience allow Chelsey to meet the challenges of her job head-on. A self-proclaimed workaholic, she tackles many tasks, including archiving the history of the forest, initiating new programs and classes, and motivating people to enjoy and explore nature beyond their usual expectations.

When Chelsey started working at Goodwin, she began archiving the many written works, photographs, and artifacts that document the forest's history. This was a necessity due to the deterioration of some older works over time and the fact that hungry mice had eaten away at the written word as well. To preserve the historical information that remains, she digitizes documents and photos, mitigating further deterioration and possible loss of valuable information. Artifacts are categorized, labeled, and stored appropriately. Her skills as a former librarian contribute to the organization and management of such a project, and she continues archiving to ensure future generations will have access to Goodwin's history.

Although Goodwin offers the traditional outdoor activities such as bird watching, hiking, camping, and canoeing, Chelsey's goal is to initiate programs that would let visitors view the natural world in new ways. One idea is to educate visitors about how nature was used historically. With her background in costum-

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HAMPTON GENERAL STORE

Captures the Holiday Spirit



MISSION STATEMENT

Hampton Connections focuses on building community by promoting a positive view of the people and events in our town. We provide news, features, and information to connect our readers and to foster respect and appreciation for each other and all our town has to offer.

Chelsey Knyff continued from other side

ing and a degree in history, she plans to develop a program about the use of nature in fashion, including how shells and beetles were used to make clothing and accessories. Also in the works are a class to make bath bombs from natural materials and a candle making class.

After losing her left arm in a near-fatal motorcycle accident and then working hard in recovery, Chelsey understands the problems disabled people encounter every day. As a result, she encourages people with disabilities to enjoy Goodwin and explore aspects of the outdoors they did not think were accessible. She believes life is an adventure and says, "It's not what happens to you that matters; it's how you react to what happens to you." She is a good

example of her own philosophy. She exemplifies a can-do attitude and wants to make other people with disabilities feel welcome and comfortable in nature. Policy changes, trail modifications, and increasing awareness of disabilities are just a few ways she hopes to accomplish that goal.

Chelsey is an effective mix of motivation and dedication that benefits all aspects of Goodwin Forest and inspires those who visit there to love nature as much as she does.

For more information about Goodwin contact:

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James L. Goodwin State Forest | Connecticut State Parks and Forests (ctparks.com)

Is AI Working for You? 🤖

By Claudette Russell

According to Britannica. com artificial intelligence (AI) is defined as: the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. The term is frequently applied to the project of developing systems endowed with the intellectual processes characteristic of humans, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from past experience.

Although AI has made laudable progress in a variety of fields, it has a long way to go before it becomes useful in my everyday life. If AI really wants to help me, it needs to provide the following services.

1. Find all the missing socks my clothes dryer has hidden in the dark regions of my basement. **Find me!**
2. Prevent the internet from going down just before I place my Amazon order. I need new new socks. NOW! (see #1) . 📧 **Delayed!** 😞
3. Eliminate junk mail by never generating copy for any business that is trying to sell me the deal of a lifetime. 📧 **Limited time offer! Send money now!**
4. Allow me to diagnose my medical symptoms in the comfort of my own home so I can skip the hour wait at the doctor's office and avoid germ-laden magazines and people who are coughing. 🤧
5. Stop my phone from typing gibberish on its own and sending it to the friend I just texted lest my friend thinks I've lost my ability to spell, let alone think. 📱
6. Put an end to speeding and road rage. Equip all cars with a device that will detect any speeding vehicle driven by someone who is mouthing words no civilized person should use, and then maneuver that vehicle to the side of the road so the driver can have a time out. 🚗 🚧

So AI, if you're listening (and I know you are), rev up a few more microprocessors and provide a little more help for me and all mankind. After all, who doesn't love a good algorithm?

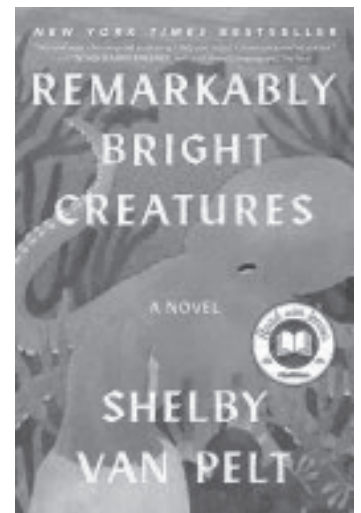
Looking for a Good Book?

By Stephanie Baine

I loved *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, my whole bookclub loved this book, my friend in Vermont loved this book, and the PHHS librarian liked it so much she sent an email about it to the entire staff.

Once I got over the idea that one of the main characters is a Giant Pacific Octopus named Marcellus, I was hooked. Marcellus is befriended by Tova, a widow who works the night shift at Sowell Bay Aquarium. Tova stays quiet about Marcellus's nightly escapes to "fish" in the other aquarium tanks and scavenge Chinese food from the trash. Tova, a recent widow, who lost her 18 year old son at sea 30 years prior, finds comfort in keeping busy. Marcellus is a frequent narrator and an exceedingly keen observer of the humans who come to observe him. Other characters include Ethan, a local grocer who knows everything about the small town and Cameron, a 30 year old who moves into town looking for answers about his past. The book is a mystery, a story of uncommon friendships, families, loss, redemption, and hope.

Although the story is a little predictable, it brings all the various plot lines and characters together in ways that make sense. (I hate a book with loose ends). That being said, I hope you read *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. Enjoy!



Contributors to our second edition include:
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Please email your comments/suggestions to
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