

The Habitat

A newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.

Fall 2023

volume 35 number 3



CACIWC's 46th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference

Continuing our in-person format at a new venue!

For our 2023 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, CACIWC continues with an in-person format, our second since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our members have requested these in-person events, which allow easier speaker questions and discussions along with networking opportunities among our members. This year our conference is being hosted at the newly constructed, the **Bristol Event Center**, located at 112 Century Drive Bristol, CT 06010.



We are pleased to welcome **James O'Donnell, PhD, University of Connecticut Professor of Marine Sciences and Executive Director of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)** as our 2023 conference keynote speaker. Professor O'Donnell will outline risks and adaptation options in his keynote address, entitled "***Climate Change in Connecticut (and what we are going about it).***"

Keynote speaker presentation abstract:

The climate of the earth is changing. Even if global greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced soon, the world will be warmer, the ocean deeper, storm winds stronger, and high rainfall events will be more intense. Since the patterns of development and the extensive infrastructure of Connecticut didn't anticipate these conditions, much is at risk. Projecting likely future condition in Connecticut is central to establishing *conference, continued on page 6*

Be certain to arrive early to pick up your badge and registration materials and enjoy our breakfast buffet in time to be in your seats for the 8:45 AM business meeting. We have a full agenda with several of our workshops addressing the impact of climate change as well as the major theme of our 2023 conference, **Celebrating Connecticut's Conservation Commissions**.

New Conference Venue!

Bristol Event Center
112 Century Drive Bristol, CT 06010

The CACIWC Annual Meeting Committee has selected this facility to provide us with banquet and workshop rooms, space for display viewing and networking, and a delicious luncheon. Please join us!

Note Early Morning Agenda!

Registration & Breakfast - 8:00 AM
Business Meeting - 8:45 AM
Keynote Speaker - 9:00 AM

For our 2023, CACIWC has again returned to scheduling our keynote speaker at 9:00 AM immediately following the 8:45 AM Business Meeting and before the workshop sessions. This will allow our members to network with other attendees during a relaxed luncheon, free from any presentations.

CACIWC

Board of Directors



Officers

Alan Siniscalchi	President
Peter Bassermann	Vice President
Charles Dimmick	Treasurer
Maureen Fitzgerald	Secretary

County Representatives

Alicia Mozian	Fairfield County
Ann Beaudin	Hartford County
Jeremy Leifert	Litchfield County
Marianne Corona	Middlesex County
Maria Kayne	New Haven County
Laura Magaraci	New London County
Rodney Parlee	Tolland County
Lindsay Beutler	Windham County

Alternate County Representatives

Aleksandra Moch	Fairfield County
Vacant	Hartford County
Abby Conroy	Litchfield County
Kathy King	Middlesex County
J. David Rauch	New Haven County
Gary Gregory	New London County
Vacant	Tolland County
Vacant	Windham County

At-Large Representative(s)

Vacant	
Darcy Winther	DEEP Liaison

The Habitat is the newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC). Materials from *The Habitat* may be reprinted with credit given. The content of *The Habitat* is solely the responsibility of CACIWC and is not influenced by sponsors or advertisers.

Interim Editor: Alan Siniscalchi
Associate Editor: Ann Letendre

Correspondence to the editor, manuscripts, inquiries, etc. should be sent to Alan Siniscalchi at TheHabitat@caciwc.org.

www.caciwc.org

CACIWC News

As we make final preparations for our 2023 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, we think back to the many conservation and inland wetlands commissioners and staff who have served their towns through the decades. As outlined throughout this special conference issue of *The Habitat*, CACIWC is pleased to bring you our second in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic!

Following last year’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA), the theme of this year’s conference, Celebrating Connecticut’s Conservation Commissions, will focus on the important work of our conservation commissioners and staff, while recognizing the anniversaries of several key Connecticut legislative initiatives which expanded the scope and size our state’s municipal Conservation Commissions.

The record temperatures and other extreme weather observed throughout much of the world this past summer emphasize the call for all Connecticut conservation commissions to help assess, document, and increase resilience to climate change. Our 2023 keynote speaker, James O’Donnell, PhD, UConn Professor of Marine Sciences and Executive Director of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) will cover these issues in his address, entitled “Climate Change in Connecticut (and what we are going about it).”

Another advantage of offering in-person conference again this year is how easily it promotes both
CACIWC news, continued on page 12

In This Issue

	PAGE
CACIWC News	2
Annual Conference Registration	3
CIPWG Native Plants & Pollinators Conference	4
CT DEEP State Wildlife Action Plan Survey	5
Conference Workshops and Schedule	8
Member Contact Information Needed	14
2023 Member Surveys Responses Requested	14

How to Register for Our 2023 Conference

Two methods are available to register for the conference:

1) You can register using the online form and pay by credit card, debit card, PayPal account or mail your check to our office. This form is located on our website, at:

[CACIWC Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference \(wufoo.com\)](https://www.wufoo.com).

2) You may also register the traditional way by completing and mailing the printed form to our office along with your check. This form is also located on our website at: [Registration Form \(caciwc.org\)](https://www.caciwc.org).

Please note that a major discount on the registration fee is available to current CACIWC members. Two methods are also available for you or your commission to renew your membership:

1) You can renew your membership using the online form and pay by credit card, debit card, PayPal account or mail your check to our office. This form is located on our website, at:

[CACIWC Membership Form 2023-24 \(wufoo.com\)](https://www.wufoo.com).

2) You may also renew your CACIWC membership the traditional way by completing and mailing the printed form to our office along with your check. This form is also located on our website at: [CACIWC Dues Renewal 2023-24](https://www.caciwc.org) printable form.

The renewal of your membership dues will help us fund the conference and upcoming issues of *The*

Habitat. Please also consider becoming a conference sponsor this year. Your sponsorship at any level will also help us fund this in-person conference. Please see the sponsorship categories listed on our registration form and website: [CACIWC 2023 Sponsorship categories](https://www.caciwc.org).

Would your organization like to register to exhibit at our 2023 conference or advertise in our conference brochure? Please see additional information at: [CACIWC_2023_AnnMtg-Exhibit](https://www.caciwc.org). Nonprofit organizations can exhibit at a greatly reduced price, please see:

[Nonprofit Exhibitor Registration \(wufoo.com\)](https://www.wufoo.com).

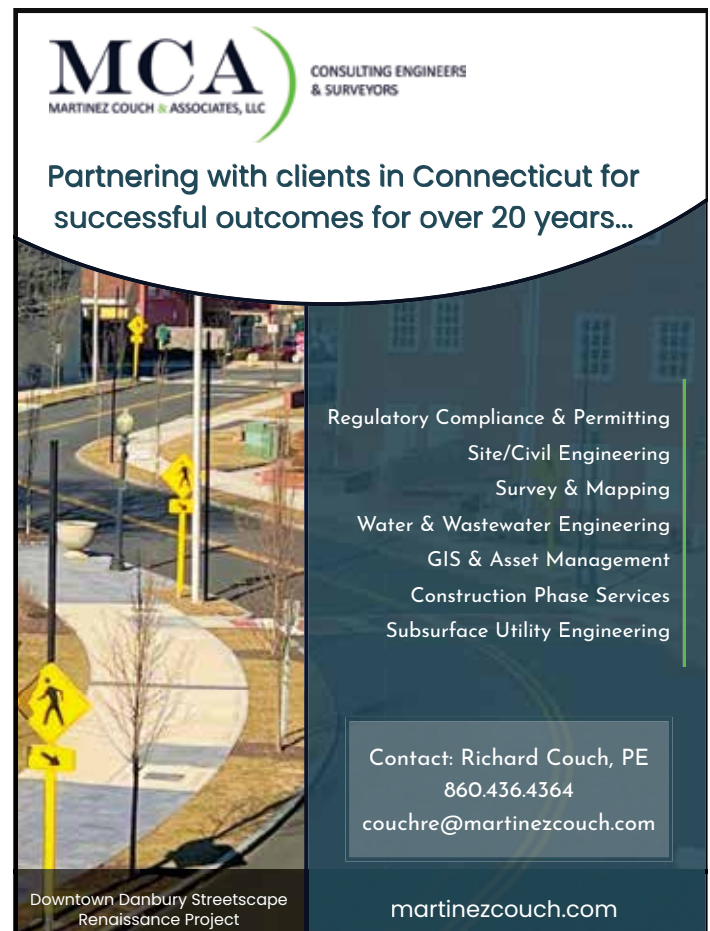
We encourage you to periodically check our website for updates: www.caciwc.org. Feel free to contact us with any questions at: AnnualMtg@caciwc.org.

Thank you, we look forward to seeing you at the conference! 🍁



Restoring the Native Habitat

ERNST SEEDS 800-873-3321
sales@ernstseed.com <https://ernstseed.co/adHab>



MCA CONSULTING ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS
MARTINEZ COUCH & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Partnering with clients in Connecticut for successful outcomes for over 20 years...

Regulatory Compliance & Permitting
Site/Civil Engineering
Survey & Mapping
Water & Wastewater Engineering
GIS & Asset Management
Construction Phase Services
Subsurface Utility Engineering

Contact: Richard Couch, PE
860.436.4364
couchre@martzinezcouch.com

Downtown Danbury Streetscape Renaissance Project

[martinezcouch.com](https://www.martinezcouch.com)

CIPWG 2023 Native Plants and Pollinators Conference Scheduled!

For 2023, the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) conference was organized as an in-person event and scheduled on November 2, 2023, from 8:45 AM to 3:30 PM at the UConn Student Union Ballroom, Room 330, 2100 Hillside Road, Storrs CT 06268. Register ASAP as the conference may soon reach the registration limit.

Join the conference for an exciting day of presentations featuring current science-based research and information on supporting pollinators in managed landscapes. Learn how native plants support pollinator health throughout the year!

The breakout sessions include topics titled: Bee The Future, Plants for Instant Pollinator Habitat, How to Collect and Sow Native Plant Seeds, Monarch Butterfly Biology, Ecology, and Conservation Needs, and All Decked Out: Great Native Cultivars.

Recertification Credits are available. Registration is \$75 or \$25 for matriculated students with a valid school ID.

For more information on this important conference for town commissions and others: UConn Native Plants and Pollinators Conference | Integrated Pest Management 🍂



STEVEN DANZER, PhD & ASSOCIATES LLC
Wetlands & Environmental Consulting

STEVEN DANZER, PhD
Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS)
Soil Scientist

203 451-8319
WWW.CTWETLANDSCONSULTING.COM

WETLAND BOUNDARIES • POND & LAKE MANAGEMENT
CONSTRUCTION FEASIBILITY CONSULTATIONS • ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



The Quality Stormwater Management System


BMP's products like the SNOUT®, Bio-Skirt®, and our new Turbo Plate® help you reduce stormwater pollution with simple solutions.

Best Management Products
The Stormwater Quality Experts

Made in Connecticut with over 90,000 installations since 1999


New PDH Webinar at bmpinc.com!

For more information on how to solve your stormwater quality issues contact us at [800.504.8008](tel:800.504.8008) or visit bmpinc.com.




CONNECTICUT BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Documenting, protecting, and educating about our state's diverse flora



Since 1903, the Connecticut Botanical Society's mission has been to increase knowledge of the state's flora and promote conservation and public awareness of our rich natural heritage. We organize many field trips each year, as well as plant identification workshops, lectures, and publications. New members are welcome!



www.ct-botanical-society.org

Take the CT DEEP State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Survey!

Do you want to learn about and contribute to the 2025 revision of Connecticut's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)? These plans are developed to identify vulnerable species and habitats, threats affecting those species and habitats, and actions to address those threats. Register for the workshop presented by Brian Hess, Acting Director of the DEEP Wildlife Division in our annual conference, entitled "The Connecticut State Wildlife Action Plan: A Blueprint for Collaborative Conservation." You can also participate in a SWAP survey, please see the below invitation!

Dear Conservation Partner,

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) is preparing for the 2025 revision of Connecticut's State Wildlife Action Plan (Connecticut SWAP). As an organization or agency that recognizes the value

of Connecticut's fish and wildlife species and their habitats, we need your input. Our hope is to make the revision process collaborative to ensure that the SWAP reflects our collective priorities.

Please complete the survey by clicking here (CT SWAP Survey) by November 17, 2023. If you believe there is someone else from your organization or agency who should complete the survey instead of you, feel free to forward it to them. Please note that the survey is being conducted by an independent survey research specialist, and your responses will not be associated with your name. The survey should take you approximately 25 minutes.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Cindi Jacobson at c.jacobson@innovativeoutcomes.net or at 970-456-7990.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the survey. Your input will ensure that the next iteration of Connecticut's SWAP will be a useful document for all of us to safeguard the future of Connecticut's species of greatest conservation need.


Best regards,

Jenny Dickson
Acting Chief
Bureau of Natural Resources 🍁

New England Wetland Plants, Inc.
Wholesale Native Plant Nursery

Your source for...

Trees, Shrubs, Ferns, Flowering Perennials, and Grasses
Coastal and Inland Wetland Plants
Specialty Seed Mixes
Coir Logs, Straw Wattles, Blankets and Mats



820 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002
Phone: (413) 548-8000 Fax: (413) 549-4000
Email: info@newp.com Web: www.newp.com



Collaborating with Clients on Environmental Projects Since 1986

Wetland Delineation | Natural Resource Permitting | Cultural Resources | Peer Review
Wildlife Habitat & Rare Species Evaluations | Sediment & Erosion Control Plans
Stormwater Management Compliance | Ecological Restoration | Vernal Pool Assessments

413.256.0202 | www.swca.com

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

conference, continued from page 1

new design criteria for all infrastructure in 2050 and 2100. That information underpins the assessment of what is most at risk and the development of viable adaptation options. These are the science and engineering challenges CIRCA has undertaken. Assisting people and governments in choosing whether to act, what adaptation approaches to employ, what projects are most urgent, and how to pay for them, are challenges of public policy, law, and economics. Through extensive engagement, and with the assistance of local, state, and federal government staff, the Resilience Connecticut project has identified and analyzed more than one hundred projects that climate change has created or exacerbated in Connecticut, and that towns would like help in addressing. Professor O'Donnell will summarize the changes that we expect, and the process we have used to create a "Pipeline" of Projects. Dr. O'Donnell will illustrate the key components of the approach by discussing some specific projects. He will conclude with a summary of important lessons

about effective adaptation planning and highlight some outstanding issues that need attention.

Keynote speaker biography:

Jim O'Donnell is a physical oceanographer. He studies the physical processes that determine the circulation and transport of materials in the coastal ocean. He earned a BSc. (Hons) in Applied Physics from Strathclyde University in Scotland, and a MS and PhD in Oceanography from the University of Delaware. After two years as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge University, England, he joined the faculty of the University of Connecticut in 1987 and was appointed Professor in 1999. He was elected to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering in 2009 and was appointed to be Executive Director of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) in 2014.

Our 2023 Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference will include **four revised and updated** *conference, continued on page 7*

PLANTERS' CHOICE NURSERY



You want to provide nothing but the best for the cultivated landscape. For over 50 years, Planters' Choice has been doing just that.

When your project needs top quality natives, other northern grown product, and plants carefully sourced from top-tier nurseries, trust in our team to consistently make that happen.

140 Huntingtown Road
Newtown, CT 06470
(203) 426-4037

1201 Bunker Hill Road
Watertown, CT 06795
(860) 945-6588


www.planterschoice.com

conference, continued from page 6

workshop tracks with topics on Morticulture: The Ecological Importance of Old and Dying Trees, Advanced Topics in Wetlands Enforcement, Supporting and Celebrating Sustainable Initiatives in CT Communities, The Benefits of Greenways and Enhancing Outdoor Recreation, The CT Wildlife Action Plan, A Blueprint for Collaborative Conservation, 2023 Wetland Law Q&A, Conservation Commissions and Climate Resilience, Solutions to the Food Waste Crisis in CT, Conserving Amphibian & Reptile Diversity, Stormwater Management in CT: Efforts to Reduce Impacts & Enhance Resiliency, The CT Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) and An Introduction to Our New Tools, along with GPS Mapping Using the Advenza Map App.

Our conference venue will also host a revised layout of new and informative displays arranged in a spacious setting that will promote open


conference, continued on page 12



Environmental Planning & Permitting

We bring collective knowledge, technical excellence, and a wide network of trusted relationships to deliver value.

- Wetland Delineation & Assessments
- Vernal Pool Surveys
- Ecological and Wetland Restoration
- NEPA & CEPA Analysis
- Rare Species Surveys
- Environmental Permitting
- Drone Flights



Jeffrey Shamas, CE, CSS, SPWS
jshamas@vhb.com | 860.807.4388

www.vhb.com
Engineers | Scientists | Planners | Designers

Enhancing properties and communities through exceptional land use services.

REDNISS & MEAD LAND SURVEYING
CIVIL ENGINEERING
PLANNING & ZONING CONSULTING
PERMITTING

203.327.0500 | www.rednissmead.com



Ferrucci & Walicki, LLC 

www.fwforesters.com

6 Way Road, Middlefield, CT 06455
CT and MA Certified Foresters
NRCS Technical Service Provider

Forest management, timber harvest, recreation and wildlife habitat plans

Boundary and GIS mapping services

PA 490 and Chapter 61

860-349-7007 – fw@fwforesters.com



DELIVERING VALUE TO CLIENTS IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BL Companies specializes in Natural & Cultural Resource studies related to:

- Land Development • Energy • Telecommunications • Infrastructure • Transportation • Regulatory Compliance

**Wetlands & Soils Scientists • Biologists
Ecologists • Archaeologists**



Architecture
Engineering
Environmental
Land Surveying

BL Companies, Inc.
800.301.3077
blcompanies.com
Meriden | Hartford

CACIWC's Environmental Conference Schedule & Workshops

Conference Schedule & Workshop Descriptions: (Four Tracks, Three Sessions, 12 Workshops)

Tracks	Session 1 10:15-11:15 AM	Session 2 11:30 AM-12:30 PM	Session 3 2:00-3:15 PM
Track A. Assessing & preserving our forests, wetlands, & their inhabitants	Workshop A1	Workshop A2	Workshop A3
Track B. IWWA evaluation of applications, training, & wetlands law	Workshop B1	Workshop B2	Workshop B3
Track C. Climate impact, increasing resiliency, and the role of CT conservation commissions	Workshop C1	Workshop C2	Workshop C3
Track D. Helping our commissions evaluate and respond to evolving issues	Workshop D1	Workshop D2	Workshop D3

Session 1 (10:15-11:15 AM)

A1. “Morticulture: The Abundant Life in Old & Dead Trees”

Margery C. B. Winters, Chair, Simsbury Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, President, Simsbury Land Trust & Assistant Director, Roaring Brook Nature Center

Once considered a wasted resource and a hazard in forest landscapes, dead trees, and logs are now known to be valuable and essential parts of a healthy, mature forest ecosystem. In addition to providing essential habitat and food for many terrestrial and aquatic species, these senescing trees serve as a vital source of soil moisture, soil carbon, and nutrients for the entire forest. The importance and benefits of allowing our existing older and “middle-aged” forests to reach their full ecological potential and develop into a forest that has its full complement of environmental services, a process called proforestation, will also be discussed.

B1. “Advanced Topics* in Wetlands Enforcement”

Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC with Mark Branse, Halloran & Sage, LLP, and Darcy Winther, State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), as moderator

Let’s discuss how some of you are using Notices of Violation incorrectly and how to issue an order when you don’t know the remediation that is required to correct the violation. We’ll use the template that I developed and distributed through *The Habitat*. Let’s have a wide-ranging approach to enforcement from incremental steps using your “soft” power to formal legally defined actions (orders + lawsuits). Are you jumping over steps and complicating your life? And what’s your civility quotient? (How civil are you to those who appear before you?) ***No prerequisites required. You will all be ready for advanced enforcement issues after attending this workshop.**

C1 “Sustainable CT: Supporting and Celebrating Sustainability Initiatives in Connecticut Communities”

Jessica LeClair, Senior Program Director, Sustainable CT

Sustainable CT is a statewide municipal certification program that inspires and supports communities to become more vibrant, connected, healthy, and resilient. The workshop session will provide an overview of Sustainable CT, including the new Climate Leader Designation. The Climate Leader Designation celebrates municipalities that are reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions and preparing their communities for the impacts of climate change. The workshop will focus on the how Connecticut Commissions can use the Sustainable CT framework as a resource to accomplish their commission goals, and help commissioners understand how to access funding and support for sustainability projects through Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund.

D1. “The Benefits of Preserving Greenways and Enhancing Outdoor Recreation”

Kimberly Bradley, CT Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator, State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Trails and greenways positively impact individuals and improve communities by providing not only recreation and transportation opportunities, but also by influencing economic and community development. The DEEP Connecticut Trails and Greenways Program provides opportunities for collaboration, funding, and education in coordination with the Connecticut Greenways Council. DEEP staff will provide an overview of the program and an opportunity to learn how DEEP works with municipalities to enhance outdoor recreation across the State of Connecticut. The grant application process will also be reviewed. Bring your questions, concepts, and points of discussion as we hit the trails!

Session 2 (11:30 AM-12:30 PM)

A2. The Connecticut State Wildlife Action Plan: A Blueprint for Collaborative Conservation”

Brian Hess, Acting Director, Wildlife Division, State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Connecticut has begun the process of revising its State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) ahead of the 2025 due date. SWAPs identify vulnerable species and habitats, threats affecting those species and habitats, and actions to address those threats. The plan has roles for organizations of all sizes and serves as a hub for collaborative conservation statewide. A major goal of the 2025 revision is to produce a plan that is more useful, relevant, and implementable by a wider range of conservation partners. Learn about our current SWAP, the revision process, how the document can help your work, and how to help make the 2025 SWAP the best yet.

B2. “2023 Wetlands Law & Regulations Update with Question & Answer Session”

*Mark Branse, Halloran & Sage, LLP
Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC
with Darcy Winther, State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), as moderator*

These wetlands attorneys have been brought back again by popular demand to keep you current with the law. Bring your questions and your additional suggestions of possible improvements to the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) now that we have celebrated the Act's 50th Anniversary during 2022. There is much to discuss in response to your suggestions, concerns, and questions! Come ready to pose questions as you try to stump the attorneys!

C2. “Conservation Commissions and Climate Resilience”

Louanne Cooley and Kayla Vargas from the CT Institute of Resilience and Climate Adaptation (UConn CIRCA) & Michael Stankov, Environmental Planner/Inland Wetland Agent, Town of Mansfield

Climate change has created challenges for managing public natural resources. Conservation commissions should consider the effect of climate change on natural resources and the solutions these resources provide, when undertaking their duties of protecting and preserving biological diversity and natural resources. Conservation Commissions can act to increase municipal climate resiliency to impacts like flooding, heat, and drought by protecting present and future natural resources and the ecosystem services they provide. We will discuss ways Conservation Commissions can act within their legal authority and in concert with other town, regional, and state boards, commissions, and agencies to promote climate resilience and nature-based solutions.

D2. “Solutions to the Food Waste Crisis in Connecticut”

Sherill Baldwin, Sustainable Materials Management Environmental Analyst, State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and Pippa Bell Ader of Sustainable Westport

Learn about food waste, including how municipalities and DEEP are responding with innovative pilots, programs, and other initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle the organic portion of our municipal solid waste. Sherill Baldwin of DEEP will provide an overview of the challenges, programs the state is implementing with municipalities and food waste prevention and food recovery policy ideas. Pippa Bell Ader of Sustainable Westport, a non-profit, will discuss how Westport's voluntary food scrap recycling program got started, progress made, challenges and ideas for the future.

Session 3 (2:00-3:15 PM):

A3. “Conserving Amphibian and Reptile Diversity – a Collective Responsibility”

Hank Gruner, Herpetologist, and member of the Andover Conservation Commission & Dennis Quinn, owner of Quinn Ecological, LLC

Responding to rapidly changing climatic conditions is a significant challenge facing populations of many amphibians and reptiles. Low dispersal capabilities, coupled with an increasingly fragmented landscape, limit the capacity of populations to rearrange themselves in response to climatic changes that impact habitat suitability. Although some species and/or populations may demonstrate the ability to locally adapt to changing conditions, this remains far from certain. This session will provide an update on the status of Connecticut's “herps” and illustrate the critical role municipal commissions can play in fostering climate change resiliency for Connecticut's herpetofauna.

Hank Gruner and Dennis Quinn are contributing authors on the recent publication, *Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in Connecticut*, published by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

B3. “Stormwater Management in Connecticut: An Update on Efforts to Reduce Impacts and Enhance Resiliency”

Dave Dickson, Extension Educator & Director, UConn CLEAR; & Mary Looney, Municipal Stormwater Educator, UConn CLEAR

The State of Connecticut has been working to shift how we manage stormwater in order to help reduce the water quality and quantity impacts of increased stormwater runoff. Educators for UConn's Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) will provide an update on the status of these efforts, including the MS4 and other regulatory permits; a new Stormwater Quality Manual; and the advent of stormwater utilities.

CACIWC's Environmental Conference Schedule & Workshops (con't.)

C3. "The CT Natural Diversity Database: What We Do and an Introduction to Our New Tools"

Robin S. Blum, Supervising Wildlife Biologist, Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB), Wildlife Division, State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

The Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) is the repository for data related to Connecticut's Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species. We provide a variety of public services, including environmental reviews of projects that may impact Connecticut's listed species. These data are an essential component of any Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). This presentation will offer a description of the program and its services, along with providing a demonstration of our new online application portal.

D3. "GPS Mapping Using the *Avenza* Maps App"

Emily Wilson, Geospatial Educator with UConn Extension and CLEAR, and the UConn CT Trails Program & Adelheid Koepfer, UConn CT Trails Program (CT Trail Census and CT Trail Finder)


The *Avenza* Maps smartphone app checks all the boxes when it comes to the mapping of trails, important habitat areas, and other areas surveys requiring GPS. It is free, allows for collection of lines and points at the same time using tracking, and easily adds smartphone photos as points on the map. And, directly from the app on an iOS or android phone, the data can be saved to a cloud drive (Google drive, OneDrive, etc.) or emailed to yourself or a GIS friend. The workshop will include a demo of the app and how it works for trail mapping, along with example uses of the collected data including viewing on google earth, editing in QGIS, and Emily's personal favorite, sending it over for inclusion in CT Trail Finder!

— SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY —

Registration & Breakfast	8:00 – 8:45 am
Welcome & Business Mtg.	8:45 – 9:00 am
Keynote Speaker	9:00 – 10:00 am
Break 1	10:00 – 10:15 am
Session 1 Workshops	10:15 – 11:15 am
Break 2	11:15 – 11:30 am
Session 2 Workshops	11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Break 3	12:30 – 12:45 pm
Luncheon	12:45 – 1:45 pm
Break 4	1:45 – 2:00 pm
Session 3 Workshops	2:00 – 3:15 pm
Conference ends	3:30 pm



Principal:
Michelle Ford, CWB®, PWS, CESSWI



- Delineation of inland, tidal, and federal (USACE) wetlands
- Municipal third-party review
- GPS & GIS data collection / natural resource inventories
- Wildlife / rare species surveys and evaluations
- Trail maps and trail guide development

www.ecomapsllc.com | michelle@ecomapsllc.com

Small/Minority Business Enterprise (SBE/MBE) / Woman-owned Business

conference, continued from page 7

discussions and networking opportunities among our members and other conference attendees.

While the pandemic risks have subsided, we strongly encourage all attendees to be fully vaccinated and up to date for both their COVID booster and influenza vaccines. Feel free to bring your masks for use when sitting close together!

Please note that our CACIWC's 46th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference will again start 30 minutes earlier this year to accommodate our new keynote speaker plenary session. Be certain to arrive early to pick up your badge and registration materials in time to be in your seats for the 8:45 AM business meeting. Be certain to register soon to enable us to provide the early estimate of our attendees required by our venue. We anticipate a large crowd this year so register early to avoid disappointment! Watch for additional conference news and information on our website. Please direct any questions on our annual conference to us at: AnnualMtg@caciwc.org.

CACIWC news, continued from page 2

open workshop Q&A discussions, as well as networking opportunities among our members and other conference attendees. Register early to be able to enjoy these opportunities!

In other news:

1. Our CACIWC Annual Meeting Committee had reviewed the many comments and suggestions submitted on the survey distributed at our 2022 conference and used these suggestions to organize our 46th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, scheduled on Saturday, November 11, 2023. We are excited to introduce you to the newly constructed, Bristol Event Center with its spacious rooms and high-quality menu.

2. Although our expenses for organizing our conferences and preparing issues of *The Habitat* have continued to grow, the Board of Directors had again decided to maintain our CACIWC 2023-24 membership dues at the 2022-23 rates. A major

CACIWC news, continued on page 13

Kerin & Fazio Valuation Group

- Real Estate Appraisals
- Conservation Easements
- Open Space
- Farmland
- Yellow Book Appraisals



Serving Connecticut Municipalities

203.259.9500 | WWW.KFVG.COM




HALLORAN SAGE

Our Practice Areas:

- Wetlands Permitting and Enforcement
- Regulation Amendments
- Special Permitting and Variances
- Zoning Enforcement
- Site Plans
- Subdivisions
- Administrative Appeals
- Siting Council Approvals
- Complex Land Use Litigation

Our Team:

Mark K. Branse	Kenneth R. Slater, Jr.
Thomas Plotkin	Matthew J. Willis
Richard P. Roberts	Michael A. Zizka

860.522.6103 | halloransage.com



CACIWC news, continued from page 12

discount is also offered for members and staff who register for our 2023 conference. We thank all of you who have already renewed your 2023-24 dues. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please see the links to our current online and mail-in membership renewal and conference registration forms on our website: www.caciwc.org.

3. We continue to appreciate all of you who answered our surveys of all conservation and inland wetlands commissions in response to the link sent with out to our commission members. The inland wetlands agency survey will follow our celebration of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) by assess ability of inland wetlands commissions and staff to conduct their work including the need for additional wetlands training, while the conservation commission survey will evaluate the ability of these commissions to conduct their work while responding to climates change impacts and other evolving new challenges.

4. Please be certain to provide us with updated and expanded emails and other contact information to help Our Database Manager & Membership Coordinator Janice Fournier maintain an up-to-date membership list. This information will help expand distribution of *The Habitat* and our new and expanded CACIWC Listserve.

The CACIWC Board of Directors again extends its appreciation of the work that you and your fellow commissioners and staff conduct on behalf of your town and our state habitats. We look forward to seeing all of you at our 46th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference!

Thank you,
Alan J. Siniscalchi, President 🍀
CACIWC



2022 Conference ballroom & attendees. Photo by Laura Magaraci.



The new Bristol Event Center.

THE POND AND LAKE CONNECTION

**WETLAND & COASTAL
INVASIVE SPECIES
CONTROL SPECIALIST**

- Wetland Mowing - Low Ground Pressure Amphibious Unit
- Aquatic Herbicide Applications & Permitting
- Surveys, Soil Sampling
- Mosquito Abatement
- Personnel & Equipment Transport
- Wetland Trenching, Beaver Dam & Debris Removal
- Phragmites Treatment, Mowing & Chopping

NY #15201 - NJ #999729 - CT #2764 - MA #CC-0048047 - RI #6781

The Pond And Lake Connection
1112 Federal Road Brookfield, CT 06804
1-800-305-3277 | www.thepondconnection.com



Connecticut Association of Conservation and
Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT 06457

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit # 158



THE HABITAT

*Dedicated to constant vigilance, judicious management
and conservation of our precious natural resources.*
www.caciwc.org



Printed on
recycled paper

We Need Your Updated Contact Information!

Unfortunately, many municipal websites no longer provide commission staff telephone numbers or even email listings to enable members of the public to easily reach commission staff and chairs. This practice also inhibits us from providing you with the latest updates on our conference and other information.

Our CACIWC Database Manager has been reaching out to you for updated contact information to ensure that we have information on the current commission chairs and staff with updated emails and office phone numbers for accurate distribution of *The Habitat*, as well as news from our revised ListServ. Please respond to her requests for contact information or let us know of any changes by emailing us at: board@caciwc.org. 🍁

Please Respond to Our 2023 CACIWC Member Commission Surveys!

We have also sent you links to separate member commission activity surveys for all Connecticut Inland Wetlands Agencies and Conservation Commissions. These targeted surveys will help us evaluate the activities and training needs of inland wetlands agencies along with the ability of today's conservation commissions to assess and protect important habitats in their towns while responding to responding to climate change impacts and other evolving new challenges.

Please complete the member surveys so we can provide initial summaries at our 2023 annual conference! If you have lost the email with the survey link, please contact us to send you a new link at: board@caciwc.org. 🍁