

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION
AND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSIONS



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of CACIWC

Annual Report & Conference Brochure

**47th Annual Meeting &
Environmental Conference**

Saturday, November 16, 2024

Bristol Event Center | Bristol, CT

Connecticut Association of Conservation
& Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC)
(www.caciwc.org)

47th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference
“Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of CACIWC”



Saturday, November 16, 2024

Bristol Event Center

112 Century Drive, Bristol, CT 06010

Schedule for the Day

Registration & Breakfast	8:00-8:45 a.m.
Welcome & Business Meeting.....	8:45-9:00 a.m.
Keynote Speaker Panel	9:00-10:45 a.m.
Break 1.....	10:45-11:00 a.m.
Session 1 Workshops	11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Break 2.....	12:00-12:15 p.m.
Luncheon.....	12:15-1:15 p.m.
Break 3.....	1:15-1:30 p.m.
Session 2 Workshops	1:30-2:30 p.m.
Break 4.....	2:30-2:45 p.m.
Session 3 Workshops	2:45-3:45 p.m.
Exhibits Close	4:00 p.m.
Conference Ends.....	4:30 p.m.

Business Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introduction to the Conference

Approval of Minutes – November 11, 2023 Annual Meeting

Reports: Treasurer’s Annual Report FY 2023-2024

Budget FY 2024-2025

President’s Report FY 2023-2024

Old Business

New Business

On the cover: Chestnut Oak (*Quercus montana*) on Old Growth
Forest Network Property in Bolton, CT (photo by Rod Parlee).

Keynote Speaker Panel:

We are pleased to welcome all three keynote speakers, retired Judge Marshall Berger, Jr., State Representative Mary Mushinsky, and Director of the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station, Jason White, PhD, who will help us review the five decades of progress in environmental regulation, conservation, and habitat protection since CACIWC was first organized. Information from their presentations will also help CACIWC and our member commissions prepare for future efforts impacted by climate change and other challenges.

Judge Marshall K. Berger

Judge Marshall Berger graduated from the University of Vermont with a BA degree in 1969 and from George Washington University in 1972 with a JD with honors. He was appointed a Superior Court Judge in September 1988 and has served in a variety of capacities. Most notably Judge Berger created and served as the Presiding Judge for the Land Use Docket from 2012 to 2020.

Prior to his elevation to the bench, he practiced environmental, land use, and municipal law. He served as Chief Counsel for the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of General Counsel, Air Compliance Unit.

Judge Berger taught land use law as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Connecticut School of Law from 1987 to 1994 and over the years has served on several judicial and governmental task forces. In 2009, he received the President's Award for Excellence from the Hartford County Bar Association.



Representative Mary Mushinsky

Mary Mushinsky was first elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives in 1980 on a platform of environmental activism, consumer advocacy, and improved energy policies. She currently holds the leadership position of Deputy Speaker. Mary has held various other leadership positions including co-chair of the legislature's bipartisan Program Review and Investigations Committee, specializing in preparing workforce for a changing economy, retraining older and long-term unemployed workers, apprenticeships, and improving efficiency of state programs. The committee spotlighted and expanded the state's most successful apprenticeship program, Platform to Employment. Mary previously served as co-chair of the legislature's Select Committee on Children for ten years and passed the state's anti-bullying law. She is the recipient of numerous awards for adolescent pregnancy prevention and reduction of child poverty. She also served for six years as co-chair of the legislature's Environment Committee. A biologist by training, Mary has been the chief proponent in the Connecticut legislature of major environmental legislation enacted during the 1980s and 1990s, including mandatory recycling, packaging reduction, open-space preservation, global warming mitigation, and endangered species protection laws.

Mary served as a member of the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes and the Results-Based



Accountability Working Group to achieve greater efficiencies in taxpayer-funded programs, as well as the Peak Oil Caucus to reduce the impact of high oil prices on residents and businesses. She currently serves on the Manufacturing Caucus and the Sportsmen's Caucus.

In Wallingford, Mary initiated and serves as co-chair of the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail Advisory Committee, which works with local, state, and federal officials and the community to expand the pedestrian/bicycle trail. She also served on the Wallingford Energy Conservation Commission, which promoted the energy audit and energy management recommendations now implemented by the Town of Wallingford school system. Mary is a member and legislative liaison for the Coalition for a Better Wallingford, which seeks to reduce drug and alcohol abuse.

Mary lives in Wallingford with her husband Martin J. Waters and has two adult sons, Martin and Edward Waters.

Jason C. White, PhD

Dr. Jason White is the Director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), the oldest Agricultural Experiment Station in the country. In addition to managing the agency budget of \$12.5 million and approximately 100 scientific staff, Dr. White oversees a research program of \$5.1 million in competitive funding/research. He also serves as the Managing Editor for the International Journal of Phytoremediation and sits on the editorial boards of Environmental Pollution and NanoImpact as well as the Editorial Advisory Boards of Environmental Science & Technology and Environmental Science & Technology Letters.

Dr. White is the Immediate Past President of the International Phytotechnology Society. His primary research program focuses on food safety and security, with specific interests on the impact of nanomaterials on agricultural plants and on the use of nanotechnology to sustainably increase food production and promote global food security.

Dr. White received his Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from Cornell University in 1997 and has secondary appointments at the Harvard University TH Chan School of Public Health, the University of Texas-El Paso, the University of Massachusetts, and Post University. He has published approximately 240 scientific papers that have been cited 11,991 times, as well as authoring eight book chapters.

Jason lives in Prospect, Connecticut with his wife Michelle and six children.



Workshops	Session 1 (11:00-12:00)	Session 2 (1:30-2:30)	Session 3 (2:45-3:45)
Track A — Assessing & Preserving Our Varied Habitats, Their Wildlife and Inhabitants	Workshop A1 Home2 - Summit Room*	Workshop A2 Home2 - Summit Room	Workshop A3 Home2 - Summit Room
Track B — Application Evaluation, Enforcement and Wetlands Regulation	Workshop B1 Main Ballroom	Workshop B2 Main Ballroom	Workshop B3 Main Ballroom
Track C — Increasing Climate Resiliency and Other Emerging Threats	Workshop C1 Home2 - Paragon Room*	Workshop C2 Home2 - Paragon Room	Workshop C3 Home2 - Paragon Room
Track D — Helping Our Commissions Evaluate and Respond to Evolving Threats and Other Issues	Workshop D1 Niznick Room	Workshop D2 Niznick Room	Workshop D3 Niznick Room

**The Home2-Summit and Paragon Rooms can both be accessed by taking the hallway to the right of the ballroom; turn left past the rest rooms and follow the signs. The Niznick Room is on the second floor above the registration desk; take the elevator or stairs to the right of the registration desk.*

■ Session 1 (11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

A1. Update on Invasive Aquatic Plants in CT Including *Hydrilla* ([Home2 - Summit Room](#))

Presenter:

- *Gregory J. Bugbee, Associate Scientist & Head, Office of Aquatic Invasive Species, Department of Environmental Science and Forestry, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)*

Invasive aquatic plants crowd out native vegetation, harm fisheries, degrade recreation, impede navigation, and reduce property values. A unique strain of *hydrilla* now occurs in the Connecticut River, with many areas choked with the weed. Led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), demonstration projects involving dye tests and herbicide use are underway. Management efforts entail many complications including river flow, tidal action, suspended sediment, numerous protected species, and large numbers of stakeholders. In 2023, CAES documented the spread of the Connecticut River strain of *hydrilla* to East Twin Lake. In 2024, the number of lakes increased to nine, with the locations associated with public boat launches.

B1. All Things Vegetative Considered: Enforcement & Regulation ([Main Ballroom](#))

Presenters:

- *Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC*
- *Darcy Winther, State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)*

In this workshop we will discuss: (1) how to regulate the removal of vegetation (by permit); (2) how to add vegetation plantings to a permit, i.e., a vegetated buffer (by specific permit condition or by adopting a regulation); (3) how to take enforcement for unpermitted removal of vegetation (cutting/clearing of brush and trees); and (4) how to regulate the beneficial removal of invasive vegetation. This workshop is appropriate for new and experienced commission members. Bring your questions!

C1. A Roadmap for Connecticut Climate Resilience ([Home2 - Paragon Room](#))

Presenter:

- *John Truscinski, Director of Resilience Planning, Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)*

In this workshop, John Truscinski of UConn's Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) will discuss how CIRCA's work with Connecticut coastal communities on climate resilience strategies has led to the development of a roadmap for Connecticut policy makers. Understanding climate vulnerabilities and the actions towns can take to prepare, mitigate, and adapt will require planning for future hazards, budgeting and coordination between municipal commissions, boards, and authorities.

D1. Conducting Natural Resource Inventories ([Niznick Room](#))

Presenters:

- *Hank Gruner, Herpetologist, Member of the Andover Conservation Commission*
- *Erik Keller, Vice Chairman, Ridgefield Conservation Commission; and others*

While some conservation commissions have already completed a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) for their town and others have been working to gather initial information and develop local information and databases, many commissions lack the resources or understanding of the steps needed to go beyond their initial stages of planning. Even when their NRI is completed, a commission should recognize the additional steps and resources needed to best utilize the information obtained in their NRI to effectively carry out their conservation mandate. Through case studies and other information on successful examples of new and revised NRI projects, attendees will gain useful information and insight on how to efficiently conduct their own NRI.

■ Session 2 (1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.)

A2. Sharing the Landscape with Amphibians and Reptiles (Home2 - Summit Room)

Presenters:

- *Hank Gruner, Herpetologist, Member of the Andover Conservation Commission*
- *Dennis Quinn, Owner of Quinn Ecological, LLC*

Connecticut has a long-held public trust in the stewardship of natural resources, including, biological diversity. The long-term persistence of many populations of amphibians and reptiles will rely on a renewed commitment to this public trust. But what do we mean by stewardship? This session will explore the importance of stewardship at multiple scales, putting stewardship in action, and how stewardship of the land relates to changing environmental conditions and amphibian and reptile conservation.

B2. 2024 Wetlands Law & Regulations Update with Question & Answer Session (Main Ballroom)

Presenters:

- *Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC*
- *Mark Branse, Halloran & Sage, LLP (invited)*
- *Darcy Winther & Kristen O'Neill, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)*

This always-popular inland wetlands session has been brought back again to keep you current with the law. Bring your questions and any new suggestions of improvements to the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) following our 2022 celebration of the Act's 50th Anniversary. There is still much to discuss! Come ready to pose questions as you try to stump the team!

C2. Climate Change Impact on Rural and Urban Areas (Home2 - Paragon Room)

Presenters:

- *Louanne Cooley & Kayla Vargas from the Connecticut Institute of Resilience and Climate Adaptation (UConn CIRCA)*
- *Bill Gleason, West Hartford Tree Action Group (TAG)*

Climate change continues to impact Connecticut, and rural and urban areas face both similar and distinctly different challenges. In this workshop we will discuss how heat and flooding can be addressed using the tools municipalities currently have and might need in the future with a focus on Zoning, Inland Wetlands Agency and Conservation Commission authority. The workshop will also review how West Hartford uses a combination of the town Tree Action Group, citizen volunteer action, and unique educational outreach programs to improve environmental resilience, diversity, and conservation.

D2. Invasive Plant Updates and Prioritizing Management (Niznick Room)

Presenter:

- *Lauren Kurtz, PhD, Invasive Species Outreach Specialist, UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture*

This presentation will review recent updates to the Connecticut Invasive Plant List, including identification and control methods. The recent additions are the first updates to the list since 2018. Additionally, the task of managing invasive plants can quickly become overwhelming due to the time, money, and persistence required for positive results. One practical approach is to use triage, an assessment practice that prioritizes invasive species management based on the degree of ecological damage to the site and economic criteria.

■ Session 3 (2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.)

A3. Connecticut's Second Bird Atlas (Home2 - Summit Room)

Presenter:

- *Min T. Huang, PhD, Migratory Bird Program Leader, State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)*

The second Connecticut Bird Atlas is complete and with its completion ushers the bird conservation community into the next phase of this vision for restoring our cherished birds. The Atlas provides Towns, Land Trusts, NGOs, and State and Federal Agencies with the information on the status of our birds to inform land management actions to benefit declining populations on both local and regional scales. However, as is often the case, funding to implement necessary conservation actions is lacking. The second objective of the Connecticut Bird Atlas, after the data were collected and analyzed, was to galvanize the conservation community to develop a dedicated source of funding to implement the findings of the Atlas. We are now at that critical juncture.

B3. River Systems: Riparian Corridors & Stormwater Management (Main Ballroom)

Presenters:

- *Alicea Charamut, Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut*
- *Christopher R. Field, PhD, Director Office of Planning and Resilience, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)*
- *Bianca Beland, DEEP Land and Water Resources Division*

Protecting riparian zones is important in maintaining the health and water quality of our rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and other water bodies and is essential for source water protection. This workshop will focus on the functions and value of riparian zones in protecting water quality and aquatic habitats, along with helping to mitigate the impact of storms. The workshop will compare buffers and upland review areas and discuss the role of local land use agencies in protection of these

critical areas. This workshop will also explore how Connecticut state agencies are continuing their efforts to improve management of stormwater as our state experiences increasing numbers of extreme rainfall events driven by climate change and other factors. The impacts of the catastrophic flooding event observed in southwestern Connecticut towns this past August will also be discussed along with opportunities for towns to access federal climate resilience funding to keep communities safe from these events.

C3. Light Pollution: Its Impact on Wildlife & Climate Change (Home2 - Paragon Room)

Presenters:

- *Leo Smith, Chair Connecticut Chapter, DarkSky International*
- *Craig Repasz, Chair & Co-Founder, Lights Out Connecticut*
- *Margery C.B. Winters, Chair, Simsbury Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, President, Simsbury Land Trust & Assistant Director, Roaring Brook Nature Center*

Light pollution adversely affects the health and quality of life of plants, animals, and people. Discussion will focus on efforts to provide outdoor light when and where it's needed while, to the highest degree reasonably possible, minimizing harm from light pollution. Discussion will include the Model Outdoor Lighting Regulations for Connecticut, intended

to guide municipalities in reducing light pollution through their zoning amendment process. Using Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-approved streetlight technologies, such as adaptive lighting, to reduce lighting levels from 11 PM until 5 AM, will also be included in this discussion.

D3. Identifying Potential Vernal Pools

(Niznick Room)

Presenter:

- *Edward Pawlak, MS, Registered Soil Scientist & Certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS)*

Many municipalities are interested in mapping potential vernal pools as a first step in protecting and conserving these critical habitats. Challenges to these efforts will be discussed. Two strategies for remotely identifying potential vernal pools will be presented. Tools available within Google Earth can be used to identify small, isolated water bodies on the landscape with varying degrees of reliability, depending largely on forest composition (deciduous versus coniferous). Several examples of how confirmed vernal pools appear on Google Earth aerial photos will be presented, along with examples of "false positive" vernal pool identifications on Google Earth. A resource for identifying property lines and ownership on Google Earth will be shared. Additionally, the strategy of using spring time evening "road running" as a clue to the location of vernal pools on the landscape will also be discussed.



Invasive Species, Climate Resiliency,
Wetland Science and Permitting

Specializing in riparian knotweed
control for infrastructure resiliency

ecologicalandmanagement.com

SWAMP YANKEE EARTHCARE

Specializing in invasive plant
management and ecosystem
restoration, we can help
revitalize your municipal or
private property.

LEARN MORE AT
SwampYankeeEarthcare.com

**Protecting the planet is
our priority and our
passion!**

President's Report for the 2024 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference



Throughout the peak years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CACIWC Board of Directors looked forward to being able to provide in-person conferences again and began thinking ahead to celebrating the **50th Anniversary of CACIWC** in 2024. Fortunately, the use of COVID booster shots and other factors enabled us to return to in-person conferences and we were able to devote our past few years to our anniversary conference. Unfortunately, other issues have continued to contribute to our many national and global challenges, including the health and economic impacts resulting from military conflicts along with impacts from short-term severe weather patterns and long-term climate changes. The growing mistrust of science and government agencies by individuals and elected politicians continues to impact efforts to increase pandemic preparedness, habitat loss, and address climate change. Ongoing news of social and racial injustice reminds us to bring renewed attention to the environmental justice issues that are being pursued by many Connecticut conservation commissions. Several wars and numerous conflicts impact the global economy and detract numerous countries away from addressing global climate change by increasing education, resiliency, source control, and other means.

Despite these many national and international challenges, there is still room for optimism. Preparations for our 50th anniversary reminded us of the many natural and political cycles

that have occurred during the past 50 years that have impacted on the work of our member commissions and staff. While some impacts have been challenging, others have contributed in a positive way to our collective work in conservation and habitat protection.

As part of our preparations, we reviewed our early history going back to when the Connecticut Association of Conservation Commissions (CACC) was organized in 1964. We remembered our 2022 annual conference which celebrated the approval of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) by the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) in May 1972. We examined how this act led to the formation of local inland wetlands commissions to work alongside existing conservation commissions in towns throughout Connecticut, and how two years later in 1974, CACC became our organization CACIWC to also provide support to these newly formed land use commissions, and first worked to develop our publication, *The Habitat*.

As a result of our historic review and preparation for our **47th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference**, we recruited our 2024 **keynote speaker panel** to examine the impact of the above-mentioned cycles that have occurred during the past 50 years. While they will discuss the many historic and ongoing challenges we faced, they will also provide you with the guidance to remain optimistic about the value of your work.

As we look beyond 2024, we pledge continued efforts to help enable our member commissions and staff to face any new issues, ranging from changing climate, regulations, and other emerging threats that will impact your ongoing efforts to preserve habitats within your community and throughout our great state of Connecticut.

The CACIWC Board of Directors extends their appreciation to the many members and guests who were able to participate in our **46th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference**. This conference, held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, was our first conference hosted at the spacious, newly opened **Bristol Event Center** in Bristol, Connecticut. The conference theme, "*Celebrating Connecticut's Conservation Commissioners*," focused 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 of our state's municipal conservation commissions.

We were 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.

As a physical oceanographer studying the various physical processes that determine the circulation and transport of materials in the coastal ocean, Dr. O'Donnell was uniquely

continued next page

Earth Tones
Native Plant Nursery & Landscapes
212 Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury, CT 06798
203-263-6626
www.earthtonesnatives.com
Native to New England & Organically Grown
Grasses • Shrubs • Trees • Ferns • Perennials
Also offering:
• Landscape design • Installation • Consultation
• Storm water management • Wetland enhancements
Always focused on environmentally sound practices

President's Report (continued)

qualified to present his keynote address, entitled: “***Climate Change in Connecticut (and what we are doing about it)***.”

Professor O'Donnell 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.

During his keynote address, Professor O'Donnell outlined evidence that the climate of the earth is changing. He noted that, 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. He emphasized that since the patterns of development and the extensive infrastructure of Connecticut didn't anticipate these conditions, much is at risk. During his presentation, he described the science and engineering challenges that CIRCA has undertaken. Professor O'Donnell summarized the changes that we expect, and the process we have used to create a what he terms a “Pipeline” of Projects and illustrated the key components of this approach by discussing some specific projects. He concluded with a summary of important lessons about effective adaptation planning and highlighted some outstanding issues that need attention.

Workshops

Following the fascinating keynote presentation, our 2023 annual conference proceeded to our 12 workshops, organized in four tracks designed for both new and experienced conservation and inland wetlands commissions and their staff.

Three workshops of interest to Connecticut commissions were scheduled in Track A, entitled, *Assessing & Preserving Our Forests, Wetlands & Their Inhabitants*.

The first Track A workshop, “**Morticulture: The Abundant Life in Old & Dead Trees**,” was presented by Margery C.B. Winters, Chair, Simsbury Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, President, Simsbury Land Trust & Assistant Director, Roaring Brook Nature Center. In her workshop, Ms. Winters noted that dead trees and logs are now known to be valuable and essential parts of a healthy, mature forest ecosystem.

The second Track A workshop, “**The Connecticut State Wildlife Action Plan: A Blueprint for Collaborative Conservation**,” was presented by Brian Hess, Acting Director, Wildlife Division, State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). He described how Connecticut has begun the process of revising its State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) ahead of the 2025 due date.

The third Track A workshop, “**Conserving Amphibian and Reptile Diversity – A Collective Responsibility**,” was presented by Hank Gruner, Herpetologist, and member of the Andover Conservation Commission, and Dennis Quinn, owner of Quinn Ecological, LLC. The presenters explained how

responding to rapidly changing climatic conditions has become an increasingly significant challenge facing populations of many amphibians and reptiles.

Three workshops of interest to Connecticut commissions were also scheduled in **Track B**, *Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Agency Evaluation of Applications, Training, & Wetlands Law*.

The first workshop, entitled “**Advanced Topics in Wetlands Enforcement**,” was presented by 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.

Our second Track B workshop, “**2023 Wetlands Law & Regulations Update with Question & Answer Session**,” presented by Mark Branse, Halloran & Sage, LLP, Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC, and moderated by Darcy Winther and Kristen O'Neil, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), was brought back by popular demand. This workshop included its lengthy question-and-answer session which received many questions from those in attendance.

The third Track B workshop, entitled “**Stormwater Management in Connecticut: An Update on Efforts to Reduce Impacts and Enhance Resiliency**,” was presented by Dave Dickson, Extension Educator & Director, UConn CLEAR, and Mary Looney, Municipal Stormwater Educator, UConn CLEAR. The workshop leaders outlined how the State of Connecticut has been working to shift how we manage stormwater to help reduce the water quality and quantity impacts of increased stormwater runoff.

Three workshops of interest to conservation commissions were scheduled in **Track C**, *Climate Impact, Increasing Resilience, and the Role of Connecticut Conservation Commissions*.

The first track C workshop, “**Sustainable CT: Supporting and Celebrating Sustainability Initiatives in Connecticut Communities**,” was presented by Jessica LeClair, Senior Program Director, Sustainable CT. Ms. LeClair provided an overview of Sustainable CT, including the new Climate Leader Designation.

The second Track C workshop, “**Conservation Commissions and Climate Resilience**,” was presented by Louanne Cooley and Kayla Vargas from the CT Institute of Resilience and Climate Adaptation (UConn CIRCA), and Michael Stankov, Environmental Planner/Inland Wetland Agent, Town of Mansfield. The workshop reviewed how 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.

A third track C workshop, “**The CT Natural Diversity Database: What We Do and an Introduction to Our New Tools**,” was presented by Robin S. Blum, Supervising Wildlife Biologist, Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB), Wildlife Division, State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Three workshops of interest to conservation commissions were scheduled in Track D, *Helping Our Commissions Evaluate and Respond to Evolving Issues*.

The first Track D workshop, entitled “**The Benefits of Preserving Greenways and Enhancing Outdoor Recreation**,” was presented by Kimberly Bradley, CT Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator, State of Connecticut Department of

CACIWC 46th Annual Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2023

Bristol Event Center, Bristol, CT

Alan Siniscalchi, President and Annual Meeting Chairman, convened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

Business Meeting: The business meeting was convened by Alan Siniscalchi at 8:45 a.m.

Approval of the 45th Annual Meeting Minutes: Motion and second from the floor to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2022 Annual Meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Annual Report & Budget FY 2023-2024: Motion and second from the floor to approve the annual report and FY 2023-2024 budget. The motion carried.

President's Report FY 2022-2023: Alan Siniscalchi reviewed the President's Report included in the Conference Brochure.

Old Business: No discussion.

Election of Officers and Directors: Motion and second from the floor to approve the slate of officers and directors for the CACIWC Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Officers

President: Alan Siniscalchi
Vice President: Peter Bassermann
Treasurer: Charles Dimmick
Secretary: Maureen FitzGerald

Directors —

Fairfield County: Alicia Mozian - County Representative
Aleksandra Moch - Alternate
Hartford County: Ann Beaudin - County Representative

Litchfield County: Jeremy Leifert - County Representative
Abby Conroy - Alternate

Middlesex County: Marianne Corona - County Representative
Kathy King - Alternate

New Haven County: Maria Kayne - County Representative
J. David Rauch - Alternate

New London County: Laura Magaraci - County Representative
Gary Gregory - Alternate

Tolland County: Rod Parlee - County Representative

Windham County: Lindsay Beutler - County Representative

The following positions have not been filled at this time:

Hartford County: Alternate Representative
Tolland County: Alternate Representative
Windham County: Alternate Representative
Alternate-at-Large: Two (2) Representatives

New Business: Alan Siniscalchi requested attendees complete the survey at the end of the conference and provide suggestions for future workshops and articles for The Habitat. Alan thanked the conference sponsors, CACIWC contractors and committee members for their support.

Adjournment: The Business Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen FitzGerald, CACIWC Secretary

Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). Ms. Bradley explained how 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 second Track D workshop, entitled “**Solutions to the Food Waste Crisis in Connecticut**,” was presented by Sherill Baldwin, Sustainable Materials Management Environmental Analyst, State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and Pippa Bell Ader of Sustainable Westport. Attendees of their interesting workshop learned 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.

The third Track D workshop, entitled “**GPS Mapping Using the Avenza Maps App**,” was presented by 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).

CACIWC once again hosted a variety of nonprofit and commercial **exhibitors** to provide their informative displays in an easy-to-view arrangement between the entrance and main ballroom adjacent to the food and beverage area. Responses from our conference survey revealed an appreciation for the networking opportunity provided by these adjacent display and break areas.

We again thank the 2023 conference attendees and all those responsible for organizing our **46th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference**. To allow our members the opportunity to submit ideas for workshop topics and other suggestions, the CACIWC Annual Meeting Committee has decided to again maintain the AnnualMtg@caciwc.org email throughout the year. We used many of your suggestions in our 2024 conference so please keep forwarding your suggestions to us. We look forward to your participation at our special anniversary 2024 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference!

Even with our continually updated registration systems, the task of organizing our **annual meeting and environmental**
continued next page

President's Report (continued)

conference is a major challenge for our small volunteer board without the benefit of full-time staff. We are motivated to maintain this important event each year guided by the useful feedback we receive from all of you. This feedback will also help direct us to develop additional educational opportunities throughout the coming year. Please be certain to **complete your conference survey** before you leave today's event!

During 2024, we again reviewed our progress toward implementing the goals of our **Strategic Plan**. One important strategic goal was the continued **modernization of our financial tracking and accounting system**. Our Treasurer Charles Dimmick and Vice President Peter Bassermann both worked on additional initiatives to update our financial records using an electronic system that more efficiently prepares reports that reflect our fiscal status.

Throughout 2024, the board has continued its efforts to address another key strategic plan goal of providing **information and outreach support** to commission members and staff through our website, CACIWC.org, and our quarterly publication, *The Habitat*. During the spring, CACIWC worked closely with various partner organizations to track and update municipal commission on needed environmental advocacy efforts.

The board also continues to review progress toward achieving all the goals and objectives of our strategic plan in the context of our organizational mission. We thank those of you who reached out to us during 2024 and provided us with

important information to help guide our efforts. We remain committed to continuing efforts that will enable CACIWC to expand its role as a strong and effective statewide organization in support of you, our municipal conservation and wetlands commissioners and staff.

As we look ahead to 2025, we anticipate that the increasing threats of climate change will unfortunately continue to impact our state, and we pledge to maintain our vigilance in the protection of Connecticut's open spaces and important habitats. Those of us whom you entrust to lead CACIWC will continue efforts to bring you relevant educational programs while informing you of the latest issues affecting your role as one of Connecticut's key conservation and habitat protection assets.

At today's **47th CACIWC Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference**, with its theme of "**Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of CACIWC**" we have a full agenda starting with our three-keynote speaker panel and our 12 workshops covering many important and relevant topics.

I know that I speak for the entire CACIWC Board of Directors to welcome you to today's special 2024 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference and help us celebrate *the 50th Anniversary of CACIWC*. As a member of our dedicated CACIWC Board of Directors, I am equally appreciative of your continued efforts to protect habitats within your towns and wish you the very best for 2025!

— Alan J. Siniscalchi, President
Saturday, November 16, 2024



**Providing Invasive Plant Management Services Statewide
Since 2016**

Specialists in All Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management

Owner Christian Allyn and his capable staff of experts and applicators have helped the State of Connecticut, Connecticut Municipalities, Connecticut Land Trusts, Homeowners and Industrial Facility Managers with Invasive Plants, **especially Japanese Knotweed.**

To request a consultation please contact us through our website nomoreinvasiveplants.com

Now Servicing New York and Massachusetts

Phone 860-824-7900

Email nomoreinvasiveplants@gmail.com

Connecticut: PMCS-6338 PMBR-3280 HIC.0645992
Massachusetts: AL-0050970 New York: C0912668

© Copyright Canam IPS LLC All Rights Reserved. SM Service Mark intellectual Property of Canam IPS LLC All Rights Reserved

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



14 Pearl Lane, South Hadley, MA 01075
Phone: (413) 548-8000 Fax: (413) 549-4000
Email: info@newp.com Web: www.newp.com

Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetland Commissions

Treasurer's Report FY 2023-2024 & Budget: FY 2024-2025

	Budget(\$)	Actual(\$)	Budget(\$)
INCOME	FY '23-24	FY '23-24	FY '24-25
Membership Dues, Towns	7,500.00	6,945.60	7,500.00
Dues, other	550.00	375.19	400.00
<i>Habitat</i> – Advertising, Sponsorship	4,000.00	2,715.00	4,000.00
Contributions	1,500.00	0	0
Interest/Reimbursements	4.00	24.97	25.00
Annual Meeting Income	17,000.00	16,721.01	28,000.00
CACIWC Publication Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	30,554.00	26,782.77	39,925.00
EXPENSES			
Education & Information			
Newsletter – <i>Habitat</i>			
Layout, type, edit, graphics	2,750.00	2,204.29	2,500.00
(<i>Habitat</i> now only electronic, no print)			
Other – <i>Habitat</i> Advertising Manager	2,300.00	2,187.50	2,200.00
Website – administration, server fees	1,000.00	0	1,000.00
Wufoo		398.20	400.00
Listserve Management (now Mail Chimp)	100.00	107.08	120.00
Board Development	100.00	0	100.00
Other Organization Support	600.00	458.00	600.00
IWC & CC Educ & Information	150.00	223.00	100.00
Subtotal	7,000.00	5,578.07	7,020.00
Administration and Operations			
Administrative Support – Memb DB Mgt.	600.00	562.31	600.00
Administrative (other)	50.00	0	50.00
Bookkeeping Service	500.00	0	500.00
Office Rental (DeKoven House)	2,000.00	2,168.00	2,000.00
Office Equipment/Furniture	0	0	0
Postage/Supplies	0	0	0
Insurance	550.00	704.00	430.00
Fees/Taxes	0	0	0
Refunds	50.00	0	50.00
Subtotal	3,750.00	3,434.31	3,750.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	21,000.00	36,179.21	31,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	32,750.00	40,814.95	42,270.00
GAIN/(loss)	(2,196.00)	(14,027.18)	(2,345)

47th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference Sponsors



Patron (\$1,000 or more)

Aquarion Water Company
Eversource
Invasive Plant Solutions
Swamp Yankee Earthcare

Great Horned Owl (\$500-\$999)

BSC Group

Barred Owl (\$250-\$499)

All American Waste
Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts
Ecological Land Management
Ernst Seeds
Halloran Sage

Janet P. Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC
Kind Earth Growers, LLC
Laura Magaraci, CACIWC
Alan J. Siniscalchi, CACIWC

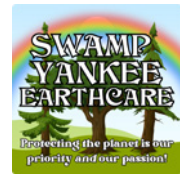
Screech Owl (\$100-\$249)

Marla Butts, Town of Woodstock
Connecticut Botanical Society
Connecticut Land Conservation Council
Ecobot
Estuary Magazine
Maureen FitzGerald, CACIWC
Len Johnson, Town of Preston
Maria Kayne, CACIWC

Saw-whet Owl (\$10-\$99)

David Dickson, UConn CLEAR • Jocelyn Lahey, CT Resource Conservation & Development (CT RC&D)
Hartley Mead, Town of Norfolk • Richard Pearson, Town of Coventry
Rod Parlee, CACIWC • Anne Rolands, *Connecticut Gardener Magazine*
Leo Smith, CT Chapter – Dark Sky International • Stephanie Warren, Killingworth

CACIWC expresses its sincere gratitude to these sponsors! They helped make this event possible!



Visit our Exhibitors!

The Bear Reality
Beaver Institute
Bolton Conservation Commission
BSC Group, Inc.
CT Advocates for Trees
CT Association of Conservation Districts
CT Botanical Society
CT Chapter of Dark Sky International
CT DEEP, Recycling Education

We are grateful for the support of the following organizations and companies exhibiting at our 2024 conference:

CT Forest & Park Association
CT Gardener Magazine
CT Invasive Plant Working Group
CT Land Conservation Council
CT League of Conservation Voters
CT Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
Earth Tones Native Plants
Estuary Magazine

Invasive Plant Solutions
Long Island Sound Futures Fund
New England Wetland Plants, Inc.
Pinelands Nursery
Planters' Choice Nursery
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Sierra Club, CT Chapter
SOLitude Lake Management
Swamp Yankee Earthcare
UConn CLEAR