

CACIWC to Host its 44th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference Saturday, November 6, 2021

*New topics and workshops highlight our third virtual conference
during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic*

Please join us for our 44th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, entitled “Maintaining our Conservation & Habitat Preservation Efforts During the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic” on Saturday, November 6, 2021.

While the CACIWC Board of Directors was hoping to return to an in-person conference this fall, the risks posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic remain high, resulting in our decision to again hold a virtual conference.

Please note that CACIWC has again scheduled our keynote speaker presentation at 9:00 AM immediately following a brief introduction and business meeting at 8:45 AM. The keynote presentation will be followed by our workshops, with five minute breaks at the end of each session. The conference is scheduled to end at 2:30 PM. Please see the detailed schedule on page 16 and visit our website for additional information including our registration forms: www.caciwc.org.

Keynote Speaker:

CACIWC is very pleased to welcome David R. Vallee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Northeast River Forecast Center to serve as our 2021 Annual Conference keynote speaker.

For his keynote address, David will present on: “Torrential Rains from Slow Moving Tropical

Systems; Is This The New Normal?” Much of New England has been experiencing an increasing trend in annual average temperature and annual average precipitation over the past several decades. During this same time period, the region has experienced an increasing number of moderate to major flood episodes. These episodes have been associated with a variety of storm types and have affected the region at different times of the year, but the most potent of these have been associated with tropical systems. The common threads in each episode were the ability of each storm system to move slowly and tap into a deep tropical moisture source which resulted in very heavy if not record rainfall amounts. This presentation will review current trends and will examine recent storms such as Florence, Henri and Ida as examples of our increasing vulnerability to such high impact events. The presentation will end with a brief look at new prototype services under development by the National Weather Service to provide forecasts of inundation to Emergency Managers.



David R. Vallee, Hydrologist-in-Charge,
NOAA/NWS/Northeast River Forecast
Center

David R. Vallee Biography:

David Vallee is the Hydrologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service’s Northeast River Forecast Center. The center provides water resource and life-saving flood forecasting services to hundreds of federal, state and local water resource partners throughout New York, New England and neighboring Canada.

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

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CACIWC News

Over twenty months have now passed since the COVID-19 pandemic began changing our lives and challenging the ability of Connecticut commission members and staff to continue their important efforts. Although the current Delta variant continues to drive substantial community spread throughout the world and our nation, both local case positivity and daily number of hospitalizations have fortunately decreased, as an increasing percentage of the Connecticut population has been vaccinated. Our state’s optimistic trends are unfortunately not seen in some other regions with increasing COVID associated hospitalizations with filled ICUs and deaths. These trends, combined with somber milestone of 700,000 national COVID associated deaths, exceeding mortality counts for the 1918-19 flu pandemic, remind us of the profound impact of this ongoing pandemic.

Despite the serious ongoing global public health and economic impacts of the pandemic, local, national, and world leaders have strived to continue our other important missions to maintaining efforts to support regional conservation and habitat protection efforts. At the same time, leaders are pursuing actions to both reduce the rate of, and improve our resiliency to, global climate change.

To help our members maintain their local conservation efforts and understand the short- and long-term climate changes impacting our environment, CACIWC has assembled a wide variety of speakers for our upcoming 44th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, highlighted in this issue. The board is especially pleased to welcome David R. Vallee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Northeast River Forecast Center to serve as our 2021 Annual Conference keynote speaker who will discuss the impacts of recent storms including Henri and Ida and review evidence of regional weather trends.

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CACIWC's 43rd Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference

Our First Virtual Conference

The CACIWC Board of Directors extends their appreciation to the many members and guests who were able to participate in our 43rd Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference. This conference, held on Saturday, December 5, 2020, was our first virtual conference, established to protect our member commissioners, staff, and other attendees from the COVID-19 pandemic. While the CACIWC Board of Directors and its Annual Meeting Committee were hoping to schedule an in-person event, the decision to go with a virtual event was widely supported. However, organizing a virtual event required major changes in our approach. Despite not having previous experience in hosting virtual conference, CACIWC was able to establish a new host contract and recruit a valuable keynote speaker and a wide variety of informative workshops. The conference theme, "Promoting Conservation & Preserving Habitats During the COVID-19 Pandemic," set the stage for many productive discussions through the event.

Keynote Speaker:

CACIWC was pleased to welcome Jason C. White, PhD, Director, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment

Station as our 2020 annual conference keynote speaker. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), the oldest Agricultural Experiment Station in the country, supports a wide range of programs of interest to our members. 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 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.



Jason C. White, PhD, Director, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Dr. White received his Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from Cornell University in 1997 and has *virtual, continued on page 6*

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CACIWC's First Mid-Year Environmental Conference

June 12, 2021

The CACIWC Board of Directors, who have been planning mid-year educational sessions for several years, decided to further support our members struggling with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, by organizing our first **Mid-Year Environmental Conference**. This conference, held on Saturday, June 12, 2021, was also our second virtual conference, again established to protect our member commissioners, staff, and other attendees from the COVID-19 pandemic. Using having previous experience in hosting virtual conference, CACIWC was able to establish a new host contract and recruit a valuable keynote speaker and a wide variety of informative workshops. The conference theme, *"Promoting Conservation & Preserving Habitats During the COVID-19 Pandemic,"* set the stage for many productive discussions through the event.

Keynote Speaker:

CACIWC was pleased to welcome **State Representative Mary M. Mushinsky, (85th House District)** as the keynote speaker for our first Mid-Year Conference. Our state has long strived to improve its management of municipal waste through more comprehensive recycling and other approaches to waste reduction. Representative Mary Mushinsky was recruited for this presentation as she is uniquely qualified to discuss these ongoing efforts as the author and sponsor of major Connecticut environmental legislation enacted during the 1980s and 1990s, including mandatory recycling and packaging reduction. She has also been a long-term advocate for open-space preservation, global warming mitigation and endangered species protection. Mary also outlined the steps needed to achieve a wide range of our long-term environmental goals including efforts that Connecticut commissions can take within their communities to raise awareness of environmental justice and climate issues.

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 the 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,



State Representative Mary M. Mushinsky

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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.

In his presentation, entitled “Putting Science to Work for Society: Helping to Protect Connecticut’s Environment During the Pandemic,” Dr. White reviewed the history of the CAES, first established in 1875. The institute is a relatively small but separate agency of the State of Connecticut. While the primary mission of the CAES is research, many educational and outreach programs are also an important function of the agency. These programs help promote the use of new research findings to solve emerging agricultural, public health and environmental problems throughout Connecticut.

During his keynote presentation Dr. White also reviewed the many environmental research programs being conducted by the CAES to protect local habitats, including tracking invasive insect pests along with efforts to identify newly emerging plant diseases. Use of Integrated Pest Management to control insect and plant diseases with minimum use of pesticides will be discussed. He described CAES efforts that contribute to public health including surveillance of diseases transmitted by ticks and mosquitoes including Lyme disease, human babesiosis, West Nile disease and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. He also discussed research into novel and sustainable approaches to increase agricultural productivity to minimize food insecurity.

Recent CAES efforts to study an alternative surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 virus activity, in conjunction with Yale University School of Public Health, were also described. Dr. White also discussed how Connecticut conservation commissions can contribute to important environmental research even during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

CACIWC received very positive feedback on his presentation, which helped inspire conference attendees to continue their important local

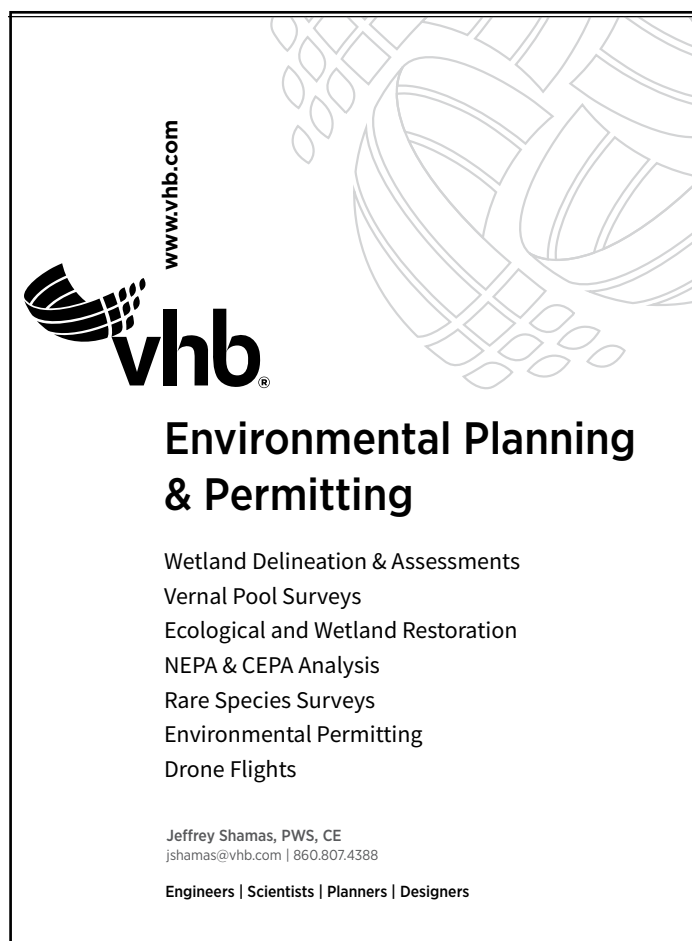
conservation and habitat protection efforts during the pandemic. We also received many requests for him to return and present an update at a future conference. Thank you again, Dr. White!

Two workshop tracks:

Following the keynote presentation, our 2020 annual conference proceeded to our virtual workshops. While missing our breakout rooms, the workshops were organized in two tracks, for conservation and inland wetlands topics.

Our first conservation track workshop, entitled “Updates from the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG),” included reviewed the efforts of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG), formed in 1997 as an ad hoc consortium of individuals from various organizations to promote awareness of invasive plants and the use of native or non-invasive ornamental alternatives. The working group collaborates and shares information on the presence, distribution, ecological impacts, and management of invasive plants affecting Connecticut

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The advertisement features the VHB logo on the left, which consists of a stylized globe icon and the text 'www.vhb.com' above 'vhb®'. To the right of the logo is a large, faint background graphic of a globe. Below the logo, the text reads 'Environmental Planning & Permitting' in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath this, a list of services is provided: Wetland Delineation & Assessments, Vernal Pool Surveys, Ecological and Wetland Restoration, NEPA & CEPA Analysis, Rare Species Surveys, Environmental Permitting, and Drone Flights. At the bottom, contact information for Jeffrey Shamas, PWS, CE is listed, including his email (jshamas@vhb.com) and phone number (860.807.4388). The footer of the advertisement reads 'Engineers | Scientists | Planners | Designers'.

virtual, continued from page 6 and the region. A panel of five speakers presented on the work of the CIPWG, including Charlotte Pyle, PhD, Co-chair, CIPWG, who presented on “Why Keep Working on Invasive Plants?”; Rose Hiskes, MS, Co-chair, CIPWG & diagnostician with the CAES, who presented on a Porcelainberry update, along with Bryan Connolly, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology, Eastern Connecticut State University and CIPWG member, who discussed the “New Invaders on the Horizon.”

The panel continued with Joshua Tracy, Invasive Species Management Technician and CIPWG member, who presented on an interesting use of drones for mapping invasive plant infestations, Emmett Varricchio, Co-chair, CIPWG, who reviewed CIPWG’s invasive plant management calendar, and Charlotte Pyle, PhD returned to outline “New Projects for CIPWG’s Native Alternatives Subcommittee” and to lead the panel’s response to questions.

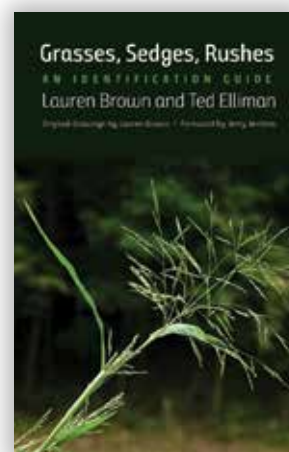
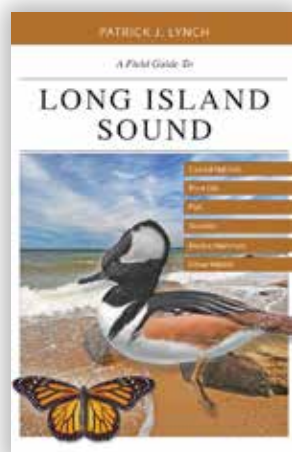
Our second conservation workshop entitled, “Understanding Connecticut’s State Water Plan,”

was presented by Denise Savageau, Environmental Professional, and Louis Rosado Burch, Connecticut Program Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE). Denise and Louis reviewed the State Water Plan that was prepared by the Water Planning Council and adopted by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2019. They provided an overview of the Plan and our state’s water resources, challenges for maintaining water quantity and quality in a changing climate, how the Plan is intended to protect and manage these critical resources including during periods of drought, and steps being taken now to implement the Plan. They highlighted the role of municipalities, including Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions, in implementation of the Plan.

Our first inland wetlands track workshop, entitled “Wetlands Law – The Decade in Review,” was presented by Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC with Darcy Winther, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). In this workshop, Janet and Darcy compared what occurred in the second decade of the 21st century with what happened in the first decade. They also

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New and Recent Field Guides from Yale UNIVERSITY PRESS



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David has worked for the National Weather Service for 34 years, serving in a variety of positions including Intern Meteorologist from 1987-1993, Senior Service Hydrologist at the Taunton Weather Forecast Office from 1993-2000 and as their Science and Operations Officer from 2001-2006. David has extensive experience leading hydrometeorological forecast and warning operations and directing weather research and training programs. Research topics have included “New England Hurricane Behavior and Climate Change Impacts on Flood Frequency and Severity.” David most recently led a Department of Commerce Agency Priority Goal to: Mitigate Flood Impacts by Demonstrating Improved Decision Support Services to Emergency Managers.

Workshops

Our 2021 Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference will include four workshops with topics on waste reduction and recycling, wetlands law updates, the status of the emerald ash borer and spotted lantern fly, along with information to help commissions understand and preserve local surface water, groundwater and aquatic systems:

Workshop 1

**“Municipal Activities to Promote Waste Reduction and Recycling”
(10:00 – 10:55 am)**

Kim O’Rourke, Middletown Recycling Coordinator, Howard Weissberg, PE, Director of Public Works, City of Meriden, Doug Colter, CFM, Grants Administrator, Project Manager, and Flood Plain Manager for the City of West Haven, Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

Connecticut is facing a waste disposal crisis. Most of Connecticut’s trash is disposed at one of the five waste-to-energy facilities. One of the largest facilities, the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) in Hartford, which services over 50 Connecticut communities, is scheduled to close in 2022. This will significantly reduce in-state disposal capacity. As businesses and municipalities export more waste to out-of-state landfills and incinerators, costs are expected to rise significantly.

In response to this looming crisis, the Connecticut

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) formed the **Connecticut Coalition of Sustainable Materials Management** in partnership with municipalities to discuss ways to reduce the waste generated, recycle more, divert materials from traditional facilities and advance programs and policies to implement these actions. Many ideas were discussed and ultimately a Menu of Options was released in January 2021. The CCSMM highlighted food scrap collections, unit-based programs, and extended producer responsibility programs as leading options for tackling our waste disposal problem.

Solutions must include a combination of individual efforts, state and local policies and producer and hauler support and cooperation. Municipalities are moving forward with model programs and working to pass important policies that will help improve long term stability for these efforts. This panel of local leaders will offer insight into the State’s trash disposal crisis and discuss examples of innovative projects and critical policies needed to address this problem.

- Kim O’Rourke, Middletown Recycling Coordinator will present on “What’s Happening with Trash in Connecticut & Middletown’s Feed the Earth Program”
- Howard Weissberg, PE, Director of Public Works, City of Meriden will review “Meriden’s Solid Waste Co-Collection Waste Reduction Pilot Program”
- Doug Colter, C.F.M., Grants Administrator, Project Manager, and Flood Plain Manager for the City of West Haven will discuss “Adding Food Waste to Municipal Composting Operations & School Food Waste Education”
- Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Authority will outline “How Municipalities can Share Responsibility of Materials Management through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)”

Workshop 2

**“Wetlands Law: Problem Solving 2.0
– Second Edition”
(11:00 am – 12:25 pm)**

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

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You have taken the original live training offered by DEEP (or DEP many years ago), you keep up with changes in the law (statute or case law) at annual training workshops at CACIWC or talks offered at CAWS (CT Association of Wetlands Scientists). You may have joined us at the June 12th CACIWC Mid-Year Conference. If so, you know you will be actively answering poll questions and submitting comments in the Q + A or chat boxes throughout the workshop. In this 90-minute session together we deconstruct and analyze complicated problems dealing with (1) an enforcement matter that requires remediation the scope of which is unknown at the time the order is issued and (2) a plan to remove invasive plants: is it permitted as of right or a nonregulated activity (and what's the difference) or does it need a permit? Janet Brooks will be assisted by DEEP wetlands municipal liaison Darcy Winther, who will also play devil's advocate. Appropriate for newer and experienced wetlands commission members.

Workshop 3

“Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lantern Fly”

(12:30 - 1:25 pm)

***Claire Rutledge, PhD, Associate Agricultural Scientist,
Department of Entomology, The Connecticut
Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)***

Emerald ash borer was detected in Connecticut in 2012 and has since killed thousands of ash trees. Spotted lantern fly was first detected in 2020 and appears to be establishing new populations along highways at a rapid pace. Dr. Rutledge will discuss the history, biology, impact, and management of both these highly invasive insects.

Dr. Claire Rutledge obtained a BA in Biology from Oberlin College before receiving her MS and PhD in Entomology at the University of Illinois Champaign Urbana. After post-doctoral stints at University of Idaho and Purdue University, she accepted her current position at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Her research has focused on wood boring insects, including emerald ash borer.

Workshop 4

“Water 101 – Understanding the Science of Water to Help You Protect Your Community Resources”

(1:30 - 2:25 pm)

***Virginia de Lima, former Director of the USGS
Connecticut Water Science Center***

All water is part of a single resource: surface water, groundwater, and water quality are all interrelated. Originally designed for the Connecticut Legislature's Environment Committee, this presentation provides information to people who are tasked with making important decisions about water resources. Understanding the interconnectedness of water leads to being able to assess the water system as a whole and better anticipate how changes in one component may affect other components.

Virginia de Lima is the former Director of the USGS Connecticut Water Science Center and, though retired, continues to serve on multiple state committees focused on the State Water Plan (SWP). She is co-chair of the SWP Implementation Committee and previously chaired the Science and Technical Committee, which was active during the development of the plan.

Virginia's technical work at the USGS was in computer simulation of groundwater flow. She taught groundwater modeling for the USGS and also taught Groundwater Hydrology in the Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Hartford.

Please note that individuals associated with current CACIWC member commissions in good standing who register before November 4, 2021, can save \$30 off the \$60 standard registration fee for each commission member or staff who registers. Commissions who have not yet renewed their 2021-22 CACIWC membership dues can still do so and qualify for the highly discounted member conference registration fee. Please be certain to register early to obtain information necessary to log in to our virtual conference, using the one of the forms located on our website www.caciwc.org.

We hope that you and other commission members and staff will join us at our 2021 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference! 🍁

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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.

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.

Mary's presentation and Sherill Baldwin's workshop that followed, inspired us to continue these important discussions with a panel discussion on new innovative municipal approaches to waste management and recycling. Thank you again, Representative Mushinsky!

Workshops

Following the keynote presentation, our 2021 annual conference proceeded to our three virtual workshops designed for both new and experienced conservation and inland wetlands commissions and their staff.

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Our first workshop was entitled, **“The Importance of Recycling During This Waste Crisis,”** presented by Sherill Baldwin, Source Reduction & Recycling Analyst with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) followed the focus of the keynote presentation. In her presentation, Ms. Baldwin asked the question “While recycling has always been about conserving resources is it still a viable option for managing materials as we now face a “waste crisis” in Connecticut?” Sherill reviewed projects of the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management and the RecycleCT Foundation designed to increase recycling and reduce contamination of CT’s mixed recycling (single stream) program. Ms. Baldwin also shared how CACIWC members can support these initiatives.

Our second workshop, entitled “Wetlands Law: Legal Problem Solving 2.0” was presented by Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC with Darcy Winther, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). This workshop built upon previous training offered by CACIWC, DEEP and the Connecticut Association of Wetlands Scientists (CAWS) Conference with an analysis of basic understandings of wetlands law. In their two-hour session they proceeded to deconstruct and analyze complicated problems dealing with: (1) a permit application on a “difficult site” in your town, (2) an enforcement matter that arises from the open forum/public comment portion of a meeting, and (3) farming exemptions arising from a chronically challenging, ever-evolving farm operation. Although conducted in a webinar format, participants were encouraged to type in comments, responses, and questions. A lively discussion resulted with input from both newer and experienced inland wetlands commission members.

The conference ended with a workshop entitled, “The CAWS Vernal Pool Monitoring Program,” presented by Edward M. Pawlak, MS, Certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), Registered Soil Scientist. In his workshop, Mr. Pawlak discussed the efforts of the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS) in sponsored a vernal pool monitoring program since 2007. His presentation reviewed the more than 50 vernal pools, located in 15 towns,

within four Connecticut counties, which have been monitored by CAWS volunteers. His presentation covered the elements of the monitoring program, including its rationale, limitations, and important lessons learned. Several case study pools were also reviewed, including an analysis of amphibian population trends and land cover changes around these pools during the time period of the monitoring program. Recommendations for conserving vernal pools and their biota on a developing landscape were also explored while those in attendance also enjoyed his striking photographs of Connecticut’s amphibians who depend on these important habitats.

We again thank the conference attendees and all those responsible for organizing first Mid-Year Environmental Conference. Despite it being only our second virtual conference, we received many complements and suggestions for future workshops. Please keep sending us your suggestions for future topics to AnnualMtg@caciwc.org. The board of directors extends its most sincere appreciation to our 2020 & 2021 conference sponsors. We look forward to your participation at our 2021 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference! 🍁



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examined changes in the statutes, regulations and developments in the case law. Agency permit denials overturned by the courts due to lack of substantial evidence, thorny exemptions and other greatest hits of the 21st century were also discussed!

In the second inland wetlands track workshop, entitled “2020 Wetlands Law & Regulations Update with Question & Answer Session,” Mark Branse, of Halloran & Sage, LLP joined attorney Janet Brooks and Darcy Winther of Connecticut DEEP, to return by popular demand to keep our member commissions current with wetlands law. Changes resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic included a lack of legal cases from this year to review and the challenges of conducting and attending virtual meetings. Come ready to pose questions as you try to stump the attorneys!

The conference ended with a bonus workshop, entitled “Ecotype Plants-Why the Local Seed Matters and What Conservation Measures Can Help,” presented by Darryl Newman, Co-Owner Planters’ Choice Nursery. Darryl is a University of Maryland graduate with a degree in Landscape Management who worked as a Project Manager for prominent landscape design/build firms in the Washington DC area before returning to Planters’ Choice in 2004. Darryl is a Past President of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association and the 2019 Award of Merit Winner. Darryl has also conducted numerous presentations to various groups ranging from the New York Botanical Garden, UConn, CIPWG, the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, the Connecticut Tree Wardens Association, and others.

In this bonus presentation to our annual conference, Darryl discussed why the Ecotype Project was created by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT NOFA) and their partners and how that relates to the importance of addressing a critical shortage of habitat and food for pollinators, which is caused by the disconnecting of pollinator corridors through development. A particular focus will be made on how initiatives of different scales can help move this important endeavor forward.

We again thank the conference attendees and all those responsible for organizing our 43rd Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference. Despite

it being our first virtual conference, we received numerous complements on the event. 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 some of these suggestions in our 2021 conferences so please keep forwarding your suggestions to us. We look forward to your participation at our 2021 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference! 🌿

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CACIWC news, continued from page 2

While the ongoing pandemic and social divisiveness prevalent throughout our nation continue to challenge us, we increasingly appreciate the importance of working together to address our critical environmental issues global issues. We hope that your efforts to preserve critical habitats and wildlife throughout the State of Connecticut will serve as a model for others throughout our nation.

In other news:

1. During this past year, the CACIWC Board of Directors and Annual Meeting Committee have been reviewing the many comments and suggestions submitted in response to our recent conferences. These include our 43rd Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, held on December 5, 2020, and our first ever, 2021 Mid-Year Conference, held on June 12, 2021. These comments and suggestions were used to develop the speakers and workshop for our upcoming 44th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, now scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2021. Watch for additional conference news on our www.caciwc.org website.

2. While the schedule for our 2021 annual conference has been finalized, we are already thinking ahead to our next conference. Please contact us at AnnualMtg@caciwc.org, with any suggestions or comments for our 2022 conference, when we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Connecticut’s Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. We will also continue to seek new topics for articles to be published in *The Habitat* along with additional feedback from our members, which you can also email to us directly at TheHabitat@caciwc.org.

3. The Board of Directors is very grateful to the growing number of commissions who have already renewed their CACIWC 2021-22 membership dues prior to our annual meeting. For those who have not yet done so, it is not too late to send in your 2021-22 membership dues and qualify for up to a \$30 discount on each individual registering for our annual conference. A copy of the current renewal form and additional information can be found on our website: www.caciwc.org.

CACIWC news, continued on page 14



Our Practice Areas:

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- | | |
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CACIWC news, continued from page 13

4. Your commission's ongoing support of our membership dues has become even more critical in recent years as the costs of hosting our annual meeting and environmental conference have substantially increased. Would you or your company like to provide additional support to CACIWC through contributions or a dedicated sponsorship? Our website provides a description the various sponsorship categories, along with additional individual and business membership categories. Please consider making an additional contribution to enable us to continue to provide you with conferences and issues of *The Habitat*.

5. Improved membership communication remains an important goal of our strategic plan. Our Membership Coordinator & Database Manager Janice Fournier extends her thanks to all of you who provided us with their updated email address as part of their 2021-22 membership renewals and 2021 annual conference registrations. Please be certain to provide us with updated emails and other contact information to help Janice maintain an up-to-date membership list. These updated emails and other contact information will help us improve communications with all of you.

All of us on the CACIWC Board of Directors continue to thank you and your fellow commissioners and staff for your local efforts and your ongoing support through this difficult pandemic. Although we continue to miss the opportunities to network during lunch and among the exhibitors, we hope that you will join us at our 2021 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference while we plan for future in-person conferences!

Thank you,
 Alan J. Siniscalchi, President
 CACIWC

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44th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference *Saturday, November 6, 2021* *(A Virtual Conference)*

Schedule for the Day

Welcome & Business Meeting	8:45 – 9:00 am
Keynote Speaker & Discussion	9:00 – 9:55 am
Break 1	9:55 – 10:00 am
Workshop 1 Waste Reduction & Recycling	10:00 – 10:55 am
Break 2	10:55 – 11:00 am
Workshop 2 Wetlands Law: Problem Solving	11:00 am – 12:25 pm
Break 3	12:25 – 12:30 pm
Workshop 3 Emerald Ash Borer & Spotted Lantern Fly	12:30 – 1:25 pm
Break 4	1:25 – 1:30 pm
Workshop 4 Water 101, CT Water Resources	1:30 – 2:25 pm
Conference ends	2:30 pm