

The Habitat

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

Summer 2022

volume 34 number 3



CACIWC's 45th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference

Saturday, October 29, 2022 - Returning to an in-person format!

For our 2022 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, CACIWC returns to an in-person format, our first since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic! This in-person event will once again allow face-to-face discussions and networking opportunities among our members. Our conference is being hosted at a new site for us, the Scarlett's Fine Events at Best Western Plus North Haven Hotel, located at 201 Washington Avenue North Haven, CT 06473.

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. We have a full agenda with several of our workshops that will address the impact of climate change as well as the major theme of our 2022 conference, *Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Act*.

We are pleased to welcome Attorney Gregory A. Sharp as our 2022 conference keynote speaker.



Attorney Gregory A. Sharp

Attorney Sharp will refer to our conference theme in his keynote address entitled, *The 50th Anniversary of the IWWA: A Look Back and a Gaze Forward*.

Attorney Sharp is uniquely qualified to discuss these issues, having represented local wetlands agencies as well as applicants and intervenors since the 1970s.

Keynote speaker biography:

Attorney Gregory A. Sharp practiced environmental law for many years as a partner in the Environmental Practice Department of Murtha Cullina LLP until his retirement in 2016.

Entering the private practice of law in 1979, he represented local wetlands agencies, as well as applicants and intervenors, in inland wetland permit proceedings. Prior to his retirement, he published numerous articles in

The Habitat on legal developments under the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act.

Conference, continued on page 6

New Conference Venue!

Scarlett's Fine Events at
Best Western Plus North Haven Hotel
201 Washington Avenue North Haven, CT 06473
(I-91, Exit 12)

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 2022 conference, CACIWC has 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 of any presentations.

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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 worked to schedule our 2022 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, we continued to reminisce on the many hundreds of commissioners and staff who have dedicated their time and efforts to protect our habitats since the original Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) was approved by the Connecticut General Assembly on May 1972. We are pleased to dedicate this year's conference to their many years of efforts, as part of our IWWA 50th Anniversary Celebration!

This year, following the 2020-21 series of virtual conferences designed to ensure our health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, we began to receive an increasing number of requests for us to return to an in-person conference this year. After many months of tracking COVID data and risk models, we decided that the pandemic risks have decreased to a point to allow us to schedule such an event.

While the pandemic risks have subsided, we strongly encourage all attendees to be fully vaccinated and up to date for both their COVID and influenza vaccines. Please also bring your masks for use, especially when sitting close together, so you can again enjoy the networking opportunities among our members and other conference attendees provided by this first in-person conference since 2019!

We hope you find this special conference issue of *The Habitat* useful to help plan your attendance at our 2022 conference. Our next issue will again include a variety of topics and articles.

In other news:

1. During this past several years, the CACIWC Board of Directors and Annual Meeting Committee have reviewed the many comments and suggestions submitted in response to our recent conferences, converted to virtual events due

CACIWC news, continued on page 7

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How to Register for Our 2022 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)

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)

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 2022-23 (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 2022-23**

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 2022 Sponsorship Categories.**

Would your organization like to register to exhibit at our 2022 conference or advertise in our conference brochure? Please see additional information at:

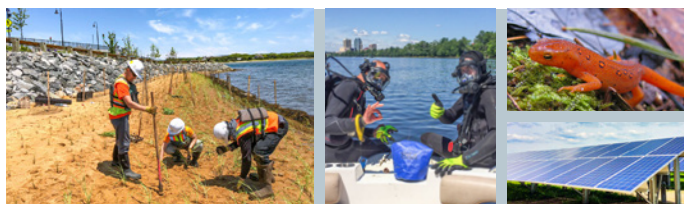
Nonprofit Exhibitor Registration (wufoo.com)

Nonprofit organizations can also exhibit at our 2022 environmental conference for a greatly reduced price, please see:

Exhibitor and Advertiser Registration

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! 🍁



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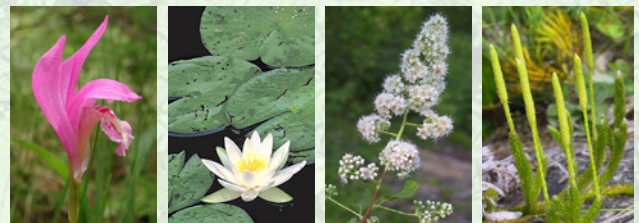
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CIPWG 2022 Virtual Invasive Plant Symposium Scheduled

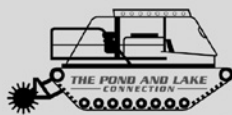
The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) 2022 symposium will be a full-day virtual webcast on November 3, 2022, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Some sessions are directed to all attendees. Other sessions are in concurrent breakouts. Recordings of all sessions will be available to registered attendees post-symposium.

This year's theme is *Strategies for Managing Invasive Plants: Assess, Remove, Replace, and Restore*. The morning session will include a keynote presentation from Bernd Blossey, Cornell University: "Invasive Plant Management: What We Know, What We Do Not Know, and What We Must Know," as well as presentations by Bryan Connolly, ECSU: "Online Tools and Apps for Identifying and Reporting Invasive Plants" and Diane Jorsey, CT DEEP: "Requirements for Pesticide Applications on Conservation Lands."

The breakout sessions include topics titled: Assessing the Land: Case Studies on What Works; What is Working Around the State; Managing in your backyard: Failures and Successes; Limitations: Legal and Practical; Control Strategies for Mile-a-Minute, Water Chestnut, and *Hydrilla*; and Replacement and Restoration: Design, Propagating, and Sourcing Native Seed. CEU's for organizations and Pesticide

Recertification Credits are available. Registration \$50 on or before October 7; \$65 after Oct. 7; \$25 Students.

More info: cipwg.uconn.edu/2022-symposium.



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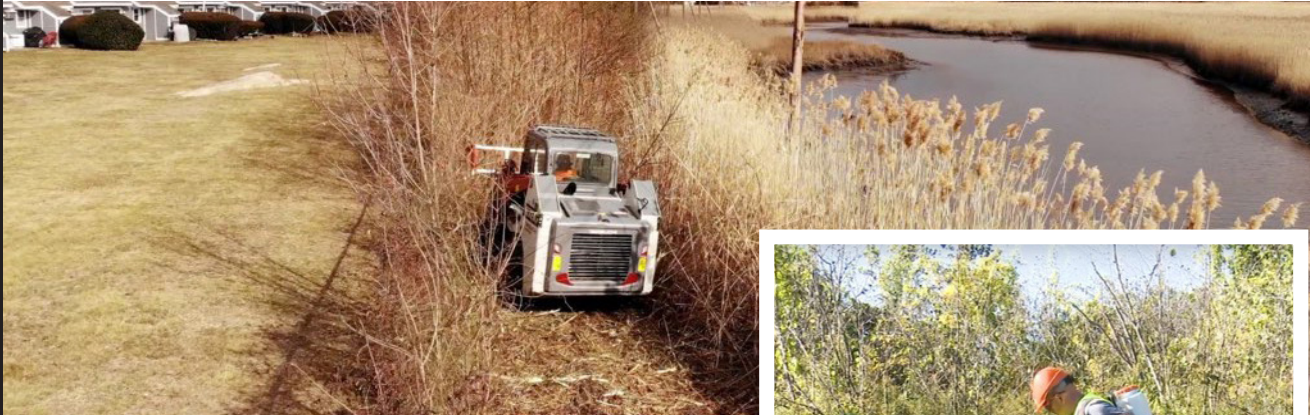
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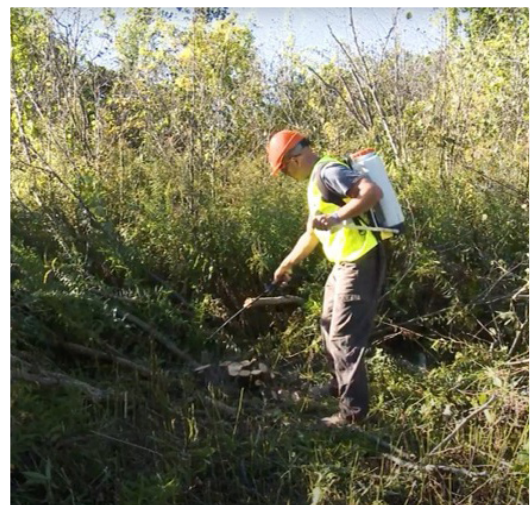
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Conference, continued from page 1

He is a past chairman of the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and of the Connecticut Bar Association Section on Environmental Law. Mr. Sharp served for seven years in the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection prior to commencing the private practice of environmental law.

Mr. Sharp received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Dartmouth College, a Master of Forest Science Degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law.


Our 2022 Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference will include four revised and updated workshop tracks with topics on preserving our forests, wetlands, watercourses, and their inhabitants, the 50th anniversary of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act (IWWA), responding to our evolving environmental issues, and helping commissions assess and responds to emerging environmental issues in their municipalities. Individual workshops will focus on Aquatic Invasive Plants, 50 years of the CT Inland

Wetlands and Watercourse Act, Black Bears in CT, Pollinators in Your Town, Renewed Threats to Forest Hemlock Trees, Wetland Law Q&A, Water Conservation & Drought Management, Landscape Planning for Mental Health, New Vernal Pool Surveys, The Value of Riparian Zones, New Approaches to Recycling & Waste Management, and Geospatial Technologies for Effective Watershed Management.

Our conference venue will also host a revised layout of new and informative displays in an arrangement that will promote open 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 and influenza vaccines. We especially encourage attendees to receive the new "bivalent" COVID vaccine. Don't forget to bring your masks for use when sitting close together!


Please note that CACIWC's 45th 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. Our 2022 early registration deadline is October 15, 2022, 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.



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CACIWC news, continued from page 2

to the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic. These comments and suggestions were used to help select the speakers and workshops for our upcoming **45th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference**. Please see our website for additional information at www.caciwc.org. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments that you may have regarding our conference at AnnualMtg@caciwc.org.

2. Although our expenses for preparing issues of *The Habitat* and conferences have grown, the Board of Directors decided to maintain our **CACIWC 2022-23 membership dues** at the 2021-22 rates. Very little time remains to renew your Membership to qualify your commission members and staff for greatly discounted registration fees at our 2022 annual conference. Please see the links to our current online and mail-in membership renewal and conference registration forms on our website: www.caciwc.org.

3. Please also **consider becoming a conference sponsor** this year. Your sponsorship at any level will also help us fund this more expensive in-person conference. Please see the sponsorship categories listed on our registration form and website: **CACIWC 2022 Sponsorship Categories**.

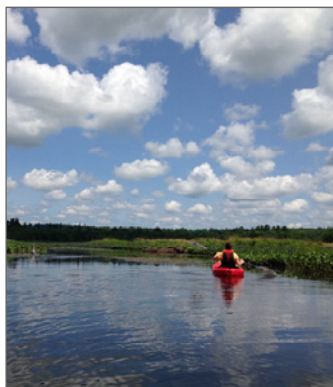
4. **Improved membership communication** is an important goal of our strategic plan. Our Membership Coordinator & Database Manager Janice Fournier has been seeking updated commission contact information as part of the 2022-23 membership renewal and 2022 annual conference registration process. Please be certain to provide us with updated and expanded emails and other contact information to help Janice maintain an up-to-date membership list. This information will help expand distribution of *The Habitat* and start our new and expanded **CACIWC Listserve**.

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 the last several years of this challenging pandemic. We hope you will join us at our **45th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference!**

Thank you,
Alan J. Siniscalchi, President
CACIWC

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CACIWC's Environmental Conference Schedule & Workshops

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

Tracks	Session 1 10:00-11:00 AM	Session 2 11:15-12:15 PM	Session 3 1:30-2:30 PM
Track A. Preserving Our Forests, Wetlands & Their Inhabitants	Workshop A1	Workshop A2	Workshop A3
Track B. The 50th Anniversary of CT IWWA; Looking to the Future	Workshop B1	Workshop B2	Workshop B3
Track C. Responding to Our Evolving Environmental Issues	Workshop C1	Workshop C2	Workshop C3
Track D. Helping Commissions Assess and Respond	Workshop D1	Workshop D2	Workshop D3

Session 1 (10:00-11:00 AM)

A1. “Invasive Aquatic Plants in Connecticut Lakes, Ponds, and Rivers”

Gregory J. Bugbee, Associate Scientist, Department of Environmental Sciences, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)

Invasive aquatic plants have become an increasing management problem for many local communities. This workshop will review the results of recent surveys conducted in Connecticut lakes and rivers that document the persistence and distribution of various invasive plant species. The biotic and abiotic parameters governing why invasive aquatic plants occur in certain sites are reviewed along with methods for controlling these species with minimum impacts on the aquatic ecosystem and human populations. The importance of proper seasonal timing of control methods, as well as the use of physical control methods and biological control agents, will also be discussed.

B1. “Panel: Reflections on 50 years of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Law in Connecticut”

*Attorney Gregory A. Sharp (retired)
Mark Branse, Halloran & Sage, LLP
Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC
Michael Klein, Senior Wetlands Scientist, Davison Environmental, LLC
Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs, Town of Greenwich
with Darcy Winther, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), as moderator*

Following the keynote address, this diverse panel of experts will take up the baton and look backwards on the first 50 years implementing the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA), offering what has worked, what hasn't, and suggestions of what might be improvements. The panel will share their perspectives on commission activities throughout the past five decades.

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

C1. "The Bear Reality"

Felicia A. E. Ortner, Connecticut Master Wildlife Conservationist

The population of black bears has been increasing in Connecticut over the last four decades making it important now to educate Land-Use Commissions with insight to help promote the reduction of conflicts with our wild bear neighbors.

Bears, like so many animals, have become victims of misunderstandings which have been fueled by media, literature, and word of mouth. On one hand we think of them as vicious predators. On the other hand, we see them as cuddly teddy bears. Both these images can mean trouble for bears.

The Bear Reality is a comprehensive program created to share information and knowledge of bears. This presentation is designed to be smooth and flowing without being just a regurgitation of logical and biological facts.

There's a focus on the American black bears, our resident species, and a review of data from results of the bear research conducted by wildlife biologists in the state. The hope is, through outreach and education a coexistence of humans and bears will be a reality.

D1. Pollinators in My Backyard

Victor DeMasi, lepidopterist, curatorial affiliate, Peabody Museum of Natural History

Victor will take you on a sunny day walk through his pollinator meadow in Redding, Connecticut. Along the way you will view some of the rare and common species he has seen there in 40 years of stewardship.

Victor, who also served as the Redding wetlands conservation officer for 20 years, will explain life histories of some of our species and how a butterfly garden promotes a diversity of pollinators.

Comments will include a discussion of the importance of insects to our well-being, and butterflies

in our changing environment with issues such as climate change and invasive plant species. The complex problems of the Monarch Butterfly will receive particular emphasis.

In addition to serving as a curatorial affiliate with the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Victor's field work with butterflies contributed almost a thousand citations to the recently published Connecticut Butterfly Atlas. He has also contributed articles to scientific publications and his mark-recapture studies with Swallowtail butterflies was recently cited in the book *Swallowtails of the Americas*. During the Pandemic he has been conducting a pollinator survey of two meadows in Redding CT.

Session 2 (11:15 AM-12:15 PM)

A2. Renewed Threats to Hemlocks: Responding to Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Resurgence with Collaborative Biological Control

*Carole Cheah, PhD, Research Entomologist,
Valley Laboratory
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
(CAES)*

A string of recent warm winters region-wide is responsible for the current and alarming surge in hemlock woolly adelgid, *Adelges tsugae* (HWA) in our hemlock forests. The adelgid was first confirmed in Connecticut in 1985. Connecticut has managed HWA and protected our hemlock forests with an environmentally friendly strategy using *Sasajiscymnus* (= *Pseudoscyrmnus*) *tsugae*, the introduced specialist predatory ladybeetle, native to southern Japan, since 1995. Long term tree data indicate the efficacy of this strategy with many original hemlocks surviving for over 20 years in many Connecticut state forests and parks where the ladybeetle was first introduced 21-24 years ago. In recent years, biological control with *S. tsugae* has expanded to other private and municipal hemlock stands through collaborative partnerships with

Hemlocks, continued on page 10

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

Hemlocks, continued from page 9

towns, land trusts, water companies, nature preserves, residential communities, and homeowners. This strategy is particularly important after mild winters and will be the focus of this presentation.

B2. "2022 Wetlands Law & Regulations Update with Question & Answer Session"

Mark Branse, Halloran & Sage, LLP

Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC

with Darcy Winther, 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 suggestions of improvements to the implementation of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) the in the next 50 years. Let's discuss! Come ready to pose questions as you try to stump the attorneys!

C2. Managing for Water Resources in a Changing Climate

Denise Savageau, Chair, CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation,

Alicea Charamut, Executive Director Rivers Alliance, and

A speaker from Aquarion Water Company

Climate change is impacting Connecticut resources throughout the state and this includes changes in precipitation patterns. Even though we are a water-rich state, we are experiencing drought conditions on a more frequent basis. This is having a significant impact on our drinking water supplies and groundwater and surface water resources. Learn from Aquarion Water Company staff how they monitor precipitation throughout the year, plan for water distribution, educate consumers and instill water conservation. This will be followed up with a discussion on the State Water Plan and the Drought Preparedness and Management Plan and what is being done to ensure that we have an abundant and safe drinking water supply and maintain adequate

stream flow. Discussion will include public supply and private wells.

D2. Landscape Planning for Mental Health

Susan A. Masino, PhD, Vernon D. Roosa

Professor of Applied Science, Trinity College

Mental illness is on the rise. Perhaps most disturbing, it has been declared an epidemic by the American Association of Pediatricians. Most of the focus and funding is on much-needed increased services, but prevention is urgent. It is also a chance to achieve multiple goals. Research shows that children who spend time in nature, particularly forests, have improved cognition, emotional regulation, and life-long mindfulness. This workshop will share practical strategies for ensuring and integrating nature experiences, even in small "Urban Wilds," to connect children to the land while also protecting clean water, mitigating climate change, and protecting biodiversity.



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Session 3 (1:30-2:30 PM)

A3. Vernal Pool Monitoring and Education: Updates from CAWS

Edward Pawlak, MS, Certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS)

While we celebrate the 50-year anniversary of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, it is important to remember that in 2003 the protections offered by the Act to vernal pool-breeding amphibians were significantly weakened in the Avalon Bay State Supreme Court decision.

In an attempt to identify development designs that allow for the conservation of pool-breeding amphibians, the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS) sponsored a vernal pool monitoring program from 2007-2020. More than 50 vernal pools, located in 15 towns (four counties) in Connecticut, were monitored by CAWS volunteers. Important conservation lessons learned from the CAWS monitoring of several pools will be presented. A new CAWS vernal pool education program will also be introduced.

B3. Rivers & Watercourses: The Importance of Riparian Zones

Moderated by: Denise Savageau, Chair, CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation

Panelists: Alicea Charamut, Executive Director Rivers Alliance, Sean Hayden, Executive Director Lake Waramaug (invited), and Charles Vidich, Senior Project Manager Western Connecticut Council of Governments (invited).

Protecting riparian zones is important to maintaining the health and water quality of our rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and other water bodies and is essential for source water protection. This session will focus the functions and value of riparian zones in protecting water quality and will discuss buffers and upland review areas and the role of local land use agencies in protection of these critical areas.

C3. Talking Trash: Rethinking Municipal Waste Systems

Sherill Baldwin, Sustainable Materials Management Environmental Analyst, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, who will present on Sustainable Materials Management 101 and Welcome to the Waste Reduction and the Reuse Economy

Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, will discuss How Municipalities can Share Responsibility of Materials Management through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator, City of Middletown, who will present Municipalities in Action: Real Life Examples of Local Reuse, Refilling, and Waste Reduction Programs.

The State of Connecticut is currently experiencing a serious waste crisis. We produce more waste than the state has capacity to manage. The waste to energy facility in Hartford, one of the largest in the state, has closed, and now a larger portion of our waste is being exported to out of state landfills and incinerators. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has estimated regional landfill capacity will decrease by 40% in the next five years, resulting in increased financial costs and environmental impacts, if we don't change our current systems.

What are the solutions? Join this panel of creative and energized government leaders to learn about ways to rethink our waste and recycling systems. Solutions must involve not only individual behavior changes, but also updated government policies and improved business practices. Our panel will discuss innovative programs to manage waste and designing an economy for waste reduction and reusing, how extended producer responsibility (EPR) can play a significant role in the solving Connecticut's waste crisis and also ensuring better management of recyclables and waste materials, including the illegal dumping of tires in our streams and wetlands, and

Talking Trash, continued on page 12

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

Talking Trash, continued on page 12

local examples of reuse, refilling, waste reduction and EPR programs. Find out how to get your town involved. Questions are encouraged!

D3. Leveraging Systems Thinking and Geospatial Technologies for Advanced Sustainable Watershed Management

Alicia Tyson, MA., MS., PhD Candidate, Assistant Extension Educator, UConn CT Sea Grant, Emily Wilson, MS, Geospatial Educator, UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR)

This workshop takes participants through the exploration of the critical need to identify, develop, and implement solutions for effective watershed management that address the socio-ecological systems interactions and dependencies. Within the interactive session, participants will examine what is meant by spatial thinking and its role in responding to climate change impacts. Critically engaging in activities that blend risk perception with upstream/downstream hydrological and ecological processes offers participants the opportunity to gain an appreciation of the value of incorporating different forms of knowledge when developing sustainable solutions. The workshop also features the application of CLEAR (UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research) tools and resources available to CACIWC members and stakeholders for tangible application and enhancement of resilient communities and landscapes. 🌿

— SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY —

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



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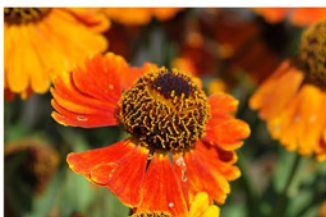
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Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) *Climate Resilience Fund*

DEEP is pleased to open the first round of the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

Background

The DEEP Climate Resilience Fund provides grants to help Connecticut communities initiate planning and develop projects that will help communities become more resilient to the effects of climate change. The Fund specifically is intended to support climate resilience planning at regional, municipal, and neighborhood-level scales, and to support resilience project scoping and development. This historic state-level investment into climate resilience planning and project development was established by Executive Order 21-3 (EO21-3) in December 2021 and was one of 61 recommendations from the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) in 2021.

The DEEP Climate Resilience Fund is responsible for providing funds for climate adaptation and resilience planning and project development with the following conditions set by EO 21-3:

- At least 40% of funding resources are targeted to where vulnerable populations reside and that those plans address the needs of those populations.
 - Funding should be available for the design of nature-based solutions, including green infrastructure; flood prevention, climate resilience and erosion control systems; gray infrastructure; and non-structural project solutions.
 - Projects funded under this program should be integrated in plans that ensure their eligibility for federal funding through existing and new resilience programs, in consultation with resilience partners and/or programs.
- Climate Resilience Project Pipeline

A primary outcome of this program is to help Connecticut communities develop a climate resilience project pipeline that can win competitive federal grant funding to substantially fund those projects' implementation and construction.

The DEEP Climate Resilience Fund has two tracks for applications:

Track 1: Planning

Applicants can seek up to \$250,000 to fund climate resilience planning that addresses the impacts of climate-related hazards, including how climate change increases weather-related risks.

Eligible Applicants include: Municipalities, Councils of Government, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic Institutions, and private sector entities.

To apply: Send all application materials in one email to DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov by 11:59pm, Thursday, November 10.

Track 2: Project Development

Applicants can seek funds to advance resilience project scoping and development that leads to federal funding for implementation. While there is no cap on the amount of funding that can be requested, DEEP expects to fund most project development grant application requests in a range of \$300,000 to \$700,000.

Eligible Applicants include Municipalities, Councils of Government, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic Institutions, and private sector entities.

To apply: Send all application materials in one email to DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov. The early decision deadline for Track 2 applications is Friday, October 21. Final deadline for all Track 2 applications is 11:59 pm, Thursday, December 1.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Other Resources [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund FAQs](#)

This file will be updated regularly. If you would like to submit a question, please send it to: Sarah Watson, Senior Environmental Analyst, Office of Climate Planning, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; sarah.watson@ct.gov

All emailed questions will be responded to in batches to allow DEEP Office of Climate Planning staff time to formulate a thoughtful response and share the information with everyone.

Office Hours

During this one-hour period, prospective applicants can ask questions. These sessions will be recorded and posted here.
Friday, October 14, 11am to 12pm: [Register](#)
Thursday, October 20: 11am to 12pm: [Register](#)
Thursday, October 27: 11am to 12pm: [Register](#)



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

WHEREAS, in 1972, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 155 – known as The Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act – stating in the legislative finding that *“the inland wetlands and watercourses of the state of Connecticut are an indispensable and irreplaceable but fragile natural resource with which the citizens of the state have been endowed;”* and

WHEREAS, this state law affirms that wetlands and watercourses *“are an interrelated web of nature essential to an adequate supply of surface and underground water; to hydrological stability and control of flooding and erosion; to the recharging and purification of groundwater; and to the existence of many forms of animal, aquatic and plant life;”* and

WHEREAS, in enacting this law, the Connecticut General Assembly acknowledged *“the preservation and protection of the wetlands and watercourses from random, unnecessary, undesirable and unregulated uses, disturbance or destruction is in the public interest and is essential to the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of the state;”* and

WHEREAS, the diversity of Connecticut’s inland wetlands and watercourses deliver numerous ecosystem services necessary for public physical and mental health and welfare – including, but not limited to, clean and abundant drinking water, recreation and tourism opportunities, historic and educational worth, unique habitats and biodiversity, aesthetic value and sense of place, carbon sequestration and storage, and climate change resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act – by establishing a soils-based definition of wetlands – safeguards all alluvial and floodplain soils from unregulated activities, thusly ensuring the safety of Connecticut’s towns and citizens; and

WHEREAS, this landmark legislation recognizes the important role of municipalities in *“balancing the need for the economic growth of the state and use of its land with the need to protect its environment and ecology”* and declares it is *“the public policy of the state to require municipal regulation of activities affecting the wetlands and watercourses within the territorial limits of the various municipalities;”* and

WHEREAS, this has resulted in the establishment of 171 inland wetlands and watercourses agencies, through which thousands of citizens and municipal staff have and currently serve *“to forever guarantee to the people of the state, the safety of such natural resources for their benefit and enjoyment and for the benefit and enjoyment of generations yet unborn;”* and

WHEREAS, Connecticut’s municipal inland wetlands and watercourses agencies and their staff – in carrying out the purposes and policies of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act – play a valuable role in accomplishing state goals, such as those of the Connecticut State Water Plan and the Governor’s Council on Climate Change; and

WHEREAS, the year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act; now

THEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim the year of 2022 to be

**THE YEAR OF INLAND WETLANDS
AND WATERCOURSES**

in the State of Connecticut.



Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR



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Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont proclaims 2022 as “The Year of Wetlands and Watercourses”

CACIWC has been planning for the 50th Anniversary of the Connecticut General Assembly’s (CGA) passage of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) since we celebrated our 40th Annual Meeting in 2017. This year, CACIWC has actively promoted this historic event, including dedicating our fall 2022 45th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference to the 50th IWWA anniversary.

We were, therefore, very pleased with Governor Lamont decision to declare 2022 as “The Year of Wetlands and Watercourses.” You can view the actual proclamation at: [IWWA 50th Gov Proclamation.pdf \(caciwc.org\)](#) or on page 15. 🍂

Join CACIWC in Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Connecticut’s Inland Wetlands Act!

As part of our continued anniversary celebration, CACIWC will be including additional articles in the conference brochure and in future issues of *The Habitat* on the history of the IWWA along with stories on commission activities throughout the past five decades. Please contact us at TheHabitat@caciwc.org if you wish to provide stories and photos of early years of wetlands protection by your town commissions.

You may also submit these photos and stories as part of our special IWWA photo contest and commission awards to be given as part of our year-long celebration. All CACIWC members are eligible to enter. Please see the links to our nomination forms and information on all IWWA events on our website, at www.caciwc.org or contact us at: TheHabitat@caciwc.org. 🍂