



45th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference Saturday, October 29, 2022

Annual Report & Conference Brochure

Scarlett's Fine Events at Best Western Plus North Haven Hotel



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act



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

45th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference
*“Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Connecticut’s
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act”*

Saturday, October 29, 2022

(Scarlett’s Fine Events at Best Western Plus North Haven Hotel)

Schedule for the Day

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

Business Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introduction to the Conference

Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2021 Annual Meeting

Reports: Treasurer’s Annual Report FY 2021-2022

Budget FY 2022-2023

President’s Report FY 2021-2022

Old Business

Proposed Bylaws Amendment*

New Business

*10.3.7: A Board Member may participate in a meeting of the Board by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all members participating in the meeting may simultaneously hear one another during the meeting. A board member participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

Keynote Presentation:

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 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 Watercourses Act.

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

About Our Keynote Speaker:

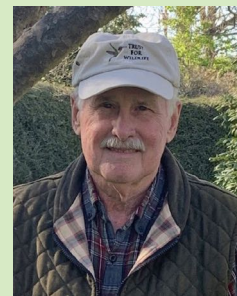
Attorney Gregory A. Sharp

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.

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.



Atty. Gregory A. Sharp

Workshops

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. Don't forget to bring your masks for use when sitting close together!

Please note that our 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 12, 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.



Remembering former CACIWC President, Executive Director, and Editor of The Habitat, Tom O'Dell, while we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the CT IWWA.

	Session 1 (10:00-11:20)	Session 2 (11:15-12:15)	Session 3 (1:30-2:30)
Track A Preserving our Forests, Wetlands & Their Inhabitants	Workshop A1 Ruby 1 Room	Workshop A2 Ruby 1 Room	Workshop A3 Ruby 1 Room
Track B The 50th Anniversary of CT IWWA — Looking to the Future	Workshop B1 Main Ballroom	Workshop B2 Main Ballroom	Workshop B3 Main Ballroom
Track C Responding to Our Evolving Environmental Issues	Workshop C1 Ruby 2 Room	Workshop C2 Ruby 2 Room	Workshop C3 Ruby 2 Room
Track D Helping Commissions Assess and Respond	Workshop D1 Sapphire Room	Workshop D2 Sapphire Room	Workshop D3 Sapphire Room

■ Workshop 1 (10:00-11:00 a.m.)

A1. Invasive Aquatic Plants in Connecticut Lakes, Ponds, and Rivers (Ruby 1 Room)

Presenter:

- *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 (Main Ballroom)

Presenters:

- *Attorney Gregory A. Sharp*
- *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*
- *Moderator: Darcy Winther, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)*

Following upon Greg Sharp's 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.

C1. The Bear Reality (Ruby 2 Room)

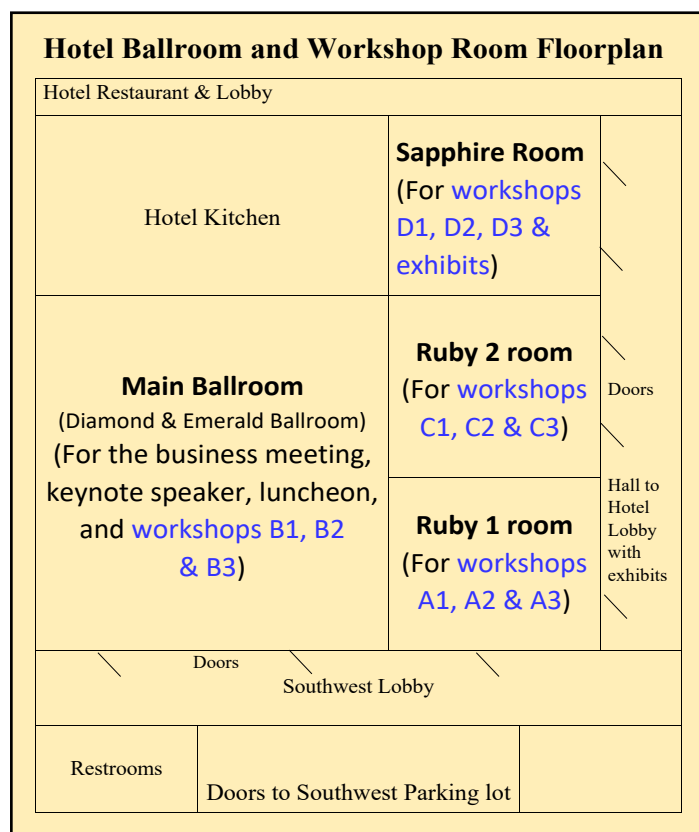
Presenter:

- *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 (Sapphire Room)

Presenter:

- *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 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.

■ Workshop 2 (11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.)

A2. Renewed Threats to Hemlocks: Responding to Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Resurgence with Collaborative Biological Control (Ruby 1 Room)

Presenter:

- *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* (=Pseudoscymnus) *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 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"

(Main Ballroom)

Presenters:

- *Mark Branse, Halloran & Sage, LLP*
- *Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC*
- *Moderator: Darcy Winther, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)*

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 (Ruby 2 Room)

Presenters:

- *Denise Savageau, Chair, CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation*
- *Alicea Charamut, Executive Director Rivers Alliance*
- *George S. Logan, Director of Community Relations, Aquarion Water Company, or another representative*

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 (Sapphire Room)

Presenter:

- *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.

■ Workshop 3 (1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.)

A3. Vernal Pool Monitoring and Education: Updates from CAWS (Ruby 1 Room)

Presenter:

- *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 (Ballroom)

Moderated by:

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

Panelists:

- *Alicea Charamut, Executive Director Rivers Alliance; Kelsey Sudol, Research Assistant Lake Waramaug Task Force & Natural Resource Specialist, Northwest Conservation District; and Meghan Lally, Environmental Analyst, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).*

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 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 (Ruby 2 Room)

Presenters:

- *Sherill Baldwin, Sustainable Materials Management Environmental Analyst, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection*
- *Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority*
- *Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator, City of Middletown*

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 DEEP 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 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 (Sapphire Room)

Panelist:

- *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 tools and resources available to CACIWC members and stakeholders for tangible application and enhancement of resilient communities and landscapes.



DEEP Commissioner Daniel C. Esty at the 2011 Annual Meeting. Photo courtesy Brenda Cataldo, "Moments in Time Photography."

CACIWC 44th Annual Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2021

Alan Siniscalchi, President and Annual Meeting Chairman convened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. Alan discussed the need to again hold this annual meeting as a virtual conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reviewed the conference schedule, and outlined the procedures for this virtual format.

Business Meeting: The business meeting convened at 8:46 a.m.

Approval of the 43rd Annual Meeting minutes: A motion and second were received to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2020 Annual Meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Annual Report & FY 2021-2022 Budget: Alan Siniscalchi reviewed the annual report prepared by Charles Dimmick, Treasurer, outlining FY 2020-21 income and expenses in detail along with the budget for FY 2021-22 as included in the conference brochure.

President's Report: Alan Siniscalchi reviewed the president's report, including progress toward goals for education, outreach, and fiscal management, as included in the conference brochure.

Old Business: No discussion.

Election of Officers and Directors: The following slate of proposed CACIWC Executive Board officers and County Representatives for the 2021-2023 term was provided for vote. Motion and second from the floor to approve the slate as proposed. The 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 Leifer, County Representative Abby Conroy, Alternate
Middlesex County	Marianne Corona, County Representative
New Haven County	Maria Kayne, County Representative Kristen Jabanowski, Alternate
New London County	Laura Magaraci, County Representative
Tolland County	Rod Parlee, County Representative

CACIWC Board of Directors Vacancies:

Hartford County	Alternate Representative
Middlesex County	Alternate Representative
New London County	Alternate Representative
Tolland County	Alternate Representative
Windham County	County Representative & Alternate
Alternate-at-Large	Two (2) Representatives

New Business: No discussion.

Adjournment: Alan thanked CACIWC contractors, conference sponsors and all those in attendance and the Business Meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen FitzGerald, CACIWC Secretary

President's Report for the 2022 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference

The beginning of 2022 proved to be another challenging period for us as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to overwhelm and alter our lives here in Connecticut and throughout our nation and the world. Fortunately, more widespread use of COVID vaccines, booster shots and other factors have reduced the impact of this pandemic. Unfortunately, other issues contributed to our national and global challenges, including the health and economic impacts resulting from military conflict along with impacts from short-term severe weather patterns, and long-term climate changes. A growing mistrust of science and government contributed to slowing efforts to both mitigate the pandemic and address climate change. Ongoing news of social and racial injustice reminded us to bring renewed attention to the environmental justice issues being pursued by many Connecticut conservation

commissions. Fortunately, as we enter the remaining months of this challenging year, we are pleased that our earlier optimistic prediction that we may be able to return to an in-person conference in 2022 proved to be true.

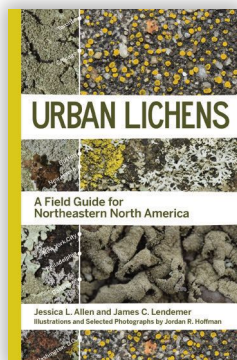
Looking back to last autumn, the CACIWC Board of Directors extends their appreciation to the many members and guests who were able to participate in our **44th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference**, our second *virtual* annual conference.

CACIWC was pleased to welcome David R. Vallee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

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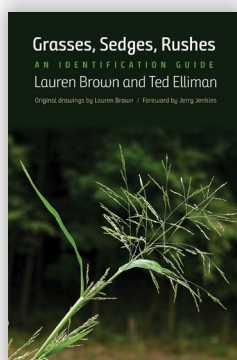


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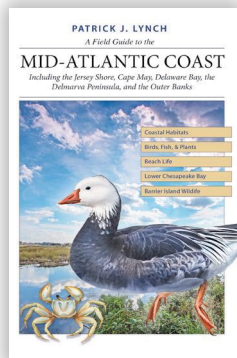


Strange Natures
Conservation in the Era of Synthetic Biology
Kent H. Redford and William M. Adams

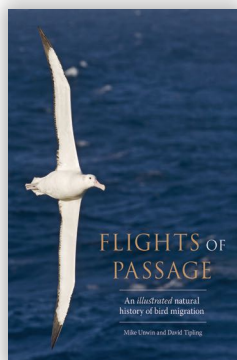
Urban Lichens
A Field Guide for Northeastern North America
Jessica L. Allen and James C. Lendemer
Illustrations and Selected Photographs by Jordan R. Hoffman



A Brief Natural History of Civilization
Why a Balance Between Cooperation & Competition Is Vital to Humanity
Mark Bertness



Grasses, Sedges, Rushes
An Identification Guide
Lauren Brown and Ted Elliman
Original drawings by Lauren Brown
Foreword by Jerry Jenkins



Confronting Climate Gridlock
How Diplomacy, Technology, and Policy Can Unlock a Clean Energy Future
Daniel S. Cohan
Foreword by Michael E. Webber

Forests Adrift
Currents Shaping the Future of Northeastern Trees
Charles D. Canham
The Future Series

Distilled
A Natural History of Spirits
Rob DeSalle and Ian Tattersall
Illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne

Nature Underfoot
Living with Beetles, Crabgrass, Fruit Flies, and Other Tiny Life Around Us
John Hainze
Illustrated by Angela Mele

A World Without Soil
The Past, Present, and Precarious Future of the Earth Beneath Our Feet
Jo Handelsman
With Research and Creative Contributions by Kayla Cohen

A Field Guide to Long Island Sound
Coastal Habitats, Plant Life, Fish, Seabirds, Marine Mammals, and Other Wildlife
Patrick J. Lynch

A Field Guide to Cape Cod
Including Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Block Island, and Eastern Long Island
Patrick J. Lynch

A Field Guide to the Mid-Atlantic Coast
Including the Jersey Shore, Cape May, Delaware Bay, the Delmarva Peninsula, and the Outer Banks
Patrick J. Lynch

In Search of Meadowlarks
Birds, Farms, and Food in Harmony with the Land
John M. Marzluff

Climate Change from the Streets
How Conflict and Collaboration Strengthen the Environmental Justice Movement
Michael Mendez

Scent
A Natural History of Fragrance
Elise Vernon Pearlstine
Illustrations by Lara Call Gastinger

Coral Reefs
Majestic Realms under the Sea
Peter F. Sale

Into Wild Mongolia
George B. Schaller

Flights of Passage
An Illustrated Natural History of Bird Migration
Mike Unwin and David Tipling

AVAILABLE IN PAPERBACK

Blooming Flowers
A Seasonal History of Plants and People
Kasia Boddy

Memory Lands
King Philip's War and the Place of Violence in the Northeast
Christine M. DeLucia
The Henry Roe Cloud Series on American Indians and Modernity

A Natural History of Beer
Rob DeSalle and Ian Tattersall
Illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne

A Better Planet
Forty Big Ideas for a Sustainable Future
Edited by Daniel C. Esty
Foreword by Ingrid C. Burke

How I Became a Tree
Sumana Roy

People and the Land through Time
Linking Ecology and History
Emily W. B. (Russell) Southgate

President's Report (continued)

National Weather Service (NWS) Northeast River Forecast Center to serve as our 2021 Annual Conference keynote speaker.

During his keynote address, entitled **“Torrential Rains from Slow Moving Tropical Systems; Is This The New Normal?”** David described how New England has been experiencing an increasing trend in annual average temperature and annual average precipitation over the past several decades. During this same 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. David's presentation reviewed these current trends and examined recent storms such as Florence, Henri, and Ida as examples of our increasing vulnerability to such high impact events. The presentation ended with a brief look at new prototype services under development by the National Weather Service to provide forecasts of inundation to Emergency Managers.

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.

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.

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.

Our first workshop, entitled **“Municipal Activities to Promote Waste Reduction and Recycling,”** was organized by Kim O'Rourke, Middletown Recycling Coordinator to explore municipal responses to the upcoming waste disposal crisis that will result from the 2022 scheduled closure of Connecticut's largest waste-to-energy facility. In her portion of the workshop, Kim described the Connecticut Coalition of Sustainable Materials Management organized by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) 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. Kim reviewed options highlighted by the coalition to help tackle of waste disposal problems, such coalition food

scrap collections, and programs to promote extended producer responsibility and described local initiatives in her presentation on *“What's Happening with Trash in Connecticut & Middletown's Feed the Earth Program.”*

Additional examples of innovative projects and programs developed to address Connecticut's waste crisis, included **Howard Weissberg, PE, Director of Public Works, City of Meriden** who reviewed *“Meriden's Solid Waste Co-Collection Waste Reduction Pilot Program,”* and **Doug Colter, C.F.M., Grants Administrator, Project Manager, and Flood Plain Manager for the City of West Haven** who discussed *“Adding Food Waste to Municipal Composting Operations & School Food Waste Education.”* **Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Authority** also outlined *“How Municipalities can Share Responsibility of Materials Management through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).”*

Our second workshop, entitled **“Wetlands Law: Problem Solving 2.0 – second edition”** was presented by **Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC** with **Darcy Winther, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)**. This innovative workshop continued efforts to provide updates and review application of wetlands law. During their 90-minute session they deconstructed and analyzed together 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?

Between the problem-solving sessions, attendees actively answered poll questions and submitted comments in the Q&A or chat boxes throughout the workshop. A lively discussion resulted with both newer and experienced wetlands commission members.

Our third workshop, entitled **“Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lantern Fly,”** was presented by **Claire Rutledge, PhD, Associate Agricultural Scientist, Department of Entomology, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)**. In this informative workshop, Dr. Rutledge presented on the Emerald ash borer which was first detected in Connecticut in 2012 and has since killed thousands of ash trees. She also presented information on the Spotted lantern fly, which was first detected in 2020 and appears to be establishing new populations along highways at a rapid pace. Dr. Rutledge also discussed management of both these highly invasive insects, helping to inform commission members and staff of efforts to tracking and respond to their findings.

In our fourth and final workshop, entitled **“Water 101 – Understanding the science of water to help you protect your community resources,”** **Virginia de Lima, former Director of the USGS Connecticut Water Science Center** emphasized how 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. She emphasized the importance of groundwater flow in the hydrologic cycle. Virginia, who served as former Director of the USGS Connecticut Water Science Center, continues to serve on multiple state committees focused on the State Water Plan

continued next page

President's Report (continued)

(SWP). As co-chair of the SWP Implementation Committee and previous chair of the Science and Technical Committee, she reviewed the importance of the SWP.

We again thank the conference attendees and all those responsible for organizing our **44th 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 had decided to again maintain the AnnualMtg@caciwc.org email throughout the year. We used many of your suggestions in planning for our 2022 conferences so please keep forwarding your suggestions to us!

Even with our continuously updated registration systems, the task of organizing our **annual meeting and environmental 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.

During 2022, we again reviewed our progress in implementing our **Strategic Plan**. One important strategic goal was the **modernization of our financial tracking and accounting system**. Our Treasurer Charles Dimmick and Vice President Peter Bassermann both continued their efforts to improve our final financial records using an electronic system that allows easily prepare reports and review the status of various fiscal categories.

Throughout 2022, the board has continued its efforts to address another key strategic plan goal of provide **information and outreach support** to commission members and staff through our website CACIWC.org and our quarterly publication *The Habitat*. Additional municipal commission and environmental advocacy efforts were pursued in conjunction with various partner organizations.

The board also continues to review progress toward achieving the 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 2022 and provided us with important information to help guide our efforts. We remain committed to continue 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 2023, we anticipate that the still ongoing COVID-19 pandemic 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 maintain 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 **45th CACIWC Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference**, we have a full agenda with several of our workshops addressing the impact of climate change as well as workshops and our keynote speaker Attorney Gregory A. Sharp reflecting on the major theme of our 2022 conference, *Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act*. We look forward to receiving your feedback on what we hope to be a relevant and informative conference.

I know that I speak for the entire CACIWC Board of Directors in welcoming you to today's 2022 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference for our now first in-person conference in since the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic. As an epidemiologist, I am indebted to all of you who continue to follow recommendations to help bring this pandemic to a close. 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 during 2023!

— Alan J. Siniscalchi, President
Saturday, October 29, 2022



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The exhibitor tables have always been a popular feature of the Annual Meeting.

Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetland Commissions

Treasurer's Report & Budget: FY 2022-2023

	Budget(\$) FY '21-22	Actual(\$) FY '21-22	Budget(\$) FY '22-23
INCOME			
Membership Dues, Towns	10,700.00	5,367.95	7,500.00
Dues, other	700.00	479.56	700.00
<i>Habitat</i> – Advertising, Sponsorship	3,200.00	4,566.71	4,000.00
Contributions	1,000.00	1,462.61	1,500.00
Interest/Reimbursements	4.00	2.79	4.00
Annual Meeting Income	20,000.00	4,266.28	17,000.00
CACIWC Publication Sales	0.00	135.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	34,904.00	16,280.90	30,704.00
EXPENSES			
Education & Information			
Newsletter – <i>Habitat</i>			
Layout, type, edit, graphics	2,500.00	1,737.50	2,500.00
Printing, collate, staple	3,000.00	(Habitat now only electronic, no print)	
Mailing – labels, service, postage	2,100.00		
Other – <i>Habitat</i> Advertising Manager	1,600.00	954.72	1,600.00
Website – administration, server fees	850.00	1,003.22	850.00
Listserve Management	250.00	0	200.00
Board Development	200.00	0	200.00
Other Organization Support	300.00	908.00	800.00
IWC & CC Educ & Information	100.00	0	100.00
Subtotal	10,900.00	4,603.44	6,250.00
Administration and Operations			
Administrative Support – Memb DB Mgt	500.00	63.00	600.00
Administrative (other)	50.00	0	50.00
Bookkeeping Service	500.00	636.80	500.00
Office Rental (DeKoven House)	1,950.00	2,445.00	1,950.00
Office Equipment/Furniture	0	0	0
Postage/Supplies	50.00	0	50.00
Insurance	550.00	550.00	550.00
Fees/Taxes	0	0	0
Refunds	50.00	121.84	50.00
Subtotal	3,650.00	3,816.64	3,750.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	22,000	4,325.26	20,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	36,700.00	12,725.26	30,000.00
GAIN/(loss)	(1,796)	3,555.64	704

45th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference Sponsors



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