AGENDA

Mansfield Conservation Commission
Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Audrey P. Beck Building
CONFERENCE ROOM B
7:30 PM

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

4. **Minutes**
   a. October 20, 2010

5. **New Business** (No IWA or PZC Referrals)
   a. 2011 Meeting Schedule

6. **Continuing Business**
   a. Swan Lake Discharge Mirror Lake Dredging and other UConn Drainage Issues (no new information)
   b. Draft Revisions to Mansfield's Subdivision Regulations (11/3/10 draft attached)
   c. Four Corners Sewer and Water Study (consultants hired for reviewing potential sources of public water and for designing sewer pump station)
   d. UConn Agronomy Farm Irrigation Project (update from Facchnetti)
   e. Eagleville Brook Impervious Surface TMDL Project (no new information)
   f. Natchaug River Basin project (Conservation Compact Update from Chairman)
   g. UConn Hazardous Waste Transfer Station (no new information)
   h. Ponde Place Student Housing Project (no new information)
   i. CL&P "Interstate Reliability Project" (Alternative tower locations with lines over Hawthorne Lane and section of Conservation easement is pending before PZC)
   j. Other

7. **Communications**
   a. Minutes
      - Open Space (10/19/10) - PZC (10/18/10 & 11/1/10) - IWA (11/1/10)
   b. Inland Wetland Agent Monthly Activity Report
   c. 11/8/10 Storrs Center Update prepared by Director of Planning
   d. 10/30/10 letter from NOFA Organic Lawn Care Program
   e. CACIWC-Environmental Toolkit for Assessing Development pamphlet
   f. Fall 2010 The Habitat
   g. Sept/Oct Connecticut Wildlife
   h. Autumn 2010 Thames River Basin Partnership
   i. Other Correspondence

8. **Other**

9. **Future Agendas**

10. **Adjournment**

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Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 20 October 2010
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
(DRAFT) MINUTES

Members present: Joan Buck (Alt.), Peter Drzewiecki, Neil Facchinetti (Alt.), Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, John Silander, Frank Trainor. *Members absent*: Robert Dahn, Joan Stevenson. *Others present:* Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:33p by Chair Quentin Kessel.

2. The draft **minutes of the 15 September meeting**, with item 8 revised so as to correspond to reality, were approved.

3. Proposed revisions to subdivision regulations. The Commission briefly considered draft revisions (dated 7 October) to the subdivision regulations, in particular, provisions for (1) preliminary review of applications (which might allow environmental concerns to be raised before the developer has spent a lot of money on a detailed site plan) and (2) increasing the number of lots that may be accessed by a common driveway (which might encourage more rapid development of land with interior lots, inasmuch as roads are more costly than driveways for the developer). However, because (a) this item was not on the agenda, (b) few Commission members had reviewed the proposal, and (c) the PZC will probably not vote on the proposal before January at the earliest, the Commission took no action at this time. Kessel will draft a letter to the Town Planner regarding the proposed revisions and circulate it by e-mail to Commission members in advance of our November meeting.

4. Mirror Lake dredging. This project is apparently going ahead, despite the departure of its principal advocate, President Hogan, and the University's current budget woes.

5. Swan Lake diversion. UConn has notified DEP that it may not need the proposed "55-acre diversion" of runoff from the Eagleville Brook watershed to Roberts Brook (via Swan Lake) in order to manage storm-water flows in Eagleville Brook – if its efforts to reduce impervious cover with rain gardens, porous pavement, etc. are sufficiently effective.

6. Four Corners. At its 10 November meeting, the Four-Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee will hear a report on the UConn water supply plan, which may call for tapping the Cedar Swamp aquifer. Significant withdrawals could have a significant impact on Cedar Swamp.

7. Natchaug River Basin Conservation Compact. A draft "Natchaug River Basin Conservation Compact" has been developed by a working group of municipal officials and other interested individuals. Basin towns that sign on agree "to work cooperatively to balance conservation and growth" by "protecting and restoring the water resources of the watershed", "supporting efforts to link and maintain ecologically viable habitats and rural landscapes", and "working to insure the long-term environmental health and vitality of the watershed". Kessel indicated that the working group will meet tomorrow to finalize the draft. On the assumption that the final version will not differ materially from

the draft, the Commission agreed unanimously (**motion:** Drzewiecki, Buck) to the following (conditional) statement of support:

> In recognition of the fact that natural resources do not recognize town boundaries, the Mansfield Conservation Commission urges the Town Council to enter into the voluntary "Natchaug River Basin Conservation Compact". We note that Greg Padick, Lon Hultgren, and Quentin Kessel have participated in the meetings that led to the preparation of this document.

Should any substantial change be made in the draft compact before it is submitted to the Council for approval, the Commission will delay making a recommendation until after our November meeting.

8. Public Act 490. The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association has prepared a new booklet explaining PA 490, which offers property tax relief for farm, forest, or open-space land. Anybody who owns a lot of undeveloped land in Connecticut should get a copy.

9. Adjourned at 8:47p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 17 November 2010

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 25 October 2010.

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

GREGORY J. PADICK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Memo to: Conservation Commission
From: Gregory Padick, Director of Planning
Date: 11/9/10
Re: 2011 Draft Meeting Schedule

Please review the attached 2011 draft meeting schedule for the Conservation Commission.

The following motion has been prepared if members deem it appropriate. **That the Conservation Commission approve the 2011 meeting schedules for the Conservation Commission.**

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING SCHEDULE 2011

(3rd Wednesday of the month)

JAN	19	**JULY**	20
FEB	16	**AUG**	17
MAR	16	**SEPT**	21
APR	20	**OCT**	19
MAY	18	**NOV**	16
JUNE	15	**DEC**	21

ALL MEETINGS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED MEET AT 7:30 PM IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM B
AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING
4 SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD
STORRS, CT 06268

Town of Mansfield
Office of the Town Clerk

To: Chairman

From: Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

Date: October 21, 2010

Re: Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2011

The **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT** requires:

- A **schedule of regular meetings** for the ensuing year, signed by the chairman or the secretary be filed with the Town Clerk not later than January 31st, and no such meeting shall be held sooner than 30 days after such schedule has been filed. Your list should include the exact date (not, for instance, first Monday), time and place of the meetings. In accordance with Sec. 2-21f of the general statutes, if any regular meeting falls on a holiday, such regular meeting shall be held on the next business day. A list of legal holidays is attached. In order for the Town website to reflect all regularly scheduled meetings for the year, as required by law, all meeting rooms should be reserved as soon as the schedule for the year is known.
- The **agenda of each regular meeting** must be available to the public and must be filed not less than 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and any date on which the agency's office is closed) before the meeting in the office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's website.
- A **notice of special meeting** must be filed in the office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's website at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and any day on which the office is closed) prior to the time of such meeting, and must include the business to be transacted. No business other than that listed in the notice may be considered. In addition, such written notice shall be delivered to the usual place of abode of each member of the public agency so that it is received prior to the special meeting. In case of emergency, a special meeting may be held without posting such notice, but a copy of the minutes of such emergency meeting must be filed with the Town Clerk and on the website not later than 72 hours following the meeting.

(When a meeting is cancelled for any reason, please post the cancellation as soon as possible.)

Note - Sections that have been revised from the previous draft are indicated by * - see Pages 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 + 12.

November 3, 2010 DRAFT

Proposed Revisions to the Subdivision Regulations

(New provisions are underlined or otherwise indicated)
(Deletions are bracketed or otherwise indicated)
(Explanatory Notes are provided to assist with an understanding of the proposed revisions. These notes are not part of the proposed zoning revisions.)

1) In Section 3, Definitions, incorporate the following revisions:

a. **3.9 Natural and Manmade Features**

Significant trees, [specimens or groupings;] standing singly or in groves; agricultural lands including open fields and pastures; water, including ponds, lakes, brooks, streams, rivers, and cascades; ledges, and large rock outcroppings or formations, large hills or ridges, or expanses of valley floors; visible historic sites or features, such as stone walls, individual buildings or groupings of buildings, cemeteries, cellar holes, foundations, or similar features.

b. **3.10 Plan, [Preliminary] Conceptual Layout**

[The preliminary drawing(s) and any supporting data indicating the proposed manner and layout of the subdivision (see Section 5.0 for requirements)]

A plan prepared after analyzing off-site influences and site and neighborhood features and indicating potential streets, lots, open space areas and other site alterations. Conceptual plans, which are required for subdivisions with potential streets and/or four (4) or more lots, are reviewed by the planning staff pursuant to Section 5.

c. **3.18 [Trees (specimen and groups of trees)**

Specimen: a fully developed tree, standing singly or in a group, exceeding 9" (nine inches) d.b.h. (diameter breast height) on a proposed lot or 6" (six inches) d.b.h. within an existing or proposed street right-of-way. Groups of trees, ranging from 6" to 12" (six to twelve inches) d.b.h., of hardwoods or evergreens, especially as they stand along roadsides or boundaries or properties or lots, so as to serve as privacy screens or buffers, or to enhance a public road or way. Groups or masses of trees may be indicated on a plan as a mass, and each tree need not be delineated.]

Trees, Significant

A healthy, well formed, individual tree nine (9) inches or greater d.b.h. (diameter breast height) on a proposed lot or within an existing or proposed street right-of-way, and/or a grove of trees of any size, especially as they stand along streets or boundaries of existing or proposed lots, that add scenic character or serve as privacy screens or buffers.

d. **3.20 View**

[A sight or prospect of some landscape or extended scene; an extent or area covered by the eye from one vantage point, whether on or off a subdivision site.]

Scenery that exceeds one-hundred and eighty (180) degrees in width as observed from a vantage point.

e. **3.21 Vista**

[A view seen through a long or restricted passage, such as between rows or groups of trees or buildings.]

Scenery that is less than one-hundred and eighty (180) degrees in width as observed from a vantage point and is framed by trees, landforms, buildings or other vertical features.

f. **3.23 Yield Plan**

A map or maps containing a lot and site improvement layout and additional information, as required by these regulations (see Section 6.10.a.6), that demonstrates: compliance with the zoning Schedule of Dimensional Requirements provisions for standard lot size, lot frontage and building setbacks; compliance with all other zoning requirements, including minimum lot area requirements for new lots; and compliance with all subdivision requirements, including the Design Objectives of Section 5.1, the [Design Criteria of Section 7] lot size and configuration provisions of Section 7.4 and the Open Space requirements of Section 13.

A yield plan must be submitted whenever a subdivider seeks a reduction or waiver of minimum lot frontage (see Section 7.6) or in the R-90 and RAR-90 zones, a lot size of less than 90,000 square feet.

Explanatory Note: The revised definitions are associated with new design process provisions in Section 5 and revised provisions in Sections 6.5 and 7.8 regarding the identification and preservation of significant trees, views and vistas.

2) In Section 4, General Provisions, incorporate the following revisions and renumber Sections 4.7 through 4.9 to 4.5 through 4.7.

a. **4.2 Zoning Regulations**

No subdivision plan shall be approved unless it conforms to the Zoning Regulations of the Town, as adopted, as may be amended hereafter (copy on file in the Office of the Commission). [Pursuant to Article III, Section A of the Zoning Regulations, Mansfield has adopted a Temporary and Limited Moratorium on receiving and acting upon certain subdivision and resubdivision applications. See Article III, Section A of Mansfield's Zoning Regulations for specific details.]

b. Relocate, without revision, Section 4.5 (Subdivisions in Flood Hazard Areas) to a new Section 7.1.

c. Relocate, without revisions, Section 4.6 (Solar Access-Energy Efficient Design) to a new Section 7.2.

d. Relocate, without revision, Section 6.17 (Submission to Regional Planning Commission) and Section 6.18 (Notification to Adjoining Towns) to new Sections 4.8 and 4.9.

e. Relocate, with the following revisions, existing Section 6.19 to a new Section 4.10

4.10 **[6.19] Windham Water Works/Connecticut Department of Public Health Notification**

When an applicant files with the Planning and Zoning Commission an application concerning a subdivision that is within an aquifer protection area delineated pursuant to Section 22a-354c of the State Statutes or which is within the watershed of the Willimantic Water Works or other water company as defined in Section 25-32a of the General Statutes, the applicant shall provide written notice of the application to the water company and the Commissioner of Public Health in a format prescribed by the Commissioner (provided such water company or said Commissioner has filed a map showing the boundaries of the watershed on the Mansfield Land Records and with the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission or the aquifer protection area has been delineated in accordance with Section 22a-354c, as the case may be). Such notice shall be made by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and shall be mailed within seven days [of] after the date of the application. The Willimantic Water Works or other such water company and the Commissioner of Health may, through a representative, appear and be heard at any hearing on any such application.

f. Relocate, with the following revisions, existing Section 6.20 to a new Section 4.11

4.11 **[6.20] Notification of Abutting Property Owners**

The applicant shall be responsible for notifying all property owners abutting the site of a proposed subdivision, including property owners across the street from a subject subdivision (as measured at right angles to straight street lines and radial to curved street lines). Said notification, which shall be sent by Certified Mail, [Return Receipt Requested,] within seven (7) days of the Commission's receipt of the application, shall include mapping that depicts the proposed subdivision. The notice also shall reference the fact that the complete application is available for review in the Mansfield Planning Office. Notification forms (available in the Mansfield Planning Office) shall be utilized for notifying abutting property owners.

Explanatory Note: The revisions to Section 4 eliminate an expired moratorium reference and incorporate statutory requirements regarding notification to the CT. Department of Public Health and to abutting property owners.

3) Delete Existing Section 5 in its entirety and add new Sections 5 as follows:

Section 5.0 Subdivision Design Objectives/Design Process

5.1 Design Objectives

Subdivisions shall be designed in a manner that protects the public's health and safety, promotes goals, policies and recommendations contained in Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development, addresses the provisions of Section 1 of these Regulations (Purpose and Authority) and complies with all specific requirements contained or referenced

in these regulations. To address these objectives, primary consideration in designing streets, walkways/bikeways and other public improvements, lot layouts, proposed locations for houses, driveways, sanitary systems and other site work and identifying appropriate open space preservation areas shall be:

a. The protection and enhancement of vehicular and pedestrian safety through the appropriate siting of streets, driveways, walkways, bikeways and trails;

b. The protection and enhancement of existing and potential public water supply wells and ground water and surface water quality through appropriate design and installation of sanitary systems, roadways, drainage facilities, house sites and other site improvements;

c. The protection and enhancement of natural and manmade features, including wetlands, watercourses, aquifer areas, agricultural lands, hilltops or ridges, historic sites and features, expanses of valley floors, interior forests and scenic views and vistas on and adjacent to the subdivision site through, wherever appropriate, a clustering of streets and house sites and the identification and preservation of significant open space areas including agricultural lands, interior forests and other land without physical limitations.

d. The utilization of a site's natural terrain, avoiding unnecessary re-grading, filling and removal activities.

e. The promotion of energy efficient patterns of development and land use, energy conservation and the use of solar and renewable forms of energy through the appropriate siting of streets, driveways and house sites and, whenever appropriate, , bikeway and walkway/trail connections to neighboring streets and neighborhoods; existing and planned commercial areas; schools parks, and other public facilities and town designated walkway or bicycle routes.

5.2 Design Process

All prospective subdividers are encouraged to meet with the Director of Planning or other Planning Office Staff to review zoning and subdivision approval criteria and application submission requirements.

To help achieve the design objectives of Section 5.1, to expedite application reviews, to help reduce application submission costs and to help ensure compliance with all applicable provisions of Mansfield's Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, ~~the following subdivision design process shall be followed.~~ Mansfield has established a subdivision design process that includes specific pre-application requirements. Mansfield's subdivision design process has three (3) primary steps.

- Step 1 Inventory and Review of Off-Site Influences and Site and Neighborhood Features
  For Subdivisions including new streets or four (4) or more lots, certain information is required to be submitted to the Director of Planning for review and comment (see Section 5.2.a)
- Step 2 Preparation of Conceptual Yield Plan and Conceptual Layout Plan
  For subdivisions including new streets or four (4) or more lots, these conceptual plans are required to be submitted to the Director of Planning for review and comments (see Section 5.2.b)
- Step 3 Testing and Preparation of Final Subdivision Plans
  (See Section 5.2.c and Section 6)

a. ~~Preliminary~~ **Review/Inventory of Off-Site Influences/Site and Neighborhood Features**

1. **Off Site Influences**

Regional, town-wide and neighborhood characteristics and influences shall be inventoried and considered with respect to the subject subdivision site and the Design Objectives of Section 5.1. State and regional land use plans, Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development, local knowledge and other sources of information should be considered in conducting this inventory of off-site influences. ~~This inventory shall be presented in the form of a plan which may be a small, reduced scale map displayed as a cover sheet for the set of project plans.~~

While all prospective applicants are encouraged to submit and review with the Planning Staff an inventory of off-site influences, whenever a subdivision proposal includes new streets or four (4) or more lots, this inventory is mandatory and shall be submitted by a Connecticut Licensed Landscape Architect in association with the Site Analysis Plan requirements of Section 5.2.b. Where required, ~~a map shall be submitted~~ this inventory shall be presented and in the form of a plan showing the location of the project site, area factors such as roads and transportation networks, noteworthy topographical and natural resource features, proximate commercial, recreational, educational and cultural land uses and any other external site features that could influence development on the project site. This plan may be displayed as a cover sheet for the set of final subdivision plans.

2. **Site ~~Analysis Plan~~ and Neighborhood Features/Site Analysis Plan**

~~The second step in designing a Mansfield subdivision shall be an inventory of~~ Natural and man-made features on or adjacent to a potential subdivision site shall be inventoried and considered in association with the design objectives of Section 5.1 and other provisions of these regulations. While all prospective applicants are encouraged to submit and review with Planning Staff a Site Analysis Plan (as described below), whenever a subdivision proposal includes new streets or four (4) or more lots, the submittal of a Site Analysis Plan is mandatory. Where required, a Connecticut Licensed Landscape Architect shall prepare and submit to the Director of Planning five (5) copies of a Site Analysis Plan containing the information listed below as applicable to the subject site. This plan shall be submitted in association with an Inventory of Off-Site Influences Plan as per Section 5.2.a.1.

The submitted plans shall be reviewed by Mansfield staff members and ~~as deemed appropriate by the Director of Planning, the plans~~ shall be referred to the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Preservation Committee. As deemed appropriate by the Director of Planning, the plans also may be referred to other advisory committees for review and comment. The Director of Planning shall within forty-five (45) days of receipt provide review comments on the submitted plans. No final subdivision plan involving new streets or four (4) or more lots shall be considered complete and approvable by the Commission unless this Site Analysis Plan and off-site influences inventory requirements have been met.

The following information shall be included, as applicable to the subject site, on all required Site Analysis Plans:

1. North arrow, scale and date. The scale selected should be one best suited to the site and one that is clear to the reader of the plans.

2. Name of subdivider and subdivision and the name and seal of the Landscape Architect who prepared the plan.
3. Boundaries of tract to be subdivided.
4. Existing contours at two (2) foot intervals. All slopes over 20 percent and watershed divides should be indicated.
5. Existing streets, easements, fences, walkways, bikeways, trails, structures both onsite and immediately adjacent to the site.
6. Wetlands and watercourses including intermittent streams both onsite and immediately adjacent to the site.
7. One Hundred (100) year flood plains, including base flood information on any portion of the land being subdivided which is within flood hazard areas as shown on the Zoning Map and in greater detail in the flood insurance study dated July 1980, and the most current Federal Emergency Management "Floodway" and Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
8. Aquifer areas and public drinking water wells on or within 500 feet of a site.
9. Soil type classifications as per the current U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey for Tolland County, CT.
10. On-site and adjacent historic features including: all structures, wells and other utility features, walls and fences regardless of their condition, existing or former walks, paths, drives, trails, etc., curbs and pavement, man-made elements inserted into the ground such as hitching posts, garden or enclosed areas, significant vegetation, remains of old foundations, rip-rapping, arbors, trellises, etc., and any other historic features observed.
11. On-site and adjacent agricultural land with existing uses identified.
12. Areas with potential State and Federally-listed endangered, threatened or special concern species as per the current State and Federal Listed Species and Natural Communities Map published by the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; and significant natural flora and fauna communities as per Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development mapping.
13. Other natural and man-made features, including rock ledges and rock outcropping, significant trees, tree or shrub groves or masses of groundcover and obvious wildlife habitats.
14. Desirable scenic and/or historic views and vistas into or out of the site, desirable internal vistas and views and any undesirable views and vistas both off and on-site.
15. On-site and adjacent open space and recreational land with existing uses identified.
16. Off-site nuisances to be screened.
17. Negative site conditions such as dangerous and dilapidated buildings, dead and falling trees, diseased plants, infestation of invasive species, areas of stripped top soil, deposits or junk and refuse.
18. Objectionable noises or odors and their sources both on and off site.
19. Particular micro-climatic conditions that may affect development.
20. Directions of prevailing winter winds and summer breezes.
21. Horizontal angles of the sun (azimuth) on December 21 and June 21.

22. Primary directions of off-site traffic flow and relative volumes; points of connection of site with sidewalks, bikeways and trails, if any.

23. Logical points of ingress and egress to the site; sight lines of possible driveway to road; locations of all trees over 9 inches in diameter (d.b.h.) within sight lines.

24. Tentative notations of possible preservation and conservation areas (areas where development should be discouraged).

25. Tentative identification of areas that are better suited for development.

An example of a site analysis plan is contained in Appendix A of these regulations.

b. <u>Conceptual Yield Plan and Conceptual Layout Plan</u>

Following the analysis and review of off-site influences and site and neighborhood features, the ~~third~~ next step in designing a Mansfield Subdivision shall be the preparation of a Conceptual Yield Plan and a Conceptual Layout Plan. These plans shall take into account all comments received in association with the initial step ~~two, the Site Analysis Plan review~~, as described in Section 5.2.a.

All applicants are encouraged to submit to the Planning Office a conceptual Yield Plan and Conceptual Layout Plan for review prior to the submittal of final plans. However, whenever a subdivision proposal includes new streets or four (4) or more lots, a Connecticut Licensed Landscape Architect shall prepare and submit to the Director of Planning five (5) copies of a Conceptual Yield Plan and a Conceptual Layout Plan. The submitted plans shall be reviewed by Mansfield staff members and, ~~as deemed appropriate by the Director of Planning, the plans~~ shall be referred to the Conservation Commission, the Open Space Preservation Committee and the Design Review Panel. As deemed appropriate by the Director of Planning, the plans also may be referred to other advisory committees for review and comment. Several concept plans may be submitted concurrently. The Director of Planning shall within forty-five (45) days of receipt provide review comments on the submitted plans. No final subdivision plan involving new streets or four (4) or more lots shall be considered complete and approvable by the Commission unless these conceptual plan requirements have been met. All review comments on conceptual plans shall not be considered as a commitment to approve final plans which are subject to independent review and approval by the Commission.

The Conceptual Yield Plan, which shall be drawn to a scale best suited to the site and allows appropriate review, shall identify potential streets (where applicable), potential lots and potential open space areas that could be developed with standard frontages and lot sizes pursuant to all applicable zoning and subdivision approval criteria. Mansfield's Subdivision Regulations require a yield plan to determine the maximum number of lots that could be developed on a subject site (see Section 6.10.a.b for yield plan provisions).

The Conceptual Layout Plan, which shall be drawn to a scale best suited to the site and allows appropriate review, shall identify potential streets (where applicable), potential lots and potential open space areas that could be developed pursuant to all applicable zoning and subdivision approval criteria, including Mansfield's "Cluster Development" provisions. Section 7.4 of the Subdivision Regulations authorizes the Commission to require new subdivisions to be clustered with reduced lot sizes and larger areas of preserved open space. Section 7.6 includes provisions to reduce or waive lot frontage and setback requirements. A

submitted Conceptual Layout Plan should reflect an applicant's intended final plan submission subject to soil testing and obtaining more specific site information.

c. **Testing/Preparation of Final Subdivision Plans**

Following the receipt of review comments on all submitted conceptual plans, applicants shall conduct all required testing pursuant to State Health Code requirements and permits issued by Eastern Highlands Health District. Following on-site testing and further analysis, applicants can elect to resubmit conceptual plans pursuant to Section 5.2.b. or prepare final plans pursuant to Section 6. The final plan shall take into account all information obtained through Mansfield's ~~Site Analysis Plan, Conceptual Yield Plan and Conceptual Layout Plan~~ pre-application design process.

Final Subdivision plans shall depict proposed streets, lot lines, building and development area envelopes, house locations, well and septic system locations, open space areas, natural and manmade resources and other details required by Section 6 and other provisions of these Regulations. The final subdivision plan shall address the minimum lot size provisions of the Zoning Regulations, and the number of proposed lots shall be no greater than the number depicted on a finalized yield plan prepared pursuant to Section 6.10.a.6.

Explanatory Note: The revisions to Section 5 include the relocation and expansion of subdivision design objectives and the establishment of a new pre-application process designed to promote compliance with the design objectives and all applicable subdivision submission and approval standards. For subdivisions involving four (4) or more lots or new streets, the proposed regulations require applicants to submit to the Director of Planning, and as deemed appropriate, other staff members and advisory committees, an inventory of regional, town-wide and neighborhood characteristics and influences and a site analysis plan before preceding to the preparation of conceptual yield and layout plans which also must be submitted for review and comments. Any subdivision application submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to Section 6, that involves four (4) or more lots or new streets, would be incomplete if the new pre-application requirements have not been met. The new pre-application process is expected to expedite Planning and Zoning Application reviews and help reduce application revisions and associated processing costs.

4) In Section 6, Final Plans, incorporate the following revisions:

a. **6.1 Plan Required**

[Except as provided for in Section 4.9,] In order for land to be subdivided, all procedures and requirements of this Section (6.0) and other applicable sections of these regulations, including the subdivision design process of Section 5 [design criteria of Section 7,] must be complied with. Only final plans approved by the Commission may be filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

b. **6.2 Complete Application**

The subdivision application shall be considered complete by the Commission when it determines the subdivider has complied with the design process provisions of Section 5 and all submission provisions of Section 6 [all the plan requirements]. If an application involves activities within regulated areas as defined by the Mansfield Inland Wetland Agency (IWA), the application shall not be received unless a license application for said activities has been

received by the IWA and is currently under IWA review; or unless a license for said activities has been approved by the IWA; or unless the proposed activities have been ruled by the IWA to be exempt from licensing requirements. The date of the meeting at which the Commission determines the application is complete shall be designated the official date of submission.

c. 6.3 **Final Plan Requirements**

a. The final plans shall consist of the subdivision map, construction and public improvement plan (if needed), pursuant to Section 6.7 and supportive documentation (Section 6.10 and 6.11) either required herein or as may be required by the Commission.
b. All required plans shall be prepared by and shall bear the name, signature and seal of a land surveyor and professional engineer licensed by the State of Connecticut.
c. Final plans shall include the name, signature and seal of a landscape architect licensed by the State of Connecticut whenever a subdivision proposal includes new streets or four or more lots, or the Commission determines that a landscape architect is needed to address application requirements and approval criteria including potential impacts on natural and manmade features and scenic views and vistas.
d. Final plans shall include the name and signature of a certified soil scientist whenever wetlands or watercourses exist within one hundred fifty feet of proposed building envelopes or the Commission determines that a soil scientist is needed to address application requirements and approval criteria.
e. All <u>full sized</u> plans shall be drawn at a scale of one (1) inch equals forty (40) feet (1"=40') or less. The Commission may permit different scales for large parcels.
f. All plans shall be submitted on sheets at least 24 inches wide and 36 inches long (24" x 36"). The subdivider shall submit at least 6 copies of all <u>full size</u> maps. [, two of which shall be on Mylar or similar reproducible medium.] The Commission may require additional copies. <u>In addition, the subdivider shall submit fifteen (15) copies of the final plans reduced, wherever possible, to fit paper eleven (11) inches wide and seventeen (17) inches long. The reduced sized maps shall be at a measurable scale, which shall be noted on the reduced size map.</u> [Upon approval by the Commission, final plans also shall be submitted in digital form AutoCAD R-14 or compatible form acceptable to the Town (unless specifically waived by the Commission for smaller subdivisions where a digital form is not available).]

d. **6.5.j.3 Final Subdivision Maps/Other Natural and Manmade Features on the Site**

3. Open fields and meadows, woodlands, tree lines, significant trees. The subdivision map shall identify all <u>significant</u> trees <u>(see definition) that are within a proposed development area envelope or an existing or proposed street right of way. In addition, all</u> [over six (6) inches d.b.h. (diameter breast height) within an existing or proposed street right-of-way or nine (9) inches d.b.h. on a proposed lot that are to be removed in association with road, drainage, driveway, house, septic or underground utility construction. All] trees over fifteen (15) inches d.b.h. (diameter breast height) situated on the subdivision site shall be identified, either individually or as part of a [group of trees] grove. [Specimen] <u>Significant</u> trees [and groups or masses of trees (see definition)] that are to be preserved shall be specifically [shown and] labeled on final plans.

e. **6.5 Final Subdivision Maps**

n. Proposed street layout (where applicable) with pavement type and typical street cross-section, right-of-way widths, street names, location of existing and proposed street signs and street lights, with design details and street trees, with standard plant specifications;[signs and sidewalks, if any;]

f. 6.5 Final Subdivision Plans-Add a new Section o to read as follows and re-letter existing Section o through t to p though v.

o. Sidewalks, bikeways, trails and/or other improvements designed to encourage and enhance safe bicycle and pedestrian use (see Section 9). Where required, cross-sections and related construction details shall be provided.

g. 6.10, Required Documentation, incorporate the following revisions: 6.10.a.5, change Section 4.6 to Section 7.2; 6.10.a.6, delete "design" in line 6; 6.10.b.1, delete "Sewer Authority" in line 1

h. 6.13 a and b, Revisions, replace "Town Planner" with "Director of Planning" (3 locations)

i. **6.14 Submittal of Approved Plans/ Endorsement**

Upon approval, the subdivider shall submit, in accordance with the schedule contained in Section 6.15, two (2) sets of reproducible subdivision plans acceptable to the Town Clerk based on the provisions of Section 7-31 of the State Statutes; [and] three (3) sets of full sized paper prints of the approved plans[shall be submitted to] and three (3) sets of reduced size maps as per the submission provisions of Section 6.3.f In addition, the subdivider shall submit the final plans in digital form AutoCAD R-14 or a compatible form acceptable to the Town. Alternatively, Town staff may accept other forms of digital data (property lines, wetland boundaries and other data contained on a final subdivision plan) provided the data can be readily incorporated into the Town's current digital mapping system. This digital data is needed to appropriately update Town records.

The Chairman of the Commission who, after determining that [they] the submittals comply with the Commission's action and that all other regulatory requirements have been met, shall sign the plans. When the Chairman is absent, or otherwise unable to act, the Vice-Chairman or Secretary of the Commission shall sign said maps. No plan shall be recorded with the Town Clerk until approval has been endorsed thereon and recording of the plan without such endorsement shall make said plan void. A plan revised without a proper endorsement shall also be void. The endorsement of approval shall state the date on which the subdivision approval period expires (see Section 6.16). [The applicant also shall file with the Town the final plans in digital form (see Section 6.3.g).]

j. Renumber Section 6.21 and 6.17 (existing Sections 6.17 through 6.20 are being relocated to Section 4).

Explanatory Note: The revisions to Section 6, clarify and update final subdivision plan application submission and post approval requirements. The revisions reference the new pre-application provisions

of Section 5, clarify significant tree inventory provisions and provide alternatives for submitting final plans digitally.

5) In Section 7 to be relabeled "Additional Subdivision Criteria" incorporate the following revisions.

a. Delete existing Sections 7.1 and 7.2 and replace them with existing provisions contained in Sections 4.5 and 4.6.

b. **7.7 Stone Walls/Historic Features**

[Subdivisions shall be designed to preserve, where] To the extent possible (subject to any safety issues) [after consideration of other regulatory provisions,] all existing stone walls, remains of old foundations and any other historic features on the subject site shall, regardless of condition, be preserved and maintained. Furthermore, wherever possible, existing stonewalls shall be used to delineate property lines. The Commission may require stone walls and other historic features to be included within conservation easements to help ensure long term protection.

All existing stone walls that need to be removed due to street, driveway, house, septic system or other site construction shall be[rebuilt elsewhere on the property, or the stones shall be] used to enhance adjacent segments of walls or other existing walls on the property, particularly along new property lines. [Information] Specific plans regarding any stone wall removal and proposed stone wall rebuilding or improvements shall be included on the subdivision plans and the Commission shall have the right to require stone wall work to be the responsibility of the subdivider.

c. **7.8 Trees**

a. Unless specifically authorized by the Commission, no roadside tree over [six (6)] nine (9) inches d.b.h. (diameter breast height) shall be removed unless the removal is necessary to provide suitable sightlines, to establish suitable driveway or roadside drainage, or to provide suitable underground utility service (see underground utility provisions of section 11.1);

b. Subdivisions shall be designed to preserve, where possible after consideration of other regulatory provisions, [specimen] significant trees [and groups of trees] that contribute to Mansfield's scenery and/or help enhance significant man-made and natural features (see definitions of scenery, significant trees and natural and man-made features).

d. **7.10 Common Driveways**

a. The use of a common driveway may be authorized or required by the Commission where:

1. Wetlands, steep slopes or other physical constraints would require extensive grading, filling or tree removal for individual driveways;
2. ~~Where~~ Common driveways will protect and preserve natural and manmade features ~~and~~, scenic views and vistas, interior forests and/or other Plan of Conservation and Development identified existing and potential conservation areas (see map 21);
3. Common driveways will promote cluster development and other design objectives of these regulations (see Section 5.1). [Any approved common driveway shall serve no more than three (3) residential lots.]

Where common driveways are approved, a driveway easement that establishes

maintenance and liability responsibilities shall be depicted on the plans, shall be incorporated onto the deeds of the subject lots and shall be filed on the Land Records.

b. Except where specifically authorized by the Commission pursuant to this section, any approved common driveway shall serve no more than three (3) residential lots.

By a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the entire Commission (seven (7) votes), the maximum number of residential lots served by a common driveway may be increased to four (4) or five (5) lots. The following factors shall be considered by the Commission in evaluating a potential common driveway serving four (4) or five (5) lots.

1. Whether the proposed common driveway will significantly reduce environmental impacts.
2. Whether the proposed common driveway will significantly promote vehicular and/or pedestrian safety.
3. Whether the proposed common driveway will significantly promote ~~subdivision design objectives contained or referenced in Section 5 of these regulations.~~ the protection and preservation of natural and man-made features, scenic views and vistas, interior forests and/or other Plan of Conservation and Development identified existing and potential conservation areas (see map 21).
4. Whether the proposed common driveway will significantly promote cluster development and other design objectives of these regulations (see Section 5.1).

c. [b.] All sections of a common driveway that include areas that have a slope of ten (10) percent or greater shall be surfaced with an appropriate thickness of bituminous concrete or an equivalent surface approved by the Commission;

d. [c.] Common driveways serving two (2) or three (3) lots shall have a minimum travel width of twelve (12) feet and minimum load-bearing shoulder widths of two (2) feet. Common driveways serving four (4) or five (5) lots shall have a minimum travel width of twenty (20) feet. All curves along a common driveway shall have a minimum inside radius of twenty-five (25) feet.

e. All common driveways shall be designed and constructed to safely accommodate fire department apparatus, pursuant to Mansfield's Fire Lane Ordinance (Chapter 125 of the Mansfield Code). Subdivision plans shall include a common driveway cross-section that demonstrates compliance with this requirement.

f. At all intersections of a common driveway and a street, common driveways shall have a minimum travel width of twenty (20) feet for a minimum length of forty (40) feet. This width is necessary to safely provide for entering and exiting traffic.

g. [d.] Common driveways shall meet the slope, sightlines and drainage standards of Section 7.9 and the driveway length standards of Section 7.11.

h. Common driveway improvements shall include the following street number signage:

1. Signage listing the approved street numbers of all dwellings served by a common driveway shall be erected at the intersection of a common driveway and a street. Signage details, including the location and nature of support posts, shall be included on subdivision plans. The subject sign shall not exceed two (2) square feet in size.

2. Signage listing the approved street number of an individual dwelling shall be erected at the intersection of a common driveway and individual driveway. Signage details, including the location and nature of support posts, shall be included on subdivision plans.

i. Common driveways shall not be used for parking, storage or other uses that could act as an access impediment.

j. [e.] Common driveways and all associated improvements, including signage, shall be considered the responsibility of a subdivider and shall be completed or bonded pursuant to Mansfield's regulatory requirements, prior to the filing of a subdivision on the Land Records.

e. **7.11 Driveway Length Standards**

To help ensure safe and appropriate access to a house site for all vehicles, including emergency vehicles, the following provisions shall apply for all driveways exceeding a length of three hundred (300) feet:

a. The driveway shall have a minimum travel width of twelve (12) feet and minimum load-bearing shoulder widths of two (2) feet, except for certain common driveway improvements that require a twenty (20) foot minimum travel width. All driveway curves shall have a minimum inside radius of twenty-five (25) feet;
b. Pull-off areas adjacent to the driveway shall be provided at average intervals of every three hundred (300) feet or as deemed necessary by the Commission due to slope, sightline or other site characteristics. Pull-offs shall have a minimum load-bearing length of forty (40) feet and minimum width of ten (10) feet;
c. An adequately-sized, located and surfaced turnaround area that will accommodate a fire truck shall be provided. Unless the following distance requirements are waived by the Commission due to specific site characteristics, the turnaround area shall be no closer than seventy-five (75) feet from a house site and no further than two hundred (200) feet from a house site and the turnaround shall be at least thirty (30) feet in length with two (2) foot wide, load-bearing shoulders.

Explanatory Note: *The revisions to Sections 7.8 and 7.9 expand provisions designed to protect stone walls and any other historic feature on a subdivision site and clarify provisions designed to protect significant trees. The new provisions reference the potential use of conservation easements to protect historic features.*

The revisions to Sections 7.10 and 7.11would allow, subject to specific criteria and a ¾ vote waiver, common driveways to serve four (4) or five (5) residential lots. This change is proposed to provide more flexibility in situations where environmental impacts will be significantly reduced, where traffic safety will be significantly enhanced and/or where increasing the number of homes served by a common driveway would promote subdivision design objectives as documented in the regulations. The revisions also incorporate additional width provisions, street number signage requirements and other requirements designed to enhance safety and help ensure safe emergency vehicle access.

6) In Section 8.7, incorporate the following revisions:

a. **Existing Street Improvements**

Whenever any subdivision is proposed for land fronting on or accessible only by a street or streets that do not meet the Town's current "Engineering Standards and Specifications" requirements as administered by the Mansfield Department of Public Works, and the

Commission determines that approval of the subdivision plan would be contrary to the public safety unless such street or streets were altered or improved along the frontage of the proposed subdivision or beyond the limits of the proposed subdivision, the Commission [may disapprove] shall consider denial of such plan or [may condition] shall consider conditioning its approval upon completion of the improvements or alteration of such street or streets by and at the expense of the subdivider, or [may disapprove] shall consider the denial such plan until the Town Council has authorized expenditures for such improvements.

In [making the above determination] considering alternative actions, the Commission shall take into account the width and degree of improvement of the street and its ability to handle the increased volumes of traffic which will be generated by the proposed subdivision, the ability of school buses and emergency vehicles to travel the street safely, the drainage conditions of the street, pedestrian and bicycle safety and, [generally] the ability of any vehicle or person to use the street safely. Before taking action, the Commission shall consult with the Town Attorney or other qualified legal consultant with respect to statutory authority and case law pertaining to this issue.

Explanatory Note: The revisions to Section 8.7 are designed to provide more flexibility in considering potential off-site improvements and to help ensure compliance with applicable statutory authority, as refined through Connecticut Case Law.

7) In Section 9, incorporate the following revisions:

9.0 Sidewalks/Bikeways/Trails

[Sidewalks may be required by the Commission] Sidewalks, bikeways, trails and/or other improvements designed to encourage and enhance safe pedestrian and bicycle use shall be required, unless specifically waived by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the entire Commission (7 votes), in all subdivisions within or proximate to Plan of Conservation and Development designated "Planned Development Areas" [commercial areas; in locations] proximate to schools, playgrounds, parks and other public facilities; [and in areas along] or proximate to existing or planned [Town-designated] walkway [or], bicycle or trail [priority] routes. In evaluating any waiver request, [determining the need for sidewalks,]the Commission shall consider the size and [review] the location of the proposed subdivision [and] its relationship to [commercial areas,] existing or planned development, school sites, playground areas and other public areas and the location and nature of existing or planned sidewalk, bikeway or trail improvements.

Explanatory Notes: The revisions to Section 9 are designed to clarify and expand existing provisions regarding requirements for sidewalks, bikeways, trails and other improvements designed to encourage pedestrian and bicycle use. The proposed provisions require pedestrian oriented improvements, unless waived by a ¾ vote of the Planning and Zoning Commission, when a subdivision is within or proximate to planned development areas, schools, parks or other public facilities or existing or planned walkways, bikeways or trails.

8) Revise Section 13.8, incorporate the following revisions:

13.8 Site Improvements

a. In addition to the access requirements of Section 13.7, the Commission shall have the right to require a subdivider to include, as part of subdivider responsible improvements, park and/or hiking trail improvements, including, as appropriate, clearing, grading, drainage, base preparation, surfacing and re-stabilization of all disturbed areas. [make site improvements such as clearing, grading, drainage, seeding and parking areas where active park, playground or hiking trail uses are deemed appropriate.] [The] All referral reports shall be considered in determining whether site improvements are appropriate. The degree of site improvement required shall be directly associated with the number of proposed lots within the subject subdivision. For example, a graded and seeded multi-purpose playground field may be a suitable requirement for a larger subdivision of twenty (20) or more lots and/or trail improvements may be required to link a subdivision site to adjacent parks and trail systems or to otherwise enhance access to existing or proposed open space areas. In situations where site improvements are required, the site work shall be depicted and fully documented on final subdivision plans and the site work shall be completed or fully bonded to the Commission's satisfaction before final maps are signed and filed on the Land Records.

   In situations where trail improvements are deemed appropriate, the degree and nature of clearing, base preparation, drainage and surface improvements shall be determined taking into account the size and location of the subdivision and site and neighborhood characteristics. Where required, trails shall have a minimum width of five (5) feet and shall have an appropriate base, surface and drainage to allow year round use. Stone dust surfacing may be required and all wetland or watercourse crossings shall utilize cedar or pressure treated wood or other materials acceptable to the Commission. Trail marking and access signage also can be required.

b. With the exception of site work that may be required by the provisions of Sections 13.7 and 13.8a or agricultural activities approved by the Commission, all land dedicated as open space or park land shall be left in its natural state by the subdivider and shall not be graded, cleared or used as a repository for stumps, rocks, brush, soil, building materials or debris.

Explanatory Note: This proposed revision clarifies and expands existing provisions regarding the Planning and Zoning Commission's authority to require site improvements in association with subdivision open space dedications. In particular, the new provisions focus on trail improvements and associated construction requirements.

9) In Section 14, incorporate the following revisions:

a. Revise the Title of this Section from "Bonding" to "Completion of Improvements/Bonding/As Built-Plans"

b. **[14.1 Completion**
The Commission may, with the advice of the Department of Public Works, prescribe the extent to which and the manner in which the streets shall be graded and improved and public improvements and utilities and services provided in connection with any subdivision plan, and may require that all or a specified portion of such work and installations be completed prior to the final approval of the plan. As provided in other provisions of these regulations,

the Commission also may require driveway, drainage and other site work to be completed by the subdivider or bonded prior to the filing of the subdivision on the Land Records.]

14.1 Completion of Improvements

Pursuant to other provisions of these regulations, subdividers shall be responsible for completing and bonding subdivision improvements, including approved streets, common driveways, sidewalks, trails and parking improvements, drainage and site work improvements. These subdivision improvements shall be completed and/or bonded prior to the filing of the subdivision plans on the Land Records. The Commission, with the advice of the Town's Planning and Engineering staff, may prescribe the extent to which and the manner in which subdivision improvements are completed and associated utilities are provided.

For all subdivision lots that are dependent on new streets for access, the following specific completion provisions shall be met:

a. No Zoning Permit shall be issued for new dwellings until the roadway binder course and all associated drainage and grading have been completed to the satisfaction of the Town Engineer, or his designated agent, and the Fire Marshal and until the new subdivision road has been fully bonded for completion pursuant to Mansfield's regulatory provisions.

b. Unless specifically authorized by the Commission, no Zoning Certificate of Compliance shall be issued for new dwellings unless the roadway and all associated drainage, signage, site stabilization and lot monumentation has been completed and accepted by the Town.

Explanatory Note: The proposed revisions to Section 14, clarify existing provisions regarding the completion of subdivision improvements. For subdivision lots dependent on new streets for access, the revisions incorporates new provisions that link Zoning Permits for new houses to the completion of a roadway binder course and associated site work and Certificates of Compliance for completed houses to the completion of roadway drainage, signage, monumentation and site stabilization work.

DRAFT

Mansfield Open Space Preservation Committee

Minutes for September 21, 2010

1. Chairman Jim Morrow called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM

2. Members present: Jim Morrow, Ken Feathers, and Vicky Wetherell Art Kirschenbaum prospective member

3. Feathers/Wetherell Motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2010 motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment: No public present.

5. No Executive Session

6. Old Business:

Wetherell/Feathers Motion was made to accept the 8/9/10 draft revision "Mansfield Open Space Presentation Committee Charge" and request a meeting with the Committee on Committees to discuss. motion carried unanimously.

7. New Business

Greg Padick's email "Ossen Parcel Monticello Lane" of Sept 17, 2010 was discussed. The committee concurs with Greg's conclusion about the 2.8 acre parcel.

8. No reports

9. No communications

10. Other

11. No comment on future agendas

1

2. Adjournment:

Wetherell/Feathers Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

Respectfully submitted
James R. Morrow

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MINUTES

MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting, Monday, October 18, 2010
Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present:	R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, R. Hall, G. Lewis, B. Pociask
Members absent:	J. Goodwin, K. Holt, P. Plante, B. Ryan
Alternates present:	F. Loxsom, K. Rawn
Alternates absent:	V. Stearns
Staff Present:	Gregory J. Padick, Director of Planning

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and appointed Loxsom and Rawn to act in member absence. Beal was appointed as acting secretary in Secretary Holt's absence.

Minutes:
10-4-10-Beal MOVED, Rawn seconded, to approve the 10/4/10 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Hall and Pociask who disqualified themselves.

Zoning Agent's Report:
Noted.

Old Business:

1. **August 2010 Final Draft Environmental Assessment Re: Planned Animal Health Research Center at UConn Depot Campus**
   Padick summarized his 10/13/10 report and noted that the Conservation Commission meets on Wednesday, October 20th and he expects their comments to be prepared for the next PZC packet. No action taken.
2. **Request to authorize overhead utility lines over a conservation easement area dedicated in association with the Hawthorne Park Subdivision, PZC File # 1177**
   Tabled-awaiting additional information.

New Business

1. **8-24 Referrals:**
   Hunting Lodge Road Bikeway/Walkway
   Beal MOVED, Pociask seconded, to adopt the following resolution:

   RESOLVED, that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Mansfield approves the following project pursuant to Section 8-24 of the General Statutes of Connecticut:

   Bikeway/walkway improvements along the western side of Hunting Lodge Road from its intersection with North Eagleville Road to the intersection of Carriage House Road.

   The Resolution PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
   Salt Storage Shed
   Beal MOVED, Pociask seconded, to adopt the following resolution:

   RESOLVED, that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Mansfield approves the following project pursuant to Section 8-24 of the General Statutes of Connecticut:

   The construction of a salt shed, storing approximately 2,000 tons of de-icing materials and sand/aggregate mixtures and associated site work at the Mansfield Public Works Department property, 230 Clover Mill Road in Mansfield.

   The Resolution PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Town of Chaplin Referral: Proposed Subdivision on Chaplin/Mansfield Town Line**
   Padick summarized his 10/18/10 memo distributed this evening. After a brief discussion, Hall MOVED, Beal seconded, that the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission authorize its Chairman to reply to the 9/30/10 referral from the Chaplin Planning and Zoning Agent regarding a pending subdivision on South Bedlam Road. The response should provide information regarding alternative depictions of the Mansfield/Chaplin Town line but should not include any recommended course of action. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
2. **Draft Revisions to the Subdivision Regulations**
   Padick briefly summarized the draft revisions and it was suggested that a full discussion and summary of the revisions be postponed until a full compliment of members are present.

Reports of Officers and Committees:
Chairman Favretti reminded Commission members that discussion of the pending court cases with the public or press is not appropriate and to refer questions or comments to the staff. Beal stated that the next Regulatory Review Committee meeting is on 10/27/10 at 1:15pm in Room C.

Communications and Bills:
Noted.

Adjournment:
Chairman Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Beal, Acting Secretary

DRAFT MINUTES

MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting, Monday, November 1, 2010
Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present:	R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, J. Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Ryan
Members absent:	B. Pociask,
Alternates present:	K. Rawn, V. Stearns
Alternates absent:	F. Loxsom
Staff Present:	Gregory J. Padick, Director of Planning

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and appointed Stearns to act in Pociask's absence.

Minutes:
10-18-10-Hall MOVED, Beal seconded, to approve the 10/18/10 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Goodwin, Plante, Holt and Ryan who disqualified themselves.

Zoning Agent's Report:
Hirsch noted that he and Chairman Favretti approved a minor modification, consisting of an awning over the main entrance, at the Husky Spirit Shop in Mansfield Center.

New Business:

2. **Request for Approval of Location, Eagleville Motors, 860 Stafford Rd, PZC File #279**
   Hirsch summarized his memo and noted that the State General Statutes require approval for new owners despite no change in use occurring at this location. Andrew Ladyga, owner, noted that he and his wife are currently working on enhancing the appearance of the property and are eager to become active business-owners in the community. Chairman Favretti noted no further comments or questions from the public or Commission. Planted MOVED, Hall seconded, that the PZC grant an approval of location without a hearing, to Eagleville Motors, LLC, as a used car dealer under CGS Section 14-54, as submitted in a request from Elicia and Andrew Ladyga and as shown on a "Plan For Repair License for Eagleville Motors, LLC", dated 9/30/10, because there are no changes being proposed to the site or to the existing operation of the used car dealer use. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business:

2. **August 2010 Final Draft Environmental Assessment Re: Planned Animal Health Research Center at UConn Depot Campus**
   Holt MOVED, Plante seconded, that the Planning and Zoning Commission authorize its Chairman to send a letter to University of Connecticut representatives communicating support for the findings of the August 2010 Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed USDA Animal Health Research Center on UConn's Depot Campus. This letter of support shall include a request that Mansfield representatives be provided an opportunity to review final designs prior to any construction authorizations.

   Furthermore, that the Town Council be provided an opportunity to co-endorse the letter of support. The attached 11/9/10 draft letter prepared by the Director of Planning shall be utilized as a guide for the subject letter. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Request to authorize overhead utility lines over a conservation easement area dedicated in association with the Hawthorne Park Subdivision, PZC File # 1177**
   Item tabled, awaiting additional information.

New Business:

1. **2011 Meeting Schedule**
   Beal MOVED, Holt seconded, that the Planning & Zoning Commission approve the 2011 meeting schedules for the Planning and Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business:

1. **Draft Revisions to the Subdivision Regulations**
   Padick reviewed the 10-7-10 draft revisions and subsequent changes that he identified as "housekeeping" items, along with changes that were recommended by the Conservation and Open Space Committees. He suggested it would be premature for action at this meeting to move to public hearing, noting that he will prepare the recommended changes for review with the Regulatory Review Committee and then present the revised regulations to the full Planning and Zoning Commission. He also stated that Attorney O'Brien has reviewed the proposed regulations and has found no legal issues.

Reports of Officers and Committees:
Beal stated that the next Regulatory Review Committee meeting is on 11/10/10 at 1:15pm.

Communications and Bills:
Noted.

Adjournment:
Chairman Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Holt, Secretary

DRAFT MINUTES
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 1, 2010
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present:	R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, J. Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Ryan
Members absent:	B. Pociask
Alternates present:	K. Rawn, V. Stearns
Alternates absent:	F. Loxsom
Staff present:	G. Meitzler (Wetlands Agent)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and appointed alternates Stearns to act in Pociask's absence.

Minutes:
10-04-10 – Beal MOVED, Plante seconded, to approve the 10-4-10 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Hall and Stearns who disqualified themselves.

Communications:
Wetlands Agent's Monthly Business report was noted. Meitzler stated that the Chemusheks are in the process of conveying part of their land to the adjacent property owner. He also stated that the tire pile at Mansfield Auto is slowly being removed.

Old Business:
None.

New Business:
None.

Other Communications and Bills:
Hall and Rawn borrowed the DEP training video noted in Communications.

Adjournment:
Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Holt, Secretary

PAGE
BREAK

Memorandum: October 26, 2010
To: Inland Wetland Agency
From: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetland Agent
Re: Monthly Business

W1419 - Chernushek - hearing on Order

3.10.09: The hearing on the Order remains open and should continue until the permit application under consideration is acted upon.
(The Order was dropped on approval of the application required in the Order.)

4.30.09: Former rye grass seeding is beginning to show green. I spoke with Mr. Chernushek this afternoon who indicated health problems that delayed his starting but indicated he will be working this weekend. I will update on this Monday evening.

5.26.09: A light cover of grass growth has come in. Mr. Chernushek indicates health problems and two related deaths have delayed his start of work since the permit approval was granted. It appears that some light work has started. He has further indicated that he will start a vacation on June 22, 2009 to finish the work.

6.13.09: Work is underway.

6.21.09: Bulldozer work has been completed - finish work remains. The additional silt fencing has been placed along the northerly wetlands crossing, and the additional pipe under the southerly crossing has been installed. Remaining work includes finish grading along edges, spreading stockpiled topsoil, and establishing grass growth.

7.01.09: I spoke with Mr. Chernushek who indicated he expects work to be completed by September 1, 2009. (Site photo attached).

9.03.09: Mr. Chernushek has been working on levelling and grading. The formerly seeded areas have become fairly thick growth surrounding the central wet areas. He has further indicated that with the combination of weather and the slower moving of earth with the payloader compared to the earlier rented bulldozer has led him to contact contractors for earth moving estimates which have not yet been received. The site is not yet finished but has remained quite stable.

9.12.09: I met with Mr. Chernushek today and discussed again what his plans are for stabilizing this work site.

10.01.09: Mr. Chernushek indicated he has not heard back from the contractor he had spoken with about removing material, and is in progress of contacting others. In discussion is removal of material from the site either within the 100 cubic yard limit or obtaining a permit for such removal.

10.28.09: Mr. Chernushek has indicated he has made arrangements with DeSiato Sand & Gravel to remove 750 cubic yards of material. Staff is in the process of clarifying permit requirements.

W1445 - Chernushek - application for gravel removal from site

11.30.09: Packet of information representing submissions by Mr, Chernushek, Mr. DeSiato and myself is in this agenda packet as Mr. Chernusheks's request for modification.

12.29.09: Preparation of required information for PZC special permit application is in progress. Tabling any action until the February 1, 2010 meeting is recommended.

1.12.10: 65 day extension of time received.

2.18.10: No new information has been received.
2.25.10: This application has been **withdrawn.**
6.30.10: As viewed from the adjacent property, the upstream and downstream areas have grown to a decent protected surface. I did not see indication of sediment movement.
10.26.10: A sale of the East portion of the Chernushek property has been in negotiation.

Mansfield Auto Parts - Route 32
6.10.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
7.16.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
8.12.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
9.14.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
10.27.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
11.30.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
12.28.09: There are two cars that need to be moved. Mr. Bednarczyk indicates their payloader is down for repairs and the cars will be moved as soon as it is repaired.
1.27.10: No change - the payloader is apart with parts on order to complete repairs. It is of 1986 vontage and finding parts is a major proposition.
2.18.10: Same - they are in the process of rebuilding the engine on the payloader.
3.30.10: Same - Mr. Bednarczyk indicates a contuing problem finding engine parts.
4.13.10: Owner indicates the payloader is operating again.
4.15.10: Owner indicates he will have the cars moved this week.
4.23.10: No vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
5.17.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
6.02.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
6.23.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
7.15.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
9.01.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands. Mr. Bednarczyk has started removing tires from the westerly part of his site using roll-off containers. With this arrangement a moderately steady rate of removal of the tires should be possible to maintain until the tires are completely removed.
9.28.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands. Tire removal is continuing with 1 to 2 roll-off containers being removed per month.
10.07.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands. Tire removal has been continuing.

11/8/10

Storrs Center Update

Prepared by G. Padick, Mansfield Director of Planning

1. Storrs Road/Dog Lane Improvements
   - Thirty plus percent complete Design Plans were presented at an October Public Hearing and are being finalized in association with the State Department of Transportation design process
   - Designs are expected to be completed and approved by the Spring of 2011
   - Construction expected to start Spring 2011
   - Completion expected by June 2012

2. Intermodal Improvements/Parking Facility
   a. Intermodal Improvements
      - $4.9 Million grant awarded in July by the Federal Transit Administration for construction of Intermodal and associated access improvements, including roadway connections to Storrs Road and the Post Office Road
      - A consultant has been selected and design work has begun
      - Designs are expected to be completed and approved by spring 2011 (FTA and Zoning Permit approvals needed)
      - Construction expected to start by fall 2011
      - Completion expected by July 2012
   b. Parking Facility
      - $10 Million grant awarded by State
      - A consultant has been selected and design work has begun
      - Designs expected to be completed and approved by spring 2011 (CT DOT and Zoning Permit approvals needed)
      - Construction expected to start by fall of 2011
      - Completion expected by July 2012

3. Building Phase(s) 1A and 1B
   - Final designs are in process for building phases 1A and 1B and expected to be completed by the end of November
   - Phase 1A is located east of Storrs Road and north of Dog Lane. This phase includes the merger of the previously approved Dog Lane-1 building in the Planned Business -2 zone with an adjacent Storrs Center Special Design District mixed use building. A portion of the adjacent Bishop Center parking lot will be incorporated into Phase 1A.
   - In association with the merger of the Planned Business-2 zoned Dog Lane project into Phase 1A, an application to amend the Zoning Regulations is expected to be submitted in November.
   - The currently planned Phase 1A will include about 130 apartments and about 20 commercial tenants in about 30,000 square feet of space.
   - PZC Special Permit Modification approval and Zoning Permit approval (pursuant to Storrs Center Design District Standards) will be necessary for Phase 1A.
   - Construction of Phase 1A is planned for the spring of 2011 with completion by July 2012.
   - Phase 1B, which will be submitted for Zoning Permit approval concurrently with Phase 1A, is located south of Dog Lane between the planned town square and the planned parking facility. Phase 1B will include about 160 apartments and about 40,000 square feet of commercial space
   - Construction of Phase 1B is planned for the spring of 2012 with completion by July 2013.

4. Other
   - Development Agreements between the developer and the Town and between the Developer and UConn are progressing with anticipated completion by the end of November.
   - Necessary property and easement acquisitions have been agreed to but need execution in association with planned time schedules.
   - Construction traffic plans are being developed and will need to be approved by State and local officials.
   - A judgment will be needed that the Phase 1A and 1B plans are consistent with the IWA's approval of the entire Storrs Center development.
   - Potential subdivision issues are under review.

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

GREGORY J. PADICK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Memo to: Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission
From: Gregory Padick, Director of Planning
Date: November 8, 2010
Re: Storrs Center Project Update

The attached outline provides updated information regarding the various elements of the Storrs Center Project and the anticipated schedule for obtaining required permits and beginning and completing initial improvements. Of particular importance to the IWA/PZC, it is expected that an application to amend the Zoning Regulations will be submitted for receipt at the November 15th meeting. Subsequently, it is anticipated that specific development plans for mixed use buildings in phases 1A and 1B will be submitted for review in December. The planned parking facility and intermodal center and related roadway and streetscape improvements that are Town of Mansfield projects will be submitted for review and approval in the spring of 2011.

As discussed at previous meetings, the Storrs Center development no longer includes a separate Dog Lane 1 building, which was initially planned for relocating existing commercial uses. The Dog Lane 1 building was granted Special Permit approval by the PZC prior to the adoption of Storrs Center Special Design District and associated special approval standards and approval processes. The Dog Lane 1 mixed uses approved by the PZC on Planned Business2 zoned land north of Dog Lane are now merged with an adjacent Storrs Center Special Design District building. This redesign necessitates two Zoning Regulation amendments and Special Permit modification approval from the PZC.

In addition to obtaining necessary approvals from the PZC, the planned phases 1A and 1B require Zoning Permit approval based on the Storrs Center Special Design District approval process. The initial Zoning Permit application is expected to be submitted in December and presented at a Downtown Partnership Public Hearing in January. The Phase 1A and 1B plans also need to be reviewed by the IWA for a confirmation that the plans are compliant with the overall project plans approved by the IWA. Subject to obtaining all necessary approvals, construction of the mixed use buildings in Phase 1A and associated improvements are expected to start in March 2011 and be completed by July 2012. The parking facility and intermodal/street and streetscape improvements that will be constructed by the Town also are expected to be completed by July 2012.

PAGE
BREAK

October 30, 2010

Dear Mansfield Conservation Commission,

The NOFA Organic Land Care Program is reaching out to Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions across Connecticut to connect and share our resources. This letter includes a short description of our organization and a list of our current publications and educational programs. We hope that sharing this information with you will open dialog that will lead to future collaborations.

As you may know the NOFA Organic Land Care Program is an environmental project of CT NOFA, the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut. Its mission is to extend the vision and principles of organic agriculture to the care of the landscapes where we live, work and play. The Organic Land Care Program is the nation's leader in professional organic land care/ landscaping education and has focused on professional education over the past ten years.

In 2010 we launched our Homeowner Education Campaign and have made a conscious effort to educate homeowners and/or non-professionals concerning the effects of run-off and the importance of water conservation. We have also provided tips on how to reduce environmental impact through organic landscaping practices and connected interested people to trained organic landscaping professionals. We hope to continue and increase these efforts through 2011.

The following is a list of our current resources:

- *NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care, Practices for Design and Maintenance of Ecological Landscapes* – This is the first set of standards for organic land care written in the nation. The standards present a philosophy of ecological stewardship in designing and maintaining landscapes and are the result of more than ten years' work by landscape professionals, scientists and activists. Available online.
- *NOFA Lawn and Turf Handbook* - This 104-page, comprehensive and practical handbook details methods for growing and managing beautiful, healthy, organic turfgrass.
- *NOFA Guide to Organic Land Care* – Published annually. This publication for homeowners includes helpful articles and a list of NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professionals. We can provide free copies for distribution.
- Professional Education:
    - A five-day Accreditation Course in Organic Land Care – based on the *NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care*
    - A one-day Intensive Lawn and Turf Course –based on the *NOFA Organic Lawn and Turf Handbook*

- An Advanced Workshop Series, 4-6 hour, hands-on in-depth training on topics such as: Pruning, Compost Tea, Organic Invasive Removal, Edible Landscaping, and Turf Nutrition

- NOFA OLC Annual Gathering–Each year the NOFA Organic Land Care Program host an Annual Gathering . The lineup of dynamic speakers and subjects changes each year reflecting emerging science and hot topics relating to organic land care. See the enclosed brochure for details on this year's conference.
- Introductory Workshops–Geared towards non-professionals and homeowners these workshops are presented by a local accredited organic landscaping professional and provide the tools and informational resources needed to practice organic lawn care.
- Our website **www.organiclandcare.net** includes an array of resources including: an Online 'Green Room' that features an organic landscaping forum, blog, OLC articles, and newsletters.
- Coming soon! An Organic Turf Forum for school grounds keepers who are complying with CT legislation that prohibits the use of pesticides on school grounds in schools with children from grades K-8.

The NOFA Organic Land Care Program will hold its **Annual Gathering on Tuesday, December 7th, 2010 at the Student Union Building on the UCONN Campus in Storrs, CT** from 8:00am - 4:30pm. This is NOFA OLC's largest event, bringing together many of NOFA's Accredited Professionals and the public for a full day of informative speakers, collaboration, and networking. This year's Annual Gathering, titled *"Corridors to Sustainability: Designing Within the Natural Context"*, will focus on preserving biodiversity, which is essential to the health of our ecosystems. On hand for the day will be Keynote Speaker Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home; How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens*, along with Michael Klemens, Claire Rutlage, Kim Stoner, Carolyn Summers, author of *Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East*, and Catherine Zimmerman, author of *Urban and Suburban Meadows*.

For more information on the NOFA OLC Program, the Update Course, or any of the programs or materials discussed above, please visit our website **www.organiclandcare.net** or call us at 203-888-5146. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Ashley Kremser

NOFA Organic Land Care Program Manager

Course Schedule

Each day runs from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and includes six hours of presentations, a one-hour case study, one-hour lunch and two 15-minute breaks.
(daily schedule varies slightly by state)

Day 1: Principles & Procedures - Site Analysis, Design & Maintenance - Rain Gardens/Stormwater Infiltration - Fertilizer & Soil Amendments
Day 2: Soil Health - Soil Biology & Ecology Compost - Mulches - Lawn Alternatives
Day 3: Planting & Plant Care - Lawns - Pest Management - Ticks & Lyme Disease
Day 4: Pest Management for Perennials, Trees, Shrubs, and Turf - Disease Control - Wildlife Management Wetlands
Day 5: Invasive Plants Management & Control Running a Business - Client Relations - Q&A Accreditation Examination

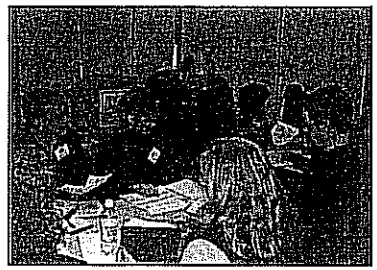
Course Faculty

Visit www.organiclandcare.net for specific teachers by state.

Donald Bishop - Gardens Are, Inc.
Frank H. Crandall III - Horticultural Consultant
Heather Crawford - Environmental Educator
Dr. Sharon Douglas - CT Agricultural Exp. Station
Nancy DuBrule-Clemente - NatureWorks Hort. Svcs.
Bill Duesing - Solar Farm Education
Todd Harrington - Harrington's Organic Land Care
Rose Hiskes - CT Agricultural Exp. Station
John Howell - UMass Extension, retired
Charles J. Katuska - EA Eng., Science & Technology Inc.
Marion Larson - Mass. Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife
Ann McGovern - Mass DEP
Michael Nadeau - Plantscapes, Inc.
Chip Osborne - Osborne Organics
Kent Pierce - Green Cross Inc.
Dr. Cheryl Smith - UNH Durham
Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III - CT Agricultural Exp. Station
Dr. Kimberly Stoner - CT Agricultural Exp. Station
Dr. Sam Telford III - Tufts University
Paul Wagner - Soil Foodweb NY
Camilla Worden - Camilla Worden Garden Design LLC

Who Should Attend?

Landscapers - Designers - Landscape Architects
Municipal & Institutional Groundskeepers - Parks, Recreation & Conservation Commissioners - Garden Center Employees - Master Gardeners - Horticulturists
Landscape Teachers & Students



"One of the best professional courses I've ever taken."
- C.W., Danbury, CT

"A great overview of all major aspects of organic land-scaping, taught by high-quality teachers."
- D.B., Katonah, NY

Cost of Course & Accreditation

- **$550 Course** ($520 for registrations received by Dec. 17 in MA & CT; by Jan. 28 in RI)
Course fee includes a delicious, catered lunch daily
- **$150 Exam & Accreditation** *(optional)*
Exam & Accreditation may be paid during the course
- **NOFA Membership Discounts**
See registration form at right

-- Pesticide license recertification credits and ISA credits available --

Register ONLINE at www.organiclandcare.net!

Join a NOFA Chapter!

For rates on NOFA membership, visit www.nofa.org!

CHECK ONE:

☐ **NEWBURYPORT, MA**

Please make check payable to NOFA/Mass and mail to: Kathy Litchfield, MA Course Coordinator, 75 Bascom Road, Gill, MA 01354
Questions? (413) 773-3830 or email kathy@nofamass.org
*** By providing NOFA/Mass with your email address, you give us permission to send you news via our Constant Contact account. If you do NOT want to receive these emails check HERE ____. Thanks!*

☐ **NEW HAVEN, CT**

Please make check payable to CT NOFA and mail to: RJ Mercede, CT Course Coordinator, PO Box 164, Stevenson, CT 06491
Questions? (203) 888-5146 or email robert@ctnofa.org

☐ **PROVIDENCE, RI**

Please make check payable to NOFA OLC and mail to: Sheryl Ellal, RI Course Coordinator, 949 Matunuck School House Rd., Wakefield, RI 02879
Questions? (401) 330-6869 or email sheryl@organiclandcare.net

NAME:_____
COMPANY:_____
ADDRESS:_____
TOWN/CITY/STATE:_____**ZIP:**_____
TELEPHONE:_____**CELL:**_____
EMAIL:_____

PAYMENT:
Course Fee: $550 +_____
Exam/Accreditation: $150 (optional) +_____
I AM A NOFA MEMBER IN _____(state).
I WANT TO JOIN NOFA IN _____ (state).
Membership Level Price: (see www.nofa.org) +_____
NOFA Membership Discount: $15 -_____
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: $30
(by Dec. 17 in MA & CT/Jan. 28 in RI) -_____
Scholarship Donation (optional): +_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: $_____

Benefits of NOFA Accreditation

- Networking with hundreds of other organic landscape professionals practicing Organic Land Care according to the NOFA *Standards*
- Flexible online listing in our new searchable database at www.organiclandcare.net
- Listing in annual publication *NOFA Guide to Organic Land Care*, with 15,000 distributed each year
- Discounts on NOFA Organic Land Care Program Advanced Workshops and Annual Gathering designed specifically for organic professionals
- Publicity and marketing support as a NOFA AOLCP
- Use of NOFA Accredited Professional logo and marketing materials
- Access to NOFA staff for referrals and speaking and professional development opportunities

---

Don't miss the NOFA OLC Program's exciting . . .

2010 Update Course
"Corridors to Sustainability: Designing Within the Natural Context"
Dec. 7, 2010
UConn Campus, Storrs, CT

Looking for an AOLCP? Check out the Program's new **Online Searchable Database!**

For information and upcoming educational event listings, visit

www.organiclandcare.net

ORGANIC LAND CARE
NOFA
www.organiclandcare.net
NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL ®

10th Annual

NOFA Course in Organic Land Care

A 5-day professional course offered in
(choose one location)

Newburyport, MA
January 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 2011
Parker River Wildlife Refuge, 6 Plum Island Tpke.
Snow Date: Jan. 20

New Haven, CT
January 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 2011
CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington St.
Snow Date: Jan. 31

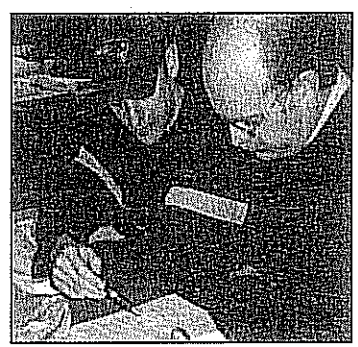
Providence, RI
Feb. 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 2011
Save the Bay Center, 100 Save the Bay Drive
Snow Date: Feb. 25

What is the NOFA Organic Land Care Program?

Eleven years ago, a group of landscape professionals, scientists, educators and concerned citizens formed the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee to extend the vision and principles of organic agriculture to the care of landscapes. The Committee drafted the first organic land care standards in the United States and offered the first organic land care accreditation course.

The 5-Day Course

Growing public awareness of pesticide use hazards and new legislation mandating least toxic and non-toxic alternatives are fueling a new market opportunity for professionals with knowledge of organic land care. This 30-hour course for professionals will provide the education needed for an understanding of organic landscape design and maintenance. The curriculum is based on the *NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care: Practices for Design and Maintenance of Ecological Landscapes*, published by the Committee in 2001. At the end of the course, students will be able to incorporate methods and materials that respect natural ecology and the long-term health of the environment.



NOFA Accreditation

An optional exam will be given at the conclusion of the course. Those who pass the exam become NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professionals (AOLCPs). A searchable database of these professionals and their services is available at www.organiclandcare.net, and they are listed annually in the *NOFA Guide to Organic Land Care*. Annual re-accreditation is granted based on continuing education and competence in organic land care.

IT'S YOUR CALL!

CACIWC is pleased to provide Conservation Commissions with this Environmental 911 guide as a resource tool to help commissioners properly assess development proposals and answer the call.

ACTION IS CRUCIAL:

As towns try to balance development with conservation of irreplaceable resources and scenic vistas, it is critical that all aspects of any development be carefully assessed and weighed by using all available tools. Conservation Commissions have a responsibility to provide timely oversight and make local land use recommendations in order to ensure fragile ecosystems, wetlands, watersheds, open space, and natural habitats are protected.

The conservation commission is an official body of the municipality, created by vote of the local legislature with its members appointed by the chief executive officer. The enabling legislation for Connecticut conservation commissions is found in Chapter 97, Section 7-131a of the Connecticut General Statutes. Its duties and discretionary abilities stem from its purpose: "...the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources, including water resources within its territorial limits." According to the legislation, a conservation commission must keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information on their proper use. Commissions must conduct research into existing and potential use of land of the municipality.

Can you imagine dialing 911 and having NO answer? Conservation Commissions should have their own Environmental Emergency 911.

Some Conservation Commissions are missing in action; be sure to have a current contact telephone number and e-mail address routinely available at your Town Clerk's office.

911 CONTACT LIST

Following is a listing of one of many expert resources that provides technical assistance to help commission members make sensible and timely decisions on good land use management.

- Environmental Review Team: www.ctert.org
- UConn Cooperative Extension: extension.uconn.edu
- Connecticut Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO): nemo.uconn.edu
- Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR): clear.uconn.edu
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts: conservect.org
- Natural Resource Conservation Service: www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov
- Department of Public Health: ct.gov/dph
- Army Corp of Engineers-New England: www.nae.usace.army.mil
- United States Geological Survey-Connecticut: http://ct.water.usgs.gov
- Environmental Protection Agency-Region I: www.epa.gov/region1
- Department of Environmental Protection—all departments: tinyurl.com/CT-DEP-Contacts
- CT Comprehensive Wildlife Plan link: tinyurl.com/CT-Wildlife-Plan

For more information, visit CACIWC.org

CACIWC, Inc.
deKoven House Community Center
27 Washington St.
Middletown, CT 06457

IT'S YOUR 911 CALL!

Your Environmental Toolkit for Properly Assessing Development Proposals

CACIWC, Inc.
deKoven House Community Center
27 Washington St., Middletown, CT 06457
860.344.8321 · CACIWC.org

A 'HOW TO' APPROACH WHEN TIMING IS CRITICAL

HOW TO BE PROACTIVE AND READY BEFORE THE 911 CALL

The following Before and After steps provide commission members with knowledge and tools that can be easily undertaken if every commission member selects one point in each category. This will facilitate the ability for each member to share information in these areas.

How to be Proactive and Ready before the Environmental 911 call:

1. Become knowledgeable of location and use of town's natural resources. Conduct and periodically update a townwide Natural Resource Inventory. Continually educate residents of town's unique assets and role of Commission.
2. Keep up to date on potential changes in land use and threats to town natural resources. Request placement on inland Wetlands (IWC) and Planning & Zoning Commission (PBZ) mailing lists to receive (electronic preferred) agendas and minutes. Make an effort to join IWC and PBZ Commissions on site walks with landowner's permission. Take digital photos before development and share with Conservation Commission (CC), IWC, PBZ public hearings, etc.
3. Maintain working knowledge of town Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and associated maps. Know details of Smart Growth concepts, Livable Communities and Low Impact Development.
4. Understand the responsibilities of IWC and PBZ Commissions. Review their regulations in detail. Ask staff to describe and discuss regulations, especially Upland Review Area setback, Subdivision Regs. Open Space Requirements, Design Criteria, etc.
5. Build community support. Collaborate with other local and civic groups such as Watershed / Associations, Land Trusts, Economic Development Commission, Neighborhood and Historical Groups. Determine how statewide organizations can assist. Contact CT Environmental Organizations including CAIWC, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Trust for Public Land and UConn NEMO.
6. Create a Geographic Information System (GIS) Parcel Evaluation Matrix and Map of existing open space from a sample matrix. Consult with town staff and/or use CAIWC.org's Recommend Greenways, Walkable and Connectable Communities, Open Space Easements and Sensitive Areas of Concern in PBZ and others. Update wetland and watercourses map with highlighted Upland Review Areas for IWC or seek GIS assistance.
7. Conduct a Cost of Community Services Survey showing the real costs of residential, commercial or industrial development.
8. Perform Annual Rapid Bioassessments of Benthic Macroinvertebrates (Rapid Bio) of local streams.
9. Conduct townwide vernal pool survey and field review.
10. Consult with CT DEP or CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) regarding groundwater protection. Request Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) maps of your town and review local health department regulations relating with septic systems, wells and water quality monitoring.
11. Research stormwater permitting procedures and determine who oversees application process. Notify Most IWC and PBZ Commissions can request notification of CT DEP Stormwater permit approval.

PROFESSIONALLY RESPONDING TO THE CALL

TEN D.O.S. STEPS AFTER THE 911 CALL

Properly addressing the potential Emergency and professionally responding to the call:

1. Review applicable state and local regulations and GIS resource maps that apply to the "emergency" – all tied to critical natural resources either on-site or off-site. Consider filing Intervenor Status if project may significantly affect the environment. See CGA Sec. 22a-19. Request applicant discuss project with Commission, let applicant know your concerns.
2. Request Environmental Review Team conduct a study early in the process. (see DEEP.org).
3. Consult with local Soil & Water Conservation Districts and be familiar with services they offer to municipalities.
4. Obtain CT DEP Department directory, as a reference. (see CAIWC.org). Contact appropriate employees and/or Commissioners for technical information.
5. Delegate one or two DC members to attend all public hearings and offer written or oral testimony if applicable.
6. Reference POCD and associated maps, State Erosion & Sediment and Storm Water Management Guidelines, etc. when offering testimony and provide detailed reasons for opposition and/or recommendations for change based on impacts to critical natural resources and town policy and regulations. Refer to POCD and associated maps, State Erosion & Sediment and Storm Water Management Guidelines, etc. Utilize resource maps by including vernal pools, treas of significant size, etc. Research CT DEP Natural Diversity Database sites and others for presence of endangered /threatened species of special concern (or uncommon).
7. Refer to a Parcel Evaluation Matrix and Map when commenting on development applications or land acquisition. See CAIWC.org
8. Check with Town Historian for unique historical features. Consider archaeological concerns. Check with Native American burial grounds and Public Archaeology Survey Teams (PAST) digs.
9. Research any existing local or state Aquifer Protection Regulations (if applicable). Check on Stormwater Permit application and if it is filed. If project qualifies or is approved and is over 5 acres of projects disturbing over 5 acres of land require a State Stormwater permit. Check on status.
10. Consult with CT DPH regarding potential threats to groundwater supplies such as community wells. Look into blasting permit process. If blasting is proposed, check with Fire Marshal and CT DEP on permit requirements. Pre-blast survey's can be required if necessary. The authority to issue these permits rests with the local Fire Marshal or Deputy. See blasting regs at Sec. 29-349.1 (b) of the CT regs.

FALL 2010
Volume 22
Number 3

THE HABITAT

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

CACIWC's 33RD ANNUAL MEETING & ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 13, 2010

ADMINISTRATIVE, LEGAL AND SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS FOR CONSERVATION & WETLANDS COMMISSONERS AND AGENTS

In response to your requests, a selection of workshops is offered for new as well as experienced commissioners. Three workshops are offered in each of these four areas:

★ Open Space & Resource Conservation

★ Land Use Law & Legal Updates

★ Conservation Biology, Issues & Updates

★ Commission Administration & Procedures

See pages 8 & 9 for the complete list of workshops.

H. Curtis Spalding, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator, to Address CACIWC's Annual Conference

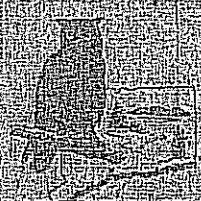
H: Curtis "Curt" Spalding will be the keynote speaker at CACIWC's 33rd Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference at MountainRidge in Wallingford. He will speak on "The State of the Environment in New England; 40 Years after Earth Day" to emphasize CACIWC's conference theme of "Celebrating Four Decades of Environmental Conservation and Habitat Protection".

The year 1970 and the following decade were a historic time for national, regional, state, and local efforts to promote environmental protection and conservation. From the celebration of first Earth Day and formation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970, through the organization of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 1971, and the expansion of local Connecticut commissions in 1972, profound changes were being made in the role of government on all levels in shaping these efforts.

Mr. Spalding will discuss the progress that has been made in both improving environmental quality and preserving critical habitats in New England during the forty years since Earth Day. He will emphasize the value of local wetlands and conservation commissioners and staff in continuing their local habitat preservation efforts in partnership with state and federal agency activities.

Mr. Spalding has extensive experience in the environmental protection field as an advocate, policy analyst, and administrator. For almost 20 years, he served as Executive Director of "Save The Bay" in Rhode Island, a nationally recognized, 20,000-member environmental advocacy and education organization. He established the Narragansett BayKeeper and Habitat Restoration programs and oversaw the successful completion of the $9 million Explore The Bay Campaign. Spalding received his bachelor's degree from Hobart College and an M.P.A. from SUNY at Albany in Albany, NY.

Inside ★



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

Editor: Tom ODell
Associate Editor: Ann Letendre

Correspondence to the editor, manuscripts, inquiries, etc. should be addressed to *The Habitat*, c/o Tom ODell, 9 Cherry St., Westbrook, CT 06498. Phone & fax 860.399.1807 or e-mail todell@snet.net.

Resources

Municipal Inland Wetland Commissioners Training Program - 2010

The CT DEP's 2010 Municipal Inland Wetland Commissioners Training Program Segment 3 will be held this fall from mid-October through mid-November. This all-day workshop will provide participants with an introduction to the rapidly expanding world of geospatial data and geographic information systems (GIS). The day will begin with an introduction to geospatial data and the science behind GIS. Next, a GIS tool created for Connecticut's municipalities, known as CTECO (Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online), will be discussed along with hands-on activities. The day will continue with a lecture on the importance of municipal parcel data including a demonstration of a GIS visualization tool that can help commissioners and staff understand and simulate land-use change in three dimensions.

Finally, the program will end with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station talking about the utility of GIS for ecological research. The presentation will focus on aquatic invasive species in Connecticut's lakes and ponds and will show how GIS can improve early detection and allow a rapid response to this problem.

It's Your Environmental 911 Call!

Your Environmental Toolkit for Properly Assessing and Addressing Development Proposals

CACIWC is pleased to provide Conservation Commissions with a new environmental toolkit pamphlet to help commissioners properly assess development proposals that may come before their town. The pamphlet includes:

- A 911 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTACT LIST
- How to be Proactive and Ready before the Environmental 911 call
- How to Properly address the potential Environmental Emergency and Professionally respond to the call

The Environmental 911 pamphlet can be viewed and downloaded from caciwc.org.

More Resources, page 15

Editor's Note: Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions can play a critical role in protecting rare and endangered plants and animals. Conservation Commissions can make identification of endangered species and their natural habitats a priority during inventory and research of undeveloped areas of the town, and then use that information to recommend their protection during land use decision processes. In this issue Ed Pawlak of Connecticut Ecosystems LLC discusses techniques for using GPS technology to enhance rare species survey (page 10). Also, in question/answer format, Attorney Janet Brooks and Ed Pawlak summarize how to access the DEP's Natural Diversity Data Base maps of rare species and natural communities locations, and review an Inland Wetlands Commission's legal protocols for protecting endangered species.

JOURNEY TO THE LEGAL HORIZON *by Attorney Janet P. Brooks*

In this article Attorney Janet Brooks departs from her customary format and engages in a dialog with Ed Pawlak of Connecticut Ecosystems LLC reflecting on his article in this issue about gathering data on rare species and relevance to inland wetlands commission decisions.

Janet: You mention that the DEP database, known as the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB), is expanded as new information is available. How accessible is that database? Is it hard to use?

Ed: Now that the DEP has placed the NDDB maps on the DEP website, it is very easy to access them. The NDDB is a compilation of all known current and historic listed species (Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern) records and natural communities. To determine whether there are any NDDB records on or near a subject property, go to the CTDEP Endangered Species web site, www.ct.gov;dep/nddbrequest, click on "About NDDB Maps". Scroll down and Click on "View Maps by Town" at the bottom of the page. Choose the town from the drop down menu, then click "Go". Click "Download Map" (note the date when the map was last updated). This will bring up a USGS topographic quadrangle map that includes the town of interest. Click the "+" button on the toolbar at the top of the page to zoom in on the map. You will note that road names are visible at a high magnification, which will enable you to locate the property of interest.

The gray-shaded polygons on the map indicate the presence of one or more current or historic listed species records, or natural communities, somewhere inside the polygons. The exact location of a listed species record is not disclosed on the maps to discourage illegal collecting. In order to learn more information on the record(s), go to the CTDEP Endangered Species web site www.ct.gov/dep/nddbrequest, click on "Review/Contributing Requests". Scroll to bottom of page and click on either "Word" or "PDF" under Natural Diversity Data Base Review and Request Form. These files contain background information on the NDDB program, along with the request form that must be filled out and mailed to CTDEP. The CTDEP will reply with information on the species record(s) on or near the property of interest.

STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Connecticut General Statutes
Title 26, Chapter 495, Section 26-303 to Section 26-315

- Applicable to state agencies and any actions authorized, funded or performed by state agencies
- Rarity defined on a statewide scale
- Prohibits the taking, selling
- Includes option to designate essential habitat

An NDDB environmental review is required for regulated activities that require State permits, projects that use State funding, and activities performed by the State. The DEP encourages municipal land use commissions to use the environmental review process and to consider impacts to state listed species when making land use decisions.

Ed: (continuing) Once a listed species is found within a wetlands or watercourse in a proposed

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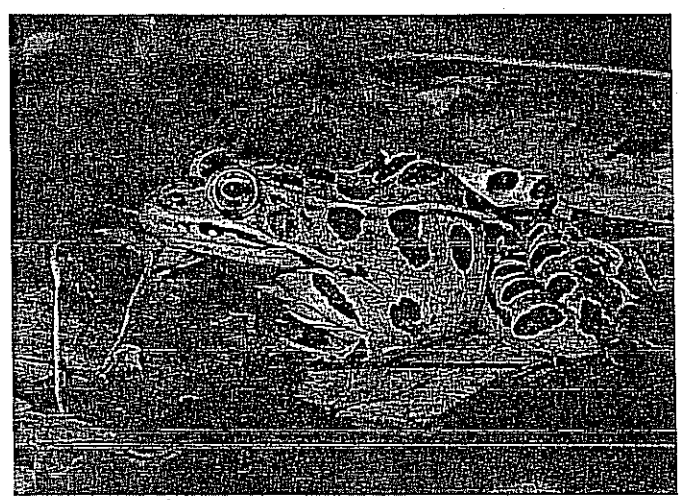
project area is that information alone sufficient to deny a wetlands application?

Janet: No. What we learned from River Bend Associates, Inc. v. Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission, 269 Conn. 57 (2004) is that there must be evidence of actual adverse impact. A "concern" about the species' fate is not likely to be sufficient. With regard to a listed species that exists on a site, the question is: is there expert opinion in the record that "connects the dots" between the species and adverse impact to it at that site? If there is no adverse impact to the species or if mitigation can eliminate that impact, the existence of the species at the site won't be an obstacle to granting a permit.

Ed: Let's say there is a documented listed species on a property proposed for development. Does a wetlands agency need to give this more weight than it would a more common, unlisted species?

Janet: Not necessarily. That's because of the unique way in which wildlife is considered by wetlands agencies. We need to look at sections 22a-41(c) and 22a-41(d) of the General Statutes. (If your agency's regulations track the DEP model regulations, you'll find them in sections 10.5 and 10.6 of the regulations.) Section 22a-41(c) instructs us that animal and plant life is included in the definition of wetlands and watercourses. However, section 22a-41(d) limits wildlife consideration when the proposed activity is outside of a wetland or watercourse. An agency can't deny an application or impose conditions in granting a permit on the basis of wildlife "*unless the proposed activity will likely impact or affect the physical characteristics of such wetlands or watercourses.*"



Leopard Frog - An Endangered Wetland Species. Photo Credit: Peter Picone, DEP Wildlife Department

If the regulated activity is proposed in a wetland or watercourse, the agency can deny or condition a permit because of actual adverse impact to wildlife, listed species or unlisted.

The other scenario occurs when the proposed activity is in the upland review area. Then we're in a situation where section 22a-41(d) applies, because the regulated activity is not sited in a wetland or watercourse. Even if the proposal threatens to eliminate the entire endangered species population, whether three individuals or three thousand, the wetlands agency *can't* deny the application or place conditions in a permit because of a likely impact on the wildlife *unless* there is evidence that the proposal will likely impact the physical characteristic of a wetland or watercourse.

Ed: If a wetlands agency finds that there will be a likely impact to the physical characteristics of a wetland or watercourse as a result of a regulated activity outside of wetlands and watercourses, then are they free to consider any likely impact to plants and wildlife across the property, not just those that occur in the wetland/watercourse that will be physically impacted? Or can they only focus on the plants/ wildlife that occur in the wetland/watercourse that will be physically impacted?

Janet: That precise case hasn't yet been decided by the Supreme Court. But there is some Supreme Court guidance from the *Unistar Properties, LLC*[1] case. The court concluded that a wetlands agency may request information about wildlife in the upland review area and beyond *because the effect of development on the wildlife in those uplands may affect the physical characteristics of wetlands or watercourses.* The court did also warn that if an agency sought wildlife information from an area so remote as to be unlikely to cause an effect on wetlands or watercourses, the agency action would be arbitrary and capricious - that is, illegal.

Legal, continued on page 5

Legal, continued from page 4

In a case released this summer, the Appellate Court affirmed the denial of a golf course and houses in a coastal forest by the Old Saybrook wetlands agency. In *River Sound Development, LLC v. Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission*, 122 Conn. App. 644 (2010) the court upheld the agency's denial based on the fact that the loss of wood frogs would have a negative consequential effect on the physical characteristics of the wetlands. The court did not identify or distinguish whether the wood frog is a listed species.

Ed: (It is not.)

Janet: The court went through an elaborate explanation how an adverse effect on the physical characteristic of the wetlands would come about. Relying on and quoting Michael Klemens, *the applicant's expert*, the court pointed out the substantial evidence to support that conclusion: "the wood frogs remove a lot of the detritus in the pools. The leaves' energy is transported through the wood [frog] tadpoles . . . the actual quality of the water, physical parameters of the water, are affected by wood frog tadpoles." [2]

Counsel for the Town of Essex, an environmental intervenor in the application which actively participated in the public hearings before the Old Saybrook wetlands agency, relied on a footnote the Supreme Court's decision in *AvalonBay Communities, Inc. v. Inland Wetlands Commission*, 266 Conn. 150, 163 n. 19 (2003) to argue its case about the wood frogs. The court in *AvalonBay* held that wildlife was not within the jurisdiction of wetlands agencies, with one stated exception: "There may be an extreme case where a loss of or negative impact on a wildlife species might have a negative consequential effect on the physical characteristics of a wetland or watercourse, but that is not the situation in the present case." In talking to the counsel for the Town of Essex I learned that there were hundreds of documented wood frog tadpoles in the Old Saybrook application. In the *AvalonBay* case there were only a handful of documented salamanders.

Ed: Do you mean that the size of the population matters in every instance when wildlife is considered?

Janet: No. In *River Sound*, the argument was made that the wood frogs constitute that "extreme example" where the loss of wildlife will have a negative consequential affect on the physical characteristic of a wetland. Since the legislature amended the wetlands statute - in the 2004 legislative session that followed the fall 2003 issuance of the *AvalonBay* case - *any* likely impact or effect on the physical characteristics of wetlands or watercourses from

Legal, continued on page 6

Sources for Endangered Species Information

CT DEP Endangered Species Web Site: www.ct.gov/dep/nddbrequest

NatureServe Explorer - an authoritative source for information on more than 70,000 plants, animals, and ecosystems of the United States and Canada. Explorer includes particularly in-depth coverage for rare and endangered species. http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/

The Connecticut Butterfly Atlas Project - The Yale Peabody Museum's Division of Entomology is host to the website of the Connecticut Butterfly Atlas Project (CBAP). http://www.peabody.yale.edu/collections/ent/ent_cbap.html
The Connecticut Butterfly Atlas Project is sponsored by the State Geological and Natural History Survey of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Butterfly Association, and the Connecticut Entomological Society.

Chapter 495 Endangered Species Connecticut General Statutes - (CGS) Section 26-303 Species http://cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/Chap495.htm#Sec26-303.htm

Endangered Species Slide Program - Photos and facts about endangered species and their management in Connecticut (41 slides). http://www.depdata.ct.gov/wildlife/slidesshows/endangered/endangered.asp

CT DEP Endangered and Threatened Species Fact Sheets - Over 40 downloadable Fact Sheets with pictures. www.ct.gov/dep/nddbrequest

Legal, continued from page 5
the proposed activity is sufficient to authorize a wetlands agency to deny or condition a permit because of a likely effect on wildlife. It is not necessary that the physical effect on the wetlands or watercourses result from an impact to wildlife.

Ed: So, the impact to the physical characteristics of the wetland or watercourse can come from activities unrelated to wildlife impacts, such as erosion during construction or elevated water temperatures due to tree clearing around the wetland/watercourse. Right?

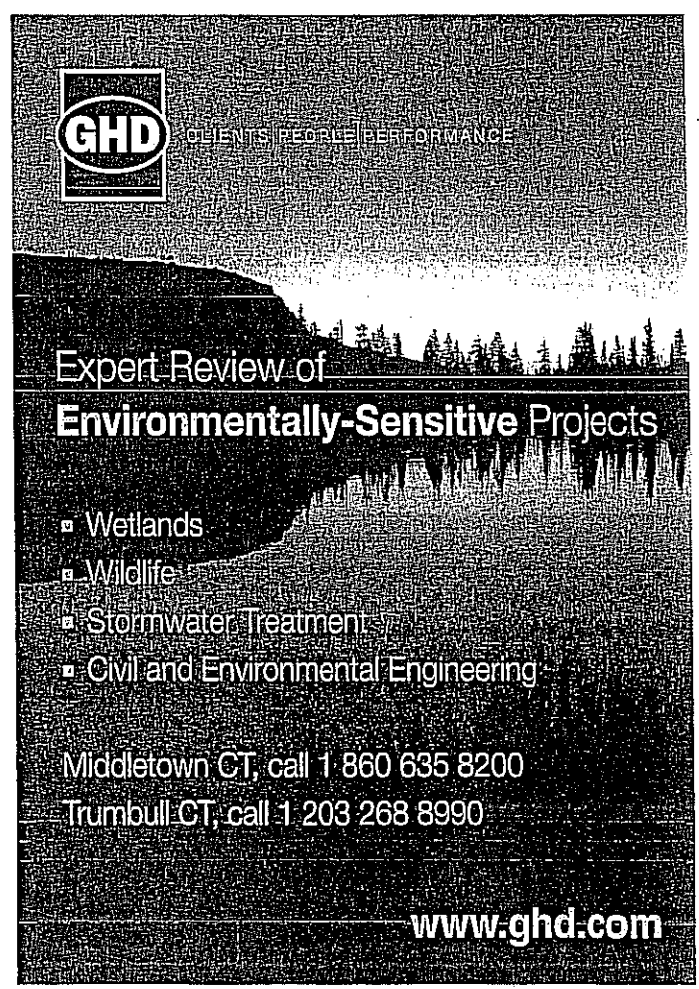
Janet: Exactly. The Old Saybrook wetlands agency's denial was upheld based on the evidence in the record that the loss of the wood frog tadpoles will likely impact the physical characteristic of the vernal pools. The agency could have relied on, *if there was expert evidence in the record*, siltation from construction activities, for example. In order to establish this "extreme case" (based on the footnote in *AvalonBay*) I believe the number of tadpoles was relevant. It's not at all clear that the loss of a handful of wood frog tadpoles would bring about the same physical effect on the physical characteristics of the vernal pool.

Ed: Let's say there is a confirmed box turtle population on a property (Species of Special Concern). This is a facultative wetland user that mostly is found in well drained upland habitats. Can a wetlands agency deny a permit on this property due to box turtle impacts? There are many listed plant and wildlife species that are not obligate wetland users (e.g., bobolinks, sandplain insects, etc.).

Janet: To begin, we would need to know whether the proposed activity will occur in the wetlands or in the upland review area and beyond. If the activity will occur in a wetland, then the agency may base a denial on an impact to the confirmed box turtle population *or any other confirmed animal population - if there is substantial evidence (expert opinion) of a likely actual adverse impact to the species.* If the proposal occurs in the upland review area or beyond, the agency first must determine if there are likely effects or impacts on the physical characteristics of the wetlands or watercourses. Is this how a wildlife biologist would consider impacts to wildlife? No, but it *is* how a wetlands agency should consider the evidence.

A biologist may rate an endangered species more highly than a common one. The wetlands law does

Legal, continued on page 7



Legal, continued from page 6
not. The wetlands law does allow the agency broad latitude in considering wildlife, including unlisted species, when the regulated activity will occur in wetlands and watercourses, but constrains that consideration when the activity is not.

Similar to other provisions in the wetlands law, the consideration of wildlife is not "intuitive." It's not what "feels" important that counts. Which path does the wetlands law dictate the agency follow? If it is the constrained path, the record must contain substantial evidence that the impact will likely negatively impact the physical characteristics of the wetlands. The *River Sound* case is one example of how an agency's consideration of wildlife impacts was upheld. It will probably take another generation of court cases to work out the wrinkles in the 2004 legislative amendment.

Janet: Here are two take-away points:

- The wetlands law is egalitarian. Adverse impacts to wildlife, listed species or not, can be the basis to deny or condition a permit when the regulated activity occurs in a wetland or watercourse. Conversely, when the regulated activity occurs outside a wetland or watercourse, adverse impact to wildlife, listed species or not, that are found in a wetland or watercourse cannot be the basis to deny or condition a permit *unless* the regulated activity will likely impact the physical characteristics of a wetland or watercourse.
- Recent case law affirms that, with enough expert evidence in the record, a wetlands agency can successfully base a denial of a permit for an activity occurring outside of a wetland on the loss of wildlife that in turn will cause a physical impact to a wetland.

Janet P. Brooks practices law in East Berlin, Connecticut and writes on wetlands issues on her blog at www.ctwetlandslaw.com.

(Endnotes)

1 *Unistar Properties, LLC v. Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission*, 293 Conn. 93 (2009). For readers who wish to read the case online, I have written blog entries about two online methods that can be used to find Connecticut cases. See entries of January 29, 2010 and February 3, 2010 on my blog at www.ctwetlandslaw.com.

2 *River sound Development, LLC v. Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission*, 122 Conn. App. 644, 655 (2010). The *River Sound* case and the *AvalonBay* case are hyperlinked in the July 30, 2010 blog entry.

Commission & Administration & Procedures Track — Conservation Biology Issues — Land Use Law & Legal Updates Track — Open Space & Resource Conservation Track

— SESSION 1 —

(* Denotes Advanced Workshop)

A1. "Promoting CT Greenways & Trails"

by Representatives of the Greenways Council & Laurie Giannotti, CT DEP Liaison to the CT Greenways Council

A growing number of greenway open space corridors are being recognized throughout Connecticut. Greenways can connect existing protected areas, preserve a scenic ridge, waterway, or other scenic landscape, and provide access to natural areas for outdoor recreation. This workshop will review highlights of the state's existing greenways and scenic trails and review the process of preparing nominations for official state greenway designation.

*B1. "Wetlands Law in 2010: Case Law, Legislative & Regulatory Update"

by Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC; David Wrinn, CT Attorney General's Office; Mark Branse, Branse, Willis & Knapp, LLC

This trio of wetlands attorneys has been brought back by popular demand to keep you current with the latest state Supreme Court and Appellate Court cases. You'll hear about an enforcement case involving the farming exemption, and the Old Saybrook wetlands agency's successful denial of the wetlands application filed by The Preserve in which the Appellate Court upholds jurisdiction over areas outside the wetlands/watercourses and upland review areas and affirms the denial based on wildlife concerns.

C1. "Invasive Plant Update"

by Donna Ellis, Uconn Extension Educator and Co-Chair, Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)

The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group gathers and conveys information on the presence, distribution, ecological impacts, and management of invasive species. This workshop will highlight the challenges faced by municipal land-use commissions and staff in the identification and control of invasive plants as well as outlining methods of promoting growth of native species as part of local open space management planning.

*D1. "Working with the CT Siting Council"

by Linda Roberts, Exec. Director & Melanie Backman, Staff Attorney, CT Siting Council

This workshop will review the composition, jurisdiction and review process of the Connecticut Siting Council. Ms. Roberts and Attorney Backman will outline opportunities for inland wetlands and other land-use agencies to review and comment on proposed projects being evaluated by the Siting Council. They will also discuss the different ways in which conservation commissions and other municipal boards may formally participate in the Council's adjudicatory process, including the important "pre-file" process.

— SESSION 2 —

(* Denotes Advanced Workshop)

*A2. "Public Act 490 (PA 490): CT's Current Use Tax for Farmland, Forest Land and Open Space Land"

by Joan Nichols, Government Relations Specialist, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

In 1963 the Connecticut General Assembly enacted Public Act 63-490, *An Act Concerning the Taxation and Preservation of Farm, Forest or Open Space*, commonly referred to as "PA 490". This act has become one of the most important laws to help preserve an agricultural, forest, and natural resource land base in Connecticut. This workshop will highlight key aspects of PA 490 and contents of the 2010 PA 490 Guide, published by the CT Farm Bureau Association.

B2. "Wetlands Law, Q&A"

by Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC; David Wrinn, CT Attorney General's Office; Mark Branse, Branse, Willis & Knapp, LLC

This is the question-and-answer session that you have asked that we bring back again this year. No presentation by the attorneys. Just your questions. Just their answers.

C2. "Stopping the Emerald Ash Borer & Asian Longhorned Beetles & Other Threats to CT Forests"

by Christopher Martin, Director, CT DEP Forestry Division

Two new pests have been recently discovered that threaten Connecticut forest species. The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) was first found near NYC in 1996, Worcester, MA in 2008 and Boston in July of this year. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has recently been found within 25 miles of the Connecticut border. This workshop will review the detection and control strategies developed by the DEP and other agencies and discuss steps that local commissions and staff can take to support these state and regional efforts.

*D2. "Riparian Corridors: New Research, Restoration and Protection Initiatives"

by Dr. Juliana Barrett, CT Sea Grant Program, UConn & Chet Arnold, UConn, Department of Extension Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR)

Riparian corridors provide many environmental benefits including wildlife habitat and water quality protection. The workshop discusses the recent land cover study by CLEAR, showing changes to riparian corridors in CT from 1985 to 2006. Review of a recent Sea Grant & CLEAR initiative on riparian area protection in the Niantic River Watershed, and town commission participation in the project. New website tools and other resources will be demonstrated.

— SESSION 3 —

(* Denotes Advanced Workshop)

*A3. "The Use of GPS Technology in Rare Species Surveys"

by Edward Pawlak, Connecticut Ecosystems, LLC

The DEP Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) list of rare species has grown from 498 in 597. There is an ever-greater need for rare species surveys to determine whether listed species occur on properties where development is proposed. Attendees will learn how to find the NDDB maps on the internet, and how GPS technology can be used in rare species surveys. Guidance for land use agencies on how to evaluate the credibility, results and conclusions of a rare species survey will be given.

*B3. "Working with Your Local P&Z"

by Attorney Mark K. Branse, Branse, Willis & Knapp, LLC

This workshop will discuss how conservation commissions can work effectively with their town's planning & zoning commission throughout the application review process. The use of local Plans of Conservation and Development to promote the long-term protection of important habitats within their town will also be discussed.

C3. "Fishers & Moose in CT: Changing Mammal Population Dynamics"

by Andrew LaBonte, Wildlife Biologist, CT DEP Wildlife Division

Although sporadic moose sighting were reported in Connecticut in the early 1900s multiple sightings did not begin until the 1990s with an average of six per year. DEP now estimates the Connecticut population at around 100. The fisher was reintroduced into western Connecticut starting in 1988. This workshop will provide information to help commissioners and staff respond to public inquiries, and will offer suggestions on supporting state efforts to track and study these animals and other mammalian species.

D3. "Pesticides, Wetlands & Watercourses"

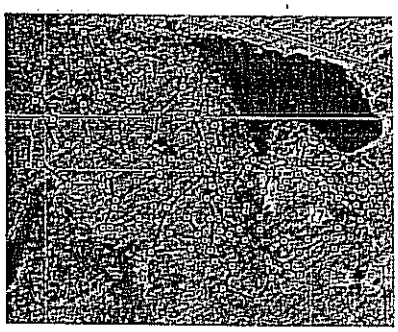
by Bradford Robinson, Supervisor, CT DEP Pesticide Unit

Many CT towns are citing an increasing number of lakes, ponds and streams that are experiencing an overgrowth of aquatic plants. These overgrowth problems can greatly affect biodiversity and the recreational value of the water body. The workshop will describe the biology of invasive aquatic plants, including various methods of control. Federal regulations that affect pesticide use will be reviewed along with CT DEP permit requirements. The session will also provide an opportunity for local commissioners and agents to better understand their role in management of these issues.

Rare and Endangered Species Survey Using the GPS "Tracking Feature"

by Edward M. Pawlak, PWS, Connecticut Ecosystems LLC

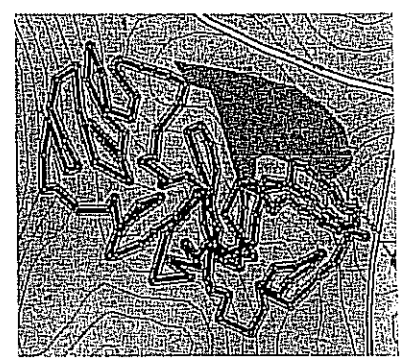
We are witnessing a long-term decline in many plant and animal species across Connecticut, primarily due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Maps of current and historic records of Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species are maintained by the Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) Natural Diversity Data Base. These maps are updated and expanded as new records are discovered, and when species are listed or de-listed by the DEP. Every five years technical committees established by the CTDEP review the status of the species lists and recommend changes based upon their knowledge of population trends. Since its inception in 1992, the list has grown from 498 to 597 species (a 20 percent increase).



As a result of this trend, it is increasingly likely that development projects will be proposed on properties that either contain or are near a listed species record. Because of this, there is an ever-greater need for rare species surveys, conducted by qualified professionals, to determine whether listed species occur on these properties.

Municipal land use commissions and state/federal regulatory agencies must consider many factors when assessing whether the results and conclusions of a rare species survey are credible. Relevant criteria include the training and experience of the investigator(s), time of year and time of day when the survey was performed, habitats that were surveyed, and search level effort (e.g., number of survey hours, number of cover objects turned over, etc.) Weather conditions at the time of the survey (and in some cases, prior to the survey) are an important factor for some wildlife species (e.g., many reptiles and amphibians are inactive in very hot weather, and thus less likely to be seen.) A primary consideration is the habitats that were searched during the survey, and the amount of area covered within these habitats. It is also important to understand how much of the overall project site was searched during initial reconnaissance inspections directed at identifying critical habitats that would warrant species survey efforts.

Hand-held GPS technology is revolutionizing the way that rare species surveys are conducted and reported. The "Track" feature, standard on hand-held GPS units, can create relatively accurate maps of a rare species survey route. At the start of the survey the biologist selects the Track creation unit (e.g., time or distance), as well as the Track interval (e.g., number of minutes, number of feet.) So, for example, the GPS unit can be programmed to create a Track every time the user moves a linear distance of 100 feet, or at one-minute intervals. The resulting Tracks data set can be printed out, superimposed on a topographic map or aerial photograph, to illustrate the survey route and the habitats that were investigated on a given date (see embedded maps.) A Track Route map tells a reviewer which habitats were investigated during a rare species survey, critical information when assessing the validity of a survey.



Rare, continued on page 11

Rare, continued from page 10

A GPS unit can also provide important real-time spatial information to the rare species surveyor. When investigating remote sites that are distant from a road, the GPS unit can quickly bring the user to a designated survey start point. This can be accomplished by determining the latitude/longitude coordinates of the start point from topographic map software, and inputting this to the GPS unit as a Waypoint. The GPS navigation features can then be used to direct the user to the Waypoint. The user can also create a Waypoint at the vehicle at the start of a survey, allowing a for quicker exit from the field at the end of the day. These navigation features allow for more survey time, and less time wasted "bushwacking".

Many hand-held GPS units can display a USGS topographic map, or reasonable facsimile, on the screen. The Track route can be superimposed on this topographic map, providing the user with a real-time map of the route that has been surveyed at any point in time. This allows the user to adjust the travel route, if necessary, in order to thoroughly cover the survey area, and to ensure that all areas of interest are surveyed.

If a target species is observed, its exact location can be determined by creating a Waypoint on the GPS unit. The Waypoint, along with longitude/latitude, can be displayed on a topographic map for inclusion in the survey report, and in the report of the record to the CTDEP Natural Diversity Data Base.

The use of hand-held GPS technology should be an integral component of all rare species protocols.

Water Trails Program Promotes Paddling to Protect Rivers

by Diane Edwards

"If you paddle it, you will protect it."

That's the premise behind the Water Trails Program of the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. Begun in 2008 when Rivers Alliance merged with the newly formed Connecticut Water Trails Association, the program encourages non-motorized use of the state's recreational waterways while promoting river conservation values.

In recent years, river advocates around the country have been establishing "water trails" as a way to encourage people to enjoy and appreciate local rivers. Tangentially, these efforts also help communities by boosting tourism and educating citizens about river-related environmental issues, such as the importance of riparian buffers and wetlands.

Exploring the Mattabesset River. Photo Credits: Staff, CT River Coastal Conservation District.

Sometimes called blue trails or blueways, water trails are similar to hiking trails and greenways — except, of course, that they're on rivers or other watercourses. The American Canoe Association (ACA) uses five criteria to define a water trail:

1. The trail is a contiguous or semi-contiguous waterway or series of waterways that are open to recreational use by paddlers.
2. The trail has public access points for paddlers.
3. The trail is covered by a map, a guide, signage or a web site that is of reasonable quality and detail and is available to the public.
4. Published or printed materials for the trail communicate low-impact ethics to trail users.
5. The trail is supported or managed by one or more organizations.

Through the Water Trails Program, Rivers Alliance collaborates with national recreational entities, watershed groups, regional agencies, towns and other entities, as well as with individuals, to publicize existing and soon-to-be water trails. It serves as a clearinghouse for guidebooks, maps and other information, some of it available on the Rivers Alliance web site (www.riversalliance.org). The site currently lists eight designated water trails in Connecticut: the Essex Canoe/Kayak Trail, the Housatonic Valley River Trail, the Quinnipiac River Canoe Trail, the Mattabesset River Canoe Trail, the Mystic River Water Trail, the Norwalk Islands Canoe/Kayak Trail, the Old Lyme Canoe/Kayak Trail, and the Willimantic River Trail. Rivers Alliance recently was awarded a grant to expand this site, with funds from the National Recreational Trails Program administered by the CT DEP Recreational Trails and Greenways Program.

The Water Trails Program also promotes responsible stewardship of Connecticut waterways, by providing conferences and educational materials and supporting river-related events. Other activities of the program include demonstrating to towns and local businesses the economic value of healthy waterways, and advocating boating safety.

Rivers Alliance encourages other organizations and individuals to get involved with the Water Trails Program. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail rivers@riversalliance.org or call 860-361-9349.

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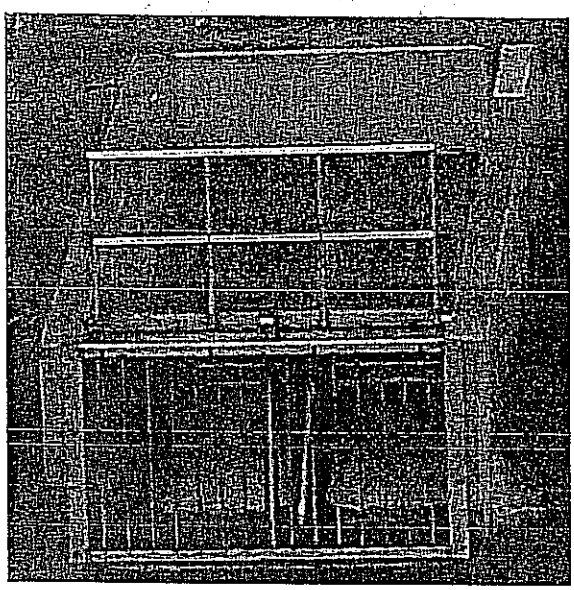

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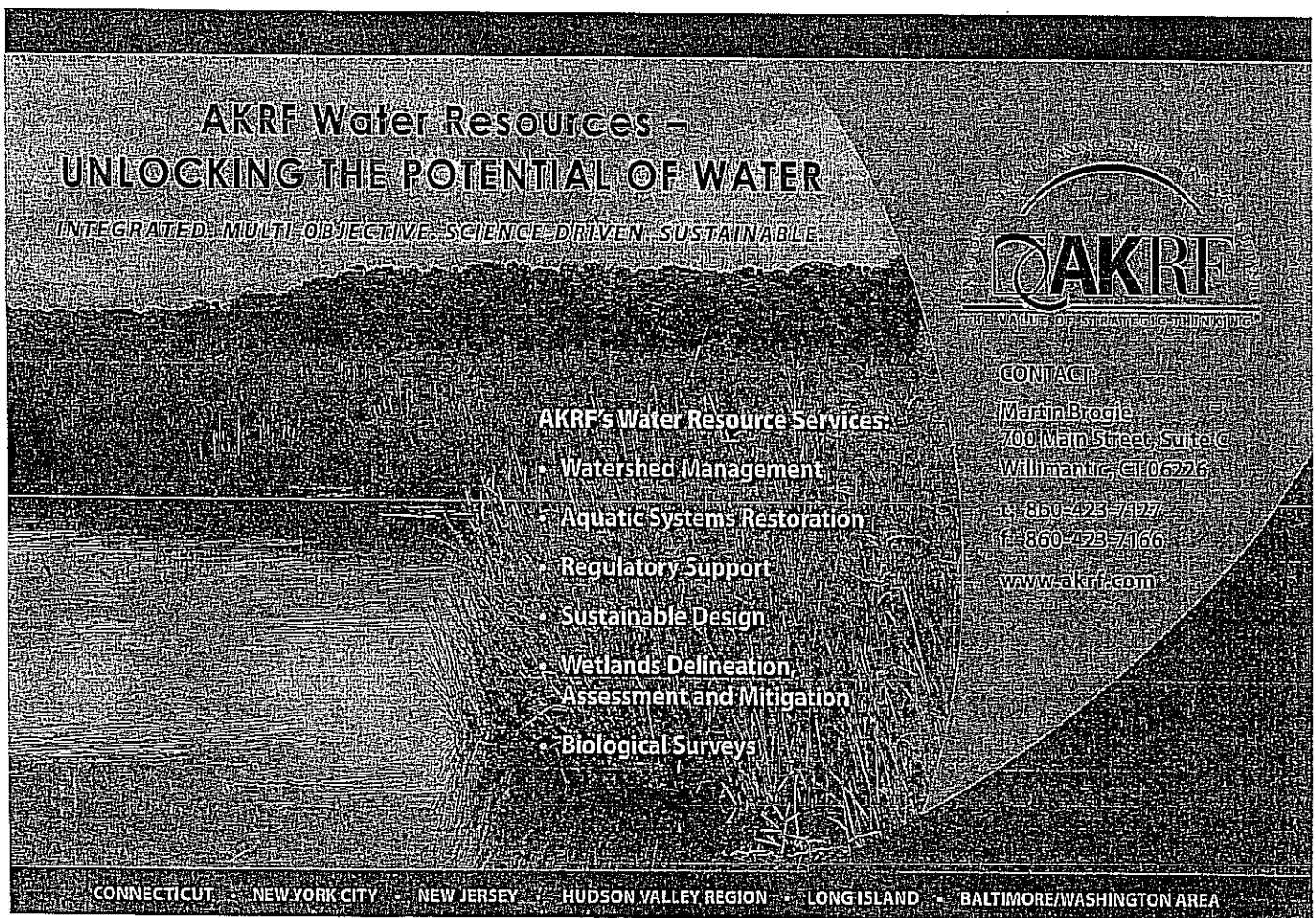

New Educators at UConn's CLEAR for Land Use and Water Resources

The UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Educator, Dr. Michael Dietz, and a new Land Use Educator, Bruce Hyde. Mike is a low impact development expert (among others things), and has returned to UConn after 4 years as an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist with Utah State University to take over the reins of the CT NEMO Program. He also will be contributing to CT Sea Grant's sustainable coastal community development (SCCD) program. Bruce Hyde is an AICP certified planner who has worked in the planning field for over 30 years, serving in a wide variety of positions from city planner to regional planner to private sector consultant. Bruce will be heading up CLEAR's Land Use Academy, as well as developing other planning-oriented educational programs.

New Web Site Provides Innovative Ways to Explore Long Island Sound

The University of Connecticut (UCONN), in cooperation with CT DEP has enhanced a dynamic website that allows users to explore Long Island Sound with state-of-the-art oceanic technology and a host of new video programs.

The images and videos can be viewed at www.lisc.uconn.edu/explorelis. The site also describes the various habitats in the Sound, discusses its history and geology, and provides information on how its environment is affected by human activity.

The CT Department of Environmental Protection 2009 Annual Report - Protecting and Restoring Our Environment

The 2009 report is divided into two main sections. The first section highlights the Department's accomplishments in the following areas: 1) Protecting the Environment With Innovative Approaches; (2) Compliance Assurance; (3) Landscape Stewardship; (4) Clean Water; (5) Materials Management; (6) Clean Air and Climate Change Challenges; (7) The Great Outdoors; and (8) CTDEP is Green Too. The second section of the report features enforcement and permitting outcome and output measures.

To view the report, please go to http://www.ctgov/dep/lib/dep/enforcement/reports/2009annualreport.pdf.

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THE HABITAT

Dedicated to constant vigilance, judicious management and conservation of our precious natural resources.

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CACIWC's 33nd Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference

Keynote Speaker and Address

H. Curtis "Curt" Spalding, Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1, New England Office,

will speak about

"The State of the Environment in New England; 40 Years After Earth Day"

(See page 1)

CACIWC's Conference Workshops include: Advanced Administrative, Legal, and Scientific Sessions for Conservation & Wetlands Commissioners and Agents!

See pages 8 and 9 for details.

CACIWC 2010 Annual Recognition Awards

There is still time to submit your nominations for a CACIWC annual award. Nominations will be accepted until October 23, 2010 in five award categories:

1. Wetlands Commission of the Year
2. Conservation Commission of the Year
3. Wetlands Commissioner of the Year
4. Conservation Commissioner of the Year
5. Commission Agent or Staff of the Year

Please see www.CACIWC.org for the nomination form and additional information. Completed nomination forms should be emailed to the CACIWC Annual Award Nominations Committee at: AnnualMtg@CACIWC.org.

Connecticut Wildlife

PUBLISHED BY THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WILDLIFE DIVISION

Eye on the Wild

Thank You Volunteers!

While putting together this issue of Connecticut Wildlife, *I began to see a common thread. Most of the articles highlight projects in which volunteers play an important role. The Wildlife Division is fortunate to have a long list of volunteers who are ready, willing, and able to help out, even at a moment's notice. In these days of tight budgets and reduced staff, their assistance on various projects is invaluable, and for that, the Division is grateful.*

The largest group of volunteers is the Conservation Education/Firearms Safety (CE/FS) instructors. Every year, over 300 instructors donate approximately 12,000 hours to conduct hunting safety courses for aspiring sportsmen and women. Some of these instructors have been involved since the inception of the CE/FS Program over 25 years ago and have trained many of the current instructors. Due to the diligent efforts of the volunteer instructor corps, the CE/FS Program continues to be a highly-rated program that was recognized by the International Hunter Education Association as meeting or exceeding national standards in hunter education.

The approximately 85 Master Wildlife Conservationists (MWCs) comprise a volunteer group that has made a significant contribution to the Wildlife Division's outreach, habitat management, and research efforts. These dedicated volunteers spend 40 hours of class time to complete the required program, and then donate back at least 40 hours (but usually more). MWCs have staffed exhibits at events; given wildlife presentations to schools and other groups; participated in wildlife surveys and goose banding; monitored shorebird nesting areas; and helped at deer check stations; just to name a few of their contributions.

Many of the exhibits and activities at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center would not have been possible without the support of the Friends of Sessions Woods. This volunteer organization recently cosponsored and obtained funding for the Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day held at Sessions Woods in September.

The list of individual volunteers is extensive. Some are "Citizen Scientists" that annually participate in bird surveys; monitor nesting bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and ospreys; act as purple martin landlords; coordinate bluebird box trails or a series of kestrel nest boxes; patrol shorebird beach nesting areas; band songbirds and raptors; participate in invasive plant removal; and the list goes on. There also are numerous groups and organizations (e.g., conservation organizations, sportsmen's clubs, scout troops, schools, nature centers) that take part in individual efforts or donate funds or services for large projects.

There isn't enough room on this page to name all of the individuals and groups and what they do, but you know who you are. The Wildlife Division appreciates all of the volunteers for their dedication and passion and for wanting to "make a difference" for wildlife.

Kathy Herz, Editor

Cover:

The sight of a soaring osprey is a treat for visitors and residents of Connecticut's coastal areas. Read about efforts to place leg bands on young ospreys on page 4 and about migrating hawks on page 5.

Photo courtesy of Paul J. Fusco

Connecticut Wildlife

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The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program was initiated by sportsmen and conservationists to provide states with funding for wildlife management and research programs, habitat acquisition, wildlife management area development, and hunter education programs. Connecticut Wildlife contains articles reporting on Wildlife Division projects funded entirely or in part with federal aid monies.

The DEP is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and service provider. In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, DEP makes every effort to provide equally effective services for persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities who need this information in an alternative format, to allow them to benefit and/or participate in the agency's programs and services, should call 860-424-3051 or 860-418-5937, or e-mail Marcia Bonitto, ADA Coordinator, at Marcia.Bonitto@ct.gov. Persons who are hearing impaired should call the State of Connecticut relay number 711.

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Learning About Wildlife Habitat at Belding WMA

Written by Jane Seymour

Spring 2010 marked the third year that students from the Vernon Public Schools have come to nearby Belding Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to spend the day learning about wildlife and their habitats. New this year was the addition of students from Rockville High School's Agricultural Education Center who volunteered to instruct the third graders at four habitat stations. The high school students were assisted by Master Wildlife Conservationists, DEP staff, and retired Wildlife Division director Dale May.

For six days, third grade students arrived in the morning and gathered under the newly constructed pavilion. They then spent the day visiting four different habitats – field, forest, stream, and vernal pool. One or two high school students, plus a volunteer or DEP instructor, were stationed at each habitat to teach the students about the importance of the habitats and what animals may be found there.

At the field station, the students saw red-winged blackbirds, tree swallows, a red-tailed hawk, and many grassland insects. Some students were lucky enough to see a garter snake before it disappeared into the grass. They discovered nesting sites, such as the ground for red-winged blackbirds, tree cavities and nest boxes for tree swallows and bluebirds, and shrubs along the edge of the field for gray catbirds.

After aging and measuring a tree at the forest station, the students searched for wildlife signs and found chipmunk holes, deer pellets, bones, and woodpecker holes. They also learned about forest regeneration and fire dependent species, such as the pitch pine.

At the vernal pool, students found wood frog egg masses and tadpoles. They searched under logs for salamanders and other small animals. The lesson focused on the importance of vernal pools as breeding sites for wood frogs and spotted salamanders.

At the stream station, which always is a favorite, the students saw crayfish, minnows, stonefly larvae, two-lined salamander eggs, and, the highlight of the day, a deer carcass.

J. SEYMOUR, HABITAT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (2)

Third grade students participating in a field trip to Belding WMA search under logs near the vernal pool to find salamanders.

A Rockville High School student leads third grade students from Vernon into the forest to look for signs of wildlife.

These field trips to Belding WMA tie in with the science framework for third grade, which requires students to learn that "organisms can survive and reproduce only in environments that meet their basic needs." To help achieve this requirement, the students learn that animals live in different habitat types, as well as how some animals protect themselves from predation, such as the wood frog blending in with leaves on the forest floor and the spotted salamander sporting warning coloration. By the end of the field trip, students are able to identify animals that use each of the habitats they visited and they are well aware of what happens to an animal when its habitat disappears.

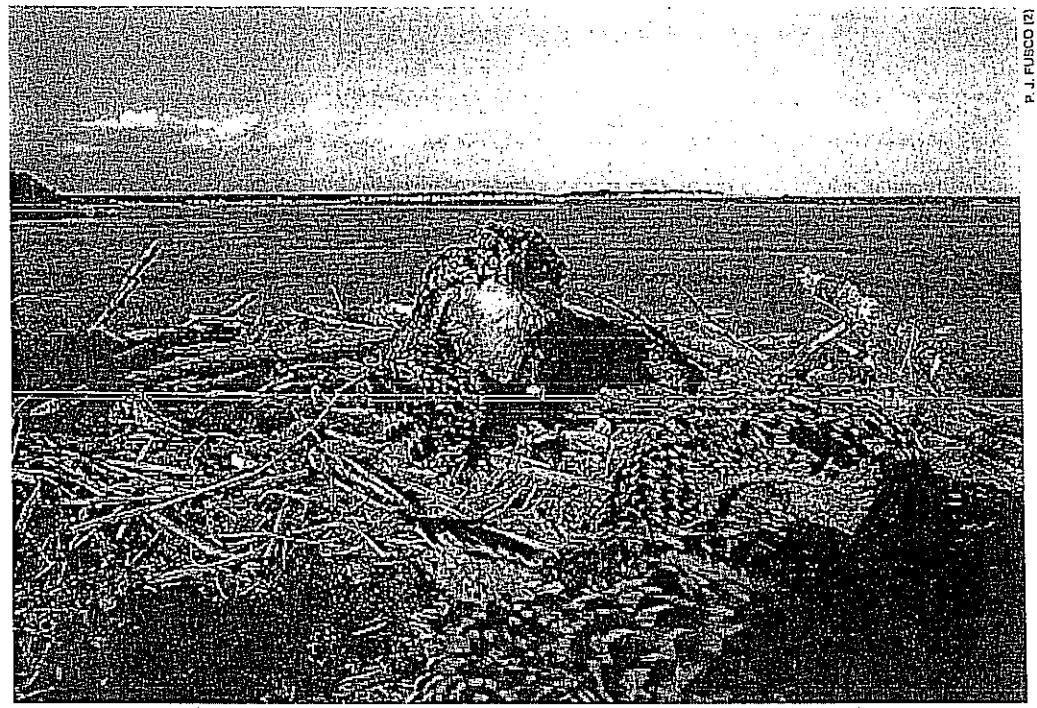
Educating young people about wildlife and conservation was one of the main goals set forth by Max Belding when he donated his property to the DEP. This cooperative program with the Vernon Public Schools is a big step in fulfilling Mr. Belding's vision.

Jane Seymour is the Steward at the Belding Wildlife Management Area

Young Ospreys Banded to Aid Monitoring

The osprey is one of several wildlife species in Connecticut that has rebounded from a precipitous decline. About 40 years ago, ospreys were a rare sight in our state. Today, this hawk is flourishing along the coastline and is even nesting regularly at some inland wetland areas. This recovery would not have been possible without the helping hands of many who erected artificial nesting platforms in coastal habitats and who also monitor the success of nesting pairs.

An extension of the monitoring effort involves attaching leg bands on chicks hatched in Connecticut. Bird banding is a universal and indispensable technique for studying the dispersal, migration, behavior, social structure, life-span, survival rate, reproductive success, and growth of bird populations. The banding of ospreys in Connecticut dates back to the 1950s and has been accomplished by a variety of dedicated licensed bird banders. Occasionally, if time permits, the DEP helps out by banding chicks at a few locations.



P. J. FUSCO (2)

This young osprey, in a nest at Hammonasset Beach State Park, was fitted with an identifying leg band before it was old enough to fledge from the nest.

Wildlife Division biologist Julie Victoria (left) instructs volunteers Emily Herz (middle) and Megan Carroll (right), from Lyman Hall High School's Vo-Ag Program, on how to hold the osprey chicks for banding.

One of these locations is property owned by Groton Utilities where the company has erected several nesting platforms. This past July, Wildlife Division biologist Julie Victoria, along with a few volunteers, visited the site to check the nests and band any young. Groton Utilities provided a bucket truck so that the tall platforms could be reached safely. Jeff Lyon and Jim Murphy, of Groton Utilities, were on hand to help with the operation of the truck. The volunteers carefully held the young ospreys so that Julie could affix the bands. In all, 17 nests were checked. Six nests were empty, but the other 11 produced a total of 21 young, which were banded and returned to the platforms.

Julie also banded ospreys at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison with the help of several enthusiastic volunteers. The crew walked carefully through the marshes, with a ladder in tow, to check four nesting platforms that had been monitored throughout the nesting season. The ladder was used to reach the top of the platforms to retrieve the chicks. Unfortunately, two of the nests had failed and it is believed that the young were taken by a predator, possibly a great horned owl. The other two nests produced five chicks.

Data from the young ospreys banded in Connecticut in 2010 by Julie and the other licensed bird banders will be submitted to the Bird Banding Laboratory, which is part of the North American Bird Banding Program. Some of these birds may be encountered again – possibly if found injured, dead, or observed through a spotting scope – and reported to the Bird Banding Lab (www.reportband.gov).

North American Bird Banding Program

The North American Bird Banding Program is jointly administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Their respective banding offices use the same bands, reporting forms, and data formats. Because banding requires capturing and handling birds, the activity is controlled in the United States under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and requires a federal banding permit.

Licensed banders record where and when each bird is banded, its age and sex, and any other information, and send those data to the Bird Banding Laboratory.

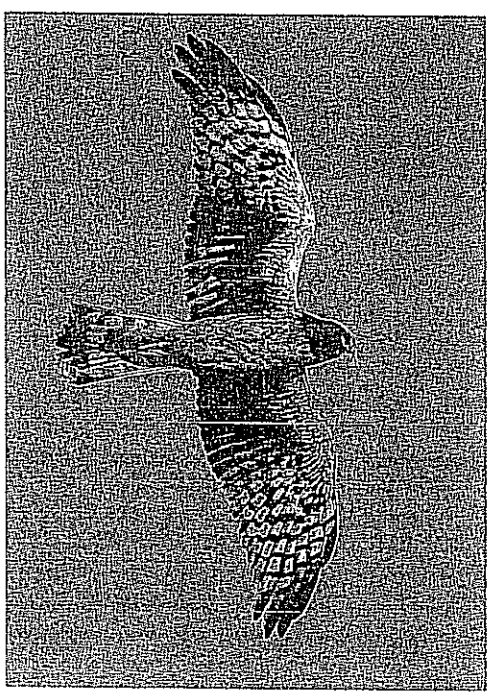
Experience a Hawk Watch

A popular activity in the fall for those who are interested in birds is to participate in a hawk watch at key sites where migrating raptors and other birds pass over in large concentrations during their journey southward. "Hawk watchers" flock to these sites to either marvel at the sight of such large numbers of raptors or to sharpen their identification skills of birds in flight. Either way, experiencing a hawk watch is one the best ways to observe a variety of hawks, falcons, and eagles all at once.

The number and type of birds observed in one day at a hawk watch site depend upon the temperature, wind direction, and time of year. The best days for counting are when weather conditions, like the passage of a cold front, cause hawks to move in great numbers. In the Northeast, falling temperatures caused by a cold front stimulate birds to migrate and the associated north to northwest winds push birds toward the Atlantic Coast. Many hawks are reluctant to cross open water, instead concentrating along the coast and following its contours, south and west, until they pass over areas like Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven, and Cape May, in New Jersey. Locations like these are perfect for hawk watchers to "set up shop" with their binoculars and spotting scopes. The hawk watchers identify and count the raptor species as they fly over. Migration count data collected at the hawk watches are submitted by the official counters to the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) through its Web site (www.hawkcount.org). The Raptor Population Index uses these data to contribute to the conservation and knowledge of raptors and their migration, and to monitor population trends among the different raptors.

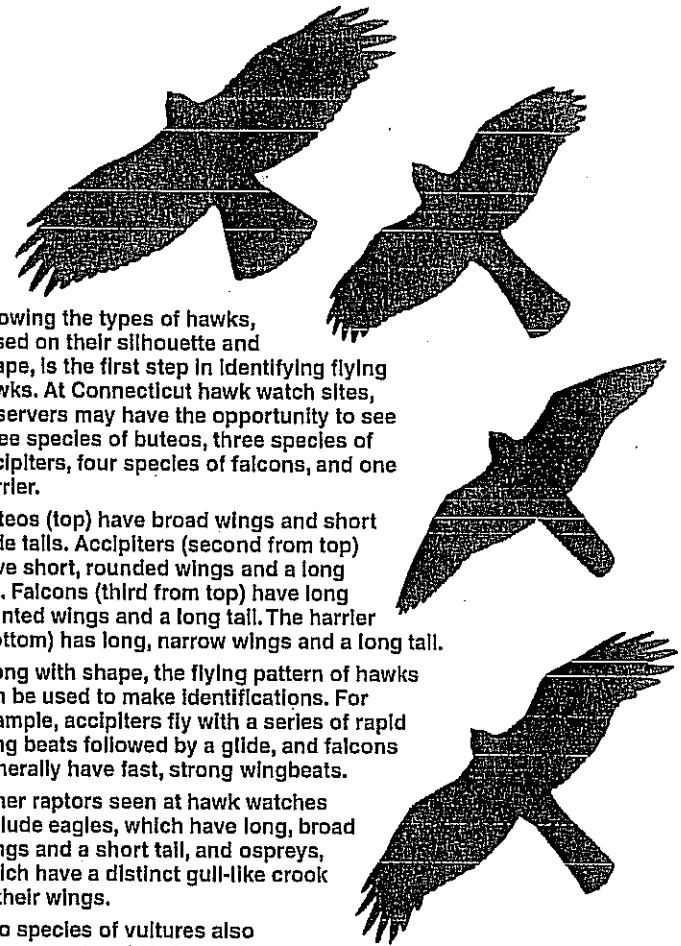
Where to See Hawks

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania is one of the best known places in the northeastern United States to watch the annual hawk migration. An average 20,000 hawks, eagles, and falcons pass the Sanctuary's North Lookout between mid-August and mid-December every year, and are identified and counted. Another hot spot for fall hawk watching in the Northeast is Cape May Point, where flights totaling more than 1,000 hawks per day occur several times each fall.



An immature northern harrier is seen as it flies past a Connecticut hawk watch location.

Fortunately, you don't have to go all the way to Pennsylvania or New Jersey to witness a hawk watch. Several hawk watches are held right here in Connecticut. The most notable is at Lighthouse Point Park, on the New Haven Harbor. It is one of the premier locations in southern New England for observing migrating hawks, eagles, and falcons, as well as a variety of songbirds. The 2010 Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point Park occurs daily from September 1 until November 30, starting at 7:00 AM and continuing as long as the hawks keep flying. Those interested in observing this yearly phenomenon are welcome to stop by Lighthouse Point Park. Official counters are stationed every day at the park where they can help visitors spot and identify birds.



Knowing the types of hawks, based on their silhouette and shape, is the first step in identifying flying hawks. At Connecticut hawk watch sites, observers may have the opportunity to see three species of buteos, three species of accipiters, four species of falcons, and one harrier.

Buteos (top) have broad wings and short wide tails. Accipiters (second from top) have short, rounded wings and a long tail. Falcons (third from top) have long pointed wings and a long tail. The harrier (bottom) has long, narrow wings and a long tail.

Along with shape, the flying pattern of hawks can be used to make identifications. For example, accipiters fly with a series of rapid wing beats followed by a glide, and falcons generally have fast, strong wingbeats.

Other raptors seen at hawk watches include eagles, which have long, broad wings and a short tail, and ospreys, which have a distinct gull-like crook in their wings.

Two species of vultures also are encountered. Turkey vultures frequently soar with wings held in a dihedral ("V" shape). Black vultures have short, rounded wings and short tail. They soar with wings held straight and flat.

Another popular Connecticut hawk watch is at Quaker Ridge on the grounds of the Greenwich Audubon Center. The season runs from August 20 to November 20, seven days a week, and an experienced hawk watcher is on hand to answer questions. Quaker Ridge is a great location to observe the mass movement of broad-winged hawks through Connecticut, mostly in September.

Directions to all of the hawk watch sites in Connecticut and throughout North America can be found on the HMANA Web site. All that is needed to participate in a hawk watch is a good pair of binoculars. A spotting scope also is useful and field guides that deal specifically with the identification of hawks in flight are invaluable. A free silhouette "Guide to Hawks Seen in North America" is available from the HMANA Web site. The two-page guide will help you compare the shape and key field marks of 21 species of migratory hawks seen throughout most of North America. The guide is a handy field reference for all hawk watchers, and a great start for beginning hawk watchers.

New Nesting Areas a Bonus for Plover and Terns

Written by Orla Molloy

P. J. FUSCO (2)

Wildlife Division seasonal resource assistant Orla Molloy patrols a beach nesting area, collecting data on the number of nesting pairs of piping plovers (below) and least terns. The areas are fenced to protect the birds from human disturbance.

The unusually warm weather experienced this past spring in Connecticut seemed to prompt an early start to the breeding and nesting season for some bird species. State and federally threatened piping plovers were no exception. Not long after returning from their wintering grounds in late March to the Connecticut shoreline, plovers were eagerly pairing off and laying eggs in the first nests of the season. The plovers again chose sites from Southport to Stonington to nest.

These small, sparrow-sized birds benefitted from the early nesting. Beach activities are sparse this time of year and the weather in unpredictable, leaving beaches free of human disturbance. Another advantage was the ability to renest if a previous attempt was washed out from high spring tides.

The 43 pairs of piping plovers that nested in 2010 is a slight decrease from the 44 pairs that nested in 2009. A total of 103 plover eggs hatched successfully, resulting in 79 fledglings by the end of August. Fledgling numbers increased from last year's 74 fledglings.

New Nesting Areas Created

Although most piping plovers return to the same nesting ground each year, the ever changing coastline created new territory for these birds. There was a massive expansion of a sandbar at Milford Point this year, along with the formation of a new sandbar on nearby Cedar Beach. Due to these favorable changes, four pairs nested on Milford Point and three pairs nested on Cedar Beach. Sixteen fledglings were produced between these two close-knit beaches.

The surroundings at Sandy Point/ Morse Point in West Haven also have been altered by the tides. Vegetation has overtaken areas of the beach that had once been prime nesting habitat. Fortunately, a wider and longer sandbar has emerged further down the beach to form a pristine nesting location for both plovers and least terns. A former channel at Griswold Point in Old Lyme has filled with sand, connecting two areas of beach. The natural expansion of these sites offered additional habitat that was not available in years past.

Unfortunately, many nests were lost to high spring tides. Five out of 11 nests laid at Milford Point and Cedar Beach were flooded. In addition, Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison and Long Beach in Stratford each lost a nest from high tides. Thankfully, these nests were washed out early enough in the season for the birds to renest.

Predators and Disturbance Take their Toll

The major difficulties facing piping plovers again this year were people causing disturbance and predators (skunks, raccoons, foxes, herons, dogs, and cats). Many predators are enticed to the shoreline by garbage left by beachgoers. Metal exclosures are erected around plover nests once they are located to help minimize losses from predation. Despite these preventive measures, predators still take their toll on the nesting birds. Two out of the four nests at Long Beach in Stratford showed signs of digging underneath the exclosure and the eggs were taken.

Human disturbance plays a crucial role in the loss of chicks. Development on the shoreline limits the amount of suitable habitat for breeding success. Piping plovers are extremely sensitive to commotion. When adults are on eggs, they can be disrupted by walkers, joggers, and sunbathers. Plovers are easily startled off their nests, leaving the eggs vulnerable to predators and the effects of hot or cold weather. Kite surfers continue to be another source of disturbance as it is

believed that plovers view the kites as predatory birds.

Once hatched, plover chicks are unable to maintain a steady temperature for the first few weeks. In response to this situation, the adults will corral the chicks underneath their bodies, brooding them to keep them warm. If adult plovers are prevented from warming their young, mortality rates will increase. Unfortunately, constant interruptions complicate this necessary behavior.

Least Terns Fared Better in 2010

State threatened least terns nest on the same Connecticut beaches as piping plovers. However, they do not return from their wintering areas until early May and lay eggs until mid-May.

Sandy Point in West Haven has historically been a productive nesting site for least terns. So, it was a surprise when not a single least tern nested at Sandy Point in 2009. The addition of sand during the past winter may have been the reason why this area rebounded from the dismal results of last year. Forty least tern pairs established nests at a newly-formed sandbar on Sandy Point, fledging four chicks.

Cockenoe Island in Westport turned out initially to be a viable nesting location for terns this year. Twenty-five pairs nested at this site for the first time in years. Unfortunately, most of the nests were flooded by high tides. Only five pairs were able to fledge 10 chicks.

Menunketesuck Island in Westbrook and Sandy Point in Stonington were other islands that least terns chose for nesting. The June high tide flooded most of these nests, as well as nests at Pleasure Beach in Bridgeport.

Another major nesting site for least terns is Griswold Point, in Old Lyme, where 30 pairs produced 10 fledglings.

Although 2010 was a better year for these small shorebirds compared to recent years, least tern production in Connecticut remains low. Only 36 chicks fledged from the 132 least tern pairs that nested along the Connecticut shoreline.

Orla Molloy is a seasonal resource assistant for the Wildlife Division

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) provides funding for Connecticut's Piping Plover/Least Tern Project.

Funding Provided for Phragmites Control Project in Milford and West Haven

The DEP recently announced funding of $23,000 from the Bond Commission for a phragmites control project in an area adjacent to the Oyster River in Milford and West Haven. The project will help restore a 37-acre brackish tidal marsh to a more natural state, as well as improve the natural stream flow and ecological balance. Twenty-seven acres of the marsh are dominated by phragmites, an invasive and aggressive plant that grows in brackish, tidal freshwater and non-tidal freshwater wetlands.

T. IVERS, CITY OF MILFORD

DEP Commissioner Amey Marrella speaks at an event to announce the funding for a phragmites control project in Milford and West Haven. The announcement and presentation of a symbolic check to the City of Milford took place in September at Baybrook Beach, West Haven.

Phragmites is a tall, native perennial grass that has taken over thousands of acres of wetlands in Connecticut. Thick stands of phragmites form a barrier to the movement of animals and large birds, such as ducks, shorebirds, and wading birds, and also restrict tidal flow. The shade from large phragmites stands hinders the growth of other native plants, reducing plant diversity. The presence of phragmites appears to be detrimental to the overall ecological functioning of tidal wetlands. For more information on phragmites, visit the DEP Web site at www.ct.gov/dep/invasive species.

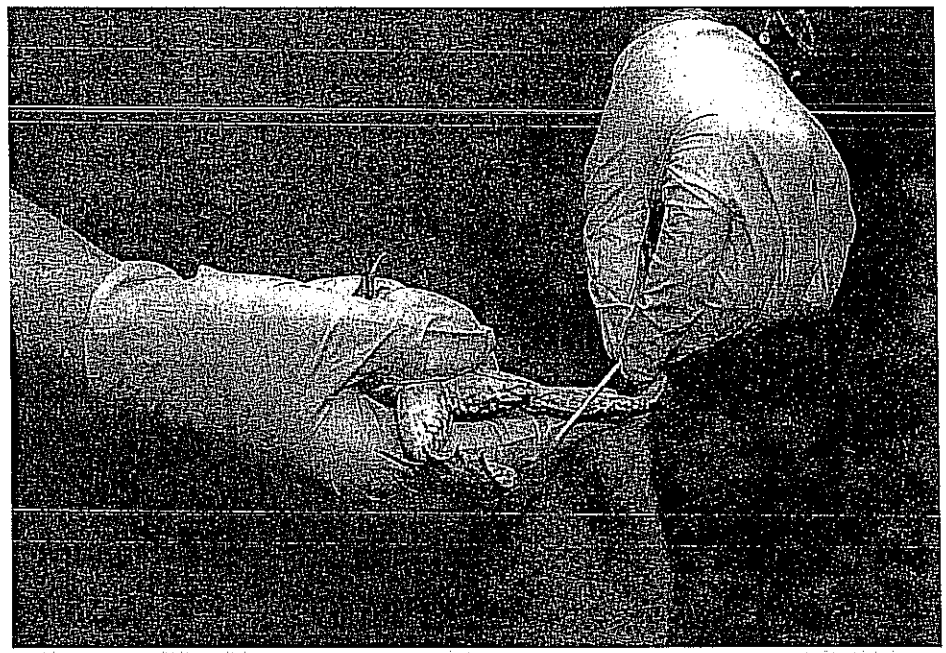
Over the past 30 years, Connecticut has worked with federal partners to protect sensitive wildlife habitat and restore acres of wetlands along the Connecticut coast. The Connecticut Tidal Wetland Restoration Team is a multi-agency and multi-stakeholder group that has partnered for nearly 30 years to advance the restoration of degraded tidal wetlands at 71 sites for an acreage exceeding 1,148 acres. The Wildlife Division's Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management Program monitors 110 areas and has controlled phragmites on 3,085 acres since the program began in 2000.

Chytrid Fungus Detected in Connecticut Amphibians

More research is needed

Written by Laura Saucier

Chytridiomycosis is an infectious skin disease that affects amphibians. It is caused by a fungus called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, or chytrid fungus. The disease was first described in 1999 from die-offs in frog populations in Australia. Amphibians are the only known vertebrate host for this fungus species. It has caused population declines and the extinction of some amphibian species from the wild, especially in Central and South America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. The origin of the fungus is unknown, although one hypothesis is that the fungus is from Africa and has spread through the international trade of amphibians. The earliest detection of this fungus on an amphibian was on a museum specimen from South Africa from the 1930s.



Seasonal Resource Assistant Matt Blumstein swabs a green frog to test for the presence of chytrid fungus on its skin. PHOTO BY P. J. FUSCO

What Is Chytrid Fungus?

Chytrid fungus is an aquatic fungus that attacks the keratin in the skin of adult amphibians and the mouthparts of tadpoles. The skin is an important organ of respiration and osmoregulation for amphibians. The skin of an amphibian infected with the chytrid fungus becomes thickened, thus interfering with these important life processes. Clinical signs of frogs with chytridiomycosis are the presence of excessive sloughed skin, lethargy, and an odd-resting pose of not allowing the belly touch the surface they are on. Interestingly, while this fungus has a broad amphibian host range, not all species that are susceptible to it have declined. It is thought that perhaps other factors, such as environmental stressors, may play into whether or not an animal becomes infected.

Amphibians are the only known vertebrate host for the chytrid fungus, which causes an infectious skin disease.

Chytridiomycosis is treatable for animals in captivity, such as zoos and aquariums. In the natural environment, it would be nearly impossible given that the fungus has "flagellated zoospores" that are capable of travelling through water systems and can subsist in watercourse sediments for extended periods of time. Fortunately, the fungus cannot survive dessication or being subjected to temperatures above 86 degrees F. In addition, it has fairly strict pH thresholds. Perhaps, with these limitations, the fungus is held in check naturally.

Documenting Chytrid Fungus in Connecticut

Chytrid fungus has been documented in most New England states. However, it had not been documented in Connecticut until May 2010 when samples collected in Litchfield County from Northern leopard frogs tested positive. Biologists in New England are cautiously optimistic that while the fungus is present, it does not appear to be affecting local amphibian populations in the same way that is being seen in other parts of the world. Scientists currently are delving into the reasons why New England frogs and salamanders don't seem to be dying from infections caused by this fungus.

The Wildlife Division and Connecticut Audubon Society have been catching and swabbing the skin of amphibians statewide and sending the samples to Yale University for testing. The goal is to determine how widespread the chytrid fungus is in our state, as well as which species are carrying it. Connecticut samples also are aiding the work of a Yale University graduate student who is attempting to describe the evolutionary history of this fungus and has been testing samples from all over the country. The Yale student is looking at the genetic variation among the fungal samples she receives and is attempting to prove the origin of the fungus and how it spread to become a worldwide cause of amphibian die-offs.

The State Wildlife Grants program provides federal dollars to support cost-effective conservation aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered.

Laura Saucier is a Technician for the Division's Wildlife Diversity Program

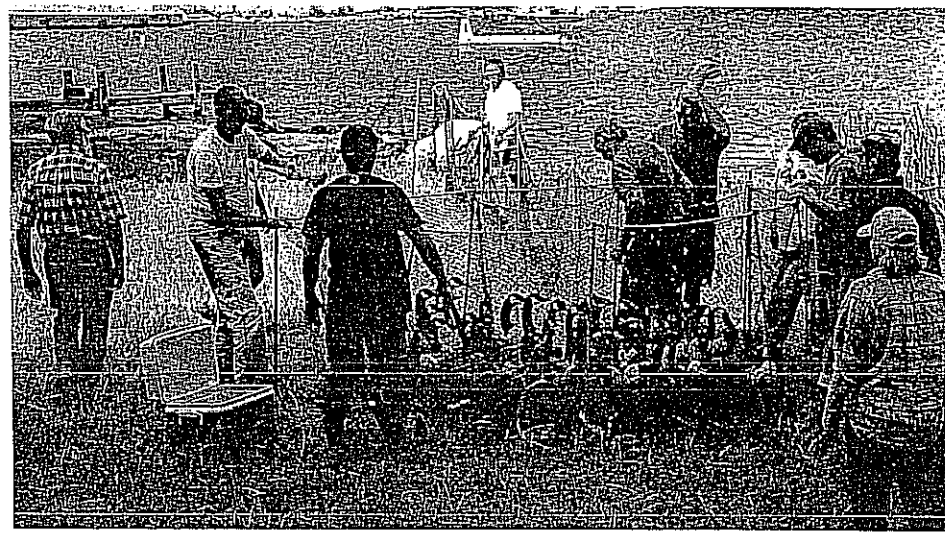
State Wildlife Grants

2010 Resident Canada Goose Banding Project

Written by Kelly Kubik

Canada geese are one of the most familiar wildlife species in Connecticut. They are a valuable natural resource that provide recreational opportunities for birdwatchers, sportsmen, and the public. Three distinct populations of Canada geese are present in Connecticut during certain times of the year. Two of these populations are migratory, while the third is resident. Compared to their migrant counterparts, resident geese are prolific breeders. They are found throughout the state, with the highest concentrations occurring in the 3 most urbanized counties: Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, resident geese are not migratory and do not fly north to breed. The origins of resident geese in Connecticut can be traced back to several introductions starting in the mid-20th century. These introductions were conducted by individuals, game clubs, and the State Board of Fisheries and Game (precursor to the current DEP Wildlife Division). Resident goose populations have increased substantially in Connecticut over the last 25 years, and this has led to an increasing number of problems. Wildlife managers have a tremendous challenge in appeasing a variety of individuals and groups with contrasting viewpoints about geese. The ultimate goal of managers is to reduce resident goose numbers while maintaining the migrant goose population.



T. DELANEY, for DEP - WILDLIFE DIVISION

The best time to capture and band Canada geese is during their annual molt when they are temporarily flightless. With the assistance of a large group of volunteers, the geese are driven across land and/or water and corralled into a portable net. The geese are then aged, sexed, and fitted with leg bands

Three distinct populations of Canada geese are present in Connecticut during certain times of the year. Two of these populations are migratory, while the third is resident.

Reducing Resident Goose Populations

One of the tools that biologists use to reduce resident goose populations is regulated hunting. Connecticut currently has two hunting seasons that are specifically designed to harvest resident geese. These seasons were established by examining band recovery and neck collar observation data. Waterfowl banding data also are used by researchers for assessing distribution of harvest, productivity, population size, and survival rates. Furthermore, it also helps in identifying important breeding, staging, and wintering areas, as well as migration routes and corridors.

Trapping and Banding Geese

Canada geese, along with other waterfowl species, are unique because they simultaneously shed their primary feathers during an annual molt and become temporarily flightless. This provides an opportunity for biologists to capture geese for marking and data collection. To capture the geese, they are driven across land and/or water and corralled into a portable net. The geese are then aged, sexed, and fitted with leg bands. The age and sex of each bird is determined using plumage characteristics in conjunction with cloacal examinations.

Wildlife Division staff, with the help of several dedicated volunteers and Master Wildlife Conservationists, captured 1,384 non-marked and 530 previously marked geese during late June and early July of this year. The majority of this year's recaptures were originally banded in Connecticut; however, some of the recaptured geese were from out-of-state. Geese were captured at 43 different sites and capture size at each location ranged from 1 to 169 geese. Geese were captured at a minimum of 3 sites per county. All banding data was submitted electronically to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) in Laurel, Maryland.

Report Banded Geese

Anyone who encounters a banded bird is urged to report it to the USGS BBL at 1-800-327-BAND (2263) or on the Internet at www.reportband.gov. Those interested in volunteering for next year's goose banding project should contact Wildlife Division technician Kelly Kubik at kelly.kubik@ct.gov or 860-642-7239.

Kelly Kubik is a Technician for the Division's Migratory Gamebird Program

Anyone who encounters a banded bird is urged to report it to the USGS Bird Banding Lab at 1-800-327-BAND (2263) or www.reportband.gov.

Bird of Solitude - The Hermit Thrush

Article and photography by Paul Fusco

At the end of an early summer day, with the air becoming still and the sun glowing orange and beginning its descent to the horizon, a transition begins. Diurnal animals head to their nighttime roosts and dens while nocturnal creatures awaken to start their hunt for food as the day is turning to night. At this time, a clear and gentle song breaks the stillness of a cool, dark forest in the northwestern hills of Connecticut. The flute-like sound is ethereal and musical with wonderful tonality as it rings through the forest.

The exquisite song of the hermit thrush is one of Connecticut's little known treasures. Woodsmen, hikers, birders, and naturalists all may have the chance to hear the song. But most residents do not, as the hermit thrush only sings from its breeding habitat of remote forest interior. The song starts with a clear fluted note, then proceeds with a series of descending phrases usually pitched higher than the initial note. After a pause, the pattern repeats at a different pitch, falling off toward the end. The bird may be seen in backyards around the state during its spring and fall migration, but during the breeding season its presence is normally restricted to forestland that is seldom visited by people.

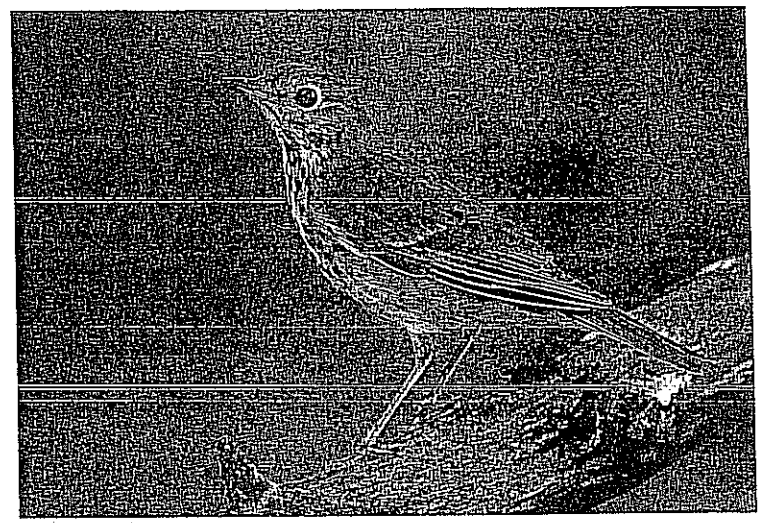
Thrushes are small to medium-sized songbirds that are often found on the ground. They can be seen running along the ground, using their large eyes and strong legs to locate and catch food. Everyone is familiar with the feeding style of the backyard favorite, the American robin, which is the most widespread and familiar thrush species in our area. The "run, stop, peck" feeding method is similar with most of the thrushes.

The hermit thrush is one of six species of forest thrush that occurs in Connecticut. All are brown-backed with spotted breasts. Forest thrushes are slightly smaller than a robin.

Identifying the hermit thrush can be difficult at times because all of the forest thrushes are similar in appearance. Look for the reddish-brown tail of the hermit, which is frequently raised and slowly lowered in a pumping fashion. The reddish tail contrasts with the brown back. The hermit thrush also has a narrow, but distinct, complete white eye-ring.

Range

Common and widespread, the hermit thrush is found at higher elevations in the northeastern and western United States, across southern Canada from coast to coast and up into the boreal forest regions of Alaska during the breeding season. The winter range lies entirely within North America, from Costa Rica throughout Mexico, and the southeastern United States, into southern New England and up the coastal regions of the Pacific states to southern British Columbia.



The hermit thrush can be identified by a heavily spotted breast, reddish-brown tail, and narrow, complete white eye-ring.

In Connecticut, the hermit thrush breeds in the higher elevations in the northwestern and northeastern parts of the state. Its stronghold is the forested areas in the hills of Litchfield County. The hermit thrush is the only forest thrush species that may be encountered in Connecticut during winter, typically in locations close to the shoreline and with berry-producing thickets.

Habitat

Hermit thrushes use a variety of forest interior habitats. While they prefer heavily wooded hemlock and white pine forests, they can often be found in open woodlands and edge margins within the forest. They tend to use drier and brushier areas than the other breeding forest thrushes (wood thrush and veery), which both prefer forest habitat that is wetter and lower in elevation.

Elevation can be a determining factor in the occurrence of breeding forest thrushes in New England. Wood thrushes and veery are most common in lower altitudes, hermit thrushes at mid-elevation, and Swainson's thrushes are found at higher elevations. Bicknell's thrushes breed only on the highest mountain tops in New England and nearby areas.

Migration

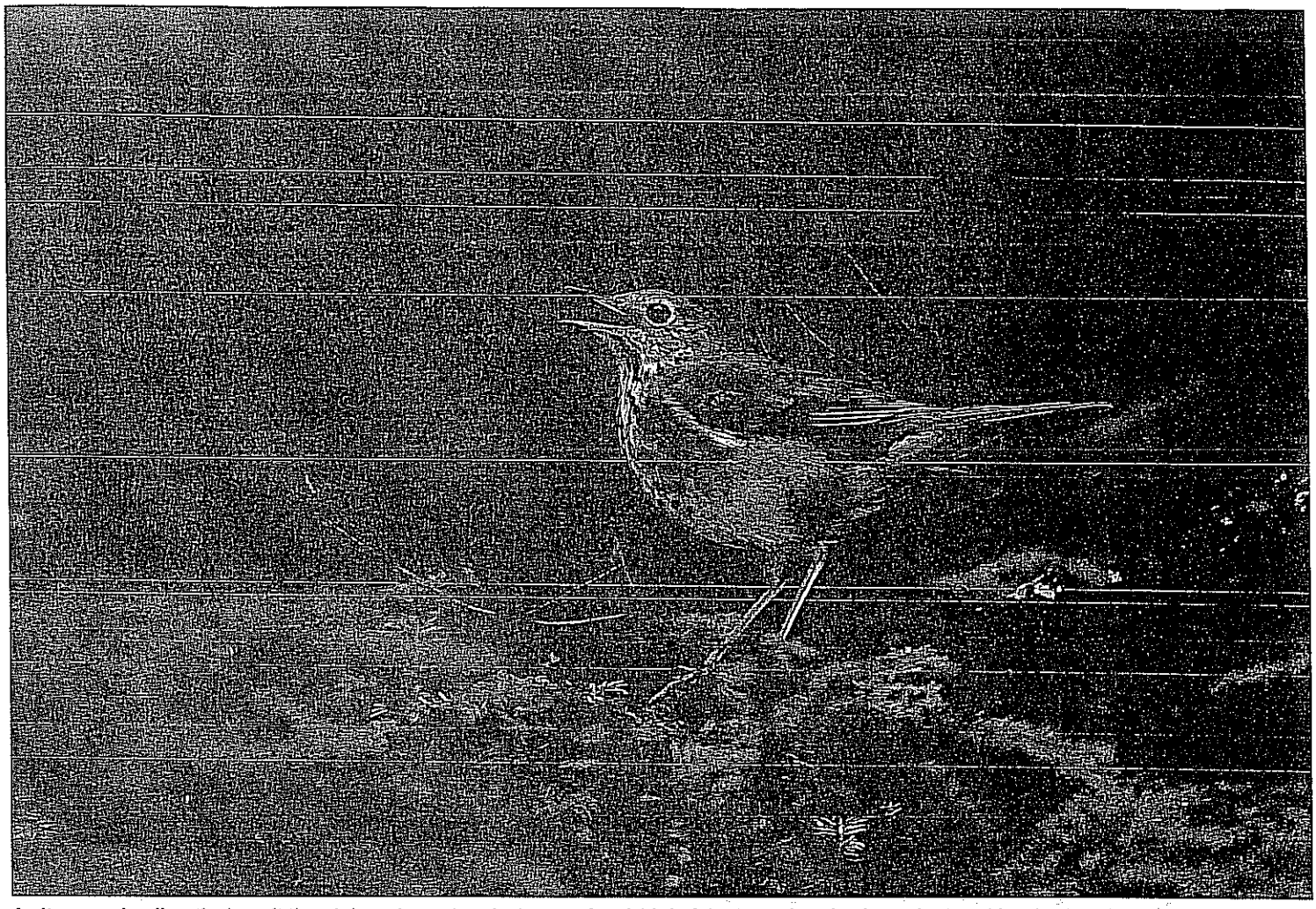
During migration, hermits are the first of the forest thrushes to arrive in spring and the last to leave in fall. Even though they are the hardiest of the forest thrushes, early migrants in spring are vulnerable to sudden cold weather and heavy late snowstorms. In such harsh conditions, many hermit thrushes may succumb to the elements.

Like many other songbirds, hermit thrushes migrate at night. They take advantage of prevailing winds in both spring and fall. By traveling at night, songbirds take advantage of the cooler, damp air, which helps prevent the birds from overheating as they work hard, beating their wings constantly for hours at a time. Another advantage to night migration is the reduced threat from predators, such as hawks, which migrate along the same routes by day. Many night migrants use the sun, stars, earth's magnetic field, and landmarks for navigation.

Six Species of Forest Thrush

Six species of forest thrushes can be found in Connecticut, either breeding or during migration. All have a mostly white underside with variable spotting and a brownish or rusty topside. Their sizes are similar – slightly smaller than a robin – and they are typically found in the understory of forested habitats.

Hermit thrush	*Catharus guttatus*	CT breeder
Veery	*Catharus fuscecens*	CT breeder
Wood thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*	CT breeder
Swainson's thrush	*Catharus ustulatus*	CT migrant
Gray-cheeked thrush	*Catharus minimus*	CT migrant
Bicknell's thrush	*Catharus bicknelli*	CT migrant

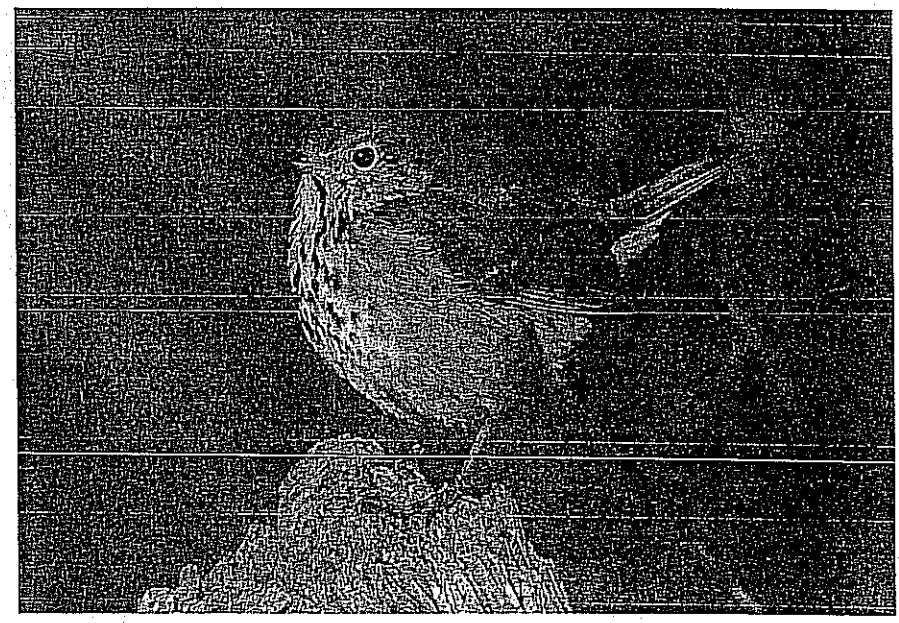


As its name implies, the hermit thrush is a shy and seclusive species. A bird of the forest interior, it can be found in mixed conifer forests at higher elevations during the breeding season in Connecticut, and in small numbers close to the shoreline in winter.

Behavior

The nest of the hermit thrush is somewhat bulky with a compact center. It is built with bark, strips of wood, twigs, ferns, grass, and moss. The center cup is composed of pine needles, rootlets, and plant fibers. The nest is normally built on the ground, frequently in a natural depression, and often under a small pine or hemlock with low branches that provide cover. There are unusual records of hermits nesting close to or on buildings.

The diet of the hermit thrush consists almost entirely of insects, spiders, and other invertebrates during the breeding season. They have been known to take salamanders on occasion. Fruits, especially berries, are important winter foods for hermits that spend the winter in colder areas of their range.



Hermits are the only forest thrush that can be found in Connecticut during winter. They are usually seen in moderate climate areas, such as near the shoreline.

Large blocks of forests are important for birds, like the hermit thrush, that depend on secluded areas to breed and raise their young. Development and road building fragment forests into smaller and smaller blocks, threatening the thrush, as well as many other forest interior species. Currently, hermit thrushes are considered to be fairly common, but with protection and stewardship of large blocks of forest habitat, the thrush can be protected well into the future.

Paul Fusco is the Art Director and Wildlife Photographer for the Division's Outreach Program

2010 Spring Turkey Harvest Results

Outlook Good for Fall Turkey Season

Written by Michael Gregonis

The spring wild turkey season continues to be the most popular of the three Connecticut turkey hunting seasons. Many sportsmen look forward to the opportunity and challenge of harvesting a wild turkey during spring.

Connecticut's 2010 spring turkey season was open statewide and ran from April 28 to May 29. A total of 7,389 permits were issued and 1,245 birds were harvested. At least one turkey was harvested by 867 hunters for a 12% statewide success rate. The harvest consisted of 989 adult males, 253 juvenile males, and three bearded hens. Harvest decreased by 17% from 2009; however, permit issuance increased slightly (0.2%). Multiple turkeys were harvested by 285 hunters — 202 hunters harvested two birds; 76 hunters harvested three birds; four hunters took four birds; and three hunters reported five birds.

At least one turkey was harvested from 147 of Connecticut's 169 towns (87%). Pomfret reported the highest harvest at 35 birds, followed by Woodstock (32) and Lebanon (30). State land hunters reported the highest harvest from Naugatuck State Forest (21), Cockaponset State Forest (14), and Housatonic State Forest (12). Regionally, the highest harvests were reported in turkey management zones 5 (206), 1 (136), and 2 (132).

In general, the highest harvest occurs on opening day and Saturdays. The 2010 spring season was no exception as 18% (223 birds) of the total harvest occurred on the first day of the season and 26% (319 birds) occurred on the five Saturdays. It is assumed that the majority of hunters had time off on these days, enabling them to enjoy recreational activities.

Junior Hunter Training Days

In an effort to provide a quality wild turkey hunting experience for Connecticut's junior hunters (ages 12 through 15), junior turkey hunter training days were scheduled on two Saturdays, April 17 and April 24. The daily shooting hours were extended from a 12:00 PM closure to a 5:00 PM closure to provide more opportunity for youths to partake in these special training days. Youths harvested 63 turkeys over the two days. The junior turkey hunter training days have been well received, with participants and mentors having many positive comments on past spring turkey hunter surveys. These days are proving to be a great way to introduce youth hunters to spring wild turkey hunting.

Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling

- Always treat every firearm as loaded.
- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Always keep the firearm unloaded until ready to hunt.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Always be sure of what lies between you and the target and what lies beyond.

Looking Ahead to the Fall Turkey Season

Despite allowing hunters to purchase both a state and private land permit, increasing the season length by a week at the beginning of the season, and providing additional opportunities for youth hunters, the overall fall harvest continues to decline. Because permit issuance has been similar during the past several years, the lower harvest may be attributed to declines in statewide turkey populations. Spring and early summer weather play a paramount role in the increase and decrease of statewide populations. Survival rates for poults and hens are higher in years with dry conditions, whereas rates decline with wet conditions. Past brood surveys, hunter success rates, and harvest results have indicated reduced survival of hens and poults during the past several years in Connecticut. However, preliminary results of the 2010 brood survey indicate good turkey productivity for this past spring. As a result, turkey hunters should encounter more birds this fall.

P. J. FUSCO

Michael Gregonis is a Biologist for the Division's Deer and Turkey Programs

Purple Martin

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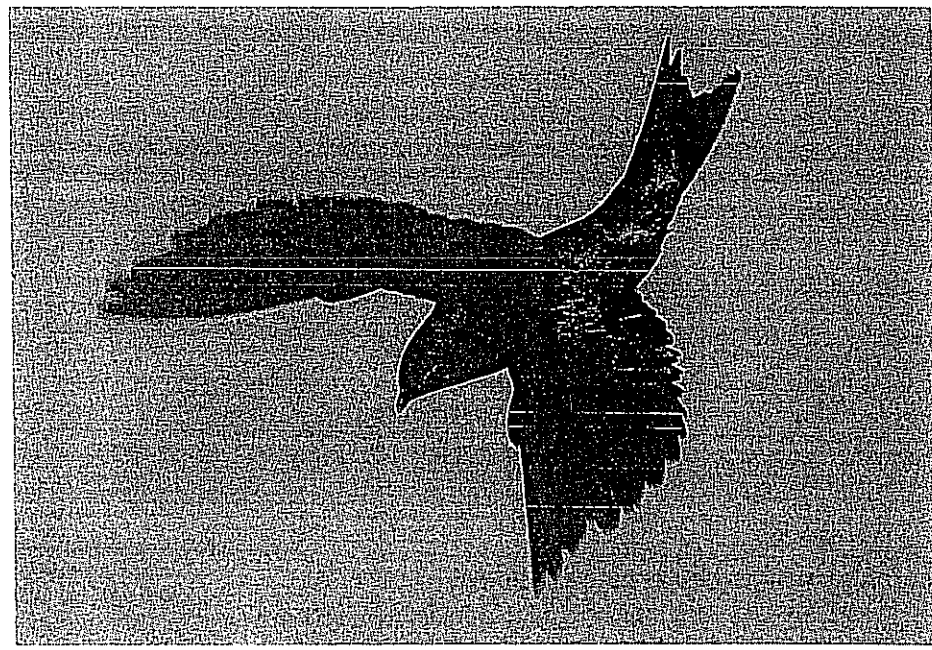

P. J. FUSCO

Background

The purple martin is one of North America's most beloved songbirds. It is known for its skillful aerial exhibitions, tolerance of humans, and pleasant twittering call. Humans have long sought to attract purple martins. Native Americans hung hollow gourds in saplings or on poles to encourage nesting in their villages. When European settlers arrived in the New World, they also adopted the custom of hanging gourds for martins. Today, the entire eastern race of purple martins (east of the Rocky Mountains) is totally dependent on humans for supplying them with nesting sites in the form of specially-designed houses or hollow gourds. If humans were to stop supplying martins with homes, they would likely disappear as a breeding bird in eastern North America. West of the Rocky Mountains, purple martins largely nest in the ancestral ways, in abandoned woodpecker nest cavities or other natural cavities in dead trees or cliffs.

Purple martins have declined in numbers over much of their range, including New England and Connecticut. Competition from more aggressive, non-native European starlings and house sparrows for the nesting compartments people offer has contributed to this decline. Pesticide use and prolonged weather extremes (unseasonably cold, rainy periods, heat waves or droughts) also are responsible for reducing martin numbers.

Distribution in New England

This swift-flying bird is a seasonal Connecticut resident that arrives in New England during April to begin its breeding and nesting season. As long as conditions remain favorable, martins will return year after year to the exact same nesting location. Their range only expands if suitable habitat is no longer available at a previously used site or if new sites or artificial roosts nearby attract younger returning martins. Vast congregations of purple martins begin their long southern migration in September to wintering grounds in South America, particularly Brazil.

Description

Purple martins are often called "dark swallows" in reference to their dark, glossy, purplish-blue plumage. Females and young martins are grayer and paler on their undersides than males. Purple martins are the largest member of the swallow family, ranging from 7.5 to 8.5 inches in length.

Females are often confused with their smaller relative, the tree swallow. The larger size of the martin and the grayness of its throat and breast distinguish it from the tree swallow, whose undersides are a vivid white. Male martins can be distinguished in flight from equally iridescent and similarly-sized starlings by their forked tail, longer wings, and typical swallow flight of short glides alternating with rapid flapping.

The complex song of a martin is a mixture of chortles and gurgles that begin with descending notes and end with a prolonged twitter. The call in flight is a jubilant twittering.

Habitat and Diet

Purple martins inhabit both urban and rural areas. They prefer open, grassy areas and forest openings near streams, rivers, marshes, ponds, or lakes. These openings provide a large "swoop zone" for catching insects. The most attractive backyard habitats include expanses of lawn or meadow near a large body of water.

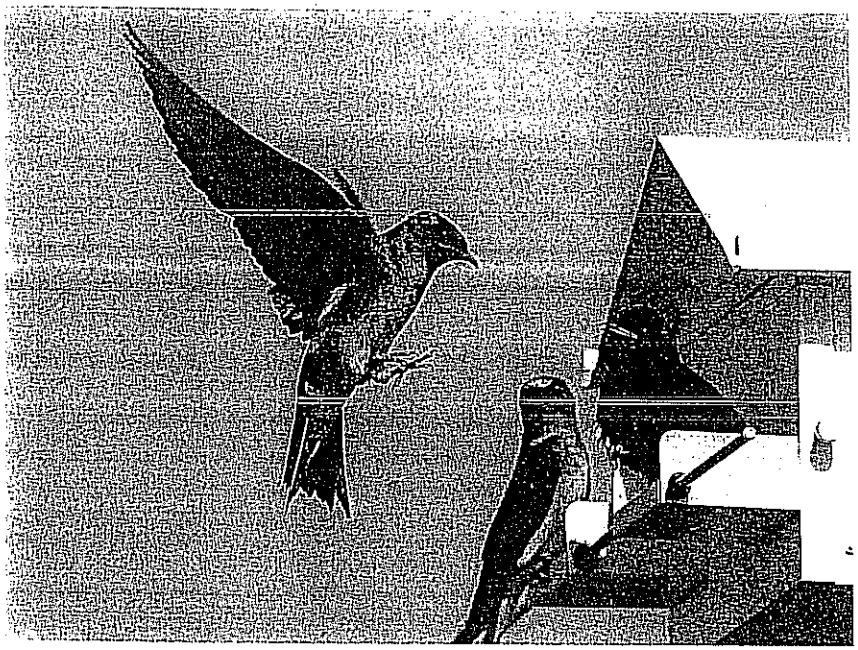
Like all swallows, purple martins feed almost entirely on insects. Vast amounts of insects, caught in flight, are consumed daily. A popular misconception is that martins are a major predator of mosquitoes. Extensive studies of feeding habits have shown that mosquitoes make up less than 3% of the martin's daily diet. Ironically, martins consume large quantities of adult dragonflies and damselflies whose aquatic nymphs are major predators of developing mosquito larvae.

Life History

A purple martin colony is not an assemblage of birds that travels or functions as a flock. Rather, it is a random grouping of birds attracted to a favorable breeding site. Colony members arrive and depart independently of each other.

Purple martins seek natural cavities or man-made apartment houses for nesting that are 15 feet or more above ground. Martins will return to the same nest site year after year as long as the habitat conditions meet their needs. Purple martins exhibit a stronger communal lifestyle than most other birds and will nest in colonies of varying sizes. This weak sense of territoriality extends primarily to other martins and not to competitors like starlings and house sparrows.

Male and female martins work together to construct a crude nest of leaves and twigs set on a thin layer of mud. Mud is often banked up along the front edge to prevent the eggs from rolling out of the nest cavity. The female incubates the 4 to 6 smooth, non-glossy white eggs for 24 to 32 days. After hatching, the young remain in the nest for 24 to 28 days and are fed insects by both adults. Young martins may continue to roost in the nest at night


P. J. FUSCO

after they are able to fly.

Establishing and Maintaining a Colony

The best way to help increase the purple martin population is to establish and manage artificial nesting cavities. Successfully attracting and hosting a purple martin colony depends on selecting quality housing, having the appropriate habitat, and practicing active colony management.

The first step you should take is to learn as much as possible about the birds and their needs. A good place to start is the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA), an international nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding purple martins through landlord education and scientific research. The PMCA Web site (www.purplemartin.org) offers a wealth of information, including details and recommendations for martin housing.

Choose the right location. Martins have specific space and habitat requirements. Their housing should be located in the center of the largest open area available, about 30-120 feet from human dwellings, and near water. There should be no trees within 40 feet, preferably 60 feet. Housing height should be about 10-15 feet.

Put up manageable housing. High quality aluminum martin houses that do not have continuous porches are recommended (these are available from PMCA). Housing should have easy access to compartments and a pole that telescopes, or is equipped with a winch or lanyard. Paint houses and gourds white; white housing attracts martins best and reflects sunlight, keeping nestlings cooler. Compartment floor dimensions should be at least 6 inches by 6 inches, but larger compartments (7" x 12") are preferred and offer better protection from predators and rain. An entrance hole of 2 1/8 inches is preferred. Make sure there is adequate ventilation and drainage in each compartment.

Protect housing from predators. Provide external guards to protect against owls, hawks, and crows, as well as climbing animal barriers or guards to protect against rat snakes, squirrels, and raccoons.

Conduct weekly nest checks and keep written records. Conducting nest checks is one of the most valuable practices landlords can adopt. Weekly nest checks will not cause martins to abandon their young. Rather, they'll help you discover any problems that occur in time to correct them, such as insect parasites. If parasites or wet nests threaten the survival of nestlings, replace the nest material with clean, dry wood shavings. You also should number the compartments and keep written records.

Practice active management. Do not allow competing cavity-nesters to claim the house first; returning martins will bypass already occupied houses even if some compartments remain empty. Starlings and house sparrows will take over compartments, destroy eggs, kill or injure nestlings and adults, and prevent martins from nesting at unestablished sites. Use starling resistant entrances on the house compartments and house sparrow traps to reduce threats from non-native birds. If native birds (tree swallows, wrens, bluebirds, or flycatchers) try to nest in your martin housing, close it and put up single-unit boxes for these desirable species elsewhere on your property. Reopen the martin housing only after the new box has been accepted.

Keep martin housing in good repair. Prior to the nesting season, make sure that gourds and/or houses are cleaned, repaired, and painted and that drainage holes are free of debris. Martin houses that are stored inside over winter will last longer.

Don't give up. If your martin house is not used the first year it is installed, do not be discouraged! Purple martins have a limited range in Connecticut and expand into new areas slowly. It may take several years before a martin house is occupied.

The Wildlife Division would like to thank the Purple Martin Conservation Association for granting permission for the use of information from its Web site (www.purplemartin.org) to produce this fact sheet.

Monitoring Martin Colonies

Landlords with active purple martin colonies in Connecticut are urged to contact the DEP Wildlife Division at 860-675-8130 or dep.wildlife@ct.gov. The Division is attempting to document all of the colonies in the state.

Landlords also should contact the Purple Martin Conservation Association at martininfo@purplemartin.org or PMCA, 301 Peninsula Dr., Suite 6, Erie, PA 16505 (814-833-7656). PMCA is sponsoring several important projects in which martin landlords can participate. The first project is the Colony Registration Program. The Association is attempting to locate the addresses of every active and inactive martin colony site in North America through this program. Landlords should fill out a free Colony Registration form to register their sites.

The second project, Project Martinwatch, is a continent-wide cooperative venture where the Association supplies nest record forms to active purple martin landlords to fill out as they conduct weekly nest checks on the martins breeding in their boxes or gourds. At season's end, the forms are totaled up and returned to PMCA for analysis.

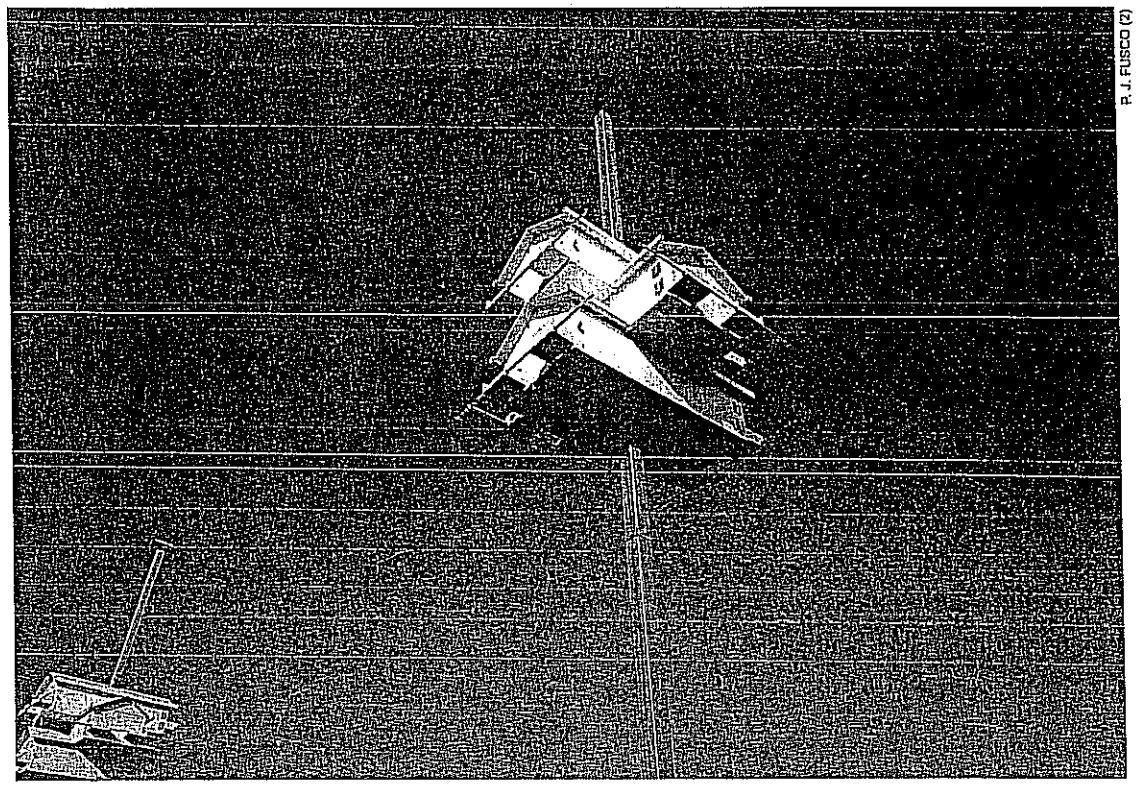
The third project is the Scout-arrival Survey. The northward migration of purple martins is tracked every season, continent-wide. Those who would like to participate in this survey by providing the date that martins were first seen in their community should visit PMCA's Web site (www.purplemartin.org) to submit their information.

These projects will allow the Purple Martin Conservation Association to obtain better continent-wide estimates of breeding success and population trends across North America.

Need for More Purple Martin Research

Figuring out where purple martins are and where they go

Written by Geoffrey Krukar



R.J. FUSCO (2)

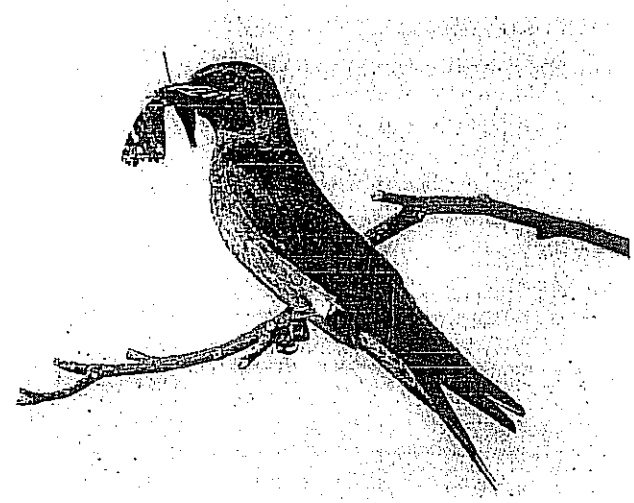
Generally, purple martins only nest in artificial structures, such as special-made houses or gourds.

Purple martin population numbers have declined significantly from historic levels in Connecticut and throughout New England. The reasons for this decline are not well understood. Attempts at expanding the population have been hampered by a lack of knowledge concerning current distribution and population size, dispersal patterns of young birds, and selection criteria of new nesting locations. As a result, the New England Purple Martin Working Group, of which Connecticut is a member, has identified these data needs as top priorities.

Determining where active purple martin colonies currently exist in Connecticut is made easier due to the birds' nesting habits. Generally, purple martins only nest in artificial structures, such as special-made houses or gourds. Consequently, population surveys should be focused in areas with nesting structures. The use of randomly placed survey points, as with other songbird surveys, likely would not yield useful information. Therefore, efforts this past summer were focused on visiting historic colonies identified by the DEP Natural Diversity Data Base.

Data collected during visits to each site included the presence or absence of nesting structures and/or active colonies, and general information about the house location and surrounding habitat. A few active colonies were identified either through observations made by the public or reports by colony managers (also known as landlords). To date, less than 15 active purple martin colonies have been confirmed by the Division.

Equally important to knowing where these birds occur is to understand what factors guide the dispersal patterns of second-year birds. It is believed that during their second year of life, martins will leave the birth colony to search for new locations to colonize. The Division has applied for a grant through the Endangered Species/Wildlife Income Tax Check-off Fund to study dispersal patterns of juvenile martins. If awarded, this grant will allow for the purchase of colored leg bands and colony starter kits (nest boxes and gourds). The leg bands will be affixed to juvenile martins at several of the largest colonies statewide in summer 2011. The bands will have identifying markers to denote the colony of origin and be uniquely colored to Connecticut. The intention is to use a network of volunteer observers to document movement patterns. At the same time, the colony starter kits will be erected at locations near known colonies. They will be placed in differing habitats and at various distances. Knowing how far martins will travel, and what habitat and landscape characteristics are being selected, will greatly assist with recovery efforts.



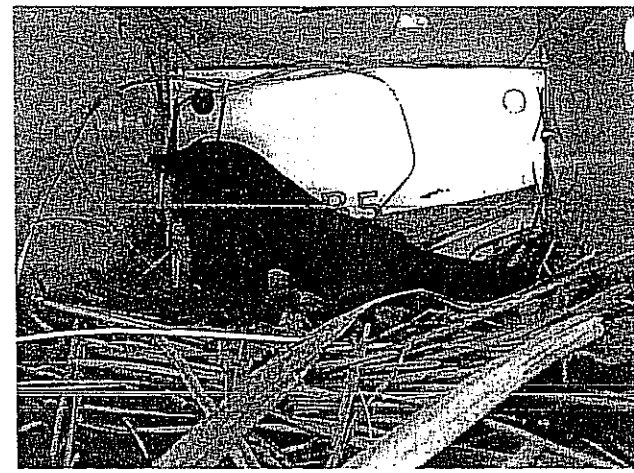
To date, less than 15 active purple martin colonies have been confirmed by the Wildlife Division.

Geoffrey Krukar is a Technician with the Wildlife Division's Bird Program

Hammonasset Beach State Park Is a Favored Destination for Purple Martins

Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison is a popular destination for beach visitors, hikers, campers, and birdwatchers. Birdwatchers, especially, have the opportunity to observe a variety of birds throughout the seasons. One of the most popular birds that can be watched regularly by both bird enthusiasts and routine visitors are the purple martins that nest in four specialized houses that have been erected at the park, thanks to funding from the Menunkatuck Audubon Society and the Friends of Hammonasset. Two of the houses are located near the Meigs Point Nature Center and two are adjacent to Chase Pond, also known as Swan Pond. The houses have 12 nesting compartments each and are equipped with a pulley system so they can be raised and lowered for monitoring and cleaning.

The houses are buzzing with activity every nesting season. Numerous adult martins can be seen perching on the houses or flying about as they hunt for insects. These martin houses would not be as busy as they are if it weren't for the tireless efforts of martin landlord John Picard and his monitoring partners, Shannon Sheisser and John Pfitzner. John's involvement with the Menunkatuck Audubon Society and his interest in purple martins put him in the perfect position to take over responsibility for the martin houses in 2005 from Charlie Rafford, who had been monitoring the houses and collecting data since 1991.

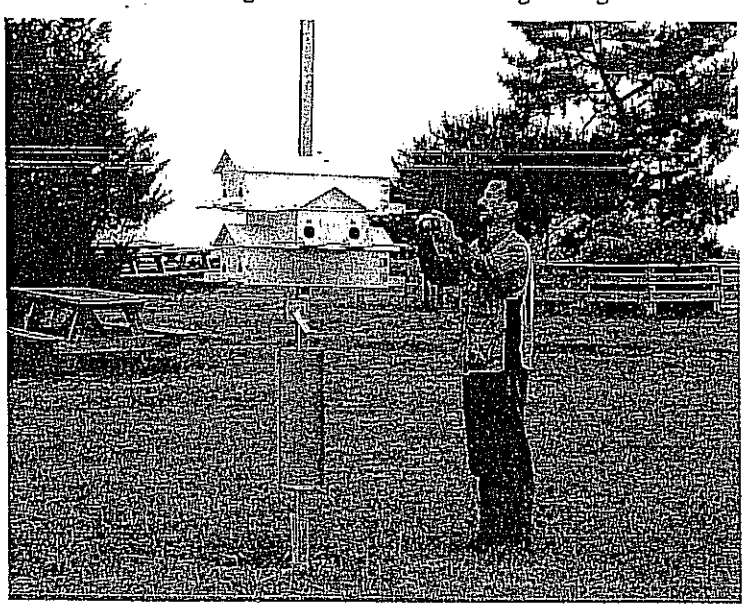


PHOTOS COURTESY J. PICARD, FRIENDS OF HAMMONASSET

A purple martin sits on her nest in a numbered compartment of a house monitored at Hammonasset State Park.

Every year since then, John, Shannon, and John Pfitzner begin checking the houses in mid- to late April when the martins start to return from their wintering areas in Brazil. At this time, their efforts are focused on preventing starlings and house sparrows from taking over the houses. These invasive birds, if not kept in check, can decimate a martin colony. Once the martins start building their nests, the houses are checked every few days. Daily nest checks begin when the eggs are laid.

According to John Picard, there are several methods and levels of monitoring a martin colony. A more casual approach of doing nest checks once or twice a week results in some level of success without extending much time and effort. More frequent or daily nest checks, however, will result in greater success. Daily checks condition the birds to the landlord's presence and, when done properly, do not disturb the birds. Monitoring consists of removing house sparrows (and starlings if the compartments do not have starling resistant openings), cleaning the boxes, removing nest parasites, changing nesting material as needed, removing dead birds and unhatched eggs, recording dates of events (nest building, egg laying, egg hatching, age and number of fledged birds), and returning fallen fledglings to the proper cavity.



Purple martin landlord John Picard has lowered a martin house at Meigs Point in Hammonasset State Park to take photographs for documentation.

Despite all of their hands-on efforts to help the martins successfully raise their young, John and his monitoring partners have to contend with two variables that are difficult to control: the weather and the threat of invasive birds. Weather has an incredible influence on the success of the martins. Too many cold and rainy days during the nesting season will prevent the martins from finding enough flying insects to sustain their young and feed themselves. The opposite effect also is detrimental; too many extremely hot and dry days will suppress the flying insect population and activity, which again will result in a lack of food for the martins.

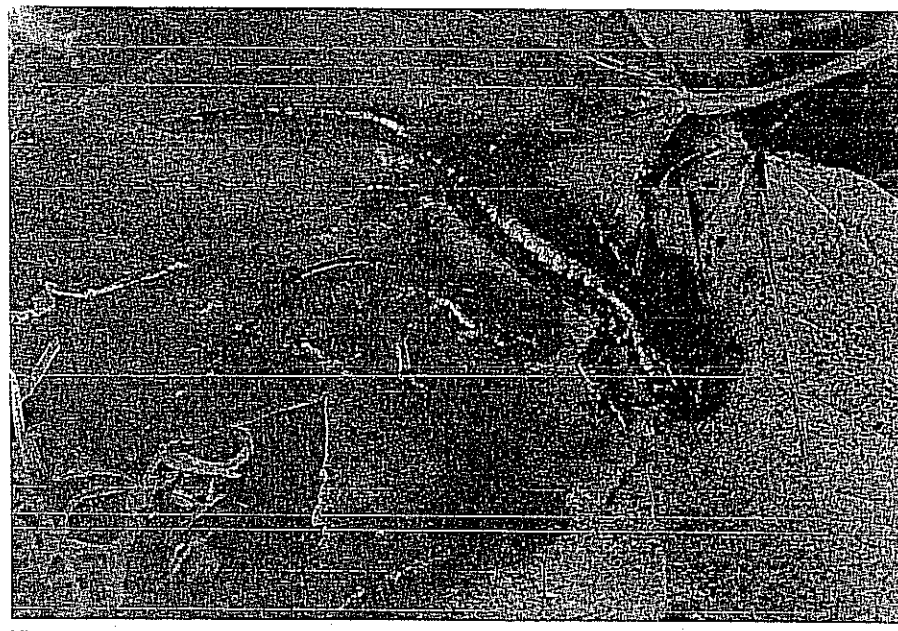
To help with the control of invasive starlings, the Menunkatuck Audubon Society purchased special doors for the nest compartments that allow the martins to enter, but not starlings. Unfortunately, deterring house sparrows is more difficult as there is no effective way of keeping them out of the boxes except for physically removing them.

Accurate records are kept of the martins at the colonies, from egg laying to fledging. John submits data collected from the colonies every year to the Purple Martin Conservation Association, the DEP Wildlife Division, and Connecticut Audubon Society. Between 2005 and 2010, 315 young martins have fledged from the houses at Hammonasset; 115 fledged this past nesting season.

As if John, Shannon, and John Pfitzner aren't busy enough monitoring the four martin houses, they also monitor 30 tree swallow boxes, four osprey platforms, and two kestrel boxes at Hammonasset State Park. And, John continues to monitor the 30 bluebird nest boxes on a bluebird trail in Clinton.

2010 Update to Connecticut's Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species List

The Department of Environmental Protection is required to review, at least every 5 years, the designation of species as endangered, threatened, or of special concern to determine whether species should be added or removed from the list; or, if necessary, a species should be changed from one category to another. The following is a summary of some of the changes to the State Endangered Species list (DEP Regulations Sections 26-306-4, 26-306-5, and 26-306-6) that became effective on July 1, 2010. Changes to the list of invertebrates and plants are published on the DEP Web site (www.ct.gov/dep/endangeredspecies).



The status of the blue-spotted salamander (diploid populations only) changed from threatened to endangered due to the latest review of CT's Endangered Species List.

Mammals

No changes were made.

Birds

- Seaside sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) upgraded to threatened
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) downgraded to threatened
- American oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) upgraded to threatened
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) downgraded to threatened
- Broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) added as special concern
- Common raven (*Corvus corax*) was delisted

Taxonomic changes:

- Least tern changed to *Sternula antillarum* from *Sterna antillarum*

Reptiles

- Smooth green snake (*Liochlorophis vernalis*) added as special concern

Taxonomic Changes:

- Wood turtle changed to *Glyptemys insculpta* from *Clemmys insculpta*
- Bog turtle changed to *Glyptemys muhlenbergii* from *Clemmys muhlenbergii*

Amphibians

- Blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*, diploid populations only) upgraded to endangered.

Fish

- Rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*, anadromous populations only) was upgraded to endangered
- Blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*) added as special concern
- Bridle shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*) added as special concern

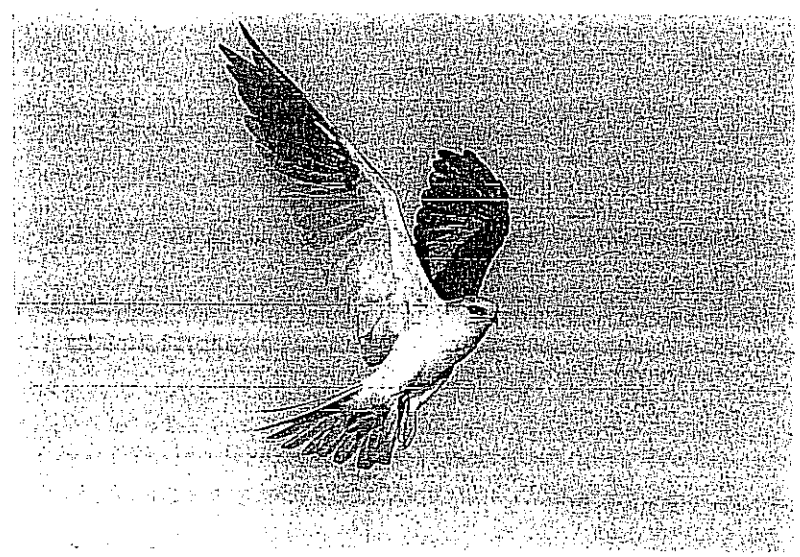
Rare Visitor Comes to Connecticut

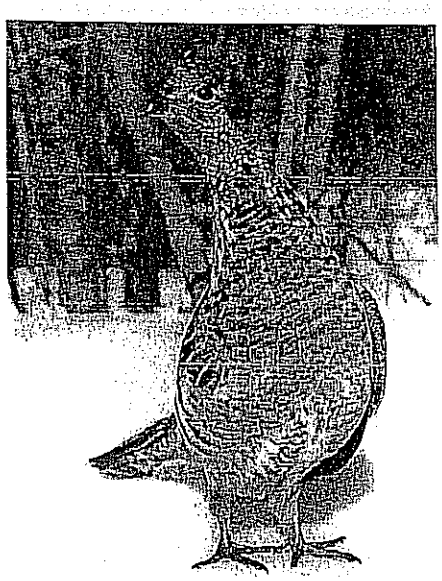
Connecticut played host to a rare visitor from the south this past summer when a white-tailed kite showed up at Stratford Point. The bird is a small, slender hawk with long, pointed wings and a long tail. It is mostly white, with a white tail, light gray topside, and black shoulders

Normally found in southern Florida, south Texas, California, and Mexico, the kite thrilled many onlookers for well over a month as it hunted the coastal grassland habitat of the former Remmington Gun Club property (currently being managed by the Dupont Corporation and the Connecticut Audubon Society) and nearby Stratford Short Beach. It regularly was seen hovering over the fields as it caught voles and rats seemingly at will.

To put the visit in perspective, the last time a white-tailed kite was documented in New England was in 1910, and that was a one day sighting on Martha's Vineyard.

Paul Fusco, Outreach Program





Report Grouse Observations

In an effort to obtain distribution and harvest information, the Wildlife Division is asking the public to report ruffed grouse sightings and to donate wings and tails from hunter harvested or roadkilled grouse. Grouse sightings may consist of actual bird observations or drumming activity. This information will assist biologists with determining present day locations of ruffed grouse populations in Connecticut. The wings and tails from hunter harvested or roadkilled birds help biologists determine the age and sex of the birds. This information assists in assessing productivity and harvest composition. To report grouse sightings or donate grouse parts, please contact Division biologist Michael Gregonis at michael.gregonis@ct.gov or 860-642-7239.

Michael Gregonis, Deer/Turkey Program

Emerald Ash Borer Found in New York Near CT Border

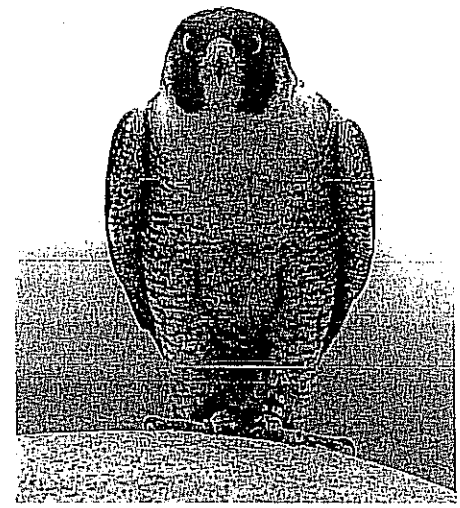
Federal agricultural officials confirmed in late July the presence of the emerald ash borer in Saugerties, New York (about 25 miles from the Connecticut border). The emerald ash borer is an extremely destructive plant pest that is responsible for the death and decline of over 25 million ash trees in the United States in urban and forested settings since June 2002. It has metallic green wing covers and a coppery red or purple abdomen, and it is about one-half inch long, with a flattened back.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is currently surveying for the emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, and other forest pests. Quarantine regulations are currently in place to prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle into the state. The DEP and CAES urge citizens not to transport firewood but to instead buy firewood locally, ideally from only a few miles away or at least in the same county.

Early detection, although difficult, is the best defense against further infestation. Connecticut residents should report possible emerald ash borer infestations to the CAES at 203-974-8474, 203-974-8485, or CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov (digital photos of suspect insects are helpful). Suspect infestations also can be reported to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine via their Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov.

More information on the emerald ash borer can be found on the DEP Website (www.ct.gov/dep), the CAES Web site (www.ct.gov/caes), and at www. emeraldashborer.info.

P. J. FUSCO (2)



Eagles and Peregrines

The bald eagle and peregrine falcon were recently down listed from endangered to threatened in Connecticut when the new Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern species regulations were approved on July 1, 2010. A criteria for threatened status is that the species has no more than 9 occurrences in the state. When the Avian Committee contemplated the status of these 2 species in 2008, they were working with data from 2007, which met the threatened criteria. The committee also considered if the pairs had been active for 5 consecutive years, which is indicative of a population that is stable or continuing to grow.

Bald Eagles: A total of 22 pairs were present in Connecticut this year; 18 were active and four were territorial. Of the 18 active pairs, six pairs failed and 12 pairs fledged 23 chicks. Due to inaccessibility or safety concerns about certain nesting trees, only five chicks in three nests were fitted with leg bands. This year, Connecticut had the highest number of failed nests ever recorded since eagles returned to nest in the state. One nest containing eggs just days away from hatching failed on April 1. The day before, heavy rains caused major flooding in Connecticut and Rhode Island. It is speculated that the eagle nest may have filled up with water and the eggs were destroyed or the adults could not keep the eggs dry and warm in such weather conditions. The other five nest failures also occurred after the storms on March 31.

Peregrine Falcons: Thirteen pairs were present this year; 10 were active, one was inactive, and two were territorial. Three of the active nests were not accessible, so the number of chicks could not be determined. Of the seven accessible nests, 19 chicks fledged, and 13 chicks at three nest sites were banded.

Julie Victoria, Wildlife Diversity Program

Peter Aarrestad Is New Inland Fisheries Division Director

Peter Aarrestad has been selected as the new Director to lead the Inland Fisheries Division in the DEP Bureau of Natural Resources. Peter received his B.S. degree in Biology from Eastern Connecticut State University and an M.S. degree in Fisheries and Natural Resource Management from the University of Connecticut. He has provided leadership in numerous governmental and professional organizations, in particular as President of the Instream Flow Council, a national organization working to advance the scientific and ecologically sound management of riverine systems. Peter has been with DEP for over 24 years in positions of increasing responsibility, working with both marine and inland fisheries. He most recently served as a Supervising Fisheries Biologist in charge of the Inland Fisheries Division's Habitat Conservation and Enhancement Program. Peter will lead the Inland Fisheries Division in its mission to conserve and enhance fish populations and aquatic habitat and continue expanding recreational fishing opportunities. This will be accomplished through the administration of five program areas; Fish Culture (hatcheries), Fisheries Management, Aquatic Resources Education, Diadromous Fisheries Restoration (fish that migrate between fresh and saltwater), and Habitat Conservation and Enhancement. Peter is a native of Connecticut and an avid outdoors person who will bring great passion and commitment to the conservation and management of our fisheries resources.

Wildlife Calendar Reminders

Programs at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center

Programs are a cooperative venture between the Wildlife Division and the Friends of Sessions Woods. Please pre-register by calling 860-675-8130 (Mon.-Fri., 8:30 AM-4:30 PM). Programs are free unless noted. An adult must accompany children under 12 years old. No pets allowed! Sessions Woods is located at 341 Milford St. (Route 69) in Burlington.

Nov. 13 ..... **Sessions Woods Fall Hike,** starting at 1:00 PM. Join Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro of the Wildlife Division for a 2-mile hike at Sessions Woods. Laura will provide participants with an introduction to tree identification and forest ecology. Participants will discover unique facts about Connecticut's native trees and their wildlife value. This program will begin in the exhibit room of the Conservation Education Center. Please wear appropriate shoes for hiking and bring water.

Dec. 11 ..... **Children's Program: Wildlife Tracks & Signs,** starting at 1:30 PM. Learn about wildlife tracks indoors with Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro and then head outside for a short walk to look for animal signs. Children also will make a wildlife track to take home. An adult must accompany all children. Meet in the small classroom in the exhibit area of the Conservation Education Center.

Hunting Season Dates

Sept. 15-Nov. 16..... First portion of the deer and turkey bowhunting season on state land.

Sept. 15-Dec. 31..... Deer and turkey bowhunting season on private land (private land bowhunters in deer management zones 11 & 12 may hunt deer until January 31, 2011) and on state land bowhunting only areas.

Oct. 2-Oct. 30..... Fall firearms turkey seasons on state and private land.

Oct. 9..... Junior Pheasant Hunter Training Day

Oct. 9 & Oct. 11..... Junior Waterfowl Hunter Training Days

Oct. 16..... Opening day for the small game hunting season.

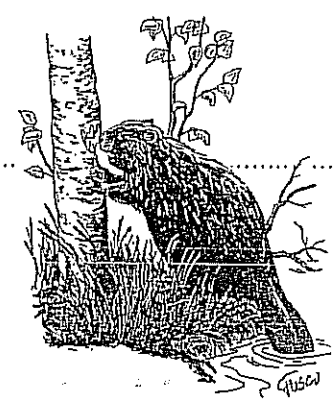
Nov. 6 & Nov. 13 .... Junior Deer Hunter Training Days

Nov. 17-Dec. 7..... Private land shotgun/rifle deer hunting season.

..... Consult the 2010 Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide for specific season dates and details. The 2010-2011 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide contains information on duck, goose, woodcock, rail, and snipe seasons. Both guides are on the DEP Web site (www.ct.gov/dep/hunting), and also at town halls, DEP facilities, bait and tackle shops, and outdoor equipment stores. Go to www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing to purchase Connecticut hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses, as well as all required deer, turkey, and migratory bird permits and stamps. The system accepts payment by VISA or MasterCard.

License Fee Credit: *The DEP will be issuing a credit against the cost of 2011 fishing and hunting licenses, permits, and tags for those who purchased these items between October 1, 2009, and April 14, 2010. Find out how to obtain your credit by visiting www.ct.gov/dep or refer to future issues of* Connecticut Wildlife.

Daily Hawk Watch *at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven: September 1 through November 30, starting at 7:00 AM and continuing as long as the hawks keep flying (see page 5 for more details on hawk watches).*



Connecticut Wildlife

Subscription Order

Please make checks payable to:
Connecticut Wildlife, P.O. Box 1550, Burlington, CT 06013

Check one:

☐ 1 Year ($8.00) ☐ 2 Years ($15.00) ☐ 3 Years ($20.00)

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Donation to the Wildlife Fund:

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Help fund projects that benefit songbirds, threatened and endangered species, reptiles, amphibians, bats, and other wildlife species.

Connecticut Wildlife

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Bureau of Natural Resources / Wildlife Division
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Burlington, CT 06013-1550

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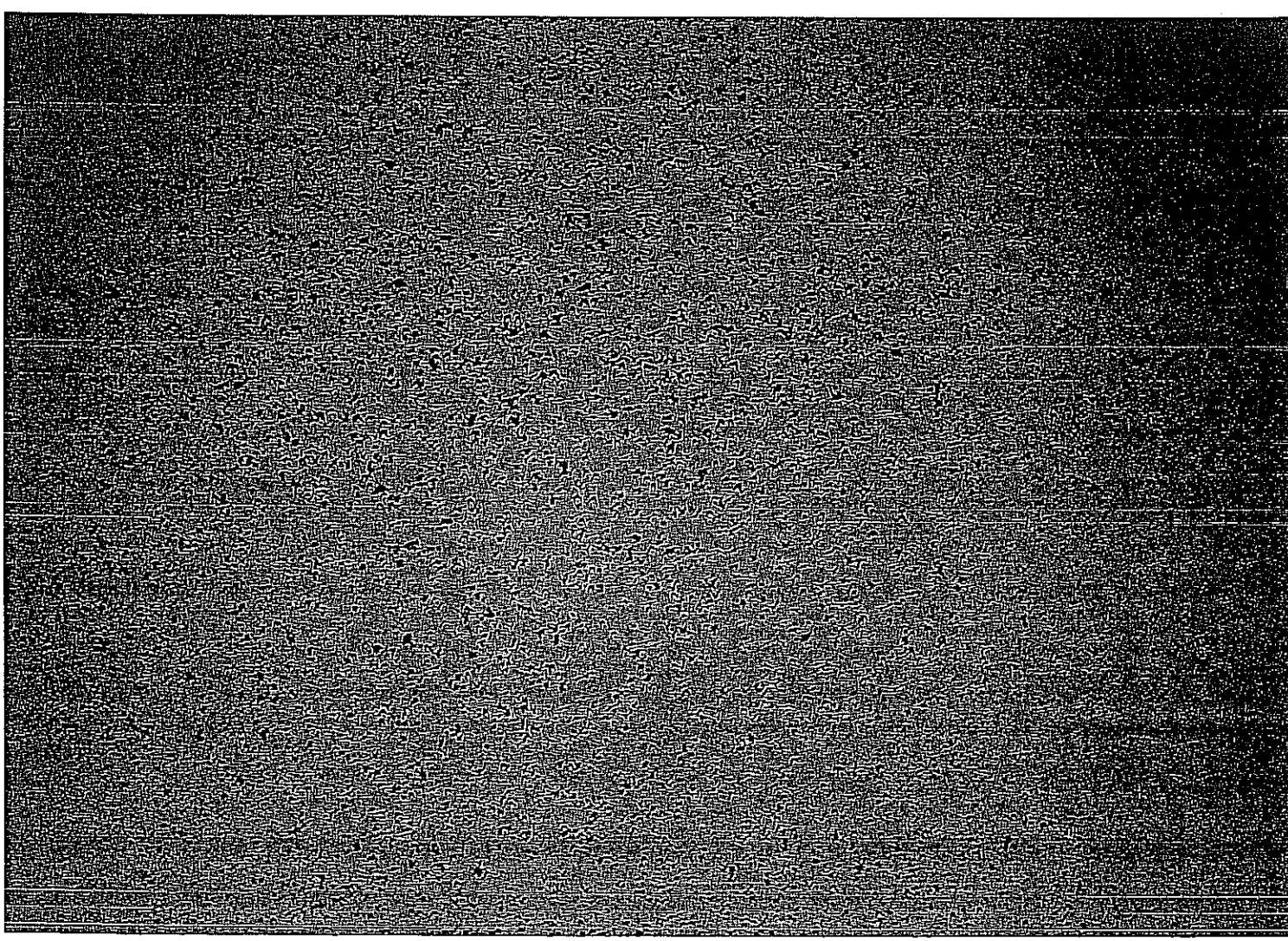
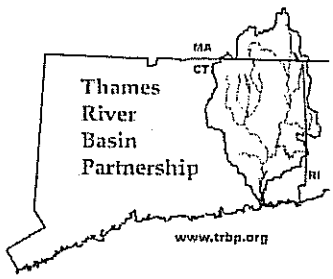
TOWN HALL
4 S EAGLEVILLE RD
STORRS MANSFIELD CT 06268-2574



Arguably the most spectacular wildlife phenomenon to happen in Connecticut is the annual staging of migrant tree swallows on the lower Connecticut River. During September, they gather every night at dusk, by the hundreds of thousands, to roost in isolated reeds.



Thames River Basin Partnership

Partners in Action Quarterly Report

Autumn 2010 Volume 18

The Thames River watershed includes the Five Mile, French, Moosup, Natchaug, Pachaug, Quinebaug, Shetucket, Willimantic, and Yantic Rivers and all their tributaries. We're not just the "Thames main stem."

Greetings from the Thames River Basin Partnership. Once again this quarter our partners have proven their ability to work cooperatively on projects compatible with the TRBP Workplan and in support of our common mission statement to share organizational resources and to develop a regional approach to natural resource protection. I hope you enjoy reading about these activities as much as I enjoy sharing information about them with you. For more information on any of these updates, just click on the blue website hyperlinks in this e-publication, but be sure to come back to finish reading the rest of the report.

Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Coordinator
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

If you missed the autumn meeting of the Thames River Basin Partnership meeting in Sprague, then you missed a guided tour of fish habitat restoration work completed in 2009 in the Shetucket River. The group was welcomed to the Sprague Town Hall by First Selectman Catherin Oston. After a short business meeting, the partners relocated to nearby Salt Rock Camp Ground to meet up with Brian Murphy of the CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division. Partnering with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, three constructed log jams and three constructed floating log covers were installed by CT DEP to enhance instream fish habitats. For more information on this project, click here. The CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division has also conducted several other fish habitat improvement projects in this watershed. You can learn more about them by clicking here. CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division is interested in hearing from riverfront property owners that may be interested in working with them and other partners on riverine habitat enhancement work. For more information, please contact Brian Murphy at Brian.Murphey@ct.gov.

TRBP News

The CT DEP Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management staff is scheduled to complete the third season of Phragmites herbicide treatments and mulching in Poquetanuck Cove this autumn. This project is a partnership of the TRBP, Avalonia Land Conservancy, the DEP WHAMM Program, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thank you to everybody that has supported the Thames River Basin Partnership through the purchase of a rain barrel. If you have not already done so, it is time to drain your rain barrel and put it away for winter storage.

Partner Reports

The State of Connecticut has a new State Conservationist. Jay Mar comes to Connecticut from Wyoming where he served as Assistant State Conservationist for Programs as well as Small Watershed Program Manager. Mar was born in Minot, North Dakota, and grew up on farms in the White Earth Valley and Red River Valley. He began his conservation career planting trees for the Ward County Soil Conservation District. He brings 30 years of diverse conservation experience with NRCS. One of his focus areas will be on enhanced conservation partnerships in Connecticut.

The fall conference for the New England Association of RC&D Councils was focused on sustainable agriculture and agricultural energy efficiency/renewable energy. There were several excellent sessions and tours highlighting some of the innovations and efficiency measures being undertaken on farms in the Pioneer Valley, and fostered by the Berkshire-Pioneer "Massachusetts Farm Energy Program." This year, the award for "Outstanding Performance by an RC&D Council" for New England was given to the Eastern Connecticut RC&D. The "Outstanding Performance by a Coordinator" awards were given to Liz Rogers, the NRCS Coordinator for the Eastern CT RC&D and to Rick DeMark of North Country RC&D (New Hampshire). Also this year the award for "Outstanding Performance by a Council Member" went to John Guszkowski, President of the Eastern CT RC&D Council. Congratulations to our colleges at Eastern CT RC&D! Each of these award winners are the official New England entry for these same categories at the national level. Those awards are chosen by the National Association of RC&D Areas and will be named in January.

Charlie McCaughtry of the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TVTU) was awarded the Distinguished Volunteer Award at the 2010 Trout Unlimited National Meeting. In addition, an environmental education day sponsored by TVTU and Joshua's Trust were recognized in the "Trout" magazine with a short article and photos of the event. Look for it on pages 50 and 51 in fall 2010 issue.

The TVTU sponsored "Walking with Trout" at Salt Rock Campground as part of The Last Green Valley's (TLGV) Annual Walktober events. The program was a great success! About thirty people signed up for the walk and they came from distant places including Rhode Island, Florida, and California. Lots of campers stopped by their information tent for apples, cider and donuts and to talk with TU volunteers. The week before the event, 100 large Atlantic salmon were stocked in the Shetucket River and when they rose during the walk it was WAHOO!! Many TU members are reporting great catch-and-release fishing near the Fish Habitat Enhancement area featured at the October TRBP meeting.

The low flow conditions in the rivers and streams in eastern Connecticut this summer were very distressing. Please visit the River News page on the TVTU website for comprehensive information about the streamflow regulations. The DEP's proposed stream flow regulations are to be considered by the Regulations Review Committee in the near future.

Mile-a-minute vine that was discovered by a TU member who helped DEP eradicate it. It was discovered near Sandy Beach on the Shetucket River. We should all know what it looks like and

if discovered, report the location to DEP. For more information on Mile-a-minute vine, click here.

Trout Unlimited has asked manufacturers to discontinue the manufacture of felt-soled wading boots in 2011 due to the danger of spreading aquatic nuisance species in our streams. Here is a link to TU"s press release on the subject. *Cabelas* in East Hartford provided two links to information on how to clean your felt-soled waders and other equipment to help solve the same problem. Since many people will be heading to the steams soon in felt-soled boots, this information is very timely. The first link is to www.protectyourwaters.net. This link is sponsored by the USFWS and the U.S. Coast Guard. The second link is to www.cleaninspectdry.com/default.asp. This is a website sponsored by the Greater Yellowstone Area Working Group.

The TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator Jean Pillo was the featured speaker at the September 2010 TVTU meeting. She gave a stream side rapid bioassessment demonstration followed by a presentation on volunteer water quality monitoring opportunities in the Last Green Valley for approximately 50 people.

After a four year hiatus, the Green Valley Institute organized a weekend retreat for 29 conservation volunteers. The 3 day workshop called A New Introduction to the Natural World featured lessons on soils, hydrology, map reading and how land use decisions impact natural resources and the environment. Each participant committed to provide one year service in a volunteer position in The Last Green Valley. The program was a sponsored by The Last Green Valley and UCONN Extension System, in partnership with TNC, USDA NRCS, ECCD, CT Audubon and others.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) presented their annual GreenCircle Awards during a ceremony at The Siemon Company in Watertown. The GreenCircle awards program celebrates volunteer efforts, both large and small, that make a difference in the state of Connecticut. Eastern Connecticut GreenCircle award winners are:

- MANSFIELD CENTER Lynne Warren is a certified Master Gardener volunteer who has spent over 800 volunteer hours over 2.5 years designing, installing and maintaining the Richard Haley Native Plant Wildlife Gardens at DEP's Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center. She led the effort to create a program of collecting native plant seeds, propagating plants, and selling seeds and plants to raise funds for the Center.

- PRESTON Employee Volunteers of Covanta, Southern Connecticut: Volunteers from Covanta of Southeastern Connecticut (Covanta SECONN) partnered with the Connecticut Nature Conservancy to improve the habitat for local flora and fauna at TNC's Poquetanuck Cove Preserve located in Ledyard, CT.

- TAFTVILLE BSA Troop 80: In May 2009, the BSA Troop 80 of Taftville organized and followed through with a cleanup of the environmentally challenged area on the riverbanks of the Quinebaug River between the Greenville Dam fish ladder and the Eighth Street Bridge. The scouts cleared four paths for local recreational fishermen to use as new places to fish.

Since the Winter 2010 DEP presentation to TRBP about the proposed regulations, DEP received nearly 400 written comments. DEP released a revised and final version of the regulation this past August, meeting the requirements of the 2005 Connecticut public act on minimum stream flow standards (PA 05-142). The final regulation addresses concerns from several water utilities and others that include resetting a compliance time frame for major users now to ten years. There were additional changes to proposed Class 4 rivers. The regulation was submitted to the Attorney General's office, and now are in front the Connecticut Legislative Regulation Review Committee, who may make a decision in late October or November. DEP website updates are available here.

The 2010 CT Integrated Water Quality Assessment report, which includes the sections formerly referred to as the "305(b) and 303(d)" reports, is still in internal draft form and has not been released for public comment. The 2008 statewide report is posted at here.

The CT DEP proposed new Water Quality Standards revisions that went out for public comment in the last year. There was significant vocal opposition from some community constituents. DEP has reviewed the nearly 60 written comments submitted while redrafting the standards. The current standards and proposed revisions, with public comments, are posted here.

CT DEP announced the Open Space and Watershed Lands Acquisition Grant awards. The awards announced within the Thames River Basin include the following:

- Town of Coventry – Malon property 36 acres $105,000
- Town of Sprague – Watson property 230 acres $276,816
- Wyndham Land Trust (Thompson) Robbins Property (Five Mile River) 123.5 acres $230,000
- Town of Preston - Preston Pequot Trail 143 acres $230,000
- Town of Tolland – Luce Property 83.33 acres $270,000
- Additional TRBP partners and greater basin towns receiving open space grant awards include Groton, Groton Open Space Association, Avalonia Land Conservancy (North Stonington) and the Nature Conservancy (Salem).

The CT Department of Public Works recently submitted a letter to the CT DEP indicating a custody and control transfer of a 13+ acre parcel of the former Norwich State Hospital property, within the town of Norwich. The property is situated between Route 12 and the Providence and Worcester rail line that runs along the east side of the Thames River. DEP's request for this parcel was based on the protection of water quality of the Thames River.

Connecticut's Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy is a guidance document meant for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Forestry, and our forest conservation partners in academia, extension, non-profits, regional, municipal, and private landowners. State Assessments are intended to identify key forest-related issues and priorities to support development of the long-term State Strategies. State assessments and strategies focus on three national S&PF themes:
1. Conserving working forest landscapes;

2. Protecting forests from harm; and
3. Enhancing public benefits from trees and forests.
With the completion of this document, state agencies are now eligible to receive direct financial assistance, apply for competitive grants, and accept other support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service through the Cooperative Forest Assistance Act (CFAA).

Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are preparing a proposal for a cost sharing project for further outreach efforts related to Poquetanuck Cove. Under consideration for this funding would be a kiosk at the Town of Ledyard car top boat launch area at Royal Oaks Drive and printing a limited supply of waterproof Poquetanuck Cove Canoe/Kayak Paddle Guides that were developed for the TRBP Floating Workshop 10.

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) staff recently completed their field work related to Contamination Source Investigations (CSI) in three project areas. They are now in the process of reviewing the data in order to develop abbreviated watershed based plans for area. Each of the projects was related to bacterial contamination, but the settings varied from urban to rural so each investigation was unique to the land use in the surrounding area. The Spaulding Pond (Norwich) Water Quality Improvement Plan is expected to be completed by mid November. The Baker Cove (Groton) and Mashamoquet Brook (Pomfret) projects should be completed by this winter.

ECCD presented several conservation awards at their October 13, 2010 annual meeting. The awards were presented to recognize outstanding volunteers and special partnership relationships.

- The Town of Lisbon was recognized with the Supporting Town Award in appreciation of their generosity to provide meeting space for many ECCD events. First Selectman Tom Sparkman received the award on behalf of the town.

- Syma Ebbin of Connecticut Sea Grant was awarded the Professional Project Contributor Award for cooperative education and outreach efforts in the Niantic River watershed, supplementing ECCD's efforts to implement the Niantic River Water Quality Improvement Plan.

- Bet Zimmerman of Woodstock received the Conservation Journalism Award for a weekly conservation themed column in the Villager newspapers. Her articles are archived at www.ourbetternature.org.

- The Muddy Boots Award was co-received by Grace Jacobson of Woodstock and Beverly Thornton of Brooklyn for their dedicated volunteer service assisting ECCD in the weekly collection of water samples in Pomfret as part of a bacterial contamination source investigation.

- Eric Thomas of the CT Department of Environmental Protection was presented with the ECCD Watershed Champion Award in appreciation of his dedication to protecting the

water resources of Connecticut and for generously sharing his vast knowledge of local watersheds, as well as for being a great interagency facilitator.

- This year's Project Partnership Award was given to The Last Green Valley, Inc in recognition of a five year partnership with ECCD in support of TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator. Receiving this award on behalf of The Last Green Valley was Deputy Executive Director Lois Bruinooge.

- Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator Elizabeth "Liz" Rogers of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service was presented with the Partner Organization Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of helping improve the region's natural resource conservation organizations, including ECCD.

The Last Green Valley (TLGV) partnered with the Town of Killingly on a river clean up in the Danielson section of town. Volunteers removed a ton of trash from the Five Mile River. The volunteers used a modified trash data card based on a model available from American Rivers. Any interested groups who would like to use the same format, please contact Lois.

TLGV Water Trails Committee continues to make progress on promoting the use of our rivers by recreational boaters. A new kiosk was installed at the Killingly boat launch with financial assistance by United Natural Foods. Another kiosk was installed at Robert Manship Park in Canterbury as the result of an Eagle Scout project. Both of these boat launch areas provide access to the Quinebaug River. The Willimantic River Alliance will soon be releasing a new paddle guide for the Willimantic River. A downloadable version will also be available from their website.

TLGV water subcommittee has been awarded two LaMotte Smart2 Colorimeters and 2 secchi disks with cords as part of an expansion of the volunteer water quality monitoring program. This equipment is being provided as part of a US EPA Equipment Loan Program. The colorimeters will be used to measure the amounts of nitrates and phosphates in our aquatic environments. Secchi disks are a means to measure the water transparency in lakes and ponds. If you are interested in participating in the 2011 Secchi Dip-in, contact Jean for more information.

The Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association (ASRWWA) will be developing a plan to protect the Hunts Brook watershed above the Miller Pond outlet. This Waterford area watershed has been designated as a potential public water supply source. Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA) has an agreement with the owner of Miller Pond to develop the pond as a public water supply. SCWA's Regional Water Supply Plan projects a water deficit to begin occurring between 2010 and 2020; with the projected deficit of approximately 10 million gallons per day (mgd) by 2040. Using the Hunts Brook watershed as a public water source has the potential to reduce that deficit by 1.5 mgd. If you are interested in being involved on the steering committee, please contact Marc Cohen. ASRWWA is also working with the Town of Putnam to expand their current well field.

News from the Municipalities

The Town of Sprague has created a river overlay zone for the Shetucket and Little Rivers. Their current Zoning Regulations include the recent amendment that outline the special permitting process within the Watercourse Focus Area Overlay Zone Requirements. Click here to review the zoning regulations. Look in Section 4.1.10 for a description of this new zone, and in 7 A for the Watercourse Focus Area Overlay Zone Requirements and Section 16.23 for Special Permit requirements. To view the zoning map that includes a Natural Resource Protection Zone including the Shetucket River and Little River corridors, click here.

By unanimous vote, the Town of Pomfret approved the purchase of the development rights on 468 acres of forested land for $1,000.000. This parcel contains the legendary Lost Village. The property will remain in private ownership and permission of the landowner is required to visit this land.

Other news

Officials from the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and The Nature Conservancy released BioMap 2, a comprehensive land conservation strategy that includes an updated map of the Commonwealth's most critical lands, waters and habitats, and a plan to protect the Commonwealth's plants and wildlife in the context of a changing climate. BioMap2 was developed by a partnership between DFG 's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) and its Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and The Nature Conservancy.

New Hampshire's "2010 Guide to Upland Invasive Species Booklet" can be found at: http://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/plant_industry/index.htm

EPA's Office of Water launched a new Web clearinghouse of Lake Shoreland Protection Resources, which provides practitioners with links to key resources to protect and restore fragile lake shorelands and to promote better stewardship by lakeside property owners and others who recreate on lakes. The clearinghouse, which includes links to fact sheets, webcasts, videos, and other helpful resources for lakeshore protection, is part of an outreach campaign to educate the public and others about the key findings of the National Lakes Assessment (NLA). According to the NLA, poor lakeshore habitat and high levels of nutrients are leading stressors affecting the biological health of lakes. Among the key findings:

- 56% of our lakes are in good biological condition.
- More than one-third of our lakes exhibit poor shoreline condition; poor biological health is three times more in lakes with poor lakeshore habitat.
- Nearly 20% of lakes have high levels of nutrients. Lakes with excess nutrients are 2.5 times more likely to have poor biological health.
- Microcystin - an algal toxin that can harm humans, pets and wildlife - is present in about one-third of lakes across the country.

Upcoming Workshops

The Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions will be celebrating four decades of environmental conservation & habitat protection on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at their annual conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Mountain Ridge on

High Hill Road, Wallingford, CT. This conference will be attended by over 200 participants from Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commissions and staff. For directions and/or brochure go to http://www.caciwc.org/

The Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret will be presenting an introductory program on their Citizen Science Volunteer Mammal Monitoring Project on Wednesday, Nov. 17, beginning at 7:00 p.m. This program will take place at 189 Pomfret Street (Route 169) in Pomfret Center. This program will be free of charge. Center at Pomfret Paula Coughlin, program coordinator, will show slides, animal mounts, and share stories about trained volunteers who participate in this exciting local conservation effort. Please call to register.
Additional training hikes are necessary to become a program volunteer. Select training hikes that suit your schedule throughout the seasons. (Dates are subject to change due to weather conditions.)

- Sat. Dec. 4, 2010 – Canterbury
- Sat. Jan. 8, 2011 – Woodstock
- Sat. Jan. 22, 2011 – Canterbury
- Sat. Feb. 5, 2011 – Canterbury
- Sat. Feb. 19, 2011 - Woodstock

Registration required. There is a program fee per hike: $50 members; $60 non-members. Canterbury residents' fees covered by US Fish and Wildlife grant. For information call Paula Coughlin, Citizen Science Coordinator, 860-928-4948; or email Paula or call Kathleen Hart at the Canterbury Public Library at 860-546-9022.
Learn about your natural environment with your friends and neighbors. Become a Citizen Science Volunteer! Visit The CT Audubon Society website for more information about the Mammal Monitoring Program.

Forest Conservation Action is focus of 6th Annual Connecticut Forest Forum. Join forest conservation enthusiasts from all walks of life on Tuesday, November 23rd for the 6th Annual Connecticut Forest Forum at the University of Connecticut Greater Hartford Campus (1800 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT). Registration is $35 ($25 for students and volunteers). For more details, including how to register, click here.

Soil and Water Conservation Society, Southern New England Chapter Winter Meeting, will feature a workshop entitled *From Rain to Runoff* on December 17, 2010 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM. This meeting will take place at The Bishop Center, Room 7, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. For additional information call 413-213-6885 or email anliker@charter.net<mailto:anliker@charter.net>

If you would like your organization's efforts included in the next edition of the TRBP Partners in Action Report, consider attending one of our quarterly meetings. It includes a Plan of Work activity reporting session, which is an informal "round the table" discussion of Partner activities.

It is a great time to network with like-focused organizations. All meetings begin at 9:30 AM. Generally, the TRBP meet quarterly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

The next meeting of the Thames River Basin Partnership will be held on Tuesday, January 18 beginning at 9:30 AM at a place to be determined. Look for updates at www.trbp.org. Please mark your calendars to save the date. Meeting content and locations will be posted on the TRBP Calendar of upcoming events, or contact Jean Pillo at (860) 928-4948 for more information or to be added to the TRBP distribution list

If you are not already on the e-distribution list for this publication, contact Jean Pillo by email and request to be added, or you can download the most current version of this quarterly publication from the TRBP website.

The Thames River Basin Partnership is a voluntary, cooperative effort to share resources, and strives to develop a regional approach to resource protection. The Partnership is made up of a variety of agencies, organizations, municipalities, educational institutions, companies, and individuals interested in the environmental health of the greater Thames River basin. Sources of funding are being sought to continue the TRBP Coordinator position. Please consider making a donation to the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District and designate it to support the Thames River Basin Partnership Coordinator position.

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