



December 2015/January 2016

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Solar energy lifts life on earth

REGIONAL COLLABORATION CONFERENCE

Strengthening Regional Collaboration to Fight Fracked Gas Pipelines and Infrastructure

by Martha Klein

Fighting the expansion of “natural” methane gas infrastructure in the northeastern United States was the topic December 5th and 6th when the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter hosted a regional meeting of Sierra Club groups and chapters.



The meeting initiated a strengthening regional collaboration within the Sierra Club; many chapters have already been working with other environmental groups, in particular 350.org, but haven't focused on cross-chapter collaborations. Now, this regional Sierra Club alliance enhances our ability and power to influence politicians, regulators, media and the public about the need to stop the fracked gas transport and export infrastructure expansion immediately, and invest in energy efficiencies and 100% renewable power sources instead.

Sierra Club members from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania attended, as well as National Sierra Club staff from Washington DC and Denver, CO.

The conference also afforded the Connecticut Chapter the opportunity to meet with the researcher who has mapped out gas pipeline leaks in Boston. The chapter will hire the research firm to do the same in Hartford. The information on location of leaky pipelines has been instrumental in Massachusetts to proposing state and local legislation that would protect consumers from the cost and the public from the health threats of leaking gas. This model is one the Connecticut Chapter hopes to replicate.

Cross-chapter collaboration provides our chapter with the means to learn from and model other successful chapter initiatives.

RALLIES

100% RENEWABLE ENERGY RALLY

Held in November by Sierra Club CT Chapter
by Martha Klein

A rally to call attention to the need to transition to 100% renewable energy for 100% of the people was hosted by the Sierra Club CT Chapter and allies on the steps of the State Capitol building in Hartford November 21, 2015.

Nearly 200 people gathered to hear a diverse roster of speakers on a number of issues related to climate disruption including:

Environmental destruction

Adverse health impacts

Social justice

Environmental racism

*The struggle of homeowners to protect their property
from pipeline construction*

Non violent direct actions some are taking to fight fracked gas infrastructure expansion



Desmond Batts, Sierra Club, Addresses Rally at CT State Capitol

Speakers and Their Affiliations

- Wildaliz Bermudez - a new and young member of the Hartford City Council, who cares deeply about environmental and justice issues
- Desmond Batts, Diane Lentakis and Martha Klein - Sierra Club CT Chapter
- Marge and Dave Schneider - peace and environmental activists
- Diane Lentakis and Ben Martin - 350CT
- Alberto Cifuentes - Hartford Action
- Bernardo McLaughlin - Capitalism v. the Climate
- Jane Biral - an impacted homeowner

Play Video To Experience Rally

The following video includes speaker presentations, activists rallying with signs, singers supporting the rally and the beautiful, if unseasonal weather.

<http://350ct.us2.list-man->



Activists for Renewable Energy

age.com/track/click?u=cd32e81b1545a352671f9001b&id=8e0de5aafe&e=b962d1e2ca



Sacred Sorrow Singers Drum at Rally

Music Aids Message

In addition to the speakers offering their knowledge and research, the rally was energized by the exquisite solo voice of Carla Jones. Sam King of the "Hartford Hot Several" led a group sing and the drumming group, "Sacred Sorrow Singers" provided drumming and singing before and after the rally.

Organizers and Endorsers

The rally was organized by **Sierra Club CT Chapter, 350CT** and **Hartford Action** and was endorsed by the following organizations:

Activate Connecticut
ANSWER Coalition of Connecticut
Bernie Sanders Connecticut Team
Beyond Extreme Energy
Capitalism v. the Climate
CCSU Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition
Clean Water Action
The Committee for a Cultural/Environmental Center-Gunntown Road/Naugatuck
Connecticut Against Fracking
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Connecticut Socialist Action
Eastern Connecticut Green Action
Fighting Against Natural Gas (FANG)
Food and Water Watch
Fossil Free Rhode Island
Grassroots Against Another Salem Power Plant (GASPP)
Grassroots Environmental Education
Greater Danbury MoveOn.org Council
Greater New Haven Peace Council
Green Party of Connecticut
Hartford Action
HealthLink
Inter religious Eco-Justice Network
New Haven/Leon Sister City Project
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT NOFA)
Occupy Danbury
Occupy Providence
People's Action For Clean Energy, Inc.
Promoting Enduring Peace
Social Action Committee of Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison CT
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
The Town of Windham Energy Commission
Toxics Action Center
West Roxbury Quarry Neighbors For A Fossil Fuel Free Future

Warm Weather Portends Future

The weather for November 21st was unseasonably warm for a late fall day. Sun and blue sky clearly represented this hotter world to which we are becoming inured. During the rally, a red tailed hawk began to soar over our heads, remaining in view for much of the event, and following overhead later as the participants walked to a restaurant for a group meal.

The Red Tailed Hawk

Red Tailed Hawks are creatures of long range vision, who see what is there in the distance. I know we are following the right path in relentlessly calling attention to the climate disruption that is rapidly worsening, and that we must continue to show the way to a better future that is possible for all.

Photos courtesy of Capitalism v. the Climate.

Video produced by Stanley Heller of The Struggle Video News.



Mother Earth Needs Our Help

RALLY IN BOSTON: JOBS, JUSTICE AND CLIMATE

by Martha Klein

People converged on Boston from across New England for a massive rally to support “Jobs, Justice and Climate,” Saturday, December 12, 2015. Approximately 1,500 to 2,000 people attended the rally, and nearly that many chanted and marched as the group proceeded across the financial district and back up to the State House.



Protesters Cathy Buckley, Sierra Club MA Chapter Chair and Martha Klein, Lead Volunteer, CT Beyond Gas Campaign. Photo credit, Talia Lepson

Your Connecticut Chapter leaders were present, along with our allies 350CT and a busload of CT residents. We marched with people of all ages and ethnicities. The speakers were from the communities most affected by xenophobia, inequality, climate disruption and a worsening labor and economic market. The speakers explicitly made the connection between a worsening climate to increasing inequality and war.

It was wonderful to see so many familiar and friendly faces at the rally and it was a reminder of how important collaborations are, and that we need to build even stronger connections with all people fighting for a livable planet and sustainable future. It was an energizing experience that we left invigorated to continue our conservation campaigns for the benefit of all.

Check our website sierraclub.org/Connecticut to see current listings of events and rallies and how to become a member. You are all invited and welcome to attend our programs. The earth is our planet and we want to save and protect it for future generations.

HIKES

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please contact the hike leader.

Penwood State Park, Simsbury, CT

Dates: Saturday, December 26th &
Saturday, January 2nd

Time: 12 Noon

Difficulty: Easy hiking on rolling terrain

Meet: Parking lot just off the Rte. 185 park entrance

Hike Leader: Renee Taylor

RSVP: YES only by 12/24 for December 26th hike

YES only by 12/31 for January 2nd hike

to mchawigirl@yahoo.com



Rolling Terrain of Penwood Park

Note: If you say YES and change your mind, please let Renee know so she can hike nearer to her home instead.

GPS: You can mapquest/GPS Stafford Street and Hartford Road intersection in Simsbury, CT for a site close to park entrance.

Directions: Rte. 91 to exit 35B, Rte. 218 west. Take 218 until you reach Rte.189 north in Bloomfield. Turn right onto Rte.189 and continue north to Rte.178. Turn left onto 178 and proceed to end where it intersects with Rte.185. Turn right onto Rte.185. Ahead about a mile on the right is park entrance.

Dogs: Friendly dogs are welcome but must be leashed as others approach. Messes on the trail must be removed.

All hikers, adults and children over 10 years of age, with or without dogs are welcome as long as they refrain from cell phone use and smoking and can tolerate our dogs.

RAIN/SNOW THAT DAY CANCELS

SOCIAL EVENT

Mystic Dinner

*Come have dinner with fellow club members at the **Voodoo Grill**.
Look forward to seeing you there!*

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Time: 6:00pm

Location: 12 Water Street, Mystic, CT

Food: The **Voodoo Grill** serves, "True New Orleans style Jambalaya, Crawfish entrees, catfish and more of your favorite Cajun cuisines."

RSVP: Aimee Gresham - aimiewrites@gmail.com or by cell-phone: 212 987 3339.

GROUP MEETINGS

Greater Hartford Sierra Club Group

January Meeting and Presentation

Topic: The Bobcat, Connecticut's Secret Wild Cat

Speaker: Paul Colburn, a graduate of Master Wildlife Conservationist Program (MWCP) and a certified Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC)

Date: Thursday, January 14, 2016

Time: 7:30pm; Activist letter writing at 7:00pm on a related topic

Location: Westmoor Park, 119 Flagg Road, West Hartford, CT

Questions: Renee at mchawigirl@yahoo.com



A CT Bobcat



Paul Colburn, Wildlife Speaker

Colburn's presentation focuses on the natural history of bobcats in CT, an overview of bobcat habitat, diet, behavior, and current research efforts. Bobcat artifacts are shared as part of the program.

The MWCP, of which Colburn is a graduate, is a Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) adult education program that trains participants in the fields of wildlife management, natural history and interpretation. The purpose of the program is to develop a volunteer corps capable of providing educational outreach to the general public. Paul holds a BA from Wesleyan University.

PREVIEW: MARK YOUR 2016 CALENDAR

Greater Hartford Sierra Club Programs

Thursdays except June

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| January 14 | Paul Colburn, Master Wildlife Conservationist, "Bobcats in CT" |
| February 11 | Peter Picone, CT DEEP Wildlife Biologist, "Enhancing Habitat for Wildlife" (backyard and statewide) |
| March 10 | Laurie Julian, Esq., Chapter consultant "Update of 2015-16 CT legislative session environmental bills" |

- April 14** Gordon Kenneson, master gardener on "Organic Lawn Care/
Landscaping, and Integrated Pest Management"
- May 12** Ginny Apple, Master Wildlife Conservationist, "Eagles in CT." Apple has
extensive experience with eagles at Shepaug Reservoir and the Essex
winter tours.
- June 11** Saturday, noon onward. Northwest Park, 145 Lang Road, Windsor CT
Potluck bbq/picnic, followed by hiking park trails. End day with kayaking
at adjoining Rainbow Reservoir; launch is a few miles from park.

(No July/August meetings)

- September 8** Janet Stone, US Geological Survey, "CT Geology"
- October 13** Kate Moran, CT DEEP's Wildlife specialist, "Helping CT Bats Survive"
- November 10** Solar speaker from CT Green Bank
- December 8** Laurie Julian, shares her insights about "New Zealand, Land of
Contrasts" after her 2015 trip. Potluck supper one hour earlier at 6:00pm.

Location: All programs other than the Greater Hartford June outing day are in the
lodge at **Westmoor Park**

Address: 119 Flagg Road, West Hartford, CT

Time: 7:30pm. Activist letter writing 7:00pm on a related topic

All programs open to members and non members.
Suggested donation for site rental: \$4.00



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