

FEBRUARY 2017

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IN MEMORIAM, JOHN BLAKE

John Blake was an environmental activist and champion since the 1980s. He was tenacious and persistent in his environmental passion. He first entered the environmental fray with the Alaskan Wilderness issue and his passions brought a lot of fellow activists on board. He was Chair of the CT Chapter Sierra Club for over 10 years. He was an engineer and a business manager, a skilled woodworker and gardener who liked to grow grapes, make wine and explore nature. He was also a fierce friend, many times telling you what you didn't want to hear, but leaving you feeling the better for it. Diabetes was relentless in its attacks on John but he seemed to have nine lives, enough time to visit every state in the union as well as many countries abroad. John passed away in December 2016; he was only 58 years old. We'll all miss his fire and maybe we'll see him again on another trail....

by John Calandrelli, CT Chapter Sierra Club Program Manager



John Blake exploring and enjoying the world of the Sierra Club

"Such sad news about a person who was truly valiant and so devoted to protecting the environment. John really was a heroic fighter against such huge medical challenges. He bounced back so many times. He seemed invincible!" ~ *Lee Evans, CT Chapter Sierra Club Nuclear-Free Committee*

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Topics: Volunteer Organizing/Capacity Building/Leadership Development Training/2017 Legislative Session



Martha Klein During a Presentation



Laurie Julian

Speakers:

1. Martha Klein, CT Chapter Beyond Gas Lead Volunteer
2. Laurie Julian, CT Chapter Lobbyist

Overview: Martha Klein offers guidance and brief exercises to build confidence, encouraging even a little free time devoted to the environment. Laurie Julian presents a Legislative update.

Sponsor: Greater Hartford Sierra Club

Date: Thursday, February 9th

Location: Westmoor Park, 119 Flagg Road, West Hartford

Time:

Activist letter writing: 7:00pm

Program: 7:30pm

Donation: \$4.00 to defray hall rental fee

Questions: Renee at mchawigirl@yahoo.com

WOMEN'S MARCH ON CONNECTICUT

CT Chapter Sierra Club communications intern Rich Wrigley attended the Women's March in Hartford on Saturday, January 21st with his family, and took these photos.

The unexpectedly huge crowd of 10,000 came together on the north lawn of the Capitol Building to show support for a wide range of issues including human and women's rights, and for the rights of all marginalized people in our country. Governor Malloy supported the rally and addressed the crowd with the following remarks: "This day is more than an expression of disappointment as some people will try to say it is. It is an expression of outrage at the direction some people would lead us in."



Protesters in front of the State Capitol Building in Hartford, CT



Protesters in Hartford, CT



Photos by Richard Wrigley, volunteer for the CT Chapter Sierra Club

REQUEST FOR CONTENT

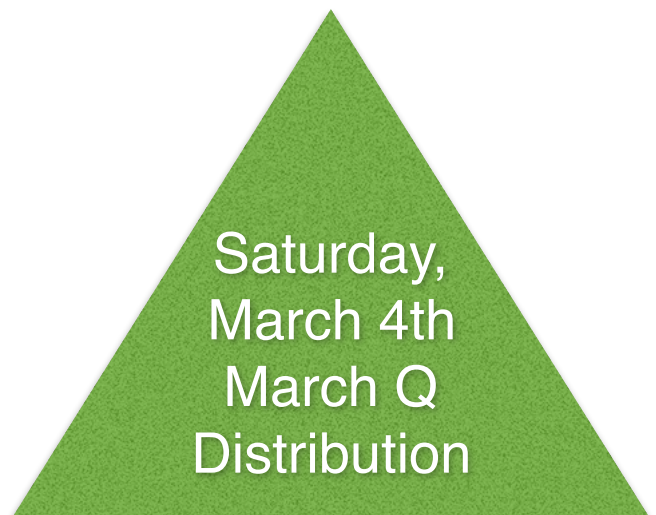
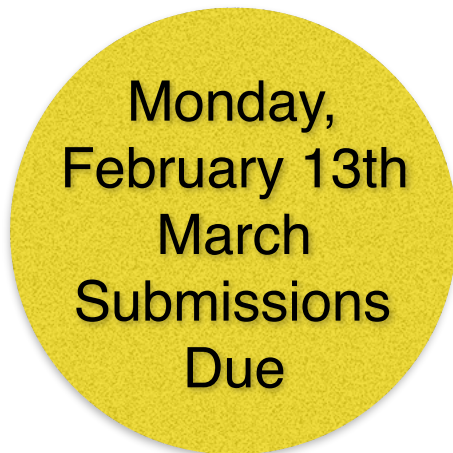
All CT Sierra Club members are invited to contribute to The *Quinnehtukqut*. We accept articles, puzzles, events, photos, poems, etc. Articles, limited to 500 words, should be on a subject of local or national interest to the CT Chapter membership. The goal of the newsletter is to inform, educate, motivate and involve our members.

If you post information to the website and want it in the newsletter, too, submit those postings separately to the newsletter.

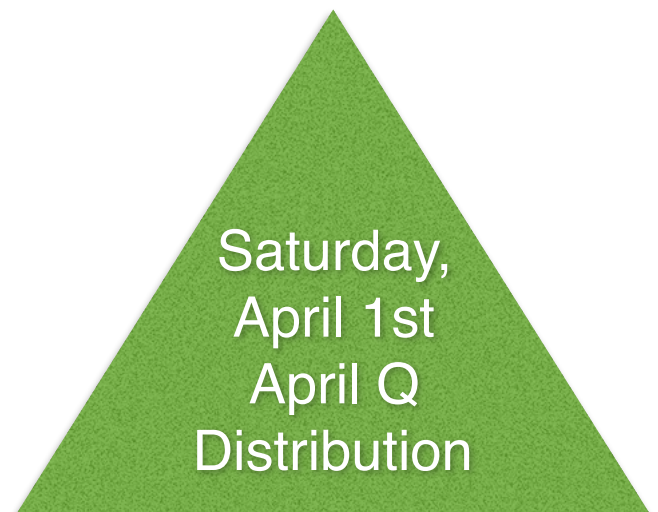
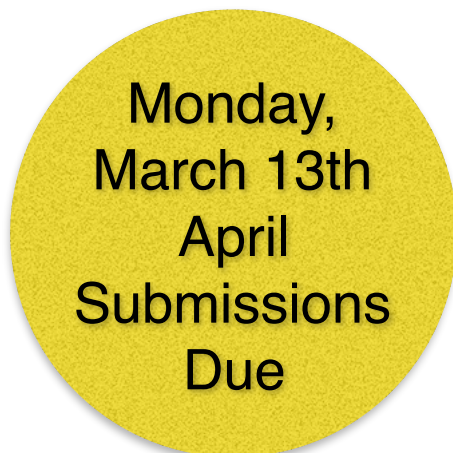
We have developed a newsletter calendar for the next two 2017 submission dates. Its purpose is to make it easier for you to plan your contributions to the *Quinnehtukqut* for publication.

The *Quinnehtukqut* will distribute at the beginning of the month. Comments, letters to the editor and all submissions may be sent to ctsierraq3@gmail.com for inclusion in future newsletters.

FEBRUARY/MARCH CALENDAR:



MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR:



All decisions regarding use are made by the Communications Committee.

ARTICLES

Is Connecticut Ready for 100?

by Julius Graefe

Ready for 100 is a national movement launched by the Sierra Club in 2016. It's a campaign of people working to inspire and engage community, civic, and corporate leaders to achieve 100% clean, renewable energy across the United States by the year 2050.

Transitioning to clean energy isn't just good for the environment – it is also a key to job creation and to ensuring a prosperous economic future for the United States. Poll after poll demonstrates widespread public support for renewable energy, with a recent Sierra Club poll concluding that 83% of U.S. adults support a goal of 100% clean energy.

To date, the Ready for 100 campaign has successfully encouraged 19 American cities to adopt ambitious, 100% clean energy goals. Cities like Denver, CO and Cleveland, OH have committed to transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2030 and 2035, respectively. Six additional cities in the U.S. – Aspen, CO; Burlington, VT; Columbia, MD; Greensburg, KS; Kodiak Island, AK and Rockport, MO – have already hit their targets: half of these cities generate 100% of their energy from wind and solar, and the remaining half add hydropower, biomass and/or landfill methane to the mix.

Where Does Connecticut Stand?

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), CT ranks 45th among all states for renewable electricity capacity and generation.

Table 4. State Total Electric Power Industry Net Generation, by Energy Source, 2006 - 2010
(Thousand Megawatthours)

| Connecticut | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Energy Source | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Fossil | 16,046 | 14,982 | 12,970 | 12,562 | 14,743 |
| Coal | 4,282 | 3,739 | 4,387 | 2,453 | 2,604 |
| Petroleum | 1,279 | 1,311 | 514 | 299 | 409 |
| Natural Gas | 10,484 | 9,930 | 8,070 | 9,809 | 11,716 |
| Other Gases | 2 | 2 | - | - | 14 |
| Nuclear | 16,589 | 16,386 | 15,433 | 16,657 | 16,750 |
| Renewables | 1,307 | 1,093 | 1,290 | 1,268 | 1,130 |
| Pumped Storage | - | -15 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| Other | 739 | 726 | 710 | 713 | 717 |
| Total | 34,682 | 33,171 | 30,409 | 31,206 | 33,350 |

- = No data reported.

In 2015, 46% of Connecticut's net electricity generation came from the 2,079-megawatt Millstone nuclear station, representing the single greatest source of energy production in CT. Conversely, only 3.5% of Connecticut's net electricity generation came from alternative

energy.

There has been relatively little growth in our low level of renewable energy production since 2006. Nearly all of the "renewable" energy measured is in fact landfill gas or hydropower, neither of which is truly renewable. This means clean energy development in Connecticut has focused on trash to energy and hydro, rather than on 100% renewable, non-carbon solar and wind power.

Despite consistently producing little electric power from renewables, all electricity sold in Connecticut requires electric providers to obtain a specified percentage or amount of the energy they sell from renewable sources. [CT's Renewable Portfolio Standard](#) or RPS, mandates that a minimum of 21%, increasing annually to 27% by 2020, of all electricity sold in CT be powered by renewable energy, or by renewable energy credits. Since the state produces much less than this minimum, the energy companies meet this regulation by purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from outside the state which allow them to meet the statutory minimums without building or investing in renewable energy infrastructure. The CT Chapter is working hard to strengthen the RPS and make the standards more ambitious.

Clean Energy Provider Programs

Both Eversource and United Illuminating (UI) – Connecticut's largest providers of electricity – conform to these mandatory minimums. However, these utilities do not offer a generation supply option that exceeds the minimum. Instead, [CTCleanEnergyOptions](#), a program approved by the CT PURA, allows any Eversource or UI customer to pay a small surcharge on their electric bill in order to receive their electricity from an out of state clean energy provider. The program was launched in 2005, and now includes more than 25,000 CT customers.

Although Connecticut is not quite Ready for 100, strides to decrease dependency on nonrenewable energy are being made across the state. The University of Connecticut, for example, through its new [2020 Vision Plan for Campus Sustainability & Climate Leadership](#), is committed to increasing the percentage of purchased renewable power from 40% in 2016 to 100% by 2020.

As a resident of CT, you can contribute to the renewable energy movement by switching to a clean energy provider, or by investing in the installation of a household solar energy system. You can also switch to driving an electric vehicle, although this is more environmentally sustainable if you can ensure that your vehicle is charged with electricity derived from renewable sources. The CT Chapter is launching its Ready for 100 campaign this year, and perhaps your city will be the first in the state to commit to going to 100%.

Julius Graefe is a recent graduate of Colby-Sawyer College, with a B.S. in Environmental Studies. He is a volunteer with the CT Chapter Sierra Club Communications Committee.

Ten Towns Ban Fracking Waste

by Jennifer Siskind



Graphic Credit: wastefreect.org

Connecticut was on the verge of passing a statewide ban on fracking waste in 2014. Instead, we were handed a temporary moratorium, which mandates that regulations be submitted for review, as early as this summer.

But we're not waiting for the ink to dry on future regulations. We're organizing town by town to prohibit the use of dangerous drilling waste. ***And we're winning.***

Public Health Protection

By state law, Connecticut towns have authority to "prohibit the carrying on within the municipality of any trade, manufacture, business or profession which is, or may be...prejudicial to public health." We are helping local townspeople learn how they can use this law for immediate impact.

Breast, bone, leukemia and other cancers, organ damage, birth defects, developmental disorders and neurological impairment are some of the health problems that toxins in fracking wastes are known to cause.* For your loved ones who have been impacted by serious health problems, you are urged to get involved, now. Raising funds for cures is important, but stopping exposure to the toxins that cause these problems is our safeguard.

The potential hazards include:

- chemical and radioactive contamination of water and soil
- permanent damage to private and public property
- dangers to pets and livestock, fish and shellfish
- the enormous cost to taxpayers if clean-up is necessary or even possible, such as aquifer poisoning.

Inadequate treatment, discharge, spills and tanker truck road accidents have already contaminated other states, and the risks of using by-products for road de-icing or construction fill are too high.

Passing Local Ordinances

Andover, Ashford, Branford, Coventry, Mansfield, Middletown, Portland, Washington, Windham (including the city of Willimantic) and Windsor have banned fracking wastes. And this is just the start; more towns are expected to pass ordinances soon.



Packed house in Windham

Depending on a town's charter, and according to state statute, local citizens have gathered signatures to call special town meetings and votes, or urged commissions to move ordinances forward. There has been overwhelming support - with most leadership votes unanimous and scores of townspeople showing support. In Andover, more than 140 people turned out to unanimously and resoundingly vote, 'Aye!' Local grassroots citizens' groups, Food & Water Watch, Eastern CT Green Action, 350 CT, Citizens Campaign for the Environment and Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club members collaborated and share in this success.

Waste Shipped Interstate

The fracking fields of Pennsylvania are generating billions of gallons of liquid waste, and millions of tons of solid waste, which is being shipped to eight states. Fracking waste shouldn't be disposed of or transported any place where it can harm people's health. Bringing this waste by thousands of tanker trucks to one of the most densely populated and smallest states in the nation makes no sense.

We've all heard the adage, "think globally, act locally." Now more than ever, the power to make change is found right in our neighborhoods. Local action is where we can flex our muscle and protect our health and resources. If you would like to protect your town, let us know and we'll be there to help out, sharing ordinance and educational materials, and rolling up our sleeves to assist. For information, please contact jsiskind@fwwlocal.org.

***Resources:** Studies from Yale School of Public Health, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins and others can be found at concernedhealthny.org/compendium summarized into easy-to-read paragraphs and fully referenced.

Jennifer Siskind is a CT Chapter Sierra Club member and Local Coordinator with Food & Water Watch.

Reducing Carbon Pollution and Advancing Clean Energy

by Mark Kresowik

We want to share the latest updates with you as we help the Northeast send a strong message to the rest of the country that we will not go backwards on climate, public health, or environmental protections, and progress on clean energy will continue even faster.

In October, Connecticut procured long term contracts for approximately 170 Megawatts (MW) of new energy efficiency, solar and wind power in the state, out of a total of 460 MW procured for the region. These contracts will bring online new renewable energy to create jobs in the region, strengthen the tax base of communities and provide affordable energy for families and businesses in those states. In more good news, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) declined to choose the Eversource - Enbridge gas pipeline project Access Northeast to power future electricity needs, primarily due to its inadequate financing structure.

Incredible news came in January from New York, with a host of new commitments from Governor Cuomo: 2,400 MW of offshore wind by 2030, more than 500 new EV charging stations, the planned replacement of the Indian Point nuclear plant with clean energy, a commitment to study 100% renewable energy and a proposed 30% reduction in regional carbon pollution from power plants through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

That last proposal is particularly important as it gives us some insight into what we need to do to win on RGGI. RGGI is a nine state initiative (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont) designed to limit, price and reduce carbon

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

an Initiative of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States of the U.S.

pollution produced by power plants. The states are now negotiating over reducing carbon pollution 2.5-3.5% annually from 2020 levels through 2030.

Importantly, the modeled cost difference between a reduction of 2.5% and 3.5% was very small. In other words, we can get all of the benefits of more pollution reductions at essentially no cost to consumers. You can read more about some of those benefits here:

<http://abtassociates.com/RGGI>

We also now have to be sure that all of the clean energy commitments we've won over the last year are actually implemented. In particular we know that siting wind and solar projects is becoming more challenging in many of our states: dirty energy interests are going to do anything they can to fight back. While it is critically important that we continue to protect special places and sensitive habitats, we shouldn't enact roadblocks to building the clean energy future we need. So we must be ready to roll up our sleeves as we face a hostile federal administration and an emboldened opposition fueled by dirty energy money. But whatever the challenge, our members should know that we are up for it. Here's to an exciting and difficult road ahead in 2017 to ensure the Northeast continues to lead the Nation on clean energy.

Resources: Climate Nexus launched a site to push for stronger pollution limits through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative: <https://www.cleanenergyeconomy.us> or strongerrggi.org

Mark Kresowik is Eastern Region Deputy Director of Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign

Environmental Updates

The Good News

The team in Connecticut has helped stop a planned new gas plant in New Milford and we're fighting a proposed plant in Killingly. You can check out the testimony we jointly funded with our local partners at Not Another Power Plant at: [Awesome Testimony](#)

The legal team has stayed on top of the discussion of Time of Use rates for electric vehicle charging at the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

Our Communications team prepared an effective Editorial Board memo combining our clean energy, electric vehicle and heat pump asks for the forthcoming Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) and the CT Chapter Beyond Gas team has delivered the memo in meetings with newspaper editorial boards.

Mark Kresowik is Eastern Region Deputy Director of Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign



Environmental Study Denied

In a lawsuit filed by the petroleum dealers trade association, Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (CEMA), to force DEEP to develop public environmental reports before approving natural gas expansion, the Connecticut Supreme Court has ruled: No environmental study is needed for gas expansion plan.

Having had its claim rejected, Chris Herb, president of CEMA, said officials will try to convince lawmakers during the General Assembly's 2017 session to change the law regarding when the environmental impacts of energy projects need to be studied.

<http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20161229/connecticut-supreme-court-no-environmental-study-needed-for-gas-expansion-plan>

Martin Mador is Co-Legislative Chair of the CT Chapter Sierra Club

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

DEEP held a Workshop on Siting Grid-connected Clean Energy Facilities in Connecticut on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

Three panels covered different renewables, land use policy goals and tools and best practices to deploy in accommodating renewable energy development.

This panel discussion grew out of the dilemma of solar projects built on farms and how to steer solar projects toward brownfields and landfills instead.

Of interest to CT Chapter Sierra Club members is that Connecticut is in the top ten list of states that have lost land. The Council on Environmental Equality released a draft at the meeting of their latest white paper on land use and energy sprawl.

Laurie Julian is a lobbyist for the CT Chapter Sierra Club.

Danbury Gas Plant

The air pollution permits applied for by the Lotus company, with regard to its methane power generation project in Danbury, have not yet been issued by the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protections (DEEP). Nonetheless, we look ahead to the builder's application, to the CT Siting Council, for the necessary "certificate of public necessity and environmental compatibility" to proceed with the project. This application also has to be in conjunction with local committee review (Danbury, Ridgefield). Hence, going forward, there should be plenty of opportunity for public comment and/or legal intervention here-of the type that plays to our strength (as opposed to the more esoteric air permits issues).

There are unanswered questions about the applicant, Lotus Energy Group, with regard to its general business history and experience (if any) with similar projects to the one in Danbury. There is, at this time, a prominent lack of confirmed information on these topics. The company's history and 'track record' is especially important to those living in close proximity to the project. Other power plant developers in CT invariably begin their pitch with documented descriptions of their former energy projects to reassure the local public of their competency in running the plant- either directly or through contractors.

James Root is a CT Chapter Sierra Club volunteer.

Hartford Student Outdoor Opportunities

by Dennis Desmarais

The strain on state budgets bears responsibility for schools to cut or eliminate activities. Opportunities for the children of Hartford to get outdoors are on the decline. And time spent indoors where children are occupied with an ever increasing array of electronics has left countless youngsters disconnected from nature. So with fewer kids outside, the odds decline that any of them will grow into the next generation of nature lovers (and Sierra Club supporters).

For decades now, The Hartford Inspiring **C**onnections **O**utdoors group (one of two Sierra Club ICOs in CT) has been partnering with Hartford-area schools to offer many and varied opportunities to experience the outdoors. ICO has taken middle and high-school children on a wide variety of trips over the years like camping, backpacking, canoeing and caving. A typical event may be a Saturday day hike to one of the many Connecticut state parks within a 45 minute bus trip from Hartford.

The majority of the students on the ICO hikes have had very little exposure to any of Connecticut's parks and preserves, and quite often the ICO trip will have a few students who had never before been on a trail. With such little prior experience, students sometimes feel challenged as they climb to the top of an area mountain or navigate through a rock and root-filled path. Yet almost without exception, the students end the day with a feeling of accomplishment and a long list of memories to share with their families at home and fellow students once they return to school.



Photo credit: Dennis Desmarais

In many cases those memories inspire ICO students to return for additional trips and new adventures. Quite possibly those memories will establish a connection to the outdoors, an appreciation for nature and a passion to one day protect the environment.

The Hartford ICO can't function without volunteer trip leaders. If you're interested in becoming a trip leader, please contact [Erhard Kornerding](#) or [Dennis Desmarais](#). Reach out to them as well if you are a Hartford teacher interested to learn how your students can participate in an upcoming ICO trip

Dennis Desmarais is volunteer IT Manager for The Quinnehtukqut.

The American Chestnut Tree

Part Two, Chestnut Blight

by Nora Hulton

Researchers aren't exactly sure when the deadly fungus, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, was first introduced, but it's highly likely that it was imported on Japanese Chestnuts in the late 19th century. Introducing exotic specimen plants into public parks and private estates was becoming trendy, and several varieties of Asian chestnuts were available for purchase by mail order or from up-scale nurseries. The fungus, most likely, was undetected by nurserymen and gardeners as the introduced trees were usually resistant to the fungus. The pathogen and the host species had evolved together over millions of years and inoculation didn't necessarily mean a death sentence for the introduced species. These diseased trees were sold to unsuspecting customers and the wheels were set in motion for the ensuing biological catastrophe.

The disease was first detected at the Bronx Zoo in 1904. An arborist noted that several of the American Chestnuts were showing signs of distress. By 1905, all of the native chestnuts seemed to be ailing, and the USDA was contacted. Additionally, numerous reports of infected trees were starting to flood in from the Greater New York City area, and the gravity of the situation was becoming apparent. By 1910, most of Connecticut's trees had become infected, and it was estimated that the disease was spreading at a rate of approximately fifty miles per year.

The Infestation Route

The pathogen, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, enters the tree through a wound or opening in the stem or the trunk. The mycelia of the fast growing fungus grow rapidly through the cambium layer of the wood. Located in the cambium layer are the vascular tissues responsible for transporting water and nutrients throughout the tree. The eventual girdling of this layer virtually strangles these vital vessels and decimates the entire aboveground portion of the tree. The roots remain unaffected and continue to produce saplings that eventually succumb to the fungus within 10 to 15 years.

Initially, foresters tried to combat the pathogen with chemicals and the clearing and burning of diseased trees. When these approaches proved futile, the state of Pennsylvania went so far as to clear-cut several miles of chestnut forest to block the westward spread of the blight. This strategy, too, proved ineffective in stopping the progression of the scourge, and a salvage effort was executed to clear-cut and recover any healthy timber. In retrospect, many experts believe that this almost entire harvesting of the surviving chestnuts significantly reduced the chances of securing a resistant specimen that may have served to perpetuate the annihilated species.

Lasting Destruction

When the dust settled and the destruction was complete, over four billion American Chestnuts had been obliterated by a minuscule parasite. A tree that had inhabited the eastern seaboard of North America for over 40 million years had been basically wiped out in less than 50 years. The effect on the economy was profound: the timber, livestock, and tanning industry were devastated, as was the seasonal export of the actual chestnut fruit. While the majority of afflicted states eventually recuperated from the catastrophe, many believe that the Great Depression combined with the Chestnut Blight gave the Appalachian region a "one-two" punch from which they never fully recovered.



The repercussion of Chestnut Blight on wildlife was felt for decades, and in some cases, permanently. The population of forest dwellers that relied heavily on the chestnut tree for sustenance declined significantly in the affected states. Sightings of animals that were once abundant such as: turkey, bear, raccoon, and deer were not as common as they once were, and those that



American Chestnut tree today in Litchfield, CT.
Photo Credit: Nora Hulton

squirrel population toppled, and came dangerously close to total irreversible collapse, while several species of moths dependent on the chestnut forest habitat became extinct virtually overnight. A swift, cruel blow had been delivered, and Nature was forced to deal with an environmental catastrophe of monumental scale.

remained were diminished in size as their search for new food sources took its toll on their fat reserves. The once burgeoning

Today, The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is working diligently on developing a blight resistant variety of chestnut with hopes of reestablishing it within the North American forest. The White Oak, in most areas, has replaced the chestnut as the dominant food source, but oaks don't produce mast as reliably or copiously as their towering predecessors. Restoring the "Redwood of the East" would be the most advantageous method of reconstructing the forest ecosystem that has been so severely damaged. For more information on how TACF is hoping to achieve this mission go to <http://www.acf.org/>

Nora Hulton is a Connecticut Master Wildlife Conservationist

Environmentally Friendly Weddings

by Eileen Monaghan

Why not include the Sierra Club in your wedding plans?



Photo credit: The Wedding Council

Imagine among all the white lace and promises, environmentally friendly wedding celebrations for each of the more than two million weddings annually. Membership in the Sierra Club can be your guests' favor. You receive a lovely postcard to give to each guest you enroll. At \$15 a membership, it may be in your budget if you do one per family or couple. Contact; [Sierra Club Contact Us](#) and request the number of brochures you need for membership.

Since February is National Wedding Month, now is a great time to prepare for the 2017 wedding season. Here are other environmental issues to consider.

Beware Blood Diamonds. There are many ways to incorporate responsible ideas into wedding plans. Start with the engagement ring. Your jeweler should provide you with a certificate to show that your stone is responsibly sourced.

Save Our Trees. The paper products you use, everything from “save the date” cards to cocktail napkins to thank you notes can be eco-friendly. Choose to print your invitations and other paper goods in a way that save trees and choose environmentally friendly inks for your materials.

Consider planting a tree or making a donation to plant a tree to offset the paper you use. Look at how to plant a tree to commemorate an event at: [Plant a Tree](#)

Flowers from Home. You have many options when it comes to flowers and other décor. The main concept is to use locally sourced, in-season flowers. Consider planting flowers the season before the big date. Or buy potted plants that can be taken home.

Decorations. Décor can be a fun way to reduce your carbon footprint. Recycled vases from tag sales, wreaths and garlands to compost afterwards, soy-based candles and no styrofoam lower the environmental impact. Easy to do: make your décor reusable by moving it from ceremony to reception. Beautiful baskets at the ceremony, for example, can be moved easily to the reception site entrance.

Food. The ingredients in the food you serve can be locally sourced and grown organically. The closer the source to the event, the better. If your town has a green market, that's a good place to start. Otherwise, research online.

Leftovers. Make arrangements in advance about where left-overs should go. There is a Chapter of Food Not Bombs in Hartford and other CT cities that accept food donations. Or is there a soup kitchen nearby that could use what's left?

Donations. Why not donate the flowers from your special day to brighten a hospital or nursing home?

Honeymoon. There are so many options, from local escapes with little carbon impact to environmentally friendly resorts that care for their region. Look at the eco-friendly trips offered by the Sierra Club at: [Sierra Club Outings/Adventure/Travel](#). Wherever your heart takes you can also help our world.

We have only scratched the surface of possibilities. What about hiring electric buses so guests can park their cars and not waste gas? What about having your dress dry cleaned at an environmentally friendly cleaners? What about...

Eileen Monaghan is founder and president of The Wedding Council.

Uncommon Connecticut Woodpecker

by Rich Wrigley



A Pileated Woodpecker, pecks at an Oak tree in Hampton, CT, January 9, 2017.

I got a lucky glimpse at a rather large and beautiful bird today in the Hampton wilderness. The best part is I was able to get a camera on her as well. Her is appropriate as I believe the markings would be different if the bird was male.

According to the National Audubon Society, this elegant woodpecker is often shy and hard to observe. The “Logcock” is roughly the size of a crow, with white neck stripes and a prominent red crest. It is the largest woodpecker in North America. Excavating deep into rotten wood to get at the nests of carpenter ants, the Pileated leaves characteristic rectangular holes in dead trees. This species is an all-season bird in Connecticut, though it remains uncommon in the state. The Pileated became rare in eastern North America with the clearing of forests in centuries past, but has gradually increased in numbers again since about the beginning of the 20th century.

For more information on the Pileated Woodpecker, navigate to this link:

<http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/pileated-woodpecker>

For additional information about birds see these social media sites:

https://www.facebook.com/TheConnecticutAudubonSociety/?ref=br_rsk

https://www.facebook.com/NationalAudubonSociety/?ref=br_rs

Photo by Richard Wrigley, volunteer for the CT Chapter Sierra Club

Wildlife in New Milford

On farmland in New Milford, CT a trail cam picked up the following photos of a moose (side view only) and a bobcat. See date and time stamps on photos. Wildlife has returned to Connecticut.



POETRY

The Morning Light

Citron colored sunrise, the sun rising over the soft lawn of moss, lichen covered granite stones and boulders. Morning light sunrise awakens all living things, the worm dives down into moist fertile soil, the bluejay cackles with a boisterous greeting, the rooster crows unabashedly. The deer lumber now out of sight. Garter snakes slither from their beds and I am perfectly aligned with the Northern star now dimming. The citron sky warms the steel damp from my bones. I sit under the long fingers of branches of the oak tree, under your rustling canopy. I am peace, I am wholly me.

I rejoice and take refuge in the arena of my beloved. In Nature, I am graciously free from care and worry. My firmament is you and you give my roots rain; they are deep and still and ever brooding. White foam waterfall in Winter, you invigorate my senses, you startle me alive! I dangle toes, feet for your embrace. I know the angle, time and precision of my citron sky. I know the sea and land animals and their reverie at daylight. I am peace, I am wholly me and I sit with sunbeams in my eyes.

Geneva Renegar, Waterford, CT



Winter Waterfall at Indian Well State Park, Shelton, CT

The Q is brought to you by:

Martha Klein, Communications Chair
Helen Applebaum, Editor
Heather Fronczek, Graphic Designer
Dennis Desmarais, IT Manager
John Calandrelli, Website, Program Manager

SOLAR POWER

Have you ever considered going solar?

If so, **now is the time** because it's cheaper and easier than ever. Here's the proof: A new study just found that in 42 out of 50 of the largest U.S. cities, a typically-sized, \$0-down home solar system costs less than the energy purchased from a residential customer's local utility.*

Join more than 1,100 Sierra Club supporters in making the switch to clean energy.

With flexible financing through different Sungevity Energy Plans, you can get an efficient solar system without emptying your pockets. Plus you'll lock in your electricity rate for years to come! It sounds too good to be true, but it's not!

Now is the time to go solar.

Join the clean-energy movement today!

Check it out at: www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes



Solar energy lifts life on earth



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create a Lasting Legacy

By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come.

For confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org
(800) 932-4270



...Your lasting legacy...

CREATE YOUR LEGACY

To create your legacy go to:

sierraclubfoundation.org

or email: gift.planning@sierraclub.org