



The Quinnehtukqut Connecticut Chapter

The Monthly Newsletter for Events, Information, and Action

WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER 2017 ISSUE

🇺🇸 **ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH. VOTE!** 🇺🇸

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- **OUTDOOR EVENT**
 - ~ HIKE IN PACHAUG STATE FOREST
- **DONATIONS, STAFF, LEGACY PLANNING, SOCIAL MEDIA**

REQUEST FOR CONTENT

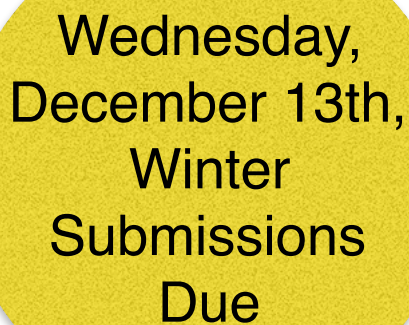
All Connecticut Sierra Club members are invited to contribute to the *Quinnehtukqut*. We accept articles, book reviews, puzzles, events, photos, poems, etc. Articles, limited to 500 words, should be on a subject of local or national interest to the Connecticut Chapter membership. The goal of the newsletter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

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

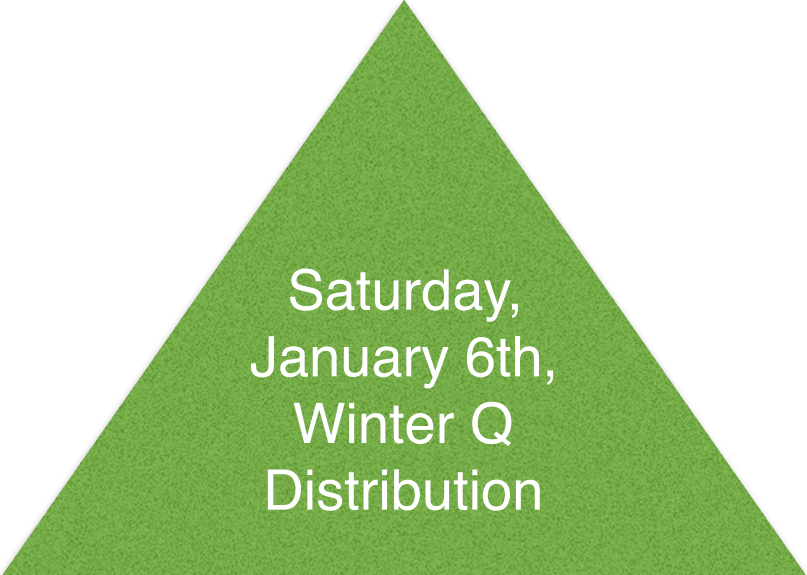
We have developed a newsletter calendar for the next two 2017/2018 submission dates. Please read dates carefully. The calendar is intended to make it easier for you to plan your *Quinnehtukqut* contributions for publication.

The *Quinnehtukqut* is distributed 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.

WINTER CALENDAR:




Wednesday,
December 13th,
Winter
Submissions
Due

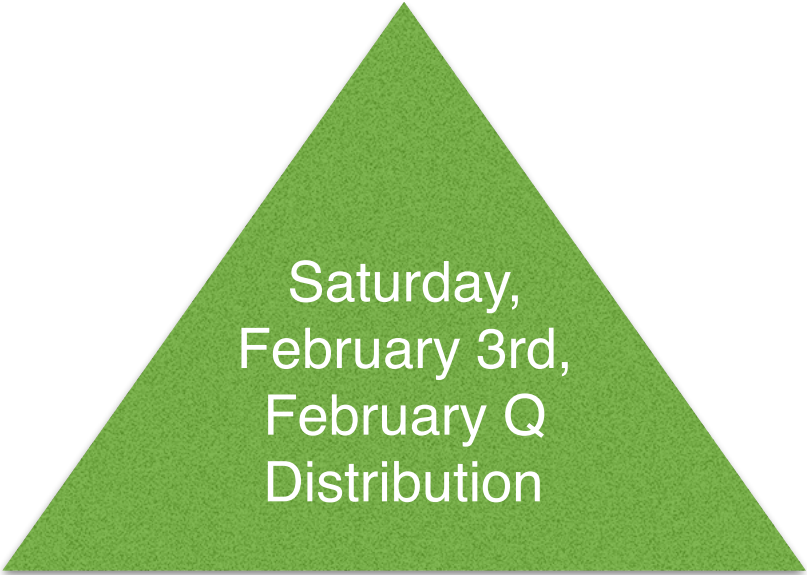


Saturday,
January 6th,
Winter Q
Distribution

FEBRUARY CALENDAR:



Saturday
January 13th
February
Submissions
Due



Saturday,
February 3rd,
February Q
Distribution

CHAPTER REPORT

The Concert for America was held October 16th at the Bushnell in Hartford. These performances support national social justice charities such as Sierra Club, NAACP, Southern Poverty Law Center and National Immigration Law Center. CT Chapter Chair Martha Klein represented the Club and spoke about our campaign to win 100 percent renewable energy.



Martha Klein with Leo Manzari, the tap dancer extraordinaire who dances with Maurice Hines



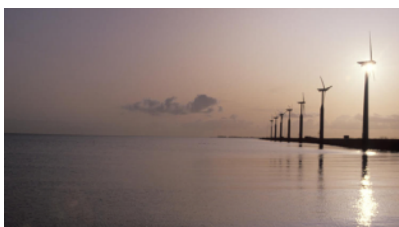
Saving Remington Woods was the topic on radio station WVOF Fairfield University, October 11th. Martha Klein discussed the reasons for preserving the 419 acre forest on the Bridgeport-Stratford border in Fairfield County, which is at risk of development.

Local CT Chapter Sierra Club members attended an informational session about the construction in Dover, New York of a fracked gas power plant sited to send pollution to the Connecticut/New York border towns.



We rallied on Tuesday, October 24th in Hartford to protest the duplicity of Eversource and UI/Avangrid who claimed the gas pipelines were full when they weren't. The cost to ratepayers was an additional \$3 billion over three years. See report at: [Eversource Report](#)

The chapter continues to monitor the clear cutting of sixty plus acres of trees in New Milford for a solar farm. The Siting Council decision is imminent.



The Hartford *Courant* ran an OpEd on Oct. 24 "Connecticut Used To Be A Clean-Energy Contender" which argues that the CES draft lacks "specific policies to spur investment in clean renewable energy." Read at: [Hartford Courant Article](#)

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY (CES)

2017 CES Builds Barriers Instead of Progress

by Vanessa Woy

When the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) released an updated render of the Connecticut Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) in July 2017, citizens and environmentalists alike were left with a taste of bitterness.

The executive summary presents a well-groomed, chart-filled document that, if enacted, will fail to reduce carbon pollution. It also fails to adequately create sustainable, renewable and clean energy sources across the state.

In an article entitled, [Environmentalists Critical of Slow March Toward Renewable Energy](#), journalist Jack Kramer compares the original 2013 CES strategy with the new draft plan.

“The plan does increase the state’s mandate to purchase energy from renewable sources, like solar and wind, to 30 percent by 2030,” writes Kramer.

“The original energy strategy done four years ago targeted the purchase of renewable energy at 20 percent by 2020.”

Based on these numbers alone - a drop from 1.5 percent to 1 percent annual increase in renewable energy – the draft sets a clear tone that the state is not speeding our migration toward clean energy, but rather, is holding up progress.

Time to Reduce Fossil Fuels is Now

While the numerical evidence of Connecticut’s reluctant approach to clean energy is shocking, the timing of this drawback comes at too high a cost for our climate and citizens. As climate disruption worsens, a step backward, even one that delays our progress by ten years, is catastrophic. Adding to these concerns is the federal government’s withdrawal from the [Paris Climate Agreement](#).



Dear Commissioner Rob Klee...

Despite infusing the plan with flowery words about an increased focus on renewable energy, the plan tiptoes around migration away from fossil fuels and actually calls for an increase in interstate fracked gas pipelines.

Further, it appears that almost two-thirds of the public comments that followed the draft CES’ release favor returning the document to the drawing board. In the demographics of the responses, the comments are stereotypically aligned; those in favor of the plan rollup into companies like Eversource, while the opposition stands unsurprisingly with the likes of Acadia Center, CT Fund for the Environment and the general population.

In one comment with the subject line, “Connecticut Needs a Stronger Clean Energy Plan!” an anonymous CT resident writes:

“As written, the current CES draft is overly reliant on fracked gas to help achieve our state’s long-term carbon reduction goals. The CES should not support additional gas infrastructure and gas plants. The current CES delays progress on meeting our state’s climate change goals and shackles Connecticut to dirty fossil fuels for decades to come. I respectfully urge you to revisit the CES in its current form and develop a clean energy plan that moves our state into the 21st century, instead of one that shackles us to dirty energy fuels of the past.”

In following strings of comments written by residents, it comes as no surprise that the masses are crying out for revisions and addenda to move the state toward a shift in our reliance on fossil fuels.

John and Julia Parry, residents of Mystic, write:

“We ask that the final CES document focus more on renewables, such as solar, and less on methane. Although this would mean decreased support for gas pipelines, it would be in line with our state’s longstanding commitment to protect our environment.”

State Responsible For Safe Climate

The majority of those in opposition to the strategy’s draft drive home one overarching theme: that the strategy, as it stands, violates the state of Connecticut’s moral and legal responsibility to maintain and sustain a flourishing environment and a stable climate. Among residential testimonials, dozens of comments were submitted by the likes of SolarConnecticut Inc., The Conservation Fund, Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, etc., all in favor of a CES revision.

Though companies like Eversource (those pushing hidden agendas) can be found among the public comments section, the participation of local environmental organizations and CT citizens offers a resounding, and much louder, “We deserve better,” delivered right to the DEEP’s doorstep.

To review the 2017 CES draft, click [here](#). To view comments submitted by the public, click [here](#).

Vanessa Woy is a volunteer with CT Chapter Sierra Club

ENVIRONMENTAL HEAT

Bill McKibben Paces Climate Change

by Helen R. Applebaum

Music legend Paul Winter stepped on to the stage at Woolsey Hall on the Yale University campus, Tuesday October 10th at 4:30 pm. With his saxophone to his lips and backed by the famous Newberry organ looming over the stage, Winter and the organist, Janet Yieh introduced the Bill McKibben Chubb Fellowship Lecture, "Simply Too Hot: the Desperate Science and Politics of Climate" with Winter's *Sun Singer* in praise of the environment and a summons to the beauty of this world.

Mary Liu, head of Timothy White College, who oversees the Chubb Fellow Lecture Series welcomed the audience and Professor Mary Evelyn Tucker who is closely associated with *Earth Charter*, spoke about McKibben's achievements. We learned he holds



18 honorary degrees, has written 13 best-selling books and awakened the country to the issue of global climate change in his 57-page essay in the September 11, 1989 issue of the *New Yorker*. [The End of Nature](#)

As founder of [350.Org](#), McKibben has organized 20,000 rallies across the globe to implement grassroots campaigns that oppose coal, oil and gas projects and the profiteering companies that are heating up the planet, and to build 100 percent clean energy solutions.

The Problem: The Pace of Climate Change

McKibben stated that the intellectual argument about the existence of climate change has essentially been won: it's the *pace* of climate change that is happening faster and punching harder than expected. Although an increase of 1.7 degrees Fahrenheit over ten years seems small, that temperature increase is the heat equivalent of 400,000

Hiroshima size bombs. Other "slow pace" issues include:

- More than half of Antarctica's ice sheet is gone
- The oceans are 30% more acidic than they once were
- The great barrier coral reef has less than half its life of 18 months ago
- 2017 was the warmest year ever reported in history
- The highest reliable recorded temperature ever measured on this planet was recorded in 2017. It was 129 degrees F in Basra. Human beings cannot survive at that temperature
- The highest cyclonic energy ever reported occurred in October 2017
- Warm water holds more water vapor than cold, and as it evaporates into the atmosphere, it comes down in deluges we haven't seen before Hurricane Harvey deposited 54" of rain in some areas

The Future

McKibben warns that if the earth's temperature rises six or seven degrees F, we won't be able to inhabit many areas of the earth's surface. Each degree increase of global average temperature will cut grain yields by ten percent. We won't be able to inhabit our coastal cities, and much of the world's richest farmlands will be underwater--particularly those in Asia. By pouring evermore carbon into oceans, seas will go from an acidified state to something "sour, hot and choking" by the end of this century.

Technical Progress

In the last decade, solar and wind energy have become cheaper. 139 nations around the world have plans to change to using only the power of sun and wind by 2039. Here are some hopeful signs:

- Currently, Denmark obtains half its energy from wind
- In Ghana, Africa, villages that never had power now have solar panels that are cheaper than kerosene—less than 30 cents a day, using a solar micro grid.

The technology is there, but we're not making use of it quickly enough. At today's pace, solar power and windmills will "power a busted world."

Why Are We Moving So Slowly?

Money and power are the culprits. The fossil fuel industry used its money and power to fix the fight. Exxon knew everything there was to know about climate change by the late 1970s. But



Bill McKibben speaking at Yale
Photo Credit: Helen Applebaum

their product was carbon. They started mapping the Arctic they knew would soon melt to get leases to drill. They then spent the next decades building the architecture of the sea to their benefit.

Fake News Reigns

A blizzard of disinformation has succeeded beyond our wildest imagination. The President of the United States asserts that climate change is a hoax invented by the Chinese. Organizations such as Heartland.org, are devoted to climate denial. Heartland put up

billboards with images of serial killers saying, "I still believe in Global Warming. Do You?" The billboards make no sense, but they attack our emotions, and they are effective.

Our Job Is to Speed up the Transition

We, as individuals and environmental organizations, need to act as accelerants in this change. We need to pick up the pace and keep fossil fuels in the ground. The resistance started with the Keystone Pipeline in 2011. Today, many groups led by the Sierra Club are working to get towns and cities to commit to 100 percent renewable energy-- Atlanta, San Diego and Salt Lake City are already committed.

Another accelerant is to hit fossil fuel corporations in their pocketbooks. Institutions, endowments and portfolios have currently divested over \$6 trillion from fossil fuel companies. It can be hard to convince rich, elite East Coast higher institutes of learning to divest, but the reality is that the fossil fuel sector is underperforming—ultimately, investing in clean energy will be more profitable.

Resistance Gains

McKibben pointed out that the oldest wisdom on the planet is meshing with the newest technologies to lead us in a better direction. Indigenous people are marching around the world, from Standing Rock to the Pacific Climate Warriors, who used hollowed-out tree canoes to blockade Shell Oil.

In 2015 Shell Oil planned to take advantage of the melting ice to drill in the Arctic. “Kayaktivists” in Seattle blocked drilling rigs and threatened damage to Shell’s brand, and Shell went home. They said they “didn’t find” what they wanted; they turned tail and they ran. It's good for young people to see their elders acting for the right causes. We need many more moments like that one.

McKibben emphasizes that “haste” and “fast” are the most important words when it comes to climate change—“winning slowly is another way of losing.” We have a narrow and closing window to still prop open.

In her introduction, Professor Tucker summarized the importance of Bill McKibben’s work in the environmental movement: “McKibben holds a moral force around justice and a spiritual energy around nature. The beauty of the earth will continue to inspire us to create a flourishing future.”

To watch the lecture, [Click here](#).

Helen R. Applebaum is editor of the Quinnehtukqut and a member of the CT Chapter Sierra Club Executive Committee.

CONNECTICUT’S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

How the NY Cricket Valley Power Plant Affects Connecticut

by Colin Cogle

It's said that what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. Perhaps their neighbors are the lucky winners, because what happens in New York won't stay in New York — specifically, the polluting by-products of the Cricket Valley Energy Center in Dover, New York. On October 14th, an informational presentation and organizational meeting about the power plant was facilitated by Lisa Marshall and Shameika Hanson of the civic action group Mothers Out Front.

ny.mothersoutfront.org/Hudson_valley

Cricket Valley Energy Center (CVEC) has begun construction on an 1,100 megawatt (MW), fracked "natural" gas fired power plant in Dover, NY. Dominion Energy, the company building the compressors, has a controlling interest in Iroquois, a company that transmits gas. That means Cricket Valley and Dominion are the customers; Dominion is the deliverer. Dominion owns the nuclear plant in Waterford, Connecticut. We need to be aware that a gas plant is proposed for Bridgeport, CT, another gas plant is proposed for Killingly and one is nearly complete in Oxford. To learn more about how the utilities and energy companies profit, [click here](#).

Burning Fossil Fuels Continues

Although the plant's web site says that CVEC "promotes a highly efficient, environmentally-responsible process of converting clean-burning American natural gas into electricity," it's clear there's nothing responsible about burning tons of fossil fuels in the age of renewables, especially when the largest pollutant, methane, is a greenhouse gas 86 times more insulating than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.

The fracked gas plant is less than three miles from Connecticut's western border, and towns including Sherman, New Milford, Gaylordsville, Kent, New Fairfield and Danbury are stuck downwind of CVEC's pollution; the yearly emission estimates include nearly 570 million tons of carbon monoxide, 280 tons of nitrogen oxides, 190 tons of particulate matter, 20 tons of sulfuric acid and 3.6 million tons of carbon dioxide.

Plant's Siting

The plant is not yet online, so CVEC has been only a boon for Dover thus far. The company has removed the crumb rubber from the brownfield where the plant is sited, and cleaned and protected the surrounding Great Swamp Critical Environmental Area, while paying property taxes and providing construction jobs. But residents of western Connecticut will be stuck with the negative effects that Dover citizens and schoolchildren will soon confront. The plant is located near the high school. Without our consent, the local citizenry will be forced to spend the next few decades breathing in CVEC's smog, carcinogens, neurotoxins, endocrine disruptors and precursors for cardiovascular disease, which, after increased healthcare costs due to these pollutants, will hit us a second time by lowering our property values.

The fate of the Cricket Valley Energy Center rests in the hands of the citizens of Dover, whose Town Board has already awarded CVEC, LLC a PILOT agreement (payment in lieu of taxes). Nevertheless, when the nation's second-largest natural gas power plant is about to call itself your neighbor, it's an issue that involves Nutmeggers.

For more information about the Cricket Valley plant, visit their Web site at cricketvalley.com
To take action, go to: Save Cricket Valley Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/stopcricketvalley/>

You are encouraged to send your comments to New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo at 518.474.8390 or Connecticut's attorney general, George Jepsen at 860.808.5318.

The next meeting of Save Cricket Valley will be a strategy meeting, announced on our CT Chapter Sierra Club website and Facebook pages.

Colin Cogle worked on the successful Ban Fracking Waste campaign in New Milford and is a member of the CT Chapter Sierra Club.



Cricket Valley Power Plant Site
Photo credit: bing

Connecticut Plan of Conservation and Development: Charting a Course for Smart Growth

by James Root

Environmentally concerned Connecticut residents sometimes feel that the authorities' awareness of the environmental and economic problems Connecticut faces is lacking. While somewhat dry and technical, the latest Conservation and Development (C&D) Plan from Connecticut's strategic Office of Policy and Management (OPM) helps dispel that often counter productive impression.

Smart Growth Principles

In its principles at least, the state C&D plan is very encouraging to the environmentally concerned citizen. The draft plan, as it has for a number of years, espouses six admirable principles of 'smart growth.' To summarize, the principles are:

1. Focus development and re-development on existing regional centers (like Danbury)
2. Expand housing options for all segments of the population (obvious but good to see Hartford is on it)
3. Concentrate economic development around and along transportation nodes and corridors (yes!)
4. Conserve the environment (including historical and cultural lands of interest)
5. Protect and ensure "environmental assets" (i.e. air and especially water) to which they devote considerable print
6. Promote integrated planning between various state agencies.



Conservation & Development Policies: The Plan For Connecticut 2018-2023

Although the plan document is sometimes a bit contrived and tautological in its terminology, it is very informative and presents a surprising large and edifying list of existing and proposed incentives (and disincentives), promulgated by Hartford, to encourage public and private decision making bodies to follow the aforementioned 'smart growth' principles in making their decisions.

Motivations for Smart Growth

The biggest motivator is simply the withholding or reduction of critical state aid and grants to towns and cities if said municipalities' own mandated Conservation and Development plans (and individual projects) don't adhere adequately to the aforementioned statutorily mandated OPM C&D principles.

Although the concerned citizen and activist must be vigilant of 'regulatory capture' of government by insiders, it is reassuring to know that such a realistic vision, as presented in the state C&D plan, is held by those high up in government. From its central vantage point (a derivative of its author agency), it sheds light on how the many moving parts of state government policy (i.e. transportation, water, environment, housing etc.) mesh (or don't).

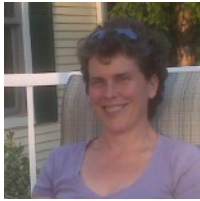
While the deadline for public comment on the plan has officially passed, the OPM will almost certainly 'accept' any late comments. Just a few sentences to let them know we are watching [Write them here.](#)

James Root lives in Danbury and is a member of the CT Chapter Sierra Club.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Chapter Executive Committee Election and Volunteer Leadership

by Roberta Paro



The Sierra Club is a volunteer-led, national environmental advocacy organization with entities at the national, state and local level. Each entity is governed by an Executive Committee of members elected for their interest in protecting our environment, organizational and leadership abilities, and a desire to make a difference.

The Connecticut Chapter and local Group Executive Committees (“ExComs”) set priorities; pursue environmental objectives; organize a program of educational and activist events; recruit and communicate with members; endorse political candidates and raise funds, in accordance with Sierra Club policies and bylaws.

The election materials for the 2018-2019 Executive Committee will be distributed at the end of November, and the election closes at the end of the year. Most of our members vote via email, and we also mail ballots to the members for whom we lack an email address. Member engagement is crucial to the Sierra Club; it is important for our members to vote in the election to influence the vigor and direction of the Chapter.

This year, five of the nine at-large seats on the Connecticut Chapter ExCom are up for election, for two-year terms. Sierra Club members in good standing are eligible to run.

Roberta Paro is the former chair of the CT Chapter Sierra Club. She takes responsibility for ExCom elections and is co-chair of the Legislative Committee.

GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

Throw it into Reverse: How to Respond to an E.P.A. No Longer Interested in Protecting the Environment

by Ann Gadwah

“Did you see what I did to that? Boom. Gone.”

These were the President’s words to a cheering crowd in Alabama recently as he referred to his administration’s impending repeal of the Clean Power Plan. Determined to kill as many environmental regulations as they can, the Trump administration with his E.P.A. Administrator, Scott Pruitt have moved to roll back [52 rules](#) they deem “too burdensome” to the fossil fuel industry. What can an individual do against this seemingly endless tide of destruction to our cause?

Make Your Voice Heard. Public comments, petitions, telephone calls, emails and letters to both the E.P.A. and your representatives are excellent ways to share your displeasure at the continued assault on our environmental regulations. Both the national and state Sierra Club websites are amazing resources to find ways to act on the front lines of environmental protection. sierraclub.org or sierraclub.org/Connecticut For example, the administration talks a big game about repealing the Clean Power Plan, but it is not so easy. Repealing a federal rule takes time and with that time comes our opportunity to stop it before it becomes a reality. Sierra Club members are invited to submit a public comment on the repeal [here](#).

Join a Protest or Join a Non-Violent Movement. Pick a specific movement you feel passionate about and go to its protests and rallies. Support these movements financially. Boycott companies that bankroll environmentally irresponsible projects. Join a lawsuit against these companies or the government. Help with any court fees. Post information and links on your social media page.



Protests Against the E.P.A.
Photo Credit: Dallas Goldtooth, Sacred Stone Camp Facebook

A great example of how non-violence can work is the Standing Rock tribe’s protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline. People from all over the world became water protectors. And although the Trump administration green lighted the completion of the project in February, a June court decision ordered a full environmental review of what impact the pipeline will have on the tribe. Support your movement with passion and conviction. It will get results.

Harness the Power of the Press. Remember the Associated Press story about how the E.P.A. was not on the ground in Houston to assess possible environmental damage from Hurricane Harvey? Well, the E.P.A. certainly made sure they were there after that story ran. The press is a great way to bring attention to any environmental stories that are affecting your town or city.

Well-timed news stories change public opinion and bring light to issues previously unknown. The polls show most Americans want the E.P.A. to actually protect the environment. Let's bring it to light when they are not. If you see something or hear something disruptive, contact your local newspaper reporter or editor to provide the information. The editor's name can be accessed in the newspaper or on its website. You can also telephone and ask for the reporter who writes about the environment.

Use Your Creativity. Make some art, or writing, or poetry about environmental protection. It will not only give you pleasure, but could help to inspire others to our cause. Think about the great pieces of art that have touched your soul, the music that has perfectly expressed a movement. Think of the great stories that have transformed the world. Art has a very important role in creating change. Look up the poetry of Scott T. Starbuck for inspiration. Send your work to ctsierraq3@gmail.com to submit to this newsletter.

Now is not the time to be timid! We need everybody's voices to be loud and clear saying we will not stand for an E.P.A. that won't protect the environment. Please do what you can. Your planet needs your voice. Speak up!

Ann Gadwah is a CT Chapter Sierra Club member.

OUR NATURAL WORLD

Feral Cat Grant Program

by Annie Hornish

In a time of considerable state budgetary angst, difficult cuts must be made. However, programs with time-tested outcomes of both short- and long-term savings should be preserved. Take the Feral Cat Grant Program, which is administered under the Department of Agriculture's (DoAG) Animal Population Control Program (APCP).

This program provides for feral cat sterilization and vaccination through TNR (trap, neuter, return), a science-based approach that has been proven as an effective way to manage feral cat populations and provide protection against the spread of rabies and other diseases. Effective TNR programs also provide opportunity to extricate adoptable kittens and cats from colonies (ideally, to indoor homes), which, coupled with stabilizing and reducing the population over time, is vital to protecting birds and other wildlife.

Suspension Planned

On August 1, a letter from DoAG gave notice that the Feral Cat Grant Program would be suspended. In response, an HSUS-led coalition of Connecticut-based nonprofits that care for community cats signed a letter asking for the program's immediate reactivation.

This suspension is ill-advised and shortsighted, and will, in the near-immediate future, result in an increased financial burden on municipalities and animal control agencies, who will see a significant rise in the number of unwanted cats.



Community Cats
Photo credit: Krista Rakovan, HSUS

Two populations of animals -- unowned cats and pets in low-income communities -- have been shown to have the lowest rates of sterilization and lead to more unwanted dogs and cats, creating a burden on Connecticut municipalities and local nonprofit animal welfare entities. The APCP has wisely focused on these two populations with its Low-Income Program and its Feral Cat Grant Program. By focusing on these two segments of the animal population, Connecticut is making a positive difference in pet overpopulation and future resource expenditures.

By suspending the program for unowned cats, all strides made to address this population will quickly be lost as unsterilized cats are allowed to reproduce. It's noteworthy that groups that participate in the Feral Cat Grant Program have near 100 percent compliance with utilization of these grants, a sharp contrast with the approximately 60 percent compliance rates for DoAG's low-income spay/neuter grant program.

Funding Explained

States all over the country recognize that public policies that promote spay/neuter are a proactive, equitable way to stem the root cause of pet overpopulation and create cost-savings in the long run. As with 35 other states, Connecticut allows pet owners and advocates to directly fund a program that is utilized by state residents: the APCP is funded by dog licensing fees (68%), adoption fees (27%), and animal welfare license plate sales (5%). Yet these funds earmarked for the APCP have been regularly raided. Over \$1 million has been swept from the account since 2009, and the Governor's 2017 mitigation budget just swept another \$150 thousand.

Underfunding this program will result in greater costs down the road for community cat caregivers (who provide a public service at oftentimes great personal expense), municipalities, and the state.

Feral cat groups and animal advocates must get active politically if they want their tax dollars to be spent wisely. Go to [Humane Society](#) for more information.

Annie Hornish is Connecticut State Director for The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and a CT Chapter Sierra Club member.

27 Gifts Gardeners Want to Receive

by Michele MacKinnon

If shrill holiday advertisements ratchet up your holiday stress level, these gift ideas for gardeners will restore your holiday spirit. You'll find something for all experience levels, from novice to seasoned professional. Every item on the list is based on my personal use or on recommendations of fellow gardeners or has a Connecticut connection.

BOOKS - ORNAMENTAL & VEGETABLE GARDENING

Click titles for information

[50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants, The Prettiest Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs and Shrubs that Deer Don't Eat](#)—Ruth Rogers Clausen and Alan L. Detrick

[Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, Updated and Expanded](#)—Douglas W. Tallamy and Rick Darke

[Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older](#), or any of her books—Sydney Eddison, Newtown, CT

[The Homeowner's Complete Tree & Shrub Handbook: The Essential Guide to Choosing, Planting, and Maintaining Perfect Landscape Plants](#)—

Penelope O'Sullivan (Author), Karen Bussolini (Photographer-Kent, CT)

[The Unexpected Houseplant: 220 Extraordinary Choices for Every Spot in Your Home](#), or any of her books—Tovah Martin (Roxbury, CT)

[The Week-by-Week Vegetable Gardener's Handbook: Make the Most of Your Growing Season](#)—Jennifer Kujawski and Ron Kujawski

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Purchase at local, independent garden centers

Manicure and/or massage services—welcome gifts to soothe aches and pains or spruce up nails after a dirt-digging session

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Connecticut Gardener—<http://conngardener.com> (local publishers and owners)

Fine Gardening—www.finegardening.com (published in Newtown, CT)

MEMBERSHIPS

CT Horticultural Society—cthort.org

Garden Conservancy—www.gardenconservancy.org

Mad Gardeners—<http://www.madgardeners.org>

New York Botanical Garden—<http://www.nybg.org>

Northeast Organic Farming Association, CT Chapter—www.ctnofa.org

Sierra Club, CT Chapter—www.sierraclub.org/connecticut

REGISTRATION for garden events (full 2018 event details may not be available yet)

Boston Flower & Garden Show - <http://bostonflowershow.com>

CT Flower & Garden Show - <http://ctflowershow.com>

PHS Philadelphia Flower Show - <https://theflowershow.com>

TOOLS AND GARDEN ATTIRE

Boots—affordable, durable rubber varieties, including Muck boots

Gloves—there's no better gift than good quality gloves, especially rose gloves to protect hands from prickly plants

Hats—wide-brimmed hats are a must for sun protection

Hori Hori Garden Knife—also known as a Japanese weed knife, it may become a favorite garden tool

Pruners—Felco brand offers durable choices, including left-hand, small hand, large hand, and ergonomic models; favorites of gardeners everywhere

Spearhead Spade—Ideal for digging in rocky or hard-packed soil

Stand-up Weeding Tool—Fiskars Uproot Weed and Root Remover (four claw); makes weeding easier; very effective for pulling dandelions and plantain

There you have it, something for all the naughty and nice gardeners you know. What's the best garden gift you've ever received? Send me an email and let me know. Maybe your gift will make it to next year's list.

Michele MacKinnon, is a UCONN Certified Advanced Master Gardener, garden educator and speaker.

To contact MacKinnon for speaking engagements, to obtain a list of [upcoming classes](#) or to ask gardening questions, email beehappygardener@gmail.com. We'll publish answers in the next edition of the newsletter.



Gift Ideas: Boots, Gloves and Pruning Shears

VEHICLE DONATIONS REQUESTED

Do You Have a Vehicle to Donate to Sierra Club?

Did you know that you can donate your unwanted vehicle to the Sierra Club? This past summer, member Colin Bennett did just that - he donated his 1990 Volvo station wagon, affectionately named 'Bruce' to the Connecticut Chapter. "I loved Bruce but I couldn't give him the attention that he needed so I let him go so he could help someone else," Bennett says. "In fact, the whole process is extremely simple and only took a few minutes to set up."

Donations are incredibly important in assisting the Sierra Club and the Connecticut Chapter achieve our conservation goals. Considering all the threats we face, we need all the help we can get. In addition to cars, people can also donate motorcycles, boats, trailers and other vehicles. Bennett continues, "I realize that times are tight for a lot of people, myself included, so donating an unused vehicle is a great way to give back without breaking the bank."



*Bruce in better days
Photo credit: CarGurus*

To learn more about the Club's vehicle donation program or to set up a donation, visit [Sierra Club Foundation](#). If you do decide to make a donation be sure to select the Connecticut Chapter so the benefits go to the correct place.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Hiking and Sightseeing in the Swiss Alps

Speaker: Steve Olshewski, world traveler and hiker
Date: Thursday, November 9th
Time: 7:00pm: *activist letter writing* - 7:30pm: *program*
Sponsor: Greater Hartford Group Connecticut Sierra Club
Location: Westmoor Park, [119 Flagg Rd, W. Hartford, CT](#)
Refreshments: Provided
Donation: \$4 donation requested to defray hall rental
Questions: Email Renee [HERE](#)

Free and open to the public.



Overview

Longtime local Sierra Club member and veteran international traveler, Steve Olshewski will present a slide show and talk on early summer hiking in the Bernese Oberland and "Valais" region of Switzerland.

Come see slides of spectacular glacier and snow covered peaks, waterfalls, alpine meadow wildflowers, charming chalet villages, and Swiss cow bells. The talk includes the famous Eiger, Monch, Jungfrau and Matterhorn mountains and ends in the famous Montreux along beautiful Lake Geneva.

DECEMBER EVENT

Holiday Potluck Dinner and Organic Gardening Talk

Greater Hartford Group Connecticut Sierra Club invites all to attend their annual holiday potluck dinner.

Potluck Dinner: Please bring your dish of choice from appetizer through dessert to serve eight. Bring your own place setting as well.

Speaker: Gordon Kenneson, horticulturist
Date: Thursday, December 14th
Time: 6:00pm potluck holiday dinner
7:00pm: *activist letter writing* -7:30pm: *program*
Location: Westmoor Park, [119 Flagg Rd, W. Hartford, CT](#)
Donation: \$4 donation requested to defray hall rental
Questions: Email Renee [HERE](#)

Free and open to the public.

Overview:

Gordon Kenneson holds degrees in horticulture, history and political science. Now retired after 30 years in retail horticulture, he speaks regularly about gardening and the historical significance of gardens. He also collaborates with author and herbalist Beth Caruso on a three hour woodland plant and historical lecture at Northwest Park in Windsor.



A well laid out garden

OUTDOOR EVENT

Common info for each outdoor event

Dress: Be sure you dress for the weather. We suggest you bring water and a snack. Bug repellent and sunscreen are advised.

Free event open to Sierra Club members and the public

Sierra Club Outing Waiver: You may review the waiver by clicking the attachment here: [Waiver](#)

Hike in Pachaug State Forest

An easy hike around Green Fall Pond in Voluntown located within Pachaug State Forest. This area was once inhabited by the Narragansett, Pequot and Mohegan Native American tribes and fierce battles between the Native Americans and the colonists took place here many years ago. Now the area is still and quiet in the largest forest in the Connecticut state forest system (28,804 acres). Pachaug is the name of the river that runs through the forest.



An easy trail through a forest
Photo credit: www.ct.gov

Date: Saturday, November 25th. Rain cancels.

Rain date: Sunday, November 26th

Time: 10:00am

Difficulty: Easy

Dogs on leashes are welcome. Please be prepared to pick up their mess.

Directions: The Green Falls Area of the Pachaug State Forest can be accessed by taking Route 138 east from exit 85 off Route 395. Follow Route 138 east, 8.3 miles to the forest entrance. Green Fall Pond Road, Voluntown.



Help Us Keep Our Programs Running!

The Q is brought to you by:

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