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## EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET

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### GROUP MEETINGS

#### Sierra Club - Greater Hartford Group

##### October Meeting and Presentation

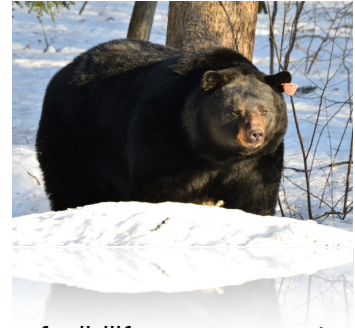
##### Presentation

*"Wildlife and Connecticut's Changing Landscape"*

Speaker: Paul Colburn, certified Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC)

MWC is a CT DEEP education program that trains participants in the fields of wildlife management, natural history and interpretation.

Paul's presentation will include a brief natural history of Connecticut, address the current state of wildlife including a discussion of major species, factors affecting their habitats, some challenges we face in managing them, and provide suggestions for what people can do to make a difference.



<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, October 8th
<b>Time:</b>	7:30pm. Doors open at 7:00pm for refreshments and letter writing
<b>Location:</b>	Westmoor Park 119 Flagg Road, West Hartford
<b>Questions:</b>	Renee at <a href="mailto:mchawigirl@yahoo.com">mchawigirl@yahoo.com</a>

*A small donation is requested*

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#### Sierra Club -The Shoreline Group

**Date:** Wednesday, October 14th  
(the second Wednesday of each month)

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Location:** Branford Common Grounds coffee shop located on Branford green

**Contact:** Jennifer Yoxall at 203-457-2624 or e-mail [jyoxall@comcast.net](mailto:jyoxall@comcast.net) before coming to the meeting to confirm that meeting is a go.

## Green Drinks Hartford

Green drinks Hartford is a monthly happy hour for environmentally conscious like-minded people to connect. On the second Wednesday of every month, people who care about the environment and sustainability meet for drinks, discussions and a good time. A speaker from the environmental community speaks for 15 minutes at 7:00pm on a topic of importance, at alternating venues in the Hartford area. Join us and bring your friends.



**Brief Talk Subject:** Desmond Batts, an environmental consultant, community activist and coordinator will talk about environmental justice issues in Hartford and their effect on low-income and minority residents. Batts is also a candidate for a master's degree in environmental science at the University of New Haven.

**Wednesday, October 14th**

**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Fire 'N Spice (in the bar area)**  
**An organic, vegan, Jamaican restaurant**  
**248 Sisson Avenue, Hartford**

**Follow the group at:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/greendrinkshartford?fref=ts>**

*Parking: There is street parking on Sisson Avenue. There are also a few spots available in a small parking lot in back of the restaurant. The entrance to the parking lot driveway is to the left of restaurant.*

## HIKES

### Tunxis Trail in Barkhamsted, CT

Saturday, October 10, 2015

1:00pm

**A four mile point-to-point hike on a section of the Tunxis Trail. See the cliff and boulders of Indian Council Caves and sweeping views from Pine Mountain.**



*Indian Council Caves*

**Difficulty:**

***Moderate, hilly terrain at a fast pace.***

**Meet:**

***Barkhamsted at the junction of Legeyt Rd. and CT-179.***

**Questions/carpooling:**

***Amanda 860-416-0081, [amanda.kenyon@sierraclub.org](mailto:amanda.kenyon@sierraclub.org)***

**Free**

Non-members welcome  
Hiking experience or physical conditioning required  
No dogs, please  
Bring food and water  
**HEAVY RAIN CANCELS**

**Note:**

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.

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## Hike in Simsbury, CT

**Saturday, October 31st**  
**10:00am**  
**Penwood State Park**  
(see directions below)  
**Difficulty:**  
**Easy hike on rolling terrain**  
**Duration:**  
**About an hour and a half**  
**Meet:**  
**Parking lot just off the Rte.185 park entrance**  
**RSVP:**  
**YES, only, by 10/30 to mchawigirl@yahoo.com**

*Note: If you say YES and change your mind, please let me know so I can hike nearer home instead.*

**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 proceed to end where it intersects with Rte. 185. Turn right onto Rte. 185. Ahead about a mile on the right is park entrance.

**GPS:** Use Mapquest or GPS and set for Stafford Street and Hartford Road intersection in Simsbury, CT for a site close to 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 THAT DAY CANCELS**

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## Hike in North Madison

**See Lithic Stones** (*Lithics are fragments of previously formed rocks*)

**Leader :** Tom Paul, *favorite Sierra Club historian*  
**Date:** Saturday, November 7th  
**Time:** 10:30am  
**Description:** The Lithic site covers 7<sup>1/2</sup> acres filled with hundreds of Native American stone.  
**Meet:** Robert's supermarket at Rte 80/79 circle in Madison.  
**Difficulty:** Hike is an easy trail. Wear hiking boots, bring water.  
**Duration:** About two hours  
**Pets:** Please leave pets at home.  
**Contact:** Jen at 203-457-2624 or Tom at 203-421-5612 for further info

**RAIN THAT DAY CANCELS**



*Women Admiring Lithic Stones*

## Leaking Methane Brings Protesters to Oxford



*Environmentalists say methane leaks at every step from drilling to the power plant.*

Photo credit: Tim Evanson/[flickr.com](http://flickr.com)

Environmentalists protested a proposed power plant in Oxford, CT September 17, 2015. Their message was to tell state regulators that a proposed gas-fired power plant and the expansion of fracked “natural” gas pipelines is unnecessary and a danger to the environment.

The protest preceded a public hearing held by the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on required air quality permits for the construction of a gas-fired power plant. More than two dozen residents spoke out about the power plant during the meeting.

At issue also are rules for methane emissions. Although the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed rules for methane "natural gas" emissions from new facilities, those rules have not yet been finalized.

### **(Leaking Methane Brings Protesters to Oxford, con't)**

Martha Klein, communications chair of the Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter said, "The problem is the power plant will leak methane and those methane releases will not be measured."

Martha Klein argued the power plant isn't the only problem, but a part of it. "Gas escapes into the atmosphere at every step from production to final use. Those steps include drilling, transport and flaring because what they emit is methane."

"Methane emission in the first 10 years of release is 100 times worse than carbon dioxide at causing climate disruption." She noted, "According to Dr. Gary Bent, who led his town of Mansfield to pass the first resolution in the state opposing gas pipeline expansion, "Natural gas is primarily methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas that is 86 times worse than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere over a period of 20 years. Because of the necessity of rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the high rate of methane emissions associated with fracking, transport and use of shale gas, natural gas is not clean energy, and the increase in its use will increase global warming. We must stop burning all fossil fuels, and quickly convert to an efficient and 100% renewable energy economy."

**“Gas escapes into the atmosphere at every step from production to final use.”**

**-MARTHA KLEIN**

CPV Towantic, the company building the power plant, countered by saying when completed the plant will be one of the cleanest conventional generating projects in the world, reported Fox CT.

Click for video: <http://youtu.be/bLRFrStmBqo>

Although the deck seems to be stacked against the protesters because plant operators have already been given a tentative approval, a group of concerned residents from Oxford and beyond continue to vehemently oppose the construction of the CPV Towantic Power Plant. Speaker after speaker at the DEEP hearing cited environmental concerns. Many spoke eloquently, attendees observed and noted that much good testimony about pollution and its ill effects was entered into the record. Residents were able to also submit comments via email and traditional mail until September 24th. A final ruling is pending.

"CPV took their lumps from the audience. They sat there stoically, listened to the speakers but knew in their hearts that DEEP was not going to deny their application. That doesn't mean we stop trying. It just means opponents to this plant can't rely on anyone or any agency to help them," Peter Bunzi wrote on the Stop Towantic Power Facebook page.

Martha Klein remarked, "It's frustrating for me to see state agencies, in place to protect people and the environment, who don't really seem to care about us." She continued, "DEEP was going through the motions because they had to. How can you possibly approve something when you don't even have the faintest clue about the quantity of greenhouse gases the plant is spewing into the atmosphere?" Klein also commented, "The plant fills no need because Connecticut already generates more power than it uses and renewable sources of energy are coming on line at an accelerating pace. Connecticut doesn't need this power and has adequate energy resources through 2022, according the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), indicating the power from the new plant won't be used in Oxford or the surrounding area."



## **(Leaking Methane Brings Protesters to Oxford, con't)**

On the Stop Towantic Power Facebook page, Lauren Van Alstyne Blair wrote, "All the comments were from people opposing the plant. The auditorium was full at the start of the meeting! Great turn out!"



Elizabeth Leonetti Bell added, "If dissension from incredibly educated folks like an oncologist, an APRN who treats autism, and a cytokinologist don't make DEEP start to think about their decision to allow this plant, I don't know what will."

Also in the mix is revenue. The previous week more than 500 Oxford residents rejected a proposed revision to the tax agreement between the town and the operators of the CPV Towantic Power Plant. If residents had approved the revised agreement, it would have provided the town with \$112 million in taxes over a 22-year-period, more than double the \$53 million the plant owners originally agreed to pay. However, that is a fraction of the bill CPV should pay, which is roughly \$12 million annually.

First Selectman George R. Temple, who favors the Oxford gas plant, told Fox CT that the "No" vote result simply means less tax money for the town. In reality, some residents expect the town can secure a fair tax payment as CPV currently is unwilling to pay the actual real estate tax bill. Many others hope the "No" vote will lead to the plant not being constructed.

*Acknowledgements: September 18, 2015 - Andrea Sears, Public News Service (CT); Brian McCready, (Patch Staff), <http://patch.com/connecticut/oxford-ct/oxford-power-plant-continues-draw-opposition>*

## **Why I oppose the increase of fracked or "natural" gas in the state**

*by Martha Klein*

On September 17th, Connecticut residents joined together to protest Governor Malloy's plan to increase fracked or "natural" gas use in the state, specifically the new CPV/Towantic power plant. Vehement opposition by residents of the area brought a strong turnout in Oxford. To this same end, The town of Middlebury along with 16 other plaintiffs is suing the Connecticut Siting Council in Superior Court for their conditional approval of the power plant.

Fracked gas infrastructure projects are encountering unprecedented resistance all across the country. In Massachusetts, the majority of impacted landowners have denied Kinder Morgan the right to survey property for their expansion projects. The resistance noted in New England is similar to that occurring all across the U.S. where communities are fighting extreme energy extraction and transport.

## (Why I oppose the increase of fracked or "natural" gas in the state, con't)

### Conservation is a factor in the opposition to the power plant.

In Windsor, Deb Bologna wants to save the last three acres of property her grandfather farmed, land that Kinder Morgan needs to build a vastly expanded gas pipeline. She says, "This piece of land has been in my family for four generations. It makes me sick to think of the disruption to the wildlife corridor including the extinction of the eastern lady slipper and the eastern box turtle. This land is a refuge for wildlife and Kinder Morgan will destroy it all. It's the nature of the project!"

**Health is a factor.** Pramilla Malik, co-chair of Protect Orange County in NY which is fighting another CPV power plant, says, "We are all connected by the pipelines that poison us upstream, midstream and downstream. Projects like the CPV power plant drive the related infrastructure and fabricate markets for fracked gas industries."

**Drinking water is a factor.** The Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan District, Scott Jellison, wrote in a letter to FERC about Kinder Morgan's Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline expansion project, "The proposed pipeline could potentially impact MDC's public drinking water supplies in West Hartford and Bloomfield, Connecticut."

**Overseas export is a factor.** Pipeline companies such as Spectra and Kinder Morgan are building large diameter, high pressure pipelines across New England which, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, will export gas from Maine to Canada for the purpose of overseas export.

**“This land is a refuge for wildlife and Kinder Morgan will destroy it all. It's the nature of the project!”**

-DEB BOLOGNA

Senator Blumenthal pointed out to the DOE in February that this export scheme will have adverse effects on Americans, including increasing the price of natural gas and adversely impacting industry: "We are concerned that LNG exports will disproportionately benefit the natural gas industry, at the expense of households and industries that will suffer from higher natural gas and electricity prices."

**Overview.** One of the organizing groups of the protest is The Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter. As communications chair, I've remarked: "When the Governor, DEEP and Eversource made the energy plan for the state a few years ago, they believed natural gas would be cheaper, so it made sense to power more of Connecticut with gas. Then, due to fracking, the price of oil also dropped.

**Our pocketbooks is a factor.** The CT legislature passed laws allowing electric distribution companies like Eversource to fund campaigns to convert hundreds of thousands of customers to gas with ratepayer subsidies. The result was our electric bills increased. In June, the CT legislature passed a law that requires electric consumers to pay for future fracked gas pipeline expansions, so we can expect our bills will go up again.

Recently we learned that the large pipeline expansions to carry gas across the state, like the Algonquin pipeline that's under construction, are being built to export gas overseas. We can expect the price of gas to go up even more. This choice to expand fracked gas use and transport in CT will make our bills higher while destroying the climate."

Public money being channeled to a private company like Eversource is "textbook extractive economics" says James Root, a resident of Danbury. "Our hard earned dollars should only be used to convert homes and businesses to renewable energy, which lowers costs to consumers."



**(Why I oppose the increase of fracked or "natural" gas in the state, con't)**

**Summary.** There are no economic or environmental benefits to be gained from increased use of fracked gas. Now is the time to show our opposition to the disastrous Connecticut energy plan, and demand an emergency transition to sustainable sources of power such as wind and solar.

**Call to Action**

**Attend Educational Forum on Fracked Gas Pipeline**

**Tuesday, October 13th  
6:30pm**

**East Granby Public Library  
24 Center Street, East Granby**

**Open to the public  
Free**

**Topic:**

*How pipeline expansion affects people and environment in CT towns and neighborhoods*

**Health and Safety Impact**

*~Fracking waste radioactive toxicity*

**Environmental Impact**

*~Fracked gas is piped under rivers, through wetlands and across sensitive ecosystems  
~Leaking gas impact on climate change*

**Costs**

*~Will energy bills increase?*

**Bridge fuel**

*~Does methane qualify?*

**Alternative Future**

*~Carbon-free, renewable energy*

## HELP WANTED

### Interested in Stepping Up? The Connecticut Chapter Needs You!

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be working at the top level of your organization, managing its affairs and activities and being in on decision making regarding how to deal with the environmental challenges facing Connecticut today?

We are recruiting people to run for the executive committees that lead the Sierra Club's Connecticut chapter and our Greater Hartford and Shoreline groups.

The Executive Committee, commonly known as the Ex Com, is composed of nine At-Large members who are elected from the Sierra Club membership in staggered 2-year terms and one member appointed by each Group in good standing. The 11 voting members may appoint additional volunteers to non-voting positions, as needed.

If you would like to be considered, please send a short bio to Roberta Paro at [raparo@snet.net](mailto:raparo@snet.net), Tell us a little about yourself, your involvement with the club so far, and why you would like to be considered as a candidate. Please include your telephone number so we can reach you. Deadline to apply is October 23rd.

You won't regret it!

*Connecticut Chapter Executive Committee*

**WE NEED YOU**



### Website Administrator Volunteer Needed

Are you a member of CT Sierra Club, have skills developing websites and want to give back to help the environment? We are looking for a website administrator who can keep our website up to date and make it more user friendly. The time commitment is about four hours per month. Please respond to Martha at [martha.klein@sierraclub.org](mailto:martha.klein@sierraclub.org) if you have an interest. Thank you!