

Celebrating 100 Years of Connecticut Parks and Open Spaces

**Connecticut Association
of Conservation & Inland
Wetlands Commissions**



CACIWC

**36th Annual Meeting &
Environmental Conference**



November 16, 2013

Courtyard by Marriott Cromwell

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*Connecticut Association of Conservation
& Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC)*

36th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference

*“Celebrating 100 Years of Connecticut
Parks and Open Spaces”*

Saturday, November 16, 2013

Courtyard by Marriott Cromwell, 4 Sebethe Drive, Cromwell, CT 06416

Schedule for the Day

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Registration & Breakfast | 8:30-9:00 a.m. |
| Welcome & Business Meeting..... | 9:00-9:30 a.m. |
| Session 1 Workshops | 9:30-10:30 a.m. |
| Break 1 | 10:30-10:45 a.m. |
| Session 2 Workshops | 10:45-11:45 p.m. |
| Break 2..... | 11:45-12:00 p.m. |
| Lunch & Keynote Speaker | 12:00-1:30 p.m. |
| Break 3..... | 1:30-2:00 p.m. |
| Session 3 Workshops | 2:00-3:30 p.m. |
| Final Display Viewing | 3:30-3:45 p.m. |

Displays will be on view from 8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Business Meeting Agenda

Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2012 Annual Meeting

Reports:

Treasurer’s Annual Report FY 2012-2013

Budget FY 2013-2014

President’s Report FY 2012-2013

Old Business

New Business

Election of Officers and Directors

Keynote Presentation:

Ms. Pamela Adams will highlight CACIWC’s 36th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference with her keynote address on “Celebrating 100 Years of State Parks in Connecticut”



Connecticut’s parks, forests, and open space parcels are an important part of the character of our state. These sites range from large, well-established state parks and forests to recently acquired town and land trust parcels. Together, these lands provide countless opportunities for quiet walks and other enjoyable recreation activities for residents and visitors

alike. Many of these beautiful places also serve an important conservation role by preserving critical habitats for native plants as well as resident and migratory birds and other wildlife.

The management of these parks, forests, and open space parcels is frequently left in the hands of a single agency or organization. Unfortunately, these organizations are facing increasing challenges in their efforts to appropriately balance the increased demands for access with the long-term goals of habitat preservation. Many of these agencies, often faced with decreasing resources, are now partnering with other organizations to better manage these challenges. Our member conservation commissions are in a unique position to help form coalitions to serve as effective stewards of both state and locally owned lands within their region.

During 2013, the Connecticut DEEP State Parks Division along with the Friends of Connecticut State Parks (FCSP) and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) organized a Connecticut State Parks Centennial Celebration

to recognize the century of park land preservation efforts in Connecticut. CACIWC is promoting this year-long celebration of Connecticut State Parks, along with recognition of local parks and open spaces, with various presentations scheduled throughout this year’s annual meeting.

These presentations include State Parks Centennial Committee Chair Pamela Adams, who will speak on “Celebrating 100 Years of State Parks in Connecticut” as this year’s keynote address.

Pamela Adams worked for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) starting in 1976 as an Environmental Analyst. In 1997 she became the Director of Connecticut State Parks (the first female director), a position she held until her retirement in June 2009. Before joining the DEP, she earned a BA with a double major in biology and geology at Ohio’s Wittenberg University and a MS in environmental geology at the University of Connecticut.

Following her retirement, Ms. Adams extended her service in support of Connecticut parks with her appointment on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Harkness Memorial State Park, the Friends of Connecticut State Parks, and the Eastern Connecticut Regional Tourism District.

Pamela is very familiar with CACIWC, having served on the Colchester Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission, including three years as its Chairman.

CACIWC is honored to welcome Ms. Adams to discuss the Connecticut State Park Centennial and the role of local land use commissions in preserving open space land at our 36th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference.

Workshop Schedule & Locations

| | Session 1 (9:30-10:30) | Session 2 (10:45-11:45) | Session 3 (2:00-3:30) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Open Space/Conservation Biology | A1. Waterford Room | A2. Waterford Room | A3. Waterford Room |
| Land Use Law/Legal Updates | B1. Ballroom | B2. Ballroom | B3. Ballroom |
| Wetlands Science & Engineering | C1. Portland Room | C2. Portland Room | C3. Portland Room |
| Commission Administration & Planning | D1. Berlin Room | D2. Berlin Room | D3. Berlin Room |

■ Session 1

A1. “Planning for the Future of Farms in Your Community”

Kip Kolesinskas, Consulting Conservation Scientist, American Farmland Trust

How to make the case for protecting agricultural land and paying for it! This workshop will highlight ways to support agriculture, protect farmland, and leverage state and federal funds to make it happen. The workshop will define: purchasing development rights, how to write farm-friendly easements and leases, the role PA 490 and local regulations play in agricultural viability, sources of grants and funding for public and private lands conservation, and agricultural economic development. Additional discussion will cover: Can agriculture be an economic engine? In what ways can farms increase a town’s appeal, safeguard the environment, enhance human health, and add to revenue base? How does your town view agriculture?

B1. “CEPA, Upland Review Areas, and Vernal Pools: A Legal Perspective”

Janet Brooks, Attorney at Law, LLC; Vanessa Costello, Student Intern, Wesleyan University

Attorney Brooks and her intern will present the results from their fall 2013 survey of municipal wetlands regulations (that have been made available online) in which the definitions of regulated activities and upland review areas and express consideration of vernal pools were examined. This year’s statutory amendments to the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act will also be covered.

C1. “Rain Gardens 101”

Mike Dietz, Director, Connecticut NEMO Program

Rain gardens seem to be all the buzz in stormwater treatment but knowing how to install and maintain them is key to their success. This workshop will explain the mechanics of design and installation so they function as they were truly intended.

D1. “Planning for Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events: Adapting for Community Resiliency”

Juliana Barrett, PhD, Connecticut Sea Grant College Program, UConn Extension Program; Denise Savageau, Conservation Director, Greenwich, CT; George Bradner, Director, Property and Casualty Division, Connecticut Insurance Department

Hurricanes Irene and Sandy revealed the potential threats faced by coastal and inland communities across Connecticut — are we prepared for the future? Juliana Barrett will describe the environmental impacts of severe storms on coastal and inland wetlands, and management options for wetland adaptation to climate change. Denise Savageau will explain Connecticut’s Climate Change Preparedness and Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans, and the role of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions in helping municipal officials and the public to prepare for extreme events and their aftermath. George Bradner will discuss the State’s preparation, response and recovery operations during disasters, as well as its long-term recovery planning and operations.

■ Session 2

A2. “From Bittersweet to Barberry: An Update on Invasive Plants in Connecticut”

Logan Senack, Connecticut Invasive Plant Coordinator, UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Many Conservation Commissions and local land trusts struggle to prevent invasive plants from altering important habitats within their community. State invasive plant coordinator Logan Senack will cover updates and invasive plant news from 2013 in this session. The presentation will include recent information regarding potential new plants to watch for, early detection species, mile-a-minute distribution in the state, and a reminder about restrictions on the sale and use of invasive plants, such as Oriental or Asiatic bittersweet in holiday decorations. The new public act concerning running bamboo (which is not considered invasive in Connecticut) will also be discussed.

B2. “2013 Wetlands Law Update with Question & Answers Session”

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

This trio of wetlands attorneys has been brought back by popular demand to keep you current with the latest state Supreme Court and Appellate Court cases and legislative amendments to the CT Environmental Protection Act. This workshop will also include a 30-minute question-and-answer session that you asked for!

C2. “Dam Removal: To be Dammed or Not to be Dammed”

Laura Wildman, PE, Director, New England Regional Office, Princeton Hydro, LLC

This workshop will explore the reasons why dams were built, pros and cons in removing them, and alternatives to their removal. What is the cost of maintaining a dam versus returning to a natural waterway?

D2. “Lake Monitoring & Management”

Larry Marsicano, President, Connecticut Federation of Lake (CFL) & Executive Director, Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA); Charles Lee, Environmental Analyst, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Our Lakes are an important part of Connecticut’s natural beauty and heritage. They provide recreational opportunities but also serve as important habitats for migratory birds, fish and other aquatic animals and plants. Unfortunately, development and recreational use pressures threaten the quality of these habitats. This workshop will discuss the efforts of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Connecticut Federation of Lake (CFL), the Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA), and other organizations in preserving lakes in Connecticut. The workshop will also discuss the roles of local conservation commissions and other land use commissions in serving as effective partners in maintaining these important aquatic habitats.

■ Session 3

A3. “Vernal Pools: A Primer for Protection”

Hank Gruner, Herpetologist, Vice President of the Connecticut Science Center; Ed Pawlak, Soil Scientist, Connecticut Ecosystems LLC

In order to effectively protect vernal pool inhabitants, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions need to understand their biology and habitat requirements, and to develop comprehensive inventories of vernal pools within their communities. In this workshop, Hank Gruner will discuss vernal pool basics — definition, biota, hydrology, and landscape connections. Ed Pawlak will discuss the identification of vernal pools through remote sensing and field verification, as well as vernal pool monitoring programs.

B3. “The Roles of the Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission in the P&Z Application Process”

Mark Branse, Branse, Willis & Knapp, LLC

This workshop will discuss how both municipal Conservation Commissions and Inland Wetlands Commissions can work more effectively with their local Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission to minimize the environmental impact made by new development in their town. This workshop will elaborate on the suggestion of previous sessions that wetlands agencies should adopt low impact development (LID) regulations in conjunction with their town’s P&Z commissions. Joint efforts between Conservation and P&Z Commissions to promote compliance with state and local Plans of Conservation and Development can ensure the long-term protection of important habitats within their town. Other cooperative strategies will also be discussed.

C3. “Managing Streams in the Urban/suburban Environment”

Jim MacBroom, M.S., Vice President, Milone & MacBroom

Learn the connection between the landscape and the dynamics of stream morphology. Do trees that fall during a storm or other natural occurrence help or hinder a river’s ecology? What is the best way to cross a stream to get to the other side and should watercourses be straightened or armored? Learn the basics of stream pattern dynamics and the ecological relationship between trees, streams, and wildlife and how hydrology and floodplains may be affected by managing them.

D3. “Use of GIS & GPS in Trail and Land Management”

Emily Wilson and Cary Chadwick, UConn, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR)

Many Conservation Commissions have become very successful in preserving important open space parcels in partnership with local land trusts and other groups. These commissions are increasingly called upon to complete and document natural resource inventories, develop comprehensive land management plans, mark boundaries, establish trails and provide other opportunities for passive recreation. Even less tech-savvy commissioners recognize the value of geographic information system (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) tools in gathering geospatial data useful in the mapping and documentation of these important local habitats. This workshop will outline the latest improvements in these tools and review the various imagery sets available on Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online (CT ECO), a cooperative work of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and UConn CLEAR. The session is BYOL (bring your own laptop) and time will be provided at the end for hands-on exploration of CT ECO and other mapping resources.



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CACIWC Annual Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2012

Four Points by Sheraton, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT

Alan Siniscalchi, CACIWC President and Annual Meeting Chairman, convened the meeting at 9:18 a.m. and addressed meeting attendees. The conference schedule and workshop locations were reviewed. Attendees were requested to complete the annual meeting evaluation form and a questionnaire from the keynote speaker included in the program booklet. Revisions to the By-Laws were also included for member review and vote. Vacancies for county representative positions on the Board of Directors were noted, and interested persons were requested to contact the Board. Thanks and appreciation were offered to the annual meeting sponsors and meeting committee members for their contributions.

The Business Meeting convened at 9:28 a.m.

Approval of the November 12, 2011 Annual Meeting minutes: Motion by Rod Parlee, second by Marianne Corona to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2011 Annual Meeting. The motion carried.

Reports: The conference program contained copies of the Treasurer's Annual Report for FY 2011-2012, the CACIWC Budget for FY 2012-2013, and the President's report for FY 2011-2012. Alan Siniscalchi presented the budget and reports and reviewed work on the strategic plan being conducted by the Board.

Old Business: No discussion.

New Business: Approval of Changes to the Bylaws:

Revisions approved November 17, 2012: Deletions in [brackets], additions in **bold**

ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE, and OFFICES

1.4 The principal office of the association is located in the Town of [Vernon] **Middletown**, County of [Tolland] **Middlesex**, State of Connecticut.

ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.1 The Board of Directors shall consist of: the **four** officers of the association; eight County Representatives, one from each Connecticut county; eight Alternate County representatives, one from each Connecticut County; **up to three Alternate-at-Large Representatives from any Connecticut County; and** past presidents of the association (ex officio, without voting power).

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

7.1 Officers and directors of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until his/her successor has been elected and has taken office. Any past or present member or designated agent/enforcement officer of a Connecticut Conservation or Inland Wetlands Commission/Agency may be elected to the Board of Directors **as an Officer, County, or Alternate County Representative. Any Connecticut resident with experience working on conservation issues may be elected to the Board of Directors as an Alternate-at-Large Representative.**

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

10.3.5 An alternate County Representative **or Alternate-at-Large Representative** shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Board of Directors if he/she is substituting for [the] **a** County Representative or is seated by the President. No more than 12 voting members may be seated at any Board of Directors meeting.

Alan Siniscalchi requested the membership review the proposed changes to Articles I, IV, VII and X of the CACIWC Bylaws included in the program brochure. Motion and second from the floor to accept the proposed changes to the CACIWC Bylaws. The motion carried.

There being no further business, the Business meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen FitzGerald
Secretary, CACIWC

CACIWC Budget FY 2013-2014

| | Actual | Budget | Budget |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | FY '12-13 | FY '12-13 | FY '13-14 |
| INCOME | | | |
| Membership Dues | 10,360.00 | 14,000.00 | 11,600.00 |
| Habitat – Advertising, Sponsorship | 6,585.00 | 8,500.00 | 7,000.00 |
| Contributions | 0 | 1,000.00 | 500.00 |
| Interest & Reimbursements | 31.32 | 40.00 | 35.00 |
| Annual Meeting Income | 7,215.00 | 13,000.00 | 11,000.00 |
| CACIWC Publications Sales | 0 | 140.00 | 100.00 |
| Grant Income | 0 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 24,191.32 | 46,730.00 | 40,235.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Education & Information | | | |
| Newsletter – Habitat (layout, type, edit, graphics) | 2,576.76 | 2,000.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Printing, Collate, Staple | 824.40 | 4,000.00 | 3,200.00 |
| Mailing – Labels, Mail Service, Postage | 1,941.90 | 3,250.00 | 2,640.00 |
| Other – Habitat Advertising Manager | 3,372.55 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Website – Administration, Server Fees | 298.70 | 750.00 | 500.00 |
| Listserve Management | 123.60 | 300.00 | 200.00 |
| Board of Directors Development | 0 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Workshops | 284.35 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Other Organization Support | 100.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| IWC & CC Education & Information | 0 | 650.00 | 400.00 |
| SUBTOTAL | 9,522.26 | 15,550.00 | 14,040.00 |
| Administration and Operations | | | |
| Administrative Support – Membership DB Mgt | 252.35 | 500.00 | 300.00 |
| Administrative (other) | 0 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Staff/Executive Director | 0 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Office Rental (DeKoven House) | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| Office Equipment/Furniture | 0 | 300.00 | 200.00 |
| Telephone/Fax | 573.83 | 575.00 | 575.00 |
| Postage/Supplies | 0 | 200.00 | 100.00 |
| Insurance | 515.00 | 500.00 | 515.00 |
| Auditor/Accountant | 350.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Fees | 0 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Refunds | 0 | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Legislative Action | 0 | 750.00 | 750.00 |
| Annual Meeting Expenses | 11,089.93 | 15,500.00 | 12,000.00 |
| Subtotal | 13,631.11 | 30,075.00 | 25,730.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 23,153.37 | 45,575.00 | 39,770.00 |
| Gain/Loss | | | 465.00 |

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Wm. Dimmick, Treasurer

President's Report for the 2013 Annual Meeting: Another Year in Perspective



This year began a series of special events in Connecticut as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our State Parks. We recall the inaugural meeting of Connecticut's first State Park Commission in September 1913. With this meeting, the six-member commission began the process of identifying sites to preserve as Connecticut's first state parks. At today's 36th CACIWC Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, we honor these early efforts, support our existing parks and open spaces, and promote a strong future for both our state park system and the network of municipal open spaces that you, our member commissions, have worked to identify, protect, and preserve.

During 2013 the CACIWC board of directors began the second year of its two-year term, headed by fellow executive board members Vice President Laura Magaraci, Secretary Maureen FitzGerald, and Treasurer Charles Dimmick. The 2013 Board of Directors also included members Peter Basserman, Ann Beaudin, Mary Ann Chinatti, Marianne Corona, Anita Goerig, Alicia Mozian, Dr. Benjamin Oko, Thomas Ouellette, Rod Parlee, Stephen Wadleton, and Heidi Wallace. Today we also thank all past board members and staff for their work on behalf of CACIWC.

The CACIWC Annual Meeting Committee and the entire Board of Directors extend our appreciation to all of you who are in attendance here today. The committee has closely watched the weather forecasts each week to see if we should prepare for a repeat of 2012's Subtropical Storm Sandy, followed a week later by a strong nor'easter that left a blanket of up to 10-12 inches of snow many areas of Connecticut. The 2012 experience may have seemed all too familiar to some of you who were also left powerless in 2011 by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene and the pre-Halloween nor'easter.

Fortunately the summer and fall of 2013 were free of major storms. Even without the obstacles of downed power grids and communication systems, the task of organizing our **annual meeting and environmental conference** is a major challenge for our small volunteer board without full-time staff. We are inspired to continue this event each year by the feedback we receive from all of you. We value every comment and suggestion that you provide to us each year as we strive to bring timely and relevant topics and issues to your attention.

Many components of last year's 35th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference were developed in response to your suggestions. This event, held at Four Points by Sheraton in Meriden on Saturday November 17, 2012, was the eleventh day-long conference. A total of twelve workshops were provided within four topic tracks for inland wetlands and conservation commissioners and staff.

CACIWC hosted Dr. Michael Klemens as the keynote speaker for this conference. Too often the choice between

environmental health and economic prosperity is positioned as choosing between one and the other. In his keynote address, entitled "Ecological Stewardship and Economic Development: Do We Have to Choose?," Dr. Klemens examined the roots of this perceived dichotomy which is at the basis of so much of the conflict and confrontation that surrounds land use decision-making. Dr. Klemens explored options that are available to local leaders and communities to better resolve conflicts, understand the strengths and limitations of science and their practitioners, and plan for more ecologically and economically resilient communities, drawing on his own thirty-plus years of experience in the field.

Educated in the United States and Europe, Dr. Michael W. Klemens is a conservation biologist and land use planner who seeks to achieve a balance between ecosystem requirements and human needs. He has conducted field work in East Africa and throughout the United States and has written several books including the definitive study of Connecticut's amphibians and reptiles, and authored over 100 scientific papers. He is the co-author (with Aram Calhoun) of the Best Development Practices manual for vernal pool resources which is incorporated by reference into Connecticut's 2004 Stormwater Manual as well as the guidance document promulgated by the Army Corps of Engineers for the New England Region in 2011. He is on the scientific staff of the American Museum of Natural History, serves as a consultant to various federal agencies, as is adjunct faculty at several universities.

Locally, Michael has served over six years on the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission, most recently and currently as its Chairman. Under his leadership the P&Z has assumed authority over critical natural resources such as vernal pools, complementing the authority of the local Inland Wetland Commission to afford seamless protection of both the pools and the critical upland habitat. He states that "recognizing the distinct regulatory authorities of these agencies, and creating regulations that dovetail with one another, is the best legal fix that can fill the void created by the regressive Avalon Bay decision." He was re-elected on a platform that "brings an independent perspective to planning issues, mindful of the need to balance the stewardship of community interests with rights of land owners to use their properties productively. Increased public participation in municipal government is essential, and all points of view have merit and require the serious attention of local government."

CACIWC has also continued its efforts for the **support of commissions and recognition of commissioners and staff**. Two major annual recognition awards were given to deserving recipients during the 2012 annual conference. **Elaine Sych, coordinator for the Connecticut Environmental Review Teams**, received a 2012 "**Special Recognition Award**." In

continued next page

President's Report for the 2013 Annual Meeting (continued)

her position, Ms. Sych, is responsible for bringing together Environmental Review Team members from a wide range of environmental, planning, and land management professions. As the ERT Coordinator, Elaine oversees all aspects of the environmental review process, including serving as a liaison with municipal boards and governments, conducting field investigations, and developing concise reports. With over twenty years of experience, Elaine has been successful in advancing informed land management decisions and sound environmental practices. She has completed over 400 ERT reports, while the program is close to approaching 1,000 ERT Reports since its inception in 1969, serving 161 of our 169 Connecticut municipalities.

Elaine began her career as the Eastern Connecticut ERT Coordinator in 1985. She assumed responsibility for the entire state in 1991. Elaine is a graduate of the Southern Connecticut State University with a BS degree in Geography and attended graduate school, also in geography, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has a broad background in land use and environmental planning and has a strong interest in promoting outdoor education. She is also a certified Master Gardener and a recent participant in the Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) Training Program. CACIWC was pleased to honor her efforts to help us recognize Connecticut's many important habitats by selecting her as the recipient of the 2012 Special Recognition Award.

David Leff, former Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, also received a 2012 "**Special Recognition Award.**" A long-time supporter of CACIWC's mission and goals, David had a 28-year career with the state of Connecticut as an agriculture and environmental policy advisor to the state legislature and as deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection where he was primarily responsible for our state parks, forests, fisheries, and wildlife. An unfortunate degeneration of his cervical spine forced him into early retirement.

Not willing to allow his condition to interfere with his love for the New England environment, David actively pursued a new career in writing, where he continues to promote conservation issues by focusing on the connection of people to their communities and the natural environment. His first book, *The Last Undiscovered Place*, is a memoir about rediscovering our neighborhoods. His second nonfiction book, *Deep Travel: In Thoreau's Wake on the Concord and Merrimack*, takes us on a canoe trip following the route of the great naturalist. In this work, David helps us see places both the context of time and space, and helps us examine the wide range of phenomena that contributes to our environments. David received a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1975 and graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1978, passing the bar exam that same year. CACIWC was pleased to recognize his continued efforts to preserve and promote awareness of Connecticut's many important habitats by selecting him as the recipient of this 2012 Special Recognition Award.

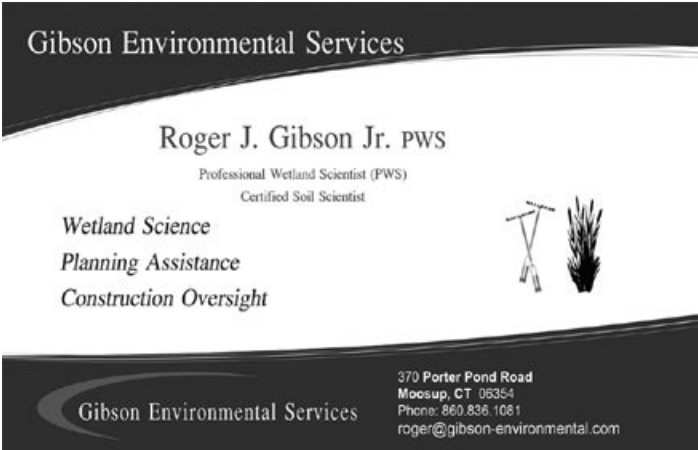
Throughout 2013, the board has continued its other efforts to provide **information and outreach support** to commission members and staff through our website, CACIWC.org, and our quarterly publication, *The Habitat*, which are published under the direction of Editor and former President Tom ODell and Associate Editor and former Executive Director Ann Letendre. Other municipal commission and environmental **advocacy efforts** were pursued in conjunction with various partner organizations.

During 2013, we continued the process of renewing our **Strategic Plan**. This plan was completed in 2008 under the patient guidance and facilitation of the late Allan Williams, to whom we dedicated the 2009 conference. The 2008 plan consists of five *high priority goals* and twelve *priority goals* that have guided our activities during the past five years. The board and its Strategic Plan Committee has been reviewing our progress toward achieving the goals of this 2008 plan in the context of our mission, while we select the new goals and objectives for our upcoming plan. We will be sharing progress on the development of these new goals and objectives during 2014 in upcoming issues of *The Habitat*. We remain committed to continue efforts that will enable CACIWC to expand its role as a strong and effective statewide organization in support of you, our municipal conservation and wetlands commissioners and staff.

As we cautiously plan for 2014 under the threat of another federal government shutdown, we must maintain our vigilance and prepare for all threats to our important state and local environmental conservation programs. Those of us whom you entrust to lead CACIWC will continue efforts to bring you relevant educational programs while informing you of the latest issues affecting your role as one of Connecticut's most important assets.

We thank you again and hope that you enjoy today's 2013 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference at Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell, Connecticut!


— Alan J. Siniscalchi, President



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CACIWC 2013 Annual Recognition Award Recipients

The Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission is receiving the CACIWC 2013 “Commission of the Year Award” for its thoughtful and objective approach to regulation of activity that may impact on wetlands and for its unique approach to educating town residents on the importance of these habitats.

The Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission is comprised of a diverse and knowledgeable group of residents. Edward Kirby, Chairman for 18 years, is a geologist and historian and brings an extraordinary depth to each Wetlands site visit, often commenting on the historical nature and geological composition of the land. Mike Dudek is land manager for Sharon Audubon. His knowledge of plant life, invasive species, and potential impacts upon aquatic communities assist in making intelligent decisions as well as advising land owners as to environmentally sound landscape practices. Sharon Tingley is a landscape designer, advising on native plantings and invasive problems. Harvey Hayden, a veterinarian by profession, understands the community from a deeply personal perspective and can interface with applicants in a unique way. Jim Krissel, a farmer and member of both the River Commission and Conservation Committee, brings a wide range of knowledge to the committee. Lynn Kearcher, trained as a writer, accomplished much work on Mudge Pond, raising funds, working with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental protection (DEEP) to reverse eutrophication, and publishing the Mudge Pond primer. William Trowbridge and Larry Rand are both educators, deeply

invested in the town, and serve on several other committees where they share information about Wetlands.

The entire Committee, with the guidance of Land Commissioner Jamie Casey, worked tirelessly on The Sharon Inland Wetlands Brochure, just published in August of this year. The brochure is a thoughtful and thorough explanation of the importance of Inland Wetlands, how ecosystems work, and what landowners can do to protect wetlands. The full-color brochure is used at local grade schools to teach young science students about Wetlands and is available for free from the Land Commissioner’s office in Sharon as well as available online on the Sharon town website.

While the far-reaching impact of the brochure has yet to be witnessed, Wetlands’ members have already seen the value of its educational impact in regard to applicants’ commenting on the content. One applicant said, “The list of native plantings was so helpful that I photocopied it and have given it to every garden club member.” Another, a resident of neighboring town Salisbury, requested 20 copies to be given to her conservation committee. A teacher from Kildonan school who teaches dyslexic children said she uses the brochure to teach her fourth grade students about Wetlands, and that “the students responded well to the color illustrations and pictures.”

CACIWC is pleased to recognize the Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission for their fair and objective regulatory work and their education and outreach efforts.

CACIWC will also be presenting a **Special Recognition Award** at this conference.

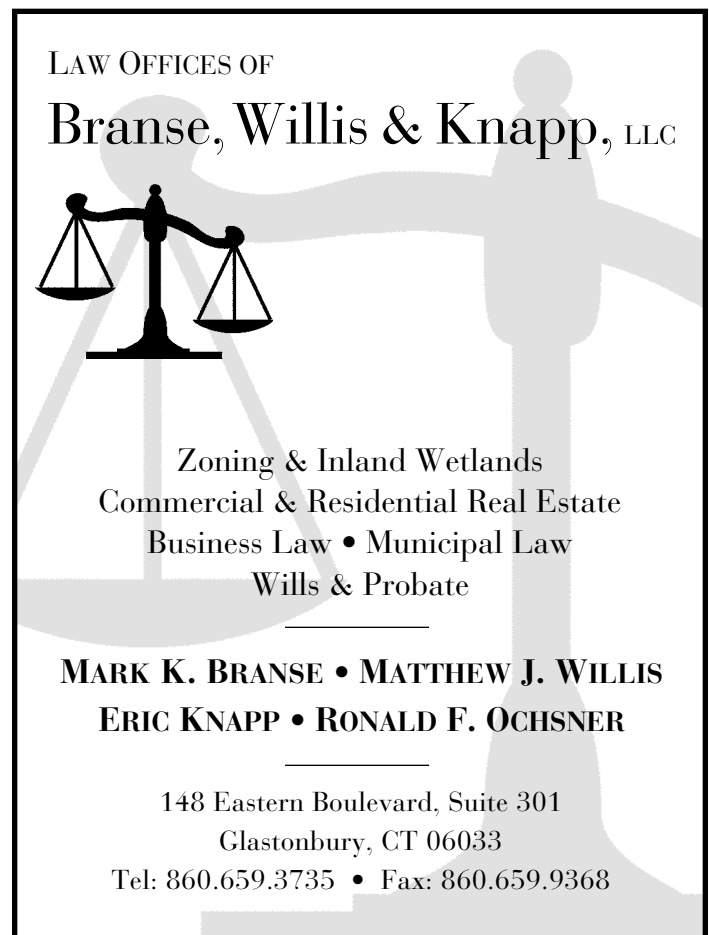


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