

CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STRENGTHENED

For the past 30 years the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) has served to protect our state's natural resources by triggering an environmental review of development projects funded by the state. In the 2002 session, Connecticut legislators unanimously passed CEPA revisions which greatly strengthen and improve the process for protecting the environment.

Editors Note: What does this mean to you? Early notice of state projects will provide opportunity for local commissions to provide state and private contractors with environmental information regarding proposed project sites and to let them know how such projects will effect environmental concerns in your municipality, watershed, and neighborhood. It will also provide opportunity to comment, on the record, whether or not a proposed state project in your municipality is consistent with your local Plan of Conservation and Development.

“Connecticut residents can now take comfort in knowing that our legislature has made the process of protecting our environment more effective,” said Russ Brenneman, chairman of the CEPA Working Group, the coalition that spearheaded *CEPA*, continued on page 3

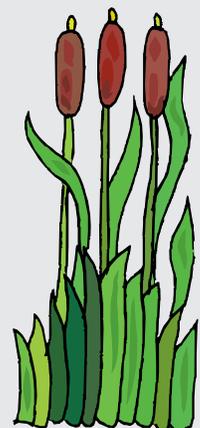
SAVE THE DATE! CACIWC 25th Annual Meeting

Celebrating 25 Years of Environmental Protection
Saturday, **November 16, 2002** from 8:30AM – 3:45PM
Ramada Plaza Hotel & Conference Center (Meriden)

A daylong meeting with two keynote speakers and a series of workshops. The workshops will cover various topics including: the latest recommendations on wetlands law, endangered species, greenways, invasive plants and animals, sediment and erosion control, vernal pools, and empowering conservation commissions. Opportunities to view many informational displays on conservation issues, and presentation of the CACIWC Lifetime Achievement Awards will complete the scheduled activities. Check www.caciwc.org for further updates! 

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Vacancies exist for Hartford, Litchfield and Windham Counties.

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The Habitat is the newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC). Materials from *The Habitat* may be reprinted with credit given.

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the effort. “The changes to this law bring it up to date and reaffirm that environmental protection and economic development can and should go hand in hand.”

Connecticut voters overwhelmingly support strong enforcement of existing environmental laws. Brenneman continued, “There has been a growing trend toward exemptions from these acts in recent years. That’s why we thought it was important to review the law and find a way to get higher compliance rates to provide the environmental protections Connecticut residents expect. We’re very pleased the legislature, in acting unanimously, is sending a strong message that it does not want state development projects to be exempted from environmental protection laws.” Mr. Brenneman is also co-chair of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters.

“The big victory here is an improved process for ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for our children and grandchildren,” said Dana Young, staff attorney for the Connecticut Fund for the Environment, and was one of the key drafters of Public Act 02-121. “With this improved process, the public has an earlier opportunity to review and comment on the impacts that proposed state projects will have on our air, land, and water - substantially decreasing project costs and delays.”

“I have been increasingly frustrated by the legislature’s willingness to exempt big state projects from a process that was put in place years ago to help minimize damage to the environment,” said Chris Joyell, the Connecticut River Steward. “It will be years before we understand the full impacts of the Maromas project in Middletown.” According to Joyell, that project would open up to development more than 700 acres of exemplary wildlife habitat and fragile wetlands on the banks of the Connecticut River. He went on to applaud the group for working together with state agencies, including OPM, DOT, and DEP to craft updates to the statutes that will make exemptions less appealing. Members of the Working Group plan to continue collaborating with the state

agencies as the regulations implementing this law are revised.

“Over the years, the Act has been used to explain and document siting decisions that have already been made, and not as a planning tool as was intended by the Act’s authors. The overhaul of the Act adopted today will go along way toward providing a real planning tool with real conservation benefits for Connecticut’s people, our wildlife and our critical habitats” said Carolyn Hughes, of Audubon Connecticut.

The CEPA Working Group congratulates the legislature for its leadership, most notably Representative Jessie Stratton (D-17), a champion of this legislation and co-chair of the Environment Committee. The CEPA Working Group also recognizes State Senator Andrew Roraback (R-30) for his help in writing the bill and shepherding it through the legislature.

Legislation Key Features

- Provides early scoping
- Provides early opportunity for public comment and **municipal** and state agency input
- Ensures that potential problems are identified and addressed early in project process
- Includes site evaluation early in planning process
- Includes a statement of the project’s purpose and need
- Facilitates process in order to avoid delay and reduce cost

Environmental Monitor

- Public notice improvement
- Monthly online publication and e-mail notice system to replace notice in Connecticut Law Journal
- Newspaper notice system remains in place

Improving Environmental Impact Evaluations (EIEs)

- All projects subject to CEPA will now require an EIE.
- EIEs will provide more detail about project purpose, need, and alternatives.
- EIEs will prioritize alternatives in terms of avoidance, minimization, mitigation of impacts.
- EIEs will consider cumulative impacts.

CEPA WORKING GROUP

American Planning Association/CT Chapter * Audubon CT * Citizens for a Sensible Six * CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions * CT Audubon * CT Forest and Park Association * CT Fund for the Environment * CT League of Conservation Voters * CT River Watershed Council * Environment Northeast * Environment and Human Health * Grassroots Coalition * League of Conservation Voters Education Fund * Rivers Alliance 🍌

CT DEP's OPEN SPACE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

Twenty-six open space matching grant awards were announced by the Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell and the Department of Environmental Protection in April 2002. There were 26 applicants; 18 were town, 8 were land trusts, nature conservancy or water companies. The total land value of the awards is \$8.98 million and protects 2,121 acres. This is year four of Governor Rowland's five-year open space acquisition program. **More than ever we strongly urge you and at least 5 people from towns that received grants to write to your legislator and the Governor to thank them for appropriating the money for this program and ask them to continue to support the program next year and beyond.**

The following grants were awarded:

ORGANIZATION	PROPERTY	ACRES	GRANT
Town of Avon	Fisher Farm	280.5	\$941,450
City of Bristol	Chizinski property	55.6	\$565,568
Town of Danbury	Terre Haute Annex	14.4	\$76,879
Land Trust of Darien	Mather McPerson Meadow	4	\$950,000
Town of Durham	Wimler property	281.73	\$494,000
Town of Enfield	Scantic River Acquisition	28	\$15,613
Town of Essex	Viney Hill Brook Preserve	61	\$173,375
Town of Farmington	184 Town Farm Rd.	17.4	\$175,230
Town of Granby	Costello Greenway Linkage	47	\$71,250
Guilford Land Conservation Trust	Bluff Head	60.8	\$115,520
Town of Manchester	Case Mtn.-Lappen property	65.1	\$113,910
City of Meriden	Lot 21 Anderson property (Berlin)	14.9	\$33,800
City of Meriden	Lot 23 Marks property (Berlin)	17.1	\$38,902
Town of Redding & The Nature Conservancy	Granskog property	116.83	\$797,966
Town of Redding & The Nature Conservancy	Edwards property	58.6	\$525,825
Town of Ridgefield	McKeon Farm	50	\$932,425
Roxbury Land Trust	Orzech Farm	116	\$595,175
Sharon Land Trust and National Audubon South Central Regional Water Authority	Hamlin Farm	265	\$712,500
Water Authority	Killingworth Common Ltd.	64.88	\$147,926
Southbury Land Trust	Philips Farm	97	\$439,375
Town of Stratford	Chanda property	5.46	\$145,000
The Nature Conservancy	Lay property, Old Lyme	186	\$175,750
The Nature Conservancy	Roger Tory Peterson - Old Lyme	68	\$399,000
Town of Tolland	Weigold property	30	\$52,250
Town of Wallingford	Williams Farm	93.7	\$339,625
City of West Haven	100 Plainfield Road/ 350 Forest Road	22.5	\$321,100

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS IN THE 2002 CONNECTICUT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

This year the Connecticut General Assembly and Governor John Rowland supported, passed and signed significant environmental legislation. The Governor and our legislators recognized the awakened environmental consciousness of the voters, particularly in this election year. Now it is very important that the voters recognize and support those political candidates that heard our message and supported the environment. Check with your legislators to see if they supported the following legislation. If they did, please thank them, if they did not, ask them why. To talk with your state senator call 800-842-1420. To talk with your state representatives call 800-842-1902. If they are not there leave a message; say that you are very pleased that the Senate or House supported significant environmental legislation and ask them to call you back. If necessary, follow up with another phone call. It is an election year!

- **Overhaul of Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). Public Act 02-121** strengthens and improves the process for protecting the environment. Please see article on page one.
- **Local Zoning Regulations and Plans of Conservation and Development. Public Act 02-74** requires zoning commissions that are changing regulations or zoning boundaries to state on the record whether or not the change is consistent with the local Plan of Conservation and Development.
Conservation Commissions should let your Zoning Commission know this law has been passed and signed by the Governor. When changes in the town's Zoning Regulations are proposed and available for public comment, review them for consistency with recommendations for land use and protection of natural resources in your Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development. Provide written support if the proposed changes are consistent or recommend how they could be changed to be consistent.
- **Wastewater Discharges in Drinking Water Supply Watersheds. Public Act 02-129** puts strict limits on the use of alternative on-site sewage treatment systems in drinking-water watersheds. Such units, which require a state permit, are frequently used to enable relatively dense development in environmentally sensitive areas. The Act requires that the project that is to be supported by the alternative on-site system complies with local zoning regulations adopted by the municipality in which the system is located. *This Act was the work of a small downstate group, Residents for Appropriate Development — a reminder that a few dedicated people can make a difference—for all of us.*
- **Clean Up of “Sooty Six” - the Dirtiest Power Plants. Public Act 02-64** sets a strict standard for sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants. The Act requires the six power plants to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by January 2005 to a so-called 0.3 standard—about half of the 1999 average for the plants. The Act does not allow for credit trading.
This has been a six-year effort by the Connecticut Coalition for Clean Air—thank you! While implementation of the Act will clean the air in the immediate vicinity of the power plants, where sulfur dioxide is believed to cause health problems for residents, we all will benefit in the long term.
- **Mercury Education and Reduction. Public Act 121** creates a long range plan to regulate the sale, use, and notification process for mercury and products that contain any amount of mercury. Mercury is a deadly neurotoxin that can remain in our bodies and in the environment for years. Not a single river in Connecticut meets the federal “fishable/swimmable” standard — because of mercury contamination of our native fish. The law will significantly reduce the potential for mercury to contaminate the environment by banning the sale of mercury thermometers and any product containing mercury. *This was a multi-year, multi-group effort to protect and restore clean water in Connecticut's watercourses, lakes, and Long Island Sound.*

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Actions, continued from page 5

- **Moratorium on Cables Under Long Island Sound. Public Act 02-95** establishes a one year moratorium on granting permits for electric transmission and natural gas pipelines under L.I. Sound. It also establishes a task force to study the need for power cables under the Sound, as well as new power lines in Fairfield County. *An earlier bill included a moratorium on the permitted Cross Sound Cable project but was vetoed by the Governor. The task force will include representatives from environmental groups. Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) has been a leader in getting this law passed.*
- **Water Planning Council's Study Time Extended. Public Act 02-76** extends the Council's life indefinitely. The legislature last year created a Water Planning Council to study and make recommendations on all aspects of water planning, allocation and management in Connecticut. The Council, which consists of the four state agencies responsible for water supply and protection of natural water resources, was given a year to do its work. Now there is no deadline for completing the study and development of recommendations. *The water utilities, environmental organizations and others have undertaken an extraordinarily heavy burden of meetings and work to meet the one year deadline. These groups on the whole opposed this bill as potentially undermining the current effort.*
- **Water Utilities Water Supply Plans to Include Evaluation of Source-Water Protection. Public Act 02-102** is part of a wider effort to identify and protect sources of drinking water. *Conservation Commissions and Inland Wetland Commissions should investigate how this act will influence long term land use decisions in your community. Ask your state legislator to assist you.*
- **Funding for Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition.** Last year the Legislature approved the Governor's proposal for funding open space acquisition. The Biennial Budget included \$12 million for the Open Space Matching Grants Fund and \$20 million for the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund (RNHT) in the first year (2001-02) and an increase of \$15 million and \$25 million, respectively, in the second year (2002-03). Those funds were not altered in this year's legislative session. However, as we go to press, the legislature and the Governor are struggling to balance the state budget for the fiscal year 2002-03. As a result bonding commitment for the next round of DEP's Open Space Matching Grants has been delayed to at least temporarily reduce debt payment. The potential to reduce or delay the open space commitment for 2002-03 is very real. *Please call your legislator and the Governor's office to ask for their continued support for this program and thank them for providing the funds in the last four years.*
- **Connecticut Farm Land Preservation Funding.** Last year's Biennial Budget authorized \$2 million for farm land preservation under the Department of Agriculture's Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR). The current state budget deficits make it imperative that we contact our legislators to make sure those funds remain in the final budget. The recently passed Federal Farm Bill promises significant funds for the Federal Farmland Preservation program (FFP) over the next six years. Connecticut can realistically expect to see \$20 million in FFP funds if the state shows significant commitment in the form of a 50% match. Now more than ever we need to make sure the Governor and the legislature support that commitment.
- **Gasoline MTBE Phase Out in October 2003.** The phase-out of this common water contaminant is to be planned and implemented by the Department of Environmental Protection. A proposal to delay the process by two years was rejected.

Bills on the following issues did not make it through this year: funding for the soil and water conservation districts; invasive plants; docks in rivers and lakes; revisions to renewable energy requirements for electric utilities and an Office of Environmental Advocate. 



POSITION STATEMENT

The Case for Separate, Single-Agency Conservation Commissions

It is CACIWC's position that every Connecticut town should have a Conservation Commission, and that the duties and responsibilities of that commission should not be combined with another town board or agency.

BACKGROUND

Enabling legislation for establishment of municipal Conservation Commissions was passed in 1961, and by 1975 a total of 152 Conservation Commissions had been established. Following passage of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act in 1973, many of those commissions accepted the regulatory responsibility of that legislation and became combined Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions.

By May 2002 there were only 79 Conservation Commissions that spent 100% of their time on conservation commission responsibilities. Fifty-nine commissions had the dual responsibility of both a conservation and an inland wetlands commission, and 31 towns had no conservation commission authority. Polls conducted by CACIWC in 1993 and 1998 indicate that a combined Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions spends less than 10% of its time on conservation responsibilities and 90% of its time on inland wetlands regulatory duties.

POSITION

CACIWC's goal is to reinvigorate and support the intent of the 1961 enabling legislation by encouraging the establishment of separate, single-agency Conservation Commissions in all Connecticut towns. We are committed to the promotion, support and facilitation of a separate Conservation Commission in towns that have no active Conservation Commission, or in towns that combine Conservation Commission duties with another board or agency.

The 1961 enabling legislation states that the purpose and responsibility of Conservation Commissions is the "...development, conservation, supervision, and regulation of natural resources". The legislation further states that this responsibility shall be carried out by (1) conducting research into the utilization and possible utilization of land areas, and (2) keeping an index of all open space areas within the community. (1961 enabling legislation, codified in CT General Statutes, Chapter 97, Section 7-131a).

CACIWC's research supports the position that only a separate Conservation Commission has the time and commitment to achieve the purpose and carry out the responsibilities of the enabling legislation and subsequent revisions.

The 1961 enabling legislation gave Connecticut towns the discretion to form Conservation Commissions and to tailor their duties according to community needs. The intent of the legislation was to provide each community and municipal agency responsible for regulating land use with a resource of information that would assist them in making informed decisions on the development, management and conservation of the town's natural resources. The Conservation Commission was to serve as that resource in a research and advisory capacity.

Position, continued on page 8

In the 79 communities that still have separate Conservation Commissions, the intent of the legislation has been achieved. CACIWC firmly believes that with the increasing development pressure on natural resources within communities, now more than ever the need to establish and support separate, single-agency Conservation Commissions is critical.

RATIONALE

Land use decisions made at the local level have significant impact on the long range economics, public health and environmental stability of a community, a region and the state. In Connecticut there are approximately 600 municipal land use commissions and an estimated 5000 volunteers that serve on these commissions.

Since 1995 community volunteers have approved an average of 25,000 land use permits per year. The time commitment required for these volunteers to make increasingly more complex land use decisions has significantly increased. They have little time to investigate the potential environmental impact of cumulative land use changes on their community's natural resources and environmental infrastructure. Conservation Commissions have the responsibility for such action and for advising the appropriate authorities on how that information can be used for the, "development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources."

The legislature has recognized the growing development pressures on communities and the need to encourage and support the establishment of Conservation Commissions by giving them additional responsibilities:

- In 1993 a revision to the enabling legislation expanded the abilities and opportunities of Conservation Commissions by giving them the authority (not the mandate) to inventory natural resources, make recommendations to all other land use agencies on proposed land use changes, formulate watershed and drought management plans and supervise and manage municipally-owned open space.
- In 1995 an Act Concerning Greenways changed the Plan of Development for a municipality to the Plan of Conservation and Development, and enabled Conservation Commissions to propose greenway plans for inclusion in the Plan of Conservation and Development. The revisions in this Act clarify the importance of planning for conservation at the local level and emphasize the need for the Planning and Conservation Commissions to collaborate on the formulation of comprehensive and rational conservation plans for their municipality.
- In 1997 an Act Concerning Acquisition of Open Space Land established an unprecedented five-year open space grant program for municipalities. The program provides funding for towns with open space plans, and requires Conservation Commission approval of open space grant applications submitted by a town.

There are presently only 79 towns that have separate Conservation Commissions. This means that only 47% of Connecticut's towns have a municipal agency that focuses exclusively on the duties defined in the enabling legislation and subsequent revisions. The history of Conservation Commissions in Connecticut suggests that, given the opportunity and direction, concerned citizens will respond to and address the environmental needs of the community. Please join CACIWC in supporting the establishment of a separate Conservation Commission in each of the 90 towns that do not have one.

- Approved by CACIWC Board of Directors 5/29/02

Note: Commissioners may want to cut and insert this position statement in their CC Handbooks.

DEP's IMPAIRED WATERS LIST

Editor's Note: Municipal Commissions should review the list to make absolutely sure that the streams and rivers that flow through your town are correctly described. If you believe a stream or river that is not listed as impaired is indeed impaired, this is the time to convey that information to the DEP staff listed below. The DEP is also asking for suggestions on how to prioritize the list. Your review and comments are crucial to the long term restoration and protection of rivers and streams. Please send comments to DEP prior to September 1, 2002.

The draft 2002 list of Connecticut Waterbodies Not Meeting Water Quality Standards (or Impaired Waters List), and draft Connecticut Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology for 305 (b) and 303 (d) Reporting (CALM) are now available on the Department's website (<http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wtr/index.htm>) for public review and comment. Notification regarding the availability of these documents has been mailed to a number of public interest groups, private organizations, municipal officials, individuals, and state and federal agencies.

In addition to comments regarding specific waterbodies, DEP is also requesting suggestions regarding the order of priority of listed waterbodies for management planning purposes.

Note that in order to be considered during preparation of the final 2002 list, written comments and/or suggestions should be received at the Department by September 1, 2002. Send such information to:

Lee E. Dunbar, Supervisor
Bureau of Water Management
Planning and Standards Division
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Direct questions regarding the draft documents to Chris Bellucci at (860.424.3735/christopher.bellucci@po.state.ct.us), or Kelly Streich at (860.424.3864/kelly.streich@po.state.ct.us). 

DEP PROTECTED OPEN SPACE MAPPING PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In the summer of 2002, the Department of Environmental Protection will begin an ambitious three-year project to produce a new statewide, comprehensive inventory of Connecticut's protected open space properties.

Over the next three years, the company Applied Geographics, Inc. (AGI), under contract to DEP, will visit all 169 Connecticut municipalities. Using each town's land records as a starting point, AGI will compile spatial and attribute data for all parcels that meet our DEP criteria for protected open space. Included will be open space owned by (or easements held by) local, State, and Federal governments, land trusts and other private nonprofits, and water utilities. The data will be verified, automated as necessary, and standardized. The result will be a GIS (Geographic Information System) database of the state's open space resources that can be shared, used and updated in its computerized form, as well as to produce hardcopy maps and reports. This new inventory will help DEP measure our progress in meeting the State's goal of preserving 21% of Connecticut's total acreage as Open Space by 2023. It will also be a vital tool in the management of the state's environment, natural resources, and land use.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

When DEP work begins in a particular region of the state, DEP, with CACIWC's help, will contact municipal Conservation Commissions and other local groups to request your help.

Conservation Commissions will be asked to help DEP in several ways:

- Share your best information about protected open space properties in your town. Although detailed maps and computerized records would be great, they're not essential. DEP simply interested in obtaining current and accurate property inventories: at a minimum a listing of individual parcels with acreage by parcel, and basic location information. DEP and AGI will use this information as a check against the information AGI obtains from municipal land records; the better the information we get from supplemental sources, the better the final inventory will be.

- Tell DEP who within your town knows the most and has the best information about local protected open space in general. The individual with the most knowledge about a community's open space resources may work for the town, or may serve on a local Conservation Commission or Open Space Committee, may be active in the local Land Trust, or may just be an energetic private citizen. They won't know who the best sources are unless they hear from you.

- Encourage your local officials to help make this a successful project by assisting AGI when they compile data for your town. DEP

DEP, continued on page 10

will do its best to inform and educate municipalities about the project ahead of time, and AGI will be as efficient and organized as possible, so as not to place any unreasonable burdens on town employees. But more assistance from municipalities will result in better open space data.

- Let DEP know how they can make this information more useful to you. One of the goals of this project is to make the data available, in both digital and hardcopy form, to government agencies including municipal commissions, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and private citizens who are interested in open space and need accurate, up-to-date information.

For more information about the Open Space Mapping Project contact: Jon Scull, CT DEP, Environmental and Geographic Information Center 860.424.3597; jonathan.scull@po.state.ct.us or Beth Varhue, CT DEP, Land Acquisition and Management Division 860.424.3086; elizabeth.varhue@po.state.ct.us 

PRESIDENT'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE GRANT

To celebrate CACIWC's 25th Annual Meeting, Tom ODell has established the President's Silver Anniversary Challenge Grant. The challenge is to raise a total of \$1,000 or more from CACIWC supporters to match Tom's \$1,000. The potential \$2,000 (or more) will be used for initiating training workshops for Connecticut's Conservation Commissioners.

Tom was elected CACIWC's first President at the first annual meeting in 1977 and has served in that position periodically since then including the past 10 years. In his words, "A Conservation Commission is the most important volunteer organization in the community for ensuring the long term conservation, restoration and protection of the town's natural resources; it is the environmental consciousness of the community. The purpose of the President's Challenge Grant is to provide resources for assisting conservation commissions in this challenging and rewarding work."

CACIWC is a non-profit organization given 501(c)(3) status by the IRS: contributions made by individuals and organizations to CACIWC are tax-deductible, as allowed by law.

Please consider a donation either personally or from your commission toward the Challenge Grant. Send contributions to:

CACIWC
President's Silver Anniversary
Challenge Grant
P.O. Box 2373
Vernon, CT 06066-1773 

NEW EPA WETLANDS BOOKLET AVAILABLE

The Wetlands Division of EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW) has recently released a publication entitled "Volunteer Wetlands Monitoring: An Introduction and Resource Guide" (EPA 843-B-00-001). This Guide is a valuable asset to anyone now involved - or who would like to get involved - with wetlands protection!

This booklet will show you how and why people monitor wetlands. It also provides you with instructions and advice on designing your own wetlands study. Furthermore, you'll receive a multi-page resource guide to other handbooks and manuals that offer detailed information on wetlands monitoring.

Why should you monitor wetlands? First of all, we need to be sure a restored wetland is truly meeting the goals of the restoration plan or permit. Monitoring will reveal trends in wetland health and help correlate wetland conditions with land use practices. You will then be able to use the information you have gathered to present facts at public hearings pertaining to plants, birds and other wildlife that use a particular wetland. Not only can you use these facts at hearings, but you can also educate children, the community and your local Audubon Chapter about the importance of a specific wetland in their area!

Audubon regularly uses information gathered from people like you who monitor their own local wetlands. The EPA Guide recognizes this partnership, and references Audubon as an example of how local and national organizations must work together to save these vital and vanishing areas. The EPA Guide references an excellent publication from Maine Audubon, "Maine Citizens Guide to Evaluating, Restoring, and Managing Tidal Marshes," as a key resource.

You can download the Guide by clicking onto <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/monitor/volmonitor.html>, or calling the EPA wetlands helpline at 800-832-7828 for a free copy. If you have any questions, or would like more information on the Guide, please contact Kathleen Kutschenreuter, EPA Environmental Protection Specialist, at 202-566-1383. 

DUES INCREASE

In July all Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions will receive membership notices. Membership dues have increased by \$10.00, effective July 1, 2002.

Dues were raised \$10.00/commission in 1998, in response to the loss of a DEP subsidy for publishing *The Habitat*. Since that time CACIWC has worked to reduce publication costs, but those costs, particularly postage, continue to increase. At CACIWC's Annual Meeting, October 2001, members voted to increase dues to support existing programs such as the newsletter, web site, and workshops. In response, CACIWC Directors raised dues for voting members only by \$10.00. Non-voting members remained the same. (See below).

An increase of \$10.00 in all voting membership categories will provide an estimated \$1,300 annually to support CACIWC programs. **Please consider becoming a sustaining member. The additional \$10.00 would help significantly.**

<u>Regular Voting Member</u>	<u>2002-03</u>
One Commission/Town	\$60.00
Two Commissions/Town	\$90.00
<u>Sustaining Voting Member</u>	
One Commission/Town	\$70.00 or more
Two Commissions/Town	\$110.00 or more
<u>Non-Voting</u>	
Organization	\$50.00
Individual	\$20.00
Supporting (Indiv.)	\$100.00
Student	\$10.00
Business	\$100.00



355 Research Parkway
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

CACIWC is seeking nominations for our Annual Recognition Awards. As in previous years, these awards honor those who have made outstanding contributions toward resource protection and environmental awareness while meeting the responsibilities outlined in state and local legislation. This year, in lieu of the annual achievement awards*, and in honor of CACIWC's 25th Anniversary, CACIWC will be giving special awards reflecting lifetime contributions. These awards are entitled: Silver Anniversary Awards for Lifetime Achievement in Conservation and Wetlands Protection.

Nominations for these Silver Anniversary Awards will be received in the following three categories: Conservation Commissioner; Inland Wetlands Commissioner; Commission Agent or Director.

Awards will be presented at the CACIWC 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting, held Saturday, November 16, 2002 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel & Conference Center in Meriden. Nomination forms are being sent to each commission. If you would like a form, please contact Tom ODell at (860) 399-1807 or todell@snet.net. You may also download the form at caciwc.org under "What's New."

**Nominations for annual achievement awards reflecting commission, commissioner and agent achievements between September 2001 and August 2003 will be accepted in September 2003.* 🍁

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR! CELEBRATION OF CONNECTICUT FARMS

September 15, 2002

Sunday

12:30-5:30 PM

Averill Farm

Washington Depot, Connecticut

Meryl Streep will serve as the Honorary Chairman of this year's Celebration of Connecticut Farms in the beautiful hilltop orchard at the Averill Farm in Washington Depot. Sam and Susan Averill are hosting the event. Their 260-acre farm was purchased from Chief Waramaug in 1746 by the first Averills in the area. Produce from the farm includes old-fashioned varieties of apples and pears and quince, hay and Christmas trees. The 20 chefs and 40 farmers, cheese artisans and vinters who created last year's event are planning a fantastic feast of locally grown food, art, wine and fun. In addition, the Connecticut Plein Air Painters Society is creating beautiful farmscapes for auction at the event, and noted author and Connecticut resident Michael Pollan will be there to talk and sign books. **Save the date!**

For event information **Call 860-723-5408** and watch for updates on www.caciwc.org. 

Nonprofit Organization

CALLING ALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION WEBSITES

The Woodstock Conservation Commission has created an excellent web site to communicate with town residents and other Conservation Commissions. Please visit their site, <http://www.woodstockconservation.org>. Elizabeth (Bet) Zimmerman would like "feedback" on the site. You can contact her at elizaduck@earthlink.net.

Bet has suggested that CACIWC establish a network linking Conservation Commission web sites on WWW.CACIWC.ORG. We think this is a great idea and will work with our web site administrator to establish it. If your commission has a web site please let us know. Contact Tom at todell@snet.net.