

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **January 6, 2020 Draft Minutes** 3 - 4
[01-06-2020 IWA MINUTES - Draft](#)
3. **COMMUNICATIONS**
 - A. **Conservation Commission**

No January Meeting
 - B. **Inland Wetlands Agent Monthly Business Report** 5 - 6
[2019 -01-21](#)
[753 Storrs Road NOV](#)
4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Application of the Mansfield Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) for a multifamily development at 113-121 S. Eagleville Rd (Parcel ID 16.57.5)(IWA File W-1612)** 7

To comply with statutory deadlines the applicants have granted an extension to 4/6/2020.
[W-1612 Eagleville Green Extension January 2020](#)
 - B. **W1611-1- Application of J.E. Shepard Company and Capstone Collegiate Communities-Construction of a 358 Multi-family Development-1621 Storrs Road and Middle Turnpike (Assessor Parcel IDs 9.23.1, 9.23.7 and 9.23.8)**
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Wetland Citation Ordinance** 8
[Staff Memo -Wetlands Citation Ordinance](#)
7. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS**
 - A. **Eastern CT Conservation District 2018-2019 Annual Report** 9 - 16
[Eastern CT Conservation District 2018-2019 Annual Report](#)

B. Joshua's Trust News - Winter 2019 Edition

17 - 24

[Joshua's Trust News - Winter 2019](#)

8. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

9. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES (NOT YET APPROVED)

Members Present:	S. Accorsi, P. Aho, B. Chandy, C. Cotton, D. Plante, K. Rawn, V. Ward
Members Absent:	L. Cooley, R. Hall, K. Rawn
Alternates Present:	K. Fratoni, J. DeVivo
Staff Present:	L. Painter, Director of Planning and Development; J. Kaufman, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent; J. Woodmansee, Planning Specialist; E. Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Aho called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Alternates Fratoni and DeVivo were seated for absent members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Aho noted the misspelling of a member's name in the December Minutes. Fratoni and Chandy stated that they viewed the recording of the December meeting. Plante MOVED, Ward seconded, to approve the December 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes with the spelling correction. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Aho noted the December 12, 2019 Field Trip Notes.

COMMUNICATIONS

Conservation Commission Minutes 12—18-2019: Noted.

Inland Wetlands Agent Monthly Report:

The Inland Wetlands Agent reported two agent approvals in the month of December, as well as a notice of violation to 753 Storrs Rd for mass clearing and a deck installation without a permit.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Application of the Mansfield Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) for a multifamily development at 113-121 S. Eagleville Rd (Parcel ID 16.57.5)(IWA File W-1612)

Tabled until 01/21/2020

NEW BUSINESS

W1611-1- Application of J.E. Shepard Company and Capstone Collegiate Communities-Construction of a 358 Multi-family Development-1621 Storrs Road and Middle Turnpike (Assessor Parcel IDs 9.23.1, 9.23.7 and 9.23.8)

Chandy MOVED, Plante seconded, (1) to receive the revised application submitted by JE Shepard Company and Capstone Collegiate Communities (IWA File 1611-1) under the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for construction of a 358-unit multi-family development in 10 residential buildings on property located at 1621 Storrs Road and Middle Turnpike (Assessor Parcel IDs 9.23.1, 9.23.7 and 9.23.8) as shown on a map dated 8/22/2019, revised through 12/30/2019 and as described in application submissions and to refer said application to staff and the Conservation Commission for review and comments; (2) to authorize staff to engage the services of Land Tech, Inc. to provide independent review of the application. Pursuant to section 8.6 of Mansfield's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, fees incurred for this review will be the responsibility of the applicants; a deposit in the amount of the estimated cost shall be provided prior to issuance of a notice to proceed. Motion PASSED unanimously.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

None.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

McLaughlin Pond Dam Inspection:

Kaufman noted that the McLaughlin Pond Dam is privately owned and periodically inspected by DEEP.

ADJOURNMENT

Aho adjourned the meeting at 6:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Vera S. Ward
Secretary

MEMO

To: Inland Wetlands Agency
CC: Conservation Commission
From: Jennifer Kaufman, AICP, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent
Date: January 2, 2020
Subject: Monthly Business Report

AGENT APPROVALS

None

VIOLATIONS

1. **753 Storrs Road, Nova Properties LLC**-Regulated activity in the Upland Review Area without a permit. See attached Notice of Violation. Staff is following up.

NOTICE OF WETLANDS VIOLATION
Town of Mansfield, Connecticut

Issued pursuant to Section 14.0 of the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations

DATE: January 3, 2020
ISSUED TO: Nova 22 Properties LLC

PROPERTY OWNER OF RECORD: Nova 22 Properties LLC,
156 Wolcott Hill Rd, Wethersfield, CT 06109
LOCATION OF VIOLATION: 753 Storrs Road, Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268
(Assessor's Parcel ID 23.60.15)

Specific violations: It has been observed there has been disturbance (installation of a deck, clear cutting, etc.) in the area immediately adjacent to the wetland (upland review area) without a permit.

Regulation violated: Section 4.3 of the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations regarding filling, excavating, dredging, clear-cutting, clearing, grading and other alterations within wetlands, watercourses or the 150 foot upland review area.

Required actions: By **January 15, 2020**, you must contact the Inland Wetlands Agent to discuss a plan of action, which shall include, but not be limited to, evaluating the impacts to the wetlands and restoration of the disturbed area.

A copy of this Notice of Violation is being provided to the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agency. The Agency may request that you appear before them at a future meeting. Failure to carry out the required action(s) identified in this Notice of Violation may result in issuance of the order provided in Section 14.3.A of the Regulations or other enforcement proceedings and penalties as provided by law.

Authority: Connecticut General Statutes, Section 22a-44
Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, Section 14.3
Section 40-6 of the Mansfield Wetlands Ordinance



Jennifer Kaufman, AICP
Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent
(860-429-3335)

cc: Linda Painter, Director of Planning & Development

Sent via regular mail and certified mail

From: [Kathy Dorgan](#)
To: [Linda M. Painter](#)
Cc: [Jennifer S. Kaufman](#); [Newton, Robert](#); [Kathy Ward \(wardgervino@gmail.com\)](#); [Hannah Rudd](#); [Edith Allison](#)
Subject: Eagleville Green Revised Schedule
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 8:28:59 PM

Linda -

This email is to confirm that the Mansfield Nonprofit Housing Development Corporation agrees and consents to extending the hearing and review process for our three applications for the Site Plan, Inlands Wetlands and Map Amendment for Eagleville Green to April 10, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration, Kathy

Kathleen A. Dorgan, FAIA, LEED-AP
Principal
Dorgan Architecture & Planning
10 Eastwood Road
Storrs, CT 06268
01.860.487.6740 (o)
01.518.469.6464 (c)

MEMO

To: Inland Wetlands Agency
CC: Conservation Commission
From: Jennifer Kaufman, AICP, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent
Date: January 16, 2020
Subject: Wetlands Citation Ordinance

SUBJECT MATTER/BACKGROUND

With support from the Inland Wetlands Agency, in 2018 the Town Council added a section to the Town of Mansfield Wetland Ordinance to include *citation and procedures for fines and violations* (section 40-6 of Mansfield Code of Ordinances, attached).

After the Council adopted the ordinance, staff determined that there was a conflict between the ordinance and state statute regarding who authorizes the Wetlands Citation Officer as noted below. At present, I am able to issue citations because both the IWA and the Town Manager have authorized me. However, the Town attorney recommends that the Council modify the ordinance to be consistent with state statute.

Mansfield Wetlands Ordinance Citations procedures and fines for violations--Section 40-6(B)(1)

Pursuant to the authority vested in municipalities under Connecticut General Statutes § 22a - 42g, as amended, any person authorized by the Inland Wetlands Agency of the Town of Mansfield may issue a citation for any violation of Mansfield's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations in the manner provided by this section. Any person so authorized shall be designated a Wetlands Citation Officer."

Municipal fine for violation of wetlands regulations CT State Statute Section 22a-42g (b)

Any police officer or other person authorized by the chief executive officer of the municipality may issue a citation to any person who commits such a violation. Any municipality which adopts an ordinance pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall also adopt a citation hearing procedure pursuant to section 7-152c by which procedure such fine shall be imposed."

Recommendation

If you support this modification, the following motion is in order:

Move to authorize the Chair to draft letter to the Town Council in support of modifying section 40-6 of the Town of Mansfield Code of Ordinances to be consistent with state statute.

Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

238 West Town Street, Norwich, CT. 06360 860-319-8806

139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT. 06234 860-774-9600 x13

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Board of Directors

William Jorsz, Chair
Anne Roberts-Pierson, Vice-Chair
Warren Swanson, Treasurer
Leonora Szruba, Secretary

Susan Manning
Sherwood Raymond
Charlie Hobbs
Matt Peckham
Cathy Osten
Paul Shaffer
Jimmy Moran

Alternate Directors

Pete Merrill
Walter Tabor
Gwen Haaland

Staff

Dan Mullins, Executive Director
Judy Rondeau, Assistant Director
Kate Johnson, Office Manager
Francine Brodeur, Office Manager
Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation
Project Manager
Maura Robie,
Conservation Technician

Much of ECCD's work begins with the development of watershed plans.

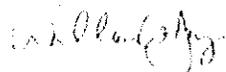
Watershed plans provide a roadmap for the conservation district to follow to improve water quality in local waterbodies by educating the public, and by affecting changes in land-use, practices and habits of residents living within a watershed.

Typically, when ECCD develops a watershed plan, it follows the format established by the US Environmental Protection Agency. From ECCD's perspective, one of the most important elements of the EPA watershed planning process is to build partnerships. ECCD has worked diligently over the years to develop and maintain strong, mutually beneficial, partnerships. Currently, the District is in the process of strengthening existing partnerships while developing additional partnerships to further our mission and the missions of our partners.

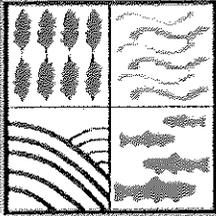
An important initiative being undertaken by ECCD staff is to develop sustainable watershed stakeholder groups. The Niantic River Watershed Committee (NRWC) serves as a shining example of such a stakeholder group. Having created the NRWC in 2008, ECCD staff have spearheaded the organization to become the premier authority on the Niantic River and its tributaries. Populated by local residents, environmental professionals, industry representatives, members of local shellfish commissions and representatives from all four towns in the watershed, NRWC educates the public about the Niantic River, conducts water quality testing of the Niantic River and its tributaries, raises money to implement projects that prevent stormwater pollution from entering the river and improve the River's water quality as marine habitat for shellfishing, recreation and tourism. It is a model organization that ECCD aspires to emulate, as District staff work to expand our capacity to address environmental issues in Eastern Connecticut.

Local involvement in watershed stakeholder organizations has the potential to initiate a sea change in environmental awareness and activism, and in our collective impacts on local waterbodies and Long Island Sound. Following the lead of the Niantic River Watershed Committee, ECCD staff has initiated the creation of two more watershed stakeholder groups to implement projects and initiatives from watershed plans. The Little River Healthy Watershed Coalition is working to improve water quality in the Little River, its tributaries and Roseland Lake for the purpose of improving the drinking water supply for the Town of Putnam and making Roseland Lake more hospitable to recreational uses. The Baker Cove Watershed Committee, having formed recently, will work to improve the water quality of Baker Cove for shellfish habitat and recreational enjoyment.

Educate the public, conduct water quality testing, implement projects to reduce stormwater pollution and raise funding, improve water quality for drinking, protect wildlife habitat, and restore and protect waterbodies for recreation, tourism and economic sustainability of our shared natural resources – these are the activities and outcomes in which we hope to involve the residents of Eastern Connecticut. We encourage all of you to become involved, support a local watershed organization and get your hands dirty to help your neighbors clean our waters. Nothing breeds success like success; join us and be part of it.



William A. Jorsz,
Chair



Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

ECCD Provides Technical Assistance to District Towns & Residents



ECCD provided recommendations including a low berm and rubber belt deflector to the Town of Woodstock as erosion control measures at the Town Beach at Muddy Pond.



ECCD initiated a Little River Healthy Watershed Collaborative to focus on implementing the 2018 Roseland Lake Management Plan.

ECCD responded to a wide variety of inquiries from District municipalities and residents, providing technical assistance on topics such as:

Nonpoint source pollution, farmland restoration, soil health, MS4 permit support, coastal resiliency, stormwater management and retrofits, stormwater sampling, riparian buffers and buffer plants, GIS assistance, agricultural best management practices, low-impact development, green infrastructure, conservation planning, open space planning and management, native plants, pollinator plants, stormwater BMP monitoring & maintenance, erosion and sediment control, pond management, water quality monitoring, funding opportunities, grant writing support, legislative and policy updates, invasive species information, and local, state and federal permitting questions.

*We would like to thank the following towns for their 2018-19 contributions to ECCD
which help to support regional conservation throughout eastern Connecticut.*

Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Columbia, Eastford, Franklin, Hampton, Ledyard, Lisbon, Mansfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Sprague, Sterling, Thompson, Voluntown, Waterford and Woodstock.

ECCD Provides Natural Resource Conservation Information & Education

ECCD Strategic Planning



With funding provided by the Community Foundation of Eastern CT, the ECCD Board and staff undertook a series of strategic planning sessions. The Strategic Plan, will guide District activities over the next 10 years.

Pollinator Workshops



ECCD held two Pollinator Workshops in March. Emily May, of the Xerces Society, taught about native bees and reasons for decline. John LoRusso, Master Gardener Coordinator, gave a valuable overview about pollinator insects and plants.

TRBP Floating Workshop XIX Rain Barrel/Water Conservation Festival



This year's Thames River Basin Partnership Floating Workshop featured the Yantic River and CT DEEP Trout Management Program. The field event included fly fishing lessons by the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



ECCD, in partnership with Boy Scout Troop 240 of East Lyme and Perennial Harmony, conducted a Rain Barrel and Water Conservation Festival. The event attracted nearly 50 participants and 45 rain barrels were distributed.

Mansfield Rain Garden Workshop



ECCD partnered with the Mansfield Recreation Department to conduct a rain garden workshop and install a rain garden at the Town-owned Bicentennial Pond Park.

Celebrating Agriculture!

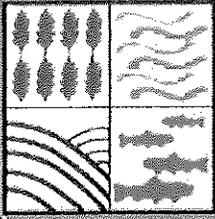


ECCD tabled a display of our projects at the annual Celebrating Agriculture Day at the Woodstock Fair Grounds.

♥♥♥ ECCD wishes to express its respectful appreciation for donations ♥♥♥
fondly made on behalf of others in the name of conservation.

Alexander Lake Conservation & Rentals
In Memory of John L. Leader, Jr.
Donna Ayers-LaPointe
In Memory of James L. Ayers
Nick Brown
In Honor of Mike Chapel
Scott & Denise Gravatt
In Honor of Kate's Last Hurrah
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hynson
In Memory of Edward P. Storti Senior
Beverly Johnson
In Memory of Richard S. Fito!
Kate Johnson
In Memory of Eddie & Margie Hnatiuk
Chip Lamb
In Honor of Susan Lamb
Lauren Laughlin
In Memory of Anita Guenin

Pete Merrill
In Memory of Pauline S. Merrill
Rhoda Micocci
In Memory of Antonio A. Micocci
Louisa Miner
In Memory of J. Morgan Miner, Jr.
Patricia Peck
In Memory of Howard Peck
John & Elaine Siena
In Memory of Leo Tucker
Ruth Stedman
In Honor of "Great" Grandson
Cayden LeBlanc
Gary Sudol
In Memory of Stanley & Jane Sudol
Warren & Karen Swanson
In Memory of Lori Swanson



Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

Agricultural Projects

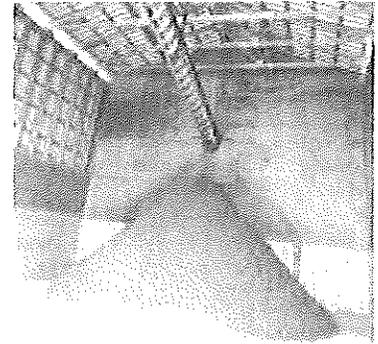
Fairvue Farm Agricultural Waste Management Practices Project ¹ - To improve water quality in the Little River, which provides drinking water to Putnam, ECCD and Fairvue Farm have installed a suite of agricultural waste management practices. These practices include subsurface drainage, silage leachate collection, a waste transfer system with concrete receiving tanks and a liquid-solid separator to remove liquids from manure and produce bedding for Fairvue's herd of dairy cows.

Valleyside Farm Bioreactor Monitoring Project ¹ - In 2017, ECCD installed a woodchip bioreactor to intercept tile drainage from an agricultural field as a nutrient reduction conservation practice. In 2018, ECCD was awarded funding to monitor the inflow and outflow of the reactor, to assess whether this is a viable practice in the Connecticut climate for nutrient and pathogen reduction. A year of water sampling at the inlet and outlet of the Woodchip Bioreactor was completed in mid-June. The results demonstrated a consistent and significant reduction in nitrogen from the tile drainage system under the farm field.

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) - ECCD completed three years of collecting and analyzing runoff from the edge of corn fields using two different runoff collection methods. We concluded that passive stormwater samplers were an effective, if not better, means of collecting edge of field runoff samples compared to the technically complicated and significantly more expensive pump systems required by the standard USDA method, making passive sampling more economically feasible for agricultural producers to monitor nutrient loss from their fields. Using nutrient test strips for analyzing the samples was adequate for nitrogen compounds, but not successful for phosphorus compounds.

Thames River Basin Regional Conservation Partnership Program ² - Under the RCPP, ECCD is assisting The Last Green Valley by providing technical assistance to engage agricultural producers in the Thames River Basin and to support them in implementing conservation practices that will improve soil health and water quality. In 2018, ECCD enlisted a Baltic farm to plant 266 acres of a 5-species mixed cover crop. ECCD is in the process of collecting samples at 2 edge of field stormwater runoff sites located in Baltic and Bozrah which will provide valuable data to the farmer on any losses of nitrate-nitrogen and soluble phosphorus.

PATH to Reduce Pathogens in Agriculture Runoff ³ - Under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, *PATH to Reduce Pathogens in CT Agricultural Runoff*, spearheaded by The University of CT, ECCD is assisting UConn by providing technical assistance to producers in Eastern CT to reduce the discharge into our waterways of harmful pathogens contained in agricultural runoff. ECCD has been conducting water quality monitoring for the project and assessing potential sites to implement conservation practices to reduce pathogens.



Bedding produced from manure solids by the new liquid-solids separator at Fairvue Farms in Woodstock.



Water samples collected during edge of field monitoring contain varying amounts of sediment transported by stormwater runoff. These samples can contain high levels of nutrients, including phosphorus, which adsorbs to the soil particles.



A passive sampler is used to collect water quality data related to stormwater runoff from a stream in eastern CT.

¹ Funded in part by CT DEEP through a LWA 5319 NPs Program grant

² Funded in part by CT NRCS through USDA RCPP grant

³ Funded in part by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant with additional funding provided by EPA

⁴ Funded by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

Water Quality & Habitat Improvement Projects

100 Rain Barrels & 100 Rain Gardens³ – In 2019, ECCD continued to install rain gardens and distribute rain barrels across eastern CT. Over the past year, ECCD installed 33 rain gardens and gave away 140 rain barrels. The Boys Scouts of America, River Network and Coca-Cola Company have been important partners, providing planting assistance, rain barrel conversion kits and syrup drums for the project.

Baker Cove Non-migratory Canada Geese Outreach, Education & Control Project¹ – ECCD and multiple partners are completing a 2-year non-migratory Canada geese management project in Groton. Over the course of multiple stakeholder meetings, project partners conducted public education workshops, identified Canada goose use areas through surveys, and created a management matrix for local areas experiencing non-migratory Canada geese issues. An important outcome of the project is the creation of a Baker Cove watershed committee to spearhead implementation of the Baker Cove Abbreviated Watershed-Based Plan.

Latimer Brook Stormwater Infiltration Project¹ – ECCD, the East Lyme DPW and School Department partnered to install drywells under a parking lot at East Lyme High School. The drywells will infiltrate approximately 1.8 million gallons of stormwater per year. This stormwater, containing a varied assortment of non-point source (NPS) pollution, previously discharged untreated stormwater to Latimer Brook, the primary tributary to the Niantic River.

Anguilla Brook Bacteria Trackdown & Watershed Plan¹ – With the assistance of the Town of Stonington and local volunteers, ECCD launched the Anguilla Brook bacteria trackdown during the winter of 2019. ECCD and local volunteers will conduct bacteria sampling and riparian corridor assessments in Anguilla Brook and other tributaries to Wequetequock Cove in order to develop a watershed management plan for the Anguilla Brook watershed.

Eastern Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative⁴ – In the fall of 2018, ECCD initiated the Southeastern Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative. The purpose of the Collaborative is to provide support, tools and resources for municipal DPWs and other stormwater managers in order to improve the quality of water in waterbodies that receive discharge from municipal stormdrain systems and comply with the requirements of the NPDES Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit.

Shewville Dam Fishway Design Project³ – ECCD received funding to design a fishway over the Shewville Dam in Ledyard, CT. Past work in the Poquetanuck Brook system by ECCD, in collaboration with CTDEEP, has restored 3.1 miles of stream habitat through fishway construction and dam breaching. This project will design a steep-pass fishway at the Shewville dam, which will open historic habitat in Avery and Amos Lakes.

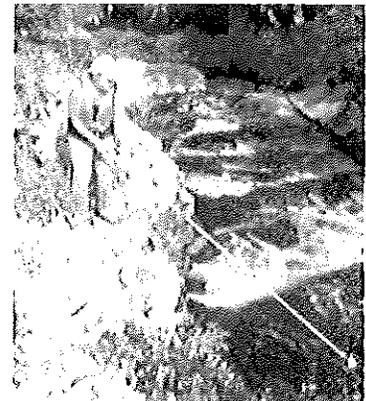
Little River Healthy Watershed Collaborative – Initiated in the fall of 2018, the Little River Healthy Watershed Collaborative will focus on implementation of recommendations in the 2009 Muddy Brook and Little River Water Quality Improvement Plan and the 2018 Roseland Lake Management Plan. The collaborative sponsored a Certified Lake Manager to review all the water quality data and make a recommendation for the best in-lake Phosphorus control method in Roseland Lake. Working with the Collaborative, ECCD is seeking funding to implement this recommendation.



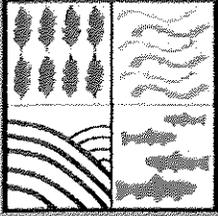
Scouts from East Lyme Boy Scout Troop 240 pose by the newly installed rain garden at Pine Grove, overlooking Smith Cove and the Niantic River.



A section of a drywell is lowered into place at a parking lot at East Lyme High School.



A water quality monitoring volunteer collects a water sample for bacterial analysis from Anguilla Brook.



Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

Collaborations/Partnerships

Partnerships with government agencies and other non-profit organizations are important to ECCD to achieve our mission. ECCD is represented on the Board of the Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, the Thames River Basin Partnership, the Celebrating Agriculture! Steering Committee, The Last Green Valley Water Advisory Committee, Connecticut Envirothon, the Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group and Willimantic Whitewater Partnership. We also partner with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, US Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Public Health and local health districts, UConn Extension System, CLEAR, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CANR), Connecticut Audubon Society, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America and others. Partnering with other conservation organizations provides a positive synergy to meet our conservation goals.

In addition to our many partnerships, ECCD provides support services to other conservation organizations, including administrative and financial management services, and grant application submittal and management.

Ella T. Grasso Technical High School



A 450-sf rain garden was installed at the Groton Human Services Building located next to the Poquonnock River with assistance from students from Ella T. Grasso Regional Vocational Technical High School. Excavation, topsoil, and mulch were donated by the Town of Groton Public Works, Roads & Streets and Parks & Recreation Departments.

H. H. Ellis Technical High School



Students from H.H. Ellis Technical High School installed a rain garden on Moin Street in Danielson, CT. This rain garden will infiltrate stormwater from nearby impervious surfaces, including rooftops and roadways, while beautifying this downtown public space.

We extend our thanks to the following supporters of conservation for their generous assistance & outreach!

- ❖ 2018-19 Water Quality Monitoring Volunteers
- ❖ 2019 Plant Sale Volunteers
- ❖ Andrew Tate Memorial Fund
- ❖ The CT Audubon Society
- ❖ CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
- ❖ Green Team of Frito Lay-Pepsico
- ❖ The Town of Lisbon
- ❖ Ocean State Job Lot
- ❖ Retired Senior Volunteers
- ❖ Plainfield Conservation Commission
- ❖ The Last Green Valley, Inc.
- ❖ UConn Extension System
- ❖ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ❖ Windham County Agricultural Society

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District wishes to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our donors listed below during 2018-19. Your generosity and cooperative spirit greatly support our efforts in soil & water conservation throughout eastern Connecticut. Thank you.

Dr. Sultan & Ann Ahamed	Robert Clairwood	Ellen Lehtimaki	Michael Rizzo
Robert Alling	Pamela Cooper	Robin Lessard	Anne Roberts-Pierson
David Amacher	Dori Cote	Glen Lessig	Sarah Rogovin
Joellen Anderson	Karen Cote	Jay Levin	Cynthia Rutigliano
Derek Andrews	Steve Danna	Amanda Lindberg	Earl Semmelrock
Brunilda Aponte	Jeanne Davies	Gary & Bonnie Lipstreu	Ralph Serrilli
Donna Ayers-LaPointe	Jean de Smet	Emily Logge-Savoie	Paul Shaffer
Kathleen Avery	Charles & Mary	Virgil Lloyd	Allen & Dorothy Sharog
William & Paula Bakanowsky	Dimmock, Jr.	Lance & Pauline	Shirley Sholes
Phillip Barnes	Teresa Drew	Magnuson	Patricia Sposato
Scott & Ann Battersby	Mary Ducat	Robert Marsh	Bruce Staehle
James & Virginia Beall, Jr.	Roberta Dwyer	Bobbie Ann Maschka	Debra Stake
Martin Bednar	Harold Fargo	Richard Matters	Pamela Stevens
James & Kathy Belisle	F. Lynne Fiorentino	Patricia A. McAnany	Ronald Sticht
Alan Bennett	Thomas Ford	Kerin McKenna	Ronna Stuller
Frances & Wilfred	Eileen Fritz	Charles McLain	Edward Suter
Blanchette	Joanne Galayda	Kenneth Mahler	Jo Ann Szela
Kathryn Bohara	Nicholas Gardner	Sandra Mello	Orville Terwilleger, Sr.
John & Susan Boland	Charles Gesner	Lawrence Millhofer	Susan Theve
William & Cecelia Bray	Patricia Gilbert	Ann Milner	Christopher Thomson
Joyce Brewster	Maryanne Gryboski	Wendy Mis	Janice Thurlow
Stephen Broderick	Philip Grzymkowski	Judith Moulton	Mark Tillinghast
Richard & Irene Brown	Nusie M. Halpine	Susan Munger	Corinne Tubbs
Lois Bruinooge	Craig Harwood	Anne Nalwalk	Mark Tyler
Judith Buell	Sarah Heminway	Robert Neddo	Kathryn Updike-Younger
Nancy Burnett	Charles Hobbs	Shirley Neddo	John Utz
Susan Burns	Joyce Hoffman	Ernest R. Norman	JoEllen Vasbinder
Morris Burr, Jr.	Jo Ann Holmes	Mary Ann Norman	Carl Vogt
Sharon Butcher	Roman Jamieson	Norma O'Leary	Peter Von Halem
E. R. Butler	William Jezierski	Steve & Doreen Pack	Susan Waldron
Marla Butts	Douglas Kehl	Lois Peckham	Michele Wales
John & Kathryn Casey	Jonathan King	Lynne Pitman	Linda Waters
John & Lynne Cassidy	Leslie Knightly	Joseph Polulech	Kristin Waugh
Robert Chalecki	I.R. LaBonte	Judith A. Poprosky	April White-Goodier
Benjamin & Bertha Chase	Kimberly Lang	Harold Raymond	Margaret Woodhouse
Robin Chesmer	Marc A. Lang	Sherwood D. Raymond	Becker
Jane Christensen	Leslie Lavallee	William Rewinski	Timothy & Lucas Young
Lauren Churchill	Michael Law	Barry & Jane Rider	



District Goals

- Provide municipalities, farmers, residents and businesses of the District with technical assistance to promote responsible use of natural resources.
- Conduct projects and provide services to protect and improve natural resource and watershed health.
- Provide natural resource conservation information and education.
- Provide support services to CT DEEP for the Stormwater Construction General Permit.
- Collaborate with and provide support services to other conservation organizations.
- Provide efficient and effective District administration.

Statewide Vision:

Connecticut's five Conservation Districts shall serve as leading environmental organizations in Connecticut.

District Vision:

Provide technical assistance and environmental education to promote sound natural resource management utilizing a watershed approach.



Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

238 West Town Street
Norwich, CT 06360



GOING FOR THE BIG LEAGUES

by Kailyn Murphy

Our newest property, Schmid Overlook, is not just a beautiful property along the Willimantic River, it actually holds a little bit of family history for our board member and stewardship chair, Ann Dunnack and her husband, Scott. The Dunnack family homestead, situated on Route 32 in Mansfield, was lovingly nicknamed "The Ridges." The family consisted of 11 children, three girls and eight boys. The boys loved to play outside and in particular they loved to play baseball, but being just one boy short of a team they recruited a neighbor whom they called "Dope" to join them. These boys played baseball wherever they could. Willimantic, Windham High School, and Twilight Leagues. Their team was of course called "The Ridges."

The boys grew up but kept playing baseball and after World War II, four of the brothers were drafted to play AAA ball. Eventually, all the brothers came back home to the area and started to play again but needed a field. The Coutu family lived across the street and owned what is now Schmid Overlook. They allowed the brothers to build themselves a baseball diamond, which the Dunnack brothers built with nothing but muscle and a desire to play ball. Ann Dunnack's husband, Scott, remembers sitting on the sand dunes with his cousins watching his dad and uncles play.



Scott with his father, Jerry.

Today, the field is gone, but the property will become a place of community activity once again. Joshua's Trust has plans to install a loop trail around the property, complete with a bird blind for birders and a bench for those who like to simply sit and enjoy nature. Additionally, there will be a place to drop in kayaks and canoes and the property will be open for fishing. The Trust is excited to create a place where families can make their own memories just as the Dunnacks did decades ago.



Pictured above: Four of the Dunnack boys from a newspaper clipping. Pictured at left: The current view of the river from Schmid Overlook.

JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS

JOSHUA'S TRUST

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The accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

THANKFUL THOUGHTS

by Paul Pribula

We're just past the Thanksgiving Day holiday, but I've found myself still thinking about a lot of the things for which I'm thankful. A fair amount has been said about those who originally founded Joshua's Trust over 50



Invasives at Skungamaug Meadows

years ago as well as those who dedicated their time and energy into building our conservation properties portfolio while keeping things running. And of course, there were those who gave generous donations of land, conservation restrictions, and yes, money.

However, I'd like to highlight some of the activities that I've had the privilege to observe over the past few months, that might have gone under the radar to most of our membership. The picture I've included for this season's newsletter is of a morass of invasives that had overwhelmed a dirt access road and several meadows on one of our properties. No, I'm not thankful for invasive species. I'm thankful for the hundreds of UConn students who volunteered to manually clear invasive plants at this and other properties. I'm also thankful for the low profile but major efforts by other volunteers:

- The crew that's replacing the ramp at the Gurleyville Grist Mill
- The individuals who took on the field brush cutting and tree removal projects at the Grist Mill

Continued on page 4

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORS



StanleyBlack&Decker



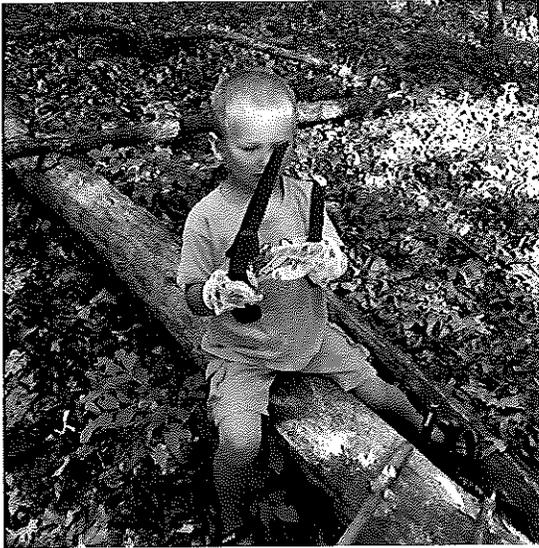
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LEO J. AND ROSE PAGEAU TRUST GRANT

by Nancy Silander



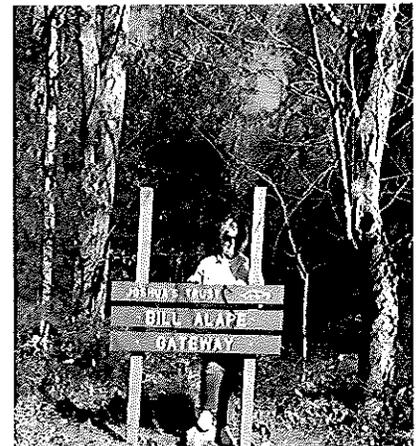
Joshua's Trust is the recent recipient, through the Education and Outreach Committee, of a grant from the Leo J. and Rose Pageau Trust. The Pageau Trust annually funds Windham area nonprofits who have projects that specifically benefit area residents. The grant will pay for transportation and materials for students at Sweeney School in Willimantic to explore nature at a Joshua's Trust preserve. Teachers will use the Project Learning Tree curriculum as a resource in

conjunction with the science curriculum at the elementary school to create a pilot project that will broaden the children's experience outdoors. We hope to engage university students who are interested in working with children to help facilitate the program. A secondary goal is to encourage parental involvement, through specialized Trust programming such as weekend walks. If the program is successful, we plan to replicate it at other Windham area schools. Keep a look out for an update in the summer newsletter!

HEAVEN ON EARTH

by Kathleen Alape Carpenter

Kathleen with the sign erected on Bill's birthday.

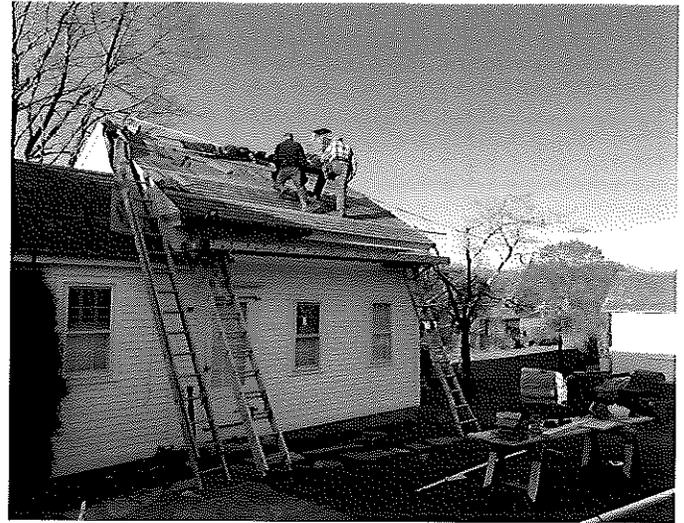


Bill Alape was 6 years old when Robert "Eddie" and Anne Alape moved, along with Bob, 7, from Jersey City, NJ to Ashford, CT. They bought the now-gone chicken farm surrounded by land on Bebbington Road near the intersection of Pumpkin Hill Road. Originally city people, the country life appealed to my parents and older brothers; Billy especially loved being outdoors, roaming the adjacent fields and clearing paths through the woods. Three more siblings - Kathy, Joyce, Philip - were born and we remember "Bill's trails" with great fondness, and as our own gateway to the exploration of pristine nature. Though his working life took him to many places around the globe, Billy Alape was happiest outdoors in his woods. When he returned to Ashford and acquired the house on James Road, he reveled in owning his own expansive tract of land. The Bill Alape Gateway that now belongs to Joshua's Trust is a fitting memorial to Bill's love of the outdoors and his desire to protect and preserve natural resources for future generations. I especially like the thought of school buses full of children passing the gateway sign every day and perhaps being inspired by Bill Alape to get outdoors to explore the woods and fields! Bill used to say "On earth there is no heaven, but there are pieces of it." And now, the Bill Alape Gateway will remain a piece of heaven on earth, forever.

JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS



Pictured above: The trailer that you all made possible through your immense generosity has been put to good use! Here it was used to haul out brush from Hubbard Sanctuary. Pictured on right: Black Sheep Post and Beam have been working to repair and restore a section of the roof at Atwood Farm.



THANKFUL THOUGHTS (CONTINUED)

- The individuals who cleared trees at Wolf Rock to restore the scenic view
- All of the stewards who have completed their steward's annual report form

I understand that the last one might seem trivial, but I know I do not enjoy paperwork, so I appreciate those who make it possible for us to maintain our land trust credibility and accreditation.

So, for all of the above, I'm thankful, and I hope that all of those involved in those efforts know they're appreciated.



The annual Cider Press was a huge success this year! Over 70 people stopped by and visited to make cider the old-fashioned way. We were thrilled to see so many new faces.

...preserving land in perpetuity is important, because once developed, the value of the land as an open space dissipates, wildlife suffers, and our memory fades. Supporting Joshua's Trust was long overdue.

- PETER BERRIS, DONOR

WANT TO SEE MORE OF JOSHUA'S TRUST?

Follow us on social media!



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EXPLORING JOSHUA'S TRUST

by Ada Snodgrass

Greetings Readers!

My name is Ada Snodgrass: avid reader, hiker, coffee drinker, and Stewardship Coordinator at Joshua's Trust. During my first six weeks at Joshua's Trust I was given the task of walking all of our beautiful trails. During this time, I was delighted to come across some of the most beautiful views I've ever seen, sometimes only minutes from my own backyard! This is the first in a series for the newsletter, in which I hope to inspire you to discover new Joshua's Trust properties.

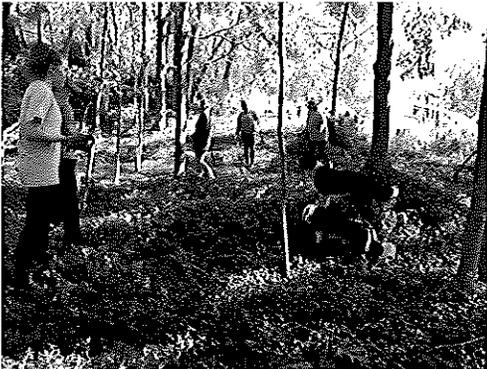


Joshua's Trust has something for everyone. Whether you're looking to take a stroll with your loved one after dinner, or challenge yourself to a strenuous hike, there is a trail for you. I'll be your guide to finding just the right property. Though many of our properties offer a variety of scenic vistas, my personal favorites almost always include a water feature. If you prefer heights, there are plenty of properties to point you to. Some of our trails begin in residential areas, where you may feel at first you are in someone's backyard but don't let that dissuade you.

For example, Iron Mine Valley is tucked between private properties on Sand Hill Road in Ashford, but once you walk down the narrow beginning of the trail, you turn to see a vast forest ahead of you. Along the trail you can see where bog iron was mined from the wetlands during the Revolutionary War. White tail deer gallop through the forest until the loop trail leads you across wetlands and the Mount Hope River. The river ripples softly as birds, beavers and otters prepare for the season ahead. This is just one of many hidden gems the Trust has to offer. I hope through this series you find yourself wanting to uncover many more.



JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS



IMAGES FROM FALL TRAIL CREWS

Here are a few statistics about this fall's crews:

262 Volunteers

17 Work Days

419 Hours of Dedication

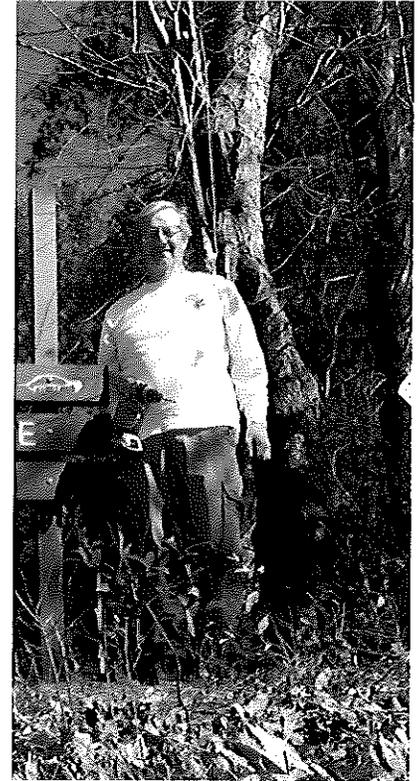


TRAIL CREW VOLUNTEERS

by Andy Woodcock

When your obligation is also your joy, you might just be a member of a Joshua's Trust trail crew. We were fortunate this fall to blaze a new trail, clear seven trails, build two bridges, add a non-skid surface to a boardwalk, plant erosion preventive bushes on a slope, and attack some off-trail invasive species.

To call this productive would be telling half the story. We had fun – the kind when the time flies and the project slips into place. So does the laughter. Trail crews are a special breed of JT volunteers – they're tangibly part of something larger than themselves and yet the camaraderie in the moment is unbeatable. It's almost a shame to remind the crew members that we're preparing the property for the hikers coming tomorrow, later in the week, 40 years from now and in perpetuity.



JT is seeing a larger number of volunteers from a wider range of our 14-town community. But we are always looking for more people, of all ages, who want to explore and engage with familiar and new properties. The projects generally don't require experience, and yet people who repeatedly join projects gain confidence and skills.

We also have projects for people who bring skills to the sites – carpentry, design, teaching, group dynamics, are all skills needed for projects anticipated for 2020. Additionally, we are in search of new Regional Coordinators, who oversee and assist our stewards in maintaining our properties.

Volunteering is easy. And we're making it easier. In January, I'll post a calendar on our website of trail crews through May; in June, a summer calendar is planned and in late August, the autumn calendar will be posted. You can contact me anytime at andy.woodcock@joshuastrust.org with questions, comments or to discuss volunteer opportunities.

THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS!

So many of you have not only given once but several times this year. We truly cannot continue in our mission without your generosity. So we thank you! We look forward to serving the community in new ways in 2020 thanks to your generosity.

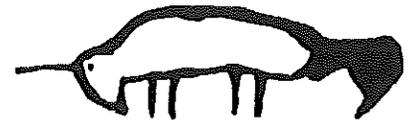
REMEMBER

There are many ways to give to Joshua's Trust! We accept gifts of money, land, stock, IRA distributions, volunteer hours and more. If you would like to discuss any of these opportunities with us, please email administration@joshuastrust.org or call (860) 429-9023.

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JOSHUA'S TRUST UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Seminar Series Climate Change Action

Learn what you can do locally to help address climate change.



Dr. Anji Seth
January 12



Christine Palm
February 9



Beth Bernard
March 8

For the full details of each event in our seminar series along with biographies of our presenters, visit joshuastrust.org/events. All events will be held in the Biophysics auditorium on the UConn-Storrs campus at 2 pm.