



Environment Session - September 19, 2016

Goal & Objectives

- ❖ Establish a personal connection with each program participant to the day's topic through a survey, which identifies their respective practices in their own home environment
- ❖ Follow these collective practices from the Ridgeline to the River, and Downstream through a series of discussions focused on regional challenges in land, water, and air, in order to demonstrate how integrated each is into the other
- ❖ Experience a 'hands on' exploration of some of the work that is being done by local sector leaders and innovators, understand the challenges that they face, and the difference that they are making in our area

Important Session Information

Session Leaders

Susan Magee, *WCL '15*, Dan Sherr, *WCL '14*,
Howard Rosenfeld, *WCL '15*

Advisor

Josh Carey, Director Grants Management, *Connecticut Community Foundation*

Session Attire

Dressing for comfort is appropriate. **Comfortable shoes are recommended. If weather permits, the day will include a brief walk to a soil pit, as well as a walking tour.**

(Participants who do not feel comfortable with the soil pit and walking tour may opt out.)

Venues

White Memorial Conservation Center, The Carriage House
80 Whitehall Road, Litchfield, CT 06759
Parking available near the Carriage House.

Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy
55 Duck Pond Road, Litchfield, CT 06759

Directions

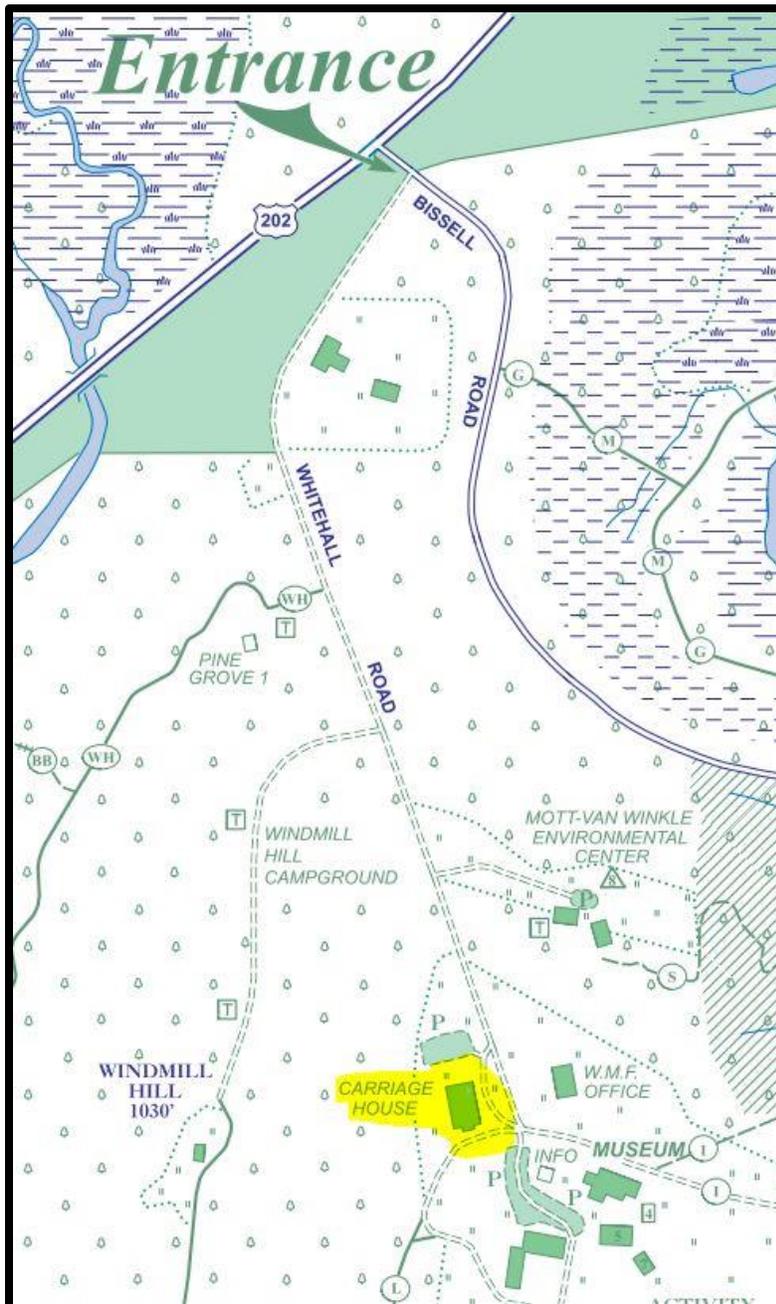
The White Memorial Foundation and Conservation Center is located in northwestern Connecticut. The entrance to White Memorial can be found two miles west of Litchfield, off of Route 202 at 80 Whitehall Road.

FROM THE WEST: From I-84 take exit 7 to Route 7 north; follow Route 7 north to New Milford and turn east on Route 202.

Directions Cont'd FROM THE EAST: From Route 8 take exit 42; follow Route 118 west to Litchfield center, turn west on Route 202.

FROM THE NORTH: Take Route 63 south to Litchfield center, turn west on Route 202.

FROM THE SOUTH: Take Route 63 north to Litchfield center and turn west on Route 202.





Agenda

- 8:00 Arrival, Light Breakfast
White Memorial Conservation Center
- 8:30 **Establishing a Personal Environmental Stewardship Profile**
Small & Large Group Exercise
- 9:10 **Welcome**
Howard Rosenfeld, *2016 WCL Planning Team and WCL '15*
Susie Magee, *2016 WCL Planning Team and WCL '15*
- 9:30 **What are Rain Gardens, and how can they help Manage our Environmental Impact?**
Lisa and Kyle Turoczi, Owners, *Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery*
- 10:00 **Environmental Stewardship on the Community Level**
Keith Cudworth, Executive Director & Superintendent,
White Memorial Conservation Center and White Memorial Foundation
- 10:30 **The Miracle of Soil & Session Break**
Sean Hayden, Executive Director, *Northwest Conservation District*
- 11:00 **Low Impact Development, and Environmental Stewardship at the Town Level**
Sean Hayden, Executive Director, *Northwest Conservation District*
- 11:30 **Environmental Stewardship in Land on the Regional Level**
Connie Manes, Manager, *Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative*
Catherine Rawson, Executive Director, *Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Inc.*
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 **Environmental Stewardship in Water on the Regional Level**
Carol Haskins, Outreach Director, *Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition*
Lynn Werner, Executive Director, *Housatonic Valley Association*
- 2:30 **Travel to Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy & Break**
- 3:00 **Impact of Environmental Stewardship on the Citizens of the Air: Presentations & Tour of Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy**
Ben Sonnenberg, Director of Environmental Education
Nick Tiberio, Director of Aviculture
Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy
- 4:00 **Session Day Wrap Up**
Brief Review of the Day & Engagement Opportunities
Preview of Aging & Livable Communities



Speaker Biographies

Lisa & Kyle Turoczi

Owners, *Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery*

Lisa studied Landscape Design at SUNY Cobleskill where she developed skills through extensive hands-on experience in design building. She also worked for greenhouse nursery centers gaining in-depth knowledge on plant propagation. Lisa holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry.

Kyle felt inspired to find environmental approaches to existing landscape practices as a young adult equipment operator. He obtained a degree in environmental science with a focus on wetland ecology from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry. He later went back to school to become a soil scientist and a member of the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England. Kyle earned a Master of Science in Resource Management & Conservation from Antioch University New England. His research included Impediments to Establishing Effective Restoration of Riparian Buffers in Connecticut.

Kyle and Lisa have been working in the Landscape Design business for over 20 years. They have always held the natural world around us in high regard, and work to treat it with the respect it deserves. In the early years of their designs and installations, it was difficult and frustrating to seek out native plant providers. As a result, they worked to create their own Nursery! Not only does this allow for an easier process for us when providing installations, but it also allows us to educate and offer the plant material to a wider audience. By having the plant material available to more people, the land will repair that much faster!

Contact Info: earthtones@charter.net, <http://www.earthtonesnatives.com/>

Keith Cudworth

Executive Director & Superintendent,
White Memorial Conservation Center and White Memorial Foundation

Keith Cudworth has been with White Memorial for over 25 years. Keith received his bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut in natural resources and his master's from the University of Minnesota in forestry. Following his educational pursuits, Keith worked with the state of Minnesota as a mineland reclamation forester. His job included re-vegetation and reclamation of the forests that were used for mines that were no longer workable. He also worked in county government as a forest inventory specialist. As a student at UCONN, Cudworth visited White Memorial on a class trip. He was struck by the potential of the site and sought out a position here to apply his knowledge of land management.

Contact Info: keith@whitememorialcc.org, info@whitememorialcc.org

Volunteer Opportunities:

Current volunteer opportunities with the White Memorial Conservation Center include tasks and projects in the following areas:

Grounds and trail maintenance	Animal care	Museum gift shop staffing
Assisting with research	Education	

For more information please visit www.whitememorialcc.org



Sean Hayden

Executive Director, *Northwest Conservation District*

Sean Hayden is a Connecticut Certified Soil Scientist. With twenty-five years of experience in the environmental field both here and in Kenya, East Africa, Sean understands how soil properties can help make or break a property owners development wishes for their land. In his role with the Conservation District, Sean helps towns and residents conserve their soil and associated natural resources, maps wetlands and other natural resources, and assesses storm water management, construction, and sediment and erosion control plans. Northwest Connecticut Conservation District, 1185 New Litchfield Street, Torrington, CT 06790 860-626-7222.

Contact Info: seanhayden@conservect.org , www.conservect.org/northwest

Connie Manes

Executive Director, *Kent Land Trust*, Manager, *Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative*

Connie is the part-time Executive Director of the Kent Land Trust, an accredited land trust, and the Manager of the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, a Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) of 24 land trusts in the 28-town Litchfield Hills region of northwest Connecticut.

Based in Kent, CT, Connie provides direct land trust services, organizational assessment, strategic planning, and policy development services to nonprofit conservation organizations throughout the northeast, with a specific focus on Land Trust Standards & Practices and land trust accreditation. Connie has worked exclusively with land conservation organizations since 2008, and beginning in 2013 has served as a Land Trust Alliance Circuit Rider providing direct assistance to all-volunteer land trusts. Connie is a Steering Committee member of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, and chairs its Training and Education Subcommittee. She was recently named to the 14-member Standards Advisory Team providing support in the 2016- 2017 initiative to revise Land Trust Standards & Practices, and serves on the Editorial Board of the Land Trust Alliance's *Saving Land* magazine. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Pace University and a Juris Doctorate from New York University School of Law. Connie chairs Kent's Conservation Commission and serves on the board of the Village Center for the Arts as its Secretary. In her remaining free time she can be found at the hockey rink with her three young sons, running or hiking, or searching for critters in local streams.

Contact Info: connie@manes-consulting.com , <http://www.litchfieldgreenprint.org/>

Volunteer Opportunities: Member land trusts within the Litchfield Hills Greenprint RCP gladly welcome volunteers to help them clear trails, lead or help out on hikes and public education events, conduct wildlife surveys and research, accomplish habitat restoration, and provide extra hands for fundraisers, appeals and regular administrative work.

If you don't know the people who work at your local community's land trust, email Connie and she will help you get connected. Land trust volunteers are some of the most dedicated, happy volunteers you will ever meet!



Catherine Rawson

Executive Director, *Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Inc.*

Catherine Rawson is the Executive Director of Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Vice-Chair of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council Steering Committee, Commissioner-designate of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, council member of the Land Trust Alliance Conservation Defense Advisory Council, and a Greenprint Steering Committee member. A graduate of Bates College and Vermont Law School, where she studied environmental law, Catherine also has a Master's Degree in Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Prior to joining Weantinoge, she served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut.

Contact Info: Catherine@weantinoge.org , www.weantinoge.org

Volunteer Opportunities:

Current volunteer opportunities with the Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust include tasks and projects in the following areas:

Office Administration	Trails and Land Management
Public Events	Fundraising

Carol Haskins

Outreach Director, *Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition*

Carol Haskins has been splashing around rivers, ponds, and lakes since her early childhood in Vermont and can often be spotted swimming, paddling, and fishing local waters. Now, she professionally gets to share her passion for aquatic environments by teaching other people about the way and wonder of watersheds in her role as Outreach Director at the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition. Carol joined PRWC in 2008 after receiving her Master of Science in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England. She was recently honored at the 2013 recipient of the Northwest Conservation District's Conservation Educator Award, which was given in recognition of her dedication to teaching groups of all ages about the importance of our greatest natural resource, WATER.

Contact Info: chaskins@pomperaug.org

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition: www.pomperaug.org , www.facebook.com/PomperaugRiver

RiverSmart: www.riversmartct.org , www.facebook.com/RiverSmartCT

Volunteer Opportunities

PRWC is looking for volunteers who have a passion for the environment and a certain knack in areas such as: Research, Data Collection and Analysis, Organization, Creative Writing, Graphic Design, Publishing, Photography, Event Planning, and Field Work. We need your talents to help us provide youth and community education programs, citizen science opportunities, accurate watershed information for local decision making, and community-based restoration projects that protect and improve our rivers and streams. What's more, we need your talents to help us raise community support and the funds needed to make these wonderful programs a success. PRWC also offers internship opportunities to undergraduate and graduate level college students. To learn more about both internship and volunteer opportunities, visit www.pomperaug.org/get_involved.htm or call [203-263-0076](tel:203-263-0076).



Lynn Werner

Executive Director, *Housatonic Valley Association*

Lynn Werner, the Executive Director of the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), spends as much time as possible swimming. Her first paid position in the environmental field had her submerged with snorkel in northwest Connecticut's Sandy Brook, hanging on to rocks and counting the salmon smolts that eventually emerged. She loved it and might still be doing it if it paid enough to live on. Instead, since 1995, Lynn has given voice to the rivers, streams and wildlife she loves in her leadership role at HVA. She is a founding member, past president and continuing board member of the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. She also serves on the Board of EarthShare New England and Earth Share National, as well at the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters. Lynn is the recipient of the 2013 Environmental Champion of the Year award from Rivers Alliance. She chairs the Inland Wetland Protection Commission in her hometown of Kent, where she lives with her husband Kevin Honan. She has two grown children - but the cat still lives at home.

Contact Info: lynnhva@hotmail.com

www.hvatoday.org

www.apriverpartners.org

www.naugatuckriver.net

www.facebook.com/hvatoday

www.facebook.com/RiverSmartCT

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for people who care about protecting our special natural places, rivers and streams. We need your passion and your time on so many fronts. You can help assess land, monitor river and stream water quality, document shoreline conditions, assess the condition of stream crossing culverts, help out in the classroom and on field trips, and assist with paddling trips. We need your writing, photography, and community outreach skills. We need your help with fundraising, event organizing, and graphic design. In fact, we need whatever your special skill may be to help us gather scientific information and/or engage more people in saving the precious natural environment of the Housatonic River valley. For more information call [1-860-672-6678](tel:1-860-672-6678) or email bsinger@hvatoday.org.

Ben Sonnenberg

Director of Environmental Education, *Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy*

Ben Sonnenberg has a BS in Biology, a love for birds, and an enthusiasm for teaching. A Montana native, Ben has a background in field research studying Red Crossbill vocalizations in Washington State as well as sea duck aviculture in Alaska. Ben designs and presents education programs for preschool students through college students. As the Assistant Aviculturist, he also helps Nick manage and perform daily bird care for the LRWC flock.

<http://www.lrwc.net/>

Nick Tiberio

Director of Aviculture, *Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy*

Nick Tiberio has over 15 years of professional experience working with avian species, and manages the



WESTERN CONNECTICUT
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

LRWC flock. In addition to breeding and raising endangered waterfowl species, Nick is a Master Falconer and has worked with a number of birds of prey. Prior to joining the Conservancy, Nick worked as a professional abatement falconer in New York, training and flying a team of abatement falcons to deter pest birds from landfill grounds—an environmentally-friendly approach to pest control.

<http://www.lrwc.net/>