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## Environment Day Session September 18, 2017

### Goal and Objectives

- ❖ Question the mutual exclusivity of social needs and environmental stewardship.
- ❖ Deliver updates on feasibility of alternative energy sources in Connecticut.
- ❖ Explore the need for water protection, and engage in direct, hands-on interaction.
- ❖ Arm participants with tools to effectively resist legislative protection rollbacks.

### Important Session Information

#### Session Leaders

Michael Lloyd, *WCL '16*  
Joseph Montebello, *WCL '16*

#### Advisor

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

#### Session Attire

Dressing for comfort is appropriate. Walking shoes are recommended.

#### Venues

**Audubon Center at Bent of the River**  
185 East Flat Hill Road  
Southbury, CT 06488  
[Map link](#) available via emailed agenda (sent 9/11/2017).

#### Parking

**Please follow signs for parking. The driveway is a single lane; please drive cautiously.**



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## Agenda

- 8:00-8:15           Arrival and Light Breakfast
- 8:15-8:20           **Welcome to Audubon Center Bent of the River**  
Leslie Kane, Center Director
- 8:20-8:30           **Introduction and Opening Comments**  
Michael Lloyd, *WCL '16* and Joseph Montebello, *WCL '16*
- 8:30-9:15           **Balancing Energy and Environmental Protection**  
Rob Klee, Commissioner, *CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection*
- 9:15-10:00          **Connecticut's Water, Land and Air Scorecard**  
Susan Merrow, Chair, *Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality*
- 10:00-10:15        Break
- 10:15-11:00        **Local Initiatives: Conservation and Land Preservation Benefits and Drawbacks**  
Elisabeth Moore, Executive Director, *Connecticut Farmland Trust*  
Amy Paterson, Executive Director, *Connecticut Land Conservation Council*
- 11:00-11:45        **Large and Small Scale Sustainability, Recycling and Bio-Mass Processing**  
Josh Hahn, Assistant Head of School and Director of Strategic Initiatives, *The Hotchkiss School*  
Anna Richardson, Founder, *Southbury Go Green*
- 11:45-12:30        **Renewables: Advances in Technology and Its Applicability in Connecticut**  
Stuart DeCew, Program Director, *Yale Center for Business and the Environment*
- 12:30-12:40        **Foundation Bites**  
Grantmaking: Supporting Vibrant Programs
- 12:40-1:15         Lunch
- 1:15-2:00           **River Health and Protection**  
Margaret Miner, Executive Director, *Rivers Alliance*  
Lynn Werner, Executive Director, *Housatonic Valley Association*



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- 2:00-2:45            **Life Underwater: A dive into the Pomperaug River**  
Carol Haskins, Outreach Director, *Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition*
- 2:45-3:00            Break
- 3:00-3:45            **Taking Action: Lobbying and Legislation for Environmental Protection**  
Lori Brown, Executive Director, *Connecticut League of Conservation Voters*
- 3:45-4:00            **Session Day Wrap Up**  
Brief review of the day and preview of Aging & Livable Communities Day



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## Speaker Biographies

### Leslie Kane

Center Director, *Audubon Center at Bent of the River*

Leslie Kane, Director at the Audubon Center at Bent of the River, oversees the education, public policy and conservation programs at the 700-acre nature center and sanctuary. In addition, Leslie is the Team Leader for Audubon's Connecticut Chapters and manages Audubon's Salt Meadow Sanctuary in Guilford, CT. Leslie currently serves as president of the Southbury Land Trust.

Leslie previously worked as Environmental Planner for the Town of Guilford, CT working with many town commissions, acting as Tree Warden and as the administrator of the town's Geographic Information Systems. Prior to working for the Town of Guilford, she worked as Director of Connecticut River Watershed Programs for the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System and for The Nature Conservancy in policy and local land trust programs. Leslie has a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and Geography from Mount Holyoke College.

Contact Info: [lkane@audubon.org](mailto:lkane@audubon.org), <http://bentoftheriver.audubon.org>

### Rob Klee

Commissioner, *Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection*

Rob Klee is the Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the state agency charged with conserving, improving and protecting the state's natural resources and environment, providing first-rate outdoor recreation opportunities, and bringing cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable energy to Connecticut's residents and businesses. DEEP is focused on integrating energy and environmental policies and helping Connecticut to build a sustainable and prosperous 21st-century economy.

Commissioner Klee joined DEEP in April 2011 as Chief of Staff. Prior to joining state service, Commissioner Klee was an attorney with Wiggin and Dana LLP, in New Haven, where he specialized in appellate work and energy and environmental law. From 2004 to 2005, Commissioner Klee worked as a Law Clerk for the U.S. District Court in Connecticut and from 2005 to 2006 as a Law Clerk for the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He served as a Research Affiliate in the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies from 2006 to 2008. Commissioner Klee holds a Ph.D. from Yale's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies in industrial ecology, a law degree from Yale, and an undergraduate degree from Princeton in geology and environmental science.



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### **Susan Merrow**

Chair, *Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality*

Susan Merrow is a resident and former First Selectman of East Haddam. She currently serves as the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. In this appointed position, Susan provides leadership for the nine-member Council that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to assess and report on the condition of the environment, advise state agencies on environmental impacts, and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

Susan is also a member of the East Haddam Conservation Commission, a board member of the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee, and member of the CT League of Conservation Voters Board. She formerly served as President, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and National Board of Directors, Sierra Club. Susan also served as a member, Connecticut Advisory Committee, Trust for Public Land and was a trustee of the Connecticut River Watershed Council. Susan authored, *One for the Earth: Journal of a Sierra Club President*.

Contact Info: Karl J. Wagener, Executive Director; [karl.wagener@ct.gov](mailto:karl.wagener@ct.gov), [www.ct.gov/ceq](http://www.ct.gov/ceq)

### **Elisabeth Moore**

Executive Director, *Connecticut Farmland Trust*

Elisabeth Moore, Executive Director of Connecticut Farmland Trust, has more than twenty years of experience working with landowners, towns, and community groups to preserve farmland and significant natural and community resources. Since joining the Trust in 2004, she has preserved 40 family farms, totaling 3,000+ acres. Prior to coming to the Trust, Elisabeth was a project manager with the Trust for Public Land's Connecticut Field Office and worked to preserve family farms in the Catskills of New York as part of the City of New York's landmark \$50 million watershed protection program. She also managed the Maryland Environmental Trust's Rural Historic Village Protection Program. Elisabeth has an AB from Bowdoin College and a Master's degree in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She serves on the Steering Committees of the Working Lands Alliance and Connecticut Land Conservation Council. Elisabeth protected her family's property in Ohio, which she considers one of her greatest accomplishments and joys.

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### **Amy Patterson**

Executive Director, *Connecticut Land Conservation Council*

Amy joined the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) in 2010 as its first Executive Director. Working with the CLCC Steering Committee, Amy provides the Connecticut conservation community with technical assistance, training and advocacy to further advance permanent land conservation across the state. Before joining CLCC, Amy served as a Project Manager for The Trust for Public Land, overseeing several complex conservation transactions, and worked for over twenty years as an attorney, concentrating her practice in land preservation and environmental protection. Prior to moving to Connecticut, Amy was an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. She received a BA from Franklin & Marshall College and her law degree from the University of Denver. In recognition of her years of work in conservation, Amy was awarded the 2014 Women Inspiring Conservation in Connecticut Award presented by Connecticut Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and sponsored by The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Farm Service Agency and the Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts. In 2015, Amy was awarded the Rockfall Foundation's President's Award. Amy lives with her family in Vernon, CT. An avid trail runner, when Amy isn't helping to conserve land, she's outside enjoying it!

Contact Info: [abpatterson@ctconservation.org](mailto:abpatterson@ctconservation.org), [www.ctconservation.org](http://www.ctconservation.org)

### **Josh Hahn**

Assistant Head of School and Director of Strategic Initiatives, *The Hotchkiss School*

Joshua Hahn is Assistant Head of School and Director of Strategic Initiatives at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut. He holds a B.A. from the University of Vermont and an Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education's School Leadership Program. Prior to joining Hotchkiss in 2009, he worked at The Lawrenceville School, where he was the Aldo Leopold Fellow. He then started his own company called Stone Bridge Sustainability & Education, which provided consulting services to schools in the area of sustainability education and strategic planning. At Hotchkiss, he has played a leading role in the development of The Hotchkiss School's environmental initiatives, including the school's biomass heating facility, the Farm and trails, and the dining hall's farm-to-table practices. Josh has provided consulting services to several professional associations including NAIS, TABS, NBOA, ASNIE, and CAIS. He is a founding Board member of the Independent School Experiential Network (ISEEN). Josh and his wife, Stephanie, live with their son, Sam, and daughter, Anna at The Hotchkiss School farm.

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### **Anna Richardson**

Founder, *Southbury Go Green*

Anna Bower Richardson is a sophomore at New York University in Manhattan. She plans to major in international relations, minor in psychology, and follow the prelaw track. She has been accepted as a 2017-2018 NYU Presidential Honors Scholar. In 2010, Anna started the Youth Wildlife and Recycling Foundation, known as YWARF, with her younger sisters, Julia and Grace. Since the formation of YWARF, Anna and the group have been involved in recycling education, promotion of responsible recycling habits at town and regional events, and collection of bottles and cans for fundraising. They are also the recycling ambassadors for the Town of Southbury “Go Green” campaign. Anna has received recognition for her work including the Waterbury Bar Association Liberty Bell Award, the Town of Southbury Volunteer Appreciation Award, and the 2016 Aquarion Environmental Champion Award for Connecticut.

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### **Stuart DeCew**

Program Director, *Yale Center for Business and the Environment*

Stuart DeCew, Program Director at the Yale Center for Business and the Environment, oversees the management, administration, strategy and development of the School of Management and the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies research, education and outreach programs in business and the environment.

Prior to his arrival at Yale, Stuart worked as the National Logistics Coordinator for the Bill Bradley for President Campaign and subsequently served as a Legislative Aide for a member of congress in Washington, DC. He then volunteered for the Peace Corps where he acted as a local governance consultant for municipal and provincial governments in Paraguay. After the Peace Corps, Stuart directed a non-profit campaign to promote sustainable land use practices in Florida. Directly before matriculating at Yale, he was the on-site producer in Cairo, Egypt for Pangea Day, an international documentary film festival sponsored by the TED Prize.

Stuart graduated from the joint degree program at the Yale School of Management and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 2011 with a focus in corporate environmental management, energy efficiency and environmental marketing. During his time in the joint degree program, Stuart uncovered energy efficiency investment opportunities at RBS Citizens Financial Group as an EDF Climate Corps Fellow (2010) and developed a comprehensive environmental communications and marketing plan for United Technologies Fire and Security (2009).

Stuart holds a BA from the Colorado College in History.

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### **Margaret Miner**

Executive Director, *Rivers Alliance*

Margaret Miner has served as Executive Director at Rivers Alliance of Connecticut since 2000. This multi award-winning organization serves as the united voice for watershed groups on state policy and education. Rivers Alliance also strives to assist individuals and organizations with questions, difficulties, and frustrations relating to water matters. Prior to joining Rivers Alliance, Miner served as Executive Director at Roxbury Land Trust and as a local reporter for Voices in Litchfield County.

Contact Info: [rivers@riversalliance.org](mailto:rivers@riversalliance.org), [www.riversalliance.org](http://www.riversalliance.org)

### **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.

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### **Carol Haskins**

Program Director, *Pomperaug 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. In 2014, Carol received a River Conservation Leadership Aware from Housatonic Valley Association. Thanks to Carol's leadership in the collaborative River Smart CT program, PRWC was the recipient of Connecticut Community Foundation's (CCF) first Trustee Fund Award (2015). The award recognizes exceptional collaboration that benefits the community; River Smart CT consists of seven partnering organizations within CCF's service area.

### **Lori Brown**

Executive Director, *Connecticut League of Conservation Voters*

Lori Brown is the Executive Director of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) and the CTLCV Education Fund. The League is a bipartisan, statewide, nonprofit organization that protects Connecticut's environment by making these issues a priority for our elected leaders and holds lawmakers accountable by publishing an annual Environmental Scorecard. Lori has organized multiple public education and grassroots lobbying campaigns and has worked on political campaigns to elect pro-environment candidates across New York and Connecticut. With 23 years of experience advocating for environmental progress, she is currently a registered lobbyist with the Connecticut General Assembly, working with all of Connecticut's statewide environmental advocacy groups to push for important legislation that shapes our state's policies on air, water, land, energy and climate change.

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## Opportunities for further exploration and engagement

### Audubon Center at Bent of the River

The Bent of the River has a variety of volunteer opportunities including trail maintenance, citizen scientists, teacher naturalists, assistance with office activities, assistance with community events and photographers. The center relies on volunteer support and would be glad to discuss your interests and availability!

<http://bentoftheriver.audubon.org>

### Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality

The Council serves as a resource for volunteers who seek CEQ expertise on environmental issues and use its data in their work. Citizen input is welcome at the Council's monthly meetings, and there are often scheduled presentations by citizen experts on specific environmental issues.

[www.ct.gov.ceq](http://www.ct.gov.ceq)

### Connecticut Farmland Trust

Connecticut Farmland Trust seeks individuals who are committed to preserving the state's working farms to serve on its Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and committees, and volunteer at its annual fundraising and outreach events.

<http://ctfarmland.org/>

### Connecticut Land Conservation Council

CLCC welcomes volunteers to assist with its annual CT Land Conservation Conference. Opportunities include: participation in the conference planning committee, sponsorship committee, and reception committee; helping with set-up and/or serving as a day-of volunteer; helping with photography and videography and more.

[www.ctconservation.org](http://www.ctconservation.org)

### Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Visit [www.ctlcv.org](http://www.ctlcv.org) and CTLCV Facebook page to find out more about the current key environmental issues being addressed, the scorecard and electoral work, and links to get alerts and other information. Internship and volunteer opportunities are listed on the website.



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### **Housatonic Valley Association & Partners**

HVA is looking for people who care about protecting our special natural places, rivers and streams. Volunteers 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. HVA needs volunteers with writing, photography, and community outreach skills, as well as those with fundraising, event organizing, and graphic design expertise. Also needed are volunteers with special skills gathering scientific information and/or engaging more people in saving the natural environment of the Housatonic River Valley. For more information call 1-860-672-6678, email [bsinger@hvatoday.org](mailto:bsinger@hvatoday.org), or visit [www.apriverpartners.org](http://www.apriverpartners.org), [www.naugatuckriver.net](http://www.naugatuckriver.net), [www.facebook.com/hvatoday](https://www.facebook.com/hvatoday).

### **Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition**

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 (including Woodbury Earth Day), and field work. PWRC needs your talents to help 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. Volunteers are needed to help raise community support and the funds needed to make these wonderful programs a success. To learn more about both internship and volunteer opportunities, visit: [www.pomperaug.org/get\\_involved.htm](http://www.pomperaug.org/get_involved.htm), call 203-263-0076, or email [info@pomperaug.org](mailto:info@pomperaug.org).

### **River Smart CT**

River Smart is led cooperatively by Housatonic Valley Association, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, Kent Land Trust, Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, and the Farmington River Watershed Association. This community education effort provides resources for individuals, groups and municipalities to introduce, improve and maintain practices to protect our rivers and watersheds. [www.riversmartct.org](http://www.riversmartct.org), [www.facebook.com/RiverSmartCT](https://www.facebook.com/RiverSmartCT)

### **Yale Center for Business and the Environment**

Yale CBE produces a variety of digital publications and webinars. Follow the link and select your area of interest and receive relevant publications and announcements. <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1730234/32870/?v=a>