

2018 Faculty Biographies

as of 2/9/18

Tim Abbott, Regional Conservation and Greenprint Director, Housatonic Valley Association and Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative— Tim Abbott is a past chair of the CLCC Steering committee (2011-2014), and has been a conservation leader in New England since 1998. He is Regional Land Conservation Director with the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) and has directed the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative (LHGC) RCP at HVA since 2006. He held prior leadership positions with the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land. Under his leadership, the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative has leveraged more than \$13,800,000 in public and private funding to secure 5,000 acres under the LHGC. Tim also leads the team that earned HVA first-time accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in 2014. Tim serves on the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural Heritage, Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board. Tim holds a BA in English from Haverford College (1990), an MA from Clark University and was a Fulbright Fellow in Namibia in 1996.

Keith R. Ainsworth, Esq., Managing Member, The Law Offices of Keith R. Ainsworth, Esq., LLC— Keith Ainsworth has been an environmental and land use litigator of the New Haven Bar for nearly three decades. He has a broad conservation-based practice representing land trusts, non-profits, land owners and businesses in transactions and litigation throughout Connecticut before administrative agencies and state and federal courts. As a former chair of the CT Bar association environmental law section and a municipal first selectman, Keith has a perspective from several sides of the table. A graduate of Tufts with a B.S. in biology, environmental studies and English literature, Keith brings a scientific and analytical background to the law. Keith is a life member of the Madison Land Conservation Trust and served on the national leadership council of Trout Unlimited.

Judy Anderson, Principal, Community Consultants— Judy Anderson of Community Consultants has worked in the land trust sector for over 25 years. Judy currently assists nonprofit organizations on practical strategic conservation initiatives incorporating local communities, climate change, governance, communications and community-based fundraising strategies. She also coaches land trusts on inclusive conservation, easement drafting and stewardship, and building greater community relevance to ensure their work withstands the test of time. Judy is a regular presenter at national and regional land trust conferences and trainings.

Chet Arnold, Extension Educator and Director, University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research— Chet Arnold is an Extension Educator and Director of the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR), a partnership of the Department of Extension, the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, and the Connecticut Sea Grant Program. Chet has been with the University since 1987 and has worked on the Long Island Sound Study Public Outreach Program, the NEMO Program, the National NEMO Network, and CLEAR – all of which he helped to create. He has authored several national award-winning papers and has been Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on over \$20M of external grants. As the Center's Director of Outreach, Chet focuses on the integration and dissemination of CLEAR land use research, geospatial tools and training, and outreach programs to best serve CLEAR's municipal and other audiences. His specialty is harnessing the talent of his younger and more intelligent colleagues and taking credit for their work.

Jim Arrigoni, PhD Candidate, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry— Jim Arrigoni is a PhD candidate in conservation biology at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. His dissertation research is focused on the conservation value of constructed vernal pool wetlands.

Abby Beissinger, Conservation Ambassador Program Coordinator, Natural Resources Conservation Academy— Abby Beissinger is the coordinator of the Conservation Ambassadors Program in the NRCA and a Visiting Assistant Extension Educator in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UConn. She has worked in both national and international capacities to develop and implement hands-on programming for youth to engage in community-based environmental stewardship for nearly 10 years.

Michael Benjamin, Land Manager, Kent Land Trust— Mike Benjamin is the Land Manager at the Kent Land Trust. His job regularly brings him in contact with Ixodes scapularis. He has authored and co-authored several studies about tick population control based on research conducted at the Cary Institute in Millbrook, NY. Mike earned his Master of Environmental Science degree at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He has worked in the environmental consulting field and taught both high school and elementary science, and still enjoys educating folks about science and the environment.

Katherine Blake, Bird-friendly Communities Manager, Audubon Connecticut— Katherine Blake is the Bird-friendly Communities Manager for Audubon Connecticut. She manages Audubon's Urban Oases, Schoolyard Habitat and Audubon at Home Programs. She works with numerous and diverse partners in creating bird friendly communities in Connecticut schools, parks and yards. Katie has a Master's in Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Mount Holyoke College.

Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council – Amy Blaymore Paterson joined the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) in 2010 as its first Executive Director. Working with the CLCC Board of Directors and Advisory Council, 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 and worked for over twenty years as an attorney, concentrating her practice in land preservation and environmental protection.

Robin Blum, Supervising Wildlife Biologist, Ecological Services Program, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection— Robin Blum is a supervising Wildlife Biologist with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Ecological Services Program. This program houses the Natural Diversity Database, which houses information on CT's listed species. She has been with the Department since 2001 and graduated from the University of Rhode Island.

Jayne Boniewicz, Director of Forestry, Tree-Savers— Jayme Boniewicz is the Director of Forestry at Tree-Savers. For the last 10 years, she has dealt almost exclusively with hemlock trees, hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), and biological control via the specialized predator *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* (St). In 2007, her experience as forestry division supervisor at Ecoscientific Solutions LLC prepared her for the mass-rearing and application of St for the control of HWA. She continues to develop new strategies which make St available and affordable for private landowners. She continues to work alongside hunting and fishing clubs, lake communities, state organizations, land trusts, and private citizens to develop unique HWA management plans which achieve sustainable results for urban and forested hemlock trees. Jayme Boniewicz obtained her bachelor's degree in Environmental Resource Management at Keystone College and completed her internship at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP).

Kimberly Bradley, Living Shorelines Project Specialist, Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation— Kimberly Bradley serves as a Living Shorelines Project Specialist for the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). In this role, she is supporting workshops, webinars, and outreach materials on living shorelines and as a resource for staff and others regarding living shoreline and green infrastructure information and techniques. Previously, Kim worked and as a senior environmental and ecological consultant for over nine years. Kim holds a M.Sc. in Biological Oceanography, and a B.Sc. in Environmental Science with a focus on Ecological and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut.

Amanda Branson, Executive Director, Naromi Land Trust— Amanda Branson is the Executive Director of Naromi Land Trust in Sherman, CT. Amanda has been working with non-profit organizations since 2003 providing services to help groups connect to their community, accomplish their goals, and streamline their operations. Amanda led the Connecticut Records Project, a joint program of the Land Trust Alliance and the Connecticut Land Conservation Council that teaches land trusts sound record-keeping practices and conduct audits of property and organizational records. Amanda also provides services to land trusts throughout Connecticut including coaching on sound record-keeping practices, accreditation preparation support, and building organizational strength.

Lois Bruinooge, Executive Director, Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor— Lois Bruinooge is Executive Director of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor and loves living in rural Woodstock, CT with her family and their dog. She has a biology degree from Tufts University and a law degree from Boston College Law School. Lois previously worked for the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection in a variety of roles, including Senior Regional Counsel in Worcester and Director of the Wetlands and Waterways Program in Boston. She has taught environmental law at local universities, practiced environmental law in a private firm, and began her career working with Mass. conservation commissions. She is an avid skier, hiker and paddler and loves exploring The Last Green Valley.

Clare Cain, Trails Stewardship Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association— Clare Cain has been the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's (CFPA) Trails Stewardship Director for 8 years. Clare works with volunteers and partners to manage, maintain, improve and promote the 825-mile Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System in Connecticut. Clare has also worked for the North Country Trail Association where she served as the organization's Director of Trail Management. She was responsible for building partnerships, organizing trail trainings, pursuing trail extensions, and advocating trail preservation on the North Country National Scenic Trail. Clare began her trails career in the field leading trail crew maintenance and construction projects for non-profit and conservation corps organizations. Clare's passion for trails has taken her backpacking and hiking across the country.

Colin Carroll, Field Coordinator, Connecticut Forest & Park Association— Colin works closely with volunteers and partners to manage, maintain, and improve the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System. Colin has a variety of experience working in the outdoors and among volunteer groups. After graduating from Washington University in St. Louis, Colin sought adventure through the AmeriCorps*NCCC program, leading a team in a variety of projects throughout the south-central region of the United States. After a brief introduction to trail work through AmeriCorps, Colin began his trail career at Big Bend National Park. Colin's experience and understanding of trail design and construction has led to an approach that was shaped by the variety of environments in which he worked. These ecosystems ranged from the Texas desert to the high alpine of Kings Canyon National Park and the temperate rainforest in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Kevin Case, Director, Northeast Region, Land Trust Alliance— Kevin is in his 13th year at the Land Trust Alliance, responsible for designing and implementing programs that foster success for the 500 land trusts from Maine to Maryland. His efforts have taken him from the Maine Coast Protection Initiative, to the Alliance's National All-Volunteer Land Trust Program, to recently launching a new effort across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Prior to joining the Alliance Kevin worked for the National Park Service, where he oversaw a federal Wild and Scenic River Study and a National Scenic Trail Study. Previously, he was Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association and is past board chair of the Winchester Land Trust and Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. Kevin currently sits on the board of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.

Alicea Charamut, River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy— Alicea Charamut joined the staff at the Connecticut River Conservancy as the River Steward in Connecticut in 2015 but has been an advocate for Connecticut's rivers and streams for nearly a decade. She initially found an outlet for her passion advocating for clean, clear, free flowing rivers as a volunteer leader for Trout Unlimited. Alicea holds a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Connecticut. She continues to volunteer for Trout Unlimited as a board member of her local chapter, Farmington Valley, and as Chair of the Connecticut Council. And so as not to miss out on anything fishy, she is the Secretary of the Fisheries Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality and on the board of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.

Cary Chadwick, Geospatial Training Program Coordinator, Extension Educator, University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research— Cary Chadwick is a faculty member in the Department of Extension at UConn. As a Geospatial Extension Educator, she coordinates the Geospatial Training Program for CLEAR, spending her time teaching hands-on technical trainings on the use of geospatial technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS). Cary is also involved in a number of collaborative research projects that integrate geospatial technologies to better manage and understand natural resource systems. Cary, along with Emily Wilson and Dave Dickson (CLEAR), developed and teaches all geospatial technology components of the NRCA programs.

Dr. Carole Cheah, Research Entomologist, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station— Dr. Cheah is a durational research entomologist at the Valley Laboratory, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor, supported by funding from the US Department of Agriculture and previously from the US Forest Service. For the past 23 years, she has conducted research into the implementation, assessment and improvement of biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid, a serious introduced pest of the urban landscape and native hemlock forests. Other projects include the implementation and monitoring of biological control for mile-a-minute weed in Connecticut in collaboration with the University of Connecticut, and augmentative biological control of scales. Dr. Cheah was educated in England with a doctorate in biological control and Masters in Applied Entomology from the University of Cambridge and a B.A. (Hons) in Zoology from the University of Oxford.

Laura Cisneros, Visiting Professor, University of Connecticut Department of Natural Resources and the Environment— Laura Cisneros is the coordinator of two NRCA programs and a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UConn. She joined the NRCA team in 2014 after receiving her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UConn. She has collaborated with land trusts, conservation organizations, and government agencies to mentor/advise 84 intergenerational conservation projects statewide.

Steven Conaway, Conservation and Outreach Director, Greenwich Land Trust— Steve Conaway, PhD, oversees major conservation initiatives and community programming as Greenwich Land Trust's Conservation and Outreach Director. Steve studied environmental horticulture at the University of New Hampshire and completed a doctorate in plant pathology at Penn State University where his dissertation centered on controlling invasive weeds with naturally occurring pathogens. Steve has developed several youth environmental programs through schools, community gardens, and science museums. He enjoys connecting people with the natural world through his work at Greenwich Land Trust and on the advisory board of Greenwich Community Gardens.

Jim Curatolo, Chair, The Wetland Trust— Jim Curatolo is chair and founder of The Wetland Trust, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, conservation, and protection of wetlands. In addition to administering an In-Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation program, The Wetland Trust holds over 1400 acres in New York State. Emphases for new acquisitions include rare wetland types and wetlands providing habitat for species of conservation concern. For 18 years Jim was Watershed Coordinator of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition of Conservation Districts where he established a Wetland Program that has restored over 800 wetland acres in that region.

Sharon Danosky, President, Danosky & Associates— For over 35 years, Sharon J. Danosky, founder and president of Danosky & Associates, has dedicated her career to working with nonprofit organizations. As both a consultant and senior executive for numerous charitable organizations, she has transformed organizations into highly effectively charities of choice in their communities. Sharon has worked on all sides of the not-for-profit arena – as a senior professional working on the executive management team of several highly effective non-profits, including teaching and community hospitals and a major human service organization. As a skilled consultant, she has helped grassroots organizations to grow, and led major initiatives for established non-profit organizations. The range of organizations includes major medical facilities, human service organizations, environmental groups, children’s causes and arts and cultural organizations among others. Sharon is a BoardSource Certified Governance Trainer. She is a sought-after presenter at regional, national and international conferences including BoardSource and Land Trust Alliance Rally.

David Deschenes, Associate Marketing Communications and New Media, Danosky & Associates— David is a Marketing, Communications & New Media leader who works with nonprofits to develop their presence in the sector through strategic marketing and digital communications. He brings to Danosky & Associates a diverse mix of marketing, communications, and research experience from both the nonprofit and corporate sectors. Well known for his partnering approach, David’s working knowledge within the nonprofit sector allows him to illustrate with real-life examples. In addition to sharing latest trends in marketing and digital communications, he taps into his own marketing successes as well as what he likes to call “character-building near-successes” to highlight points in his workshops. David continually creates custom workshops as developments in technology offer more opportunities for nonprofits to develop do-it-yourself efforts – such as video production. This makes the phrase “aaaand . . . action!” all the more meaningful to David as his workshops are geared to empower nonprofits to find their voice through hands-on experiences.

Dave Dickson, Assistant Extension Educator, University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research— Dave Dickson is a faculty member of CLEAR and an Associate Extension educator. He works primary on municipal storm water management and low impact development issues, but also provides outreach and training focused on mobile mapping technologies. He is the co-creator of the Rain Garden smartphone app and National LID Atlas.

Bill Duesing, Farmer and educator, Old Solar Farm— For 40 years, organic farmer, author and environmental activist Bill Duesing has been working to promote organic agriculture and greater local food sufficiency in Connecticut and the Northeast through lectures, writings, media and community work. With his wife Suzanne, he grows fruits, vegetables, flowers and trees on the Old Solar Farm and advocates for a local and organic food system. He is author of *Living on the Earth: Eclectic Essays for a Sustainable and Joyful Future*. Bill was the founding president of CT NOFA and founding chair of the New Haven Ecology Project and its Common Ground High School, located on a farm in New Haven.

Paul Elconin, Director of Land Conservation, Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust – Paul Elconin is the Director of Land Conservation at Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust. Paul has BS in Environmental Biology from Yale University and a MS in Forest Resources Management from the State University of New York – College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). While at ESF, Paul researched landowner motivations for granting and satisfaction with their conservation easements, and his findings were published and distributed to land trusts nationwide. Paul has spent much of his professional career working in land conservation. He was a wildlife ecology field technician on wolf and grizzly bear projects for government agencies and taught environmental education in Minnesota and California. Prior to joining Weantinoge in 2014, Paul was the Stewardship Coordinator at the Open Space Institute for 13 years, the “Circuit Rider” for the Land Trust Alliance of New York, and a consultant to land trusts in New York State.

Jason Engelhardt, Board Member, New England Mountain Bike Association— Jason Engelhardt is a high school math teacher and the founder of the Singletracks of Rockland project. He has facilitated the development of trails, maps, and the social network of bikers that visit Rockland. Jason is a board member of Central CT NEMBA.

William J Fennie III, Investment Specialist, Integrated Capital Management— Will's role is to act as liaison between the ICM investment team and client service efforts to support institutional partners.

Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Bird Conservation Programs Manager, Audubon Connecticut— Corrie Folsom-O'keefe is the Bird Conservation Programs Manager for Audubon Connecticut. Corrie manages Audubon's Important Bird Area program and oversees successful implementation of Coastal Waterbird conservation across Connecticut. She brings scientific expertise and leadership to Audubon's urban restoration and leadership development programs including the Urban Oases and WildLife Guards Programs. Corrie has a Master's in Biology from Connecticut College and a B.A. in Biology (with a marine concentration) from Boston University.

Joseph E. Fournier, Attorney and CPA, Fournier Legal Services, LLC— Joseph E. Fournier is an Attorney and a CPA who has more than twenty years of experience advising and leading companies and individuals in a variety of capacities. Joe has significant experience in a variety of business legal matters, including start-ups and company formations, drafting shareholder and operating agreements, contracts, employment law, commercial litigation, tax planning and audit defense, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A). He also handles estate planning matters, such as business succession planning, wills, trusts, and probate.

Linda P. Francois, Esq., Partner, Cooper, Whitney & Francois— Ms. Francois received her undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut as an honors scholar in 1979 and her Juris Doctor with honors from the University of Connecticut in 1982. Her practice includes property law, closings, wills, trusts and probate, personal injury, collections, foreclosures, and evictions. Ms. Francois' real estate practice includes a focus on natural and working lands preservation. She has represented landowners, land trusts and municipalities in land protection transactions, conservation restriction (easement) donations, bargain sales and purchases, and open space initiatives throughout Connecticut. Ms. Francois is the 2008 recipient of the Working Lands Alliance Farmland Preservation Pathfinder Award, 2003 Secretary of State's Public Service Award, the 2005 Bethany Citizen of the Year Award and 1998 Bethany Conservationist of the Year Award. For over fifteen years, she has been a director and president of the Bethany Land Trust, Inc., and a director and officer of the Bethany Horsemen, Inc. riding organization

Rebecca A French, Director of Community Engagement, Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation— As the Director of Community Engagement for the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, Dr. French translates science and engineering to help communities, state and local government, private industry, and academic partners implement solutions to adapt to a changing climate and extreme weather while strengthening resilience. Dr. French serves on the Long Term Recovery Committee and the State Agencies Fostering Resilience Council. Previously she worked in the US EPA and the United States Congress on environmental policy as a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow. Dr. French holds a Ph.D. in geosciences from Virginia Tech and an M.S. in soil science from Cornell University. She received her B.A. from Oberlin College.

Jennifer Fusco, Senior Director of Development, American Farmland Trust—Jennifer Fusco was born and raised in Westerly, RI, growing up playing in Mastuxet Brook, an area now preserved by the Westerly Land Trust. Her appreciation for the open spaces and unique character of Westerly helped shape her career, and she serves on the board of the Westerly Land Trust today. Jennifer is Sr. Director of Development for American Farmland Trust. She travels throughout the Northeast garnering individual support for AFT's programs and initiatives. Prior to working with AFT, Jenn worked as a fundraiser for the Land Trust Alliance. She holds a BA in English from Boston College.

Reggie Hall, Director, Land Conservation Loans, The Conservation Fund— Reggie Hall grew up and was educated in New England attending Williams College and Vermont Law School where he received his JD and MSEL degrees. He is the Director of The Conservation Fund's Land Conservation Loan Program which provides financing and technical assistance to conservation organizations across the United States and Canada.

Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association— Eric Hammerling is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the first conservation organization established in Connecticut (1895). Eric is responsible for CFPA's budget, operations, and oversees its programs on Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, Environmental Education, Land Conservation, and WalkCT. Eric is also the programmatic lead for CFPA's state and federal advocacy efforts.

Allison Anne Hoyt JD, CLU, Advanced Markets Consultant, The APEX Group, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America— Allison Anne Hoyt JD, CLU is an advanced markets consultant in The APEX Group at The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America. Allison addressed the CLCC conference in 2017 and it returning to highlight the many ways land trusts can encourage donors to make tax efficient lifetime and legacy gifts. Allison is the current President of the Society of Financial Services Professionals NYC chapter and has published in Trusts & Estates and other professional journals.

Peter Jones, Major Gifts Officer, New England Forestry Foundation— Peter Jones is a life-long fundraising professional having spent much of his career working for local, regional and national conservation organizations. During his tenure at The Trust for Public Land (TPL), he was responsible for 14 land acquisition campaigns including helping to draft an organizational blueprint for these types of campaigns. Additionally, Peter worked on TPL's \$400 million "Power of Place" national campaign. He is presently leading the New England Forestry Foundation's efforts on a \$3.5 million campaign in Vermont and a \$2.3 million campaign in Connecticut.

Kip Kolesinskas, Consulting Conservation Scientist, CT Department of Agriculture— Consulting Conservation Scientist. Current projects include assisting agencies, NGO's, and private individuals with farmland protection, land access and affordability for new and beginning farmers, farmland restoration, and climate change adaptation strategies. Formerly USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Soil Scientist for Connecticut and Rhode Island, where he worked extensively with farmers, educators, government and nonprofits to help them protect soil, water and other natural resources, and to use soils information to make better informed land use decisions.

Ryan J Lehman, CFA, CAIA, Director of Investments, Integrated Capital Management— Ryan supports iCM's investment effort by developing and maintaining the quantitative models used to evaluate investment managers and capital markets. Additionally, he provides leadership to the analyst team.

Mary Ellen Lemay, CT Outreach Coordinator, Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership— Mary Ellen is the Connecticut Outreach Coordinator for the new Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H RCP) tasked with connecting the conservation commissions and land trusts in Fairfield County with the goal of protecting, connecting, and restoring critical open spaces; connecting people in order to connect the landscape. Lemay is currently chairwoman of the Trumbull Conservation Commission, co-chair of the MetroCOG Conservation Technical Advisory Committee and former president of the Trumbull Land Trust. She is also working on long conservation projects in the Pequonnock River watershed, and recently completed a dune restoration project in Maine. In addition to a bachelor's degree in biology from Fairfield University, Lemay also holds an MBA from Fordham University, and a master's degree in environmental management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Charles Levesque, President, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC— Mr. Levesque's professional career has ranged from serving as the CEO of several natural resources related associations including the Northern Forest Lands Council, administering the urban forestry program for a major metropolitan area, to working as a consulting forester and on a national forest. He is a Certified ISO 14001 Lead Auditor, NH Licensed Professional Forester (#281), Society of American Forester Certified Forester and Certified Forest Auditor, and RABQSA Certified Environmental Management Systems Lead Auditor.

Kate Losey, Conservation Easement Manager, Weantinog Heritage Land Trust— Kate has a BS in Wildlife Ecology and French from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and a MS in Conservation and Landowner Relations from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. Over the past 9 years she has worked with conservation organization including the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Wisconsin, Audubon’s California Starr Ranch, the Little River Wetlands Project in Indiana, and most recently at the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust in Massachusetts. She specializes in invasive species management and finding drill holes. Connecting landowners and the public to methodical and science-based approaches to land management is her passion.

Connie Manes, Manes Consulting, Land Trust Alliance Northeast Circuit Rider – Based in Kent, Connie provides 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. Since 2013 she has served as a Land Trust Alliance Circuit Rider providing direct assistance to all-volunteer land trusts. 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 of 24 land trusts in northwest Connecticut. Connie is an Advisory Council 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.

Chris Martin, State Forester and Forestry Director, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection— Chris is Connecticut’s State Forester and Forestry Director for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) since 2008. DEEP Forestry administers numerous USDA Forest Service’s Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act programs addressing identified needs within Connecticut’s Forest Action Plan and is charged with sustainably managing over 170,000 acres of State Forests held by the Agency in public trust. Chris also currently serves as chair for the National Association of State Foresters Forest Science and Health Committee and is active in many national forest policy matters including Wildfire Disaster Funding Act and a multi-federal agency strategic plan to combat invasive forest pests. He is a certified and licensed forester in Connecticut and Maine, and the Society of American Foresters. Prior to serving in Connecticut. Chris was a Senior Planner and Water Resource Forester for the Maine Forest Service where he coordinated statewide monitoring of timber harvests and helped develop protocols to analyze forest practice effects on water quality, biodiversity, and residual forest stand quality.

Jennifer H. Mattei, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Sacred Heart University— Dr. Jennifer Mattei has a wide range of interests in population ecology, restoration, and conservation, with over 22 years of experience working in coastal ecosystems. After completing her Ph.D. in Ecology & Evolution at SUNY, Stony Brook, Mattei was a post-doc at Rutgers University where she was part of a team of scientists to be the first to successfully restore coastal woodland habitats on top of closed sections of the largest landfill in the US. In 1998, she began her work on the population ecology and conservation of the Long Island Sound Horseshoe Crab (Project Limulus; www.projectlimulus.org), and recently co-authored two book chapters in: *Changing global perspectives on biology, conservation, and management of horseshoe crabs*. 2015. Springer, New York. Through this work, it became clear that overharvest, loss of habitat and climate change were leading factors in the decline of the horseshoe crabs and many other species. Mattei is the lead scientist on the coastal restoration of Stratford Point. Employing a whole ecosystem approach that includes installing an artificial reef, saltmarsh, upland dune mosaic, several acres of pollinator meadow and upland coastal forest habitat (www.sacredheart.edu/livingshorelines). This living shoreline dissipates wave energy, slows shoreline erosion and allows for sediment deposition. After two years, the upland habitats attract over 50 butterfly and bee species. Mattei’s research team is currently being supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, CT In-lieu-fee program and DuPont Corporation titled Stratford Point Living Shoreline: Restoring Coastal Habitats to Maintain Resiliency and Function.

Emily May, Pollinator Conservation Specialist, Pesticide Program—Emily May is a Pollinator Conservation Specialist with the Pesticide Program at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. She received an M.S. in Entomology from Michigan State University, and has studied pollinator habitat restoration, bee nesting habits, and the effects of pest management practices on wild bee communities. Her work with Xerces since 2015 has focused on supporting pollinators through habitat creation and mitigating pesticide risk to bees and other beneficial insects.

Richard McDermott, MAI, R.P. McDermott Associates Inc.— Rich received an undergraduate degree in Business Administration (BS), a Masters Degree in Regional Planning, earned the MAI designation from the Appraisal Institute in June 1992 and holds a Certified General appraiser license with the State of CT. Initially worked as a fee appraiser before becoming Chief Appraiser at Fleet Bank of Connecticut and a Team Leader for Fleet Bank NA and then establishing R.P. McDermott Associates Inc. in July 1993. The firm provides appraisal consulting, fee appraisal and appraisal review services to federal, state and local agencies, municipalities, land trusts, private individuals, financial institutions and corporations. The firm's primary focus includes land valuation, conservation easements and farmland preservation easements with competency to conduct USPAP, IRS, USDA and Yellow Book appraisals. Other market niches include affordable housing, apartments and market studies.

Spencer Meyer, Senior Conservationist, Highstead Foundation— Dr. Spencer Meyer is a senior conservationist at Highstead, where he builds partnerships to develop conservation finance strategies to accelerate New England forest conservation. Spencer is a co-author of the Wildlands and Woodlands vision and an associate at the Harvard Forest, where he conducts research on landscape ecology, land protection trends, and ecosystem services. Previously, Spencer worked jointly at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and The Nature Conservancy. Before that, Spencer spent 12 years in Maine, working on sustainable forestry research with academic, forest industry, and conservation partners. Spencer holds degrees from Dartmouth College and the University of Maine. Spencer advises numerous scientific, conservation, and land management organizations. Spencer lives in Guilford, CT with his wife and two sons, all of whom frequent the wonderful open space Guilford Land Conservation Trust has protected.

Susan Mitchell, Farmer (Cloverleigh Farm), New Connecticut Farmer Alliance— Susan Mitchell, Cloverleigh Farm owner/operator-Susan has been operating Cloverleigh Farm since 2014 and currently leases land in Mansfield. She has moved her farming operation three times and dreams of the day she will have a really long term lease or be able to purchase a farm. As a founding member of the New Connecticut Farmer Alliance, she has helped to grow the young and beginning farmer movement in Connecticut.

Elisabeth Moore, Executive Director, Connecticut Farmland Trust— Elisabeth Moore is Executive Director of Connecticut Farmland Trust, CFT is the only statewide land trust dedicated to permanently protecting Connecticut's working family farms. Prior to being promoted to executive director, she was Director of Conservation at CFT and closed on 32 easement deals totaling 2,353 acres. Prior to joining CFT, Moore worked for the Trust for Public Land in New Haven, where she protected over 800 acres of critical farm, forest, historic and environmentally sensitive lands. As a project manager, she raised \$1.8 million in public and private funds and managed a referendum campaign for a \$2 million a municipal open space fund. Moore is on the Committee for Working Lands Alliance (since 2006), City Seed Board of Directors (since 2012), Watershed Fund Board of Directors (since 2004), and CLCC Advisory Council (since 2014). She earned an A.B. cum laude from Bowdoin College and Master of Regional Planning from University of North Carolina with a concentration in land use and environmental planning.

Nancy Moore, Managing Partner, Conservation Consulting Group— Nancy Moore is the Managing Partner of The Conservation Consulting Group (CCG), a collective of highly experienced professionals dedicated to building the capacity and advancing the mission of conservation organizations throughout the United States. Specialties of CCG include strategic planning, board development, organizational assessments, coaching, and education. She has been a consultant since 2001 and brings more than 35 years of experience in nonprofit management and leadership to the practice, including 11 years as an Executive Director. She also applies her passion for the natural environment, talents as a group leader and facilitator, and interest in other cultures as an international adventure travel Expedition Leader for Natural

Habitat Adventures, exclusive partner of the World Wildlife Fund. Most recently she was elected to the City Council of her home town of Monona, WI.

Jim Morris, Senior Consultant, Solid Ground Consulting— Jim's career spans 30 years in the human resources and organizational development field. He spent his early career in senior-level human resources positions with several private sector companies, including seven years leading mergers for a large public utility. Jim launched a regional consulting firm in 1991, the MBL Group, which he led for over 18 years. He joined Solid Ground Consulting in 2010 to manage the Sustainable Leadership practice focusing on leadership development, succession planning, and executive transitions in the nonprofit sector nationwide. He brings deep knowledge of organizational culture and team effectiveness. Additionally, Jim leads Solid Ground Consulting's Durable Collaboration practice.

Keene Morrow, Adjunct Professor and University Assistant in Environmental Earth Science, Eastern Connecticut State University— Keene is an adjunct professor and university assistant in Environmental Earth Science at Eastern Connecticut State University. Their main project is DEEP's Connecticut Public Use & Benefit Land Registry. In their spare time, Keene likes to sail tall ships.

Tom Mullin, Associate Professor of Parks and Forest Resources, Unity College— Tom Mullin is an Associate Professor of Parks and Forest Resources at Unity College in Maine. His past experience has included being the Executive Director of two land trusts, manager of a urban community park/nature center and various state and national environmental education consultant work. He serves as the Secretary of the National Association for Interpretation and on several local and regional land protection/trail organizations.

Will O'Meara, Co-Manager, Waldingfield Farm—After graduating with a degree in Sustainable Agriculture from UMass Amherst in 2016, Will returned to Waldingfield Farm in Washington, where he has previously worked during his summers. His farm experience at Waldingfield and the UMass student farm provides Will with the background to one day start his own farm operation, should the right opportunity should present itself. Will is a New Connecticut Farmer Alliance steering committee member.

Joe Oslander, Chair, Rockland Advisory Committee— Joe Oslander is chair of the Rockland Advisory Committee and a board member of the Madison Land Conservation Trust as well as chair of their Stewardship Committee. Multiple generations of Oslanders have lived and worked in Rockland.

Jon Petersen, Board Member, New England Mountain Bike Association— Jon Petersen is a mechanical engineer and master trail builder. He has built trails at Rockland Preserve and in partnerships with multiple CT state parks. Jon is a board member of Central CT NEMBA.

Holly Rippon-Butler, Land Access Program Director, National Young Farmers Coalition— Holly grew up on her parents' dairy farm near Saratoga Springs, NY and attended Yale College and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She works nationwide with land trusts, service providers, and farmers to support the growing movement of small-scale sustainable agriculture.

Kathy Ruhf, Senior Program Director, Land For Good— Kathy Ruhf began LFG's work on farmland access, tenure and transfer in 2004, when there was scarcely any recognition or regional resources on these topics. Over the ensuing decade, land access became an issue of priority concern among all farm and food system stakeholders in New England and nationally. Kathy is a nationally recognized leader in farm entry, succession and tenure. She has co-authored guidebooks, managed projects, led workshops and worked closely with farm families on these topics. She served as co-director of the New England Small Farm Institute for 17 years, and on the USDA Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers for six years, and chair for two. Kathy coordinated a regional network, the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) from its founding in 1992 until late 2012. She continues to work and write on farm and food policy as a NESAWG Senior Fellow. Kathy has Masters Degrees in Administration (University of

Massachusetts) and in Natural Resource Management (Antioch/New England). She lives and works in Belchertown, Mass.

Laura Saucier, Wildlife Biologist, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection— Laura Saucier is a graduate of the University of Connecticut. She is a Wildlife Biologist with the state and has worked for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for the past 18 years. She works for DEEP's Wildlife Diversity Program, primarily on invertebrate conservation issues and state-listed shorebirds.

Hallie Schwab, Conservationist, Highstead Foundation and Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership— Hallie Schwab is a Conservationist at Highstead, where she supports the work of collaborative, cross-boundary conservation across New England and eastern New York through the Regional Conservation Partnership Network. Locally, she helps facilitate landowner engagement in the Hudson to Housatonic landscape. Hallie joined Highstead after completing a Masters in Natural Resources at the University of Vermont where her research focused on understanding how private landowners make decisions about the future use and ownership of forests. Prior to that, Hallie developed citizen science programs to engage volunteers in ecological monitoring in New York's Shawangunk Mountains, and monitored conservation easements and fee lands at a regional land trust in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Sarah Shrewsbury, Principal, Vineyard Consulting— Sarah Shrewsbury has over two decades of experience, personally raising tens of millions of dollars for nationally recognized nonprofits from individuals and family foundations. From 2004 to 2007, Sarah was Associate Director of Philanthropy at The Nature Conservancy of CT where she raised 5, 6 & 7 figure gifts for land conservation projects. She then worked for the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies for three years as Associate Director of Development. Sarah is a former Board member of the Guilford Land Conservation Trust. In 2013, she started Vineyard Consulting to help nonprofits start or enhance their major gift programs. Many of Sarah's clients are land trusts or other environmental organizations. www.vineyard-consulting.com

Graham Stevens, Office Director, Constituent Affairs & Land Management, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection— Mr. Stevens is responsible for DEEP's Land Acquisition and Management, Brownfields, and Indian Affairs programs. Mr. Stevens holds a B.A. in Environmental Geography from Clark University and a M.S. in Water Resources from the University of Connecticut.

Lindsay Suhr, Conservation Director, Connecticut Forest & Parks Association— After graduating from Connecticut College with a degree in Environmental Science, Lindsay worked for the Iowa Conservation Corps where she focused on timber stand improvements and prescribed burning. She then moved back to Connecticut and worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, conducting research in a threatened and endangered bird colony on Faulkner Island in Guilford. She also worked as the Land Stewardship Manager for the Greenwich Land Trust, focused on land acquisitions, meadow restorations, and invasive species removal. Lindsay loves the outdoors and enjoys playing basketball, running, and spending time with her family.

David Sutherland, Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy CT Chapter— David has been the Director of Government Relations with the Nature Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter for the past 25 years, and has been the co-leader of the Chapter's Diversity and Inclusion initiative for the past three years. He is a member of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council's Advisory Council.

Jason Vokoun, Department Head and Associate Professor, University of Connecticut Department of Natural Resources and the Environment— Jason Vokoun is Department Head and Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UConn. His research broadly encompasses fisheries conservation and management issues. Working in the freshwaters of Southern New England, Dr. Vokoun has studied state endangered species and other fishes of imperiled status, defining the needed habitats and stream water quantities and quality necessary for sustainable populations into the future. His research recently documented how fish communities changed in rivers that receive increasing levels of water withdrawals for both human drinking water and agriculture. He has also worked with

species that are abundant and recreationally fished, including largemouth bass, and sunfish/perch communities in lakes and ponds.

John Volin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost, Professor, University of Connecticut Department of Natural Resources and the Environment— John is a plant physiological ecologist and has worked in ecosystems around the world, focusing his research efforts on invasive species ecology and restoration ecology. In 2010, John founded the Natural Resources Conservation Academy.

Cam Weimar, Farmland Preservation Supervisor, CT Dept. of Agriculture— Cam Weimar directs the farmland preservation programs for the State of Connecticut, including Community Farms, Farmland Restoration, and CT Farmlink. Cam has been an urban planning professor, planning consultant, land trust director, and a municipal planner. He holds a doctorate in Natural Resources Planning from the University of Michigan and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Virginia.

Kim Welch, Partner, Aegis Wealth Partners— Kim works with individuals, businesses and not for profit organizations to achieve financial success through consistent financial planning, risk mitigation, and investment management strategies. As part of her investment management practice she offers clients ESG solutions to meet their goals. Kim was on the board of the CT chapter of The Nature Conservancy for 10 years and currently serves on the board of Sunny Valley Preserve, the Conservancy's 2000-acre farmland/forest preserve in New Milford/Bridgewater CT.

Harry White, Ecologist/Conservation Director, Cornwall Conservation Trust/Salisbury Association Land Trust— Harry White is a Yale-trained ecologist serving as Conservation Director for three land trusts in Northwest Connecticut and is the Consulting Ecologist at Northeast Wilderness Trust. He has been professionally engaged in land trust stewardship, habitat restoration, acquisitions, and forest defense for over 20 years. Equipped with a deep understanding of the stewardship and scientific challenges that face land trusts, he has been exploring innovative methods to improve land management, scientific methodologies, and cartographic work in the conservation community. He is an experienced builder and operator of fixed-wing and rotary Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) deployed in the stewardship of land trust lands in New England.