Welcome to

Plenary Session

Leading the Way: Environmental Activists Speak Out

Peoples State Forest, Barkhamsted

Saturday, May 14, 2022

8:30am - 3:00pm

2022 CONNECTICUT LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Gather on the Land: Conversations Among Generations

This year's conference is planned by young conservationists from around the state, and highlights the hopes and goals for the future of land conservation through our efforts today.

Together, we will gain perspectives on current views of land conservation and the natural world, how concerns about the environment can impact personal and professional lives, and the ways our work connects the quietest corners to the busiest cities of our state.

Today's plenary session is a thought-provoking yet celebratory day as we gather at Peoples State Forest in Barkhamsted for conversations about land conservation among generations. Together, let's create the future we all want to see.

PLENARY SESSION SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

8:30 am	**Registration Check-In, Networking**
9:00 am	**Welcome and Introduction of Dignitaries**
9:15 am	**Dignitary Remarks**
	Break
10:30 am	**Panel Discussion – Leading the Way: Environmental Activists Speak Out** **Ashley Stewart,** *Facilitator, Environmental Consultant, Stewart Environmental and Equity Consulting* **Paul Mailhot-Singer**, *Americorps Public Allies Member, Housatonic Valley Association* **Katharine Morris**, *Founder, UConn Collaborative Organizing (UCCO); Incoming Co-Director, CT Equity Now (CTEN)* **Austin Serio**, *Chicoran Shakori; Co-Founder & CEO, ShockTalk; IT Manager, Urban Indigenous Collective* **Sena Wazer**, *Climate Activist, University of Connecticut '22* **Nate Welsh**, *Intern, East Granby Land Trust*
Noon	**Lunchtime Roundtables**
1:00 pm	**Group Discussion**
1:30 pm	**Closing Remarks**
2:00 pm	**Guided Hike, Yoga, Frisbee & More**

PRESENTERS

FACILITATOR

ASHLEY STEWART
Environmental Consultant, Stewart Environmental and Equity Consulting

Ashley Stewart grew up in Connecticut, and her career has focused on improving the environmental and social conditions of residents in the State. Ashley is an environmental engineer, equity coach, facilitator, environmental sociology researcher, and project management consultant.

Through her consulting company, Stewart Environmental and Equity Consulting (SEEC), Ashley has continued her research focusing on the effects of environmental policy on marginalized communities and the role residents have in forming their own environmental protection. SEEC also supports nonprofits, municipalities, and organizations in a proven method of stakeholder engagement in designing sustainable solutions across land use decisions, resilience investment and sustainability programming. Ashley is an avid reader who loves biking and gardening.

PANELISTS

PAUL MAILHOT-SINGER
Americorps Public Allies Member, Housatonic Valley Association

Paul Mailhot-Singer joined the Housatonic Valley Association last fall as an Americorps member. During his service term at HVA, Paul has conducted outreach and collaborated with partner organizations and local schools to advance and implement the Follow the Forest Initiative.

Paul helped develop Follow the Forest's wildlife linkage assessment tool, which relies on community science to assess the connections between forests. Paul received his B.A. in Religious Studies from Pomona College and wrote his thesis on the preservation of sacred forests in Japan and India.

KATHARINE MORRIS
Scholar-Activist for Environmental Justice, Founder of UConn Collaborative Organizing (UCCO) for CTEN

Katharine (Kat) Morris is a 24-year-old scholar-activist with her Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Connecticut. She founded UConn Collaborative Organizing (UCCO) to promote solidarity and intersectionality in social and environmental justice movements.

Her TEDxUConn talk, How to Collaborate for Environmental Justice, is a call to action discussing environmental racism, health inequities, and how to organize your community using radical love and intersectionality.

AUSTIN SERIO
Chicoran Shakori, Co-Founder & CEO, ShockTalk; IT Manager, Urban Indigenous Collective

Austin Serio is a member of the Chicoran Shakori tribe of South Carolina. Growing up as a Two-Spirit urban native in the Simsbury area of Hartford Austin has found himself at powerful intersections between the forces of Technology and Globalization.

During and after pursuing his degree in Technology and Globalization at NYU Gallatin, Austin continued to enhance his Product Design skills as the Chicoran Shakori Tribal Web Developer and the Lead Product Designer at Up2Code ZED Aerospace and Blue World Inc. Finding himself at another powerful global crossroads, Austin is currently focused on the intersections between Indigenous communities, Sustainability and Product Design.

SENA WAZER
Climate Activist, University of Connecticut '22

Sena Wazer is an 18-year-old climate activist from Mansfield, CT. In 2021 Sena was named a Truman Scholar, and this May she graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BA in Environmental Studies.

As a climate activist Sena has organized and spoken at large demonstrations, youth lobby days, and other climate action related events. She also chaired a subcommittee on the Governor's Council on Climate Change. Moving forward Sena plans to work full time on climate action through policy and government.

NATE WELSH
Intern, East Granby Land Trust

Nate Welsh is a high school senior who has spent the last two years serving as an intern for his local land trust, the East Granby Land Trust. He will be attending Williams College in the fall where he plans to further pursue his interests in land management, environmental justice, and ethics.

Read full bios of this year's speakers at www.ctconservation.org

2022 Annual Conference
GATHER ON THE LAND
CONVERSATIONS AMONG GENERATIONS
CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLES

(VIA ZOOM)

CONVERSATIONS AND REFLECTIONS: TAKING A LOOK BACK TO WHERE WE ARE NOW

MAY 12, 6:30-8PM

To kick off our 38th annual Connecticut Land Conservation Conference, *Gather on the Land: Conversations Among Generations*, CLCC is honored to host a unique conversation between emerging land conservation leaders and some of their very special mentors.

Presenters*:

Marianne Jorgensen, *Facilitator, ALPINE Manager, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*
Sylvie Boucher, *Sandy Breslin Conservation Fellow, Connecticut Land Conservation Council*
Laurie Doss, *Science Department Chair, Marvelwood School; Board Member, Kent Land Trust*
Justin Kaput, *Environmental Science Teacher, Suffield High School*
Grace Karam, *Student, Suffield High School*
Jayson Velazquez, *Graduate Student, Yale School for the Environment*
Herb Virgo, *Executive Director, Keney Park Sustainability Project*
Brennan Wilkins, *Student, Marvelwood School*

CREATING A WELCOMING EXPERIENCE ON THE LAND FOR ALL

MAY 17, NOON-1:30PM

Through this facilitated roundtable, community and conservation leaders will share stories and perspectives on how the environmental and outdoors sector can be more welcoming.

Presenters*:

Mercy Quaye, *Facilitator, Founder and President, The Narrative Project; Columnist and Community Project Editorial Board, Connecticut Mirror*
Leticia Colon de Mejias, *President, Green Eco-Warriors; Appointed Board Member, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)*
Tasha Daniels, *Visitor Services Specialist/Park Ranger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Chris Donnelly, *Urban Forester (retired), CT DEEP Forestry*
Lazendra Hairston-Barton, *Environmental Biologist Coordinator, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission*
Holly Lalime, *Environmental Analyst, CT Department of Agriculture*

*Visit ctconservation.org for full speaker bios

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CONSERVATION EDUCATION: EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO HELP OUR PLANET
MAY 18, NOON-1:30PM

This esteemed group of environmental educators will share their experiences, insights, and tips to create dynamic experiential programs.

Presenters*:

Dennis Liu, *Facilitator, Vice President of Education, E.O. Wilson Foundation*
Bryan Avery, *Americorps Public Allies Member, Connecticut Forest & Park Association*
Laura Cisneros, *Assistant Extension Professor, UConn Department of Natural Resources and the Environment & Institute of the Environment*
Susan Quincy, *Environmental Educator, CT DEEP Kellogg Environmental Education Center*
Amanda Thompson, *President, East Granby Land Trust*

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: COMBINING RURAL AND URBAN CONSERVATION EFFORTS
MAY 19, 6:30-8PM

In this roundtable, a diverse group of participants will share a myriad of perspectives and a continuum of ideas to empower everyone, no matter where they live, to take climate action.

Presenters*:

Alanis Allen, *Facilitator, Research Analyst, CT DEEP Office of Climate Planning*
Jaysa Hunter-Mellers, *Student Environmental Activist, Young Voices for the Planet*
Shawn Joseph, *Co-Founder, Park City Harvest*
Julia Rogers, *Senior Land Protection Manager, Housatonic Valley Association*
Andrea Urbano, *Service Forester, CT DEEP Forestry*
Sophi Veltrop, *Outreach Manager, Northeast Wilderness Trust*
Louise Washer, *Executive Board Member, Pollinator Pathway, Inc.*

*Visit ctconservation.org for full speaker bios

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The Connecticut Land Conservation Council advocates for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and works to ensure the long-term strength and viability of the land conservation community in Connecticut.

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