



CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

ctconservation.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

8:00 am – 5:30 pm RECEPTION FOLLOWS

Wesleyan University • Middletown, CT



WELCOME TO THE 2024 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference

Conserving Land, Cultivating Connections

Welcome to the 40th Connecticut Land Conservation Conference, the state's largest annual full-day conservation gathering and Connecticut Land Conservation Council's (CLCC) premier event. Now in its 4th decade, the Conference brings together volunteers, staff, board members, environmental professionals, advocates, passionate individuals and more with dynamic training and networking opportunities.

This day promises to be a vibrant platform for sharing experiences, strategies, and innovations in land conservation. We are delighted that you've chosen to spend your day with us, ready to forge new paths in protecting Connecticut's environmental legacy.

The mission of the CLCC is to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut. CLCC's vision is a future where every Connecticut community is supported and sustained by a diverse mix of conserved land, and land conservation is embraced as an essential community value. We embrace a commitment to understand and take action alongside those we serve to address and promote inclusive conservation.

CLCC is the only statewide service provider and voice for all Connecticut land trusts. CLCC is a leader in advocacy and policy, education and training, and technical assistance to empower Connecticut's 119 land trusts and ensure the long-term viability of land conservation efforts in the state.

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

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Jovan Bryan, Community Conservation Coordinator
Yaw Owusu Darko, Senior Project Specialist
Cristina Hayden, Operations Manager
Victoria Jaskaran, Sandy Breslin Conservation Fellow
Aaron Lefland, Deputy Director

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SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

8:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast Usdan Mink Dining Hall
9:00 am	Plenary Session Memorial Chapel
	WELCOME Amy Blaymore Paterson , Executive Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Awakening the Sleeping Giant: Natural Climate Solutions Bronson Griscom , Vice-President, Natural Climate Solutions, Conservation International
	Plenary Roundtable Discussion Moderator: Aaron Lefland , Deputy Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council Dr. Mayra Rodríguez González , Assistant Extension Educator in Urban and Community Forestry, UConn Extension Clan Mother Shoran Waupatukuay Piper , Tribal Head Leader, Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe Julia Rogers , Senior Land Protection Manager, Housatonic Valley Association Andrea Urbano , Private & Municipal Lands Program Supervisor, CT DEEP Forestry
11:00 am	Break
11:15 am	Workshop Session A (see Workshop Descriptions on p. 9)
12:30 pm	Lunch Fayerweather Beckham Hall Usdan Mink Dining Hall Usdan Daniel Family Commons (Young Conservation Professionals Meet-Up)
1:45 pm	Workshop Session B (see Workshop Descriptions on p. 19)
3:00 pm	Break
3:15 pm	Workshop Session C (see Workshop Descriptions on p. 27)
4:30 pm	Break
4:45 pm	Workshop Session D (see Workshop Descriptions on p. 35)
5:30 pm	Reception Usdan Center Gregory Lounge

A map can be found on page 48.

Young Conservation Professionals Meet-Up

Join the Young Conservation Professionals Meet-Up, a networking lunchtime gathering designed for emerging leaders in the field of conservation.

This meet-up will take place on the 3rd floor of the Usdan Center in the Daniel Family Commons room, offering a unique opportunity for young professionals, students, and early-career individuals to connect, share experiences, and build networks with peers who are equally passionate about conservation and environmental stewardship.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Session A: 11:15 am–12:30 pm		Session B: 1:45 – 3:00 pm	
TRACK 1 : Land Protection & Conservation Funding			
A.1 Agricultural Conservation Funding Opportunities • B113		B.1 Accessing Federal Funding through Collaboration • B114	
A.2 Land Trust Law School • BH		B.2 Lassoing the Transformative Power of Strategic Conservation Planning • U136	
A.3 Protecting Drinking Water Sources • B110		B.3 Nuts and Bolts of Land Transactions (101 Series) • U108	
TRACK 2 : Stewardship & Natural Climate Solutions			
A.4 Tools for Protecting and Restoring Riparian Areas • C		B.4 Pollinators and their Neighborhoods • C	
A.5 Climate-Smart Forestry Across CT's Urban to Rural Landscape Gradient • B112		B.5 Implementing Climate-Smart Stewardship on Your Land • DFC	
A.5a Bridging Histories, Cultures, and Conservation: A Dialogue on Indigenous Stewardship and Land Trust Partnerships • DFC			
TRACK 3 : Accessing & Engaging with Land			
A.6 Property Features Mapping with the Avenza App • U Outdoor Commons		B.6 Making the Most of Your Municipal & Land Trust Farmland with CT Farmlink • B111	
A.7 Forest Therapy to Promote Wellness and Build Community • F108		B.7 Black AF Farming: Sociocultural Perceptions of Black Farmers Navigating the Idealistic and Reality • U114	
TRACK 4 : Community Conservation & Communications			
A.8 Collaboration Not Competition: Community Land Trusts Can Help! • SC		B.8 Opening Spaces: Using the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Other Mandates to Create More Accessible Outdoor Experiences for People with Disabilities • B112	
A.9 Outdoors for All: Equity and Access Advocacy • B114		B.9 Using Print and Digital Media to Build Awareness and Connection to Your Land Trust • F108	
		B.9a Honoring Indigenous Wisdom: Land Stewardship and Community Connection • F106	
TRACK 5 : Policy & Advocacy			
A.10 The Adverse Consequences of Light Pollution • U110		B.10 State Plan Lightning Round • SC	
A.11 Prioritizing Natural Climate Solutions in CT • U108		B.11 CT General Assembly 2024 Update • U110	
TRACK 6 : Organizational Strength & Fundraising			
A.12 De-Mystifying the Capital Campaign • U136		B.12 Stewardship Tips and Trends from Terraforma • B113	
A.13 Strengthening Your Land Trust Board of Directors • F106		B.13 Building Your Roadmap: Considerations for Strategic Planning • B110	
A.14 Shifting Board Culture in Favor of Fundraising • B115		B.14 How to Raise More Money – a 101 Approach • B115	

B=Boger BH=Fayerweather Beckham Hall C=Memorial Chapel DFC=Usdan Daniel Family Commons
F=Fayerweather SC=South College U=Usdan UMP=Usdan Multipurpose Room

A map of the building locations appears on page 48.

Session C: 3:15 – 4:30 pm		Session D: 4:45 – 5:30 pm	
TRACK 1 : Land Protection & Conservation Funding			
C.1 Advanced Topics in Land Conservation • B112		D.1 Model Conservation Easement • B112	
C.2 State Land Acquisition Funding Source Lightning Round • SC		D.2 Miyawaki Forests in Bridgeport:The First in CT • F108	
C.3 Proposal Lab: NFWF Funding Opportunities for CT Land Trusts • U110			
TRACK 2 : Stewardship & Natural Climate Solutions			
C.4 Protecting Wildlife in your Woodlands • C		D.3 Agroforestry for Land Trusts and Landowners in CT • SC	
C.5 Controlling Beech Leaf Disease on Land Trust Properties • BH		D.4 The Land Has a Story to Tell • B114	
C.6 Improving Stewardship with Satellite and Aerial Technology: Explore the Alliance Toolkit • F106		D.5 Understanding Old-Growth Forest Characteristics • C	
TRACK 3 : Accessing & Engaging with Land			
C.7 From Tragedy to Triumph: Healing Ourselves, Our Soil, and Our Communities • U136		D.6 CT Trail Finder • B115	
C.8 New Parks in New England • U114		D.7 A Recreational Trails-Based Approach to Mapping and Managing Invasive Plants in Protected Areas • DFC	
TRACK 4 : Community Conservation & Communications			
C.9 Affordable Housing & Conservation: Collaboration Benefits & Examples • DFC		D.8 Small Scale Native Plant Propagation: How Land Trusts can Start Growing Their Own Native Plants for Restoration and Community Engagement • BH	
C.10 Conserving Northwest CT:Today and Tomorrow • F108		D.9 The Power of Local Educational Partnerships to Enhance Bird Data on Land Trust Properties • U136	
TRACK 5 : Policy & Advocacy			
C.11 Leading the Way, Environmental Activists Speak Out • UMP		D.10 Envisioning a Flourishing Future: Introduction to Rights of Nature • F106	
C.12 Nature for Resilient CT • U108		D.11 Improving Access to the Outdoors with Sustainable CT • U110	
TRACK 6 : Organizational Strength & Fundraising			
C.13 Building a Donor-Centric Major Giving Program • B114		D.12 Grantwriting 101: Show Me the Green • U108	
C.14 Succession Planning and Collaboration: You Don't Have To Go Alone • B115		D.13 Fundraising Q&A • B113	
		D.14 Organizational Checkup • B110	

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Bronson Griscom

Vice-President, Natural Climate Solutions, Conservation International

Bronson leads Conservation International's Natural Climate Solutions science team, playing a key role in the strategic development of natural climate solutions science across the organization, leading a research agenda that helps deliver on Conservation International's climate goals.

He works closely with a network of scientists and experts across divisions and in collaboration with some of the world's leading climate-focused institutions and global thought leaders. Bronson and his team conduct transformative research on natural climate solutions, including monitoring and evaluation, global climate mitigation potential, and the re-design of conservation, restoration, and improved land management strategies to maximize their climate and co-benefit impacts.

He is the lead author of a landmark study that introduced the term "Natural Climate Solutions" and revealed that these solutions provide over 30% of the emissions reductions needed by 2030 to keep global temperature increases under 2 degrees Celsius. He published the study with colleagues in 2017 while in his previous role with The Nature Conservancy as Director of Forest Carbon Science to design, measure, and scale Natural Climate Solutions.

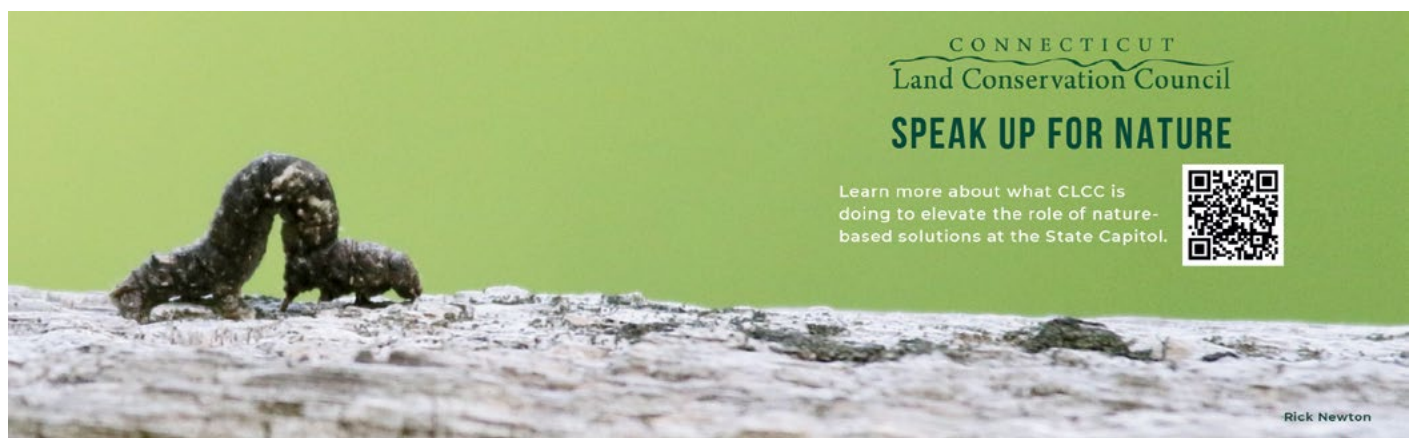
Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, Bronson coordinated a successful effort at the U.S. Department of State, as an AAAS fellow, to make climate change funding available for forest-climate initiatives through the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). He completed a post-doc at the Canaan Valley Institute in West Virginia studying restoration of high elevation Appalachian watersheds. He completed a Ph.D. in tropical forest ecology from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 2003 and received a M.Sc. from New York University in plant genetics and conservation.

Natural climate solutions include actions to protect, restore, and improve the management of forests, agricultural lands, and wetlands while safeguarding biodiversity, food, and social justice.

Awakening the Sleeping Giant: Natural Climate Solutions

Natural climate solutions include protection and restoration of wild lands, and better management of working lands. They are one of the largest, yet most under-financed, climate mitigation sectors. This is the case even in countries like the US, and in states like Connecticut, where fossil fuel emissions reductions are paramount.

In his talk, Dr. Griscom will review the range of natural climate solutions globally, nationally, and locally, and discuss the challenges and opportunities of awakening the sleeping giant climate ally at our doorstep.



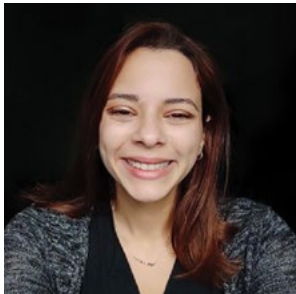
PLENARY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION PANELISTS



Aaron Lefland – MODERATOR

Deputy Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council

Aaron Lefland is Deputy Director at CLCC, where he delivers technical assistance and program support to build land trust capacity and sustainability. Aaron's prior experience includes serving as a land trust Executive Director, and managing a community forestry program. He holds a Masters of Forest Science Degree from the Yale School of the Environment, and serves on both the Connecticut's Forest Stewardship Committee, and the steering committee for the CT Master Woodland Manager program.



Dr. Mayra Rodríguez González

Assistant Extension Educator in Urban and Community Forestry, UConn Extension

Dr. Mayra Rodríguez González is an urban social ecologist who holds a Ph.D. in forestry and natural resources from Purdue University. Mayra helps city agencies and organizations improve natural resource management and address environmental injustice in their communities. Before coming to UConn, Mayra was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Gund Institute for Environment and the Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the Rubenstein School for Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont.



Clan Mother Shoran Waupatukuay Piper

Tribal Head Leader, Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe

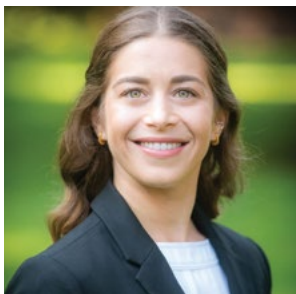
Clan Mother Piper is the Tribal Head Leader of the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe, Medicine Woman, Spiritualist, and author of Red Road, a profound guide that reconnects Afro-Indigenous and Indigenous Americans with their ancestral traditions. Guided by legacy, she preserves sacred traditions through dance, songs, stories, and spiritual teachings, while advocating for Indigenous rights and awareness. Clan Mother Piper is a spokesperson for Indigenous Rights, Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Two Spirit Gender.



Julia Rogers

Senior Land Protection Manager, Housatonic Valley Association

Julia Rogers holds a B.A. in biology from Colby College and an M.S. in natural resources and the environment from the UConn. With a wealth of experience in land conservation, Julia has managed conservation portfolios and pursued new opportunities for preservation. Her background includes extensive research on invasive plant species, non-native earthworms, and tropical rainforest restoration. Outside of work, she enjoys whitewater canoeing/kayaking, hiking, trail running, and exploring the scenic Housatonic River Valley.



Andrea Urbano

Private & Municipal Lands Program Supervisor, CT DEEP Forestry

Andrea Urbano oversees Connecticut's Urban & Community Forestry Program and Service Forestry Program, spearheading federal initiatives to support private and municipal woodland owners. With a background in environmental conservation and political science, she holds a Master's in forestry from the University of Vermont, focusing on climate science and carbon forestry. Andrea's dedication to sustainable natural resource management is evident through her published research and professional endeavors.

EVERSOURCE ENERGY

**The Regional Water Authority proudly supports
the Connecticut Land Conservation Council**



Land conservation and watershed protection allow us to make lives better for people by delivering water for life.

CODE OF CONDUCT

CLCC is committed to strengthening the community of individuals and organizations that sustain land conservation for all. This commitment includes ensuring that our staff, volunteers, and event participants have a harassment-free and inclusive experience when engaging in CLCC programs and events. We celebrate diversity, promote equity, embrace inclusion, and prioritize the overall well-being of participants.

CLCC expects all who engage in our programs and events to conduct themselves, and to treat others with integrity, honesty, and respect. All participants at CLCC programs and events are expected to behave in a professional manner and to show courtesy to others. Any form of harassment,* including sexual harassment** or violence, that is deemed to be offensive, disruptive, or disturbing, by another participant will not be tolerated.

CLCC may ask an event attendee to leave the immediate premises if they fail to comply with this Code of Conduct Policy, and their future access to CLCC programs and events may be revoked at CLCC's discretion.

Should any attendee of a CLCC event experience or witness a violation of this Code of Conduct Policy, CLCC requests that they bring the incident to the attention of CLCC Executive Director, Amy Paterson and/or the nearest immediate Senior Staff person. If an attendee of a CLCC event witnesses an action that threatens anyone's personal health or safety, please dial 911 or contact local emergency services before alerting a CLCC representative.

CLCC is committed to upholding this Code of Conduct fairly and without discrimination.

We thank you for your involvement with CLCC and for helping us ensure an inclusive and welcoming environment for all to enjoy CLCC programs and events.

Defined by UNFCCC as:

- * any improper or unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation to another person;
- ** any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation and may involve any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal or physical nature including written and electronic communications between persons of the same or different genders.

We Want Your Feedback

Share your valuable insights through our general evaluation and workshop evaluations for this year's conference.

Your feedback will help us enhance future conferences and ensure they meet your needs and expectations.

Don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard and contribute to the preservation of our natural landscapes.

Scan the QR codes and fill out your evaluations today!



[2024 Conference
General Evaluation](#)



[2024 Conference
Workshops Evaluation](#)

OUR PROMISE TO THE WORLD

*is to protect the lands and waters on
which all life depends: with your help it*

WILL BE KEPT.

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We are protecting climate-resilient lands, waters, and wild places, advocating for policies that will reduce emissions across our economy, and working with local communities to build climate resiliency into Connecticut cities and towns.
#NatureCT | nature.org/CT

The Nature Conservancy 
Connecticut

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

WORKSHOP SESSION A: 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

A.1 Agricultural Conservation Funding Opportunities – State and Federal Program

Boger 113

All Levels

Since the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, a flood of federal money has been made available through USDA for farmland conservation and stewardship. The State's Farmland Preservation Program, and federal programs such as ACEP-ALE and WRE, can help pay for easement acquisitions, while other state and federal grant programs can pay for farming practices such as climate smart agriculture, soil health practices, and other practices to address natural resource concerns on agricultural land. As a local land trust, you can put this state and federal money to work in your community!

Carol Jaworowski Grasis, Assistant State Conservationist – Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Cat Wang, Conservation Associate, CT Farmland Trust

Cam Weimar, Farmland Preservation Director, CT Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg)

A.2 Land Trust Law School

Fayerweather Beckham Hall

All Levels

The Land Trust Law School is back! Keith Ainsworth, a 30-plus veteran of environmental litigation and the Acting Chair of the CT Council on Environmental Quality, will present from multiple perspectives. It will be back to the basics of CT law that landowners and conservationists should know to be effective stewards, deal makers, and risk managers. Participants will review the statutes and case law that govern CT land uses and environmental law, along with the perennial favorite – the ever-vexing state of Tree Law. This workshop is for all levels and combines a presentation by Attorney Ainsworth and questions from those present.

Keith Ainsworth, Managing Member, Law Offices of Keith R Ainsworth, Esq., LLC

A.3 Protecting Drinking Water Sources: A GIS Tool to Rank Priority Areas in CT

Boger 110

All Levels

We will introduce the tool for Source Water Protection in CT, recently finalized by the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) in partnership with the Department of Public Health and the Council on Soil and Water Conservation, with funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This GIS model can support public and private sector decision-making and policy development for the protection of drinking water in our state and serve as a model for other regions to address the emerging challenges in drinking water supply watersheds and the expanding role of watershed managers in source water protection.

Denise Savageau, Chair, CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation

Emily Wilson, Geospatial Educator, UConn CLEAR

Qian "Rachel" Lei-Parent, Research Associate, UConn CLEAR

A.4 Tools for Protecting and Restoring Riparian Areas — Rivers' Natural Protection

Memorial Chapel

All Levels

This workshop focuses on riparian (streamside) buffers, and is a collaboration between the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR), the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, and the Rivers Alliance of CT. After a brief review of the value and functions of riparian areas, we will describe the statewide status of riparian zones as indicated by analysis of high resolution land cover data, and assess the health of the state's small watersheds as indicated by CLEAR's new Local Watershed Assessment Tool. We will then switch gears to protection and regulation strategies, first reviewing recent analyses of zoning regulations, statewide. An in-depth case study of the Gateway Zone and its challenges and strategies regarding riparian zones will follow. Finally, we will give an update on statewide legislative initiatives focused on riparian protection. Ample time will be reserved for discussion. The workshop is suitable for a broad audience including land trusts, conservation commissions, and land use professionals, providing actionable insights for enhancing watershed health through regulation and community education.

Chet Arnold, Extension Educator Emeritus, UConn

Alicea Charamut, Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of CT

David Dickson, Director, UConn CLEAR

Zbig Grabowski, Water Quality Educator, UConn CLEAR

Alan Ponanski, Chair, Rules Committee, CT River Gateway Commission

A.5 Climate-Smart Forestry Across CT's Urban to Rural Landscape Gradient
Intermediate Level

Boger 112

What is climate smart forestry? Why is it needed and how does it benefit us? Andrea will strive to answer these questions, drawing from examples across Connecticut's urban to rural forested landscape. This talk will also feature funding opportunities (e.g., grant programs, NRCS cost-share programs, etc.) for private and municipal landowners to develop climate smart forestry management plans and implement climate smart practices.

Ricky Bentley, Climate Smart Coordinator, Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)
Todd Bobowick, State Forester and State Biologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)
Andrea Urbano, Private & Municipal Lands Program Supervisor, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Forestry

A.5a Bridging Histories, Cultures, and Conservation: A Dialogue on Indigenous Stewardship and Land Trust Partnerships
All Levels

Usdan Daniel Family Commons

Join us for a unique "park bench" conversation as we delve into the intersection of Indigenous stewardship, cultural practices, and land conservation. Rahiem V. Eleazer, Environmental Liaison for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and Tobias Glaza, Director of Stewardship at Avalonia Land Conservancy, will engage in a thought-provoking dialogue. Explore the rich tapestry of Indigenous stewardship practices on tribal lands and the profound cultural connections to the environment. Gain insights into the historical significance of these lands and the ongoing efforts to preserve their integrity. Discuss opportunities for collaboration and partnership between tribal nations and land trusts, including access to land trust properties and the potential for mutually beneficial initiatives that honor Indigenous heritage while advancing conservation goals.

Rahiem V. Eleazer, Environmental Liaison, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Tobias Glaza, Director of Stewardship, Avalonia Land Conservancy

A.6 Property Features Mapping with the Avenza App

Usdan Outdoor Commons

All Levels

Land stewards will be introduced to some basic mapping with the Avenza app. Using waypoints and tracks, stewards will learn how to both navigate and collect data when on a property. Participants will create tracks, waypoints, sample grids, geofences; map an area and navigate to a feature. These exercises will help with the mapping of trail work, mapping of invasive control work, finding property boundaries, finding a property feature, creating and navigating a sampling grid, the use of geofences to create feature buffers, and taking photo waypoints. The workshop will be entirely outside. Please dress appropriately for the weather that day. Please have the Avenza app downloaded to your phone before the workshop, with the CLCC map below loaded into Avenza on your phone before the workshop. Instructions on how to do this are on the first page of the handout below.



Workshop Instructions



CLCC Map

David Beers, Western CT Service Forester, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Forestry

A.7 Forest Therapy to Promote Wellness and Build Community

Fayerweather 108

Intro Level

Healthy people make healthy communities and healthy communities make healthy land. At the forefront of the eco-conscious movement, is the practice of forest therapy, reconnecting humans to nature for personal and planetary well-being. Come discover the practice of forest therapy (aka forest bathing)—its history and health benefits, framework, and why it matters now. Learn how land trusts are uniquely positioned to promote this practice and the benefits you can receive in return. We'll discuss how you can partner with a certified Forest Therapy Guide to foster wellness and community engagement. Research shows that those who are more connected to nature are more likely to support activities that conserve and enhance the environment. By offering programs that encourage the appreciation of the healthful benefits of the forest, land trusts can create a stronger human and Earth community.

Regan Stacey, Co-founder, The Forest Therapy School, Forest Therapy Guide; volunteer, Lyme Land Trust

Kristina White, Executive Director, Lyme Land Trust

A.8 Collaboration Not Competition: Community Land Trusts Can Help!

South College B2/B3

All Levels

The panel will consist of staff and board members of the Southeastern CT Community Land Trust. We are a membership-based nonprofit organization that holds land for the development of permanently affordable housing, food production, green space, and facilities for community organizations. We are a grassroots organization by the people for the people, promoting social justice through the community holding land in trust. Recently, we have worked closely with the Salem Land Trust on farm land and farmer housing preservation. In this Workshop, we will share that story and develop further the idea that Community Land Trusts and Conservation Land Trusts can collaborate rather than compete.

Frida Berrigan, Convener, New London Chapter, Southeastern CT Community Land Trust

Mirna Martinez, Executive Director, Southeastern CT Community Land Trust

Regina Mosley, Community Organizer, Southeastern CT Community Land Trust

Joanne Sheehan, Board President, Southeastern CT Community Land Trust

A.9 Outdoors for All: Equity and Access Advocacy

All Levels

Boger 114

This workshop will explore how engaging with people through principles of joy and discovery can be harnessed to create dynamic programming that includes marginalized and vulnerable communities, thus enhancing equity and access in outdoor spaces. Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) and Sierra Club will share examples of their work to improve outdoor access and equity through outings, advocacy, and youth activities. Discussing the importance of creating enjoyable outdoor experiences for everyone by emphasizing people and their humanity, participants will gain insights into how they can also leverage these pillars to create impactful programming. We encourage participants to bring their ongoing programs to contribute to an interactive session where reflections on current work can inspire ideas for making outdoor engagement more inclusive and equitable.

Jhoni Ada, Community Organizer, CT Sierra Club

Jovan Bryan, Community Conservation Coordinator, CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC)

Yaw Darko, Senior Project Specialist, Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)

Jameelah Muhammad, Deputy Director of the Outdoors for All Campaign, CT Sierra Club

A.10 The Adverse Consequences of Light Pollution

All Levels

Usdan 110

Workshop will focus on adverse consequences of light pollution on the ecology and human health. Also covered will be the current state of affairs in legislative and regulatory efforts to control light pollution, including the most recent Lights Out legislation to require state buildings to turn lights off at night to help with bird migration. Also discussed will be the Light Pollution Control requirements contained in the CT State Building Code.

Susan Masino, Vernon D. Roosa Professor of Applied Science, Trinity College; Member, Science and Technology Working Group of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)

Craig Repasz, Co-Chair, Lights Out CT; Conservation Chair, CT Ornithological Association

Leo Smith, Chair, DarkSky International-CT Chapter

A.11 Prioritizing Natural Climate Solutions in CT

Usdan 108

All Levels

Following his keynote address, Bronson will facilitate a discussion to identify and prioritize the most feasible and impactful natural climate solutions within the Connecticut landscape. The question to focus discussion will be: what specific recommendations would this group make to Connecticut's state government for policies that would advance natural climate solutions? Through a deeper exploration of Connecticut's unique environmental challenges and opportunities, participants will discuss how a combination of land protection, management, and restoration could contribute to both national climate targets and Connecticut's environmental goals and sustainability initiatives.

Bronson Griscom, Vice-President, Conservation International

Aaron Lefland, Deputy Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)

A.12 De-Mystifying the Capital Campaign

Usdan 136

All Levels

Post pandemic, many land trusts have invested in strategic planning and how they can build back stronger and meet the needs of the many people who discovered hiking and land trusts for the first time. Some plans require significant investment beyond what can be accomplished through annual fundraising efforts; leaving both land trust staff and board members questioning how to fund them. Many assume that capital campaigns are primarily for larger organizations or exclusively for building projects. That's not necessarily true; many campaigns are being launched in creative ways to build for the future. And some even include an endowment option. They are successful because donors today have a greater understanding of the need to address potential opportunities. It is our hope that after this presentation land trusts will better understand what goes into a campaign and how they can use a campaign to raise the funds for significant investments in their nonprofit.

John Brooks, Senior Consultant, Danosky & Associates, LLC

Sharon Danosky, President, Danosky & Associates, LLC

A.13 Strengthening Your Land Trust Board of Directors

Fayerweather 106

Intermediate Level

This engaging, interactive workshop will encourage board members to reflect on how their board is currently operating and provide opportunities for reflection and considerations for improving the board experience. The workshop will include tips for board member recruitment and engagement and explore the partnership between nonprofit staff and the board. Participants will leave with inspiration and practical guidance to improve their Board dynamic.

Anne Yurasek, Principal, Fio Partners, LLC

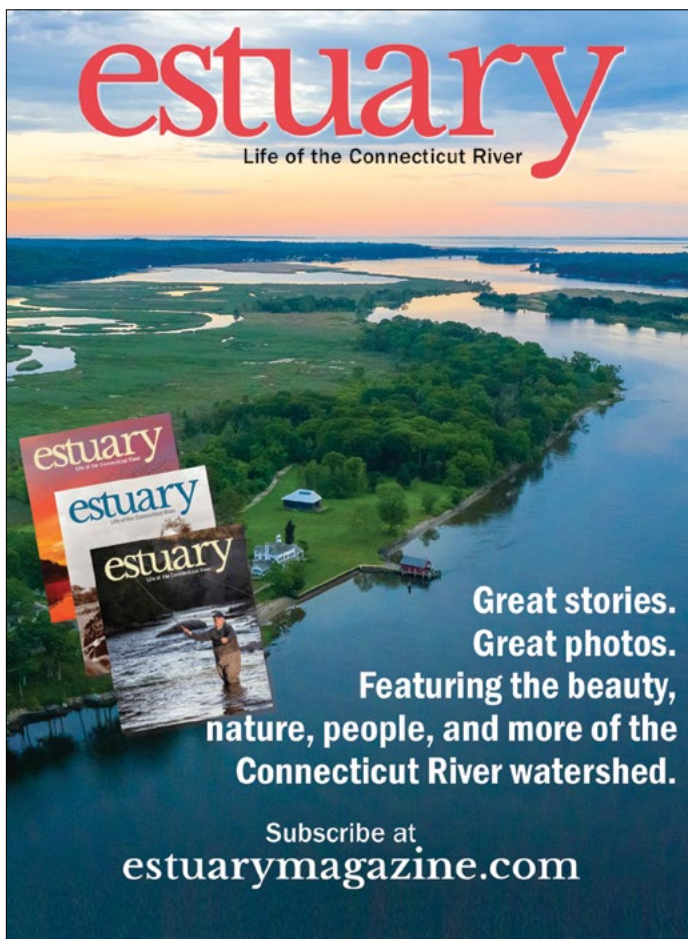
A.14 Shifting Board Culture in Favor of Fundraising

Boger 115

All Levels

Part of a land trust board's fiduciary responsibility is to raise enough money to support the projects and programs approved in its strategic plan. And for many, the culture of the Board itself gets in the way. Some directors have been in place for years and never fundraised. Others were recruited despite a vocal unwillingness to help raise money. How do we change that? I have some suggestions. This workshop is for Board members and staff alike who recognize the need to change but don't know how to do so.

David Allen, Principal Consultant, Development for Conservation





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 **Audubon**
CONNECTICUT & NEW YORK

Healthy habitats help mitigate climate change.

Our forests and wetlands store significant amounts of carbon.

Restoring and protecting these natural ecosystems could safeguard our environment and create a resilient future for birds and people.



Read Our Natural Climate Solutions Report

Northern Parula
Dennis Derby/Audubon Photography Awards





Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.

Enjoy today's CLCC conference!


Save the Date for CACIWC's 2024 Annual Meeting and Environment Conference
Saturday, November 16, 2024
Celebrating CACIWC's 50th Anniversary!

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OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM

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WORKSHOP SESSION B: 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

B.1 Accessing Federal Funding through Collaboration All Levels

Boger 114

Unprecedented federal investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have unlocked extraordinary levels of funding available for conservation projects. While exciting, the volume and complexity of these opportunities can be overwhelming, especially because the applications are nationally competitive, and the scope of work is often large-scale. Our workshop, Accessing Federal Funding through Collaboration, will feature a facilitated panel and open forum focused on sharing insights and strategies for securing federal funding for conservation initiatives in CT. In the workshop, we would like to cultivate an open dialogue around approaches for getting projects to scale (e.g., collaboration, bundling, cross-sector, co-benefits). Additionally, we will discuss the capacity needed to manage these projects and how we can continue to accelerate and sustain conservation efforts after BIL and IRA. The target audience for this workshop includes organizations looking to access public funds, conservation practitioners, and decision-makers.

Jessica Cañizares, PhD, Coastal Restoration Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy-CT

Timothy Clark, RLA, Resilient Southeastern CT Program Director, The Nature Conservancy-CT

Emily Hadzopulos, Freshwater Restoration Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy-CT
Will Kenny, Public Funding Manager, The Nature Conservancy-CT

B.2 Lassoing the Transformative Power of Strategic Conservation Planning Intermediate Level

Usdan 136

This workshop dives into strategic conservation planning for land trusts, emphasizing the importance of focusing on strategic priorities to efficiently raise funds and protect land. It will outline how a strategic framework directs efforts towards high-priority properties, fosters partnerships, and aligns with broader community and non-conservation goals, enhancing effectiveness and resource allocation. The session covers various planning models and methods, key steps at the organizational level, and encourages participants to apply these concepts to benefit their organizations. Designed for those involved in land protection, including board members, staff, and volunteers, the workshop includes time for reflection, discussions, and Q&A, highlighting the long-term benefits of strategic planning despite the initial investment of time and resources.

Connie Manes, Circuit Rider, Land Trust Alliance

B.3 Nuts and Bolts of Land Transactions (101 Series) **Intro Level**

Usdan 108

This introductory workshop dissects typical land conservation projects including both fee and easement transactions. You will learn the basics of land transactions from project selection through the closing event, including landowner negotiations, creating and executing a successful funding plan, due diligence, and community outreach. This workshop is for staff, volunteers, and board members involved in land protection projects. Bring your questions and examples of creative transactions or project issues to discuss and brainstorm solutions.

Honor Lawler, Project Manager II, Trust for Public Land

B.4 Pollinators and their Neighborhoods **All Levels**

Memorial Chapel

Join Victor DeMasi and Faith Novella as they dive into the world of pollinators! In the first segment, Victor will review pollinator biology and discuss threats they face, along with strategies to enhance meadow quality. Faith Novella will follow with a case study detailing their work restoring the habitat of one of Connecticut's last two remaining northern metalmark butterfly populations. We'll explore the butterflies' unique alkaline ecosystem, invasive species mitigation tactics, and the broader impact of habitat conservation. Finally, Louise Washer from the Pollinator Pathway will add a brief update on state efforts to ban neonicotinoid pesticides, known as the new DDT and linked to massive losses of birds, bees, and other insects.

Victor DeMasi, Entomologist, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
Faith Novella, Wildlife Biologist, CT Butterfly Association

B.5 Implementing Climate-Smart Stewardship on Your Land

Intermediate Level

Usdan Daniel Family Commons

There is growing consensus in the forestry and land management field about stewardship practices that can promote healthy and resilient landscapes while responding to climate impacts – and increasingly there is funding becoming available to do this work. Join foresters from New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the land trust community's own Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) to learn about climate-smart practices appropriate for your private woodland site or conserved parcel, and if you may be eligible for grants to cover the cost. A range of management goals will be discussed from addressing invasive plants to promoting diverse tree species, to storing carbon in the forest while also producing long-lived wood products. CLCC, NRCS, and NEFF will share details about their new programs to support land trusts and family forest owners in preparing for, and acting on, climate change across the landscape.

Ricky Bentley, Climate Smart Coordinator, Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)
Todd Bobowick, State Forester and State Biologist, U.S. Department of
Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)
Daniel Hohl, Program Forester, New England Forestry Foundation

B.6 Making the Most of Your Municipal & Land Trust Farmland with CT Farmlink

All Levels

Boger 111

Farmers in CT are in constant need of land to securely lease and purchase. We will discuss the current needs of farmers searching for land throughout the state, as well as best practices for assessing your farmland, publicizing your opportunity, finding the right farmer for your land, and executing a secure tenure option for that farmer. We will draw on our experiences working with farmers to help you avoid pitfalls and friction points that can derail farmland leases. We will also discuss how leasing farmland may help your land trust or municipality meet other conservation and social goals. This workshop will provide time for discussion so attendees can leave with next steps in mind for farmland in their stewardship.

Kip Kolesinksas, Consulting Conservation Scientist, CT Farmland Trust
Kae Vargas, Farmlink Coordinator, CT Farmland Trust
Will O'Meara, CT Field Agent, Land For Good

**B.7 Black AF Farming: Sociocultural Perceptions
of Black Farmers Navigating the Idealistic and Reality
All Levels**

Usdan 114

This workshop explores the multifaceted aspects of Black farming, which includes celebrating Black farmers unique identity in the agricultural industry; understanding some ways knowledge has been shared across generations; and discussing the impact of perceived narratives, challenges, and access to resources for Black farmers in CT. In this session, moderators will set the stage for a robust conversation with panelists and attendees about the image and reality of Black farming in CT. The discussion will focus on the ways the current agricultural landscape lacks a vision of Black farming, which leads to challenges in access to resources and markets. Black growers have shaped the land and history of the US but are also continuing to lead the industry today in healing, challenging norms, developing new markets, and incorporating community into farming. Let's talk about it. How can reconciling the images of New England farming change the agricultural and conservation industry?

Jonathon Savage, Interim Executive Director, Gather New Haven

Ashley Stewart, Stewart Environmental and Equity Consulting

Yaw Darko, Senior Project Specialist, Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)

**B.8 Opening Spaces: Using the Americans
with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Other Mandates to Create
More Accessible Outdoor Experiences for People with Disabilities
All Levels**

Boger 112

This presentation, appropriate for anyone with an interest in the subject, provides an introduction to the ADA and other regulations/codes, with emphasis on application to land trust accessibility. (The presentation will also briefly address requirements specific to municipal and state entities.) The first part of the presentation will address theory and specific provisions; the second part will be a panel of outdoor enthusiasts with disabilities who will talk about their own joys and challenges in accessing the outdoors. Candid conversation will be encouraged! This workshop will be sign language interpreted.

Note: This presentation will not teach construction details of, for example, trails and boardwalks. It will provide theoretical tools that should enable participants to develop a comprehensive plan for creating maximum accessibility in their organizations.

Elanah Sherman, Board Member, Avalonia Land Conservancy

Carissa Decelles, Lead Art Director and Brand Developer, Miranda Creative

Kevin Harkins, Vice-President, South East Connecticut Community Center of the Blind

B.9 Using Print and Digital Media to Build Awareness and Connection to Your Land Trust

All Levels

Fayerweather 108

This comprehensive workshop is divided into three parts, focusing on leveraging media and digital platforms to enhance the visibility and community engagement of land trusts. Initially, Janine Sullivan-Wiley will guide an interactive session on fostering collaborative relationships with local newspapers, sharing strategies for generating community-resonant stories to elevate awareness of land trusts. Following, Beth Sanford will discuss crafting compelling digital content for websites, social media, and e-newsletters to captivate donors and the local community, emphasizing efficient content planning with minimal resources. The workshop concludes with a group discussion led by Janine and Beth, offering personalized strategies for implementing these media and digital content approaches, tailored to each land trust's resources and current digital footprint. Participants will leave this workshop with actionable insights to boost their land trust's profile, regardless of their starting point.

Beth Sanford, Board Member, New Canaan Land Trust
Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Board Member, Middlebury Land Trust

B.9a Honoring Indigenous Wisdom: Land Stewardship and Community Connection

All Levels

Fayerweather 106

This workshop invites participants to envision a future where Indigenous wisdom guides land stewardship practices, fostering meaningful connections between people and the land. Join Clan Mother Shoran Waupatukuay Piper, Tribal Head Leader of the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe, in exploring Indigenous perspectives on land and community. Through storytelling and reflection, Clan Mother Piper will share the joys, griefs, wisdom, and spiritual presence experienced by her community in relation to their lands. Participants will gain insights into the deep connections between Indigenous peoples and the earth and consider how to honor and respect these relationships on land trust properties.

Clan Mother Shoran Waupatukuay Piper, Tribal Head Leader, Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe

B.10 State Plan Lightning Round

All Levels

South College B2/B3

Explore CT's pivotal land conservation plans, including The CT Comprehensive Open Space Acquisition Strategy (Green Plan), State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), Forest Action Plan, 2025-2030 State Conservation and Development Policies Plan (State C&D Plan). In this lightning round format, representatives from overseeing state offices will provide a brief overview of each plan, emphasizing their relevance to your conservation efforts. Discover how these plans impact land use and conservation, and for those under revision, seize the opportunity to learn how you can contribute your insights. Don't miss this dynamic session offering insights, relevance, and opportunities for input into shaping the future of land conservation in CT.

Becca Dahl, Planning Analyst, Office of Responsible Growth, CT Office of Policy and Management (OPM-ORG)

Melinda Gosselin, Land Acquisition and Restoration Coordinator, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Land and Water Resources Division

Brian Hess, Interim Wildlife Division Director, Wildlife Division, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

Akiebia Hicks, Durational Project Manager, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

Daniel Peracchio, Forest Planner and Forest Legacy Coordinator, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Forestry

Lindsay Suhr, Office Director, CT DEEP Land Acquisition and Management Office

B.11 CT General Assembly 2024 Update

All Levels

Usdan 110

Join CT land conservation advocates for a facilitated discussion of some of the hot topics under consideration by the CT General Assembly. There will be ample opportunity for participants to provide input and ask questions regarding legislation and issues that are relevant to their work in land conservation and environmental protection.

Robert LaFrance (Facilitator), Policy Director, Audubon CT Environmental Champions of the CT General Assembly (Invited)

B.12 Stewardship Tips and Trends from Terrafirma **All Levels**

Boger 113

Terrafirma Risk Retention Group LLC is a unique charitable risk pool for conservation organizations that helps its members uphold the promise of lasting conservation. This presentation will provide a high-level overview of:

- Terrafirma's history, structure, benefits, costs, and coverage,
- data and analysis from Terrafirma's 230+ covered claims over the past decade, and
- selected case studies and practices relevant for CT land trusts.

This presentation is intended for staff, board members, and anyone interested in learning about Terrafirma. Participants will take away information that they can use to help reduce disputes, know common issues affecting conserved properties, and understand how Terrafirma can benefit their land trust's risk management strategy.

Tom Kester, ARMS Operations Manager and Secretary, Land Trust Alliance, Alliance Risk Management Services LLC, Terrafirma RRG LLC

B.13 Building Your Roadmap: Considerations for Strategic Planning **Intermediate Level**

Boger 110

In our work with our clients, strategic planning is a process and a learning experience, not just a document. As the context for the work of nonprofits continues to shift, organizations can consider a range of approaches to share power with community members in the planning process and to increase transparency and participation in the learning, reflection, and choice-making. This workshop will explore key considerations that have emerged in recent years that nonprofit leaders, including board members and staff, can lean into when thinking about their next strategic planning effort.

Anne Yurasek, Principal, Fio Partners, LLC

B.14 How to Raise More Money – a 101 Approach **Intro Level**

Boger 115

If you are new to fundraising, or just terminally intimidated by it, this session is for you. Several of the most basic concepts in fundraising are easily misunderstood. If we can shift the paradigms in our understanding, we will be less intimidated and more successful – or both. This workshop examines the very basics of fundraising – beginning with understanding why people give.

David Allen, Principal Consultant, Development for Conservation



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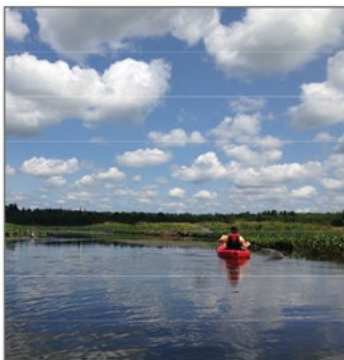
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WORKSHOP SESSION C: 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm

C.1 Advanced Topics in Land Conservation

Boger 112

Intermediate - Advanced Level

Land conservation and farmland preservation projects are often complex deals raising tough legal, financial, and governance issues. In this open Q&A session, participants will have an opportunity to ask the advanced questions most pressing to them, including those related to easement drafting, conflicts of interest, private inurement/private benefit, title searches, appraisals and Form 8283s, surveys and legal descriptions, environmental due diligence and liability, and establishing restricted funds for stewardship and defense...and the list goes on!

Keith Ainsworth, Managing Member, Law Offices of Keith R Ainsworth, Esq., LLC

Linda Francois, Esq., Partner, Cooper, Whitney & Francois

Shelley Harms, Executive Director, Cornwall Conservation Trust; Conservation Director, Salisbury Association Land Trust

Honor Lawler, Project Manager II, Trust for Public Land

Elisabeth Moore, Executive Director, Connecticut Farmland Trust

Catherine Rawson, Executive Director, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

C.2 State Land Acquisition Funding Source

South College B2/B3

Lightning Round

Intro Level

In this dynamic session, participants will gain insights into various state grant programs and services designed to support land trusts and communities in preserving natural and working lands. Through a lightning round format, representatives from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) will provide an overview of funding opportunities such as the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) and Urban Green and Community Garden (UGCG) Grant Programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, coastal resilience initiatives, and more. Bring your questions and leave with fresh ideas for financing your upcoming projects, whether they involve recreation, trails, conservation, or coastal land acquisition.

Kim Bradley, CT Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator, CT DEEP Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

Melinda Gosselin, Land Acquisition and Restoration Coordinator, CT DEEP Land and Water Resources Division

Amanda Limacher, Brownfields Coordinator, CT DEEP Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse

Lindsay Suhr, Office Director, CT DEEP Land Acquisition and Management Office

C.3 Proposal Lab: NFWF Funding Opportunities for CT Land Trusts

All Levels

Usdan 110

With historic federal funding, communities across CT are asking — how do we get some of that money? This session consists of the following: short presentations about National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding programs, including Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF); a mini “proposal lab” where attendees brainstorm proposal concepts, think through budgets, and workshop communications about projects; and time to swap ideas and learn from other participants. This session is run by LISFF Field Liaisons from Throwe Environmental (www.throwe-environmental.com). Attendees need only come with a general sense of a project to workshop further. LISFF has invested \$42M to enhance water quality, climate resilience, and community engagement across Long Island Sound's watershed. Other programs discussed may include NFWF's National Coastal Resilience and Northeast Forest and Rivers Funds. While Throwe's Field Liaison work supports NFWF applicants specifically, this session's learning outcomes are valuable and widely applicable for countless other funding programs.

Kyle Gray, Manager, Programs and Engagement (NFWF Field Liaison), Throwe Environmental

Justin Giffie, Junior Policy Analyst/LISFF Field Liaison, Throwe Environmental

C.4 Protecting the Wildlife in Your Woodlands

All Levels

Memorial Chapel

Once a parcel is acquired, what is the best course of action for protecting the plants and animals who call that land home? Thousands of species can exist on a protected parcel of land, and a property that is teeming with wildlife will be a benefit to human health. But how do we keep that wildlife from disappearing? This workshop will cover tools and procedures for assessing wildlife and habitat features, and for providing public access while conserving the most important natural resources.

Jane Seymour, Wildlife Biologist, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

Dan Carmody, Preserve Steward, Aspetuck Land Trust

Adam Maikshilo, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

C.5 Controlling Beech Leaf Disease on Fayerweather Beckham Hall Land Trust Properties: A Landscape-Scale Effort to Protect and Preserve CT's Beeches

All Levels

Research has demonstrated significant recovery from beech leaf disease in response to the application of “polyphosphite” (dipotassium salt of phosphorus acid), via soil drench, to beeches in natural and planted settings. This workshop is for those land trust members interested in identifying, adopting, and treating a selection of mature beeches on their land trust properties, as part of a state-wide effort to preserve beech genetic diversity, and maintain these trees’ ability to provide crucial hard mast for wildlife. We will cover the logistics of treatment and details of protocols of annual data collection using the Forest Inventory & Analysis program of the U.S. Forest Service.

Robert Marra, Forest Pathologist, CT Agricultural Experiment Station

C.6 Improving Stewardship with Satellite and Fayerweather 106 Aerial Technology: Explore the Alliance Toolkit

Intermediate Level

Land trusts across the country are on the cutting edge of the adaptation and use of aerial imagery for land stewardship. Explore the new remote monitoring toolkit with Land Trust Alliance’s Kate Losey, Remote Monitoring Project Manager, who will showcase the public web-based resource. It is designed to assist land trusts understand: the potential cost and time savings, the reduced risk to staff and conservation values, the different types of technology available, how to create new policies and procedures to maintain Standards & Practices. Additionally, the resource will inspire examples from the dozens of land trusts who found uses ranging from tracking restoration projects to planning climate adaptation actions to improving communication with landowners. This presentation will be geared towards land trusts of all sizes and anyone interested in improving stewardship, acquisition, climate action plans and communication at their organization.

Kate Losey, Remote Monitoring Project Manager, Land Trust Alliance

**C.7 From Tragedy to Triumph: Healing Ourselves,
Our Soil, and Our Communities**
All Levels

Usdan 136

Join Dr. Ivette Ruiz, founder of Healing by Growing Farms (HBGF), on a powerful journey of resilience and regeneration. Dr. Ruiz will share her inspiring story of overcoming a life-changing injury and how it led to the creation of HBGF – a haven where individuals heal in nature while simultaneously restoring the health of our planet. Through her presentation, you'll discover the transformative power of green therapy; learn about the principles behind HBGF's accessible and inclusive green spaces, designed for community well-being and environmental sustainability; and explore ways to become part of the HBGF Gardens Ambassadors Alliance, a network dedicated to replicating these healing gardens across the globe.

Dr. Ivette Ruiz, Founder, Healing by Growing Farms

C.8 New Parks in New England
Intermediate Level

Usdan 114

The first-of-its-kind regional report, "Wildlands in New England: Past, Present and Future," outlines the great need for and tremendous opportunity to protect more "Wildlands," especially in Southern New England. Wildlands are defined as tracts of land of any size and current condition, permanently protected from development, and wherein management is explicitly intended to allow natural processes to prevail. Is there a Wildland near you? This workshop will share recent research and practical strategies for establishing Wildlands that protect clean water, mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, and support our health. It will outline a simple, science-based, and bold vision for new parks based on establishing and expanding Wildlands in all types of communities across the state.

Michael Kellett, Executive Director, RESTORE: The North Woods
Susan Masino, Professor of Applied Science, Trinity College

C.9 Affordable Housing & Conservation: Collaboration Benefits & Examples

All Levels

Usdan Daniel Family Commons

Affordable housing organizations, such as community land trusts, and conservation land trusts each advance and protect the long-term, beneficial uses of land for public needs not met by market-based approaches. Affordable housing groups primarily focus on obtaining land for housing while conservation land trusts focus on land's ecological, open space, scenic, agricultural, and/or recreational values. While the idea for these two movements to leverage their strengths and expand their effectiveness by working together has been suggested for several decades, collaborative efforts between affordable housing and land conservation organizations are only occurring. Such collaboration is important with the intersecting challenges of climate change, affordable housing shortages, loss of biodiversity, and racial injustice. This session will review: why these groups should collaborate; the variety of ways collaboration can occur; how to build collaborative relationships based on principles of equity, learning, community needs, and complementary capacities; hurdles to collaboration; pathways to advancing collaboration; and examples of collaborative efforts.

David Hindin, Sustainability Advocate, Independent
Connie Manes, Director, Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative

C.10 Conserving Northwest Connecticut: Today and Tomorrow

All Levels

Fayerweather 108

Dive into the groundbreaking report, "Conserving Northwest Connecticut: Adaptive Strategies for Accelerating the Pace of Conservation," published in 2023. This session will guide land trusts, municipal leaders, environmental groups, and conservationists on leveraging the report for strategic planning, emphasizing ecological, economic, and equity considerations. Discover actionable insights and recommendations to enhance your conservation efforts across Connecticut, aiming for the ambitious 30x30 conservation goal. Engage in an enriching dialogue to foster a deeper understanding of regional conservation challenges and opportunities.

Amanda Branson, Director of Operations & Finance, Northwest CT Land Conservancy
Kathy Czepiel, Land Protection Manager, Save the Sound
Julia Rogers, Senior Land Protection Manager, Housatonic Valley Association

C.11 Leading the Way, Environmental Activists Speak Out

All Levels

Usdan Multipurpose Room

Land trust leaders are worried about who is going to succeed them to ensure that their land conservation vision is carried forward. What is not as clear is how younger people feel about their role in land conservation and how (and if) they envision themselves taking charge of that perpetual responsibility. Facilitated by Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)'s Jovan Bryan, the 2024 roundtable features speakers who will share their frustrations, concerns, hopes, goals, and plans to cultivate a shared understanding and vision of the past, present, and future of land conservation.

Jovan Bryan, Community Conservation Coordinator, CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC)

Emely Ricci, Community Planner, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Sydney Collins, Youth Climate Advocate, Sunrise New Haven

Henry Foushee, Volunteer, Sierra Club

Cameron Lloyd, Intern & Board Member, Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy

Keila Silva, Climate Activist, Suffield High School

Anagha Bhumireddy, Climate Action Club Co-Founder & Co-President, Avon High School

C.12 Nature for Resilient CT

All Levels

Usdan 108

Join us for an immersive workshop tackling CT's urgent challenges due to climate change and biodiversity loss. This workshop delves into the interconnectedness of these crises and the pivotal role of nature in providing solutions. We will review recommendations from the Governor's Council on Climate Change and other state reports, explore the status of implementing these recommendations, including current legislative proposals, and discuss practical steps for incorporating nature-based solutions into land trust initiatives. From advocacy to on-the-ground stewardship practices, explore how your organization can contribute to a sustainable and resilient future.

Alicea Charamut, Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of CT

Robert LaFrance, Policy Director, Audubon CT

Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)

Denise Savageau, President, CT Association of Conservation Districts

C.13 Building a Donor-Centric Major Giving Program
Intermediate Level

Boger 114

Our workshop is targeted to philanthropy staff, board members, organizational leaders and land trust staff that would benefit from tips on how to build a high-performing, major gift program, focusing on individuals. For years, land trusts have largely relied on foundations and a handful of loyal, repeat donors for support. The strength of any mature development program, however, requires consistently identifying and qualifying new prospects, moving current donors through the fundraising cycle with careful attention to stewardship, and ensuring a robust annual giving program to support and refresh the donor pipeline. Philanthropy Squared will show you the most strategic ways to grow your annual fund, how to launch a mid-level donor initiative, and how to create a successful major gift program. As part of the discussion, we will explore prospect research, effective donor strategies, the need for consistent cultivation and stewardship, and how and when to launch a capital campaign.

Peter Jones, Senior Advisor, Philanthropy Squared
Betsy McGean, Senior Advisor, Philanthropy Squared

C.14 Succession Planning and Collaboration: You Don't Have To Go Alone
Advanced Level

Boger 115

As volunteer land trust boards age, challenges of succession grow. There are alternatives that can be advanced through strategic alliances: from sharing services to merging. Learn how some land trusts are using these alternatives to ensure that the decade's worth of dedication in protecting lands will continue in perpetuity.

Sharon Danosky, President, Danosky & Associates, LLC
Aaron Lefland, Deputy Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)

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Photo taken by Charlie Reinertsen

Niantic Headwaters Memorial Forest



WORKSHOP SESSION D: 4:45 pm - 5:30 pm

D.1 Model Conservation Easement

Boger 112

All Levels

Ideal for newcomers or those needing a refresher, this workshop will provide an introductory overview of conservation easements, guided by Connecticut Land Conservation Council's revised model CT Conservation Easement (CE). Intended for use by the state's land conservation community, the model CE was developed with a goal of simplifying language as much as reasonably possible and permitting adaptation to a broad array of situations. There will be ample opportunity for Q&A and discussion.

Linda Francois, Esq., Partner, Cooper, Whitney & Francois

D.2 Miyawaki Forests in Bridgeport: The First in CT

Fayerweather 108

Intro Level

Aspetuck Land Trust has long been a supporter of bringing Bridgeport schools to our forests for educational hikes, but the idea of bringing OUR forests to the schools was a unique and groundbreaking idea that only Micro-Forests, using the Miyawaki Method, could do. The CT Department of Agriculture agreed that this was a potential climate smart practice that could supercharge the city with the lowest tree canopy in the state. By planting small forests of different sizes at 7 schools in Bridgeport, we could test this Miyawaki Method of forestry for the first time in CT. A small but mighty forest of native trees and shrubs could, in theory, capture carbon, manage stormwater, cool the air, and improve biodiversity at a rate 3x that of a traditional forest and with a higher collective impact than street trees alone. Learn how the method was implemented and the data collected.

Mary Ellen Lemay, Director, Landowner Engagement, Aspetuck Land Trust

Bram Gunther, VP of Science and Strategy, Plan it Wild

Reggy Saint FortColin, Conservation Outreach Manager, Aspetuck Land Trust

D.3 Agroforestry for Land Trusts and Landowners in CT South College B2/B3

All Levels

Seva Water will present an overview of regenerative agriculture and agroforestry practices and application of these approaches to forests and fields in CT. Forestland holds many opportunities for management, stewardship, and also productive yields that are suitable to woodlands, edge areas, and fields. These practices are rooted in indigenous land management practices and are currently in use around the world for varied opportunities like medicinal herbs, mushrooms, specialty crops, and fruit and nuts. With project examples under a variety of conditions, Seva will explore the potential of agroforestry for land management and community involvement. Agroforests produce yields beyond timber while providing ecological services and responding to climate change challenges like drought and storm events. Seva will give insight into the exciting potential and rising interest in combating habitat loss, soil degradation, and farm/landowner insecurity through agroforestry. Seva will present practices supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and funding opportunities through NRCS and other sources to support these kinds of projects.

Seva Water, Regenerative Agriculture Planner, Regenerative Design Group

D.4 The Land Has a Story to Tell: Boger 114

Harnessing Human Creativity, Site Analytics, and Ecological Design to Weave Land Trust Missions and Sense of Place into the Spaces They Conserve

All Levels

Join members of CT's own New England Pollinator Gardens, LLC and Philadelphia's ecological firm Refugia as they explore the process of creating award winning residential, public and interpretive landscapes that reengage human connection to nature. A short presentation followed by an open Q&A and panel discussion will guide participants through their creative process, entrepreneurial spirit, and ideas for engaging stakeholders, landowners and the general public's utilization of functional landscape design, immersive outdoor education opportunities, brand identity, and data-driven impact potentials and valuations.

Mike Baczewski, Founder, New England Pollinator Gardens
Karen Clancy, Landscape Architect, Refugia
Jeff Lorenz, Founder, Refugia

D.5 Understanding Old-Growth Forest Characteristics

Memorial Chapel

All Levels

Powerpoint presentation followed by group forest modeling exercise. Target: property managers/stewards, decision/policy makers, conservation advocates. Participants will learn the definition of old-growth, characteristics of old-growth forests, benefits associated with old-growth forests, and how to bring some of those benefits to second-growth forests.

Frank Cervo, Service Forester, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Forestry

D.6 CT Trail Finder

Boger 115

All Levels

The CT Trail Finder is an interactive website that includes trail manager approved trails across the state. It contains a variety of ways to search for trails, and each trail post includes approved uses, a description, map, and trail manager (new volunteers!). Trail connections are evident on the map view, even when properties have different owners and trails have different managers. Trail finder benefits both managers and visitors. For managers, it provides an outlet for accurate information, and for visitors, it provides a reliable place to find accurate information. Coming next year are trailside services which connect trails to local economies. Come learn about CT Trail Finder, the trail posting process, and how it can complement and enhance your Land Trust's trails. CT Trail Finder is a project of UConn Trails Program, Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR), and Extension. It is funded by the CT Greenways Council and CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP).

*Adelheid Koepfer, Trail Finder and Trail Census Support, UConn Trails Program
Emily Wilson, Geospatial Educator, UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR)*

D.7 A Recreational Trails-Based Approach to Mapping and Managing Invasive Plants in Protected Areas

Usdan Daniel Family Commons

All Levels

The trails of Lyme Land Trust preserves are enjoyed by many, including some of the most ecologically damaging invasive plant species in our region. Ashwini Sahasrabudhe will describe the trail-side patterns of infestation for several focal species based on two months of fieldwork using a simple custom-designed smartphone app, and Jim will address how LLT will use this information to inform management options. The workshop promises to be eye-opening for those who enjoy CT trails, and will be useful for anyone wishing to address invasive plant issues on land they own or manage.

Jim Arrigoni, Environmental Director, Lyme Land Conservation Trust
Ashwini Sahasrabudhe, Environmental Studies and Biology Major, Bowdoin College

D.8 Small Scale Native Plant Propagation: How Land Trusts Can Start Growing Their Own Native Plants for Restoration and Community Engagement

Fayerweather Beckham Hall

Intro Level

Land Trusts are in an excellent position to become a community resource for native plants and the expertise needed to grow them. Greenwich Land Trust's (GLT) Director of Conservation and Outreach, Dan Brubaker, will provide a blueprint for how land trusts can begin growing their own native plants on a small scale. The presentation will cover the basic infrastructure that's needed to grow native plants, how to structure volunteer hours, and how propagation can scale over multiple years. The talk will look at GLT's Seed-to-Seed program as a rough model, and will give an overview of the work required throughout an entire growing season, highlighting when volunteers are needed most, and what expertise is required to be successful. This workshop will cover seed collection, processing, and propagating/growing, and is geared towards conservation staff and volunteers at land trusts who are looking to start propagating native plants.

Dan Brubaker, Director of Conservation and Outreach, Greenwich Land Trust

D.9 The Power of Local Educational Partnerships to Enhance Bird Data on Land Trust Properties

Intro Level

Usdan 136

Finding volunteers to conduct field work on birds, and then ensuring the data submitted is accurate, can be a challenge for many land trusts. However, avian data is critical in helping to manage preserves for different species; in securing funding to purchase key conservation parcels; and when applying for various grants. Forming a partnership with a local school and/or the creation of internship programs can help fill the gap in data collection. Using a decades-long partnership between The Marvelwood School and Kent Land Trust as a model, learn how high school students used an array of tools to enhance their confidence in identifying and documenting birds utilizing land trust preserves and beyond. The data students collected helped in the designation of the Macedonia Forest Block Important Bird Area and has been utilized in the state's Natural Diversity DataBase (NDDDB) and recent CT Bird Atlas Project.

Laurie Doss, Science Department Chairperson, Marvelwood School/Kent Land Trust
Irine Dumitrascu, Student, Marvelwood School; Intern, Kent Land Trust
Ashley Wilkins, Student, Marvelwood School; Intern, Kent Land Trust

D.10 Envisioning a Flourishing Future: Introduction to Rights of Nature

Intro Level

Fayerweather 106

This workshop is an introduction to Rights of Nature, the movement to secure legal rights for the natural world, including the rights for species and ecosystems to exist, flourish, regenerate, evolve, and be restored. This paradigm shift reflects indigenous worldviews in which humans are an integral part of the life community. Granting legal rights to nature strengthens conservation efforts by enabling more powerful and enforceable protection of the environment. Participants will come away with an understanding of:

- some of the rights of nature laws and policies that have been enacted;
- how granting legal rights to nature creates more effective environmental protections as well as mechanisms to enforce and defend these rights;
- how securing the highest level of legal protection for nature also protects human communities;
- the possibilities for applying these legal tools at the local and regional level.

Cherry Liley, Board Member, The Wellspring Commons Stewards, Inc.
Keetu Winter, Executive Director, The Wellspring Commons Stewards, Inc.

D.11 Improving Access to the Outdoors with Sustainable CT

Usdan 110

All Levels

Sustainable CT's voluntary certification program recognizes thriving and resilient CT municipalities. Beginning in 2024, municipalities can earn credit toward certification by improving access to outdoor and open spaces in their communities. Municipalities are encouraged to gather diverse, representative groups of residents to walk through parks, playgrounds, trails, and other open spaces and provide feedback on accessibility improvements. As a next step, municipalities can work to implement those suggestions. This workshop will discuss resources available to Sustainable CT registered communities pursuing more accessible open space initiatives, including no-cost equity coaching and data resources.

Kate Richard, Program Manager, Sustainable CT

D.12 Grantwriting 101: Show Me the Green

Usdan 108

Intro Level

For starters, the term grantwriting is a misnomer. Securing grants from private foundations is as much about relationship building and accountability as it is about writing. While a poorly written application will sink your ship, a well-written proposal won't necessarily get you the green. Approaching your proposals as if you were the person on the other side of the grants table can help. So can a few tricks of the trade. This workshop will serve as an introduction to grantsmanship for the largely uninitiated and will gallop right along, covering identifying and cultivating new potential funding sources; reading a Form 990; managing funder relationships; researching, preparing, submitting, and managing grant proposals; and preparing and submitting compliance reporting. We'll also go over some of the more obscure (dare we say preposterous?) questions that applicants may be asked on grant applications from time to time.

Willow Sirch, Development Chair, Hamden Land Conservation Trust

D.13 Fundraising Q&A

Boger 113

All Levels

Got a question about fundraising? Just need a little encouragement? Fundraising expert David Allen will host an unstructured roundtable discussion. Bring your questions, your challenges, and even your stories. Someone wise once said that you only have options in life that you can see. Maybe we can shine a light on helping you see your own challenges in a different way, and maybe options you couldn't see before will emerge. Either way, it's sure to be engaging.

David Allen, Principal Consultant, Development for Conservation

D.14 Organizational Checkup

Intermediate Level

Boger 110

This workshop focuses on the critical role of land trust boards in risk oversight, emphasizing their legal responsibility for the organization's health and mission protection. Utilizing the Land Trust Standards & Practices, we'll explore priority risk analysis and management areas, providing actionable insights for board members and executive leadership on navigating current challenges. Participants will gain an understanding of key issues in organizational risk management and sustainability, learn strategies for best practice continuity, and receive operational guidance, including template use. The session aims to equip attendees with knowledge and tools for addressing specific concerns and planning future organizational steps, ensuring the effective safeguarding of their mission.

Connie Manes, Circuit Rider, Land Trust Alliance



MEET DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP



WHO WE ARE

Davey Resource Group, Inc. (DRG) is an Environmental Consulting firm providing services in natural resource and urban forestry consulting, ecological design and restoration, and civil and water resource engineering to state and local governments, utility and energy companies, and private sector clients.

We understand complex ecosystems, resource challenges, and regulatory concerns that impact the success of your project. We combine the latest technologies with time-tested techniques to provide reliable, high-quality results in a timely and professional manner.

With over 20 local offices across the country, DRG's experts are qualified to assist with a diverse range of projects and to address the unique needs of our clients.

OUR CORE VALUES:



SAFETY



INTEGRITY



EXPERTISE



LEADERSHIP



STEWARDSHIP



PERSEVERANCE

WHAT WE DO

DRG is staffed with a wide range of professional scientists, engineers, and technicians, specializing in a variety of services:

- Stream and Wetland Services
- Environmental Design and Ecosystem Restoration
- Stormwater Management and Compliance
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Inventory Management Software—TreeKeeper®
- Invasive Species Management
- Civil Engineering and Surveying

OUR EXPERIENCE

DRG begins every project by hand-picking a team of experts to serve the needs of your individual project. Our experts are dedicated to delivering quality results, fostering an environment of teamwork, and providing open communication of project goals and updates every step of the way. We are proud to offer you excellent solutions, designed and implemented by our:

- Certified Ecological Professionals
- Professional Engineers, Surveyors, and Landscape Designers
- Urban Forestry Experts with ISA Credentials



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At The Rockfall Foundation we envision a healthy and happy quality of life for all, achieved through wise environmental stewardship, planning, and environmental education, and the experience of a meaningful connection with nature now and for future generations.



Save the Sound saves forests, coasts, and wetlands...

across Connecticut.

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Save the Sound®
Action for our region's environment.

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information on forest carbon,
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forest carbon markets**



www.northeastforestcarbon.org



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LANDS
ALLIANCE**

A Project of American Farmland Trust

TOGETHER, WE FLOURISH

We celebrate the following land trusts, who exemplify their commitment to conservation through a plus membership with CLCC



THE BETHANY LAND TRUST
Bethany's link to nature

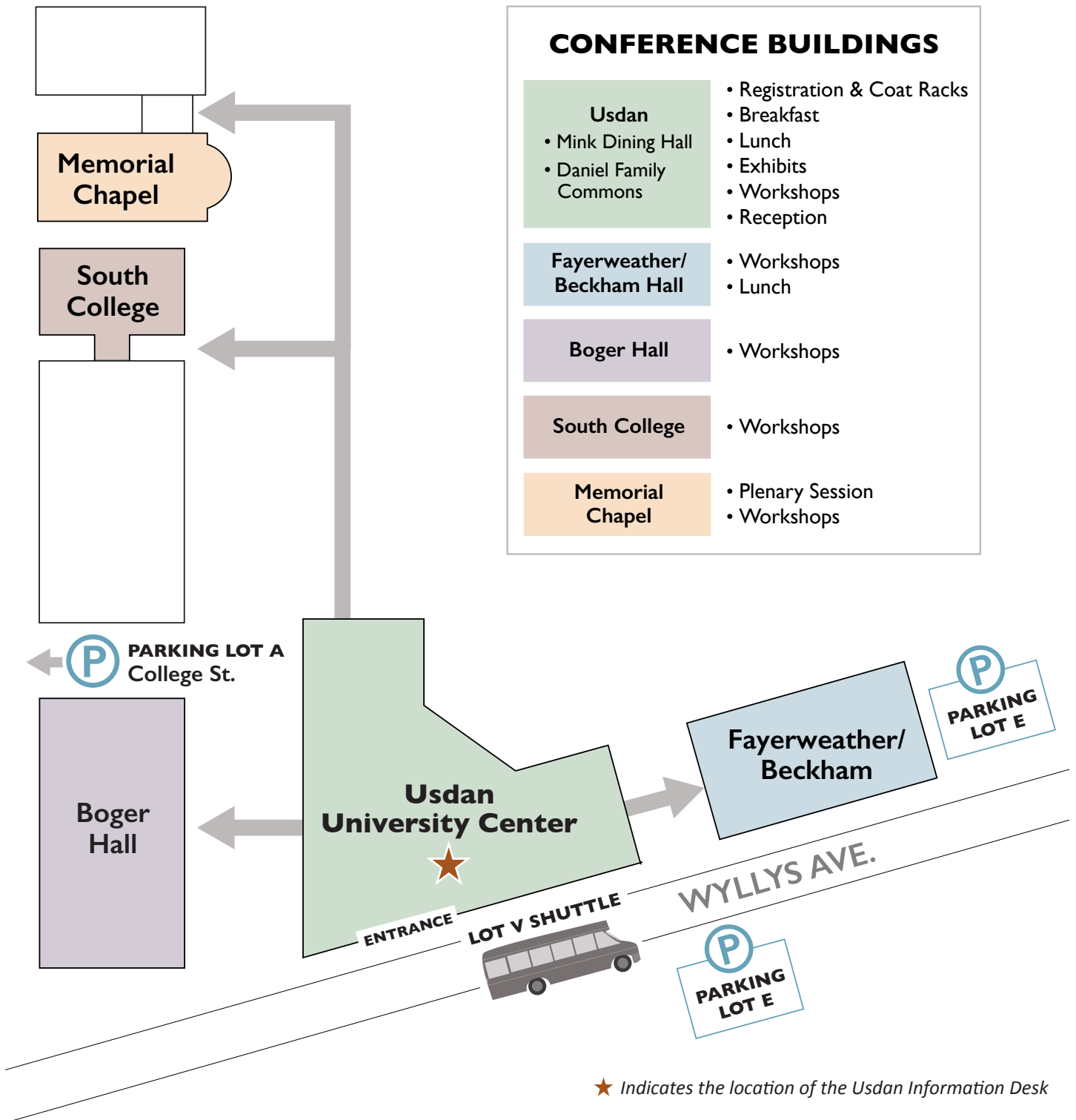


THANK YOU TO OUR ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS



THE CONSERVATION FUND

CONFERENCE MAP



LAND TRUSTS

**Our climate is changing. Is your land ready?
Start building resiliency with NRCS today.**



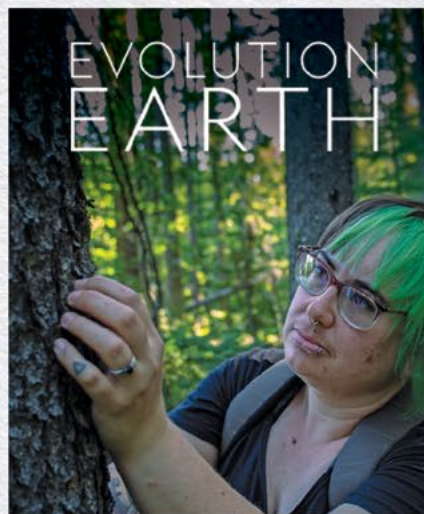
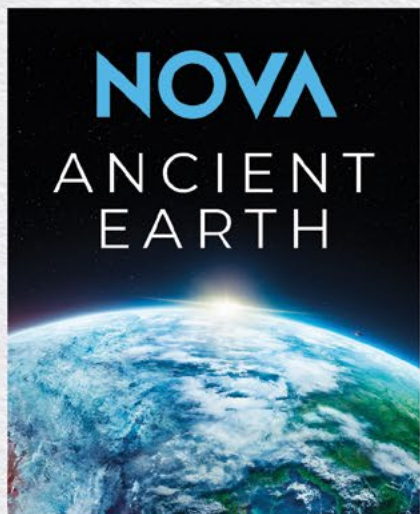
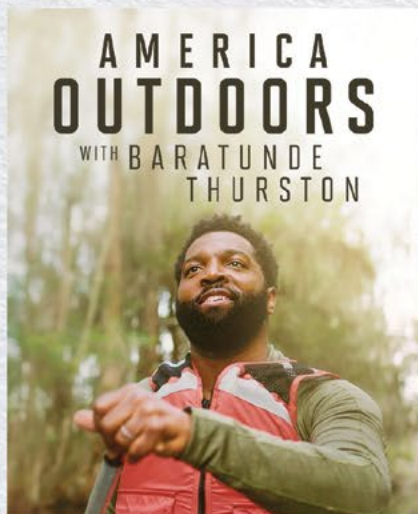
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The Climate Initiative from Connecticut Public is a bold commitment to explore environmental impacts on our planet through solutions-driven storytelling.



PBS programming focuses on the challenges of a changing climate while highlighting examples of positive impact. **Cutline** documentaries highlight climate change along Connecticut's coast and beyond. **Conexión** elevates stories of Latinos across New England who spend time outdoors in ways that inspire a deeper connection with others, their heritage, and nature itself. **Re:source:ful** features Connecticut stories where people have used grassroots efforts to solve unique local challenges.

To view all of the programs in our **climate programming initiative**, visit ctpublic.org/climate

