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APRIL 2018 CHAPTER CHAIR UPDATE

by Martha Klein

AN APOLOGY TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

To our dear friends and members who made donations to the Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club at the end of 2017:

You probably noticed that the processing of your gifts and mailing of your thank you's was quite delayed. We apologize profusely. The appeal was mailed last November at the same time we transitioned from our former office. The result: a large quantity of mail went temporarily missing only to appear in our new post office box in February.

To any who were inconvenienced by this snafu, please accept our humble apology and know that your donations are truly valued, needed and used frugally to further the Sierra Club mission.

If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at: **860.542.5225**, or via email: connecticut.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Our new address is:

CT Chapter Sierra Club
P.O. Box 270595
West Hartford, CT 06127

MARCH CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

CT Chapter Sierra Club hosted **Clean Energy Lobby Day** with our allies Clean Water Action and Citizens Campaign for the Environment, at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on March 14th.

At the event, we reviewed the citizen lobbying process and heard from leaders about relevant legislation we want to promote with our legislators. In small groups we went to legislators' offices and spoke with staff about bills we support. We specifically asked and advocated for:

- Support for the increased renewable portfolio standard (RPS), which would put the state at 40 percent of energy from renewable sources by 2030
- Removing barriers to solar energy development, such as the elimination of net metering, the low solar cap of \$35 million and the lack of a full community shared solar program



2018 Lobby Day at CT Legislative Office Building, Hartford
Photo credit: MapQuest

Methane Gas Makes a Comeback

We learned to our disappointment that the state continues to seek the increased use of methane gas. In fact, a bill (Raised Bill Number 337 or LCO Number 1842) unanimously passed out of the Energy and Technology Committee. This bill, if enacted, would continue to increase, not reduce, the amount of gas used to power our electric grid. That bill also seeks to use something called “renewable natural gas” defined as “completely interchangeable with conventional natural gas.” It continues to mystify why the CT General Assembly blocks the development of true renewable energy such as solar, but is so enamored with gas that it considers methane which is a greenhouse gas and short term pollutant with a terrible global warming potential to be “renewable.”

Interstate Pipeline Expansion

As a quick reminder, three interstate gas pipeline expansions have been completed since 2014, increasing the amount of methane use and transport in our state. It is unclear when these expansions will be enough for the utility industry, monopolized in Connecticut by Eversource and UI/Iberdrola, or for the politicians and regulators, who still are crying for enlarged gas pipelines, despite recent construction. We continue to hear that gas pipelines are full or operating at capacity, although the EDF study from 2017 found that gas pipelines in Connecticut are not operating at capacity.



State Energy and Environmental Bills

So far in the 2018 Legislative Session, CT Chapter Sierra Club has submitted testimony on various energy/environmental bills. These include, but are not limited to:

- SB 103, An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut, to support a fracking waste ban in the state
- SB 346, An Act Establishing Parity for Oil And Gas Leak Repairs, to oppose gas leaks which ratepayers pay for, yet the leaks go largely without repair
- SB 332, An Act Concerning Solicitation for Natural Gas Transportation Capacity, to oppose the gas pipeline tax
- SB 7, An Act Concerning Climate Change and Resiliency, which we conditionally support with a recommendation to remove any subsidies for gas infrastructure
- SB 9, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future, which we conditionally support with suggested changes to increase renewable energy, recognize the value of rooftop solar and compensate solar consumers appropriately
- HB 5363, An Act Establishing a Carbon Price for Fossil Fuels Sold in Connecticut, which we oppose because it doesn't create a carbon tax that would be fair. Note: Sierra Club would support an equitable carbon fee.

One piece of legislation for land protection we support is Senate Joint Resolution 35, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Protect Real Property Held or Controlled by the State. This bill would create a referendum in November to allow voters to add an amendment to the state constitution for the purpose of protecting land donated to the state for permanent conservation.

CT Chapter also submitted testimony to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to oppose the Trump offshore drilling plan, and to the Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) regarding the investigation into Eversource and UI for alleged gas market manipulation.

Martha Klein is Chair, CT Chapter Sierra Club

CT POLITICS 2018: REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Join Legislative Advocacy Team

You and other concerned Sierra Club members are invited to become a member of the Connecticut Chapter's Legislative Advocacy Team

Where: Trinity College, 300 Summit Street, Hartford, room TBA

When: Four Tuesdays: April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Want to do more to protect our air, water and land? The Connecticut Chapter is building in-district legislative advocacy teams. The training is free, but you are required to attend all sessions.

At the end of the training you will have learned the basics of how the Connecticut legislature works, and how to work as part of a team to get CT Sierra Club priority bills passed.

To sign up for the training, or if you have any questions, contact Roberta Paro at roberta.paro@sierraclub.org, or **860.857.0976**

Answer Our Call for Politically Motivated People

by CT Chapter Sierra Club Political Committee

Looking for an interesting and meaningful way to volunteer with Sierra Club in Connecticut? Are you a Sierra Club member who understands the importance of our state legislature and wants to get involved to ensure good environmental bills? Consider joining our chapter's Political Committee!

Help Endorse Candidates

The Sierra Club, as a 501(c)(4), is one of the few environmental organizations that endorses candidates in state legislative and statewide office races in Connecticut. The endorsement process is carried out by the chapter Political Committee. We are now looking for volunteers for that committee. We will ask you to help prepare the lists of candidates for the State House and Senate, carry out interviews by conference call, then help decide who to endorse. Or not. We will endorse in races for statewide office if we have good candidates later in the summer. The Federal Congressional endorsements are already completed.

Bi-Partisan Endorsements

Over the years, ten percent of our endorsements have been for Republicans. We are very proud of that fact, and make every effort to keep our work bi-partisan.



CT Republican politicians group photo



Politicians: CT Senate Democrats group photo

The Political Committee is now gearing up for the 2018 endorsement process and is looking for Sierra Club members who can volunteer some time to help make our endorsement process a success. We are fortunate to have experienced members who have been doing this for many years and understand the process very well. We'll train you: no experience is necessary, and we guarantee it will look good on your resume.

We all know very little is happening at the federal level. So, we look to the states for effective protections that are within the state purview. Connecticut has been a great place to make change, even though our work is far from over. Working with our state legislature is definitely time well spent.

Contact Ann Gadwah at anngadwah@gmail.com if you are interested or would like more information.

The CT Chapter Sierra Club Political Committee includes Ann Gadwah, Rick Haeseler and Marty Mador.

TAKE ACTION NOW

Vote: 2018 Sierra Club National Board. Ballots Due April 25th

According to the bylaws of the Sierra Club, eligible Club members elect the National Board of Directors on an annual basis. Your membership means your action is to Vote. Your ballot, paper or electronic, was sent to you in early March. It includes information on the candidates and where you can retrieve additional data on the website.

Even if you don't know the candidates, which is likely, you can read a statement about each one. Visit the Club's election website for additional information about candidates.

Go to: [Board Elections](#).

As internet voting saves time and postage, we suggest you use that option.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES SHOWCASE

EVs Charge to Reduce CO2 Emissions

by Beva Nall-Langdon

Get Charged About EVs was a happening March 3rd at the Energize CT Center in North Haven. The Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club and the Connecticut EV Coalition co-sponsored the event. Nearly 60 attendees learned about the importance of electric vehicle (EV) adoption to Connecticut's goals of reducing CO2 emissions and improving public health.

Speakers included representatives from Connecticut's DEEP, the Acadia Center, Chispa (a program of the League of Conservation Voters) and Drive Electric America. Attendees networked with EV owners for close-up views of a variety of EVs. They also saw a recently installed bank of DC Fast Chargers in a nearby parking area.



Three Chevrolet Bolt EVs at DC Fast Charger bank, North Haven, Connecticut
photo credit: Robert Langdon

Transportation: A Major Target for Reducing Emissions

Transportation is the largest source of CO2 emissions in the Northeastern states (accounting for more than 40 percent of the total in Connecticut) and is thus an important target for reducing emissions. See [CT DEEP's EVConnecticut](#) and [Energy Vision 2030, Acadia Center](#). The transportation sector is also largely responsible for Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), a toxic mixture of gases emitted by diesel engines and a major cause of asthma and other respiratory diseases, as well as ozone.



Attendees at the March 3rd EV Event
photo credit: Susan Eastwood

Electric Vehicles: A Road to Cleaner Transportation

According to the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES), updated February 8th as mandated by Connecticut law, the use of electric vehicles powered by Connecticut's electricity grid results in only 25 percent of the CO₂ emissions of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. EV-associated emissions can be substantially lowered in the future as greener sources of power are used in the electric grid. Increasing the number of EVs on Connecticut roads (there are currently about 5 to 6 thousand) to 15 percent of total sales by 2025 is mandated in the Connecticut Clean Cars Statute.

At the EV event, Hartford-area representatives from [CHISPA](#) discussed the public health advantages of electric-powered school buses in reducing NO_x and other pollutants from conventional diesel-powered buses. Efforts are being made to channel funds from the [VW "dieselgate" settlement](#) toward electrification of school buses in urban areas.

What Can Be Done to Improve EV Adoption in Connecticut?

Part of the needed infrastructure for widespread adoption of EVs is the availability of widely distributed and easily accessible charging stations. Connecticut currently lags behind other New England states in public EV chargers relative to miles of highway and miles driven with only half the DC Fast Chargers that Massachusetts has and half the "Level 2" chargers that Vermont has.



CHISPA Members at a recent rally

Lower pricing for off-peak electricity use is not widely available in Connecticut. Increased adoption of off-peak pricing would lower the cost of charging EVs and decrease stress on the grid from charging increased numbers of EVs.

There is an urgent need to increase public awareness of the advantages of driving EVs. [Drive Electric America](#) provides a list of several advantages (in addition to environmental benefits). EV drivers can become "EVangelists" and showcase their cars at events such as local farmer's markets and "cruise night" gatherings of car enthusiasts and answer questions from curious onlookers. To learn more, visit [Sierra Club EV campaign](#) and [Connecticut EV Coalition](#).

Beva Nall-Langdon is a science writer and a member of the Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEAT

Is Petroleum Lurking in My Skin Care Products?

by Irene Skyrbailo

Vaseline. Petrolatum. Petroleum jelly goes by many names and has been available for over 100 years. It is an ingredient in many, many skin care products and is used worldwide for medicinal and cosmetic purposes...from tiny babies' bottoms to the faces of movie stars. It has been touted as an all purpose beauty product by everyone from [NBC's Today show](#) to [Teen Vogue](#). It was reportedly a major ingredient in Marilyn Monroe's beauty care regimen. *"To get her signature on-camera glow, Monroe would apply thick layers of Vaseline or white Nivea Creme under her makeup."*

But what is Vaseline, really? What is this goopy, sticky stuff that claims to cure what ails you and transform you into a movie siren? Petroleum jelly, most often called by its brand name Vaseline, is a byproduct of petroleum production.

Whose idea was this? To me it seems like the greatest marketing coup of the 20th century. It's not like people don't know what it is, it says "100% Pure Petroleum Jelly" on the label.

How Did Vaseline Become an Additive?

In the 1850s workers at the first oil rigs in the U.S. (located in Pennsylvania) were tasked with cleaning the paraffin like substance that was clogging up machinery in the bottom of the rigs. They found black tar helped them with their cracked skin and cuts and burns. [Robert Chesebrough](#) observed this, and took the black substance back to his lab to examine. He found that it was a semisolid mixture of hydrocarbons obtained from petroleum. By separating the lighter, thinner oil products from the rod wax, he could create a light-colored gel. In 1870 this gel was marketed as Vaseline.



1910 photo shows the Lakeview Gusher in Maricopa, CA

Gusher? Or the source of smooth supple skin? It's your choice!

Many studies have pointed out that petroleum jelly is "highly-refined, triple-purified and regarded as non-carcinogenic and non-comedogenic." (Unilever website). White Petroleum Jelly is the more refined version, but the level of refinement isn't regulated. Before it's refined, petroleum jelly does include carcinogenic compounds — a.k.a. stuff that could cause cancer. To evaluate its safety, you need to know the levels of

unwanted, potentially carcinogenic compounds that are still present, the absorption rate into the blood stream and the intended daily application. None of this is specified in Unilever's Material Safety Data Sheet and I'm not aware of any definitive studies. Since there are other equally or more effective plant based alternatives which aren't harmful if ingested, it would be prudent to use one. If we look in the first aid section of the data sheet, it states "wash off skin" and "can cause skin irritation." If you put Vaseline on your skin, it goes into your bloodstream, much as it would if you ingested it. Ingesting is discouraged in the document.

Why Does the EU Demand Greater Disclosure?

The EU mandates that for cosmetic use, the full refining history of the petrolatum must be known and proven to be non-carcinogenic. [The US sets no requirements on refinement and the PAH content in the petrolatum used in personal care products.](#)

The fact is petroleum jelly is a byproduct of the oil industry and therefore an unsustainable *not* eco-friendly resource. There are healthier, more sustainable alternatives containing beeswax, coconut oil, olive oil, shea butter and cocoa butter seal. They seal in moisture and they don't come with some of the potential risks of petroleum jelly.

Irene Skyrbailo is interested in the safety of products we either ingest or apply. She is a member, CT Chapter Sierra Club and lives in New Milford.

OUR NATURAL WORLD

Wildlife Watchers Rising Up

by Annie Hornish

Wildlife watchers are defined as those observing, feeding, or photographing wildlife, and they represent the overwhelming majority of outdoor enthusiasts in Connecticut.

Hunters are a mere one percent of Connecticut's population, yet their NRA-backed political activism has kept the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) at their beck and call. But that stronghold is weakening as wildlife watchers are finding their political voices.

According to the latest survey by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Commerce, wildlife watchers in Connecticut not only *outnumber* hunters by a margin of 29 to 1 (1.2 million vs. 38,000), but they also *outspend* hunters by 7.4 to 1, contributing about \$510 million to our state's economy annually. The survey also shows the following 10-year trends for Connecticut: a 42 percent increase in the number of wildlife watchers and a 39 percent decrease in the number of hunters.



Victim of misguided public policies. The extremely high crippling rate of bow hunting (40-50 percent) makes it an egregiously cruel practice.

Photo credit: Melvie Hatfield, Winsted.

Ivory Trade Allowed in Connecticut

DEEP does not adequately represent the interests of wildlife watchers. Some may find it shocking to learn that [DEEP supports the cruel and unsportsmanlike practices of denning, baiting, and snaring](#) or that DEEP not only supports the illegal ivory trade in Connecticut, but has failed to actively fight efforts to stop it. (A 2016 [report](#) from the Office of Fiscal Analysis anticipated 4-8 prosecutions per year if HB 5578 became law, a tacit acknowledgment of ongoing illegal elephant ivory trafficking in our state. DEEP has opposed efforts to ban ivory sales, and although they've had the statutory authority to regulate intra-state sales of elephant ivory ([CGS 26-315](#)) since 1989, they have as yet taken no action.)

Bear Poaching Bill Raised

Penalties for poaching are currently only a Class C misdemeanor, and DEEP has never fought to increase them. However, with public outrage still high after the poaching deaths of two beloved Wilton bears this past September, and with that outrage being channeled into political organization, we anticipate that DEEP will support a bill that will raise poaching penalties, [HB 5469](#).

Westport Unique with Hunting and Trapping Bans

In 2017, Westport wildlife advocates mobilized politically and overwhelmingly shot down a DEEP-guided effort to overturn their town's longstanding ban on hunting and trapping. DEEP's involvement may have been in reaction to a 2017 proposed bill that would give all municipalities local control to ban hunting and trapping, a power currently unique to the municipality of Westport.

Conflicts with wildlife sometimes occur, but killing is generally the wrong tool for the job, and like any wrong tool, is ineffective and will likely make the situation worse. For example, indiscriminately killing coyotes will not control their populations, will not reduce human-coyote conflicts (and may increase them), harms sensitive ecosystems, will exacerbate harmful myths about coyotes, and can be a public safety risk. Problem management programs that focus on site-specific solutions can offer successful, humane, long-term solutions to such conflicts.

Connecticut should be forging public policies that cater to wildlife watchers instead of pouring limited tax dollars into programs catering to a diminishing number of hunters. To the degree that wildlife animal advocates organize politically, the change towards peaceful coexistence with our wild neighbors will be realized.

Annie Hornish is the Connecticut Senior State Director for The Humane Society of the United States and a supporting member of CT Chapter Sierra Club. Learn more at [humanesociety.org](#) and [blog.humanesociety.org](#)

Harbingers of Spring

by Nora Hulton

Spring is upon us and I, like most of my nature loving cohorts, revel in the daily and weekly transformations as the forested landscape plays host to Mother Nature's vernal tidings. Indisputably, there is no other time of the year that is met with such a tremendous level of hope and anticipation. The frenzy of budding life and activity that Nature delivers are a welcome invasion to the olfactory, auditory, and visual senses. Consequently, it's very difficult to pinpoint a particular subject to highlight, as all players are an integral part of this annual miracle. In a truly scientific approach, I chose to write about the first harbinger of spring that popped into my mind: skunk cabbage! Skunk cabbage? Read on my friends, yes, skunk cabbage!

Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is one of the first plants I remember being able to name as a child. Its identification was simplified because of two notable characteristics: its early emergence in the spring and its repugnant odor. The purplish black flower of skunk cabbage starts poking through the frozen soil and snow in late February, and has the surprising ability to thaw the ground (Yes, thaw the ground!) and melt the snow around it because of a process called thermogenesis. Simply put, thermogenesis is the ability of an organism to create heat, rather than ATP, during cellular respiration. (footnote¹)

Skunk Cabbage Self Heats

It is not uncommon for plants capable of thermogenesis to attain temperatures between 55-95°F!! The ability to generate their own heat also aids in its pollination as the warmth allows its scent to vaporize, attracting flies and other pollinators during cold spring days. *Springsteen* Skunk cabbage provides an important food source for various insects. Its leaves and roots are an important component in the diet of the black bear as they emerge from their winter dens.



The purplish black flowers of skunk cabbage
Photo credit: pfaf.org

As the heat of summer takes hold, the leaves of skunk cabbage wither and die, revealing a blackish fruit that stands about 4-5 inches tall. This part of the plant, too, emits the distinctive foul smell as the leaves and flowers. At this point, the main root which is approximately 12 inches long and 6 inches in width, is pulled downward by a contracting tangle of fibrous roots that cover its exterior; effectively embedding it in the earth. This mechanism makes it virtually impossible to dig the plant out of the ground. *Springsteen*. (Footnote²) During this time, the root remains safely nestled underground until the following February when it will commence its fascinating life-cycle once again. It is theorized that individual plants can live hundreds of years because of this remarkable adaptation!

Spring is the season of promise and renewal, and this theme is played out every year as vibrant wetlands teem with the chirping of spring peepers and the skies are reclaimed by graceful songbirds and life-sustaining insects. Skunk cabbage, an oft maligned member of the plant kingdom may not be as poetic in nature, but is just as vital as its more elegant counterparts.

This odiferous organism has earned its place among the many impressive components that contribute to the miracle we call Spring.

Nora Hulton is a Certified CT Master Conservationist and a member, CT Chapter Sierra Club

(Footnote¹) Plantguy. "Plants That Heat Themselves." Howplantswork.com, How Plants Work, 16 Jan. 2010.

(Footnote²) Springsteen, Joel. "Native Plant: Eastern Skunk Cabbage." Urban Ecology Center, 22 Mar. 2013, urbanecologycenter.org

Why, What and How to Compost, Part 2

by Michele MacKinnon

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”
~ Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

The March issue of the *Quinnehtukqut* covered basic composting principles. If you're hesitant to try composting for yourself, this month's article addresses typical homeowner concerns.

Do I Need a Bin?

Most people prefer using bins because they keep outdoor spaces looking tidy. As I learned in UCONN's Master Composting class, do-it-yourselfers can make bins from readily available materials. Wood pallets are a handy option, provided they're free of chemical preservatives. A popular commercial choice is the Soil Saver model. The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (hrra.org) sells this bin for \$25 at composting information sessions, which are open to residents of the eleven municipalities they serve in western Connecticut.

Compost tumblers may encourage regular turning; however, *Mother Earth News* disputes their claims of making compost faster. Once full, bins are unavailable until the contents are fully decomposed. Having a second bin prevents this inconvenience. As always, research choices before making a purchase.

Compost Doctor House Calls

Composting food waste is more likely to become part of a daily household routine if it's convenient. Stockpile food waste from each meal in an attractive kitchen compost bin or in a small covered container and empty it regularly. If fruit flies appear in hot weather, empty the container daily. I moved mine to the garage, which solved the issue. Keep kitchen bins clean with BPI-certified or ASTM6400-certified biodegradable liners. When feasible, place the outdoor bin near the kitchen for easy access in all seasons.

Composting materials should be as moist as a damp sponge, one that holds water when squeezed because wet piles may cause odors. Add dry browns, described in the Part 1 article, and turn the pile. If the materials are dry to the touch add water and turn the pile.



Soilsaver Compost Bin
Photo credit: Michelle MacKinnon

Should animal visitors become an issue, try using a more secure bin, change the green materials being used, or bury the greens deep in the center of the pile.

Spread Finished Compost

Spread finished compost on gardens or use it instead of wood mulch under ornamental plants. In the unlikely case of having too much compost, offer it to your garden friends.

Non-Composting Options

If composting is impractical, consider a purchase of Organic Valley or Harvest Organics potting soil or bagged compost. Local composting facilities create these products. Purchasing them helps build and sustain market demand. To encourage

local composting, contact your Public Works department for guidance regarding disposal methods for food and yard waste, or consult your Local Municipal Recycling Coordinators. CT DEEP offers advice on reducing numerous forms of waste. This [ABC Nightline](#) video shows waste reduction practices in action in some American households.

An Art as Much as a Science

Trial and error is the best composting teacher. Go ahead and experiment. Mother Nature will always give you a passing grade because reducing food waste in state landfills benefits everyone.

Michele MacKinnon, is a UCONN Certified Advanced Master Gardener, garden educator and speaker.

To contact MacKinnon, email beehappygardener@gmail.com. Any question you ask will be answered in the next edition of the newsletter

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The History of Coyotes in Connecticut

Speaker: Paul Colburn.

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2018

Time: 7:00pm Activist letters available - 7:30pm Program

Sponsor: Greater Hartford Group Connecticut Sierra Club

Location: Westmoor Park, [119 Flagg Rd, W. Hartford, CT](#)

Refreshments: Provided

Donation: \$4 requested to defray hall rental

Questions: Email Renee: mchawigirl@yahoo.com



Free and open to the public

Overview

This presentation focuses on the history of coyotes in Connecticut and an overview of coyote habitat, diet, behavior and reproduction. It also provides practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with our coyote population. Coyote artifacts are shared with the audience. The presentation is appropriate for teenagers and older.



Biography

Presenter Paul Colburn is a graduate of the Master Wildlife Conservationist Program (MWCP) at the Connecticut DEEP and is a certified Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC). MWCP is an adult education program that trains participants in the fields of wildlife management, natural history and interpretation. Paul is an active volunteer in many capacities statewide. His interests include the outdoors, nature, hiking, biking, politics and travel. Paul graduated from Wesleyan University.

CONNECTICUT TRAILS DAY 2018

Plan a Hiking Weekend: Saturday, June 2nd and Sunday, June 3rd by Kenneth Selling

The highly popular Connecticut Trails Day weekend is fast approaching. This annual statewide event offers more than 200 FREE hikes, bike-trips, nature walks and other events in every corner of Connecticut.

Both Saturday and Sunday, there will be a wide selection of short, medium and long hikes; family outings, nature walks, kayak trips and other outdoor events offered by outdoor and environmental groups all across the state.

Take a CT Chapter Sierra Club Hike

Saturday, June 2, our CT Chapter Sierra Club will hike in Rocky Hill. You will be able to explore a little-known gem, with two lakes and a waterfall. You will hike over gently rolling forested terrain at Dividend Pond Park. Details to come in the May *Quinnehtukqut*.

You may choose from hundreds of activities that weekend. In 2017, more than 3,000 people participated all across the state. Events are available to suit beginning hikers, couch potatoes, buff trail-runners and everyone in between.



See you next year!

Photo Credit: ctwoodlands.org

Have fun, go outside for exercise, meet people and celebrate hidden and well-known trails and sites statewide.

Details are available at:

[CT Trails Weekend](#)

Kenneth Selling is a CT Chapter Sierra Club Outings Leader

EARTH DAY AND SPRING EVENTS IN CONNECTICUT

Many of Connecticut's 169 towns throughout our state, hold celebrations for Earth Day. The date is always April 22nd, but as this year it falls on a Sunday, many towns have opted to hold their events on Saturday, April 21st.

CT Chapter Sierra Club will be all over the state tabling at various events this spring. We've been having fun and learning a lot at the events we've already attended: OrganiConn, the CT NoFa annual event, Pequabuck River Watershed Association Water Awareness Day and The Institute of Sustainable Nutrition's educational program on glyphosate.



Please visit our table at any of the following events. **We look forward to seeing you and speaking with you.**

1. Woodbury

Attend Woodbury's 23rd Earth Day at Hollow Park. It's FREE to all attendees and features 130 tables of exhibits and items for sale.

Sponsor: Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, a Woodbury based environmental nonprofit organization

Date: Saturday, April 21st

Time: 11:00am-4:00pm

Location: Hollow Park, Hollow Road, Woodbury, CT



2. New Haven

Welcome spring as part of the 45th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. CT Chapter Sierra Club will be participating in the New Haven tradition celebrating Wooster Square and the cherry trees planted there.

Date: Sunday, April 22nd (rain date April 29th)

Time: Noon to 4:30pm

Location: Wooster Square Park
Chapel Street/Wooster Place/Greene
Street/Academy Street

WOOSTER SQUARE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Activities: Music, children's activities, cultural and historical exhibits about Wooster Square and plenty of food. Exhibitors include the Horizon Wings raptor rescue group, Nappy's Puppets and the New Haven Free Public Library Readmobile. Musical entertainment features The Neighborhood Music School Premier Jazz Ensemble, Tuxedo Junction, St. Luke's Steel Band and Carlos Santiago y Su Momento Musical

Sponsors: The Historic Wooster Square Association and the Wooster Square





3. Hamden

Visit Hamden for their 2018 celebration of Earth Day

Date: Saturday April 21st

Time: 10:00am-3:00pm

Location: Hamden Middle School, 2623 Dixwell Avenue

4. Save the River-Save the Hills Earth Day

Date: Saturday April 21st.

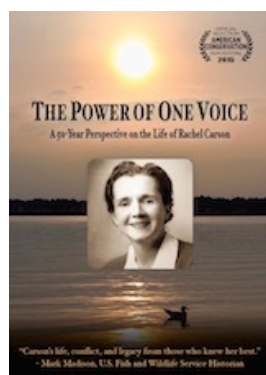
Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

Location: McCook Park Beach, 8-10 Atlantic Street, Niantic, CT



Connecticut Fund
for the Environment

Save the Sound®



5. Norfolk

Event: Screening of Rachel Carson Documentary, *The Power of One Voice*

Date: Saturday, April 21st

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, CT

6. University of Connecticut-Avery Point EcoHusky Club

Event: Earth Day Celebration

Date: Thursday, April 19th

Time: 11:30am-2:00pm

Location: The green in good weather; Glass Room in Student Center, if inclement weather



7. Youth Climate Action Day

Date: Wednesday, April 18th.

Time: 9:30am to Noon

Location: Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

Sponsors: CT Sierra Club, Chispa/CT LCV and
Clean Water Action

8. Earth Day Fair

Date: Friday, April 20th

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

Location: Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine
10 Discovery Drive, Farmington, CT.



POETRY

Petroglyphs' Warning

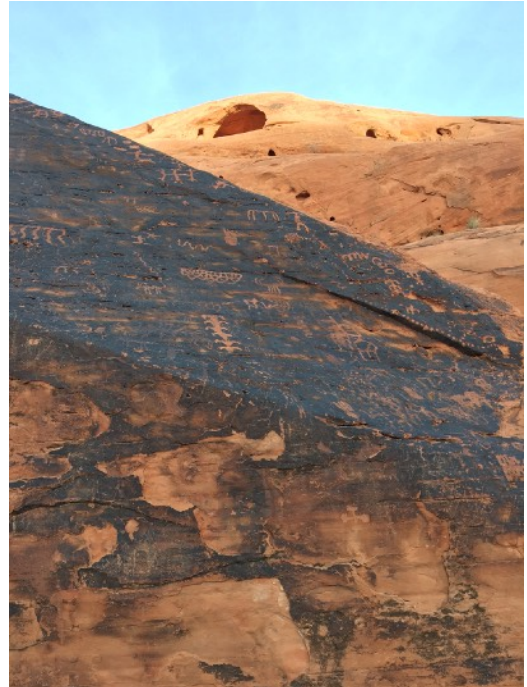
With sharpened stone
the ancient one carves
his life's story
in the fiery red rock

More than a millennium has passed
since he hewed that scene
and yet we see it today
as remarkably fresh, untouched

Hence we consider it
an irreplaceable artifact -
History etched in stone
For so it is. And yet

If over 1,000 years
of weather have left it undisturbed
How long will our deeds
be displayed in this fragile place?

Should we not tread lightly, wisely
For those that come a millennium hence
Will either rejoice in our art
Or mournfully dispose our waste.



Petroglyphs Etched in Utah
photo credit: Larry Athay

Larry Athay is a CT Chapter Sierra Club member who lives in Essex, CT.

REQUEST FOR CONTENT

All Connecticut Sierra Club members are invited to contribute to our online newsletter, the *Quinnehtukqut*, which posts ten times per year: monthly, with one summer issue for July and August, and one holiday/winter issue for December and January. We accept articles, book reviews, puzzles, events, photos, poems, etc. Articles, limited to 500 words, should be on a subject of local or national interest to the Connecticut Chapter membership. The goal of the newsletter is to inform, educate, motivate and involve our members.


To submit newsletter articles, letters to the editor, etc. for the *Quinnehtukqut*, send to ctsierraq3@gmail.com. To post information to the website or social media, send content to connecticut.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Visit our website at [CT Sierra Club](http://CTSierraClub.org). See us on Facebook at [Facebook CT Sierra Club](https://www.facebook.com/CTSierraClub)

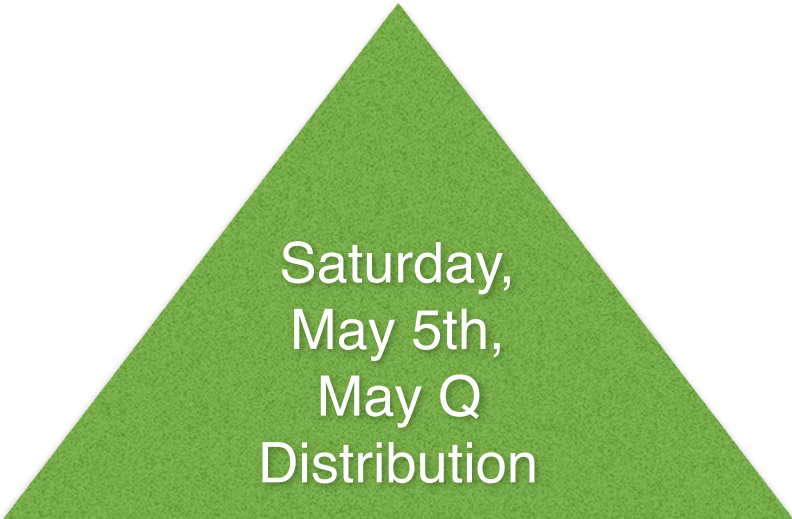
Below is the newsletter calendar for the next two 2018 submission dates. Please read dates carefully. The calendar is intended to make it easier for you to plan your *Quinnehtukqut* contributions for publication.

The *Quinnehtukqut* is distributed at the beginning of the month.

APRIL CALENDAR




Friday,
April 13th,
May
Submissions
Due

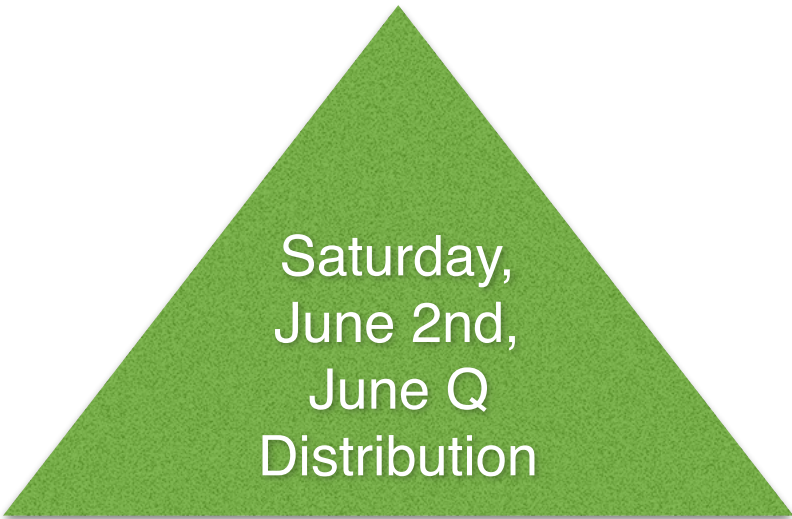


Saturday,
May 5th,
May Q
Distribution

MAY CALENDAR



Sunday,
May 13th
June
Submissions
Due



Saturday,
June 2nd,
June Q
Distribution

TELL A FRIEND

If you agree with the Sierra Club principles of exploring, enjoying and protecting our state, country and planetary environment, and you enjoy reading the *Quinnehtukqut*, why not tell a friend? Invite people to join the Sierra Club. It's easy. Go to our website and click the blue **JOIN** or the red **DONATE** button in the upper right corner. Follow the directions.

You can also give memberships as gifts. It's a wonderful way to honor your friends and family or perhaps enlighten them.

For gift memberships, go to:

[Gift Memberships](#)



Help Us Keep Our Programs Running!

The Q is brought to you by:

Martha Klein, Communications Chair
Helen Applebaum, Editor
Heather Fronczek, Graphic Designer
Dennis Desmarais, IT Manager
Vanessa Woy, Social Media and Website
Roxanne Lapierre, IT and Website

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