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REQUEST FOR CONTENT

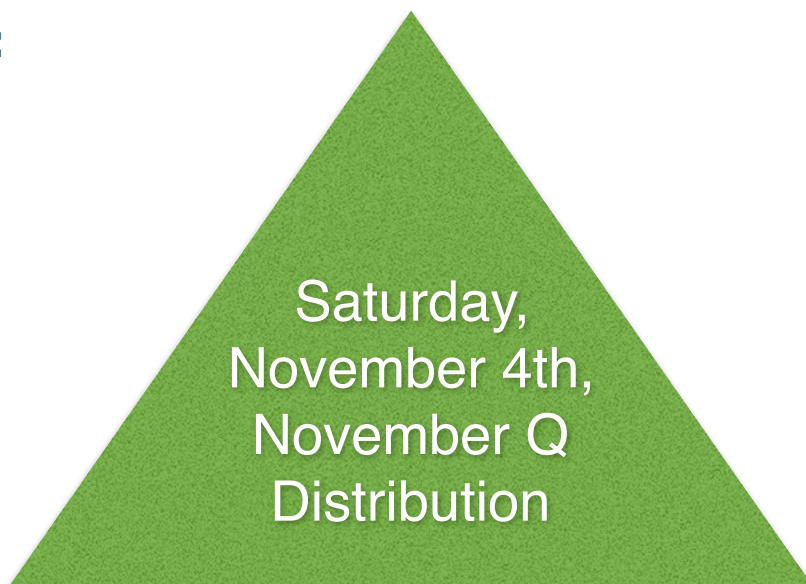
All Connecticut Sierra Club members are invited to contribute to the *Quinnehtukqut*. We accept articles, book reviews, puzzles, events, photos, poems, etc. Articles, limited to 500 words, should be on a subject of local or national interest to the Connecticut Chapter membership. The goal of the newsletter is to inform, educate, motivate and involve our members.

If you post information to the website and want it in the newsletter as well, you must submit those postings separately to the newsletter.

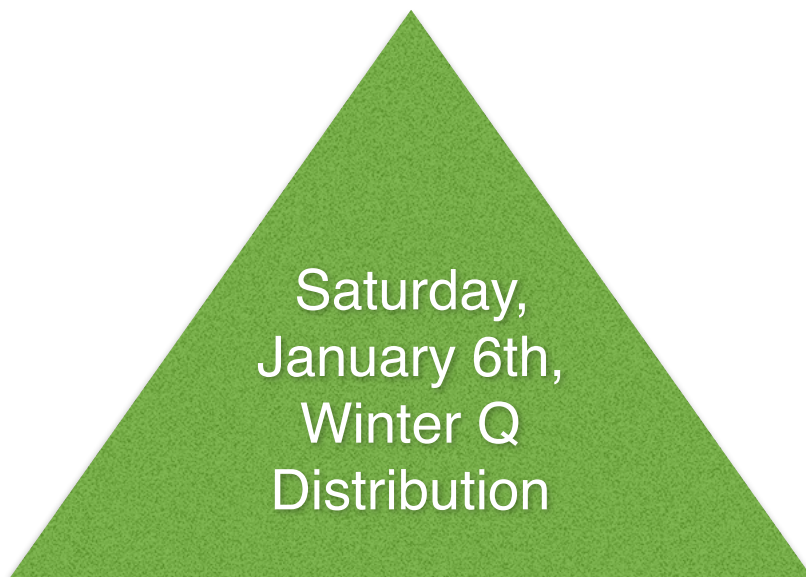
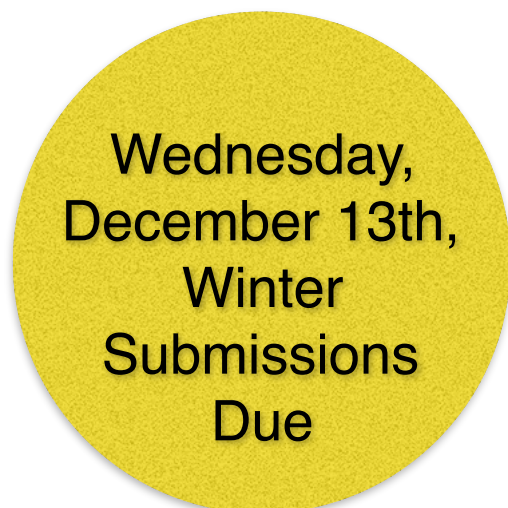
We have developed a newsletter calendar for the next two 2017 submission dates. Please read dates carefully. The calendar is intended to make it easier for you to plan your *Quinnehtukqut* contributions for publication.

The *Quinnehtukqut* is distributed at the beginning of the month. Comments, letters to the editor and all submissions may be sent to ctsierraq3@gmail.com for inclusion in future newsletters.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR:



WINTER CALENDAR:



All decisions regarding use are made by the Communications Committee.

CHAPTER REPORT

In September, 2017, Your Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club accomplished the following:



Promoted clean renewable energy for the proposed Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) for CT. On Thursday, September 7th, the Chapter, along with other Connecticut environmental groups, held a Clean Energy Rally at the final CES hearing in New Haven to bring attention to the inadequate renewable energy increases called for by the draft. We promoted and attended all seven hearings and ran a social media campaign asking CT residents to email comments to DEEP. More clean energy and efficiency without fossil fuel infrastructure is our goal although the CES is still pushing decades worth of natural (methane) gas. All public comments were filed by September 25th. Now we wait to see the final plan.

National Drive Electric Week™



Eight Connecticut towns showed them off as their residents and visitors talked about electric vehicles during National Drive Electric Week. This nationally organized event by Sierra Club, Plug In America and Electric Auto Association was held September 9-17. Owners and dealers were on hand to display what is under the hood and discuss their experiences.

Quinnnetukut Shorts, short films from Connecticut were shown September 13th at the Bethel Cinema. Although the CT Chapter Sierra Club has no association with the theater or the films, we couldn't help but compare our names. We spell our newsletter title *Quinnehtukqut*.



The CT Chapter will endorse our current federal delegation, who continue to serve us well.

	<u>District</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Lifetime</u>
Larson, John B.	DCT-01	100%	92%
Courtney, Joe	DCT-02	100%	97%
DeLauro, Rosa L.	DCT-03	97%	96%
Himes, Jim	DCT-04	97%	94%
Esty, Elizabeth H.	DCT-05	100%	99%



Source: The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) 2016 Scorecard:

	<u>District</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Lifetime</u>
Murphy, Chris S.	DCT	100%	96%
Blumenthal, Richard	DCT	100%	96% (not running again until 2022)

Average House score: 43%
Average Senate score: 50%

HELP WANTED

Volunteer Social Media Experts

The CT Chapter Sierra Club is looking for social media experts to join our communications team. If you're a tech-savvy, top-notch communicator and you have one or two hours a week to help, you may be the right person to help grow our presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. and improve our user experience on our website.



Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club on Facebook
Photo credit: Rich Wrigley

As a social media volunteer you would use social media in conjunction with the communications team to create and sprinkle our messages in an engaging way. Additionally, you would independently create and publish Facebook posts and web-Pages with timely and relevant content to increase awareness and engagement with CT Sierra Club members.

If you are interested and qualify, please contact: dennis.desmarais@gmail.com

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY (CES)

CT Needs A Path To The Clean Energy Future

by Martha Klein

Over the summer the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) released the long awaited Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) draft. The CT Chapter's Beyond Gas and Ready for 100 volunteer teams mobilized a tremendous response in collaboration with many of Connecticut's leading environmental groups, including 350 CT, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Citizens Campaign for the Environment and our regional ally, Consumers For Sensible Energy. Our members spoke at each of the hearings, as well as at technical meetings. We held a rally and a media event before hearings, and we organized dozens of letters and hundreds of signatures to DEEP, telling them that the new plan must do more to get the state off fossil fuels and move quickly to a renewable energy driven economy.

CES History Fires Up Chapter

The first CES set Connecticut on the path of increased fracked gas use and transport, and did so at the expense of the ratepayer. In the 2013 CES, DEEP called for a ratepayer subsidized conversion of 280,000 customers to gas from other forms of home heating. Only about 50,000 customers converted over the next four years, even with the subsidies. We expected that there would be a move away from the fracked gas expansion plan, as it has been such an obvious failure. Yet, despite the lack of demand for methane for home use, the new CES draft doesn't remove the gas conversion plan or the ratepayer subsidies. In fact, the plan calls for more interstate gas pipeline expansion.

There are some good things in the draft, such as the plan to reduce the percentage of "Class 1 renewable energy" obtained from biomass or landfill methane. Why? Capturing methane from trash or burning trash for energy is not really clean energy. The

Sierra Club also applauds the call in the draft CES to move towards electrification of the transportation and home heating sectors. Yet, without a cleaner electricity grid to power those electric vehicles and electric home heat pumps, an increase in greenhouse gas emissions could result.

2017 Draft CES Inhibits Solar Energy

The draft CES limits the amount of rooftop solar that may be installed in the state, due to low net metering caps, which should be raised. In addition, the lack of a Shared Community Solar program in the state limits the development of solar energy. Many other states have successful Shared Community Solar programs, and there is no reason for DEEP to conduct a tiny (5 MW) shared solar study, that simply delays the time it will take for solar to spread across the state.



Marching for Clean Energy from DEEP's CES
Photo credit: Rich Wrigley

DEEP's Solar Energy Project Sitings

The Sierra Club is not convinced that solar energy sprawl is a real problem. The solar project in New Milford which is opposed by the community and will result in dozens of acres of cut trees, was a project that was procured by DEEP. There is a great deal of irony in the fact that this poorly sited solar farm procured by DEEP has precipitated a need for a DEEP study of solar project siting. The study will slow the needed development of solar energy in Connecticut.

We still hope that the final CES will make a serious plan to rapidly ramp up 100% renewable energy sources and energy efficiencies, and will stop subsidies for fracked gas expansion. Of particular concern is DEEP's insistence that larger gas pipelines are needed in our region. Along with our allies, we released a study in 2016 by Synapse Energy Economics showing that larger pipelines are not needed, cost ratepayers more money and put the climate at serious risk. Right now, our electricity is powered over 90% by fracked gas and nuclear energy. That is unsustainable if we want to minimize the devastation from climate disruption that has begun. We will continue to work in the coming year with DEEP and our legislators to craft a forward thinking energy plan for Connecticut.

Martha Klein is Chair, Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2017

Vote for Pro-Environmental Candidates at the Local Level

by Ann Gadwah

With climate change skeptics holding the highest positions in the country, it may feel as if nothing we do as environmental activists is going to make a difference until they are out of power. But there is hope. On November 7, 2017, municipal elections will be held all over Connecticut and voters are in a great position to ensure pro-environmental candidates are elected at all levels of government. Connecticut has many environmental concerns that are directly tied to what town and city leaders do. Here's how to make sure pro-environmental candidates get elected.



Vote November 7, 2017 in Municipal Elections

Be sure to vote. Most important is to show up to vote in the November 7th election. Put it on your calendar now. Although municipal elections are not as glamorous as national ones, they can make a huge difference. Voting on the 7th guarantees environmentalists as an established voting bloc because elected officials respond more effectively to groups of voters who consistently show up at the polls. These officials will try to sway our vote and will take our concerns seriously.

Decide who to vote for. Determine where each candidate stands on the environmental issues particularly relevant to Connecticut and to your town/city. Issues important to CT Chapter Sierra

Club are stopping gas pipelines, saving our open spaces, encouraging the transition to Electric Vehicles and moving to 100% clean energy renewables. Learn where your town candidates stand on these issues. Are they willing to help save open spaces locally? Are they willing to provide electric filling stations? Are they committed to stopping gas pipelines, particularly if one is threatening to cross through? Can they help your town/city move towards one hundred percent renewables?

Learn candidate's position on the state's Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES). Another issue that is particularly important to our Chapter is the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) proposed by the Connecticut DEEP. The draft CES currently does not go far enough to achieve Connecticut's carbon reduction goals. It should do more to accelerate clean energy requirements, end subsidies for heating homes with gas, expand energy efficiency policies and put forward a more ambitious path to further invest in the electrification of transportation and heating. Ask your candidate her stance on this issue. Is she willing to become a voice for the environment at the state level as well as the local level?

Look at issues particularly relevant to your town. Twenty-six Connecticut towns have already banned fracking waste within their limits. Ask your candidate if he is willing to work towards banning fracking waste. Look up your town's record on wetlands conservation and ask your candidate how he will improve it. Ask you candidates their positions on waste management. Consider how your town can improve their recycling efforts. What about protecting and cleaning up water ways, like the Housatonic or the Naugatuck Rivers? Is there room in your town for a solar and/or wind farm? If so, will the candidates work towards making that happen and will the site be appropriate for the town? Gather this information at town meetings, in local newspaper articles, at your local political party meetings and one on one, if you can schedule an appointment.

Help make Connecticut a national leader in environmental protection and renewable energy.

To elect pro-environmental candidates on every level of government in the state, research your candidates and vote for the best choice! Your family is counting on you. Your town/city is counting on you. Your state is counting on you. Your country is counting on you. Your planet is counting on you.

Vote! Number one thing you can do.

Ann Gadwah is a CT Chapter Sierra Club member.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Zero Emissions Fuels National Drive Electric Week

by Jeff Gross and Philip Huerter



At any of the eight 2017 Connecticut National Drive Electric Week events, co-sponsored by Sierra Club, the cars on the parking lots were great and the people attending were remarkable. The organizers and owners of the electric vehicles (EVs) were passionate about the benefits of the technology. Visitors to the events uniformly displayed an open-minded curiosity in their discussions with the owners.

Why Buy an EV?

Lengthy conversations between attendees and owners teased out the owners' motivations for actively promoting the new EV technology. Many car buffs are thrilled that cars of this level of sophistication and performance, convenience and maintainability are finally commercially available. Most are aware, and appreciate, that EVs benefit the environment by reducing our carbon footprint and local emissions. Some have already made the connection to the macro trends that Sierra Club has been highlighting: how electrification of the transport sector requires increasing investment in clean energy sources to ensure that the electrical grid itself is part of the solution for greenhouse gas emission reduction and not part of the problem.

As to the cars themselves, EVs will gain dramatic range improvements, but this is no reason to wait. Tesla cars are the first to actually send "OS or operating system updates" that actually add features as you go. Never before has an automobile gotten better with age. It's the simplicity of EV mechanics compared to a gas car that adds value. For example, three-year old cars remain nearly pristine. Plus, as an EV owner you can actually power your house off your car, or if you installed solar panels, you may be able to charge your car from your house.

The Beauty of the Cars

The cars -- oh, the cars! This year seemed to have the highest EV turnout ever, with counts in the high 20's for several events. Fairfield deserves special mention here, with 19 unique models registered. We were encouraged to raise the hoods, to mimic the welcoming atmosphere of a traditional car show, but in truth many of the EV's, with their compact drivetrains, had nothing to show under the hood.

This was also the first year where many 'new' used cars showed up—a shiny 2014 Leaf to factory-certified Teslas. The owners, some still with temporary license plates on the cars, were giddy. It's wonderful to be the first time owner of new technology. The development of a used car market is an important



Middletown. No hood at all! Re-purposed EV

milestone in making EVs affordable to the wider public. The first-generation models have depreciated more than typical cars, but compare the relative simplicity of an electric car to a gas car and you find the first-generation cars are mechanically in great shape. The technology, especially range, is improving dramatically each year. Going forward, we expect that any expanded range model, like the original Teslas, will depreciate on a par with gasoline cars.

2017 Drive Electric Week amply fulfilled Sierra's expectations for public outreach on the benefits of electric vehicles.

The final weekend Drive Electric events in Connecticut had large turnouts, thanks to our publicity promotions which linked to the National Drive Electric website. A TV crew from Fox 61 arrived and interviewed the Sierra Club organizer and took several wonderful photos. View at: [qFox 61 Photos](#)

In summary, the 2017 Drive Electric Week amply fulfilled Sierra Club's expectations for public outreach on the benefits of electric vehicles. This viewer is left with a lingering impression of the beauty and intrigue of these cars. Others will likely feel compelled to seriously consider this new wave of continuously improving technology.

Jeff Gross and Philip Huerter are co-chairs of the Connecticut Sierra Club EV Committee

GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

Fracking Waste Protection Progress

by Jennifer Siskind

Towns across Connecticut continue to pass local laws banning all oil and gas extraction wastes, which includes fracking wastes. Most recently, the City of Hartford and Town of Glastonbury Councils voted unanimously to enact ordinances, bringing the total to 26. Next up are Bristol, Stratford, Greenwich and Redding.

Key to Passage

An outpouring of citizen support is the key to these ordinances passing. Residents of the following listed towns need to send emails and/or attend upcoming town meetings. Please visit your town's website NOW and ask town leaders to vote 'Yes' and pass the fracking waste ordinance. Save the dates below on your calendar:

Bristol

Tuesday, October 10th at 7:00pm: City Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers
To send email to City Council members, visit [Bristol email](#) and click on name of your council person.



Fracking Waste storage facility in Pennsylvania
Photo credit: riverkeeper.org

Stratford

The Ordinance Committee discussion was held Monday, September 25th. Check townofstratford.com for meeting minutes and to confirm next action.

To send email to Town Council members, visit: [Stratford email](#)

Greenwich

Monday, October 23rd at 8:00pm

Full Representative Town Meeting at Central Middle School

To send email, visit: [Greenwich email](#) Contact: Thomas Byrne

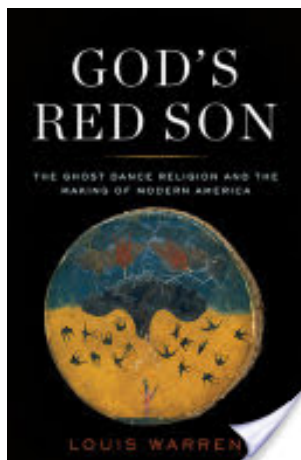
Redding

A legal petition initiative is being submitted to hold a special town meeting and vote. The town clerk will check the signatures and likely present a certified petition to the Board of Selectmen (BoS) on Monday, October 16th. The BoS will then set a date to hold this special town meeting and vote. It must be held within 21 days, with a minimum five day advance notice posted in the newspaper and at town hall. So the date for this special town meeting will be sometime between October 22nd and November 6th. Any person registered to vote, or who is older than 18, a U.S. citizen, and pays at least \$1,000 in taxes to Redding can vote at this meeting. Majority rules for those attending and voting on that night. Instead of emailing the BoS, *ask friends, family and neighbors to attend and vote, 'Yes'.*

Jennifer Siskind is the Local Coordinator for Food & Water Watch and a CT Chapter Sierra Club member.

BOOK REVIEW

by James Root



For those seeking wider, tangential and perhaps deeper context for American environmentalism, Professor of Western U.S. History Louis S. Warren's new book, *God's Red Son* (Basic Books) could be helpful.

Ghost Dance in History

The book is the latest of many efforts to interpret the notorious 'Ghost Dance' religion that emerged among badly pressured Native American (referred to in the book as 'Indian') peoples in the last decades of the 19th century. The movement, which was practiced by a number of Native tribes and centered on a marathon circular dance derived from a number of ancient Indian dances, is best known as one of the spurious pretexts for the massacre of Lakota Sioux on their reservation at Wounded Knee creek in 1890.

Warren examines the Ghost Dance's origins in post Civil War Nevada (Why do religions always start in the desert?). Various Native and Christian threads were woven together by a spiritually inclined Paiute tribe member known as Wovoka, who, in true messianic form, claimed to be relaying messages from a greater God (Christian/pagan combo). The Wovoka message quickly proliferated east to the reeling Plains Indian tribes-especially Lakota and Arapahoe to the south in Oklahoma.

Similarities to Christian Sects

Although interpreted by less understanding whites as a threatening attempt by reservation Indians to return to a wilder, less assimilated state, Warren clearly demonstrates in the book (ironically via reports from the main U.S. government agent investigating the religion after Wounded Knee), that the Ghost Dance 'religion' was strikingly similar, in form and content, to many high spirited, millenarian (doomsday) Christian sects across the U.S. at that time. This similarity to 'white' religions, paradoxically, may have been what freaked out the reservation authorities the most--if only on an unstated level.

Warren also convincingly shows that Wovoka's teachings, while resurrecting some traditional Native American Indian spiritualism, advocated a peaceful accommodation of whites and their market/wage base society (i.e. We're screwed, so you are going to have to go to school and get a job).

From the environmental standpoint, what stands out most blatantly in the book is the almost immediate (twenty years max) destruction or nightmarish transformation by westward trekking whites of the Paiute tribe's eons old survival in Nevada. The tribe's core foodstuffs, prior to European contact, were pine nuts and fresh water fish. The Paiute diet did not survive in the U.S. cattle industry for long.

Hostile Environment Deters White Settlers

Interestingly, Warren points out that white settlement in Nevada, and other parts of the desert west, was not linear and that white population levels actually dropped after an initial mining boom as settlers realized what a dry, hostile environment was presented in the desert plateau of the 'Great Basin,' the area lying between the Sierra Madre and the Rocky Mountains. This sudden degradation of an already challenging environment was the fertile ground for the soothing, after-life focused Ghost Dance movement-as the Native Americans had already irreversibly transformed themselves socially and economically to adapt to the whites-but were then left 'high and dry' when, after their world had been dismantled, the original mining boom, with its life saving jobs, inevitably went bust.

James Root lives in Danbury and is a member of CT Chapter Sierra Club.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Simply Too Hot: The Desperate Science and Politics of Climate



Speaker: Bill McKibben, environmentalist

Sponsor: Chubb Lecture

Location: Woolsey Hall, Yale University, 500 College Street, New Haven

Date: Tuesday, October 10th

Time: 4:30pm

Free and open to the public. Hosted by the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology (not a Sierra Club event).

Bill McKibben published *The End of Nature* in 1989. It was one of the first books written on the problems of climate change for a broad audience. It is considered a groundbreaking work in the field of environmental studies and has been published in 24 languages.

In 2008, Bill McKibben cofounded 350.org. The organization's name is taken from "350 parts per million" – the safe upper limit of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as currently agreed upon by the world's scientists.

The organization aims to create a mass movement to work on public awareness and push for solutions that will bring the planet back within safe carbon dioxide levels of 350 parts per million. It is considered the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement utilizing online campaigns, grassroots organizing and mass public protests. In 2014, McKibben was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize for his work with 350.org.

Bill McKibben is currently the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College in Vermont and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Among his many awards, he was the 2013 winner of the Gandhi Prize and the Thomas Merton Prize. In 2012 he was awarded the President's Medal from the Geological Society of America. He has received the prestigious Guggenheim and Lyndhurst Fellowships and won the Lannan Prize for nonfiction writing in 2000. Bill McKibben holds honorary degrees from 18 colleges and universities. In 2014, biologists recognized him by naming in his honor a new species of the woodland gnat – *megophthalmidia mckibbeni*.

McKibben has gone on to write over a dozen books on environmental issues including *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet* (2010) and his most recent work, *Oil and Honey* (2013). He began his distinguished career as a journalist and was formerly a staff writer for the *New Yorker*. He continues to write for a variety of publications including the *New York Review of Books*, *National Geographic* and *Rolling Stone*.

Contributed by: Mary Evelyn Tucker, Director, Forum on Religion and Ecology, Yale University

Eagles in Connecticut: Return of an Icon

Speaker: Brian Hess, wildlife biologist, DEEP

Date: Thursday, October 12th

Time: 7:00pm: *activist letter writing* - 7:30pm: *program*

Sponsor: Greater Hartford Group Connecticut Sierra Club

Location: Westmoor Park, 119 Flagg Road, West Hartford

Refreshments: Provided

Donation: \$4 requested to defray hall rental

Questions: Renee at mchawigirl@yahoo.com

Free and open to the public.

Overview: Bald eagles are back in Connecticut. Learn the perilous story of their population decline and subsequent recovery. Eagle biology, conservation efforts for future generations and volunteer opportunities to help protect them, including the mid-winter eagle survey, will also be discussed.

Biography: Brian Hess has worked with California condors, greater prairie chickens, mottled ducks and shorebirds. He joined the Wildlife Diversity Program of CT DEEP in 2014 to conserve non-game wildlife, including the monitoring and conserving of large raptors, reptiles and amphibians. Hess studied wildlife conservation at the University of Delaware and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee where he received his M.S.



Male bald eaglet receiving i.d. bands
Photo credit: Arnold Gold/New Haven Register

OCTOBER EVENT

Concert for America

Stand Up, Sing Out!

Date: Monday, October 16th

Time: 7:30pm-9:30pm

Location: The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

Tickets: bushnell.org or 860.987.6000

Cost: \$29.50-\$59.50; gold seating: \$150.00

Program: Intended to infuse Americans with hope and inspiration for today and the future, the concert benefits many non-profit organizations including The Sierra Club. Entertainment will be provided by stars from film, television, music, comedy and Broadway. The program is presented by National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) that promotes social justice for all. [Stand Up Sing Out](http://StandUpSingOut.org)



Performers scheduled for October 16th.: Jenna Ushkowitz, Matthew Broderick, Capathia Jenkins, Rebecca Luker, Todrick Hall, Judy Kuhn, Seth Rudetsky, Holly Near, Maurice Hines, Jennifer Simard, Beth Malone, James Wesley, John and Leo Manzari

OUR NATURAL WORLD

Best Ways to Dispose of Leaves

by Michele MacKinnon

Leaf and lawn material once accounted for nearly 60 percent of landfill waste. Connecticut prohibits disposal of yard waste with household trash and discourages dumping with a \$219 fine. Vehicles may be confiscated as well. Luckily, it's easy to dispose of leaves at home and when you do, your garden reaps the benefits.

Mulch as you mow

Accomplish two jobs at the same time and incorporate leaf cleanup into regular lawn mowing. Mulching mowers cut leaves and grass into tiny pieces. In turn, worms and soil dwellers convert mulch into a rich humus that nourishes the soil. A regular lawn mower serves the same purpose, although mowing in opposite directions may be necessary to chop leaves fine enough. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advises, "mulched clippings, which are ... five percent nitrogen, can provide up to 25 percent of fertilizer needs for an average lawn." Further, a Michigan State University [study](#) showed mulching maple and oak leaves into the lawn cut dandelion numbers in subsequent years. These benefits alone are strong incentives to give mulching a try.

Transform leaf piles into leaf mold

Leaf mold is the rich, black remainder of decomposed leaves. It's a highly effective soil conditioner that improves water holding capacity by up to 50 percent. You already have leaves. The only other requirements are time, moisture and a shady location.

Choose a location, then construct leaf bins in three- or four-cubic-foot sizes using chicken wire or vinyl-coated wire, or simply make a pile and weigh it down with a few large branches. Water as you go because it's difficult to wet full bins. The wetted leaves should be about as moist as a wrung out sponge. Top up bins as leaves settle and cover when full. Make leaf mold in durable garbage bags following the same process. Poke small holes in the plastic to enable air flow.

It takes up to a couple of years for leaf mold to form, however, there are two ways to shorten the timeframe. Chop leaves with a mower, leaf chopper or string trimmer. Exposed leaf edges break down faster. A few handfuls of soil and some organic high nitrogen fertilizer, such as soybean meal or alfalfa meal, fuels the process too.

Spread the finished leaf mold a few inches deep on gardens, under trees, or dig it into soil.

Keep or compost

Another option is composting and bagging any excess for later use. A rough composting ratio is 60 percent browns, dry leaves or other organic material, and 40 percent greens, or fresh material. Watch for a detailed composting article in an upcoming issue.

What not to do

Avoid blowing leaves which can remove the decayed vegetative layer along wooded edges. It exposes soil to weed seeds and is one reason invasive garlic mustard has gained a tenacious foothold in recent years.



Clear plastic bags help the compost process.

Remember to order bulbs

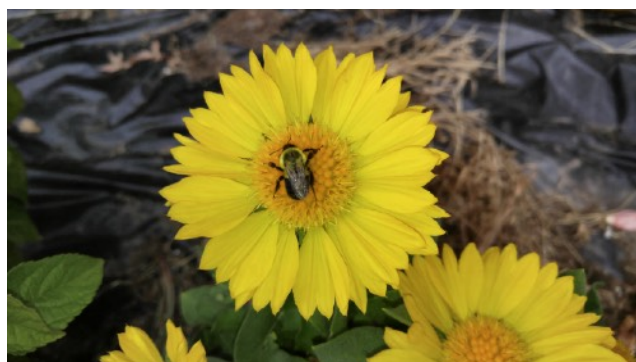
Order spring-flowering bulbs while a good selection is available. Connecticut boasts two top-notch bulb suppliers: Colorblends in Bridgeport and John Scheepers in Bantam. With their irresistible choices, every gardener can enjoy a cheerful floral parade when spring arrives next year.

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

To contact MacKinnon for speaking engagements, to obtain a list of [upcoming classes](#) or to ask gardening questions, email beehappygardener@gmail.com. We'll publish answers in the next edition of the newsletter.

My Bumblebee Garden

by Marsha R. Cohen



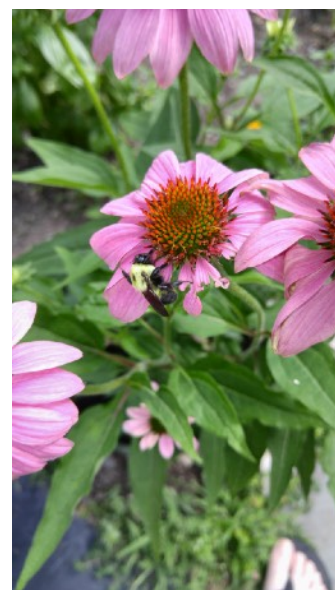
A bumblebee on a daisy in Mrs. Cohen's garden

It all started with a bear. He came one fine summer day and destroyed my two hummingbird feeders. I did not see him, but I found his sticky nectar paw prints on the driveway. It was then I decided to plant a garden that would provide food for hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. After reading that the rusty patched bumblebee became the first bumblebee species to be listed as endangered in the United States, I decided that my garden would cater to bumblebees in particular.

There were a variety of online sites that provided lists of plants that attract bumblebees. The one I found most useful came from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

https://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/native_bees The list is extensive and includes plants that the bumblebees actually frequent in my garden. The plants that have proved to be the most popular this summer include Echinacea, Veronica, Marjoram, Basil and Thyme. The garden is small, in front of the house and faces south. In general, brightly colored flowers are in the front row, with vegetables and herbs behind.

Planting species bees prefer has definitely increased their numbers this summer. The bees are fun to watch as they go about their business of collecting pollen. I have no idea where their nests might be located or how far they are traveling to reach our garden. It is interesting to watch bumblebee behavior. When the temperature cools, they sometimes rest in place on a flower and I can get a really close look at them. In addition to the plants I already mentioned, they have also been observed hovering about tomato flowers. I can't prove the connection, but we have a wonderful crop of tomatoes this summer.



Echinacea harbors a bumblebee

We do not use insecticides in the garden, other than the occasional use of nontoxic soap-based sprays on specific plants. We have seen bumblebees on our property since we moved here over 30 years ago, but maybe a few more in 2017. I am already planning which plants to use in the garden for next year based on what I observed this year. What fun!

As my husband and I share the gardening chores, we have found this activity enjoyable for all ages, plus it provides a nurturing habitat for the bees, and may improve the yield from the garden.

Marsha R. Cohen is a CT Chapter Sierra Club member

Wanted: Bobcat Sightings

A CT Chapter Sierra Club member living in northwest CT sent in the following photo caught by his trail cam. The photo was taken at 11:08, the morning of September 1, 2017. Coincidentally, we learned about the CT Bobcat Project run by Connecticut DEEP Wildlife Division. Its goal is to determine how bobcats are using our state as a habitat, their population and their range within the state.

DEEP asks you to inform them of your observations which can be live, roadkill or deceased or signs and tracks of bobcats. They ask that you provide date, town and number of bobcats observed. They would also like to know if the bobcat has ear tags or a collar. Even blowing up this photo to maximum, we can't see either an ear tag or collar. There are naturalists, we should point out, who discourage reporting wildlife sightings to DEEP, who are responsible for destroying animals considered "problems" by humans.

The website <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ct-bobcat-project> provides a map for you to indicate where you observe the bobcat. There are also beautiful photos of this gorgeous, but perhaps intimidating animal.





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