



2020 Annual Report

Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc.

Providing Technical Assistance and Education for Natural Resource Conservation
Since 1946



.....
and the general public.
engineers, farmers, teachers, Realtors, civic groups,
use decision makers, environmental professionals,
and services are provided to municipal staff, land
technical assistance and education. Our programs
management of our natural resources through
Conservation District is to promote the sound use and
THE MISSION of the Connecticut River Coastal
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conservect.org/ctrivercoastal
(860) 346.3282

Middletown, CT 06457

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Middletown, CT 06457
27 Washington Street
deKoven House Community Center
Conservation District, Inc.



Board of Directors

Walter Smith, Old Saybrook, *Chair*
Gabriel Russo, Middletown, *Vice Chair*
Lorraine Jalbert, Middletown, *Treasurer*
Riley Doherty, Haddam, *Secretary*
Laurel Cope, East Hampton
Jim Costello, Colchester
Denise Savageau, Old Lyme
Paul Stacey, Moodus
Patricia Young, Marlborough

Staff

Jane Brawerman, *Executive Director*
Kelly Starr, *Natural Resource Specialist*
Sandy Weiss, *Office Administrator*

Partners

CT Association of Conservation Districts
CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation
CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
CT Food Corps
CT Resource Conservation & Development Council
CT River Conservancy
CT Sea Grant
Middlesex Community College
Middletown Garden Club
Middletown Regional Agricultural Science
& Technology Center
National Association of Conservation Districts
Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials Program
North End Action Team
Opportunity Knocks Collaborative
Russell Library
Salmon River Watershed Partnership
The Rockfall Foundation
UConn Cooperative Extension System
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Geological Survey
Vernon Conservation Commission
Wesleyan University
Working Lands Alliance
The 26 District towns
Many local organizations

A Letter from the Executive Director

“The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry...” Robert Burns

WHO KNEW WHAT OUR 73RD YEAR WOULD BRING? It’s certainly been a year of best-laid plans gone undone for the District, highlighting the need to be resilient and adapt to changing conditions, as it has for all of us affected by the pandemic.

For the first time in 29 years, we had to forego our annual plant sale. The sale is not only our biggest fundraiser, but also a great opportunity to connect with people in our district and promote the use of native plants in the landscape. After planning the sale, working with our suppliers, developing materials and setting up our webstore, and receiving many orders, the decision to cancel was very difficult to make. We felt it was for the best, for the safety of our customers, volunteers and staff. We are grateful for the understanding of our customers and suppliers, and hopeful that we will be able to hold our sale in 2021.

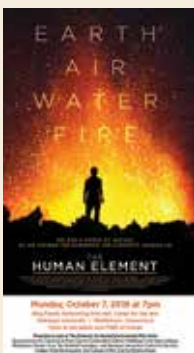
On the other hand, much was accomplished prior to mid-March, and we were able to continue our conservation work afterwards, though collaborating with others became more complicated. Field work could still be done, with appropriate protective gear. One bright spot was that our CT River Watch Program volunteers still wanted to help with Coginchaug River monitoring activities. Sampling proceeded safely, with everyone wearing face coverings whenever we met for supply pick-up and sample drop-off.

We completed the first phase of water quality improvements at Lyman Orchards, and planned for future projects around the Apple Barrel market pond; we changed course on management improvements at Deerfield Farm and began to make progress there; and we continued to conduct conservation planning work with farmers and forest managers throughout our District.

Our collaborative environmental film series proceeded successfully, and we presented three films to enthusiastic audiences, though the spring screening had to be cancelled. We also took the time to update and expand our invasive plant guide; we had run out of copies and there was interest among users in adding more plants of concern in CT. The guide is now in its fourth edition!

Looking forward, whatever adaptation is required of us, we’ll certainly be here to continue our efforts to protect and improve the natural resources of the lower CT River watershed. Kudos to our staff and board for helping navigate through this challenging time, and many thanks to our donors, volunteers and partners for your generous support.

Jane Brawerman
Executive Director



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THE DISTRICT HOLDS PUBLIC MEETINGS every other month on the fourth Tuesday, 6:00 pm at the deKoven House Community Center, 27 Washington Street in Middletown, or remotely when it is not possible to meet in person. All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.
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The District serves the towns of Berlin, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Hebron, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Marlborough, Middlefield, Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, Rocky Hill, Salem and Westbrook.

Conservation Highlights

Landscaping for water quality projects at Lyman Orchards Apple Barrel farm market pond were completed, and planning began for future work. Project elements included waterside buffers, upland plantings, water plantings and pervious paving, as well as an educational sign to be installed at the farm market. This project was funded in part by CT DEEP through a US EPA Clean Water Act §319 grant.

Conservation planning was conducted with eight farms and forest landowners throughout our district area under grants from the National Association of Conservation Districts and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Recommended practices focused on protecting/improving water quality by addressing run-off concerns; improving soil health and plant productivity; and enhancing and managing habitats and forests.

Our invasive plant guide was expanded again, and now includes four new plants of concern in CT. With input from CT Invasive Plant Working Group, we added Lesser Celandine (on left), easily confused with native Marsh Marigold; Glossy Buckthorn; Princess-tree; and Privets. Hard copies are not yet available, but the PDF is downloadable from our website. The 2020 version was developed with support from CT Resource Conservation and Development Council.

A series of legal and technical workshops focused on fostering community interest in serving on local wetlands commissions is in the planning stages, with support from a 2020 grant from The Rockfall Foundation. We are excited to partner with well-known land use attorney Janet Brooks on this project. The series will be presented as virtual events in 2021. Stay tuned for information about the schedule!

Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District Donors

We are grateful to the many Conservation District donors who support our important work. The following list reflects all individuals, municipalities, organizations, businesses and granting agencies that have supported the District from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 with funding or in-kind donations. Our sincere apologies for any inadvertent omissions.

Individuals

Mary Augustiny
Denise Savageau & Michael Aurelia
Lisa Wahle & Peter Auster
Elizabeth Badin
Susan Bement
Susan & Thomas Bransfield
Jane Brawerman & Brian Stewart
Donald Capellaro
Jeanne & Paul Carroll
Susan Cecchini
Susan Colby
Kathy & Paul Connolly
Laurel Cope
Alannah & George Coshov
Denis Cunningham
Lawrence Cyrulik
Susan Hessel & Karen Dahle
Barbara David
Jeanne Davies & Virgil Lloyd
Helena & John Davison
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Marilyn Gleeson & Bob Smith
Claire & Bill Gray

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Alice Hinchcliffe
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Paul Stacey
Leslie Starr
Lois Stahlbush Tolley
Marcella Trowbridge & Brian Dic Wheeler
Nancy & Joseph Wargo
Helene & Steven Yates
Pat Young
David Zemelsky

Corporations

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
Amazon Smile
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Connecticut River Expeditions
IBM International Foundation
Lyman Orchards
Middlesex Community College
Middletown Framing LLC
Organic Vintages
PayPal Giving Fund
Priam Vineyards
Rhode van Gessel Design
R2 Graphics, Inc.
Speaking of Landscapes
The Rockfall Foundation
University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System
Master Gardener Program
USDA -Natural Resources Conservation Service

Municipalities

Berlin
Chester
Cromwell
Deep River
Durham
East Haddam
East Hampton
Essex
Hebron
Killingworth
Lyme
Middlefield
Middletown
Old Lyme
Old Saybrook
Portland
Rocky Hill
Westbrook

Grants

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act §319
National Association of Conservation Districts Technical Assistance Grant
The Rockfall Foundation

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

INCOME

State Funds	\$100,000
Grants	68,890
Material Sales	660
Local Funds	33,518
Contributions	8,939
Interest Income	52
Total Income	\$212,059

EXPENSES

Wages, Payroll Taxes, Retirement Benefits	\$120,199
Grant Expenses	28,282
Shrub Sale & Fundraising Expenses	3,117
Operating/Office Expenses	24,080
Professional Fees & Dues	1,500
Conferences, Meetings & Workshops	1,680
Total Expenses	\$178,858

Compiled by Comer & Company, LLC,
Certified Public Accountants

The District's 72nd Annual Meeting was held November 2, 2019 at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield. Participants learned about the District project, Landscaping for Water Quality at



Apple Barrel Pond from Kathy Connolly, Speaking of Landscapes, and went on a guided tour highlighting the different project elements.

Congratulations 2019 Conservation Award Recipients!

Tom ODell Outstanding District Service
Denise Savageau, CT Association of Conservation Districts

Environmental Professional
Meghan Lally, CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Cooperator
John Lyman III, Lyman Orchards

Special Merit
P. Rhode van Gessel,
Rhode van Gessel Design

Certificates of Appreciation
Westbrook Outlets



Denise Savageau (on right), with Jane Brawerman, Executive Director



Ongoing CT River Watch Program activities included assisting community partners with training and field work for stream bioassessments in the Salmon and Tankerhoosen River watersheds. Data are provided to the state as part of the DEEP Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV) program.



Once again, we partnered with the City of Middletown to coordinate a Coginchaug River cleanup at Veteran's Park in Middletown as part of CT River Conservancy's Source to Sea. Many thanks to the 17 community volunteers, including a number of students, who came to help pick up trash.

Films shown as part of our series included two on different aspects of climate change: The Human Element (how climate change is affecting people and their communities); and Ice on Fire (innovative solutions to mitigate climate change). The film *Artifishal* highlighted the fight for the future of wild fish.