

2017 Faculty Biographies

as of 2/27/17

Keith Ainsworth, Managing Member, Law Offices of Keith R. Ainsworth, Esq., LLC – Keith Ainsworth is the founder of a New Haven litigation practice serving conservation interests throughout Connecticut. Immediate past chair of the Environmental Law section of the CT Bar Association and life member of the Madison Land Conservation Trust, Keith frequently lectures on environmental law to CT attorneys and at CT's law schools. For the past 26 years, he has represented many land trusts and non-profit organizations across the state in encroachment, real estate, land use and governance matters. His firm is general counsel to a brownfields development firm, Vista Life Innovations an educational institution serving adults with disabilities and is environmental counsel to Trout Unlimited.

Judy Anderson, Principal, Community Consultants – Judy Anderson of Community Consultants has worked in the land trust sector for 25 years. She currently assists nonprofit organizations throughout the country on practical and strategic conservation initiatives incorporating local communities, climate change, governance, communications and community-based outreach and fundraising strategies. Judy also coaches land trusts in systems development, easement drafting and stewardship, and building connections to the land to ensure their work withstands the test of time. Judy led the Columbia Land Conservancy as its Executive Director, building the organization to a staff of 18, with over 200 easements and public conservation areas. Under her leadership, CLC membership increased from 400 to 1,700 in five years while raising additional funds for land acquisition and building organizational capacity.

Chet Arnold, Extension Educator, Director, UConn CLEAR – Chet Arnold is an Extension Educator and Director of the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR), a partnership of the Department of Extension, the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, and the Connecticut Sea Grant Program. Chet has been with the University since 1987, and has worked on the Long Island Sound Study Public Outreach Program, the NEMO Program, the National NEMO Network, and CLEAR – all of which he helped to create. He has authored several national award-winning papers and has been Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on over \$20M of external grants. As the Center's Director of Outreach, Chet focuses on the integration and dissemination of CLEAR land use research, geospatial tools and training, and outreach programs to best serve CLEAR's municipal and other audiences. His specialty is harnessing the talent of his younger and more intelligent colleagues and taking credit for their work.

Abbie Beissinger, Visiting Assistant Extension Educator, UConn Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) – Abby Beissinger is the coordinator of the Conservation Ambassadors Program in the NRCA and a Visiting Assistant Extension Educator in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UConn. She joined the NRCA team in 2017 after receiving her M.S. in Plant Pathology from Washington State University. Abby has worked in both national and international capacities to develop and implement hands-on programming for youth to engage in community-based environmental stewardship.

Kelly Boling, Project Manager, Trust for Public Land – Kelly Boling manages land-protection projects for The Trust for Public Land, working on urban, suburban, and rural conservation initiatives throughout New England. Previously, he was a senior land project manager at Scenic Hudson, where he conserved more than 3,000 acres along the Hudson River, between New York City and Albany. Prior to that, Kelly was a Connecticut-based conservation consultant, and served for many years on the conservation and planning commissions in the Town of Washington. Before moving to Litchfield County, Kelly lived in New York City, where he managed interactive media services for Burson-Marsteller.

Ray Bovich, Senior Partner, CFA – Ray brings nearly thirty five years of investment and financial experience to Aegis. Over the course of his career, Ray has worked with institutional investors, investment management firms and individual investors. As Chief Investment Officer, Ray is responsible for crafting investment strategies that help institutional and private wealth investors reach their investment objectives. Ray received a BA in Mathematics from Fordham University. He attained the Chartered Financial Analyst designation in 1995. Ray currently serves as President

of CFA Society Hartford. Ray is a Member of the Board of Directors of The Connection, Inc. He enjoys running, skiing and sailing. He is married with three grown children.

Jennifer Brady-Connor, Associate Director of Technology & Communications, Land Trust Alliance – Jennifer designs and maintains the systems and materials that ensure accreditation applicants and accredited land trusts have a good user experience and tools needed to promote the accreditation brand. She has reviewed more than 70 applications for first-time and renewal of accreditation since joining the Commission in March 2008. Jennifer previously worked for the Land Trust Alliance, helping develop the 2004 revised Land Trust Standards and Practices and the land trust accreditation program in addition to providing technical assistance to land trusts. Jennifer worked many years for a local land trust and other nonprofits to address wetland and water quality issues, she has served on a number of nonprofit boards, and she has owned and operated two small businesses. In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in biology from the University at Albany, she recently earned a certificate in project management from Empire State College's School of Graduate Studies.

Amanda Branson, Executive Director, Naromi Land Trust – Amanda has been working with non-profit organizations since 2003 with a focus on land trusts. Amanda became the first Executive Director of Naromi Land Trust in 2016. Naromi is Sherman's land trust -- Naromi is short for Naromiyocknowhusunkatankshunk Brook. Naromi's portfolio of properties protect 12% of Sherman including: a working farm, an IBA with a fully accessible boardwalk, a ridgeline preserve that features a large pristine vernal pool, several forest preserves including one that connects to the AT, and preserve with a woodland boardwalk in the center of town. Amanda also leads the Connecticut Records Project, a joint program of the Land Trust Alliance and the Connecticut Land Conservation Council that teaches land trusts sound record-keeping practices and conduct audits of property and organizational records. Amanda provides services to land trusts throughout Connecticut including coaching on sound record-keeping practices, accreditation preparation support, and building organizational strength.

Margot Burns, Environmental Planner, Lower CT River Council Valley of Governments – Margot Burns is an Environmental Planner at the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) located in Essex, CT where she is the Coordinator for the Lower CT River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange and RiverCOG RCP. She is Secretary of the CT Resource, Conservation, and Development Area; a member of the steering committee of the CT Land Conservation Council, sits on the board of the Friends of CT State Parks; a participant on the UConn Sea Grant Extension Advisory Board; and a member of the Chester Conservation Commission. The Agency seeks to protect the environment and beauty of its Region and the State through the land use planning process and coordination and collaboration of its many partners.

Christine Cadigan, Manager of Woodlands Conservation, American Forest Foundation – Christine Cadigan is Senior Manager for Northeast & MidAtlantic Conservation for American Forest Foundation. She has experience in forestry and climate change science and partners with local organizations to support on the ground conservation and landowner outreach initiatives.

Art Carlson, Conservation Commission Chair and Trail Committee – Art Carlson is currently the chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources. A trail initiative of the Commission resulted in what is known today as the Goodwin Trail. Along with a small group, the East Lyme Land Trust was formed in 1972 and is still in operation today.

Kevin Case, Northeast Director, Land Trust Alliance – Kevin is in his 12th year working with the Land Trust Alliance, responsible for designing and implementing programs that foster success for the 500+ Alliance member land trusts from Maine to Maryland. His efforts have taken him from the Maine Coast Protection Initiative, to the Alliance's National All-Volunteer Land Trust Program, to recently launching a new effort across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Prior to joining the Alliance Kevin worked for the National Park Service, where he oversaw a federal Wild and Scenic River Study and a National Scenic Trail Study for what is now the New England National Scenic Trail. Previously, he was Executive

Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association and is past board chair of the Winchester Land Trust and Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. Kevin currently sits on the board of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.

Cary Chadwick, faculty, UConn Dept. of Extension, Geospatial Extension Educator, UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) – Cary Chadwick is a geospatial educator at the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use and Research (CLEAR). She coordinates the Geospatial Training Program for CLEAR, spending her time teaching hands-on technical trainings on the use of geospatial technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS). Cary is also involved in a number of collaborative research projects that integrate geospatial technologies to better manage and understand natural resource systems.

Laura Cisneros, Coordinator, NRCA, Visiting Assistant Professor, UConn Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) – Laura Cisneros is the coordinator of two NRCA programs and a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UConn. She recently received her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UConn. Her research and teaching interests focus on understanding how human activities affect ecological communities and using this understanding to inform students and citizens about the intimate role that humans play in global sustainability.

Robert E. Clark, Lecturer, Wesleyan University – Rob Clark earned his PhD in entomology from Wesleyan University in 2015. He is currently a lecturer for the College of the Environment, and has been involved in insect science, ecological outreach, and environmental education at many venues in the state of Connecticut. Rob's research focuses on the ecological impacts of forest insects on arboreal food webs in Connecticut, where he is particularly interested in how multiple types of interaction types, such as mutualism and predation, shape the insect and plant communities that we observe in deciduous forests.

Sharon Danosky, President, Danosky & Associates – Sharon is a BoardSource Certified Governance Trainer and founder and president of Danosky & Associates. With over 30 years of experience, she has dedicated her career to working with not-for-profit organizations. As both a consultant and a senior executive for numerous charitable organizations, she has transformed organizations into highly effectively charities of choice in their communities. Sharon has worked on all sides of the not-for-profit arena – as a senior professional working on the executive management team of several highly effective non-profits, including teaching and community hospitals and a major human service organization. As a skilled consultant, she has helped grassroots organizations to grow, and led major initiatives for established non-profit organizations. The range of organizations includes major medical facilities, human service organizations, environmental groups, children's causes and arts and cultural organizations among others.

Dave Dickson, Geospatial Extension Educators, UConn CLEAR – Dave Dickson is an Extension Educator at the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use and Research (CLEAR). He works primarily with communities on water quality and stormwater management issues, but loves to dabble in digital technologies. He co-teaches CLEAR's Smartphone GPS mapping class with Cary Chadwick, which has trained 75-100 land trust volunteers in smartphone mapping techniques.

J.H. Torrance Downes, Deputy Director, CT River Gateway Commission – J H Torrance Downes is the Deputy Director of the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) in the lower river valley, and key staff to the Gateway Commission. His background includes employment as an oil company geologist and geophysicist, a municipal zoning enforcement officer, an environmental analyst for the CT DEEP and, for 21 years, a regional and environmental planner for the CT River Estuary Regional Planning Agency and its successor, the RiverCOG. As an artist, Mr. Downes designed the Long Island Sound "Preserve the Sound" license plate that adorns over 150,000 vehicle bumpers in the State of Connecticut and has resulted in over \$4.5 million in funds being raised for hundreds of worthy environmental projects since 1993.

Paul Elconin, Director of Land Conservation, Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust – Paul Elconin is the Director of Land Conservation at Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust. Paul has BS in Environmental Biology from Yale University and a MS in Forest Resources Management from the State University of New York-College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). While at ESF, Paul researched landowner motivations for granting and satisfaction with their conservation easements, and his findings were published and distributed to land trusts nationwide. Paul has spent much of his professional career working in land conservation. He was a wildlife ecology field technician on wolf and grizzly bear projects for government agencies and taught environmental education in Minnesota and California. Prior to joining Weantinoge in 2014, Paul was the Stewardship Coordinator at the Open Space Institute for 13 years, the “Circuit Rider” for the Land Trust Alliance of New York, and a consultant to land trusts in New York State.

David Emond, Ecological Technician, CCT, SLT – David Emond holds an undergraduate degree in Fine Arts and is a Land Steward and Ecological Technician. He has been involved in the land trust community for several years as a professional easement monitor and field documentation specialist. His resume includes work for the Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, the largest land trust in Connecticut, and Cornwall Conservation Trust, Salisbury Association Land Trust, Sharon Land Trust, and Northeast Wilderness Trust. He is a master birder and professional photographer and videographer. His photographic work has been the subject of several shows. Dave serves on the board of directors of the New Hartford (CT) Land Trust.

Ann Faust, President, Community Consulting – Ann Faust, Program Coordinator for the Middlesex County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness and President of Community Consulting. She has been helping non-profits and municipalities find funding for over 20 years. In 2002, after working for several non-profits and municipalities, she launched, her own grant writing and research company, Community Consulting. She has successfully secured over \$15 million for many worthwhile projects including open space, streetscape improvements, environmental clean-up, historic restoration, the arts and social services.

Linda P. Francois, Esq., Partner, Cooper, Whitney & Francois – Linda P. Francois is a New Haven attorney whose real estate practice includes a focus on natural and working lands preservation. She represents landowners, land trusts and municipalities in land protection transactions, conservation restriction (easement) donations, bargain sales and purchases, and open space initiatives throughout Connecticut. In 2014 she received the Working Lands Alliance Special Recognition Award for her work as editor of the Connecticut Model Open Space Conservation Easement. She was also editor of the 2014 Connecticut Model Agricultural Conservation Restriction. Ms. Francois is the 2008 recipient of the Working Lands Alliance Farmland Preservation Pathfinder Award. She is president of the Bethany Land Trust, Inc., and a member of the DEEP Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Grant Advisory Council and West Rock Ridge State Park Advisory Council.

Gary Goechel, II, Planning Director and Wetlands Officer, Town of East Lyme – Gary is currently the Planning Director and Wetlands Officer for the Town of East Lyme since 2008. Previous experience includes a position as Environmental Planner with Freudenthal & Elkowitz Consulting Group, Inc. and as Assistant Town Planner with Town of Colchester. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Earth Science.

Drew Goldsman, Urban Resilience Planner, The Nature Conservancy – Drew Goldsman is The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut’s Urban Resilience Planner. He is responsible for managing the chapter’s growing Cities program, as part of an organization-wide effort to increase the sustainability, resilience and health of cities and their residents through innovative nature-based solutions. Drew brings a strong background working to support urban environmental and social justice causes. With past experiences ranging from transportation equity at WE ACT for Environmental Justice to affordable housing policy at Chhaya Community Development Corporation (both in New York City), Drew is committed to the belief that the built and natural environments are deeply tied and must equitably benefit all communities. He holds a Master of Urban Planning from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts from Hampshire College.

Reggie Hall, Director, Land Conservation Loans, The Conservation Fund - Reggie Hall grew up and was educated in New England attending Williams College and Vermont Law School where he received his JD and MSEL degrees. He is the Director of The Conservation Fund's Land Conservation Loan Program which provides financing and technical assistance to conservation organizations across the United States and Canada.

Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association – Eric Hammerling is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the first conservation organization established in Connecticut (1895). Eric is responsible for CFPA's budget, operations, and oversees its programs on Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, Environmental Education, and Land Conservation. Eric is also the programmatic lead for CFPA's state and federal advocacy efforts.

Lisa Hayden, Landowner Outreach Coordinator, New England Forestry Foundation – Lisa Hayden, Landowner Outreach Coordinator for New England Forestry Foundation, has managed landowner communications in the MassConn region since 2014. A former journalist, she has worked in strategic communications and climate policy for The Nature Conservancy, as well as in nonprofit marketing and communications. She earned a master's degree in environmental policy & planning from Tufts University.

Richard Heys, President, Litchfield Land Trust – Richard Heys received a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at Stanford for a career in pharmaceutical research. While in northern California, he did a lot of backpacking in the Sierras, giving him a strong and enduring love of being out in the natural world and an appreciation of the value of preserving it. Upon his retirement in 2005, Richard moved to Litchfield and was impressed by the culture of land conservation among folks in the area. He joined the board of Litchfield Land Trust in 2010 because he saw it as an important agent of land preservation. Richard has been most active in the stewardship area among other things and helped to establish several new trails on LLT preserves. Richard has been a CFPA trail manager since 2011. He was Vice President of LLT from 2014 – 2015 and president for almost 2 years.

Katherine Hollins, Program Manager, Sustaining Family Forests Initiative, Yale School of Forestry & Environment – Katherine Hollins is the Program Manager for the Sustaining Family Forests Initiative. She facilitates Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively workshops throughout the U.S. along with the SFFI team, tracks the team's progress, provides ongoing assistance to participants, and ensures SFFI continues to support natural resource professionals through the development of new tools, resources, and activities. Katherine has a background in natural resource outreach and communications, but also has experience managing multi-partner collaborative efforts focused on non-native species, and conducting on-the-ground management of nature preserves. She has an MS in Natural Resources and the Environment from the University of Michigan, and a BA in Psychology from the University of Virginia.

Allison Anne Hoyt, JD CLU - Allison Anne Hoyt is a Consultant in The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America's (Guardian) APEX Group. Allison collaborates with Guardian's financial representatives and other professionals to create smart and tax efficient business plans and estate plans for their clients. She is particularly interested in business transition planning, income tax and estate tax planning (domestic and international), and split dollar life insurance strategies. Allison has been published in *Trusts & Estates*, the *Journal of the Society of Financial Service Professionals*, the *Nassau Lawyer* and the *New York Real Property Law Journal*. She has delivered several well-received CLE and CPE courses to attorneys and accountants, respectively, dealing with advanced planning concepts. She is on the board of the New York City Chapter of the Society of Financial Service Professionals and a member of the Estate Planning Council of New York City.

Stewart Hudson, Executive Director, Audubon Connecticut – Stewart J. Hudson is the Vice President and Executive Director for Audubon Connecticut. At Audubon, Mr. Hudson leads and implements conservation goals and strategies and expands the geographic reach of Audubon Connecticut's programs across the state. Stewart is former President of the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, a family foundation based in New Haven, CT. From 1986-1998 he served in a variety of senior positions at the National Wildlife Federation, and was Executive Director of the Jane Goodall Institute from 1998-2001. He is a member of the steering committee of the CLCC.

Wendy Jackson, Executive Vice-President, Land Trust Alliance – Wendy assumed the role of Executive Vice President of the Land Trust Alliance in September of 2016. Before coming to the Alliance she spent 15 years as the founding Executive Director of the Freshwater Land Trust in Birmingham, Alabama where they conserved more than 11,000 acres and accepted the largest gift in the history of U.S. Steel to create a new 1,200-acre urban park. In partnership with the local health department and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Wendy led planning efforts that engaged 29 municipalities and 3,000 stakeholders in the development of the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System. Prior to her work at the Freshwater Land Trust, Wendy spent eight years as Director of Land Protection and Government Relations with the Alabama Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Wendy is a native of Alabama, who still enjoys life on her family's farm just outside of Birmingham.

Maria Janowiak, Deputy Director, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science – Maria Janowiak is a trained forester and Deputy Director of the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science. She is also coordinator for the New England Climate Change Response Framework, serving New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Maria has been working with land managers on issues related to climate change and adaptation since 2007.

Kip Kolesinskas, Consulting Conservation Scientist, CT Dept. of Agriculture – Current projects include assisting UConn Extension, CT Dept. of Agriculture, NGOs, and private individuals with farmland protection, land access and affordability for new and beginning farmers, farmland restoration, and climate change adaptation strategies. Formerly USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Soil Scientist for Connecticut and Rhode Island, where he worked extensively with farmers, educators, government and nonprofits to help them protect soil, water and other natural resources, and to use soils information to make better informed land use decisions.

Honor Lawler, Field Representative, The Trust for Public Land – Honor Lawler, Field Representative for The Trust for Public Land, works on conservation projects in both Connecticut and New Hampshire. She joined The Trust for Public Land in August of 2015. Before joining The Trust for Public Land, Honor worked for the State of Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program and the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, working on farmland preservation projects throughout the state.

Connie Manes, Kent Land Trust, Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, and Land Trust Alliance – Connie leads the accredited Kent Land Trust as its Executive Director, and manages the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, a Regional Conservation Partnership of 24 land trusts in northwest Connecticut. Connie assists nonprofit conservation organizations throughout the Northeast with implementing Land Trust Standards & Practices by providing organizational assessment, strategic planning, policy development, and accreditation counseling; since 2013 she has served as the Land Trust Alliance's Circuit Rider in CT. Connie is a Steering Committee member of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council and chairs its Training and Education Subcommittee. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Pace University and a Juris Doctorate from New York University School of Law. Connie chairs Kent's Conservation Commission and is past Secretary of the Board of New Milford's Village Center for the Arts.

Spencer Meyer, Senior Conservationist, Highstead – Dr. Spencer Meyer is a senior conservationist at Highstead, where he builds partnerships to develop conservation finance strategies to accelerate New England forest conservation. As an interdisciplinary scientist Spencer also conducts research on landscape ecology, land protection trends, and ecosystem services. He joined Highstead in 2016 and is an associate at Harvard Forest. Previously, Spencer worked jointly at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and The Nature Conservancy. Before that, Spencer spent 12 years in Maine, working on sustainable forestry research with academic, forest industry, and conservation partners. He earned Ph.D. and M.S. degrees from the University of Maine and an A.B. from Dartmouth College. Spencer serves on the steering committee for the Conservation Finance Network, the management committee for Dartmouth's Second College Grant (a 27,000-acre multiple-use property in northern New Hampshire), and is a scientific advisor to the Forest Society

of Maine. Spencer lives in Guilford, CT with his wife and two sons, all of whom frequent the wonderful open space Guilford Land Conservation Trust has protected.

Elisabeth Moore, Executive Director, Connecticut Farmland Trust – Elisabeth Moore is Executive Director of Connecticut Farmland Trust, CFT is the only statewide land trust dedicated to permanently protecting Connecticut's working family farms. Prior to being promoted to executive director, she was Director of Conservation at CFT and closed on 32 easement deals totaling 2,353 acres. Prior to joining CFT, Moore worked for the Trust for Public Land in New Haven, where she protected over 800 acres of critical farm, forest, historic and environmentally sensitive lands. As a project manager, she raised \$1.8 million in public and private funds and managed a referendum campaign for a \$2 million a municipal open space fund. Moore is on the Steering Committee for Working Lands Alliance (since 2006), City Seed Board of Directors (since 2012), Watershed Fund Board of Directors (since 2004), and CLCC Steering Committee (since 2014). She earned an A.B. cum laude from Bowdoin College and Master of Regional Planning from University of North Carolina with a concentration in land use and environmental planning.

George Moore, Executive Director, Lyme Land Conservation Trust – George Moore has a background in sales and marketing. Although a novice at video photography, he quickly discovered that skills he possessed in communications and organization as well as a love of storytelling were important in creating an effective video. He has participated in the creation of two: one for broadcast on PBS, the other to tell the story of the Land Trusts' pioneers and founders. As Executive Director, Moore oversees the creation of the Trust's communications materials – newsletters, website and administers the successful membership program in addition to organizing a highly successful charity cycling event – Tour de Lyme each May.

Colleen Murphy-Dunning, Executive Director, Urban Resources Initiative – Colleen Murphy-Dunning is the Director of the Hixon Center for Urban Ecology and the Urban Resources Initiative (URI) at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (F&ES). URI carries out community based forestry as a strategy to improve both social cohesion and the physical environment. At the Hixon Center, Colleen administers a range of research projects conducted in cities across the globe. Colleen also partners with faculty to lead a field based module on urban ecology for all incoming Yale F&ES graduate students. Prior to coming to Yale University in 1995, she taught agroforestry at the Kenya Forestry College and reviewed natural resource operations in Papua New Guinea for the Rainforest Action Network. Colleen received her B.S. in Public and Environmental Affairs from Indiana University, and M.S. in Forestry from Humboldt State University.

Tom Mullin, Associate Professor of Parks and Forest Resources, Unity College – Tom Mullin joined the faculty of Unity College in 1999 where he is currently an Associate Professor of Parks and Forest Resources. He was a founder of the National Association for Interpretation, is a Life Member and received the Association's Fellow Award in 2004. Over the years he has worked for county, state and federal park agencies, been the Executive Director of two different land trusts and coordinator for Maine Project Learning Tree. He is a long-time board member, current Secretary/ member of the executive committee and board of directors for NAI. Tom serves as chair of the Waldo County Trails Coalition, as well as board member of the Maine Woods Forever Roundtable and Advisory Council for the Friends of Sears Island and serves on the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Stewardship Council.

Dick O'Brien, Partner, Conservation Works – As a life-long hiker and snowshoer with a Masters in Forestry, Dick O'Brien has been outside all his life. He has over 40 years of trail stewardship experience designing, planning, estimating and building new trails, maintaining existing trails, and training and working with volunteers and staffs of numerous organizations and communities. Dick is an active advocate for trails, trail funding and the trail community within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is one of the principal organizers of the Mass Trails Conference. He is a member of the Mass Recreational Trails Advisory Board, the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition and his local community trail stewards. He has conducted numerous advanced workshops on sustainable and accessible trail building, which is the focus of his trail work today for Conservation Works LLC. He has completed trail projects for the Mass Division of

Conservation & Recreation, The Trustees of Reservations, and numerous municipalities and local and regional land trusts and private institutions.

Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council – Amy Blaymore Paterson joined the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) in 2010 as its first Executive Director. Working with the CLCC Steering Committee, Amy provides the Connecticut conservation community with technical assistance, training and advocacy to further advance permanent land conservation across the state. Before joining CLCC, Amy served as a Project Manager for The Trust for Public Land and worked for over twenty years as an attorney, concentrating her practice in land preservation and environmental protection.

Hank Petroskey, Director, North Branford Land Conservation Trust – Hank Petroskey is a 4-year member of the North Branford Land Conservation Trust. Within a few months of joining the LT, he led the effort to create the first ever Investment Committee. Hank has also taken on the role of Art Contest Coordinator, in involving the NB community, especially the school children, in submitting outdoor related artwork. Additional activities include, being a Board Member, working with the Land Stewardship Committee, coordinating an Eagle Scout Project, and presenting to other town organizations. Before his retirement, in 2013, Hank worked for United Illuminating for 33 years in IT and Project Management.

Ron Pitz, Executive Director, KNOX, Inc. – Ron Pitz is the Executive Director of Knox, Inc, a community strengthening nonprofit organization that improves the lives of Hartford residents through horticulture. Under Ron’s leadership, Knox has set aside 30 acres in Hartford through purchase, land donations and licence agreements for Community Gardens and Urban Farming. Over 400 gardeners grow their own food on this protected land and our Beginning Farmer Program in conjunction with UConn teaches budding urban farmers how to increase their yields and connect with Farmers Markets, CT. Department of Agriculture and other resources to create small businesses. Knox also manages a Workforce Development Program that teaches inner city Hartford young adults Green Job Skills such as landscaping and horticulture and places them in full time jobs. Ron also worked successfully to preserve one of the last working farms in Bloomfield. He has a degree in Horticulture and Business, is a Master Gardener, Master Wildlife Conservationist and a professional musician.

Roger Reynolds, Legal Director, Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound – Roger Reynolds is the Legal Director for Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Save the Sound. He directs matters in federal and state court and administrative agencies to protect Long Island Sound and the land, air and water of Connecticut. He is also an adjunct professor at University of Connecticut School of Law where he established and teaches the Environmental Law Clinic and teaches Negotiation. Before joining CFE/Save the Sound, Roger was an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut where he was lead counsel for the state on numerous environmental, consumer protection, and antitrust cases. He clerked for Justice Richard N. Palmer on the Connecticut Supreme Court and received his J.D. from NYU Law School.

Eli Roberts, Eli Roberts, Conservation Fellow, Pinchot Institute for Conservation – Eli is a forester and conservation fellow based in Philadelphia. He coordinates the Common Waters Partnership in the Delaware River watershed. He has a Master of Forestry degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and is the author of a forthcoming book chapter on agroforestry practices for the Northeastern United States. He is excited about managed woodlands as part of a diverse, beautiful, and useful landscape.

Deidre Sassano, M.F.A, Figure Sculpture, New York Academy of Art – Deidre Sassano loves Coyotes, Wolves , and ALL animals. Her art background is a B.F.A. in Illustration from R.I. School of Design, and an M.F.A. in Figure Sculpture from the N.Y. Academy of Art. She worked for years in NYC making puppets, props and specialty costumes for television (SNL, NBC, ABC, CBS, MTV, FuseTv, Comedy Central,) and theater (Broadway Wicked!, and off Broadway -Irish Repetory Theatre, Princeton Theatre). She teaches at the Wethersfield Senior Center and Newington Rapid Rehab and Recovery, and understand the healing, uplifting and transformative impact of creative arts. She teaches Portrait sculpture, figure

sculpture, figure structure (anatomy for artists), making magical creatures , character and creature design- sculpture-fabrication. She has also done character design for a video game, and sculpted stop motion animation puppets.

Bilal Dabir Sekou, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Hartford – Bilal Dabir Sekou is an Associate Professor of Political Science in Hillyer College at the University of Hartford. His research interests are race and politics, urban politics, and campaigns, elections, and voting behavior. He has published articles on social and political participation by African Americans and public attitudes toward quality and integrated education in Connecticut. Sekou was born in Detroit, Michigan. He received a BS in public administration and governmental economics from Eastern Michigan University, and earned his Ph.D. in political science from The Ohio State University. He has been teaching at the University of Hartford since the summer of 2002. A social and racial justice scholar-activist, Sekou sits on the Board of Directors of several organizations, including Common Cause in Connecticut, the Connecticut Center for a New Economy, and the Connecticut News Project.

Sarah Shrewsbury, Principal, Vineyard Consulting – Sarah Shrewsbury started Vineyard Consulting to help nonprofits throughout New England and New York start or enhance their major gift fundraising programs. Sarah applies her two decades of experience as a major gift officer for organizations such as Yale University (13 years- three years at F&ES), Mystic Seaport, The Nature Conservancy of CT and AmeriCares to help nonprofit organizations to identify, cultivate, solicit and close major gift donors. Sarah earned her BA from Tufts University and is a former board member of the Guilford Land Conservation Trust.

Robert Simmons, Chief Hydrogeologist, HRP Associates, Vice President, Northeastern Cave Conservancy – Bob Simmons is the Chief Hydrogeologist for HRP Associates, Inc. an engineering and environmental consulting firm in Farmington, CT. Bob is a Connecticut Licensed Environmental Professional and a licensed Professional Geologist in eight states. Bob has over 28 years of experience in environmental consulting and has performed/supervised environmental due diligence investigations throughout the US and across the globe. In his spare time, Bob is the Vice President of the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. a regional land trust and advocacy organization dedicated to the preservation of cave and karst lands in the northeastern US.

Christina Smith, Executive Director, Groundwork Bridgeport - Christina Smith is a Bridgeport, CT native that has lived on and off in the city since she was born. She graduated from Princeton University in 1999 where she obtained a BA in Economics after which she worked in the financial industry for just over a decade before leaving to attend graduate school to pursue her childhood dream of being a part of restoring her hometown's former glory. Her graduate studies took her to London where she obtained an MA in Historical and Sustainable Architecture, which focused on the adaptive reuse of buildings, as well as a MSc in Urban Regeneration, which focused on the holistic renewal of cities that have fallen into decline. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Groundwork Bridgeport whose mission in short is to beautify and revitalize the city while providing youth with the opportunity to learn and engage with their community.

Rob Smith, Board Member, Eightmile River Wild & Scenic State Park Coordinating Committee, EHLT – Rob has over 45 years of experience with trail planning and management. He served 33 years with the State Park System as a State Park Supervisor. Currently he is a board member on the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee, vice president of the East Haddam Land Trust, chairman of the East Haddam Land Trust and a member of the East Haddam Open Space Committee. Rob holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry.

Edward B. Spinella, Attorney, Reid & Reige – Edward B. Spinella is a member of the firm's Business Law Practice Area and Chair of the firm's Nonprofit Organizations Practice Area. His practice focuses on providing general counsel services to tax-exempt organizations and closely held businesses. Ed has cultivated a familiarity with the culture of tax-exempt organizations by regularly speaking to nonprofit executives, volunteer fiduciaries and advisors through various educational forums. He has also been an actively engaged member of the Connecticut Bar Association's LLC Act Subcommittee and its anticipated overhaul of the Connecticut Limited Liability Company Act.

Graham Stevens, Office Director, CT DEEP Office of Constituent Affairs & Land Management – Graham Stevens is the Office Director of Constituent Affairs and Land Management at Connecticut DEEP –responsible for the Department’s Land Acquisition and Management, Brownfields, Environmental Justice, and Indian Affairs programs. Prior to his current role, Graham served as Chief of Staff to both Commissioner Amey Marrella and Commissioner Gina McCarthy and worked for nine years in the Department’s Remediation Division on Brownfield redevelopment issues.

David Stygar, Environmental Analyst, CT DEEP – David Stygar is a Senior Environmental Analyst and has been with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) for 32 years, serving as coordinator/administrator for federal and state-funded programs that preserve open space, develop recreational facilities and enhance the outdoor recreational experience for the public. He has had creative and extensive experiences working within the State, with municipalities, regional planning agencies, and the federal government in order to help municipalities receive funds for a variety of conservation, infrastructure and public access initiatives.

David Sutherland, Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter – David has been the Director of Government Relations with the Nature Conservancy’s Connecticut Chapter for the past 25 years, and has been the co-leader of the Chapter’s Diversity and Inclusion initiative for the past three years. He is a member of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council’s Steering Committee.

Jamie Sydoriak, Property Agent, CT DEEP Office of Constituent Affairs/Land Management – Jamie works in the Land Acquisition and Management Unit at Connecticut DEEP where she administers property management programs and revised the State Comprehensive Open Space Acquisition Strategy. She received her M.S. degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Plymouth State University, and her graduate research focused on grassland bird habitat conservation on privately-owned lands. Her research launched landowner outreach initiatives in the Upper Connecticut River Valley that are now led by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

David Unger, President, Unger & Associates, LLC – David Unger, President of Unger & Associates LLC has been in the nonprofit world for over 30 years. Unger has been raising money for organizations as an Agency Executive director (19 years) and as a consultant since 2003, specializing in small to midsize organizations. At his last full time position Unger took their annual appeal from \$350,000 to almost \$750,000 in three years. In 2009, Unger & Associates LLC purchased Total Community Manager to round out the services available to nonprofits and Land Trusts around the country and to reinforce the model of Relationship Based Fundraising.

John Volin, Head of the Department of NRE, Director, UConn Environmental Sciences Program – John Volin is the Head of the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment and the Director of UConn’s Environmental Sciences program. He is also the Associate Director of the newly created Eversource Energy Center. In 2010, John founded and directs the Natural Resources Conservation Academy.

Rebecca Washburn, New England Program Manager, Land Trust Alliance – Rebecca Washburn is the New England Program Manager for the Land Trust Alliance. Prior to joining the Alliance, Becca served as Stowe Land Trust’s Assistant Director for six years, managing stewardship and outreach programs among many other duties including helping the land trust achieve accreditation. Her earlier career was focused on stewardship and land protection at the Green Mountain Club and the VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. A native of mid-coast Maine, Becca received her B.A. in Anthropology with a concentration in archaeology from Bard College in 1999.

John Weedon, Conservation Manager, CT Farmland Trust – John S. Weedon is the Conservation Manager for Connecticut Farmland Trust. He manages the stewardship program (monitoring, easement violations, reserved rights approval) and works with the executive director on easements acquisitions. He serves on the Manchester Conservation Commission (Chair), Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development (Vice-President), and North Central Conservation District Board. He holds a Master of Science in Natural Resources & Environmental Science degree from the University of Illinois.

Cam Weimar, Director of Farmland Preservation, CT Department of Agriculture – Cam Weimar directs the farmland preservation programs for the State of Connecticut, including community farms, farmland restoration, and CT Farmlink. Cam has been an urban planning professor, planning consultant, land trust director, and a municipal planner. He holds a doctorate in Natural Resources Planning from the University of Michigan and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Virginia.

Kim Welch, Partner, Aegis Wealth Partners – Kim Welch has over 25 years of experience in the insurance and financial services industry. Previously in her career Kim was Vice President with AXA Equitable and National Sales Manager for MassMutual Financial Group. She has spoken at industry events focusing on financial protection strategies for businesses and families. Kim is an Investment Advisor Representative of Park Avenue Securities and brings the full resources of National Financial Network to each of her clients. Kim is an Honors graduate of Brown University and the Graduate School of Credit and Financial Management. Over the last 15 years she has served on philanthropic boards including Phillips Exeter Academy and 10 years on the board of the Connecticut chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Presently she serves as First Vice President of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors and chairs the Development and Marketing Committee. She is an avid equestrian and certified yoga instructor.

Peter Westover, Partner, Conservation Works – Pete Westover is senior partner in Conservation Works. He has worked on trail development projects for several decades, including the planning and construction of the 47-mile Robert Frost Trail in western Mass, the Amherst (MA) Literary Trail System, and new trail systems for the Hitchcock Center and Hampshire College. His BS is from Oberlin College and his Masters is from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He has founded and served on the boards of numerous land trusts and is currently on the Mass Board of the Conservation Law Foundation of New England, the Building Committee of the Hitchcock Center, and the board of Whately Land Preservation. He has authored "Managing Conservation Land in Massachusetts" and co-edited "Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts" and "Harvesting History." He teaches land conservation courses at Hampshire College and previously taught at Antioch New England and served as Amherst (MA) Conservation Director for many years.

Kara Whelan, Vice President, Westchester Land Trust – Kara Hartigan Whelan, Vice President, Westchester Land Trust – Kara works with regional and local leaders to build support and capacity for conservation projects that promote local agriculture and land preservation as methods for strengthening community resilience and wellness. She directs WLT's programs, communications, development, and landowner engagement initiatives. Kara serves as co-coordinator of the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2HRCP.ORG) an interstate collaboration of CT & NY conservation groups working to advance regional land conservation priorities. Kara received a MS in Natural Resource Policy from the University of Michigan and holds a BS in Environmental Geoscience from Boston College.

Harry White, Conservation Director and Ecologist, CCT, SLT, SLTA – Harry White is the Conservation Director and Ecologist at Cornwall Conservation Trust, Sharon Land Trust, and the Salisbury Association Land Trust in Northwest Connecticut and the Consulting Ecologist at Northeast Wilderness Trust, a Forever Wild land trust specializing in large-block conservation across New England. He is a Yale-trained scientist and has been engaged in acquisitions and stewardship of wild ecosystems and working lands since 1998. He has been involved in the preservation of over 25,000 acres in New England and has written over 200 ecological and baseline studies and management plans for preserves ranging to over 7500 acres. Equipped with a deep understanding of the challenges that face land trusts, White has long been exploring innovative methods to improve science and land management work in the conservation community. He and his wife Ann Marie and their two German shepherd dogs live on Sandy Brook at the edge of Algonquin State Forest in Colebrook.

Emily Wilson, Geospatial Extension Educator, UConn CLEAR – Emily Wilson is a geospatial educator at the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use and Research. She has been with UConn for 16 years and is involved in a variety of remote sensing and GIS projects as well as web work with the goal of providing easy access to geospatial information

and maps. Emily got her bachelors from Connecticut College and MS from the University of Maine in Forestry and Remote Sensing.

Dr. J. Melvin Woody, Chairman, CT River Gateway Commission – Dr. J. Melvin Woody, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, taught philosophy at Connecticut College from 1963 through 2005. He received his B.A. from Yale College and his M.A. and PhD from Yale University. As a conservationist, Dr. Woody has been involved in countless organizations through the years. Among others, he is currently an active member of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust and has been a member of the Gateway Commission and its predecessor Gateway Committee since the very beginning, which totals 46 years! He is currently the chairman of the Commission.

Anthony Zemba, Environmental Specialist, Fitzgerald & Halliday –Anthony Zemba is an Environmental Specialist with Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc., a Hartford-based planning firm. He has over 28 years of professional experience in environmental planning and science. His areas of expertise include environmental impact assessment; environmental permitting; fish & wildlife inventory, monitoring and habitat assessments/characterizations; wetland functions & values assessments; conservation planning; and ecological restoration. Mr. Zemba holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Ecology from Eastern CT State University; a Master of Science degree in Ecology/Environmental Science from the University of New Haven, a Regional Soil Science Certificate from the University of Massachusetts, and is recognized as a Certified Ecologist by the Ecological Society of America. Mr. Zemba is currently assisting Audubon CT with the Connecticut Wetland In Lieu Fee grant funding program process.

Patricia Young, Program Director, Eightmile River and Salmon River Watersheds – Patricia Young: Pat is presently the Program Director for the Eightmile River and Salmon River Watersheds. She has held previous positions with both Eastern and North Central Conservation Districts and also worked in municipal land-use with the towns of Waterford and Madison. She holds Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resource Management and a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Education.