2020 CONNECTICUT LAND CONSERVATION (VIRTUAL) CONFERENCE

Connecting the Dots, Taking Action: The Pandemic, Health, Justice, and Climate Change

Saturday, October 17, 2020
9:30am - 4:30pm
WELCOME TO THE 2020 CONNECTICUT LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Connecting the Dots, Taking Action: The Pandemic, Health, Justice, and Climate Change

This year has been like no other. The climate crisis, global protests over racial injustice, and the coronavirus pandemic has shaken the world to its core. These crises have taught us that we are intricately bound to one another, and to the health of our natural environment, regardless of the miles that may separate us. They have served to reveal some hard truths about our communities – including our land conservation work – where systemic racism and inequities have left too many people behind.

They have underscored the harsh reality that our current patterns of living on this earth are not sustainable. They have mobilized generations of activists screaming, “Enough is enough!” They are an urgent call to action.

At this year’s Connecticut Land Conservation (Virtual) Conference, we will examine the integral convergence of environmental degradation, health, climate change, and social justice to talk about the essential role that your land conservation work plays in making the world a better, healthier, and more sustainable place to live for generations to come.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

9:30 am MORNING SESSION WELCOME
Supply, Demand & Marketing in Land Conservation

Mason Trumble, CT DEEP Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Conservation

9:45 am PANEL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION
Connecting the Dots, Taking Action: The Pandemic, Health, Justice, and Climate Change

Felicia Keesing, David and Rosalie Rose Distinguished Professor of the Sciences, Mathematics, & Computing, Bard College: “Where Pandemics Come From - and How to Stop Them”


Raei Bridges, Founder & CEO, The Rusty Anvil & Co-Chair Berkshire Branch NAACP Environmental Climate Justice Committee: “Saving Our Forests: Clean Air During COVID and Climate Change”

12:15 pm LUNCH SESSION Q&A
Bringing Good Food to All

Raquel Rivera, Culinary Instructor, Chef & Owner, A Pinch of Salt

2:15 pm AFTERNOON SESSION WELCOME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS
A New Narrative

Rue Mapp, Founder/CEO, Outdoor Afro

3:30 pm 2020 EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION AWARDS CELEBRATION
MORNING SESSION PANELISTS

FELICIA KEEISING
David & Rosalie Rose Distinguished Professor of the Sciences, Mathematics, & Computing, Bard College
Where Pandemics Come From – and How to Stop Them

Felicia Keesing is a biologist at Bard College who studies the consequences of interactions among species, particularly as biodiversity declines. Much of her recent work focuses on how species diversity influences the probability that humans and other animals will be exposed to infectious diseases. In addition, she has worked in Kenya for over 20 years studying how the disappearance of elephants, giraffes, zebras, and other large mammals influences the way African savannas function.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

RUE MAPP
Founder & CEO, Outdoor Afro
A New Narrative

Rue Mapp is the Founder and CEO of Outdoor Afro, a national not-for-profit organization with offices in Oakland, CA, and Washington, D.C. Rue oversees a carefully selected and trained national volunteer leadership team of nearly 90 men and women who represent 30 states around the US, and shares opportunities to build a broader community and leadership in nature. Her important work has generated widespread national recognition and support. Rue’s skills and background make her a unique voice via the leadership and programs she has instituted through her career, enlightening a diverse community to the wonders and benefits of the outdoors.

GUEST SPEAKER

MASSON TRUMBLE
CT DEEP Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Conservation
Supply, Demand & Marketing in Land Conservation

Deputy Commissioner Mason Trumble is an outdoor educator with expertise in promoting and expanding access to outdoor recreation through innovative partnerships between public and private sectors. Mason is the founder of the Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Alliance – a coalition of organizations focused on protecting and promoting Connecticut’s outdoor recreation resources. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business and a master’s degree in outdoor education.
RAEI BRIDGES
Founder & CEO, The Rusty Anvil & Co-Chair Berkshire Branch NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee
Saving Our Forests: Clean Air During COVID and Climate Change

Raei Bridges (he/they) is a mindful outdoor guide and wilderness first responder and the Founder of The Rusty Anvil. Through this organization he focuses on connecting people of color and LGBTQ+ communities to nature as a partner in ancestral healing, self-discovery, and community building through mindful wilderness trips while also serving as a platform for cultural transformation. He serves as co-chair of the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee with the Berkshire Branch NAACP and works with the Elizabeth Freeman Center's LGBTQ+ Committee, and the Berkshire Pride Committee.

RAQUEL RIVERA
Culinary Instructor, Chef & Owner, A Pinch of Salt
Bringing Good Food to All

Chef Raquel Rivera is a culinary instructor and owner of A Pinch of Salt. She graduated with highest honors from the Institute of Culinary Education after completing her externship at Le Bernardin in NYC. Chef Raquel was recognized for her work with City Harvest and teaching the Cooking Matters curriculum with an invitation to be a founding chef of Mrs. Obama’s Let’s Move! Initiative! As a Bridgeport resident Chef Raquel is passionate about educating the community on healthy eating, and she provides cooking classes for children and adults at various organizations, as well as at-home cooking classes and private cooking events in NYC and Fairfield County. Chef Raquel is a proud to be Co-Chair of the Bridgeport Food Policy Council and an active member of the Bridgeport Farmers Market Collaborative and Green Village Initiative.

Read full bios of this year’s speakers at www.ctconservation.org
2020 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN LAND CONSERVATION

KATCHEN COLEY AWARD  
DENNIS L. KERN, ESQ. - PRESIDENT, BERLIN LAND TRUST

Dennis has been and continues to be a committed, consistent, long-term and determined advocate for the conservation of open space and wetlands. He is the founding member of the all-volunteer Berlin Land Trust in February 1988, a continuous member for 32 years and President since 1997. Dennis was directly involved with the acquisition of all 43 open space land parcels currently held in perpetuity by the Berlin Land Trust with total combined acreage of 396 acres.

EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION AWARD  
UCONN NATURAL RESOURCES ACADEMY (NRCA)

For the past 7 years, UConn’s Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) team has been empowering teens, adult volunteers, undergraduate & graduate students, and teachers statewide by providing professional development & leadership opportunities and supporting participant-led community conservation efforts. The NRCA has provided a direct assist to land conservation work statewide and helped foster the next generation of environmental stewards.

2020 CONNECTICUT LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL  
CONSERVATION HERO  
KEVIN CASE

Over the last 25+ years, Kevin has been dedicated to conservation in Connecticut. Starting in 1994 at the Farmington River Watershed Association, he then worked for the National Park Service before ultimately ending up at the Land Trust Alliance as their Eastern Director of Field Programs. Along the way, he played a foundational role in the growth and excellence of CLCC serving as Board Chair and then Treasurer. He has recently taken his many talents to become the President and CEO of the Mohonk Preserve in upstate New York.

2020 CONNECTICUT LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
DAVID SUTHERLAND

A founding member of CLCC, David is retiring this year after serving 30 years as the Director of Government Relations with The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) CT Chapter. David’s career consists of innumerable accomplishments in land conservation. David was key to a coalition effort that successfully lobbied for the enactment of the Community Investment Act. For the past several years, he has also been a Diversity and Equity trainer and leader for TNC. David has worked tirelessly to make our corner of the earth cleaner, healthier, more beautiful and sustainable, for all of us, and for those who come next.

Read full bios of this year's award winners at www.ctconservation.org
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Earlier this year, we made the decision to postpone the 2020 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference originally scheduled in March. We moved forward with the educational portion of the conference through *Conserving Land by Staying Connected*, a series of interactive roundtables and webinars on topics of interest to our community. Many of you allowed us to retain your conference registration fee as a donation toward conference losses, the implementation of *Conserving Land by Staying Connected*, and other program expenses of CLCC. For this, we say, "Thank you!" We could not have done this without your support during these tumultuous times.

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Joellen Anderson  
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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION
OUR MISSION
The Connecticut Land Conservation Council advocates for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and works to ensure the long-term strength and viability of the land conservation community in Connecticut.

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