

# EARTH DAY



# EVERY DAY

## A Guide to Earthfest CT 2024



# 2024



# Table of Contents

2

Table of Contents (Page 2)  
Organizational Descriptions (Page 3)  
Performers & Setlist (Page 13)  
Food Vendors (Page 14)  
Contact Our Board (Page 15)  
2024 Sponsors (Page 16)  
Thank You (Page 17)



May 18 - 11AM - 3PM



# 2024

McCook Point Park, Niantic, CT





## Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide

3

*Save the River-Save the Hills* is a non-profit 501(c)(3) grassroots environmental organization based on the Niantic River Estuary in Waterford and East Lyme, Connecticut. Our organization is dedicated to preserving the health of the Niantic River Estuary, its Watershed and the natural beauty of the Oswegatchie Hills and the other forests in the Niantic River Watershed. We run a Pumpout Boat to keep highly concentrated marine sewage from our River and Bay, advocate for the preservation of the Niantic River watershed's forests to keep our water clean, conduct water quality testing of the river and its tributaries to identify trouble spots, educate about Watersheds like we are here today with our enviroscape and work with like minded organizations like the Niantic River Watershed Committee and our local towns to conduct studies and programs to help keep our Niantic River and Bay healthy.

*East Lyme Public Library* invites you to take part in our free summer reading programs for babies through adults. Join the Summer Reading Incentive program and earn prizes for reading books! Sign-ups start on June 13 and continue through August 13. Starting Tuesday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. there will be free, library sponsored Family Fun Shows right here at McCook Point Park. You will be entertained by magicians, jugglers and musical performers. Come to Mermaid Storytime at the Hole-in-the-Wall Beach on Thursday mornings at 10:00 starting on June 22. The beach programs are co-sponsored by the East Lyme Public Library and East Lyme Parks & Recreation. Be sure to visit the East Lyme Public Library Storybook Trail which is located on the perimeter of Samuel M. Peretz Park. This summer's books will be *Dozens of Doughnuts* by Carrie Finison, and *Flamingos are Pretty Funky* by Abi Cushman. Visit the Library's website for the full list of summer programs for all ages.





## Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide

4

*Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center* located in Mystic, CT, is a combination wildlife sanctuary, natural history museum, and educational facility highlighting the habitats of southeastern Connecticut. Our mission is to inspire and nurture appreciation and scientific understanding of the natural world and foster a personal environmental ethic. We offer a variety of interesting and informative environmental education programs and hikes for all ages, year-round. Our attractions include exhibits in our Natural History Museum, a Nature Center Store featuring gifts and books for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages, and our Nature Preschool. We maintain an interconnected system of hiking trails on land owned by the Denison Homestead and Avalonia Land Conservancy.

*The Giving Garden at Coogan Farm - The Robert G. Youngs Foundation* provided the seed money to the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center to create a garden at the Coogan Farm that grows Organic produce for donation to food insecure people throughout the region. In 2015, the farm was expanded to 30,000 square feet. Volunteers garden the plots, and the food grown goes to the United Way. The United Way distributes it via feeding centers and its Mobile Food Pantry - which distributes food to 63 programs that serve 91 feeding sites across New London County.





## Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide

5

*Soroptimist (said "Sor-Optimist")* - is an international volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls, internationally and locally. The Connecticut Shoreline club chartered in December 2016 and is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas. CT Shoreline members join with almost 80,000 Soroptimists in about 120 countries and territories to contribute time and financial support to community-based projects benefiting women and girls. Soroptimist, a 501(c)(3) organization that relies on charitable donations to support its programs, including the "Dream It, Be It" program, focused on empowering girls during high school years, and the Live Your Dream scholarship award to support a female head of household who is going to school.

*Three Belles Marina* – a certified Green Marina will be having their first Children's Camp. Although they couldn't be here today, find their camp brochures at Save the River-Save the Hills' tent!

*Old Lyme Land Trust* – The OLLT is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving Old Lyme's natural, scenic and historic land and water resources for the benefit of the public now and for generations to come. The Trust accomplishes its purpose by acquiring land through donation and purchase, managing the land and by providing education to the public.



# Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide 6

*Lyme Land Trust* – The Lyme Land trust mission is to conserve in perpetuity for the public benefit Lyme’s natural, scenic and historic land and water resources by: acquiring and stewarding real properties and conservation easements; supporting open space acquisition by third parties; facilitating scientific study and management of our resources; and educating the community regarding the natural world and the benefits of conservation. We welcome everybody to come and enjoy our 54 trails and learn about our stars at our observatory where we hold monthly viewings!

*Millstone’s Environmental Lab* - “Millstones commitment to Environmental Stewardship ensures that we are protecting our natural resources while continually seeking ways to improve the station’s environmental performance. I have been provided many opportunities for learning and growth and am excited to participate in the future of Millstone Power Station. In the Environmental Lab, we truly are a team - sharing knowledge and skills as we safely work together to monitor the marine biological communities surrounding the plant.” – Susan Gonzalez, Biologist

*Niantic Children’s Museum* is an interactive, hands-on, educational place for children to try on new roles, let their imaginations soar and feel safe while exploring the world around them. With 5,000 square feet – all on one floor – and outdoor plays pace, nearly all is wheelchair accessible. We engage, encourage, and challenge children from 9 months to 9 years in the arts, sciences, and world cultures.





## Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide

7

*Avalonia Land Conservancy* - founded in 1968, ALC is a land trust dedicated to conservation through the acquisition of open space. It is a non-profit, non-political, tax-exempt organization. We believe that the conservation of natural resources for the benefit of people and wildlife is essential and will ensure healthy and livable communities for generations to come. Avalonia now conserves 5000 acres of land, preserved in perpetuity. Where appropriate, trails are maintained for passive enjoyment including hiking, birdwatching, nature study, and photography.

We ask that you take only pictures and leave only footprints. Educational activities and scientific studies are encouraged on Avalonia preserves. We depend almost entirely on volunteers and contributions to maintain our preserves and to fund our operations. Avalonia's volunteers and members are your neighbors, working tirelessly and giving generously to conserve our local natural resources for the common good.

*Avalonia's Mission:*

We preserve natural habitats in southeastern Connecticut by acquiring and protecting lands and communicating the value of these irreplaceable resources.

*Healthy PlanEat* - is a small business based in East Lyme which connects people directly to local farms committed to sustainable growing practices and local food artisans. You can order online from dozens of local sustainable vendors at [www.healthyplaneat.com](http://www.healthyplaneat.com) Sundays through Thursdays each week and pick up your order right on Liberty Green at the gazebo in Downtown Niantic.



# Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide

8

The Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center (RTPEC) is a regional center of the *Connecticut Audubon Society*. The Connecticut Audubon Society was founded in 1898 and currently manages 22 sanctuaries totaling over 3,400 acres throughout Connecticut. The Connecticut Audubon Society protects Connecticut's birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through conservation, education, and advocacy. The Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center was established in 2014 as a center of the Connecticut Audubon Society. They are located on 5.25 acres on the banks of the Lieutenant River in Old Lyme. Through their education and conservation programming they reach over 8,000 children and adults annually. Stop by their table to find out more about the programs they offer!

*Waterford Public Library* - Located at 49 Rope Ferry Road, the Waterford Public Library offers a robust collection of both physical items and digital resources as well as diverse programs for library users of all ages. And everything is free! Follow the library on Facebook and Instagram and subscribe to our e-newsletter to stay informed about exciting upcoming programs and new services. We are gearing up for an action packed summer and the theme for our summer reading program is Read, Renew, Repeat – perfect for everyone who cares about protecting the earth. Come visit us!

*Sierra Club Connecticut* - Founded in 1972 - is the state-level branch of the organization National Sierra Club, and currently has more than 11,000 supporters which it is honored to call Chapter Member!. Our goals are to:

- Solve the climate crisis primarily through a successful transition to a resource-efficient clean energy economy that better serves people and nature;
- Secure protections for public lands and waters, promote healthy ecosystems and communities, and fight for clean air and water;





# Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide

9

(..continued)

- Expand opportunities for more people to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet by supporting programs and policies that reach across economic, cultural, and community lines to get people outdoors; and
- Build a diverse, inclusive environmental movement that reflects and represents today's American public, and prioritizes important connections between environmental health and social justice.

*CT National Estuary Research Reserve (NERR)* - Designated in 2022, the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 30 Research Reserves in the country that are focused on research, education, and stewardship of estuarine ecosystems. The Long Island Sound provides countless recreational opportunities, serves as a critical habitat for fish and other marine wildlife, and improves the quality of life in Connecticut. With more than 50,000 acres of marsh, upland, and open water in Long Island Sound, Fishers Island Sound, and the lower Connecticut and Thames Rivers, the Reserve provides essential habitat for wildlife, offers educational opportunities for students, teachers and the public, and serves as a living laboratory for scientists. Our vision is to have a resilient, healthy Long Island Sound estuary and watershed where human and natural communities thrive.

*Niantic River Watershed Committee* is a volunteer 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving water quality in the Niantic River and its tributaries. The Committee is comprised of volunteers from the four watershed towns of East Lyme, Montville, Salem and Waterford, and nearby communities. The goal of the Watershed Committee is to restore and preserve the Niantic River and its tributaries so that they fully support all uses, including shell fishing, fishing, swimming and habitat for aquatic-life..



# Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide 10

*Lyman Allyn Art Museum* - The Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London Connecticut houses a collection of over 17,000 objects from ancient times to the present, with particularly strong collections of American paintings and decorative arts. The Lyman Allyn is particularly proud of its commitment to provide art education and cultural enrichment to the youth of our region, with approximately 4,000 children visiting the Museum each year. Visit this summer with your family and enjoy our special exhibitions *Small Wonders: Insects in Focus*, and *Barkley L. Hendricks in New London*. And remember, kids admission is always free!

*Southeastern CT Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRA)* is the waste management and recycling authority for the twelve member municipalities of East Lyme, Griswold, Groton, Ledyard, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Preston, Sprague, Stonington, and Waterford. SCRRA was created in 1984 by joint resolution of those municipalities. The Authority is responsible for implementing solid waste recovery systems, recycling, and disposal services. Revenues generated by Authority operations, primarily disposal fees and investments, provide for the support of the Authority and its operations on a self-sustaining basis. The Authority has contracts with the Member Municipalities that direct all solid waste generated within their boundaries to SCRRA authorized facilities.

*High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center* – At High Hopes, we foster a community where horse and human interactions improve lives, benefitting the bodies, minds and spirits of people with disabilities. High Hopes envisions a future where equine assisted services and programs transform and enrich the lives of our participants and volunteers promoting a more engaged, resilient and fulfilled life.





# Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide 11

*CT Green Bank* – is the first green bank in the nation. A green bank accelerates the green economy using limited public dollars to attract multiples of private capital investment. clean energy is more affordable and accessible to consumers. Established by the Connecticut General Assembly in July 2011, the Connecticut Green Bank supports the Governor's and Legislature's energy strategy to achieve cleaner, less expensive, and more reliable sources of energy while creating jobs and supporting local economic development. In 2021, the Green Bank's model was expanded to include new areas of environmental infrastructure, related to climate adaptation and resiliency, land conservation, parks and recreation, agriculture, water, waste and recycling, and environmental markets, including carbon offsets and ecosystem services.

*Waterford High School Science National Honor Society* - This group is made of a small subset of student volunteers who are members of the Science National Honor Society at Waterford High School. One of the Science National Honor Society's purposes is to aid the public with its comprehension of science and the scientific process through student-led public outreach and community service.

*Kayla's Backyard Honey Hives* - Kayla is a beekeeper, located in Waterford, CT. She started to learn about bees as a hobby and to learn more about the environment. She has learned the ways of the honey bee, has rescued swarms, and has also done speeches to teach others about the life of bees and beekeeping. They play a critical role in the environment and more awareness needs to be brought to them and the role that they play.



# Participating Organizational Descriptions & Guide 12

*East Lyme Natural Resources Commission and Agribusiness Subcommittee.* The East Lyme Natural Resources Commission volunteers work to protect our town's natural assets while informing our community of all they have to offer, including clean water, wildlife habitats, and great recreational opportunities. At the booth there is game to see how many ways everybody can "help the planet". The East Lyme Natural Resources Commission is composed of 7 appointed volunteers with science and engineering backgrounds. Our mission is technical review of the town's natural resources as advisers to the regulatory agencies of the town. These duties take us in many directions: For example, we have completed a review of the town's drinking water resources and risks to its quality and quantity, including ways to minimize contamination from road salt; assessment and ranking of potential open space; review of forest stand farming resources in town; and development of several pollinator meadows, including a town policy promoting native species. The Agribusiness subcommittee offers several free workshops each year, such as how to manage invasive plants, keep chickens and bees, and start a compost system. Information provided at these workshops is posted on the town website. \*Combined with East Lyme Conservation Committee\*

*Pollinator Pathways – East Lyme - Mission:* Establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies and birds.

1) *What is a Pollinator Pathway?* Public and private pesticide-free corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds. Even the smallest green spaces, like flower boxes and curb strips, can be part of a pathway. Each town has its own Pollinator Pathway coordinator.





## Participating Performers & Setlist

13

*Performance by Oswegatchie Elementary  
School Chorus (w/ Emma Taylor)*

**11:00AM**

*A Message from Earth Day Every Day  
President Deb Moshier-Dunn*

**11:30AM**

*A Performance by Steve Elci*

**11:45AM**

*A Performance by Joy Blooms*

**12:30PM**

*A Performance by PBS Kids' SteveSongs*

**1:15PM**

*Live Animals w/ Denison Pequotsepos  
NC & Millstone Environmental Lab*

**2:00PM**

*Festival Over*

**3:00PM**



*The Rolling Tomato*  
[www.therollingtomato.com](http://www.therollingtomato.com)

*Colossal Kielbasa*  
[www.colossalkielbasa.com](http://www.colossalkielbasa.com)

*Illiano's Pizza*  
*(for Volunteers!)*

[www.illianoswaterford.com](http://www.illianoswaterford.com)





## Contact Our Board

15



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# 2024 Sponsors



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# 2024 *thank you*

This amazing event couldn't have been accomplished if it wasn't for the volunteers who committed their creative talent and time toward evolving Earthfest CT these past couple of years.

We thank everyone today for participating in this act of environmental love and compassion.

*Love, Light, and Laughter,  
Team Earth Day Every Day CT*