

# ***Risks, Rewards, and Recreational Liability***

**April 16, 2010**

**8:30 AM – 4:00 PM**

**Northeast Utilities, 107 Selden St., Berlin, CT**

## **AGENDA**

**8:30 - 9:00 Registration & Light Breakfast** (30 minutes)

**9:00 - 9:15 Welcome.** (15 minutes)

Srividya Madhusudhan, Northeast Utilities, Environmental & Property Management;  
Eric Hammerling, CT Forest & Park Association & Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.

**9:15 - 10:00 Overview.** (45 minutes)

Beth Critton, Esq., Shipman & Goodwin, and Paul Sanford, Esq., American Canoe Association.

- 1) Life Is Risky. Risk Can Be Minimized.
- 2) Negligence, Accidents, and Liability.

**10:00 - 11:15 Owners and Actors: Different Concerns** (60 minutes)

This will cover the issues concerned with owning/managing property used for recreation vs. organizing/leading/sponsoring recreational activities.

*Moderator.* Eric Hammerling, Exec. Director, CT Forest and Park Assoc.

*Land Trust Representative.* David Bingham, Salem Land Trust (invited).

*Utilities' Lands Representative.* Rick Street, Esq., Carmody and Torrance, LLP.

*Outdoor Organization Representative.* Tim Linehan, CT Appalachian Mountain Club.

*Paddling Coach and Trips Manager.* Jean Trapani, CT-AMC

*Towns' Expert.* Dan McGuinness, Exec. Dir., NW CT Council of Governments (invited).

**11:15 - 11:30 Break**

**11:30 - 12:30 Law and Liability.** (60 minutes)

Attendees will be invited to pose questions in advance. This discussion will highlight where there are legal problems or gaps in the law that could be fixed. It will touch on federal and state law; the question of who is protected; case law outcomes; natural hazards; special concerns (children, dogs and horses, etc.) *Presenters:* Beth Critton and Paul Sanford.

**12:30 - 1:15 Lunch**

1:15 - 2:15 **Risk Management in Practice.** (60 minutes)

Will cover permitting uses, planning, publicizing, sponsoring, and leading. This group will discuss the practical steps of doing an outing right, with risk maximally managed. Audience will be invited to pose questions or hypotheticals in advance.

*Moderator* Eileen Fielding, Exec. Director, Farmington River Watershed Assoc.  
Aaron Gorban, CT-AMC, Mgr., Leadership Training & Risk Management  
Jean Trapani, CT-AMC  
Eric Hammerling, CT Forest and Park Association  
Larry Liquori, Jacka-Liquori Agency

2:15 - 3:00 **Insurance: What's Needed? What's Available? What Really Works?**

This discussion will cover when you do and don't need insurance and the types of policies that are available. Are there gaps in protection?

*Presenter:* Leslie White, Croydon Consulting.

3:00 - 3:15 **Break**

3:15 - 4:00 **What Needs to be Changed and How Can We Do It?** (45 minutes)

This will cover federal and state law. For example, federal law protects volunteers but not organizations. CT law protects individual property owners who do not charge for use of their property but does not protect towns. Utility lands are not covered. Audience will be invited to make suggestions.

*Moderator* David Wrinn, Esq., CT Atty. General's Office, Environment Department.  
*CT General Assembly Representative* (TBD)  
*Legislative Advocate* Martin Mador, Sierra Club CT Chapter  
*Attorney* Paul Sanford, American Canoe Association.

### ***Conference Steering Committee Members***

William Anthony, *Rivers Alliance of Connecticut*  
Beth Critton, Esq., *Shipman & Goodwin*  
Diane Edwards

Eileen Fielding, *Farmington River Watershed Assoc.*  
Eric Hammerling, *Connecticut Forest & Park Assoc.*

Martin Mador, *Sierra Club, Connecticut Chapter*  
Dwight Merriam, Esq., *Robinson & Cole*

Senator Edward Meyer

Margaret Miner, *Rivers Alliance of Connecticut*  
Paul Sanford, *American Canoe Association*

Jean Trapani, *Connecticut Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club*

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