2016 Legislative Session: 
Budget Misery, But Major Water Work

The state is facing a deficit of approximately $260 million (on a $20 billion budget), while anticipated revenue from taxes is falling short. Thus, a funding misery has colored all issues in this legislative session. As a water steward, Rivers Alliance monitors most closely support for the Clean Water Fund (primarily sewage-treatment projects), land acquisition funds (there is no better protection for water than vegetated open space), and funding for development of the statewide, comprehensive water resources plan that is the responsibility of the state Water Planning Council (WPC).

The mandate to develop a state water plan passed in 2014 (Public Act 14-163). Advocacy by the WPC secured bonding for $500,000 per year for two years. But toward the end of 2015, as the fiscal crisis sharpened, it required quick footwork from the WPC to keep that money from being “swept” into the General Fund. A veritable Fred Astaire may be needed to protect the next $500,000. But the governor’s office, the state agencies, water companies, and environmental advocates are united in a commitment to pursue fair and protective water planning. So there is reasonable optimism (tempered by vigilance).

Rivers Alliance Names Conservation Districts 'Environmental Heroes 2015'

We held our 2015 Annual Meeting on December 2 at the Hartford offices of Robinson & Cole. Many thanks to the law firm — in particular, RC partner and Rivers Alliance Director Dwight Merriam — for offering the use of their space and for providing refreshments. Thanks also to the board members who brought delicious treats for everyone. It was a fun and informative evening.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Rivers Alliance presented its 2015 Environmental Hero Awards to each of the five Conservation Districts in the state as well as to the Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts. The awards were in recognition of the districts’ expert and generous assistance in helping our communities preserve healthy soils and waters. Denise Savageau, head of the Association of Conservation Districts, said that the award was particularly timely because 2015 was the International Year of Soils — and because state funding for the districts is at risk in state budget negotiations. That funding is an important requirement to enable the state to (Continued on page 5)
Reflections on “Flint-proofing”

“Can Flint happen here?” Sadly, we all understand the question. Flint, Michigan has joined those unhappy locations, like Love Canal, whose names refer to famous disasters. This time, it was lead leaching from pipes into a community’s drinking water. Can that happen to us too?

Maybe. It turns out that Flint’s water contamination might have been hard to foresee, even for experts. The inexcusable part was not in failure to see the problem coming — rather, it was the refusal to recognize and act on the problem as soon as it arose. In short, “Flint” can happen anywhere that people in authority don’t respond to a clear signal from the community that something’s wrong.

By supporting Rivers Alliance, you give volume to one of Connecticut’s strongest signalers about threats to our state’s rivers and water. Rivers Alliance can gain the ear of those in authority, in part because of the people RA represents. In these pages, you can see who your fellow concerned citizens are and appreciate the power of your collective voice.

And as usual, you will find updates on complex issues that need attention and comment. Will (supposedly) protected drinking water supply lands in West Hartford and Bloomfield be used for a new gas pipeline? What about allowing a quarry on New Britain’s public water supply land? A state water plan is in the works — how can it serve to protect our rivers? What new legislation needs watching?

Read on! And thank you for making Rivers Alliance a strong messenger for our state’s waters. Flint here? Not if we can help it!

Eileen Fielding, President
Beginning in 2014, under Public Act 14-163, the state embarked on comprehensive water planning. The responsible party is the Water Planning Council (WPC), which is made up of representatives of the four agencies that deal most with water: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Department of Public Health (DPH), Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA), and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). PURA used to be the Department of Public Utility Control but became part of DEEP in 2011 when energy was added to environment in the agency’s mission under the direction of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and then DEEP Commissioner Dan Esty.

The impetus for the creation of a statewide water plan in Public Act 14-163 came from the controversial proposal by the Hartford utility, the Metropolitan District Commission, to supply water from reservoirs in the Farmington River watershed across the state to UConn. This water transfer was opposed by many and led to the question: Doesn’t Connecticut have a plan for water allocation? The answer was, no.

In October 2014, the Water Planning Council approved a year-long contract (MOU) with UConn that assigned UConn Vice President Tom Callahan to manage the first steps in creating a statewide water plan. UConn offered Mr. Callahan’s services pro bono for two days per week. UConn is a major stakeholder in water-supply matters, which has the disadvantage of an appearance of conflict of interest and the advantage of expertise in water policy. In 2015, with the expiration of the MOU, Mr. Callahan retired from UConn and offered to continue to work on water planning as a volunteer. The Water Planning Council welcomed this offer, and Mr. Callahan has continued his service.

By statute, the WPC must appoint and consult with a multi-stakeholder Advisory Group. Since 2001, this Advisory Group has worked on water research and recommendations for management. The group is typically chaired by one representative of water supply interests and one environmental advocate. At this time, the chairs come from Connecticut Water Company (Maureen Westbrook) and Rivers Alliance of Connecticut (Margaret Miner).

Early in 2015, the Water Planning Council created a Steering Committee specifically to work on the state water plan. The Steering Committee is also a multi-stakeholder committee, similar to the Advisory Group but with a broader range of expertise. The Steering Committee includes the Water Planning Council and representatives of the Advisory Group. Here are the members: Beth Barton, Day Pitney; John Betkoski, WPC member, PURA; Larry Bingaman,
twice that would be closer to adequate. For Rivers Alliance, keeping water planning moving forward has been a top goal. Water is the state’s most important natural resource.

HOT WATER
Legislators have been keenly aware of the importance of water this year, as a number of hot water issues came to their committees. If a good water plan were in place, these issues might be referred to the WPC. But the problems were prominent, urgent, and required an immediate response.

Tilcon and New Britain have revived a proposal to rock-mine in Class I and II drinking water lands. Under this proposal, the City of New Britain and its water department would lease 130 acres it owns in Plainville to the Tilcon mining company, which owns and runs an adjacent quarry. Of the acres that would be leased to Tilcon for mining, about 100 are Class I and II land (mostly Class II). Under Connecticut state policy and law, this is the highest priority land for preservation. A bill supporting this project passed in 2007 but was repealed in 2008. Rivers Alliance, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, The Nature Conservancy, the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, and neighbors, of course, led the repeal fight. This year, opposition is strong again, and it seems that lawmakers may opt for a study, and good study criteria have been proposed.

Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and Bloomfield. Near the end of 2015, citizens in Bloomfield discovered that arrangements were just about complete for the construction of a large bottle-manufacturing and bottled-water distribution plant in their town. The manufacturer was to be the California-based Niagara Bottling; the water (up to 1.8 million gallons per day) was to be provided by the MDC at discount rates (lower than those paid by residents); there was no priority protection; and Bloomfield was giving Niagara a $4.1 million tax abatement. The deal went forward almost entirely in secret. The result has been a well-organized citizen protest in Bloomfield and neighboring towns in the MDC service area. Two local legislators, Sen. Beth Bye and Rep. David Baram, introduced bills to prevent this kind of thing from happening in the future. Rivers Alliance fully supports legislation to ban the kind of secrecy in land-use applications that hides the intended owner and intended use of a property. We also strongly supported three legislative measures backed by the highly skilled, motivated, articulate, and effective citizens of Bloomfield. The measures are in Senate Bill 422, and provide that 1) in a water emergency, residents will have priority for water ahead of a water bottling company; 2) no water utility shall give discount rates to a water bottling company; and 3) no water bottling company shall get a discount rate on wastewater treatment (which had been another benefit MDC awarded to Niagara). The Planning and Development Committee passed the legislation with fairly comfortable margins. But everyone expects a fight ahead.

Preservation of state-owned conservation and agricultural land. In recent years, it has become painfully apparent that most state-owned forests, wildlife-management areas, parks, and farmland have no protection from takeovers by the legislature (in the annual Conveyance Act) or via requests to DEEP in cases in which DEEP is under pressure (usually political in nature) to accede. Thus, former state-owned lands end up in the hands of municipalities, businesses, or individuals who are not bound to honor the purposes for which the land was acquired or is being held. Advocates for conservation have spent two years researching various means to cure this risk, and eventually concluded that only a state Constitutional Amendment could serve the purpose. No statute will work, because any statute can be immediately canceled by another statute. Resolutions for such an Amendment were raised in the Environment Committee and the Government Administration and Elections Committee (GAE). The GAE Resolution is tighter; the provision includes local notice and a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly for approval. The Resolution was passed by GAE, which heard testimony of support from CT Forest & Park Association, Rivers Alliance of CT, the CT Land Conservation Council, The Nature Conservancy, and others. DEEP was opposed.

Laws uniquely exempting water companies from large portions of the state’s Freedom of Information Act were passed in 2002 and 2003. Rivers Alliance has been challenging these laws ever since, pointing out that it is impossible to do water planning or even to know what is happening in a watershed if virtually all relevant data is unavailable. The problem has become painfully apparent as the state embarks upon water planning. This year the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Gov. Malloy’s office, the Department of Public Health, the Connecticut Water Works Association (which promoted the original laws), various environmental groups, and other interested parties led the way to the introduction of legislation aimed at making publicly available the data needed for water planning, while guarding security-sensitive data such as the computer codes and programs for managing water systems. This issue is still in negotiation.

Pesticides are a chronic problem in Connecticut. This year, the Safe Grounds Coalition (of which Rivers Alliance is a member) worked with the Environment Committee to raise legislation to restrict the use of neonicotinoids, a type of neuro-toxic pesticide linked to die-offs of pollinators, and highly toxic to aquatic and avian life. It’s not clear what the legislative outcome will be, but DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee, in basically negative testimony, stated that DEEP has registered for sale and distribution in Connecticut 12,000 (!) pesticides and has no way of doing a chemical search to determine which are neonicotinoids. Over the last few years, DEEP has repeatedly told Rivers Alliance that it has no means of knowing what quantities of what types of pesticides have been and are being applied in any given part of the state or even the state as a whole (the latter figure probably being a little easier to derive). It is possible that Mr. Klee deliberately highlighted the vast quantities of pesticides on the market and in the field to underline the need for more resources. In any case, DEEP seems unable to extricate itself from the pesticide morass.

Rivers Alliance will post news updates on our website, www.riversalliance.org, and we are happy to answer questions. Contact us at rivers@riversalliance.org or 860-361-9349.
participate in a $10 million federal program for the protection of Long Island Sound and the rivers that flow into it. Conservation districts were founded nationwide in the 1940s in response to the catastrophe of the Dust Bowl drought in the 1930s.

The award recipients:
- Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts — Denise Savageau, President
- Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District — Jane L. Brawerman, Executive Director
- Eastern Connecticut Conservation District — Dan Mullins, Executive Director
- North Central Conservation District — Joanna Shapiro, Executive Director
- Northwest Conservation District — Sean Hayden, Executive Director
- Southwest Connecticut Conservation District — Roman Mrozinski, Executive Director

Also at the meeting, Margaret Miner, Rivers Alliance’s executive director, received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC). A handsome plaque was given to Ms. Miner by Rivers Alliance director and CACIWC member Martin Mador and CACIWC member Tom Odell. Mr. Mador told the audience that the award was in recognition of Rivers Alliance’s work protecting state waters.

Rivers Alliance Elected to the LISS Citizens Advisory Committee

On March 16, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut was elected to the bistate Citizens Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study (www.longislandsoundstudy.net). Our member Sandy Breslin was elected CT co-chair; the NY co-chair is Nancy Seligson from the Town of Mamaroneck. The Committee works with the federal Environmental Protection Agency and stakeholders in New York and Connecticut to promote research and programs to advance the health of Long Island Sound. We see this as a chance to spotlight the importance of upland waters to the health of the Sound. The first item on the agenda this spring will be an effort to implement guidelines in EPA’s new nitrogen strategy for the Sound.
The plan is supposed to be completed in 2017 for submittal to the General Assembly in January 2018. That leaves less than two years to complete a tremendous volume of work. To avoid the time-consuming state process for hiring contractors, the Water Planning Council signed an MOU with a regional political entity, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC — pronounced Newy-pik) to act as a general contractor. NEIWPCC’s point person on the project is Jane Ceraso, a specialist in water protection. In February, NEIWPCC broadcasted a request for qualifications. One or more contractors and a scope of work should be approved in April. Or, we may learn that the scope of work and rate of pay is not adequate to attract capable experts. Then, adjustments will follow.

Less than two years left to complete a tremendous volume of work.

Simultaneously, water companies, represented in three regional Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCCs), are developing a statewide plan for water supply with oversight from the Department of Public Health.

In sum, at this time, substantial progress has been made toward comprehensive water planning for Connecticut. The Water Planning Council is committed to achieving a useful, prudent plan. The pitfalls are numerous. But it is reasonable to believe that this effort will bring at least some good results and possibly a good, comprehensive plan.

To keep up to date on all water planning events and news, go to the excellent website created by OPM staffer Eric Lindquist for the Water Planning Council. The address is http://ct.gov/water.

WUCCS: FULL SPEED AHEAD

Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCCs) are groups of water suppliers and representatives of the Council of Governments gathered under the auspices of the Department of Public Health and Public Act 85-535. The purpose is to organize water supply on a regional basis in a manner beneficial to the health and well-being of the public. WUCCs were to establish exclusive service areas, dividing the customer base among suppliers. These arrangements would be set out by each WUCC in a regional plan for approval by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

The original WUCCs comprised seven geographical areas, created as per the law, for supply coordination. As the number of the Act indicates, the WUCC program was launched in 1985. But over the years, only one WUCC plan ever made it through to DPH approval. Three other plans were written early on (1988 to 1991) but not approved. Three WUCCs were never convened.

According to the 2014 law, the Water Planning Council is required to consider WUCC plans (among other plans) in writing the statewide water resources plan. The comprehensive plan is supposed to be completed in summer 2017 for presentation to the legislature in 2018. Since only one up-to-date, approved WUCC plan existed, there was an obvious need to change or speed up the WUCC process. DPH proposed to reduce the number of WUCC regions from seven to four. This proposal was presented in a number of public meetings for public education and comment. In the end, DPH settled on portioning the state into just three WUCC regions. (Rivers Alliance has pointed out that the 1985 statute does not set out a clear process for changing WUCC regions, although it is quite clear on how to do other changes, such as changes to exclusive service areas.)

DPH received $250,000 in state funding and, in 2015, began to call meetings in the three new WUCC regions. The idea was that a consultant (Milone & MacBroom) would work with WUCC members to create or revise regional supply plans as necessary. This is a major task (a full WUCC plan with documents makes a stack at least a foot high.) The work was to be done sequentially.

That approach changed when the Hartford-region Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) announced that it would withdraw from the WUCC process unless it could be accelerated to finish all three WUCC regional plans by 2017, so that they could be considered in the state comprehensive water plan.

This schedule is extraordinarily demanding, especially given the limited funding and the many steps required by law for writing and gaining approval of a WUCC regional plan. In addition, the consultant must pledge to keep almost all critical water data confidential. Then, in the end, the WUCC process is supposed to yield a statewide integrated plan for water supply.

So, at this time, there are two statewide water plans under way. Hard to tell which is the tail and which is the dog.
New Natural Gas Pipeline in Reservoir Land

A prominent controversy in 2015 - 2016 has been the proposed construction of a new natural gas pipeline that would run through reservoir lands in West Hartford. The pipeline is planned by Kinder-Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) as part of its proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) project.

TGP intends to add a new pipeline from Farmington to East Granby. Part of it would go through Class I and II public water supply watershed lands belonging to the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) in West Hartford. The pipeline would cross 20 wetlands and 29 streams that drain to the MDC reservoirs. Part of the route follows an easement next to a smaller, existing pipe (about 50 years old). For the new pipe, a new easement would be needed. The route of the new pipeline would separate from the path of the existing pipe and run west across the property, following an electric utility right of way. This portion would bring the new pipe closer to the reservoirs.

During and after construction, the pipeline would seriously disrupt the hydrology of the reservoir land, and for this reason alone, should be rejected. Equally important is the dangerous legal precedent it would set. For almost 40 years, Connecticut has guarded the inviolability of Class I and II lands, which form the recharge areas of reservoirs. Keeping Class I and II lands in their natural state serves to store and clean water.

This is especially important in Connecticut, which is one of only two states that forbid offering as potable any water from a river or lake that receives wastewater upstream of the supply source.

Energy projects require approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In general, FERC overrides state and local land use regulations. Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Rivers Alliance of Connecticut have intervened in the FERC process for this project, as have thousands of other groups and individuals, especially in Massachusetts.

An interesting question of debate is whether Connecticut and points north actually need the quantity of gas coming our way. There are three natural gas pipeline projects in Connecticut. Demonstration of need is an important element in winning FERC approval. Massachusetts has said it does not see a need. The picture in Connecticut is less clear, but certainly there do appear to be alternatives.

For the time being, the approval process is on hold as FERC and the applicant complete work on an Environmental Impact Evaluation. This might be ready before the end of spring.

To keep up to date on developments, please check our website at www.riversalliance.org, go to Priority Topics, then click on Pipelines.

BOOK REVIEW. Bottled and Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession With Bottled Water

Reviewed by Hugh Rogers

Bottled and Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession With Bottled Water, by Peter H. Gleick, Island Press, 2nd edition (2011). A MacArthur “genius” awardee and founder of the Pacific Institute, Mr. Gleick explains the reasons why water, a free natural resource, like air, has become a major industry, selling 30 billion bottles of water each year, a thousand bottles every second of every day. Bottled water companies have exploited vague and poorly monitored regulations, used marketing campaigns to incite fear of tap water, and made bottled water very convenient. To accomplish this requires the equivalent of between 100 million and 160 million barrels of oil a year for bottle production, bottling itself, and transportation. This energy cost is one thousand times the energy required to procure, process, treat, and deliver tap water. Municipalities have neglected their public water infrastructure, causing “boil alerts,” and have removed many public drinking fountains. Restaurant practice puts bottled water first, and, given these factors, public drinking water is now scarce. But there is a movement to reverse this trend, and the author finishes with recommendations to help it succeed.
LEAVE A LEGACY OF CLEAN, FLOWING WATER...

One more generous donor has joined Rivers Alliance’s Planned Giving Program, bringing the total to five. This group of dedicated members of Rivers Alliance would love to welcome you to their select company. “Planned Giving” refers to several different kinds of giving, typically by naming a charity in a will or IRA. It’s easy. Those of us who may die this millennium probably are already thinking about or even doing something about our wills. Please consider including Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. There is no better gift to future generations than protecting clean water. It is becoming frighteningly scarce.

If you have questions, we have a skilled financial advisor, Valerie Friedman, who has offered help pro bono to interested donors. She is an expert on maximizing the charitable benefits of giving. Just call us at 860-361-9349.

---

GIVE LOCAL... Support Rivers Alliance

Mark your calendars. Rivers Alliance will be participating in the GIVE LOCAL event on May 3 and 4, 2016. This 36-hour fundraising event, sponsored by the Connecticut Community Foundation, will offer our supporters the opportunity to make a gift while stretching your donation dollars with bonus funds and cash prizes. Last year, Rivers Alliance with the help of our generous donors was able to raise $4,993 and $750 in matching funds. Help us make this a successful event once again this year. Your support provides vital resources for education, stewardship, and policy that protect our waters. More details regarding the GIVE LOCAL event will be posted on our website and facebook page, and emailed to our members and Network.

---

In Memoriam

Suellen Kozey McCuin, 49, died suddenly on August 21, 2015. Suellen enjoyed a successful career in government affairs and was most recently the Executive Director of the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation Districts. A native of Old Saybrook, she led the fight to protect the 1,000-acre forest known as “The Preserve” located in the towns of Old Saybrook, Essex, and Westbrook. Suellen was a friend of Rivers Alliance, a member since 2004. She was an avid protector of the environment and loved animals of all kinds. She will be truly missed. Suellen is survived by her husband, Scott, their two beautiful children, and countless family members.

Andrew M. Clarkson, 78, passed away on December 16, 2015 at his home in New Canaan. Mr. Clarkson was born in Scotland in 1937, earned an MBA from Harvard Business School, and had a distinguished business career. He was assistant vice president for merchant banking at First National Bank of Chicago; assistant treasurer at General Foods; chief financial officer, member of the Board of Directors, and chairman of the Finance Committee at Malone & Hyde, Inc.; and served on the boards of various organizations. In 1992, Mr. Clarkson founded the Jeniam Foundation. He funded many projects, affecting the lives of many. Rivers Alliance is a beneficiary of three of these grants. Mr. Clarkson is survived by his wife, Carole, his children Jennifer Clarkson Killin and William Clarkson, 2 grandchildren, and his sister. His family will carry on his legacy through the Jeniam Foundation for years to come.

Matthew Forelli of Westport, 76, died May 9, 2015 at his winter home in Florida. He was a man of great energy, intelligence, and generosity. He led his family’s manufacturing business, Precision Gear, Inc., to prominence in the aerospace sector, while continuing to be active in New York real estate, and he founded the Lock, Stock & Barrel restaurant in Darien. He was a sportsman (fisherman, hunter, golfer), and a supporter of numerous charities, including Rivers Alliance, of which he had been a member since 1994. He is survived by his wife, the former Jane Sloan; by sons, Matthew and William; and by a daughter, Margaret Urciuoli, all residing in Connecticut.
How Much Water Do We Have? And Where In the USA Is It?

The state of Connecticut has embarked on comprehensive water planning without enough basic data on how much water is where, and what its quality is. We are not alone. The New York Times, in an op-ed by Charles Fishman on March 17, reported that nationwide water-use data “is ridiculously primitive.” The author urged the government to establish a water data center within the US Geological Survey. He pointed out that good information does three important things: 1) creates a demand for more good information, 2) changes behavior, 3) ignites innovation. In Connecticut, we need the science now! Mr. Fishman (I am sure he is tired of comments on his name) is the author of The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water. A good book.

Wild Salmon Spawns in the Farmington River, Possibly for the First Time in 200 Years.

Imagine the amazement of a CT DEEP Inland Fisheries biologist when he spotted three salmon redds (name for a fish “nest”). This marks the first documented wild Atlantic Salmon spawning site seen in the Farmington River in possibly 200 years. This news is made even more promising because the state/federal CT River Salmon Restoration Program was terminated in 2013, yet many salmon are still seen returning to Connecticut every year. The CT DEEP is continuing a legacy program in which relatively few fry are stocked in select areas on the Salmon and Farmington Rivers. The DEEP’s goal is to sustain this important native species as part of Connecticut’s spectacular collection of natural resources.

Fish ladders, dam removal, regular stocking, habitat protection, and water quality improvements are all likely contributing to these salmon’s successful return. It is too early to tell if this is part of a sustained wild salmon comeback. However, this charismatic fish, with its incredible ocean voyage and uncanny ability to return after years to the exact same location where it was born (released), has always captured our imagination. DEEP will continue to monitor any successes. Stay tuned.

Newly Found Parasite Infesting Tadpoles Worldwide, Including Eastern US.

Frogs, already among the most threatened animals worldwide, face a new threat. A newly identified parasite is infesting tadpoles of different types of frogs in tropical and temperate environments, according to the results of a study published August 17, 2015, in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. For more information visit www.pnas.org.


Two Connecticut scientists have discovered a new species of “rock snot,” aka “didymo,” in the Farmington River. Completely new to science, Didymosphenia hullii is known to exist only in a small section of the Farmington River in Barkhamsted. A previously identified species of didymo, Didymosphenia geminata, was first found in Connecticut in the West Branch Farmington River in 2011.

A highly invasive freshwater alga, didymo thrives in cold, relatively shallow streams and rivers having a rocky bottom — good trout habitat. Thick mats of didymo blooms on a river bottom can smother aquatic plants, insects, and mollusks, altering the food chain. CT DEEP announced on March 9 that didymo was currently blooming in the West Branch Farmington River, creating thick mats, especially in Riverton. Didymo mats feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white, or brown, but never green.

Besides didymo, another type of rock snot, Cymbella janischii, has also been found in Connecticut for the first time, according to DEEP.

To prevent the spread of rock snot, CT DEEP urges anglers and other users of the river to check, clean, and dry their gear, clothing, and boats. For details on how to do that, visit ct.gov/deep and do a search for “aquatic invasive species.”

Fairy Circles: What Are They? Where Are They?

Mysterious fairy circles, previously found only in southwestern Africa, have just been discovered in the Western Australia outback. These circles on the ground are organized bare places in the vegetation of arid land. Small-scale, circular vegetation gaps appear in a hexagonal pattern across a landscape in a homogeneous distribution. The effect resembles a honeycomb.

A number of competing theories have been advanced to explain fairy circles. One theory, now definitely dominant, explains the formation of the circles in terms of an organized interaction of water, vegetation, and soil, where water is scarce. The gaps in the vegetation function as an extra source of water. Scientists have believed that, if this explanation, based on pattern formation theory, is correct, then fairy circles like those in Africa should exist in similar, water-limited climates elsewhere. Therefore, there were science headlines and great excitement when the Australian discovery was reported and verified in March.

Incidentally, the pattern-formation theory was suggested more than 60 years ago by Alan Turing, the English mathematician, logician, code-breaker, and theoretical biologist. He theorized that markings on many animals are produced by two molecules dispersed in the skin, one activating the pattern and one inhibiting it, at speeds and directions varying in different animals. Turing’s model predicted outcomes like stripes and spots. (Think zebras and cheetahs.) The finding of new fairy circles shows that the model also works when plants compete for water. This natural patterning process is as mysterious as the fairy circles themselves.
Many Thanks to Our Supporters!

2014 – 2016

The importance of our members and funders cannot be overstated. It is your support that allows us to do the work we do—there’s no doubt about it. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank you. With your generous support, Rivers Alliance is able to help Connecticut’s rivers and help those who cherish and protect them.

Foundations / Grants

- Connecticut Community Foundation
- Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
- Geoffrey C. Hughes Foundation
- The Grace Jones Richardson Trust
- The Gryphon Fund
- Jeniam Foundation
- The Valerie Friedman Fund

Members

Peter & Lisa Aarrestad
Karl & Elizabeth Acimovic
Barbara von Kreuter Adams
Cecil & Jill Adams
Mary E. Adams & Robert Lockhart
Mehrnaz Aghili
Sidney C. Albertsen
Nancy & Myles Alderman
Linda Allard
Todd L. Amb
Karen & K. Tucker Andersen
Joellen Anderson
Shimon Anisfeld & Sharon Cohen
Anonymous
William & Joan Anthony
Suzi Arensberg Diacon
William Arnold
Michael Aurelia & Denise Savageau
Joseph Austin & Adrian Wagner
Hugh & Susan Balloch
John R. Battista, M.D.
Mary Becker
David A. Behnke & Paul F. Doherty
David A. Belden
Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell M. Belding
Claire Bennitt
Edward S. Bent
Norm Berg
Suzi & Ennals Berl
Randi & Sheila Bernard
Burton Bernstein
Larry & Martha Bingaman
David & Anne Bingham
Ken & Mary Bird
Linda E. Bireley
Bill C. Blauffuss
John & Susan Boland
John & Jane Boyer
Alison Boyko
Elaine Brandon
Susan Branson
Russell & Fredericka Brenneman

- Sandy Breslin
- Patricia Bresnan
- Sharon W. Breznzer
- Horace H. Brown
- Lori Brown
- Lois Bruinooge
- Karen Burnaska
- Richard Burns
- Carlos Canal, Jr.
- Gay Vincent-Canal
- Peter Canoni
- Joshua Carey
- James Chapman
- Wayne Spencer Chapman
- Alicea Charamut
- Gail Collins
- Michael Collins & Rachel Rosen
- Scott & Joanne Conant
- Michael & Nelly Condon
- David & Diane Cooper
- Peter B. Cooper
- Marianne Corona
- Sandra Cox
- George W. Coxeter
- James & Sharon Creighton
- Tom & Mieke Crider
- Keith Cadworth & Jane Coughlin
- Michael & Margaret Curtis
- Ruth B. Cutler
- Stuart Daly
- Cynthia & David Damer
- Mary Daniel & Thomas Yost
- Barbara O. David
- Renée David
- Marybeth Dean
- Raul & Emilie de Brigard
- Len Dejong
- Anne Delo
- Philip & Diana deVries
- Claudia & Larry DiFabrizio
- Russell Dirienzo
- Anthony DiSalvo
- Dr. & Mrs. David M. Dressler
- Sean Duffy & Andy Morgan
- Lee E. Dunbar
- Cheryl & Daniel Dunson

Natalie H. Dyer
Patricia Eastwood
Diane & Paul Edwards
Pamela Edwards
Elizabeth Emery
Dan & Elizabeth Esty
Edith Fairgrieve
Patricia & Robert Falkenhausen
Gretchen & Philip Farmer
Sarah Faulkner
Frederick Feibel
Jeff Feldmann
John & Eileen Field
Eileen Fielding
Bruce Fletcher
Patricia Fowler
Paul & Linda Frank
Bernard & Ann Fried
Judith & Louis Friedman
Valerie Friedman
Lynn & John Fulkerson
Maryellen & Ray Furse
Sarah E. Gager & A. J. Dubois, Jr.
Dorothy & Peter Galant
William J. Gemmell, M.D.
Steve Gephard
Rosemary E. Giuliano
Betsy Glassman
Herbert Gram
Walter H. Grant, Jr.
Jeanie & William Graustein
Steve Grover
Albert R. & Molly Gurney, Jr.
Murray & Susan Haber
John Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Hamilton
Gael W. Hammer
Eric Hammerling
Astrid T. Hanzalek
Ernest S. Harris, Jr.
Richard & Patricia Harris
Sophia W. Healy
Richard M. Heffernon
Lisette & Robert Henery
Michael & Christine Herman
John & Anne Herrmann, Jr.
Alison Hilding
Janet M. Hill
Edmund & Rheta Hinman
Diane Hitchcock & Ronald McMahon
Diana & Peter Hiza
Robert S. Hopkins, Jr.
Bill Horne & Lea Brilmayer
Marjorie L. Hoskin
William A. Howes
Elizabeth Hubbard
Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Hunt
Anthony Irving & Deborah Lees
Michael C. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. R. Kirk Jewett
Steven K. Johnson
Andris G. Kalnins
Scott & Marjorie Kania
Helen & David Kaplan
Jessica Kaplan
Mary Keane
Judith Kells
Marie Kennedy
Kelly F. Kerrigan
F. Richard King
Louise W. King
Sally King & Eric Lukingbeal
Charles & Jane Klein
Fred Klingener & Marilyn Mehr
Helen Koehn
Charlotte & David Koskoff
Charles D. Koteen
Dr. William R. Kueffner
Todd Kuhr
Jill Lacedonia
Elizabeth Lacy
Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Landrigan
Nancy & Stephen Lasar
Marta Jo Lawrence
Dick & Bonnie Leavenworth
Ann C. Letendre
Catherine Linton & Eric Jackson
Peter & Eileen Litwin
James R. Lockhart
Adlyn & Ted Loewenthal
Bon Lombardi
Henry D. Lord
Richard Lorenti
Elaine Luckey
Ellen W. Lukens
Lisa MacDougall
Cynthia & Iain MacKay
Martin Mador
George M. Madsen
Ecton & Betsy Manning
Ingrid Manning
Susan & Philip Markert
Gwen E. Marrion
Sarah Lee Martin
Richard H. & Judith Martindale
Susan Masino & Dave Galt
Virginia Mason
Ellen McCourt
Suellen Kozeys McCuin
Bill & Barbara McCullough
Phyllis M. McDowell
Mr. & Mrs. James McInerney, Jr.
Molly N. McKay
Robert McKinna &
Trudy Swenson
Ralph & Elaine McKinney
GeoFFrey L. Meissner
Robert L. & Elaine Melvin
Chris & Lea Michos
GeorgiaNa L. Middlebrook
Tina Miller
John & Edwina Millington
Inga-Britta Mills
Peter & Diane Miner
Rachel Miner
Jane-Kerin Moffat
Meg Mongin
Susan Monserud &
Richard Sonder
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Moore, Jr.
Robert E. Moore
Bill Moorhead
Deborah Moshier-Dunn
Peter C. Moss
Alicia M. Mozian
Benjamin Nickoll &
Christine Armstrong
Bernard Noonan
Katharine O'Brien
Patricia O'Conner &
Stewart Kellerman
Lenka O'Connor
Michele Papa
Amy B. Paterson
Susan & John Payne
Kirsten M. Peckerman
Paulette Peden
Guy Peterson
Martha & Kevin Phillips
Karen & Tony Pierson
William Pike
Elliott B. Pollack
Naomi & William Pomper
David Potts
Elaine & Peter Pratt
Elizabeth L. Raisbeck
Catherine Rawson &
Dominic Gillen
Joyce Kennedy Raymes &
David Raymes
Curtis S. Read
Donald & Sally Rieger
Dr. Ronald A. Ripps
Pamela W. Ritter
Brian Roach
Barrie Robbins-Pianka
Barbara Paul Robinson, Esq. &
Charles Raskob Robinson
Dorothy K. Robinson
Hugh Rogers &
Monique Gil-Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. James Rosato
Jeremiah K. Ross, Jr.
Lisa San Soucie
Christie Sanders
Gail A. Sangree
Henry & Helen Savage, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. George B. Schaller
Donna Schlegel &
Gregory Knowles
Frederick Schroeder
Joanne Scuilli
Alice Shaber
Marjorie Shansky
Anne W. Shaw
Jocelyn T. Shaw
Daniel Sherr &
Margaret Ferguson
Karen Silk
Jeffrey & Amy Silverman
Nathan M. Silverstein
James & Mary Smith
Joan & Doug Smith
Marlene & Christopher Smith
Robert H. Smith, Jr.
Kitsey Snow
Clark & Cheryl Spencer
Irene G. Stahl
Nancy R. Steinman
Missy Stevens
John Strilacci
Larry Sweeney
Deborah H. Swigart
Peter Talbot &
Barbara Hyde Talbot
Jan Taylor
Geoffrey Thomas &
Melissa Chatain
Doug Thompson &
Rebecca Nash
JoAnne Torti
William Tynan
Jerry & Clare Van Duinen
Theodore Van Nahl &
Joanna Hammond
Paula Van Ness
Sidney & Sandy Van Zandt
Royall Victor, III
Glenn Warner &
Marguerite Davis
Louise Washer
Donald R. Watson, FAIA
Jay & Sandra Weintraub
Lynn Werner & Kevin Honan
Maureen Westbrook
Mark & Barbara Wetzel
Dan Whalen
Marcia Wilkins
Cynthia C. Willauer
Cynthia & Thomas Willett
Benjamin D. Williams
Roberta & William Willis
Mary Wilson
Richard Windels
James Worth
Harvey J. Yaiverbaum &
Kathryn C. Meyer
Anne Zinsser

Member Organizations &
Businesses
Angling Solutions
Aquatine Water Company of CT
Avon Water Company
Branford Land Trust
Branse, Willis & Knapp, LLC
Canton Physical Therapy
Cherry Brook Garden Club
Connecticut Business Systems
Connecticut Conservation Assoc.
Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Assoc.
Connecticut River Watershed Council
Connecticut River Company
Darien Land Trust
East Windsor American Heritage
River Commission
Farmington River Anglers Assoc.
Farmington River Coordinating Committee
Farmington River Watershed Assoc.
Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.
Friends of the Hockanum River
Linear Park
G.L. Bolland Corp.
Geomatric, LLC
Griswold IWWC Commission
Groton Open Space Assoc.
Hawkeye Capital Management, LLC
Housatonic Valley Assoc.
The Jonah Center for Earth & Art
King, King & Associates, CPA's
Litchfield Bancorp
Litchfield Hills Audubon Society
Louereio Engineering Associates, Inc.
Lyme Land Conservation Trust
Massachusetts Riverways Program
Naugatuck River Watershed Assoc.
Northwest Conservation District
Norwalk River Watershed Assoc.
Park Watershed
Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
Pootatuck Watershed Assoc.
The Potatuck Club
Quinnipiac River Watershed Assoc.
Redding Garden Club
Redns & Mead
Roxbury Land Trust
Scantic River Watershed Assoc.
Southbury Land Trust
Thompson Conservation Commission
Town & Country Garden Club
Town of Greenwich - Conservation Commission
Town of Manchester
Trout Unlimited - Farmington Valley Chapter
Washington Garden Club
Water Resource Services, Inc.
The Watershed Partnership
Willimantic River Alliance
Wintonbury Land Trust

Matching Gifts
Connecticut Community Foundation - Give Local
The Ensign - Bickford Foundation
Illinois Tool Works Foundation

In-Kind Donations & Services / Volunteers
Norm Berg
Claudia & Larry DiFabrizio
Jeff Feldmann Photos
Flatbread Company, Canton
Sean Hayden
The Leir Retreat Center
Maywood Winery
Sarah Lee Martin &
Andris Kalnins
McCarter & English
Dwight Merriam
Daniel Radka
Robinson & Cole
Hugh Rogers
Two Cousins Biscotti, LLC

If you have joined and do not see your name or if you prefer a different listing, please contact Rose Guimaraes at rivers@riversalliance.org or 860-361-9349.

Not a member yet?
Join us in protecting and improving Connecticut's rivers and water resources.
You can donate online at www.riversalliance.org or contact us at rivers@riversalliance.org or 860-361-9349.

If you would like to join and stretch your contribution with bonus funds, be sure to make a donation to Rivers Alliance during the GIVE LOCAL event taking place on May 3 and 4, 2016. Check our website and facebook page for details.
RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT
7 WEST ST., P.O. BOX 1797
LITCHFIELD, CT  06759
Ph: (860) 361-9349 Fax: (860) 361-9341
www.riversalliance.org
rivers@riversalliance.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW

STATE WATER PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL HERO AWARDS

ripples