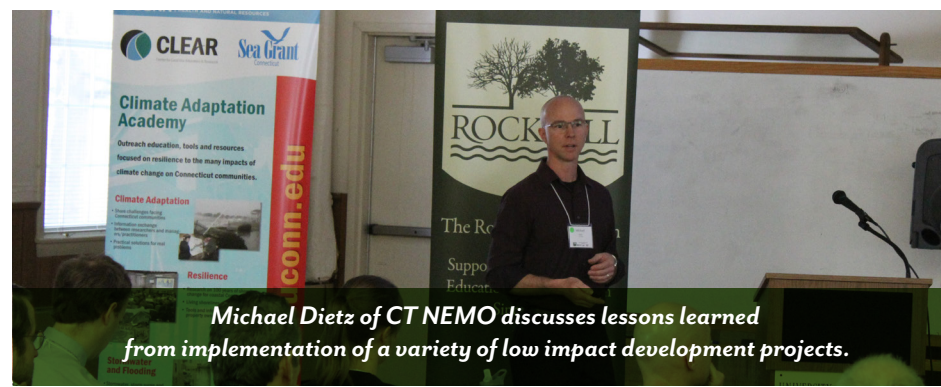


2018 Symposium

Each year—since it was launched in 1986—the Rockfall Foundation Symposium has provided town planners and development experts important information to help them develop Connecticut sustainably and resiliently. This year's symposium focused on "Site Development Considerations for our Changing Weather Patterns," and was almost cancelled due to our changing weather patterns—a late March snow storm!

The symposium included a look at some valuable case studies, from the Jordan Cove Subdivision in Waterford, and UConn's and New Haven's efforts to manage stormwater, to efforts around the country to manage growth and sprawl. Particularly fascinating was the level of detail planners have to consider—from the size of stone in bioretention swales and the design of curbs and fencing, to the inevitable interactions of the projects with people. As speaker Michael Dietz noted, it's the design, not changes in people's behavior, that has led to significant reductions in pollution. An important lesson learned! For those interested, presentations are available on our website.

A special thanks to our co-host, UConn Climate Adaptation Academy, our sponsors and to our great speakers, David Dickson and Michael Dietz, Co-Directors of CT NEMO; Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer for New Haven; and David Sousa, Planner and Landscape Architect of CDM Smith.



Michael Dietz of CT NEMO discusses lessons learned from implementation of a variety of low impact development projects.

2018 Symposium Sponsors

Site Development Considerations
for Our Changing Weather Patterns



2017 Grant Awards

In 2017, The Rockfall Foundation granted \$28,325 to organizations servicing the Lower Connecticut River Valley, supporting a wide array of programming to strengthen environmental literacy and the capacity for conservation in the region.

Connecticut Forest and Park Association Highlawn Forest Invasive Removal & Education Program \$4,000

The invasive removal and education efforts in Highlawn Forest are underway as part of the Forest Management Plan for the property that was developed in 2011. This grant is a two-year grant that will be completed in 2019. The plan calls for careful timbering of the property, as well as the use of the property as a recreational and educational asset. The Highlawn Forest Invasive Removal and Education Program is serving as a model for environmental planning and offers a unique opportunity for hands-on environmental education for landowners and municipalities.

Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District Urban Farm-Based Education Programs at Forest City Farms: A Farm Days Pilot Project \$1,500

Through this grant funded project, the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District staff worked with Forest City Farms to plan and hold spring and fall on-farm educational days. The events were well-attended, drawing community members of a wide age range. These farm days helped to promote urban agriculture and the importance of protecting working lands. They also connected people to the land and engaged them in learning about farming, how vegetables are grown, healthy soil, farm-fresh food, sustainable farming practices, and managing/enhancing land for agricultural uses. This is part of an ongoing urban agriculture initiative in Middletown that provides a unique opportunity for community members to learn firsthand about farms in the area and all that goes into growing healthy food.

Connecticut River Conservancy European Water Chestnut Strategy for the Connecticut River Watershed \$3,500

The work completed under this grant program continued and enhanced a long-term, multi-partner initiative that has begun to limit the spread of European water chestnut. The three-part strategy significantly increased public education and volunteer opportunities to assist in the management of this particular aquatic invasive species that harms recreation and habitat in the Connecticut River watershed.

Indian Hill Cemetery Association A Celebration of the Trees of Indian Hill Cemetery \$1,000

This project enabled children and adults to learn about the beautiful trees at Indian Hill Cemetery, the geology of tombstones, and local history, while enjoying outside time in one of Middletown's most lively park-like cemeteries. A Ghost Walk for families and school field trips were held in October of 2017 to achieve these project goals.

Lyme Land Conservation Trust The Diana and Parker Lord Nature and Science Center \$2,000

This grant assisted in funding the detailed inventory and assessment of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust's Banningwood Preserve, in order to allow the organization to assemble comprehensive, interesting, and relevant educational content for the next phase of their plan to develop the Diana and Parker Lord Nature and Science Center. The assessment was conducted by EECOS with experts including Ralph Lewis, Lyme local and retired State of Connecticut Geologist. This project is ongoing, with The Rockfall Foundation's grant providing funding for the initial assessment phase.

Commodore Macdonough Elementary School Macdonough School Takes the Classroom Outside \$2,570

Through this two-year grant Macdonough school students have learned, and will continue to learn about and be better connected with the natural world. The students will participate in a series of schoolyard explorations and third graders will take a field trip to the Wadsworth Mansion. At the mansion the students will learn about vernal pools and local forest ecology. Macdonough teachers have received training in partnership with Everyone Outside to enable them to offer more lessons about nature and local ecosystems that incorporate the new Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core curriculum.

Middlesex Land Trust and Everyone Outside Middlesex Land Trust Preserves: Great Places to Spend Time Outside \$1,500

This grant supported various activities on Middlesex Land Trust preserves for adults and children to learn about local ecosystems. Over 400 students and teachers from four different Middlesex County towns enjoyed field trips to one of Middlesex Land Trust's preserves. In addition, eight public hikes were offered through the Middlesex Land Trust and Everyone Outside at five preserves, which attracted families and individuals from across the Lower Connecticut River Valley.

Regional School District 13 Elementary Schools Taking the Next Generation Science Standards Outside \$1,100

This two-year grant program has begun the incorporation of the new Next Generation Science Standards into the curriculum for Regional School District 13 Elementary School students. By its completion in 2019, a curriculum unit will have been designed and carried out that involves students identifying issues with trails and/or invasive species in the forests near their schools and designing solutions to address these issues.

Wilbert Snow Elementary School Outdoor Explorations at Snow Elementary School \$1,900

This project has enabled Snow School students and teachers to have hands-on science and outdoor learning experiences in 2017, and will continue to provide these experiences throughout 2018. Teachers have learned how to take advantage of the excellent natural resources near Snow School, while meeting Common Core and the new Next Generation Science Standards requirements. Interest in learning about and spending time in nature has been sparked in many students through this program, and will continue to inspire this interest in students through the program's completion in early 2019.

SoundWaters Coastal Explorers: A Bridge for Sustainability for Watershed Exploration for Middle School Students \$6,000

Coastal Explorers has taught, and will continue to teach, rigorous, hands-on environmental education to increase students' scientific understanding of the Long Island Sound watershed, and the downstream effects of students' daily activities. By its completion in 2019, over 750 students will have investigated the science of the Long Island Sound watershed and the Connecticut River Valley, via experiential field study, innovative classroom lab experiments, and comprehensive distance learning.

Valley Shore YMCA Farm to Table Camp \$2,225

The Farm to Table Camp served 13 children ages 6 to 9 years old in August of 2017. Each child that attended learned through firsthand experience and through prepared lessons, the process of preparing a garden, and planting, growing, and harvesting vegetables. In addition, they all received hands-on time to help prepare healthy food with the produce that they harvested. Finally, the children were taught about the importance of altruism, the volunteer work of managing a community garden, and the impact of donating the bounty to a local food pantry every week. The 2017 camp was such a success that the Valley Shore YMCA applied for, and received, a second grant from The Rockfall Foundation to continue this program in the summer of 2018.

Van Buren Moody Elementary School Moody School Courtyard Nature Enrichment Programs \$1,030

This two-year grant program has enabled the students and teachers at Moody School to use the courtyard gardens and outdoor spaces on their campus for interactive, hands-on science enrichment programs, during which they have learned about local ecosystems and growing food, while focusing on the state-mandated Next Generation Science Standards curriculum. Work on this project will continue throughout 2018.

The Rockfall Chronicle

Spring 2018

Dear Members & Friends,

Welcome to the Spring edition of The Rockfall Chronicle. Now in its 83rd year, The Rockfall Foundation remains committed to fulfilling its mission "to promote and support environmental education and conservation in the Lower Connecticut River Valley."

The generosity of our members and sponsors allows us to continue to provide a wide variety of environmental programming and events.

- The 2017 grants program awarded twelve grants supporting innovative environmental programs throughout the region that engaged elementary and middle school students in learning about the natural world that exists in their own backyards and the larger community around them. The programs that were funded focused on the removal of invasives from both land and water; on understanding and identifying notable trees; on teaching young people about vegetable farming, nutrition, and healthy eating; and more.
- The 2018 Virginia R Rollefson Environmental Leadership Scholarship will be awarded this spring to a student who has demonstrated leadership and initiative in promoting conservation, preservation, restoration, or environmental education.
- The subject of our annual symposium held in March, *Site Development Considerations for Changing Weather Patterns Case Studies: What Works, What to Watch Out For, and How to Encourage Success*, not only continued the discussion on the challenges caused by the changing weather patterns that our communities are facing, but offered practical information that can make a difference.

- The historic deKoven House Community Center continues to serve as an office space hub for non-profit organizations whose missions work to improve our environment in a multitude of ways and the two community rooms are used by a wide variety of local organizations that provide valuable services to our communities.
- Meet Your Greens continues to give community members an opportunity to meet and hear from speakers on a variety of subjects in an informal setting.

You can learn more about these and other activities both in this issue of the Chronicle and by signing up on our website for our monthly e-newsletter.

I hope you enjoy reading on, and, on behalf of Rockfall, I thank you for your past support and remind you that your membership and your generous contributions are what allow us to continue to offer and support programs that matter.



Sincerely,

Tony Marino

Tony Marino,
Executive Director

Rockfall's Sustainable Seafood Soirée, coming up May 24th



On May 24th please join us for our second annual Sustainable Seafood Soirée. This event is a great way to enjoy locally-raised seafood and learn more about sustainable seafood production here in Connecticut.

The setting will be the beautiful Brewer Pilots Point Marina in Westbrook, with picturesque views of the marina. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres provided by local kelp and oyster farmers, as well as a variety of other seafood and vegetarian appetizers, complemented by an excellent beer and wine selection, including Grace & Darkness Oyster Stout from Half Full Brewery.

This year, we'll be joined by JP Velotti of East Coast Kelp Farms and Ram Island Oysters who will discuss their exciting effort to grow kelp sustainably in the Long Island Sound and transform it into delicious and innovative foods. In addition, we will learn about the Noank Aquaculture Cooperative's efforts to responsibly grow great tasting shellfish and sample local oyster hors d'oeuvres from Mystic's own Ram Island Oysters, and discuss the many environmental benefits that aquaculture provides for water quality in Long Island Sound. Tickets can be purchased on our website (rockfallfoundation.org).

Hope to see you there!

The Rockfall Foundation
deKoven House Community Center
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT 06457
(860)347-0340 | www.rockfallfoundation.org

The Rockfall Foundation

Greening and Growing the Lower Connecticut River Valley since 1935

As one of Connecticut's oldest environmental organizations, the Rockfall Foundation's mission is to promote and support environmental education and conservation in the Lower Connecticut River Valley. It acts as a catalyst, bringing people together and supporting organizations to conserve and enhance the region's natural environment.

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The Rockfall Foundation
deKoven House Community Center, 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT
(860)347-0340 | www.rockfallfoundation.org



How Many Environmentalists Does it Take to Change Rockfall's Lightbulbs?

No joke here. This March, The Rockfall Foundation worked with Greenleaf Energy Solutions to upgrade deKoven House's lighting to LEDs. Now our offices' fixtures, ballast lighting, and even our chandeliers all have LEDs, which Greenleaf estimates will save several thousand kilowatt-hours of energy—and thus CO2 emissions—each year.



And if you were wondering, the answer is just one. Pedro of Reliant Electric changes the outdoor flood lights at deKoven House to LEDs.

Treasurer's Report

For the year that ended June 30, 2017 the net assets of the Foundation were \$4,405,564 compared to \$4,229,372 in the previous fiscal year. This is an increase of \$176,192. The annual audit completed by Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski LLC Certified Public Accountants showed the income and expenses as follows:

REVENUE (excluding endowment)	FY2017	FY2016
Rental Income	38,075	31,025
Donations and Bequests	32,995	31,387
Symposium	3,132	1,302
Special Event	14,650	28,458
Grant Income	10,700	-0-
Misc. Income	925	38,915
TOTAL REVENUE:	100,477	131,087
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Community Services	144,121	150,739
Environmental Grants & Projects	62,346	70,005
Development	74,261	12,129
Management and General	34,732	52,929
TOTAL EXPENSE:	315,460	285,802
(DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES (before applying endowment support):	(214,983)	(154,715)
ENDOWMENT SUPPORT		
Dividends & Interest	87,361	97,834
Net Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	288,316	42,365
Net Realized Gain (loss) on investments	15,498	(284,170)
TOTAL ENDOWMENT SUPPORT	391,175	(143,971)
Net Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	176,192	(298,686)
FUND BALANCE BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,229,372	4,528,058
FUND BALANCE END OF YEAR	4,405,564	4,229,372

The Foundation's investment manager is Vanguard. All actions taken by the officers, directors, and committee members are in compliance with the Foundation's Conflict of Interest Policy. Financial statements, the annual audit report, and the tax return are on file in the office of The Rockfall Foundation and may be viewed by any person interested.

The investment objectives are to preserve in real terms the future purchasing power of the endowment and to provide a prudent level of support for current operations. Going forward, we will continue to ensure the stability of the Foundation's endowment and success of our philanthropic activities.

- Jo Ann Woickelman, Treasurer



Amazing things happen when we join together with generous people like you to enrich the community through the power of collective philanthropy!



Campers harvesting Yellow Wax Beans at the YMCA's Farm to Table summer camp.



Gabe Russo of Forest City Farms at their and the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District's Urban Farm Day.



Students hug a tree at Indian Hill Cemetery while on a nature walk.



Wesleyan students present on climate change at Chester Village West, for a service learning project facilitated by the Rockfall Foundation.



Volunteers help the Connecticut River Conservancy pull out invasive European Water Chestnut.



A student explores the geology of tombstones at Indian Hill Cemetery with Lucy Meigs of Everyone Outside.

Meet Your Greens



Meet Your Greens—The Rockfall Foundation's Green Drinks in the Lower Connecticut River Valley—has now been going strong since 2009. This year we've had a series of great guest speakers, including Krishna Winston, Chair of Middletown's Resource Recycling Advisory Commission; state representative Matt Lesser; League of Conservation Voters executive director Lori Brown; professor Kealoha Freidenburg of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. Future Meet Your Greens gatherings are listed in Upcoming Events and on our website.

Our goal: to create regular opportunities for the Connecticut environmental community to connect and learn. Please join us for upcoming Meet Your Greens events, typically falling on the third Thursday of every month (exception: our June event is on the second Thursday, when we will go for a cruise on the Connecticut River).



Professor Kealoha Freidenburg of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies discussing amphibians at the Mattabesett Canoe Club.

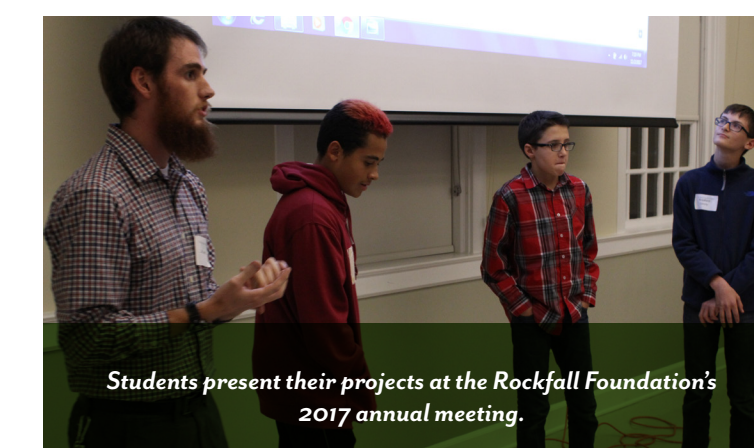
2017 Annual Meeting Environmental Advocacy Awards & Grant Celebration



Jane Harris (center) receives Distinguished Service Award. Presented by Rockfall Foundation Executive Director Tony Marino (left) and President Marilyn Ozols (right).

On November 2, 2017, The Rockfall Foundation held its 83rd Annual Meeting, Environmental Advocacy Awards, and Grants Celebration at the deKoven House. Middletown resident and arborist Jane Harris received the Distinguished Service Award. Jane's life work has revolved around conservation through gardening and the planting of trees, as a consulting arborist, Master Gardener, and as an advocate and leader.

Jane has been instrumental in the replanting and maintenance of the Wadsworth/Kerste deBoer Arboretum. This magnificent collection of more than 200 trees is one of the jewels of Middletown, along with Long Hill Estate, another location that has preoccupied Jane for close to two decades. Jane currently chairs the Middletown Urban Forestry Commission, is Secretary of the CT Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, edits the Middletown Garden Club's newsletter, chairs a national committee of the Garden Club of America, and serves on the Parklands Committee of Long Hill Estate. Jane is a past board member and President of The Rockfall Foundation.



Students present their projects at the Rockfall Foundation's 2017 annual meeting.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the Jonah Center for Earth and Art and Janet Sisson of the Independent Day School (IDS). The Jonah Center for Earth and Art fosters more sustainable relationships between people, other creatures, energy resources, and the environment through collaboration, education, community action, and art. Since its inception in 2004, the organization has organized the citizens of greater Middletown around a variety of exciting projects. Its main areas of activity include enjoying and protecting local waterways; climate change and energy efficiency; bicycling and walking for all ages; eco-friendly landscaping, urban development, and quality of life; and environmental coalitions and government relations.

Janet Sisson, Director of Athletics at the Independent Day School in Middlefield, was the inspiration behind the completion of the IDS Discovery Nature Trail in 2016. The completion of this trail marked the culmination of years of planning on how to use the 33+ acres of land on the IDS property. In the development of the plan, Janet took into account the environmentally sensitive nature of the property, and obtained approval from the Middlefield Wetlands Commission for the trail. In addition, she reached out to the community for materials and volunteers to create the trail. The outcome: a place for the public to walk in nature and a place where hands-on learning can happen for IDS students.

Attendees at the meeting had a chance to speak with 2017 grantees who set up table top displays with information about their projects. They also learned first hand the impression that the grants had made on students from Middletown Public Schools and Nathan Hale Ray Middle School when the students themselves made presentations that detailed their work and the lessons they learned.

Upcoming Events

5.17.18 | MEET YOUR GREENS:

Juliana Barrett of Connecticut Sea Grant and UConn Extension will discuss resilience in Connecticut at The Griswold Inn in Essex

5.24.18 | Sustainable Seafood Soirée at the Brewer Pilots Point Marina in Westbrook

6.2.18 | Hiking at Mica Ledges Preserve in Durham for CT Trails Day

6.14.18 | MEET YOUR GREENS:

Cruising down the Connecticut River with Connecticut River Expeditions

7.19.18 | MEET YOUR GREENS:

Permaculture expert Tom Christopher will discuss the resurgence of local apple production at Middletown cidery Spoke + Spy