

2023

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP NETWORK GATHERING:

EMBRACING

COMPLEXITY

THROUGH

PARTNERSHIP

UMASS AMHERST · NOVEMBER 9, 2023



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RCP Network Story Map

<u>Use our brand new Story Map</u> to interact with and understand the rich and collaborative history of the Regional Conservation Partnership Network. This Story Map explains the Network, describes our work, and documents how others can get involved.

Connect with Your Local RCP

Did you know that half of all RCP Network Gathering attendees are not yet associated with an RCP? This year find an RCP in your area using our state-by-state map displays, and chat with local leaders about the work they're doing in your community. Maps will be hung all day for perusal, and RCP leaders will be available to network by their state from 12:30 - 1:15pm.

Continuing Forestry Education Credits

Attendees are eligible to receive 4.5 Continuing Forestry Education credits through the Society of American Foresters (SAF) certification program. If you are interested in receiving credits, please add your name to the SAF sign-in sheet located at the registration table.

Find Us on Social Media

Follow <u>@highsteadfoundation</u> and <u>@wwfc_conserve</u> on Instagram, join the RCP Network LinkedIn Group, and look out for #RCPGathering2023 on posts relating to this year's Gathering.

Upcoming Events

NBHCI Mapping Tool Webinar • February 14, 2024 • 10 - 11:30am

The <u>Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative</u> (NBHCI) will host a webinar to showcase its <u>Mapping Tool</u>, an interactive tool designed to help Regional Conservation Partnerships, land trusts, and practitioners use bird data to guide activities such as habitat management, land acquisition strategies, and community engagement. Email Katie Blake <u>kblake@highstead.net</u> for more information.

8:00 AM	Breakfast and Networking
9:00 AM	Welcome by Katie Blake - Conservationist, Highstead
9:15 AM	Keynote Panel
10:15 AM	Break
10:30 AM	Workshops Session A: Addressing Land Justice and Equity at Scale
11:45 AM	Lunch and Networking
1:15 PM	Workshops Session B: RCPs Leading and Learning from One Another
2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	Workshops Session C: Research, Resources, and New Ideas to Support Your Work
4:00 PM	Farewell

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Take <u>responsibility</u> for what you say and feel. Use "I" statements, such as "I think," "I feel," "I noticed," "I wonder," or "I believe."

Use <u>empathetic</u> listening and look for common ground.

Be <u>sensitive</u> to differences in perspective and communication styles. Make room for others to speak.

Ponder what you hear and feel before you speak.

Examine your assumptions and perceptions.

Keep <u>confidentiality</u>.

Trust that everyone is attending the Gathering with positive intent.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst acknowledges that it was founded and built on the unceded homelands of the Pocumtuc Nation on the land of the Norrwutuck community.

We begin with gratitude for nearby waters and lands, including the Kwinitekw -- the southern portion of what's now called the Connecticut River. We recognize these lands and waters as important Relations with which we are all interconnected and depend on to sustain life and wellbeing.

The Norrwutuck community was one of many Pocumtuc Indian towns, including the Tribal seat at Pocumtuc (in present day Deerfield), Agawam (Springfield), and Woronoco (Westfield) to name just a few. The Pocumtuc, who had connections with these lands for millennia, are part of a vast expanse of Algonqiuan relations. Over 400 years of colonization, Pocumtuc Peoples were displaced. Many joined their Algonquian relatives to the east, south, west and north—extant communities of Wampanoag, including Aquinnah, Herring Pond, and Mashpee, Massachusetts; the Nipmuc with a reservation at Grafton/Hassanamisco, Massachusetts; the Narragansett in Kingstown, Rhode Island; Schagticoke, Mohegan and Pequot Peoples in Connecticut; the Abenaki and other Nations of the Wabanaki Confederacy extending northward into Canada; and the Stockbridge Munsee Mohican of New York and Massachusetts, who were removed to Wisconsin in the 19th century. Over hundreds of years of removal, members of Southern New England Tribes would make the journey home to tend important places and renew their connections to their ancestral lands. Such care and connection to land and waters continues to the present day.

Today, Indigenous Nations in southern New England continue to employ diverse strategies to resist ongoing colonization, genocide, and erasure begun by the English, French, Dutch, Portuguese and other European Nations, and that continued when Tribal homelands became part of the United States. Native Americans from Tribal Nations across the U.S. and Indigenous peoples from around the world also travel into these Pocumtuc homelands to live and work. This land has always been and always will be, Native Land.

We also acknowledge that the University of Massachusetts Amherst is a Land Grant University. As part of the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, Tribal lands from 82 Native Nations west of the Mississippi were sold to provide the resources to found and build this university.

This Land Acknowledgement is the first step in the university's commitment to practice intellectual humility whilst working with Tribal Nations toward a better shared future on Turtle Island. We aim to foster understanding, deep respect, and honor for sovereign Tribal Nations; to develop relationships of reciprocity; and to be inclusive of Native perspectives and thriving Native Nations far into the future. Members of Massachusetts-based Tribal Nations who are kin to the historic Pocumtuc contributed their insights in composing this acknowledgement -- namely Tribal representatives from Mashpee, Aquinnah, and Stockbridge Munsee. As an active first step toward decolonization, we encourage you to learn more about the Indigenous peoples on whose homelands UMass Amherst now resides on and the Indigenous homelands on which you live and work. You can find more information about this Land Acknowledgemet <a href="https://example.com/here-commons.com/here-commons-common

OPENING REMARKS



KATHERINE BLAKE

Katie Blake is a Conservationist at Highstead and the Hudson to Housatonic RCP Coordinator. As a trained Conservation Biologist, she has over 20 years of experience in landscape ecology, environmental outreach, conservation planning, and scientific research. Katie designed the Gathering program and managed the development of the event.

KEYNOTE PANEL MODERATOR

Bill Labich, Director of Conservation at Highstead, serves as the coordinator of the RCP Network and the Northeast Forest Network and supports Highstead teams and our larger community in the strategy, planning, and production of RCP Network Gatherings and various activities that result from them.



BILL LABICH

EVENT STAFF



AUTUMN CARSON

Autumn Carson is a Communications Associate at Highstead and is currently pursuing a Master of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech University. She designed the 2023 RCP Network Gathering event packet, developed the promotional graphics for the Gathering, and helped construct the Gathering Promo Kit for RCP leaders.

Jody Cologgi, Highstead Office & Technology Manager, leads the logistics aspect of the RCP Network Gathering. Jody has been assisting in coordinating the RCP Network Gathering since its inception in 2010, with 45 attendees, 9 workshops, and 18 speakers.



JODY COLOGGI



RENEE COMINGS here.

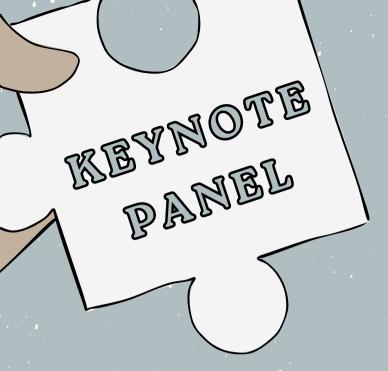
Renee Comings is currently an intern at Highstead. She has helped create digital, social, and physical materials for the Gathering, and plan out accessibility. She hopes to continue contributing toward environmental goals with her art and storytelling skills. View her website here

Katie Vartenigian is a Conservation and Communications Intern at Highstead this Fall, and has helped support Gathering planning and operations. She has previously worked as a field technician and is interested in land management.



KATIE VARTENIGIAN





THE IMPERATIVE FOR CONSERVATION TO ADDRESS MORE

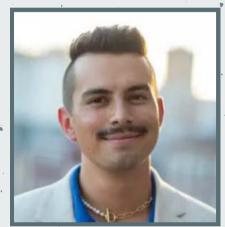
Visionary leaders in philanthropy and communitycentered conservation will discuss how we can
advance equity, community resilience, and other
objectives through conservation. Panelists will share
their perspectives on what just and integrated land
use looks like and what capacities regional
conservation partnerships need to embody to pursue
this work.



ONIKA ABRAHAM LEE

Onika Abraham is the Executive Director of Blue Sky Funders Forum, which convenes, inspires, and grows the funding community supporting equitable access to meaningful outdoor experiences and connections to nature. Onika formerly led Farm School NYC, which trains adults in sustainable agriculture grounded in social and food justice. She earned a BA from Georgetown University and an MBA from Baruch University. An inaugural 2019 Seeding Power Fellow, she completed the Farm and Garden Apprenticeship at the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Onika is a founding board member of Black Farmers Fund, Black Farmers United NYS, and Food for the Spirit. She lives and gardens in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, NY.

Forrest King-Cortes brings over 10 years' experience working toward a more people-centric and relationship-focused future for conservation to his role as Land Trust Alliance's Director of Community-Centered Conservation. He holds a degree in wildlife ecology and management but often says he learns best from hitting the trails, putting his hands in the dirt, and listening to stories and wisdom from communities. Forrest leads a department that develops programming and partnerships to support land trusts in meeting community needs while ensuring lasting, equitable conservation outcomes. Outside of work, Forrest enjoys tending his houseplants, reading, and planning events for Out In Nature, an LGBTQIA+ affinity group he co-founded with his husband.



FORREST KING-CORTES



SACHA SPECTOR

Sacha Spector is the Program Director for the Environment at the Doris Duke Foundation, where he oversees all of the foundation's grantmaking on climate change, land conservation and stewardship, and inclusive conservation. Previously, Spector held positions as Director of Conservation Science at Scenic Hudson, as manager of the Invertebrate Conservation Program at the American Museum of Natural History, and an adjunct associate professor at Columbia University's Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology. Author and coauthor of more than 30 research papers, books and articles, he earned a PhD in ecology from the University of Connecticut and a Bachelor of Science in environmental biology from Yale University.





ADDRESSING LAND JUSTICE AND EQUITY AT SCALE

Speakers will address the importance of equity and justice in conservation work and how their organizations are addressing these values through their initiatives and projects. What can we learn about how partnerships embrace complexity? How are conservationists collaborating with diverse stakeholders to meet multiple objectives at a landscape scale? Presenters will also share their journeys to learn more about diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice and their relevance to their work and lives.

A1. THE HISTORY OF RURAL BLACK OWNERSHIP

Speaker: Christopher Carr **Track:** Advancing Land Justice

This workshop will present a general breakdown and understanding of the history of land ownership in the United States and the issues specifically present for people of African descent as they relate to conservation, legislation, access to land, and ownership. The presenter will discuss his experiences with advocacy, partnering with other conservation groups, and concerns that may not be visible to the majority demographic. This presentation will include a timeline from the 1820s until now of land ownership legislation.

A2. SUPERCHARGING EQUITY, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE APPALACHIANS: HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE WINNING?

Speakers: Katie Allen, Heather Clish, Heather Furman, Andrew Milliken,

Sacha Spector

Moderator: Tim Purinton

Track: Collaborative Landscape Conservation

Considered a priority landscape of the RCP Network since 2017, the Appalachians region benefits from outsized investments from NGOs, state and federal agencies, and foundations. Many of these entities want to seize on the opportunity to conserve the unique biodiversity and carbon sequestration potential of this landscape while also advancing equity and climate justice. This workshop will serve as a forum to explore overlapping objectives and present a challenge to all to determine if tangible progress is being made.

A3. WATERSHED-SCALE CLIMATE COLLABORATIVES: TOOLKIT & STORIES FROM MASSACHUSETTS

Speakers: Melissa Ocana, Stefanie Covino, Danica Belknap **Track:** Climate Resiliency

A watershed is a critical scale for regional collaboration, especially when tackling climate change impacts around water, such as flooding and drought, which do not respect political boundaries. Watershed scale collaboration is being exemplified by RCPs and additional partnerships across the region. In this workshop, speakers will showcase stories from existing watershed-scale collaboratives in Massachusetts that are working to advance climate adaptation, landscape conservation, and ecological restoration. They will also introduce their recently released Watershed-Scale Climate Collaboration Outreach Toolkit, including a StoryMap and case studies on centering racial equity and authentic community engagement in collaborative projects. They hope these resources and stories can be inspirational to other regions hoping to build support for watershed-scale collaboration.

A4: INTEGRATED CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR GREATER CLIMATE RESILIENCE: A PANEL DISCUSSION

Speaker: David Foster, Brian Donahue, Amy Sheldon, Stephanie Cooper, Mark Wamsley **Moderator:** Liz Thompson

Track: Landowner and Municipal Engagement and Outreach/Climate Resiliency

The current land use and conservation systems are inadequate to address the complexities caused by a changing climate and the resulting catastrophic weather events in New England and around the world. The climate crisis has exposed a need for a dramatically different approach to conservation, one that breaks down silos and values the inextricable connections between land, water, and air, and all living beings, human and wild.

During this panel discussion, scientists, conservationists, and policymakers will come together to discuss the need for an integrated approach to conservation that connects working and wild forests, farmlands, and seacoasts with the future of all communities — urban to rural, human, and wild. Panelists will look at the impacts of climate change, both seen and unseen, and share strategies to help RCPs and conservation leaders support a holistic, hopeful approach to conservation that protects forests and farmland and the communities that depend on them for survival.

A5: CLIMATE-SMART FORESTRY FOR OUR COMMUNITIES: A CRITICAL PIECE OF THE SOLUTIONS PUZZLE

Speakers: Lisa Hayden, Jeff Spiritos, John Daigle

Moderator: Jennifer Shakun

Track: Partner Engagement/Climate Resiliency

Staff and partners of the New England Glimate-Smart Forest Partnership Project will share recently launched work to help woodland owners implement climate-smart forest practices that protect ecosystem health, biodiversity, and support livelihoods. Through a \$30-million, five-year grant to the New England Forestry Foundation from the USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program, more than 20 companies and organizations spanning the region will explore how sustainable harvesting of forest products can contribute to climate solutions while promoting forest function and resilience. By providing incentives for practices, the project will seek to sequester and store more carbon in the forest as well as in long-lived products such as mass timber, with the potential to address our communities' needs for affordable housing. Speakers will discuss the complexities of building this pilot partnership that seeks to reach "underserved producers" and bring together foresters, landowners, loggers, Indigenous partners, climate scientists, carbon verification experts, sawmill operators, architects, builders, and stakeholders from land trusts and urban and rural communities.

A6: INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION: PLANNING FOR THE KITTATINNY RIDGE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

Speakers: Zak Brohinsky, Liz Kelly

Track: Collaborative Landscape Conservation

Traditionally, conservation planning has neglected integrating the needs of people, especially underserved and marginalized populations, into land protection conversations, analyses, and initiatives. For landscape-scale conservation to be effective, equitable, and beneficial for ecosystems and communities, there is a need to engage diverse organizational networks and partners to create a landscape that works for more people on more levels. Diverse partners in the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape came together in 2022/2023 to design a more holistic and strategic approach to guiding conservation efforts across an area covering more than 2 million acres. In the process, they identified a holistic framework for inclusive conservation, aiming to identify opportunities for conservation with multiple benefits. Attendees will hear from members involved in the inclusive approach in the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation-Landscape and learn that conservation can and should do better for all. While concepts like diversity, equity, inclusion, and access are being discussed in the conservation world, they often fall flat when it comes to implementation.



KATIE ALLEN'

Katie Allen serves as Director of Landscape
Conservation to support the Appalachian Trail
Conservancy's efforts to fulfill its vision that the
Appalachian Trail and its surrounding landscape are
protected forever for all to enjoy. At ATC, she directs
focused priorities including the Appalachian Trail
Landscape Partnership, the Wild East Action Fund,
and the Appalachian Trail Community Program, as
well as oversight of the regional and place-based
landscape conservation efforts of the Northern
Appalachian Landscape Partnership and ATC's
Pennsylvania landscape partnership with the stateled Conservation Landscape Initiative.

Danica Belknap is a Senior Environmental Planner at Southeastern Massachusetts' regional planning agency, SRPEDD, and coordinates the Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTWN). Danica has worked in New York City and Massachusetts to advance watershed planning and habitat restoration, focusing on climate resilience and inclusive public engagement. Danica assists communities in Southeastern Massachusetts to undertake proactive land use planning that leverages the value of nature to achieve healthy, sustainable, equitable, and resilient communities. With RTWN, Danica brings together regional practitioners to facilitate watershed-scale collaboration.



DANICA BELKNAP



ZAK BROHISNKY

Zak Brohinsky is a Conservation Planner and Spatial Analyst with Resilience Planning and Design, a consulting firm based in New Hampshire specializing in conservation and open space planning at the regional and local levels. With a foundation in applied land conservation, Zak has worked with federal and state agencies, private entities, and nonprofit organizations throughout the Northeast on collaborative and strategic conservation planning projects. He finds creative ways to analyze landscapes from different lenses and tells cohesive and engaging stories along the way. Zak also holds an MS in Conservation Biology and Planning.

CHRISTOPHER.

CHRISTOPHER. CARR

Christopher Carr is a Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary conceptual artist, photographer, emcee, educator, and instrumentalist. In 2010, he founded Brooklyn Wildlife, a creative arts incubator specializing in independent art and music. He hosts podcasts and interview series, and has organized hundreds of live events and performances. He's spent 20 years playing music and has toured more than half the country. Along with Melissa Hunter Gurney, he co-founded the art space Gamba, the GAMBAZine publication, and Black Land Ownership. He leads Diversity and Inclusion workshops and developed Curating the Classroom to help schools deactivate systemic oppression.

Heather Clish is the VP of Conservation and Recreation Advocacy at the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). She coordinates and guides AMC's conservation policy, advocacy, and trail planning programs across AMC's region in New England and Mid-Atlantic states to protect the outdoors, significant recreational experiences in both urban and backcountry areas, and the lands and waters critical to the region's climate future. She has over 20 years of experience in government affairs, recreation planning and management, community involvement and conflict resolution, and natural resource protection. She has an MA in Environmental Policy from Tufts University and lives in the Boston, Massachusetts area.



HEATHER CLISH



Stephanie Cooper has over 25 years of experience working on parks and open space, conservation, transportation, and environmental protection issues in the public sector. She currently serves as Undersecretary for Environment within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, with a portfolio including land conservation, park investments, toxics use reduction, and coastal zone management. In her role, she also oversees the state environmental agencies with a focus on protecting, preserving, and enhancing the Commonwealth's environmental resources while

STEPHANIE COOPER ensuring a clean energy future for all.



STEFANIE.

STEFANIE COVINO

Stefanie Covino (she/her) manages the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative at Clark University, which serves to improve climate resilience and watershed health through capacity building and technical assistance in the bi-state watershed's 39 communities and many tribes. She has an MS in Environmental Science and Policy from Clark University. She is on the steering committee of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and a Keystone Cooperator. Her interests include land use planning, stormwater management, ecological restoration, and equitable, nature-based solutions to reduce climate hazards and improve community resilience.

John J. Daigle, PhD, is a Penobscot Nation citizen member and professor in the School of Forest Resources at University of Maine, Orono. He has worked to mobilize diverse interests to address potential threats from the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Maine. The research seeks to study and facilitate how Wabanaki, basket-makers, tribes, state and federal foresters, university researchers, and landowners collaborate to prevent, detect, and respond to the EAB's threat. He is developing similar work focused on climate change and climate-smart forestry practices. As a grant partner with New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF), he will be working with the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Mi'kmaq Nation on forest management practices on their lands. He has published research on outreach and education, management, and policy.



JOHN J. DAIGLE



BRIAN DONAHUE

Brian Donahue, Professor Emeritus of American Environmental Studies at Brandeis University, is a farm and forest policy consultant. He holds a PhD from the Brandeis program in History. He co-founded, and for 12 years, directed Land's Sake, a nonprofit community farm in Weston, Massachusetts. Brian now co-owns and manages a farm in western Massachusetts. He sits on the board of the Massachusetts Woodland Institute and The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas. Brian is the author of Reclaiming the Commons: Community Farms and Forests in a New England Town (1999), and The Great Meadow: Farmers and the Land in Colonial Concord (2004). He is co-author of Wildlands and Woodlands: a vision for the future of Massachusetts and A New England Food Vision.



DAVID FOSTER

David Foster is an ecologist and Director Emeritus at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University's 4,000-acre ecological laboratory, and President Emeritus on the board of the Highstead Foundation, a regional conservation nonprofit dedicated to increasing the pace of land protection in New England and beyond through science. In 2010, David and colleagues developed Wildlands and Woodlands - A Vision for the New England Landscape that argues for regional forest and farmland conservation integrated with resilient community development for the benefit of nature and all people. Through strong collaboration, the Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities initiative is advancing many regional public and private partners.

Heather Furman is the Appalachians Director at The Nature Conservancy. As a global priority landscape for the Conservancy, Heather provides leadership for continental scale conservation, leading teams and initiatives across 17 states and three Canadian provinces. Prior, Heather served as the conservancy's State Director in Vermont. She has held positions in both federal and state government, and with local and international NGO's. In addition to her formal education, she has traveled extensively throughout Europe, Latin America, and Asia. She resides in Vermont on the unceded land of the Western Abenaki known today as the Northern Appalachians. HEATHER FURMAN





LISA HAYDEN

Lisa Hayden is Director of Outreach & Engagement at New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) where she focuses on woodland owner education and partnerships to advance conservation and sustainable forestry. She led a six-year comprehensive landowner outreach project in the 38-town MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership. She helped connect landowners with resources to make decisions about long-term conservation and management of their land, including climate change considerations. She currently serves as NEFF's administrative liaison to the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts and will be supporting woodland owner outreach in the Climate-Smart Forest Partnership.

LIZ KELLY

Liz Kelly is a professional planner and designer with Resilience Planning and Design, a consulting firm based in New Hampshire that specializes in comprehensive land use planning and open space and conservation planning at the local and regional scale. She holds an MS in Ecological Design and Planning and has worked on projects throughout the Northeast focused on dynamic visioning, place-based analysis, collaborative land use planning, creative plan development, and equitable outreach and engagement. Liz is passionate about helping communities and organizations realize their goals and envision solutions to complex issues.

Andrew Milliken, Regional Landscape Conservation Coordinator for the Science Applications Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS,) coordinates landscape conservation in the Northeast Region. Earlier, he was Project Leader at the FWS's Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office; the first Coordinator of the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative, leading the partnership to support the development of critical science and put landscape conservation tools to work on the ground across the region; coordinator of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture working throughout the Atlantic Flyway; a biologist with the Southern New England – New York Bight Coastal Ecosystems Program; and a scientist with U.S. EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program.



ANDREW MILLIKEN



MELISSA OCANA

Melissa Ocana is the Climate Adaptation Coordinator at UMass Extension, where she promotes capacity and network building for climate adaptation practitioners with nature in mind. She specializes in peer learning and climate collaboratives. While focused on Massachusetts, she also engages in regional and national efforts, such as the National Adaptation Forum Planning Committee. Previously, Melissa ran a capacity building and grants program for New Jersey environmental nonprofits. She has also been Assistant to the Climate Change Policy Advisor at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Melissa has a BA from Vassar College and MS in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University.

TIM PURINTON

Tim Purinton is a special assistant, coordinating the Department of Interior's Keystone Initiatives via the Intergovernmental Personnel Act funded by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). In this role, Tim works closely with the Associate Deputy Secretary of Interior and the Deputy Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Prior to this post, Tim was the Executive Director of the Maryland/DC Chapter of TNC. Tim started his professional career in Massachusetts where he was the founding director and co-creator of the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration in the Department of Fish and Game.

Jennifer H. Shakun, Bioeconomy Initiative Director at New England Forestry Foundation, works to promote the use of local wood sourced from climate-beneficial forestry practices, as a lower carbon, ecologically sound building material. She advances this work through outreach and strategic partnerships, science, and program implementation. Before that, she was an Applied Forest Scientist at Manomet working with large landowners to reduce climate risk and increase resilience in North American forests. Earlier, as a project manager at Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC, she worked on wood energy, resource sustainability, and landowner outreach. Jennifer has a BS in Biology from Saint Michael's College and master's degrees in Forestry and Environmental Management from Duke University.



JENNIFER SHAKUN



AMY SHELDON

Amy Sheldon, of Middlebury, Vermont, holds a BA in economics from Middlebury College and an MS in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont. She is a consulting Natural Resource Planner at Landslide Natural Resource Planning, Inc. Amy is also a Senior Faculty member at the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), based in Lander, Wyoming and serves on the Middlebury Conservation Commission. Amy served on the Middlebury Planning Commission for 10 years, on the District 9 Environmental Board for Act 250, and on the board of the Middlebury Area Land Trust before being elected to the Vermont House in 2014. She has served on the Fish, Wildlife and Water Committee, the Agriculture and Forestry Committee, and the Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

SACHA SPECTOR

Sacha Spector is Program Director for the Environment at the Doris Duke Foundation, where he oversees all of the foundation's grantmaking on climate change, land conservation and stewardship, and inclusive conservation. Previously, Spector held positions as Director of Conservation Science at Scenic Hudson, manager of the Invertebrate Conservation Program at the American Museum of Natural History and adjunct associate professor at Columbia University's Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology. Author and co-author of more than 30 research papers, books and articles, he earned a Ph.D. in ecology from the Univeristy of Connecticut and a Bachelor of Science in environmental biology from Yale University.

Jeff Spiritos is Principal of Spiritos Properties LLC, a commercial and residential developer that builds mass timber projects in New York and the Northeast. Spiritos worked for 25 years with Hines before starting his firm in 2004, and for the past nine years, has turned to building only with mass timber structural systems. Current projects include two projects under construction in New Haven, Connecticut and a 55+ rental apartment project in Northampton, Massachusetts, currently in design. Both the New Haven projects were selected for U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovation Grants. Spiritos has a BS in civil engineering from Duke University and an MBA from the University of Michigan.



JEFF SPIRITOS



ELIZABETH THOMPSON

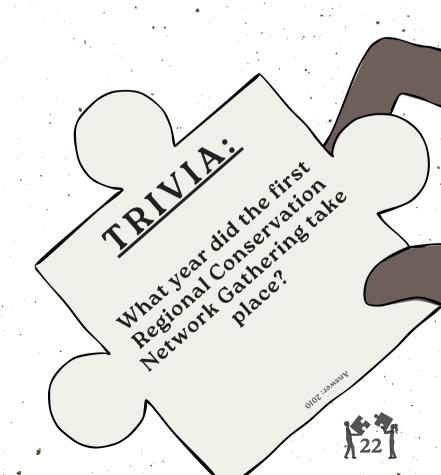
Elizabeth Thompson is a conservation ecologist and botanist living in Jericho, Vermont, where wild places are near at hand. Liz is recently retired from a 40-year career in land conservation in Vermont but remains actively involved in the work. She coauthored Wetland, Woodland, Wildland, A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont, as well as Vermont Conservation Design and, most recently, Wildlands in New England: Past, Present, and Future. For 20 years, she taught Field Botany and Ecology at the University of Vermont. Liz's current favorite pastime is walking in nature with a camera, finding the beauty in small and ordinary things.



MARK WAMSLEY

Mark Wamsley is Conservation Director at Kestrel Land Trust. He draws on training as an anthropologist and a landscape architect to pursue his passion – helping landowners and communities find the common ground necessary to protect open space. He has been actively involved in land conservation in the Pioneer Valley for more than 15 years, formerly serving as a staff member of The Trustees of Reservations and its Highland Communities Initiative and as a Nonotuck Land Fund board member. He has completed dozens of complicated land conservation projects at Kestrel Land Trust.

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RCPS LEADING AND LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER

Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP)-led presentations will champion RCPs' role in reaching multiple objectives, connecting with new partners, and acquiring helpful tools to support partners. Leaders will reflect on how RCPs can embrace complexity by engaging new sectors with shared interests, joining land conservation projects at a regional scale, seeking more complicated funding, and expanding land access. RCPs will share how they're collaborating at scale to meet diverse goals and how they address challenges, setbacks, and complexity.

B1: CONNECTING CONSERVATION TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

Speaker: Simon Rucker, Mike Wilson **Moderator:** Karen Strong **Track:** Advancing Land Justice

As conservationists, we know nature is a respite, a place to go when we're stressed and need healing. Two RCPs in rural Maine are responding to community needs by making the tangible benefits of land conservation (scenic vistas, clean water, outdoor recreation, etc.) more accessible to communities and people who have historically not been connected to nature. The High Peaks Initiative is connecting asylum seekers with nature through outdoor experiences while providing educational and economic opportunities for people. The Maine West partnership is building opportunities for youth, older adults, and people in recovery to engage with nature and meet others in a supportive community to promote health and healing in the outdoors. Following the presentations, the presenters will discuss what RCPs can draw from their work so that more people in more places can experience the community benefits of conservation and access to nature.

B2: ENGAGEMENT THROUGH COMMUNITYCENTERED CORRIDOR INITIATIVES - FOLLOW THE FOREST AND THE GREEN CORRIDOR

Speakers: Julia Rogers, Connie Manes, Adam Goodman, Mary Ellen Lemay **Track:** Collaborative Landscape Conservation

The region faces unprecedented challenges: the climate crisis, insect apocalypse, and biodiversity collapse/loss that call for innovative, creative methods to accelerate conservation in response to these crises. This presentation will focus on initiatives to advance conservation, biodiversity, and connectivity. Panelists will discuss how the initiatives engage with individuals at various scales – regional conservation partnerships, individual organizations, and individual landowners. Participants will learn how they can implement these strategies in their region.

Two examples that will be discussed are Aspetuck Land Trust's Green Corridor Initiative (Fairfield County, Connecticut) which links green spaces within more developed residential and urban areas to the protected natural areas they steward, and Follow the Forest, developed at the Housatonic Valley Association, which works to protect and connect a nationally significant climate corridor extending from southern New York to Canada.

B3: THE NORTHEAST MID-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTS AND WATER

Speaker: Kira Jacobs, Annica McGuirk
Track: Collaborative Landscape Conservatior

The Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water is a new cross-boundary collaboration. It advances regional priorities, provides measurable, on-the-ground outcomes for forest health and water quality, and aims to restore priority forest landscapes to improve water quality and protect source water. The partnership footprint includes 13 states, from Maine to West Virginia and Ohio.

The Northeast Partnership aims to conserve, restore, and enhance forest landscapes in priority watersheds across the partnership footprint, develop coordinated goals and messaging for use with forest landowners, partners, and other stakeholders, and create alignment between forest and water sectors with the goal of maximizing resources and outcomes.

B4: LEARNING FROM THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND HERITAGE FOREST RCPP

Speakers: Lois Bruinooge, Carol Grasis, Marina Capraro, Kate Sayles **Moderator:** Christopher Riely

Track: Collaborative Landscape Conservation/Fundraising and Conservation Finance

The Southern New England Heritage Forest Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) provides an informative case study of the Natural Resources Conservation Service RCPP, with broad applications for complex, public-private collaborations. Running from 2017 to 2023 and beyond, this multi-state effort protected critical family woodlands in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island and facilitated improved stewardship on thousands of forested acres.

Following an introduction to this first-generation RCPP, a panel discussion will allow participants to share lessons learned and perspectives that can be applied to similar projects. Despite many obstacles, this project will ultimately accomplish most of its goals. Which parts of the project were most successful, and which were most challenging? How can NRCS and private partners work together most effectively? Project leaders will share suggestions for others considering the RCPP program and those working across regional boundaries and organizational divides.

B5: FOREST MANAGEMENT ACROSS PROPERTY BOUNDARIES: THE WOODLOTS PROGRAM TOOLKIT

Speakers: Monica Przyperhart, Nancy Patch **Track:** Landowner and Municipal Engagement and Outreach

With the majority of our forestland in private ownership, maintaining forest health and resilience relies on the decisions and actions of private landowners. Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC) has addressed this challenge by creating a program that convenes neighboring landowners in high-priority forest blocks who together learn strategies for maintaining forest resilience, receive technical assistance, and when possible, are connected with funding opportunities to put plans into action.

Cold Hollow to Canada has been asked by numerous groups—including the RCP network—for detailed information on how to initiate similar programs, methods for running them, and guidance on how to make similar initiatives successful elsewhere. Thanks to funding from the High Meadows Fund and a Vermont Watershed Grant, CHC has developed an online "Woodlots Toolkit" to enable adoption by conservation groups in other geographies. In this workshop, presenters will share this resource and its intended use.

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LOIS BRUINOOGE

Lois Bruinooge is Executive Director of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor in eastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts. Her background is in environmental law, and she spent many years as an attorney with two state environmental agencies in Massachusetts. At The Last Green Valley, she works on conservation initiatives that increase our understanding of cultural resources and enhance access to nature and the outdoors for all. For the past six years, she has led The Last Green Valley's efforts as the coordinating NGO partner for the Southern New England Heritage Forest Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Marina Capraro holds a BS in Environmental Science and Management from the University of Rhode Island. She has worked in municipal government and as a partner planner for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Rhode Island. She is the Agriculture and Forestry Program Manager at the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District where she oversees programs and grant awards related to natural resource management. Her primary focus in recent years has been on the implementation of forestland easements through the USDA-NRCS' Regional Conservation Partner Program and watershed-level conservation planning.



MARINA CAPRARO



ADAM GOODMAN

Adam Goodman is Aspetuck Land Trust's Land Protection Specialist. He achieved a BS in Geology from Union College and an MS in Earth Sciences from Syracuse University. Formerly an environmental consultant with extensive experience in soil and groundwater investigations, his passion for understanding the physical landscape and desire to protect open space brought him to the Aspetuck Land Trust, first as a volunteer in 2013 and then as its Land Protection Specialist in 2021. Adam also serves on the Town of Fairfield's Land Acquisition Commission, on the board of Friends of Sherwood Island State Park, and competes as a professional disc golfer.



CAROL GRASIS

Carol Grasis has worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for 29 years, with an early career that included positions as a cartographic technician, soil conservationist and programs specialist. She is currently the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in the Connecticut State Office. In this role, she oversees NRCS conservation and easement programs and serves as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Coordinator in Connecticut.

Kira Jacobs has worked as a water quality scientist with EPA since 1997. She works at EPA's Region 1 office in Boston, which serves all six New England states. For the past 26 years, Kira has worked in the Source Water Protection program in the Drinking Water Branch. In this position, she works with New England water suppliers and communities to help protect their sources of drinking water. Her expertise has given her the opportunity to work on national policy issues related to protecting water supplies nationwide. Kira received a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University and a BA in English from Bucknell University.



KIRA JACOBS



MARY ELLEN LEMAY

Mary Ellen Lemay is Director of Landowner Engagement for the Aspetuck Land Trust, Co-founder of Pollinator Pathway, and a member of the Connecticut Native Plants Working Group. She is also Chairwoman of the Trumbull Conservation Commission, Vice Chair of the MetroCOG Conservation Technical Advisory Committee, and Former President of the Trumbull Land Trust. Mary Ellen holds a BS in Biology from Fairfield University and an MBA from Fordham University. She earned her Masters in Environmental Management from Yale University School of the Environment.

WEW WEB



CONNIE MANES

Connie Manes serves as Litchfield Hills Greenprint Director with the Housatonic Valley Association, the Principal of Manes Consulting, LLC, and part-time Executive Director of Kent Land Trust. In 2012, she pioneered the growing national Land Trust Alliance Circuit Rider program, working with nonprofits throughout Connecticut to prepare for national accreditation. Connie has directly represented nearly half of the Greenprint member organizations and has strong connections to them all. A graduate of Williams College, she earned her JD from New York University School of Law and her master's degree in public administration from Pace University.

Annica McGuirk, National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) Northeast Region Representative, serves the network of Northeast conservation districts from her home in Lisbon Falls, Maine. Prior to coming to NACD, she supported the American Tree Farm System as Network and Information Manager building its operational capacity. She comes from a rich background of conservation work at local, regional, and national levels and is strongly interested in building community as part of our collaborative work. She holds a BS in Ecology from Unity College and is a Maine Master Naturalist.



ANNICA MCGUIRK



NANCY PATCH

Nancy Patch is Co-Founder and Vice President of Cold Hollow to Canada Forest Link Project (CHC), where she brings a vision for the Northern Forest to the CHC region's future. As a community organizer and County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks and Recreation, she helps connect the people in CHC's seventown region with the science of conservation and ecological forest management. She has been a practicing forester since 1985 when she graduated with a BS in Forestry from the University of Vermont (UVM). Nancy has an MA in Curriculum Development from UVM and an, MS in Plant and Soil Science from Texas A&M University – Kingsville. She is on the board of Two Countries, One Forest, and serves on the steering committee for the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere network.



MONICA PRZYPERHART

Monica Przyperhart is Program Director at Cold Hollow to Canada, where she works closely with private forest landowners interested in stewarding or conserving their land. She has run the Woodlots Program, takes the lead on conservation projects, and was instrumental in the development of the toolkit. Wearing many hats, Monica also teaches Environmental Science at Middlebury College, leads a chapter of the Vermont Master Naturalist Program, and is co-chair for the Middlebury Area Land Trust. In all roles, Monica seeks to combine scientific research with community education.

Christopher Riely represented the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership in coordinating Southern New England Heritage Forest Regional Conservation Partner Program land conservation and stewardship activities in south central Massachusetts, home to many actively managed family woodlands. He divides his time between his independent practice, Sweet Birch Consulting, and a forestry extension and research position with the University of Rhode Island. He is also active in the RCP Network as Co-Coordinator of the Rhode Island Woodland Partnership. Christopher is a Society of American Foresters-Certified Forester and Certified/Licensed in Connecticut and Massachusetts.



CHRISTOPHER RIELY



JULIA ROGERS

Julia Rogers serves as Senior Land Protection
Manager at the Housatonic Valley Association. She
has a BA in biology from Colby College, and an M.S. in
natural resources and the environment from the
University of Connecticut. Julia has worked with land
trusts in south-central Pennsylvania, northeastern
Connecticut, and the Hudson Valley of New York,
where she managed their conservation portfolios and
pursued new conservation opportunities. She also has
extensive research experience – working on projects
relating to invasive plant species, non-native
earthworms, and tropical rainforest restoration.



SIMON RUCKER

Simon Rucker formerly worked in the legal department for The Trust for Public Land and for a New York City entertainment law firm, and has been the Executive Director of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust since 2014. He is a member of the Portland Land Bank Commission and lives in Portland with his wife and two children.

Kate Sayles is the Director of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, the state's coalition of land trusts. In this role, she advocates for sound land conservation policy and looks for unique ways to assist land trusts with capacity building. From 2011-2021, Kate worked for the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District, wearing many hats, including managing Snake Den Farm and facilitating the Forestry for Rhode Island Birds project. She also assisted in easement programs through Natural Resources Conservation Service and serves as partner on the Rhode Island Forest Health Works Project. Kate is Co-Coordinator of the Rhode Island Woodland Partnership.



KATE SAYLES



KAREN STRONG

Karen Strong is the founder of Strong Outcomes, a company that supports organizations that conserve land, wildlife, and water. Over the past 24 years, she has built capacity to conserve natural resources in dozens of communities and organizations using her training as a biologist, experience as a conservationist, and mindset as a lifelong learner. Karen is committed to science-based decision-making and evaluation and believes that everyone should have access to benefits of being in nature. That's why she is always thinking about how to make conservation more relevant to more people from all walks of life.

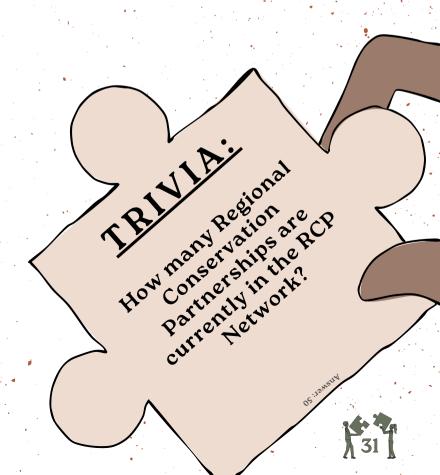




MIKE WILSON

Mike Wilson is a founding staff member of the Northern Forest Center, with more than 20 years' experience in rural community development, engagement, and conservation work across the Northern Forest region. Mike leads the Center's Outdoor Recreation programs with a focus on recreation-based tourism and community recreation infrastructure, readiness. He manages the Maine West initiative's work on to support Active Communities, Broadband Expansion, and Educational Aspirations in western Maine. He holds a BA in Journalism from James Madison University and a master's in Natural Resource Management and Administration from Antioch University.

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RESEARCH, RESOURCES, AND NEW IDEAS TO SUPPORT YOUR WORK

Topics will focus on building strategic and communication capacity to achieve goals, guiding conservation leaders in how to increase investment in under-resourced communities, and understanding what new research says about the value of wildlands and the restoration of old-growth forests.

C1: INCREASING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION FOR MASSACHUSETTS' LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Speakers: Melissa Cryan, Kristen Sykes **Track:** Fundraising and Conservation Finance/Advancing Land Justice

With the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act in 2020 ensuring \$900 million annually be disbursed nationally through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Commonwealth and its partners, the Appalachian Mountain Club, The Nature Conservancy, and MassAudubon, created an education and outreach program to help communities benefit from this increased funding. These organizations hosted listening sessions, workshops, and meetings to hear from a diverse group of stakeholders on how funds could be maximized to equitably serve diverse audiences, including Environmental Justice communities.

This presentation will present lessons learned on how we can promote inclusion of and encourage participation by DEI populations in the grant process. We will also discuss ways land trusts can effectively partner with municipalities and Environmental Justice communities to encourage stateside LWCF-funded projects.

C2: RESTORING OLD GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS & UNDERSTANDING FAMILY FOREST OWNER ATTITUDES TOWARD PASSIVE MANAGEMENT

Speakers: Paul Catanzaro, Lina Clifford **Track:** Collaborative Landscape Conservation

Restoring old-growth characteristics to our ecologically young forests offers restoration opportunities across the landscape matrix. There are active and passive approaches to restoring old-growth characteristics that are equally important and complimentary of one another. In order to implement different types of forest management across the landscape, family forest owners must be engaged, as they own the plurality of forests in the Northeast. This workshop presents active and passive practices to restore old-growth characteristics and shares the preliminary results of survey research on family forest owners' attitudes toward the passive, or "wildlands" approach to forest management.

C3: A CASE FOR WILDLANDS

Speakers: David Foster, Jamie Sayen, Liz Thompson **Track:** Collaborative Landscape Conservation

RCP and conservation leaders often grapple with the question of how to integrate working forests with wildlands protection. In this session, authors of the recently released Wildlands in New Englandreport will look at 1) why Wildlands protection is vital for climate change, biodiversity, and human health; 2) where RCPs can look to find the best opportunities for Wildlands protection; and 3) how RCPs can make Wildlands part of an integrated strategy to achieve landscape-scale conservation that also addresses the urgent needs and interests of their local communities. This session will feature individual examples that demonstrate the important role of Wildlands in broader conservation efforts.

C4: INSPIRE ACTION WITH EMPATHETIC COMMUNICATIONS: ADVANCING STRATEGIC AND COLLECTIVE NARRATIVES

Speakers: Marissa Latshaw, Shane Rogers **Track:** Landowner and Municipal Engagement and Outreach

Building local support is critical for most RCPs – this requires strong relationships with community groups, municipal boards and officials, donors, residents, and landowners. These strong relationships start with empathetic communication grounded in the values of the people you serve and ultimately wish to engage in your RCP's vision, mission, and goals.

During the session, we'll explore the need to build systems of empathy for communications, how narratives, or shared interpretations of the world, can be wielded strategically and collectively, and what collective narratives are already being built as we work toward an integrated conservation approach that lifts up wildlands, woodlands, farmlands, seacoasts, and communities as integral to building a clean, just, and equitable future.

This hands-on workshop provides a model for effective, empathetic communications and an opportunity to apply this model to your organization using the tools and resources offered during the session.



C5: SUPPORTING LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WITH LAND TRUST SOLAR ENERGY

Speakers: Lisetta Silvestri, Angi Francesco **Track:** Climate Resiliency

Learn how the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (a small regional land trust) and the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (a small renewable energy non-profit organization/cooperatively owned utility) partnered together and used marginal lands to create renewable energy for local income-eligible families. The workshop will discuss other innovative ways to create renewable energy on lands owned by environmental organizations. There will also be an interactive element to the workshop to spearhead new ideas and to test participants' preconceptions of renewable energy and where it belongs in our landscape.

C6: THE EMERGENCE AND GROWTH OF CANADIAN REGIONAL CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIPS

Speakers: John Lounds, Sarah Winterton, Thom Unrau, Melanie Lelievre, Phil Huffman **Moderator:** Jim Levitt

Track: Climate Resiliency/Collaborative Landscape Conservation

Over the past several decades, a limited number of Canadian land trusts (and related land conservation non-governmental organizations and potential funders) have shown a growing interest in collaborating on a regional basis to advance regional land protection, wildlife habitat conservation, and related goals. Recently, interest in the idea has accelerated, with an added emphasis put on efforts to address climate change mitigation and adaptation-related challenges. This session will consider several efforts to initiate and sustain "Regional Conservation and Climate Partnerships" that are being conceived or growing across Canada. A group of Canadian and American conservationists will discuss what the Canadians have already learned and hope in the future to learn from the emergence of RCPs in the United States. They will also discuss what the Canadians are learning in their own country that should be of interest to their American counterparts.

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WINWIGS



PAUL CATANZARO

Paul Catanzaro is a professor in the Forest Ecology and Conservation program at UMass Amherst, serves as the Massachusetts State Extension Forester and Co-Director of the Family Forest Research Center, a partnership between the USDA Forest Service and UMass.

Lina Clifford is a master's student in the Environmental Conservation and Forest Resources program at UMass Amherst, working with Paul Catanzaro. She co-coordinates the Women on the Land network in Massachusetts. Her past work experience at a regional land trust in New York inspired her interest in engaging family forest owners and her research on their attitudes toward passive forest management options.



LINA CLIFFORD



MELISSA CRYAN

Melissa Cryan is the Grant Programs Supervisor at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Division of Conservation Services. She directly administers the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Conservation Partnership Grant Programs. Melissa also reviews all communities' Open Space and Recreation Plans.

WEW WEEK



DAVID FOSTER

David Foster is an ecologist and Director Emeritus at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University's 4,000-acre ecological laboratory, and President Emeritus on the board of the Highstead Foundation, a regional conservation nonprofit dedicated to increasing the pace of land protection in New England and beyond through science. In 2010, David and colleagues developed Wildlands and Woodlands – A Vision for the New England Landscape that argues for regional forest and farmland conservation integrated with resilient community development for the benefit of nature and all people. Through strong collaboration, the Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities initiative advances many regional partners.

Angi Francesco is a results-driven facilitator and presenter with a passion for helping individuals and organizations achieve their goals through effective communication, collaboration, and problem-solving.

She brings a blend of expertise in nonprofit development, strategic planning, and inter-agency cooperation. She has worked with a diverse range of clients across many industries, most recently in the environmental space. Her facilitation style, honed over 20 years, is rooted in a collaborative and interactive approach. She works to create a safe and inclusive environment where all voices are heard and valued. Angi holds a Master's in Communication from Southern New Hampshire University.



ANGI FRANCESCO



PHIL HUFFMAN

Phil Huffman has been a conservation leader in the for more than three decades, with extended stints in the nonprofit and public sectors and as an independent consultant. His work has encompassed innovative, impactful approaches to landscape-scale conservation, cross-border collaboration, community-based river conservation, natural resources planning and management, private land conservation, community engagement, and public policy and advocacy. Since 2009, Phil has played a leadership role in the Staying Connected Initiative, a unique partnership working to sustain and enhance landscape connectivity in the Northern Appalachian-Acadian region.

WEW KER



MARISSA LATSHAW

Marissa Latshaw is an organizational empathy consultant at Latshaw Marketing where she works with mission-drive organizations to build inclusive communication strategies that inspire action. She serves as co-coordinator of the Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities initiative, working with partners throughout New England to help bring a more holistic, integrated approach to land conservation.

Jim Levitt is the director of the International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The ILCN, which Levitt co-founded in 2014, has a mission of connecting organizations around the world that are accelerating voluntary private and civic sector action to protect and steward land and water resources. Levitt is a graduate of Yale College and the Yale School of Management (Yale SOM). He is a member of the first cohort of Donaldson Fellows honored by Yale SOM for career achievements that "exemplify the mission of the School."



JIM LEVITT



JOHN LOUNDS

John Lounds is Director of Business Development for the Centre for Land Conservation, working to grow the community-based private land conservation movement in Canada. He recently retired as President and CEO of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Over his 23 years as CEO, John oversaw remarkable growth in the Conservancy's programs, conservation projects, funding, and impact, having helped with the conservation of more than 14 million hectares. Previously, John was Executive Director of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature) and worked for a number of years in senior positions with the Government of Ontario.



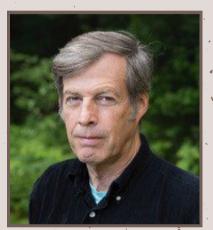
NEW KER



SHANE ROGERS

Shane Rogers is Communication Director for Food Solutions New England, where he works to build equitable and inclusive food systems that work for people through effective narrative building and collective action and communications. Prior to that, Shane worked as a communicator for the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Vermont Farm to Plate Network, Green Mountain Farm-to-School, and as a journalist. Throughout his career, he has worked to center stories and narratives grounded in community, bottom-up organizing.

Jamie Sayen is a writer and wildlands activist living in northern New Hampshire. He founded *The Northern Forest Forum*, a bi-monthly journal of conservation and forestry issues in northern New England in 1992 and edited the Forum from 1992-1997. He is author of *Einstein in America: The Scientist's Conscience in the Age of Hitler and Hiroshima*, (1985) *You Had a Job for Life: Story of a Company Town* (2018, second edition to be released Fall 2023 by Brandeis University Press), and *Children of the Northern Forest: Wild New England's History from Glaciers to Global Warming* (to be released by Yale University Press Fall 2023.)



JAMIE SAYEN



LISETTA SILVESTRI

Lisetta Silvestri is a New Hampshire attorney who works as a consultant for the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and is a part-time staff member at Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative. She has worked on land conservation for more than 15 years and cares about the intersection of land conservation, social justice, and renewable energy.



KRISTEN SYKES

Kristen Sykes is the Northeast Regional Director for National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). Prior to joining NPCA, she worked for the Appalachian Mountain Club since 2004 as the Director of Southern New England Conservation Projects and Partnerships. She worked extensively to advance land conservation, trails, and recreational access throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. She has an MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana and a BA in International Relations from California State University, Sacramento. Kristen is a board member for the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, Venture Out Project, and the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition.

Elizabeth Thompson is a conservation ecologist and botanist living in Jericho, Vermont, where wild places are near at hand. Liz is recently retired from a 40-year career in land conservation in Vermont but remains actively involved in the work. She co-authored Wetland, Woodland, Wildland, A Guide to the Natural *Communities of Vermont*, as well as Vermont Conservation Design and, most recently, Wildlands in New England: Past, Present, and Future. For 20 years, she taught Field Botany and Ecology at the University of Vermont. Liz's current favorite pastime is walking in nature with a camera, finding the beauty in small and ordinary things.



ELIZABETH THOMPSON



THOM UNRAU

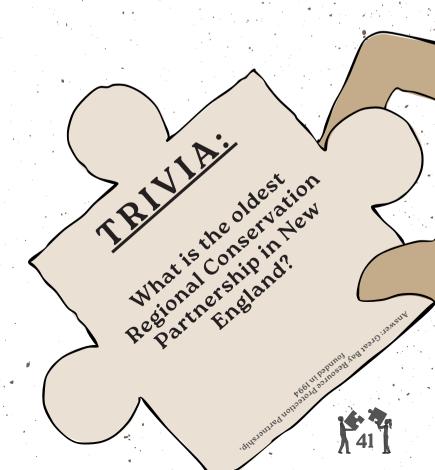
Thom Unrau is Director of Community Conservation at Kawartha Land Trust (KLT). Thom has worked at KLT for six years and has played a key role in growing the impact of the land rust. He has experience working with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and has done a wide range of conservation work in locations spanning from Northern Ontario to South Africa. He believes that "land is the answer" to many of the biggest challenges we face and that we can rise to this opportunity by making conservation relevant and inclusive to all.

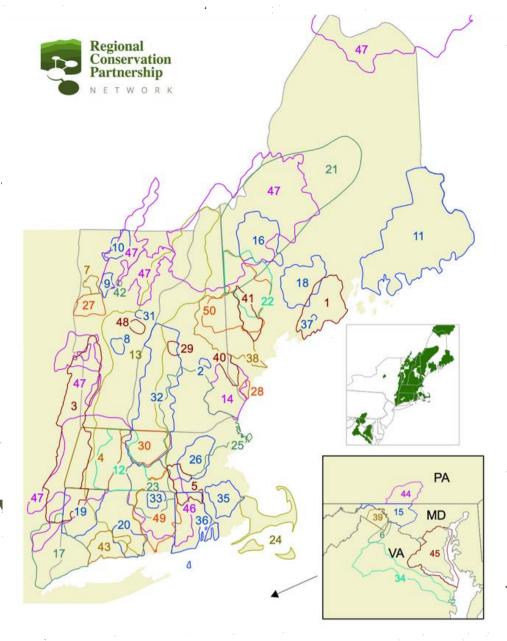


SARAH WINTERTON

Sarah Winterton is Research Lead at the Centre for Land Conservation (CLC) and the author of Building a Landscape Conservation Approach: The Potential for Regional Conservation and Climate Partnerships in Canada. She has extensive experience in Ontario's environmental non-profit sector, working on policy, program development, capacity building, and development initiatives. Most recently, Sarah held the roles of Director, Nature Connected Communities, WWF Canada, and Managing Director, Environmental Defence.

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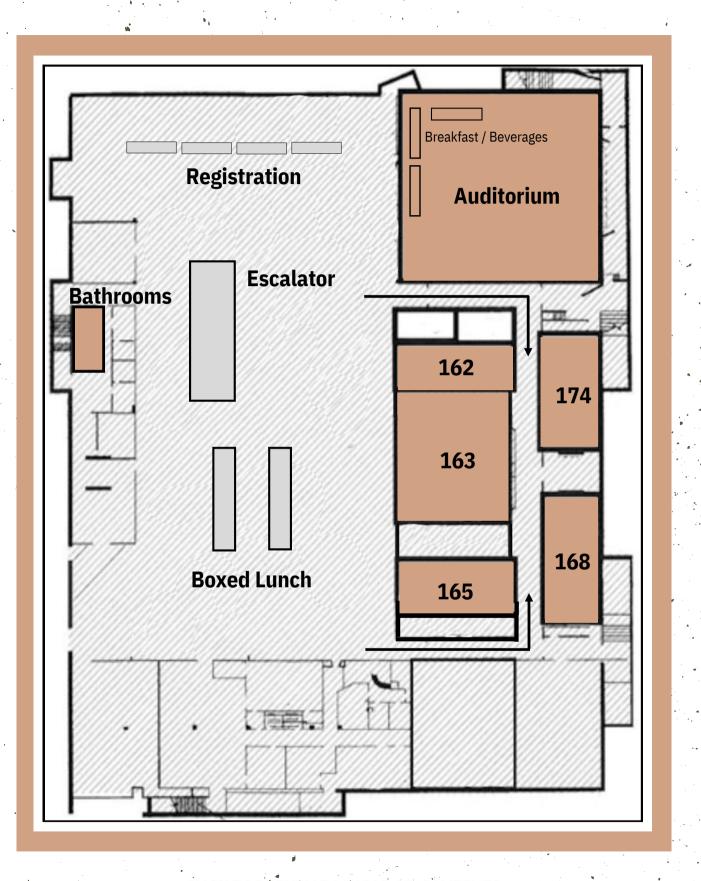




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- 23 Mass-Conn Sustainable Forest Partnership
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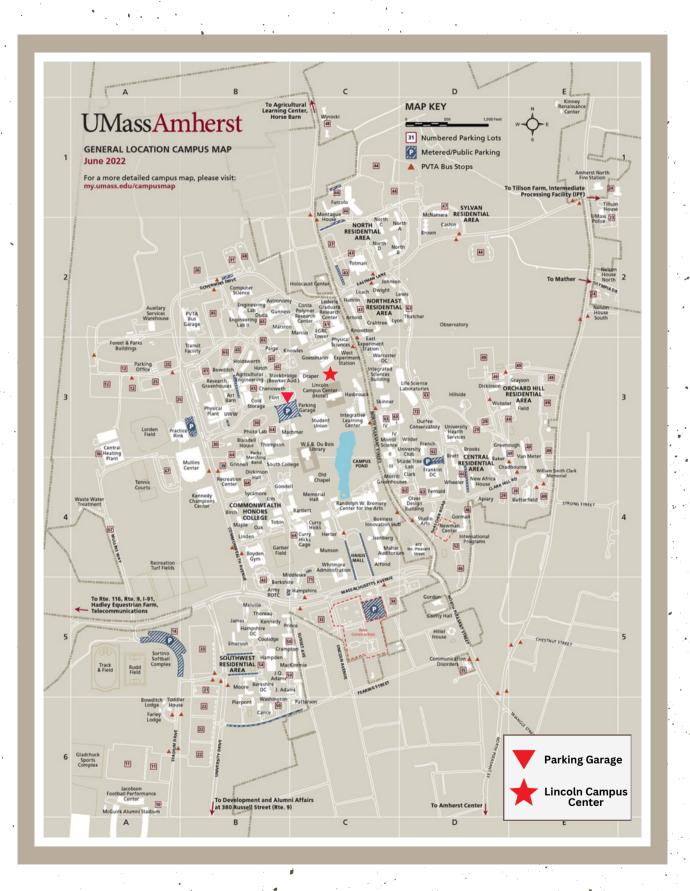
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Directions for Parking

Parking for attendees of the RCP Network Gathering is available at the Campus Center Parking Garage, located at 1 Campus Center Way. Google Maps is the preferred application to use to get you to the parking garage. Please retain the ticket dispensed upon entry. Passes for complimentary parking will be provided to registrants at check-in on November 9.

To access the UMass Lincoln Campus Center from the parking garage, exit the parking garage on the third level at the northeast exit (labeled). Upon exiting, the Campus Center will be directly in front of you. Take the walking path toward the Campus Center outside the garage.

Parking Validation

Take ticket upon entry into the parking garage. At the registration desk inside the event you'll be given a validated ticket you'll need to enter into the Parking Payment Kiosk. Upon exit, you can also scan the parking payment code here to remit payment.



Helpful Links

'Visit' Section of the UMass Website:

https://tinyurl.com/4k3ztnxv

Google Directions to UMass Parking Garage:

https://tinyurl.com/yxbzc4yw

Online PDF of the UMass Campus Map:

https://tinyurl.com/2fy92mwm

