



Connecticut Fund
for the Environment
Save the Sound®

GreenSheet

Credit: Brandon Patel

40 Favorite Places Around Connecticut and Long Island Sound

To celebrate CFE/Save the Sound's 40th anniversary, our members and supporters helped us assemble a master list of 40 treasured places around Connecticut and Long Island Sound. Check out a few staff, board, and member picks below!



Mulberry Point, Guilford, CT

"As seen from a drone, this is Mulberry Point in Guilford, CT, our home away from home. There's nothing quite like the sound of the waves and the sea gulls here to make you feel completely relaxed." – Dawn Henry, CFE/Save the Sound board member



Top of East Rock, New Haven, CT

"What's great about this place is that every time you go you can see something different, and despite it being such a bustling city, it's surrounded by so much nature." – Joseph DiMaggio, CFE/Save the Sound director of member engagement

Marsh at Sherwood Island State Park, Westport, CT



Headwaters of the Niantic River, East Lyme, CT

"Low tide on the headwaters of the beautiful Niantic River. These three young deer are just a few of the lovely critters in the Niantic River watershed." – David Robinson



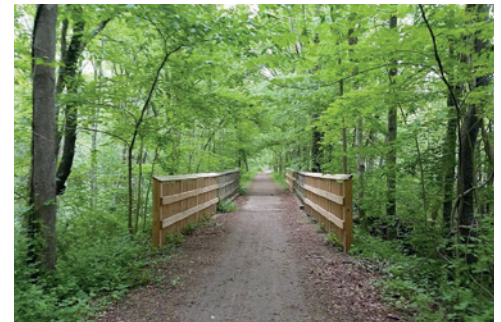
Marsh at Sherwood Island State Park, Westport, CT

"My favorite place is the marsh behind Sherwood Island Park where I spent a lot of hours fishing as a kid catching snappers and fiddler crabs. It was away from the beach crowds and felt like a miniature wilderness. Now my son Henry can enjoy these same adventures." – Bill Lucey, CFE/Save the Sound Long Island Soundkeeper



Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, NY

"The Marshlands about Milton Harbor and create a beautiful, serene, and natural backdrop... Forest, meadow, salt marsh and shore can be explored and appreciated here." – Libby Alexander, CFE/Save the Sound board member



The Airline Trail, East Hampton, CT

"Lovely views of the forest and great for getting exercise and connecting with wildlife!" – Brian Gay

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Visit our blog at www.ctenvironment.org/our-blog to see the full compilation and find out how to add your favorite place to the list!

Empowering the Future: Board Member Barbara David

Barbara David is a conservation leader and one of CFE/Save the Sound's longest serving board members, offering major support for the land, air, and water of Connecticut and the Long Island Sound region for more than 30 years.

One of Barbara's most remarkable contributions to our environment came earlier this year, with a generous gift to start an endowment for the Barbara Osborn David Chief Legal Director position.

"It's always been more of a challenge to raise dollars for our legal work, yet it is the most permanent piece of what we do," Barbara said. "We need the structure of law today more than ever before, to ensure the ongoing protection of our natural resources and the health of our environment."

CFE/Save the Sound is a legal advocacy organization and this transformational gift

provides a more predictable income stream, which will allow us to continue ensuring that the environment is protected through the best legal means we can give it.

"Building an endowment is really preparing for the future," Barbara added, noting the ability of an endowment to ensure security, flexibility, and permanence. "I hope that making this long-lasting contribution will inspire others to do the same."

With an endowment, donations are invested and the interest generated from the account is used to support the mission year after year. It's a great way to create a lasting impact with a donation. Anyone can contribute in any amount to an existing endowment, or create a whole new one with a substantial gift.

We thank you, Barbara, for all that you have done to conserve our region's resources and for investing in the future of CFE/Save the



Sound's ability to continue to wage legal battles for our earth!

For more information on endowments or if you wish to make a contribution to one, please contact Chief Development Officer Alicia Sullivan at asullivan@ctenvironment.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT 2018 Annual Meeting Award Winners

Each year, CFE/Save the Sound honors members and activists who've gone above and beyond to advance our mission.



State Senator Ted Kennedy, Jr.

First elected in 2014, Senator Kennedy has always been a friend to CFE/Save the Sound. We're celebrating Senator Kennedy as an environmental champion who's helped pass key environmental legislation at the Connecticut General Assembly, like the microplastic bill passed earlier this year. The

new legislation will address the growing problem of microplastic pollution in Connecticut's rivers, lakes and coastal waterways, with help from a working group of which Soundkeeper Bill Lucey is a member.



Amy Barnouw

As founder and CEO of Planet Fuel, Amy Barnouw's leadership resulted in a generous donation to help complete construction of the Noroton River fishway, a 10-year project to return river herring to their spawning habitat. Her company's social mission to promote environmental

education and desire to conserve natural resources led her, along with the Planet Fuel Student Advisory Council, to help Save the Sound and the Darien Land Trust achieve this victory for Long Island Sound's marine wildlife.



Leticia Colon de Mejias, Stephanie Weiner, and Vivian Perez

Leticia Colon de Mejias, CEO of Energy Efficiencies Solutions and co-chair of Efficiency For All; Vivian Perez, member/owner at HE-Energy Solutions; and Stephanie Weiner, CEO-founder at New England Smart Energy Group, LLC – Partners on the energy efficiency funds raid lawsuit of which CFE/Save the Sound is a part, we're celebrating Leticia, Vivian, and Stephanie as green job creators and leaders in fighting the sweep of ratepayer dollars that were intended for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Your Membership in Action

EXCITING LEGAL AND ON-THE-GROUND UPDATES

Get to Know the Seals of Plum Island!

Did you know Plum Island is a winter paradise for seals?

Plum Island's rocky, undeveloped shoreline hosts one of the largest seal haul-outs in southern New England. For years, seals have travelled to Plum Island to live for the winter and forage for food in nearby deep water.

Plum Island offers a level of isolation that even supports seal pupping: a rare sighting of at least one seal pup there proves it. Seal experts say that harbor seals are skittish and will abandon their young if they feel threatened or harassed, which includes just being in close proximity to people.

In recent years, Preserve Plum Island Coalition member Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI) has hosted seal cruises through Long Island's eastern bays and outer islands that allow wildlife lovers to observe these compelling creatures in their natural habitat, while keeping at a distance that is safe for the marine mammals and people alike.

Be sure to check our events calendar at www.ctenvironment.org/upcoming-events this winter for upcoming seal cruise dates featuring Save the Sound's Long Island Natural Areas Coordinator Louise Harrison! Once scheduled, CRESLI publishes a full list of seal cruises at www.cresli.org.



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Plum Island

LEGAL UPDATE

With the backing of members like you, CFE/Save the Sound filed suit against the federal government in July 2016 along with six other organizations and individuals to prevent the sale of Plum Island to the highest bidder.

We argued that the Final Environmental Impact Statement originally produced by the federal government (General Services Administration and Department of Homeland Security) lacked adequate environmental study and protection for endangered species, and that the agencies therefore violated the National Environmental Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and other federal laws in putting the island up for sale.

On August 10, we won some of those arguments outside of court when the GSA conceded that it will prepare a new supplementary Environmental Impact Statement, with scoping and research likely beginning next year. This will result in a new record of decision, which will, in turn, open new doors for our own legal arguments.

Despite this, the government has still not pledged to consider conservation or conservation sale alternatives for the undeveloped portion of the island. We will continue to advocate for that.

While the results of the new statement have yet to be seen, it is predicted that any sale of the island would now occur no earlier than 2023, allowing us time to bolster our efforts to preserve this precious place.



Robert Lorenz

CURT'S CORNER: A QUARTERLY NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Focused Impact of the Few



Dear Friend,
Forty years ago, Connecticut Fund for the Environment was founded as a small nonprofit law firm fighting to

protect the state's wild lands and waters from developers and big polluters. While our goal has always been to enforce the law when government fails to protect your favorite waterway, tract of forest, or the air you breathe, we've grown into so much more.

In my 24 years here I've watched the landscape of Connecticut and the Long Island Sound region transform in ways both big and small, thanks to members like you.

CFE/Save the Sound members have converted large sections of downtown sidewalks into rain gardens that filter polluted stormwater. Torn down dams to bring rivers back to life and restore dwindling fish populations. Continuously protected over 100,000 acres of water company land. This organization has fought for the creation of a green energy economy that employs over 6,000 in Connecticut, and we're developing a multi-year campaign to re-establish Connecticut a climate leader.

All of this work continues to make Connecticut an increasingly desirable place to live. Without CFE/Save the Sound's work over the last 40 years, the Connecticut I just described would be just a dream.

If Save the Sound hadn't jumped in to reduce nitrogen and clean up pollution over the last quarter-century, the Sound would be dead by now, choked with rotting fish and algae. Connecticut would operate at the mercy of the federal government with

regards to climate, as opposed to setting our own emissions reductions standards. The 1,000 acre Preserve coastal forest would be condos and golf courses.

Important as it is to look back and remember how far we've come, we must always keep our eyes on the future. Over 100,000 acres of water company forests are protected by regulations and laws that could be weakened at any time. Much of this land is currently inaccessible—meaning it's time to work with stakeholders to create walking trails and greenways for all of us to enjoy while protecting clean water. We must work to stop sewer leaks from polluting Long Island Sound. And we must fight to protect land that's constantly put up for grabs.

Finally, we must act now to protect our neighborhoods, rivers, and coast from the ravages of climate change. Join me in the campaign to make Connecticut a regional climate leader again, at a time when Washington, D.C., is in full climate retreat. Help lead and launch nature-based solutions like flood-absorbing marshes and green infrastructure initiatives that will protect our neighborhoods from increasing floods while providing homes to scores of fish, birds, and other wildlife.

As we look ahead to the next 40 years, we look forward to continuing to work with you—our members and donors that make it all possible—to bring your visions for our region's environmental future into reality. Thank you.



Curt Johnson
President, CFE/Save the Sound

Staff Spotlight

ANDREA KERIN

"Conservation is what I do professionally, but also personally," says Andrea Kerin, who joined the team as advocates and special gifts officer in April. As a passionate advocate for wildlife, Andrea comes to CFE/Save the Sound after three years with Connecticut Audubon, and looks forward to fighting for the conservation of critical natural resources and wild lands that both humans and wildlife depend on.

"The things affecting the quality of Long Island Sound are actually fixable, and the negative effects are reversible," Andrea says, explaining her excitement for engaging new supporters in the protection and improvement of Long Island Sound. "To support you, people have to see results, and we truly can make a notable difference for the health of the Sound in a relatively short time span."

When she's not busy working for conservation, Andrea enjoys birding with the New Haven Bird Club, improving her French language skills, and spending time with her two dogs.



Andrea kayaking with her dog, Coco.

“The things affecting the quality of Long Island Sound are actually fixable and the negative effects are reversible.”

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

A planned gift from your estate can help protect the endangered places you care about far into the future, while monthly giving of \$5, \$10, \$20, or more could be a small addition to your household budget and a big contribution to the environment. Contact mlemere@ctenvironment.org for more information.

FALL 2018



Save the Sound®

SoundBites

Credit: Sue Piantalis

Volunteer Citizen Scientists Are Healing Long Island Sound

This year's bacteria monitoring program came to a close in late August, ending Save the Sound's sixth season leading volunteer-driven bacterial testing in Greenwich, Westchester, and Queens' Little Neck Bay. While Save the Sound staffers work to analyze the samples collected by citizen scientists, we're excited to share how participation has impacted the lives of the volunteers who make the monitoring program possible.

Nishan Shehadeh, a high school senior at Rye Country Day School and a 2018 water quality monitor, says volunteering with Save the Sound has offered him real-world experience that's shaping his future goals while allowing him to aid the health of Long Island Sound.

"I have witnessed the treatment of the Sound by boaters and other users and have seen the toll that the human population can have on the ecological preservation of the Sound," said Nishan, who lives in Larchmont and enjoys sailing and boating on the Sound. "Working with Save the Sound offered me a chance to make a change benefiting Long Island Sound while

learning about experimental science and data collection in the real world."

Volunteers like Nishan — and the dozens of others who participated in this year's bacteria monitoring program — make it possible for Save the Sound to collect water samples that help identify sources of fecal contamination and track dissolved oxygen, water clarity, nitrogen, and more, providing information about human impact on local waters and supporting efforts to eliminate pollution. The resulting data engages local residents and their elected officials in combating persistent and hazardous water pollution and drives investment in wastewater infrastructure repairs.

"Everyone should consider giving back to the community by volunteering to monitor water quality on Long Island Sound because it's an easy way to make an impact on your own surroundings," Nishan added. "It's also a great way to learn about data collection and environmental work."

We're thankful to those who volunteered their time this summer to support a healthier Long Island Sound for all! Head



Volunteer Nishan Shehadeh sampling for water quality data in New Rochelle Harbor, New York.

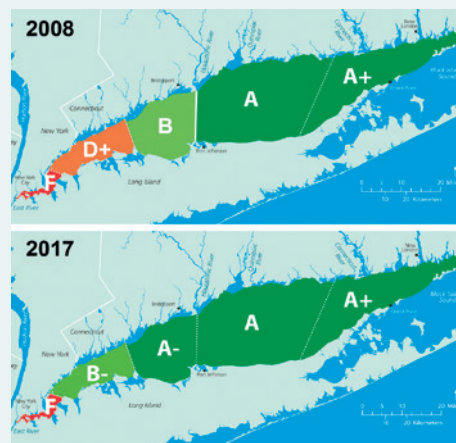
to www.ctenvironment.org/bacteria-monitoring/ to view this year's data.

Interested in becoming a water quality monitor with Save the Sound? The 2019 monitoring program will start with training in May/June and run through the end of August. All you need is access to transportation and availability on scheduled sampling days. To get involved, contact pollution@savethesound.org.

The New Long Island Sound Report Card Is Here!

This September, your membership helped publish the 2018 Long Island Sound Report Card, a critical tool for educating lawmakers and the public on the Sound's health. Released at joint press conferences in New Haven, CT, and Mamaroneck, NY, this year's Report Card features 10 years of eye-opening data, offering a comprehensive overview that will help guide new strategies for restoration. *Funding provided by the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.*

Explore the full 2018 report card at: www.ctenvironment.org/report-card

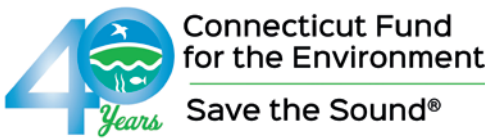


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Your Fall Issue of GreenSheet has Arrived!

Learn how volunteer citizen scientists are healing Long Island Sound, find out how you can get a close-up with the seals of Plum Island, meet this year's award winners, and more!



From Toxic Eyesore to Lush Landscape

In 2017, members of the Fairfield Beach Association reached out to CFE/Save the Sound with concern about the discovery of PCB contamination at a material dumping site in their neighborhood. Additionally, a lush, green hill that had once served as a visual barrier between the neighborhood and the site—the Fairfield Public Works Department's aggregate facility—had been stripped of all vegetation and the dumping area expanded, creating an eyesore contaminated with hazardous waste.

CFE/Save the Sound became involved, and fortunately the Town of Fairfield responded quickly, taking swift action to remediate the PCB contamination and hiring a landscape architect to bring the hill back to its previous natural state.



Credit: Nancy Moon

2016



Credit: Nancy Moon

2018

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900 Chapel St, Suite 2202
New Haven, CT 06510

