CLEAR 2021 Webinar Series

Wednesday, May 19, 1-2pm

Building Capacity for Conservation: Engaging Local Teens
Presented by Nicole Friedenfelds and Amy Cabaniss, Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA), Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment

READ ABSTRACT
REGISTER

Wednesday, May 26, 1-2pm

Connecticut Trail Finder
Presented by Kim Bradley, UConn Extension Trails Program Coordinator

READ ABSTRACT
REGISTER

Wednesday, June 9, 1-2pm

Speaker Series:
Finding the Right Trees for the Right Time
Brave New Worlds for Trees: Assisted Migration and the Study of Hoffman Preserve Date
Presented by Dr. Juliana Barrett, Connecticut Sea Grant and UConn Extension

READ ABSTRACT
REGISTER

A full list of past webinars can be found in our CLEAR Webinar Library.

https://clear.uconn.edu/webinars/schedule
Building Capacity for Conservation: Engaging Local Teens

Meet Your Hosts

Amy Cabaniss, Ph.D.
NRCA Coordinator

Nicole Freidenfelds
NRCA Coordinator
Meet Our Guest Panelists

Judy Rondeau
Eastern CT Conservation District

Joy VanderLek
Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshire

Warren
CTP 2018-2019
CAP 2019-2020

Becca
CAP 2020-2021

Harper
CTP 2020-2021
Webinar Outline

• Building Capacity with Teens
• Overview of NRCA Programs
• Conservation Project Examples
• Q & A

Take a moment to think about the types of conservation projects that benefit your organization...
Community

- Passion
- Knowledge
- Build capacity
- Apply expertise
- Youth creativity
- Connect with nature
- Develop soft skills
- Mentorship
- Build self-efficacy
- Foster next generation
- Develop soft skills
- Passon
- Skills
- Accomplishment
- Build self-efficacy & confidence
- Knowledge
- Apply expertise & knowledge
- Youth creativity & perspective
- Connect with nature
- Foster next generation of enviro. stewards
- Build capacity
Forging Connections for Success
NRCA in a Nutshell

- Engage **teens** and **adults** in natural resource science and service-learning

- Participants carry out **community conservation projects** in their own towns throughout CT
123 high schools

138 local organizations

591 participants

125 towns

260 community conservation projects
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Training Partnerships</th>
<th>Conservation Ambassador Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teen-adult teams</strong> attend 2-day conservation &amp; technology <strong>workshop</strong></td>
<td>Group of CT high school students join <strong>week-long field experience</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teams/partners</strong> from the same general geographic area are matched together</td>
<td>Each teen identifies a potential local <strong>partner organization</strong> for a conservation project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partners contribute equally</strong> on their conservation project</td>
<td><strong>Adult partner mentors the CAP teen</strong> on their conservation project</td>
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</table>
Natural Resources Conservation Academy

CTP
Conservation Training Partnerships
- Partner with a local teen participant
- Attend 2-day conservation & technology workshop
- Carry out a conservation project together

CAP
Conservation Ambassador Program
- Act as community mentor for a local teen as they carry out a conservation project
NRCA Conservation Projects
Project Goals

• Addresses **local conservation issue**

• **Mutually-beneficial** for both youth participant & partner organization

• **Tailored** to fit individual circumstances & meet community need
Project Categories

• Inventory & Research
• Habitat Restoration & Stewardship
• Organization & Planning
• Education & Outreach
• Mapping & Geospatial Technology
• And more!
Invasive Plant Species

- Survey property
- Remove invasives
- Educate public
Wildlife Monitoring

- Birds & Mammals
- Amphibians & Reptiles
- Invertebrates (e.g., aquatic insects, pollinators)

The Beavers of Mendell's Folly

Mendell's Folly in Bethany, CT is home to many animal species, especially beavers. Beavers may be considered as a nuisance to some, however, they have proven to be a keystone species at Mendell's.
Trail Mapping & Stewardship

- Create online interactive trail maps
- Identify key trail features
- Maintain trails
Providing Solutions

- Green infrastructure
- Stormwater management
- Energy & water use
- Earn Sustainable CT credit
$1$-to-$1$ Matching Grant for Public, Community-Led Sustainability Projects

• Up to $\$7,500$ from Sustainable CT for any project that aligns loosely with a SCT action
• No application to submit & no deadlines
• Immediate turn-around
• Minimal reporting requirements

sustainablECT.org
NRCA & Sustainable CT

The Match: **Crowdfunding**

- 50% of costs covered by SCT, with the other 50% raised through online crowdfunding
- SCT grant is a match to many individual/community donations to each project
  - **Challenge grant**: raise $1/2 from community, SCT matches $1/2
- Crowdfunding campaigns run with support from fundraising partner, Patronicity
NRCA Projects Summary

• Fits participant **needs** & **interests**

• **Flexible** duration

• **Variable** magnitude
More Projects!

Filter

Categories
- Biodiversity/Wildlife/Fisheries
- Community Science
- Climate Change
- Food Waste
- Forestry
- Green Infrastructure
- Human Dimensions
- Invasive Species
- Land Use
- Mapping/GIS
- Public Outreach
- Restoration
- Soils/Agriculture
- Trail Stewardship
- Water Quality/Conservation

The Influence of the Transylvania Brook on the Pomperaug River
- Poster

Success of Wildflowers: Pollination, Germination, and Stratification
- Poster

Factors Affecting Fishing Quality at the Branford Supply Ponds?
- Poster

View the Q
- Poster

Digitizing the Windsor Locks Canal Trail
- Poster

Hebron Gardens & Trails: Encouraging the Local Community to Get Outside
- Poster

nrca.uconn.edu/projects
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

1. Collaborate
   - Develop project that **merges:**
     - **student interest**
     - **your interests**
     - **community need**
   - Interest → sustained motivation → project completion
   - Real impacts → empowers student
   - Lead to CREATIVE conservation solutions
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Listen</th>
<th>Give them a choice</th>
<th>Ownership of the project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Give them a voice</td>
<td>Work together</td>
<td>Relationship with the youth, not their guardians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide them with other opportunities</td>
<td>Venue for creativity</td>
<td>Be positive</td>
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Collaborate to Promote Youth Empowerment
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

2. Establish expectations & realistic goals
   • Get to know student’s availability
     o School hours & peaks in assignment deadlines/exams
     o Sports, theater, other extracurricular activities
     o Family commitments
     o Avoid being discouraging if there is limited time; be flexible

Remember: an impactful project can be done in a short time
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

2. Establish expectations & realistic goals
   • Be honest about the amount of time you can commit
   • Make sure everyone is aware and understanding of changing time commitments
     - you can always adjust the project to fit changing schedules
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

2. Establish expectations & realistic goals
   ✓ Time commitment determined
     • Determine what can to be accomplished
       o Be tuned into abilities and limitations
       o Manageable goals
       o Break project into multiple components
       o Can always delete a project component
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

2. Establish expectations & realistic goals
   ✔ Time commitment determined
   ✔ Determine what can to be accomplished (manageable goals)
   • Make sure it’s clear what each persons’ roles and responsibilities are for the project

Remember: this may be the student’s first independent/professional project
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

3. Communication
   - Establish & maintain regular check-ins
     - Agreed-upon communication routine (include parents/guardians)
     - How often?
     - Meet students halfway:

![Email](https://via.placeholder.com/25)
 ![Hangouts](https://via.placeholder.com/25)
 ![Skype](https://via.placeholder.com/25)
 ![Facebook](https://via.placeholder.com/25)
 ![Apple](https://via.placeholder.com/25)
 ![Android](https://via.placeholder.com/25)
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

3. Communication
   • Respectful communication
     o Follow-up in a timely manner
     o Encourage student teammate’s participation
     o Work through difference of opinions & listen
     o Serve as a role model
     o Be positive, understanding, etc.
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

4. Determine how you will document & showcase project

- **Set goals** to work toward at beginning of project
- **Document**: data spreadsheet, report, legacy binder, poster, video, storymap, citizen science databases (iNaturalist, eBird)
- Good documentation → build on in future
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

4. Determine how you will document & showcase project
   - Showcasing: put on a community event, present at organization meeting, present at a regional conference, distribute educational materials

Empowers Student & Increases Impact of Work
Five Tips for a Successful Team Project

5. Have fun!
Additional Team Project Resources

• Project Development Documents
  • Team Brainstorming activity
  • Project Templates
  • Working together reflection prompt

• Tutorials & Reference Guides

• Webinars
  • Data Management
  • Intro to StoryMaps
  • Poster Development

• And more!  CLICK HERE
Thank You!

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