

HAZARDOUS BEAUTY

“Plastic & Microplastics in our L.I. Sound”

Water is essential for all life. Understanding the polluted effects of plastics and microplastics in our local waters is the key component of water conservation practices. Denise Savageau, Conservation Director for Town of Greenwich, will moderate this discussion.

Our panelists are an esteemed group of scientists and conservationists:

- Ms. Denise Savageau, Moderator and Conservation Director for Town of Greenwich
- Ms. Jordan Christensen - NY Program Coordinator with Citizens Campaign for the Environment
- Mr. Patrick Comins – Exec. Director for the CT Audubon Society
- Ms. Judy Preston - Educator and Outreach for LISS at the UCONN Sea Grant
- Mr. Ed Stilwagen - Owner and Operator of Atlantic Clam Farms
- Dr. Evan Ward - Professor at Department of Marine Sciences, UCONN

Moderator:

Denise Savageau has served as department head of Conservation Commission since 1997. She was District Manager for Hartford County Soil and Water Conservation District for 11 years prior. Among many roles as department head, Denise implements technical programs relating to watershed management, community resiliency/sustainability programs that include clean energy, water conservation, and climate change adaptation initiatives. She provides technical assistance on conservation to all Town departments and serves as the liaison between the Town, State, and Federal agencies. Denise currently serves as a member of the Long Island Sound Study Citizens - Advisory Committee. Denise.savageau@greenwichct.org

Panelists:

Jordan Christensen is a NY Program Coordinator with Citizens Campaign for the Environment. She began working as CCE’s Hudson Valley Program Coordinator in 2011 and currently works on local, state, and federal campaigns out of CCE’s Long Island office. Jordan conducts research, lobbying, and public education on a variety of issues, including drinking water protection, renewable energy, and plastic pollution reduction. She currently chairs the Clean Seas Coalition’s Atlantic Chapter and EPA’s Trash Free Waters Plastic Bag Working Group and has worked with municipalities in NY and CT to implement successful disposable bag reduction policies.

jchristensen@citizenscampaign.org

Patrick Comins is Executive Director of the CT Audubon Society. He is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford and has worked in the bird conservation field for over 20 years. He began his career with the CT Audubon Society undertaking bird surveys at the McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, then as biological technician for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the McKinney NWR. Patrick then served as the director of bird conservation for Audubon Connecticut for nearly 17 years before coming to the CT Audubon Society. He is a past president of the CT Ornithological Association and has written several articles on bird conservation and identification for *The Connecticut Warbler*. Patrick is a member of the CT Forest Practices Advisory Board, a position appointed by the Governor and a founding member and past chair of the Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. communicationsdir@ctaudubon.org

Judy Preston works doing public engagement and education for the *Long Island Sound Study* (LISS) and at the UConn *Sea Grant* where she runs a Certificate program designed to teach sustainable gardening practices focused on reducing nitrogen inputs to the Sound. She also coordinates a New England initiative to reduce nutrient inputs from working lands in the Long Island Sound watershed. Through a partnership with the UConn Master Gardener program, where she runs a Certificate program designed to teach sustainable gardening practices focused on reducing nitrogen inputs to the Sound. Judy has worked in the for-profit sector as a geologist, and in the non-profit sector for the *Nature Conservancy* and as Director of *Tidewater Institute*, which focused on community-based conservation in the Connecticut River estuary, for 10 years. She has taught environmental science and landscape ecology as adjunct faculty at Three Rivers Community College for eight years. Judy.Preston@uconn.edu

Ed Stilwagen is owner and operator of *Atlantic Clam Farms* for over 25 years, the largest commercial clam operation in Greenwich waters and has been operating. Ed and his crew have worked with the Greenwich Shellfish Commission for 14 years improving the shellfish beds by moving clams from high-density areas to stimulate growth in areas that have remained dormant for years. Ed designed, built, and now operates an environmentally friendly clam barge that simultaneously limits impact to the sea floor as it stimulates shellfish production. This has resulted in the creation of sustainable shellfish beds and improvement in water quality in Long Island Sound. He has used this same inventive nature to design a barge to remove plastics from the bottom of Long Island Sound. experiencethesound.org/atlantic-clam-farms/

J. Evan Ward, PhD is Professor at UCONN Department of Marine Sciences. He received his Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Biochemistry from the University of Delaware. In the last 5 years, he received grants and fellowships from NOAA, Marine Debris program, *Selective ingestion of micro plastics by oysters*, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, *Bioaccumulation and depuration of nanoparticles by marine bivalves*, National Science Foundation Scholarship and Connecticut Sea Grant College Program *Modeling Vibrio parahaemolyticus outbreaks in commercial shellfish areas in LI Sound*. Evan.Ward@Uconn.edu