



CIPWG
12th Biennial
Symposium

October 29, 2024

UConn Student Union

Storrs, Connecticut

cipwg.uconn.edu

CONNECTICUT INVASIVE PLANT WORKING GROUP

2024 Symposium

Real Talk: Making an Impact in Invasive Plant Management

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 9 am – 5 pm

UConn Student Union, Storrs, CT

Time	SCHEDULE
8 am	<i>Check-in opens</i>
9 am	WELCOME: CIPWG Co-Chairs: Victoria Wallace, UConn Extension, Rose Hiskes, CAES, Emmett Varricchio DEAN REMARKS: Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey, Dean, UConn CAHNR
9:30	MORNING SESSION: Victoria Wallace and Lauren Kurtz, UConn; Bryan Connolly, ECSU: CIPWG's Role in Combatting Invasive Plants
10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:45	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Peter Picone, CT DEEP: For the Love of Plants...To Plant or Not to Plant? A Wildlife Biologist's Perspective
11:45	<i>Lunch</i>
1:15	LESLIE J. MEHRHOFF AWARD
1:35	<i>Transition to Breakouts</i>
1:45	GROUP A SESSIONS: Breakout Sessions 1, 2, 3
	1) Case Studies in Managing Tree of Heaven and Mugwort: <i>Speakers:</i> Art Gover, Penn State; Jatinder Aulakh, CAES. <i>Moderator:</i> Todd Mervosh, TM Agricultural & Ecological Services 2) Pollinator Meadows at Robbins Swamp Wildlife Management Area Help Support Native Wild Bees and Monarchs: <i>Speakers:</i> Kelsey Fisher and Tracy Zarrillo, CAES. <i>Moderator:</i> Joshua Tracy, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority 3) Leveraging Community Engagement: <i>Speakers:</i> Bill Marshall, South Windsor Invasive Plants Working Group; Greg Foran, Town of Glastonbury; Sarah Hutchison and Lisa Broddie, Pulling Together. <i>Moderator:</i> Victoria Wallace, UConn Extension, CIPWG Co-chair
3:00	<i>Break</i>
3:15	GROUP B SESSIONS: Breakout Sessions 4, 5, 6
	4) Common Questions about Invasive Plant Management (Panel): <i>Speakers:</i> Todd Mervosh, TM Agricultural & Ecological Services; Christian Allyn, Invasive Plant Solutions; Kathy Connolly, Speaking of Landscapes, Inc. <i>Moderator:</i> Emmett Varricchio, CIPWG Co-chair 5) Native Plant Availability: <i>Speakers:</i> David Lee, Saratoga Bareroot Nursery; Alyssa Siegel-Miles and Sara Tomis, UConn Extension; Darryl Newman, Planters' Choice Nursery. <i>Moderator:</i> Peter Picone, CT DEEP 6) Aquatic Invasive Plant Management and Prevention: <i>Speakers:</i> Jeremiah Foley and Greg Bugbee, CAES. <i>Moderator:</i> Lauren Kurtz, UConn
4:30	<i>Transition to Closing Remarks</i>
4:40	CLOSING REMARKS: Joshua Tracy, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
5:00	End

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group's 2024 Symposium
Real Talk: Making an Impact in Invasive Plant Management
DETAILED PROGRAM
Tuesday, October 29, 2024

8:00 Check-In

9:00 **WELCOME:** CIPWG Co-Chairs

DEAN REMARKS: Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey, Dean, UConn CAHNR

Biography: Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey. Dr. Chaubey was appointed Dean of CAHNR at UConn in 2019. He also serves as the Director of the Connecticut Cooperative Extension System and the Storrs Experiment Station. He came to UConn from Purdue University, where he enjoyed a distinguished career in teaching, research, and administration for more than 12 years. Dr. Chaubey was named a fellow by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in 2017. He earned his doctoral degree in biosystems engineering from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Allahabad in India.

9:30 MORNING SESSION: Victoria Wallace and Lauren Kurtz, UConn; Bryan Connolly, ECSU: **CIPWG's Role in Combatting Invasive Plants**

Abstract: The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group is a diverse group of stakeholders who work to promote awareness and reduce the adverse effects of invasive plants in the state. CIPWG has been actively involved in invasive plant management education. Recently, CIPWG has invested time and effort in the process of revisiting the status of the plants on CIPWG's research list for general recommendations to the Invasive Plant Council. This presentation will highlight the past, present, and future efforts of CIPWG, given that new plants were added to the state Invasive Plant List this year, and review the details of the criteria for listing new invasive plants in Connecticut.

Biographies:

CIPWG co-chair **Victoria Wallace** serves as the State Extension Educator of Sustainable Landscapes for the University of Connecticut. With a focus on sustainable turf and landscape practices, she works closely with landscape and turf professionals, including municipal and school turf managers that require pesticide-free management programs to maintain their athletic fields and grounds. She evaluates turfgrasses for low input use and co-organizes many Extension programs, including the Native Plants & Pollinators Conference, CIPWG symposium, and School Grounds IPM Workshops. She is an instructor for the Ornamental & Turf Short Course and CNLA's CHS program, serves as UConn's IPM Team Leader, and is currently the Dean's representative to the Invasive Plants Council (IPC), serving as its chair. Ms. Wallace is a Past President of the CT Nursery & Landscape Association. Prior to joining the faculty at UConn, Ms. Wallace worked in the turfgrass seed industry as an agronomist. She received her B.S. from Penn State University and her M.S. from the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Lauren Kurtz joined UConn as the Invasive Species Outreach Specialist in January 2024. Dr. Kurtz completed her PhD in horticulture and plant breeding from UConn in December 2023. She is an advocate for ecological horticulture and environmental restoration. As part of the UConn Sustainable Landscapes team, she aims to communicate scientifically based information about managing invasive plants, on small and large scales, to diverse stakeholder audiences. She works closely with CIPWG to advance invasive plant initiatives in the state.

Dr. Bryan Connolly, associate professor of biology at Eastern Connecticut State University, is a botanist and horticulturalist. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont, where he double majored in Botany and Anthropology, an M.S. in ecology and a Ph.D. in plant science from UConn. His research interests include rare plants of New England, the nightshade family, the rose family, invasive plants, and Cannabis. He teaches the Cannabis cultivation course and is the coordinator of the Cannabis Cultivation and Chemistry Minor at ECSU. Before Eastern, Professor Connolly was a faculty member at Framingham State University in Massachusetts and previously worked for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as the MA state botanist. He served on the MA Invasive Plant Advisory Group and is now a member of the CT Invasive Plants Council. He is the author or co-author of over 30 scientific articles. He lives in Mansfield Center, CT on Cobblestone Farm CSA.

10:30 Break

10:45 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Peter Picone, CT DEEP: [For the Love of Plants...To Plant or Not to Plant? A Wildlife Biologist's Perspective](#)

Abstract: The availability of native plants has improved. Peter Picone will highlight the wildlife biologist's perspective on where we've been, where we are and where we would like to be in this complex world of creating a more biologically diverse landscape.

Biography: **Peter Picone** is a DEEP Wildlife Biologist for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division, Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, Burlington, CT. Mr. Picone provides technical assistance in enhancement of wildlife habitat; specializing in the use of native plants and managing invasive non-natives; oversees/directs management of western district state land wildlife management areas in habitat and wildlife management; provides technical assistance to private and municipal land managers; member of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group steering committee; member the Board of Directors of Quinnipiac River Watershed Association; member of the CT Envirothon Steering Committee; owner and habitat manager of Charter Oak Tree Farm.

11:45 Lunch

1:15 [LESLIE J. MEHRHOFF AWARD](#)

1:35 *Transition to Breakouts*

1:45 [GROUP A SESSIONS: Breakout Sessions 1, 2, 3](#)

1) [Case Studies in Managing Tree of Heaven and Mugwort](#): *Speakers:* Jatinder Aulakh, CAES; Art Gover, Penn State.

Moderator: Todd Mervosh, TM Agricultural & Ecological Services

Abstract: *Mugwort (Artemisia vulgaris) response to chemical and nonchemical control tactics.*

Mugwort was introduced into North America more than 400 years ago as a medicinal herb. Currently in the northeastern US, it colonizes a wide variety of habitats including roadsides, floodplains and riparian areas, pastures, hayfields, rangelands, rights-of-way, and various agronomic, turf and landscape settings. Mugwort can reproduce asexually by rhizomes and sexually by seed. However, rhizomes are believed to be the primary means of its propagation and spread. Mugwort is a highly difficult-to-control weed. Nonchemical control methods, such as mowing and tilling are not effective and may adversely contribute to mugwort spread. Herbicides such as aminopyralid, clopyralid, or glyphosate provide effective control. However, repeated annual applications (September-October) are required for excellent control or eradication. In this presentation, Dr. Aulakh will share results from his mugwort control research involving various chemical (herbicides) and nonchemical (mowing, woodchips, clear and black plastic mulches) methods.

Biography: **Dr. Jatinder S. Aulakh** received his Ph.D. in weed science from Auburn University, in Alabama in 2013. He served as a postdoctoral research scientist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from February 2014 to July 2015. Dr. Aulakh started his career as an assistant weed scientist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor in August 2015. His research focuses on weed biology, ecology, and management in Christmas tree plantations, hay fields and pastures, ornamental plants, and management of non-native invasive plants. Dr. Aulakh also conducts herbicide screening trials for ornamental plant safety, weed efficacy, and herbicide resistance in weeds.

Abstract: *Small is the Gate and Narrow is the Road that Leads to (Tree-of-) Heaven (Control).*

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is an exotic, prolifically suckering tree species that grows quickly and aggressively almost anywhere. The key to successful management is using techniques that maximize injury to its root system. Based on current understanding and practice, this means using herbicide treatments that occur later in the growing season and retain the integrity of the phloem to allow translocation to storage tissue such as the roots. Therefore, common brush control techniques that include cutting or girdling will be ineffective. This presentation will review techniques and materials for effective control, and methods to avoid. Additionally, Mr. Gover will share the latest available information on the impending introduction of an *Ailanthus* bioherbicide relying on the fungi *Verticillium non-alfalae*.

Biography: **Art Gover** is the proprietor of Fruittown Land Stewardship Services in Centre Hall, PA. He started this venture in 2008 as a part-time enterprise to complement his work in vegetation management outreach and research at Penn State. This is his primary endeavor since he retired in 2021 from Penn State after 35 years. He provides herbicide application, training, applied research, and vegetation management plan review and development in natural areas and forestry settings. He has served as President of the Northeastern Weed Science Society and the Mid-Atlantic Invasive Pest Council.

2) **Pollinator Meadows at Robbins Swamp Wildlife Management Area:** *Speakers:* Kelsey Fisher and Tracy Zarrillo, CAES.

Moderator: Joshua Tracy, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

Abstract: Pollinator meadows at the Robbins Swamp Wildlife Management Area help support native wild bees and monarchs. Ms. Zarrillo and Dr. Fisher will highlight the research and lessons learned from the meadow.

Biographies:

Tracy Zarrillo is a melittologist (entomologist specializing in the study of bees) who began her career at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in 1992. She was first hired as an Agricultural Research Assistant II; during her early career, she worked on various research topics such as organic agricultural pest management practices, IPM, exotic pests, and forest insects. Since 2010, her work has primarily focused on pollinator diversity, pollinator health, and pollinator conservation. She is recognized as a regional wild bee expert by leading bee researchers across North America and is an active member of several national organizations who are working to assess the status of wild bee species in the United States. Ms. Zarrillo was promoted to Assistant Agricultural Scientist 1 in 2022 for her exceptional initiative and tangible accomplishments in pollinator research. She developed and managed a wild bee monitoring program for Connecticut which ran from 2010-2021 and is currently writing a checklist of confirmed bee species for Connecticut, highlighting rare and regionally declining species, including vulnerable species that have specific habitat and/or host requirements. Ms. Zarrillo is also monitoring the response of wild bees to intentional pollinator plantings in 13 meadows across Connecticut and is working with investigators from the University of Rhode Island to develop better seed mixes for southern New England for the New England Pollinator Partnership.

Kelsey E. Fisher is an Assistant Agricultural Scientist II in the Entomology Department at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Fisher served as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Iowa State University (ISU) under the guidance of Steven P. Bradbury from 2021-2022. She earned her PhD in Entomology from ISU in 2021 where she studied monarch butterfly conservation, MS in Entomology from the University of Delaware in 2015 where she studied European corn borer management, and BS in Biology from Widener University in 2013. Dr. Fisher is an agricultural entomologist and insect movement ecologist. Her research focuses on discerning animal movement patterns and space use in fragmented landscapes to understand the movement and dispersal behavior of insect species at various spatial scales. Dr. Fisher employs multiple research methods in the field, greenhouse, and lab to address research questions related to management of pest insects and conservation of beneficial species, including radio telemetry, population genetics, stable isotope analyses, geospatial analyses, and spatial modeling. Understandings of movement and how space is used are fundamental to advancing pest management, natural resource management, and conservation programs.

3) **Leveraging Community Engagement: *Speakers:*** Bill Marshall, South Windsor Invasive Plants Working Group; Greg Foran, Town of Glastonbury; Sarah Hutchison and Lisa Brodlie, Pulling Together.

Moderator: Vickie Wallace, UConn, CIPWG Co-chair

Abstract: *Challenges and Successes of the South Windsor Invasive Plants Working Group.* Bill Marshall will share lessons learned from 50 Work Parties.

Biography: **Bill Marshall** is a retired Safety Engineer and long-time veggie gardener. Encouraged by his wife to expand his gardening knowledge, he enrolled in the UConn Master Gardener

Program in 2006. Two MG outreach projects sparked the interest in managing invasive plants. The first project was working with Donna Ellis as a “beetle farmer” raising and releasing *Galerucella* beetles to manage purple loosestrife. The second project was the design and planting of a Sensory Garden for the Town of South Windsor, which introduced Mr. Marshall to the rewards of community service. Subsequently, he attended the UMASS Invasive Plant Management Program in 2018, which provided additional basic knowledge and led to the establishment of the South Windsor Invasive Plants Working Group. When not gardening or battling invasive plants, Mr. Marshall can be found hiking/running/maintaining the trails in Goodwin State Forest.

Abstract: *Glastonbury Community Engagement.* Greg Foran will present on the various motivations people have for volunteering, whether it be through Scouts and Conservation minded interest (like Audubon, Land Heritage Coalition, Nature Conservancy, etc.) to social action (church groups), Garden Clubs and Beautification, such as public flower planters and gardens, School Beautification (PTAs and Cub and Girl Scouts), civic groups such as Rotary Clubs, Key Clubs, Service Club, etc., Historical Societies and fundraisers like Tree Walks and Garden Tours, to initiatives like Battling Bittersweet through the Glastonbury Partners In Planting (GPIP) and Eagle Scout projects. Initiatives discussed will include seeing the elm return and chestnuts to be re-introduced, the most recent move towards Pollinator Pathways, and groups who use gardening and sustainability as a vehicle to offer meaningful contributions to the community. Mr. Foran will focus on the importance of working with an engaged community, without alienating members of various groups, while also maintaining control of the overall grounds and goals and managing liabilities. He will focus on building community, forging partnerships, and cultivating mutual respect through education and engagement.

Biography: **Gregory A. Foran** has been the Parks Superintendent and Tree Warden for the Town of Glastonbury Parks and Recreation Department for the last 26 years. Prior to that, he had experience with the Town of South Windsor and the Town of Newington; he worked at Wickham Park and as a live-in Gardener/Caretaker on a private estate. On his journey through the world of horticulture, he has dabbled in agriculture, working in tobacco fields and vegetable farms, greenhouse and garden centers, and considered forestry as a career when he first entered a Vocational Agriculture program over 50 years ago. Since graduation from UConn’s Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture in 1979, all the many paths, roads, and experiences have converged together, just as have sustainable and integrated practices and working with people of varied interests and goals in land management.

Abstract: *Successes and Challenges: Pulling Together.* Presenting “Pulling Together” A plan for the Lachat Town Farm to restore stream corridors and build capacity for invasive plant management and other restoration strategies. Pulling Together members Sarah Hutchison and Lisa Brodlie will discuss the work of the volunteer group, whose goal is to educate neighbors and show them how to respect existing wetlands, identify invasive plants and encourage the use of native plants to decrease soil erosion, improve wildlife habitat, and protect water quality. Pulling Together partners with Lachat Farm and Weston Public Schools to host invasive removal workshops and to date, they have accomplished 400-plus hours of invasive removal work.

Biographies:

Lisa Brodlie is a retired registered nurse with a botanical background and an interest in invasive plants. Lisa has been a member of CIPWG since its inception and now serves on the steering committee, outreach and education committee, and most recently the advisory board for the invasive plant certificate program. Lisa has spent the last two decades volunteering with local conservation organizations, like the Nature Conservancy, where she has volunteered her time and expertise on

community outreach events, invasive removal sessions, and advocacy opportunities. Her latest invasive removal project involves restoring the riparian buffer at Lachat Town Farm in Weston, CT.

Sarah Hutchison is a retired cost engineer with a passion for ecological gardening. Born in Scotland UK, Sarah moved to the USA in 2001 and put down roots in the invasive plant community when she participated in the UConn Master Gardener program. Her interest in native plants inspired her to launch the Weston Pollinator Pathway in 2019, leading to her current partnership with Lachat Town Farm and the Weston Schools to plant pollinator gardens and remove invasive plants on town property. Sarah was a member of the Town of Weston Sustainability Committee from 2019-2024, where she focused on creating more education and awareness among town residents of land stewardship practices that support wildlife and protect our natural resources.

3:00 Break

3:15 GROUP B SESSIONS: Breakout Sessions 4, 5, 6

4) **Common Questions about Invasive Plant Management (Panel): *Speakers:*** Todd Mervosh, TM Agricultural & Ecological Services; Christian Allyn, Invasive Plant Solutions; Kathy Connolly, Speaking of Landscapes, Inc.

Moderator: Emmett Varricchio, CIPWG Co-chair

Abstract: Three invasive plant experts will respond to frequently asked questions about invasive plant management.

Biographies:

Christian Allyn has made a career of managing invasive plants across Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. His company Invasive Plant Solutions and crews have managed invasive plants from state lands, land trusts to backyards. Mr. Allyn graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2017 with a horticulture and resource economics double major. Mr. Allyn started Invasive Plant Solutions while at UConn and now has a staff of eight conducting management throughout Connecticut, Western Massachusetts and Eastern New York.

Kathy Connolly is a landscape designer who has encountered many weedy landscapes in her work with landowners. She aims for low-impact removal of unwanted plants in preparation for replacement by native plants. Connolly is active in CIPWG, which awarded her its Leslie J. Mehrhoff Award at the 2022 symposium for her communications efforts on invasive plants. She has a master's degree in ecological landscape planning and design from the Conway School in Northampton, MA. Her website is SpeakingofLandscapes.com.

Dr. Todd Mervosh is general manager of TM Agricultural & Ecological Services in Suffield, CT. An Illinois native, he earned a Ph.D. in agronomy/weed science at the University of Illinois in 1994. For the next 20 years, Dr. Mervosh was a scientist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor. He conducted weed control experiments in several crops and did research on management of invasive plants including oriental bittersweet, Japanese stiltgrass and mile-a-minute weed. In his business since 2015, Dr. Mervosh consults with growers and property managers about effective and ecologically sound vegetation management strategies, including proper use of herbicides.

5) **Native Plant Availability: *Speakers:*** David Lee, Saratoga Bareroot Nursery; Alyssa Siegel-Miles and Sara Tomis, UConn Extension; Darryl Newman, Planters' Choice Nursery.

Moderator: Peter Picone, CT DEEP

Abstract: Mr. Lee will discuss the benefits of and opportunities for bareroot planting. Ms. Siegel-Miles and Ms. Tomis will describe the process of creating the UConn and CT DEEP Native Plant Availability list and how it is benefiting CT businesses and native plant consumers. Mr. Newman will provide updates and highlights on the native plant industry in CT.

Biographies:

David Lee started working at the NYS DEC Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery in Saratoga Springs as a Forest Technician in 1991, working in the fields and operating equipment to propagate, harvest, and grade bare-root seedlings, and assisting with facility and equipment repairs. Mr. Lee has recently been promoted to the Title of Forester 3 and will continue to manage and expand the State Tree Nursery Program operations, focusing on increasing annual production of trees, shrubs, and other plant materials for conservation planting on public and private lands. Mr. Lee will also lead the modernization efforts at the Saratoga Tree Nursery required to increase annual seedling production, thereby contributing to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's carbon sequestration and environmental objectives. Mr. Lee has a Bachelor of Science degree in Resource Management (Forestry) from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), and an Associate of Science in Agricultural and Natural Resources from SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology, at Cobleskill.

Alyssa Siegel-Miles is a program assistant and research technician in the University of Connecticut's Department of Extension. She supports the Sustainable Landscapes Program. Ms. Siegel-Miles is an alumnus of Northwestern University (B.A. English Literature) and New York Botanical Garden School of Professional Horticulture (Horticulture Diploma). She is currently enrolled in the UConn Sustainable Environmental Planning and Management graduate program.

Sara Tomis is a public service technician in the University of Connecticut's Department of Extension. Her work is focused on the Sustainable Landscapes Program and positive youth development for the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program. Ms. Tomis is an alum of UConn CAHNR and the University of Florida, where she studied agricultural and extension education. She is dedicated to developing, implementing, and evaluating impactful programs for Connecticut residents.

Darryl Newman co-owns Planters' Choice alongside his father Chuck, the nursery's founder. He is a University of Maryland graduate with a degree in Landscape Management. He worked as a Project Manager for prominent landscape design/build firms in the Washington DC area before returning to Planters' Choice in 2004. Mr. Newman is a Past President of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association and the 2019 Award of Merit Winner. He has done presentations for the New York Botanical Garden, UConn, Naugatuck Valley Community College, University of Maryland, CT Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, the Connecticut Groundskeepers Association, the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, the Connecticut Tree Wardens Association, the Connecticut Environmental Council, the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group and the Ecological Landscape Alliance.

6) **Aquatic Invasive Plant Management and Prevention:** *Speakers:* Jeremiah Foley and Greg Bugbee, CAES.

Moderator: Lauren Kurtz, UConn Invasive Species Outreach Specialist

Abstract: Connecticut lakes and ponds are one of the State's most valuable natural resources. Threats to these waterbodies include nutrient enrichment, sediment accumulation, and climate change. Of particular concern is the degradation caused by the proliferation of non-native invasive plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil, variable watermilfoil, fanwort, water chestnut, and hydrilla. These plants have few natural enemies, which promotes rapid expansion and damage to native ecosystems. In addition, recreation can be impaired and property values reduced. Dr. Foley and Mr. Bugbee's research has documented our state's invasive aquatic plant problem since 2004. They have found over 100 plant species, including 15 that are nonnative invasives. Approximately two-thirds of the waterbodies contained one or more invasive species. In 2018, they documented a new strain of hydrilla in the Connecticut River. In 2023 the plant was found to have spread to six lakes. They have found and continue to search for novel management options including reduced risk herbicides, biological controls, benthic barriers, and water level manipulations. Requests for OAIS assistance in managing unwanted aquatic vegetation are common; they often visit waterbodies to help solve imminent problems. The content of this breakout session will include a presentation about the State's invasive aquatic plants, their identification, and how they are managed. Specimens of invasive plants will be on display to help hone your identification skills. There will also be a special segment devoted to Connecticut River hydrilla.

Biographies:

Dr. Jeremiah Foley, IV joined The CAES Department of Environmental Science and Forestry Office of Aquatic Invasive Species (OAIS) as an Assistant Scientist II in May 2023. Dr. Foley received his Ph.D. in Entomology at Virginia Tech and served as a Post Doc at the USDA Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale FL, where his research focused on the integration of biological control, chemical control, and community restoration to encourage native ecosystem resiliency. As part of the OAIS team, Dr. Foley utilizes this approach to find novel solutions to invasive aquatic plant problems particularly as they relate to the newly discovered Connecticut River strain of hydrilla and water chestnut. He serves on the United States Army Corps of Engineers Connecticut River Task Force and recently published his research on the spread of Connecticut River hydrilla into the State's lakes and ponds.

Greg Bugbee is an associate scientist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Forestry where his career has spanned over four decades. He is the principal investigator in the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program and head of the newly formed Office of Aquatic Invasive Species. He has led aquatic plant surveys of nearly 450 Connecticut lakes and ponds and has directed research projects on invasive aquatic plant control statewide. He is the current Past President of the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society and has numerous popular and scientific publications. He is the recipient of the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management "Outstanding Paper Award" for his work on controlling curlyleaf pondweed. More recently, he has documented the extensive infestation of a genetically distinct strain of hydrilla the Connecticut River and plays a major role in state and federal research into its management options.

4:30 *Transition to Closing Remarks*

4:45 **CLOSING REMARKS:** Joshua Tracy, Regional Water Authority

Biography: Joshua Tracy earned his B.S. in 2014 from the University of Connecticut on a presidential scholarship in natural resources, concentrating in water resources and climate. From 2018 to present, he has been the invasive species management technician for the South-Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA), and a licensed forester in the state of Connecticut. From 2014-2017, he worked for Connecticut’s DEEP wildlife division trapping and carrying out research on the New England cottontail. From 2017-2018 he worked as a technician for the RWA alongside the forester performing timber harvests and GIS/ cartographic related work.

5:00 *End*

The 2024 CIPWG Symposium Planning Committee

Emmett Varricchio
Rose Hiskes
Victoria Wallace
Frank Belknap III
Lisa Brodlie

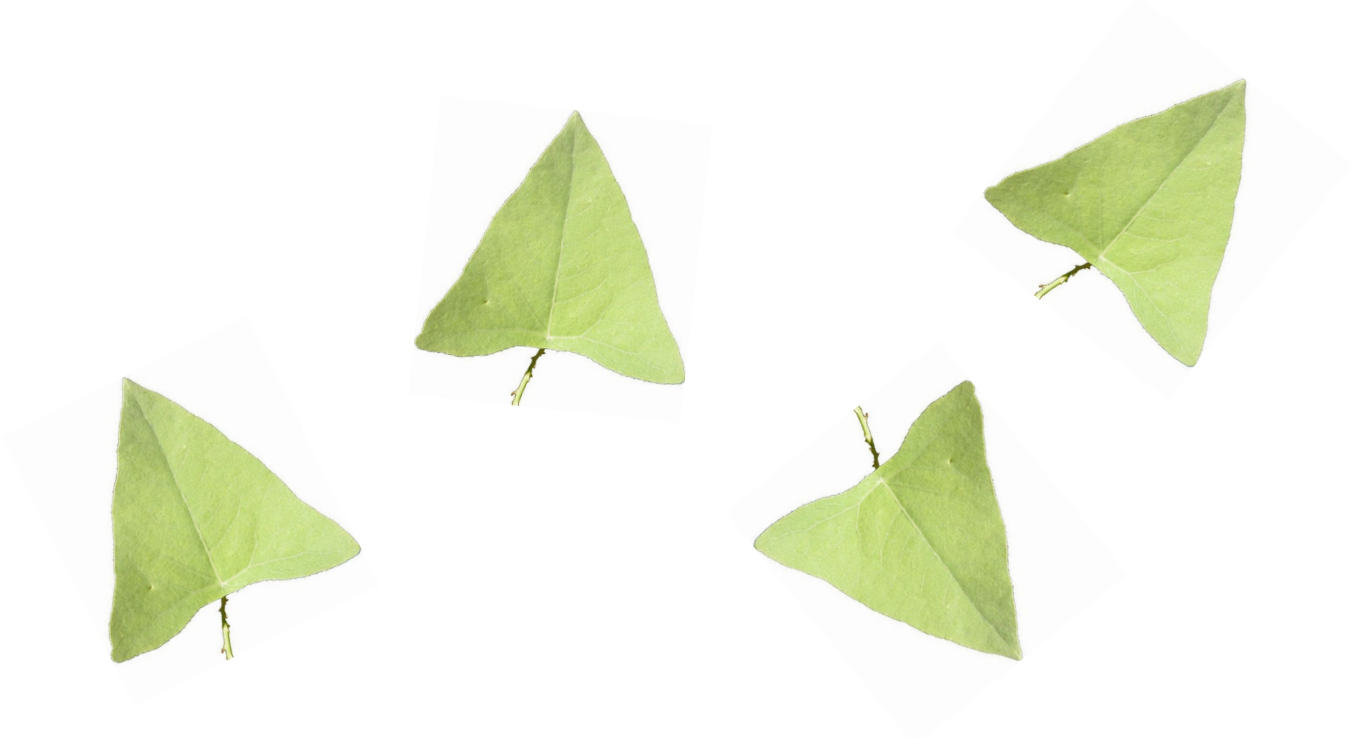
Cheryl Cappiali
Grace Jacobsen
Lauren Kurtz
Dave Laiuppa
Todd Mervosh

Peter Picone
Charlotte Pyle
Alyssa Siegel-Miles
Joshua Tracy

*Bold denotes Co-Chairs

Thanks also to:

- Lauren Schaller, UConn Events and Conference Services
- Sara Tomis, UConn Extension



Thank you to our Symposium Partners:

- Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC)
- Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS)
- Connecticut Botanical Society
- Connecticut Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
- Connecticut College Arboretum
- Connecticut Conservation District, CT River Coastal
- Connecticut Conservation District, North Central
- Connecticut Conservation District, Southwest
- Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation (CTCSWC)
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)
- Connecticut Envirothon
- Connecticut Federation of Lakes, Inc.
- Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA)
- Connecticut Gardener Magazine
- Connecticut Horticultural Society (CHS)
- Connecticut Land Conservation Council
- Connecticut Master Gardener Association (CMGA)
- Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association (CNLA)
- Connecticut Ornithological Association
- Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Education Association (COEEA)
- Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
- Connecticut Training and Technical Assistance Center
- Experiment Station Associates
- Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. (FGCCT)
- Hartford Audubon Society, Inc.
- Mad Gardeners, Inc.
- Naugatuck Valley Community College, Horticulture Program
- North Central Conservation District
- Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
- Quinnipiac River Watershed Association (QRWA)
- Regional Water Authority
- Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
- Sustainable CT
- UConn Department of Natural Resources and the Environment
- Wild Ones, Mtn. Laurel (CT) Chapter

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