



Save the Sound®

November 6, 2019

Rye City Council

**Re: Save the Sound Comments on the Proposed Artificial Turf for Nursery Field**

Dear Council Members,

Please accept these comments on behalf of Save the Sound, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting and restoring Long Island Sound and its tributary waterways. We are commenting on the proposal to replace the natural grass field at Nursery Field with an artificial turf field.

At this time we understand there is not yet a specific design in front of the Council so we will address our general concerns about installing artificial turf in this specific location. Our primary concern is the high risk of materials from the artificial turf field migrating from the site and becoming pollution in our local waterways, specifically ~~Blind Brook~~ Brook, ~~Milton Harbor~~ Harbor, and Long Island Sound.

Blind Milton

We appreciate that the Nursery Field has limited usage because of flooding on the site. We urge the Council to review green infrastructure options for this site that can both alleviate the current flooding issues and improve the time-to-recovery of the natural turf field in this location. One approach would be to regrade the field to move the rain water off the field more quickly and to install retaining tanks for that water under the field. This would provide the dual benefit of keeping the rain from flooding the surrounding areas by retaining it and slowly releasing into the landscape around the field.

Given the pollution impacts of artificial turf fields, flood zones are the last type of location where they should be installed. We urge you to seriously assess stormwater management technologies for this site, instead of spending resources designing an artificial turf field which has already been met with strong opposition from residents.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments on behalf of Save the Sound and our members.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Brown  
Director  
Save the Sound  
[tbrown@savethesound.org](mailto:tbrown@savethesound.org)

11/16/2019

Michael W. Klemens, LLC  
105 Main Street/POB 432  
Falls Village, CT 06031  
November 20, 2019

Paula Fung

(Espetius)

Rye City Council  
City Hall  
Boston Post Road  
Rye, NY 10580

Dear Members of the City Council:

Within the last few days, I have been approached by several Rye residents concerning a privately-funded proposal to restructure Nursery Field. In ecological terms, the concept of filling a floodplain and capping it with artificial turf is termed "hardening" much akin to shoreline armoring. These types of activities are considered non-resilient strategies in the face of ever-the-more variable weather patterns that accompany climate change. Such activities as a matter of public policy are discouraged, in part because they are over the long-term futile. Many public agencies are now locating infrastructure above the 500-year flood, recognizing that the 100-year flood is no longer adequate to protect infrastructure. While the question posed to you tonight is about how the City can permit this, the real question you should in my professional opinion be asking, is whether this should be permitted at all, both from an ecological perspective, but also because of fiduciary commitments the City of Rye made less than two decades ago.

My qualifications to address you on this issue are that I am an academically-trained ecologist with a focus on integrating science into public policy. The bulk of my work at present focuses on creating more resilient patterns of development that allow ecosystems the geographical space to move across the landscape, responding to the challenges of climate change.

My involvement with the Rye Nursery site stems from my tenure as Chairman of the Rye City Planning Commission from 1997-2003. I was also Chair of the City's Master Plan Task Force from 2000-2003. I worked with the City (former Mayor Otis and former Corporation Counsel Neal) to obtain a significant grant from the State of New York to purchase Rye Nursery. At that time I worked for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). WCS provided ecological baseline studies of the Rye Nursery site to the City of Rye which formed part of the grant application package to New York State. Our *pro bono* services to the City were used as part of the required grant match that the City needed to access these funds. I do not have the relevant documents concerning this matter in my possession, but they should be in the files at City Hall, and the archives of my tenure at the Wildlife Conservation Society, which are deposited in the library at the Bronx Zoo.

The terms of the grant were unusual and required quite a bit of effort to negotiate with the State. The City committed to restoring the portion of the wetland that was closest to Playland Parkway and to create a playing field that would serve as an extension of the flood plain on the portion of the site proximal to the Knapp House. After leaving Rye in 2004, I was disappointed to learn that the City chose not to restore the wetland portion of the site, which is still a functioning wetland, though restoration would have improved its flood storage capacity and ecological utility. I took some comfort in the fact that the playing field was compliant with the terms of the grant, that it was designed to flood, had no lights, and was minimally developed for parking and restroom facilities. That developed area

(hardscape) was by located in the least ecologically sensitive portion of the site immediately adjacent to the Knapp House.

In my professional judgment, should you decide to proceed with this matter, it will require the “hard-look” mandated by the NY State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The potential of the proposal to exacerbate flooding, increase siltation, remove additional wildlife habitat, and render the City less resilient to climate change would warrant a positive declaration of environmental significance. That would require lead agency designation, a public and transparent scoping session, followed by the preparation of a DEIS, a completeness review, and a FEIS. At each step of the SEQRA process the public will have an opportunity to comment through the public hearing process. SEQRA requires the generation of feasible and prudent alternatives which include (at minimum) the no action alternative, an alternative to restore the site so it functions as a wetland and floodplain as was intended by the NYS grant, and the build alternative which includes filling within a floodplain and the additive impacts that that this action will generate to the site, as well as upstream and downstream.

While I was Chairman of the City’s Planning Commission, we reviewed several proposals to enhance athletic fields at the High School which were also locally donor-driven. While at first blush this might seem a win-win situation, I believe what is being contemplated here is not only ecologically irresponsible, but also violates the terms of the 1.6 million dollars granted to the City by New York State’s Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Klemens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Michael W. Klemens, PhD

# MICHAEL W. KLEMENS

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Falls Village, CT 06031  
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## EDUCATION

### **PhD Ecology/Conservation Biology**

*University of Kent at Canterbury, U.K. (1990)*

*Dissertation: The herpetofauna of southwestern New England.*

### **MSc Zoology**

*University of Connecticut (1978)*

*Thesis: Variation and distribution of the turtle, Chrysemys picta (Schneider) in Connecticut.*

### **BSc Education**

*University of Connecticut (1975)*

## CONSERVATION, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION POSTS

### **Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve**

*Consulting Conservation Biologist, March 2011-April 2013*

*Landscape Conservation Advisor May 2013-present*

Adirondack Wild advocates for the core wilderness values of one of the Northeast's largest intact forests. Dr. Klemens provided expert testimony on behalf of Adirondack Wild in an adjudicatory hearing concerning the largest-ever proposed resort within the Adirondack Park and in conjunction with that testimony conducted rapid biological assessments of streams and wetlands. He is continuing his role as conservation science advisor to this advocacy group, integrating conservation biology to their efforts to protect the biological integrity and wilderness values of the Adirondack Park.

### **Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies**

*Research and Policy Conservationist & Founding Director, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, July 1, 2008-June 30, 2011*

Effective July 1, 2008, the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance (MCA) moved from WCS to the Cary Institute of Ecosystem studies where MCA provides leadership and education to communities in the New York's Hudson valley, Adirondack region, and Connecticut on the integration of complex ecological information into the local land-use decision-making process. MCA produces multi-town biodiversity conservation strategies

and best development and management practices, using scientific information as the under-pinning of policy recommendations. MCA works with communities to implement those strategies into their local land use practices capitalizing on the broad authority available to local jurisdictions devolved from the state land-use enabling legislation.

## **Scenic Hudson**

*Director of Conservation Science, 2007—April 2008*

*Conservation Science Advisor, April 2008—current*

Responsibilities include the scientific accuracy of the organization's core programs of land use advocacy, land acquisition, parks, and policy as well as representing the organization at the regional level concerning issues and opportunities of biodiversity conservation. Developed adaptive, precautionary strategies to address climate change in the Hudson Valley. These adaptive strategies included climate change precautionary zoning, brown-field mitigation, and carbon footprint reduction.

## **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**

*Senior Conservationist, 2002—June 30, 2008 &*

*Founding Director, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, 1998-June 30, 2008.*

The Metropolitan Conservation Alliance (MCA) provides leadership and education to more than 89 communities in the New York tri-State area on the integration of complex ecological information into the local land-use decision-making process. MCA produces multi-town biodiversity conservation strategies and works with communities to implement those strategies into their local land use practices through the adoption of innovative best management practices, capitalizing on the broad authority available to local jurisdictions devolved from the state land-use enabling legislation.

*Director for Program Development, 1994-1998.*

Worked with the various divisions of WCS to produce programs that united field conservation, facilities (i.e., zoo), and veterinary services to address complex field conservation problems. Sought financial support (both corporate and foundation) for these programs and developed methodologies that more equitably divided responsibilities for seeking/reporting on grants between project scientists and the development and financial offices of WCS.

*Research Fellow, 1992-1994.*

In partnership with the American Museum of Natural History, developed a multi-year program (that continued through 1998) of biodiversity assessment and monitoring in the National Parks of Tanzania. This program received multi-year consecutive funding from the John D. and Catherine T. Mac Arthur Foundation. The goals of the program were to build national capacity in biodiversity assessment, specimen collection, and data management. This program was conducted in partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam and several Tanzanian government agencies charged with wildlife and parks management. The program also provided academic training to promising Tanzanian nationals and professional development opportunities for faculty at the University of Dar es Salaam. This program was expanded to train MSc level students in the UK through the Darwin Initiative at the University of Kent. This joint program of the University of

Kent and WCS selected promising students from WCS field sites in three African nations, Malagasy Republic, Tanzania, and Zaire. A total of nine students received scholarships to attend university in the UK through the Darwin Initiative component of the program.

### **American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)**

*Research Associate in Herpetology, May 1994-current.*

After leaving AMNH to join WCS, I continued my strong relationship with the Museum, including biodiversity assessment and expeditionary studies in Africa and the eastern United States, which resulted in significant collections of more than 18,000 specimens that have been added to the permanent research collections. Publications focus on African amphibians, biogeography and conservation of northeastern US amphibians and reptiles, and biochemical studies of polyploid and unisexual salamanders.

*Director, Special Projects, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, 1993-1994 & Director, Environmental Initiatives, 1990-1993.*

Envisioned and created the Museum's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation to make available to policy and decision-making, as well as public information, the accumulated data contained in more than 30 million samples of biodiversity collected around the globe. Worked with Museum scientists to enable them to become disseminators of that data, to secure funding for these endeavors, and to maintain the scientific integrity of the information while recognizing that the requirements for information to inform decision-making is at times different from that of more traditional scientific inquiry. Since its inception, the Center has continued to be a voice for biodiversity conservation, treading carefully the interface between scholarly investigation and the need for scientific engagement in the ever-growing biodiversity crisis.

*Senior Scientific Assistant/Scientific Assistant, Herpetology, 1979-1989.*

Joining the AMNH as a technical officer in 1979, my responsibilities were assisting curators in their research and the management (cataloging and data retrieval) of the preserved collection of amphibians and reptiles, which at that time included about 300,000 specimens.

### **Michael W. Klemens, LLC**

*Managing Director, 2002-current.*

Provides technical services on a for-profit basis to NGO's, government agencies, municipalities, and private entities on the integration of biodiversity conservation and best management practices as they pertain to land-use decision making and ecologically-appropriate (i.e., "green") development. Client list available upon request.

### **Center for Humans and Nature**

*Senior Consultant, 2007-2008.*

Developed a program to link the Consortium of Colleges and University of the Hudson Valley, American Museum of Natural History, New York Historical Society, and the Center for Human and Nature in a multi-year exploration of the cultural norms that underlie our collective relationship with the natural world. The ultimate goal of this

program is to create a forum that will allow communities (broadly defined) to envision their sustainable future free from the traditional encumbrances of positional arguments and pre-conceived outcomes. The project seeks to develop a culture of democratic ecological citizenship through engagement and participation within the Hudson Valley region. Current work with the CHN focuses on a project that examines the interfaces between ecological systems and human economic models.

**Pace University, School of Law, Land Use Law Center**

*Course Lecturer, Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) Training Program, 1998-current*

This innovative program seeks to instill a different culture in land-use decision-making, by making information available to local leaders, and training them in how to use that information in a conflict-neutral manner. My involvement in the program is teaching modules on biodiversity conservation at the local level, integration of sustainable development techniques, and community visioning techniques.

**University of Maine, Department of Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences**

*Adjunct Graduate Faculty, 2003-current*

Co-supervising and advising MSc and PhD students.

**Columbia University, Center for Environmental Education and Conservation**

*Research Associate, 1998-present.*

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor, 1996-2002.*

**IUCN -The World Conservation Union**

*Editor, Species, Journal of the World Conservation Union, Species Survival Commission, 1999-2000.*

*Vice Chairman, Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, 1991-1998.*

*Action Plan Director, Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, 1989-1998.*

*Member, African Amphibian and Reptile Specialist Group, 1992-current.*

*Member, Repatriation and Relocation Specialist Group, 1993-current.*

**University of Kent, Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology**

*Visiting Research Fellow, 1990-1995.*

**Turtle Recovery Program**

*Founder/Director, 1989-2000.*

**Simon's Rock College**

*Adjunct Faculty, 1986-1988.*

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife**  
*Cooperating Wildlife Researcher, 1984-1990.*

**United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service**  
*Herpetologist, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site, 1988.*

**University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology**  
*Curatorial Assistant, 1978-1979.*

**University of Connecticut, Museum of Natural History**  
*Curatorial Assistant, 1975-1978.*

**Town of Vernon, Connecticut**  
*Environmental Educator, Valley Falls Park, 1975-1977.*

**CURRENT AND FORMER APPOINTMENTS: COMMISSIONS,  
BOARDS & PANELS**

**State of Connecticut, Connecticut Siting Council**  
*Gubernatorial appointment October 2013-present*

**State of Connecticut, Council on Environmental Quality**  
*Gubernatorial appointment April 2013-2015*

**State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection**  
*Non-harvested Wildlife--Amphibian and Reptile Expert Advisory Committee*

**Town of Salisbury, Connecticut Planning and Zoning Commission**  
*Elected (municipal elections) November 2007*  
*Chairman -November 2010--present*

**Westchester Land Trust**  
*Advisory Board*

**The Bay Foundation and the Josephine Bay Paul and C. Michael Paul Foundation,  
Inc.**  
*Biodiversity Leadership Awards Elector*

**The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment**  
*Urban and Suburban Work Group Member, Designing a Report on the State of  
the Nation's Ecosystems Project*

**New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council**

**New Jersey Landscape Project**  
*Technical Advisory Committee*

**City of Rye, NY**  
*Chairman, Master Plan Update Task Force, 2000-2003.*  
*Chairman, Planning Commission, 1997-2003.*  
*Vice Chairman, Planning Commission, 1996-1997.*  
*Member, Planning Commission, 1992-1996.*

**New York League of Conservation Voters, Westchester Chapter Board**  
*Board Member, 2000-2001.*

**American Rivers**  
*Science and Technical Advisory Board, 1992-2001.*

**Stewart Airport Lands Citizens Advisory Committee (gubernatorial appointment)**  
1998-1999.

**Hudsonia, Ltd.**  
*Board of Directors, 1995-1999.*

**The Jay Heritage Center, Rye, New York**  
*Interpretive Planning Panel, 1998.*

**Westchester Land Trust**  
*Board of Directors, 1997-1999.*

## **PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTIONS**

**Herpetological Journal**  
*Editorial Board, 1992-1994.*

**Chelonian Conservation and Biology**  
*Editorial Board, 1993-2006.*

**Nature in Fragments: The Legacy of Urban Sprawl, Spring Symposium, 2000**  
*Conference Co-organizer, 2000.*

**Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles**  
*Conservation Committee Chairman, 1998-1999.*

**Land Use Law Center, Pace University School of Law**  
*Community Leadership Alliance Graduate, 1997.*

**Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles**  
*Editor, Testudines, 1991-1994.*

**Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Tortoises and Turtles-  
An International Conference**

*Chairman and Conference Organizer, 1993.*

**AWARDS & TRIBUTES**

**Friends of Hudsonia-Dover NY**

*2010 Award for two decades of assistance to the Town of Dover in assessing and protecting their biological resources.*

**American Planning Association, Connecticut Chapter**

*2007 Award for excellence in "integrating complex ecological processes into local land-use decisions.*

**Resolution from the City of Rye**

*Commending Michael Klemens for his service to the City (Conservation Commission Advisory Committee/Planning Commission/Chair of Planning Commission.) March 10, 2004.*

**Office of the County Executive Certificate of Appreciation**

*Westchester County, October 2003. In grateful appreciation for service rendered to the County of Westchester.*

**Science and Technical Advisory Committee Achievement Award**

*American Rivers, October 2001. In recognition of outstanding contribution and commitment to river conservation.*

**21 New Yorkers to Watch in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

*Daily News, January 1, 2000, p. 22.*

**Orange Environment Award**

*November 13, 1999.*

**The Edith G. Read Conservation Award**

*For drafting Rye City's Wetlands Ordinance, 1991.*

**The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter**

*Recipient. White Oak Award for Conservation Research, 1980.*

**American Museum of Natural History**

*Associate Patron*

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Klemens, M. W., E. R. Davison, B. K. Oke. 2012. **Ridgefield Natural Resources Inventory**. Ridgefield Conservation Commission pp.1-112.
- Davison, E.R. & M.W. Klemens. 2010. **Town of Barkhamsted: Amphibian and Reptile Biodiversity Study**. MCA Technical Paper No. 16. Metropolitan Conservation Alliance.
- Davison, E.R. & M.W. Klemens. 2010. **Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor: Northern Terminus Addendum North Salem and Southeast, New York**. MCA Technical Paper No 4-C. Metropolitan Conservation Alliance.
- Osmond, D.L., N.M. Nadkarni, C.T. Driscoll, E. Andrews, A.J. Gold, S.R. Broussard-Allred, A.R. Berkowitz, M.W. Klemens, T.L. Loecke, M.A. McGarry, K. Schwarz, M.L. Washington & P.M. Groffman. 2010. **The role of interface organizations in science communication and understanding**. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 8(6):306-313.
- Davison, E.R. & M.W. Klemens. 2009. **Haines Pond Biodiversity Study**. MCA Technical Paper No. 15. Metropolitan Conservation Alliance.
- Davison, E.R. & M.W. Klemens. 2009. **Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor: Titicus Reservoir Addendum**. MCA Technical Paper No 4-B. Metropolitan Conservation Alliance.
- Bogart, J. P. and M. W. Klemens. 2008. **Additional distributional records of *Ambystoma laterale*, *A. jeffersonianum* (Amphibia: Caudata) and Their Unisexual Kleptogens in Northeastern North America**. American Museum of Natural History. Novitates: 3627: 58 pp., 8 figures, 7 tables.
- Mahaney, Wende S. and M. W. Klemens. 2008. **Vernal pool conservation policy: The federal, state, and local context**. pp. 193-212 *In*: Calhoun A. J. K and P. G deMaynadier. Science and Conservation of Vernal Pools in Northeastern North America. CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton, London & New York.
- LaBruna, D. T. and M. W. Klemens. 2007. **Northcastle Biodiversity Plan**. MCA Technical Paper 14, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- LaBruna, D. T. and M. W. Klemens. 2007. **Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan: Somers Addendum**. MCA Technical Paper 7-A, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- LaBruna, D. T. and M. W. Klemens. 2007. **Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor: Bedford Addendum**. MCA Technical Paper 4-A, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.

- Klein, M. S., M. W. Klemens, and D. H. Merriam. 2006. **Where's Waldo? Finding federal wetlands after the *Rapanos* decision.** *Zoning and Planning Law Report* 29(8):1-16.
- LaBruna, D. T., M. W. Klemens, J. D. Avery, and K. J. Ryan. 2006. **Pocantico Hills Biodiversity Plan, Rockefeller State Park Preserve and Associated Private Lands: A Public-Private Land Stewardship Initiative.** MCA Technical Paper 12, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- Gruner, H. J., M. W. Klemens, and A. Persons. 2006. **Farmington Valley Biodiversity Strategy.** MCA Technical Paper No. 11, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- Klemens, M. W., M. Shansky, and H. J. Gruner. 2006. **From Planning to Action: Biodiversity Conservation in Connecticut Towns.** MCA Technical Paper No. 10, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- Johnson, E. and M. W. Klemens (eds). 2005. **Nature in Fragments: The Legacy of Sprawl.** Columbia University Press, NY 382 pp.
- Johnson, E. and M. W. Klemens. 2005. **The Impacts of Sprawl on Biodiversity.** Pp. 18-53 *In* Johnson, E. A. and M. W. Klemens. *Nature in Fragments: The Legacy of Sprawl.* Columbia University Press, NY.
- Miller, N. A., and M. W. Klemens. 2005. **Freshwater Wetland Biodiversity in an Urbanizing World.** Pp. 57-89 *In* Johnson, E. A. and M. W. Klemens. *Nature in Fragments: The Legacy of Sprawl.* Columbia University Press, NY.
- Daly, J. and M. W. Klemens. 2005. **Integrating Conservation of Biodiversity into Local Planning.** Pp. 313-334 *In* Johnson, E. A. and M. W. Klemens. *Nature in Fragments: The Legacy of Sprawl.* Columbia University Press, NY.
- Klemens, M. W. and E. A. Johnson. 2005. **Creating a Framework for Change.** Pp. 349-362 *In* Johnson, E. A. and M. W. Klemens. *Nature in Fragments: The Legacy of Sprawl.* Columbia University Press, NY.
- Calhoun, A. J. K., Miller, N., and Klemens, M. W. 2005. Conservation strategies for pool-breeding amphibians in human-dominated landscapes. *Wetlands Ecology and Management* 13: 291-304.
- Miller, N. A., M. W. Klemens, and J. E. Schmitz. 2005. **Biodiversity Conservation through Local Land Use Planning: An Assessment of Needs and Opportunities in the New Jersey Townships of Chester, Lebanon, and**

- Washington.** MCA Technical Paper No. 9, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- Miller, N. A., M. W. Klemens, and J. E. Schmitz. 2005. **Southern Wallkill Biodiversity Plan: Balancing Development and the Environment in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed.** MCA Technical Paper No. 8, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- Miller, N. A. and M.W. Klemens. 2004. **Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan: Balancing Development and the Environment in the Hudson River Estuary Catchment.** MCA Technical Paper No. 7, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- Klemens, M.W. 2003. Keynote Address: **New Directions for Turtle Conservation.** Pp. 1-3 *In* Conservation and Ecology of Turtles of the Mid-Atlantic Region: A Symposium ed. by C. Swarth, W. Roosenburg, and E. Kiviat. Bibliomania!, Salt Lake City, UT
- Calhoun, A. J. K. and M. W. Klemens. 2002. **Best Development Practices (BDPs) for Conserving Pool-breeding Amphibians in Residential and Commercial Developments.** MCA Technical Paper No. 5, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- Klemens, M.W. 2002. **Conserving Vernal Pools for Biodiversity and Public Health.** Pp. 71-74 *In* Proceedings of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, Inc.
- Klemens, M.W. April-May 2002. **Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places,** Westchester Environment, Vol. 2002 No. 2. Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Inc.
- Miller, N. A. and M.W. Klemens. 2002. **Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor.** MCA Technical Paper No. 4, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY.
- Klemens, M. W. 2001. **Bog Turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*)—Northern Population Recovery Plan,** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region, Hadley, MA, 103 pp.
- Lawson, D. P. and M. W. Klemens. 2001. **Herpetofauna of the African Rain Forest: Overview and Recommendations for Conservation.** Pp. 291-307 *In* Vedder, A., W. Weber, L. White, and L. Naughton-Treves (eds.). African Rain Forest Ecology and Conservation: An Interdisciplinary Perspective. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT.
- Platt, S. G., R. J. Lee, and M. W. Klemens. 2001. **Notes on the distribution,**

**life history, and exploitation of turtles in Sulawesi, Indonesia, with emphasis on *Indotestudo forstenii* and *Leucocephalon yuwonoi*.** *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 4:154-159.

Klemens, M. W. 2000. **Amphibians and Reptiles in Connecticut: A Checklist with Notes on Conservation Status and Distribution.** Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Hartford, Connecticut Bulletin 32:1-90.

Klemens, M. W. (ed.). 2000. **Turtle Conservation.** Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 344 pp.

Klemens, M. W. 2000. **From Information to Action: Developing More Effective Strategies to Conserve Turtles.** Pp. 239-258 *In* Michael W. Klemens (ed.) *Turtle Conservation.* Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

Mitchell, J. C., and M. W. Klemens. 2000. **Primary and Secondary Effects of Habitat Alteration.** Pp. 5-32 *In* Michael W. Klemens (ed.). *Turtle Conservation.* Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

Thorbjarnarson, J., C. J. Lagueux, D. Bolze, M. W. Klemens, and A. B. Meylan. 2000. **Human Use of Turtles: A Worldwide Perspective.** Pp. 33-84 *In* Michael W. Klemens (ed.). *Turtle Conservation.* Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

McDougal, J. and M. W. Klemens. 2000. **The Value of Agriculture and Agricultural Land in Maintaining Biodiversity.** Unpublished report prepared for the Glynwood Center Agricultural Initiative. Cold Spring, NY.

Klemens, M. W. 1999. (Abstract) **The anurans of the Ennedi Massif (northeastern Tchad): a case of island biogeography.** *In* Tenth meeting of the African Amphibian Working Group, 6-9 June 1999, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa (unpaginated).

Klemens, M. W. 1998. **The male nuptial characteristics of *Arthroleptides martiensseni* Neiden, an endemic torrent frog from Tanzania's eastern Arc Mountains.** *Herpetological Journal* 8:35-40.

Klemens, M. W. 1998. **Keynote address: Ephemeral wetlands – ephemeral protection.** Pp. 15-17 *In* Fellman, Bruce (ed.) *Our hidden wetlands: The proceedings of a symposium on vernal pools in Connecticut.* Yale University and Connecticut DEP.

Klemens, M. W., A. M. Nikundiwe, and L. S. Ford. 1997. **Amphibians and reptiles of Tarangire National Park.** *In* Second Report on Biodiversity Surveys and Training in Tarangire and Udzungwa Mountains National Parks, Tanzania, March 1995-July 1996.

- Bogart, J. P. and M. W. Klemens. 1997. **Hybrids and genetic interactions of mole salamanders (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum* and *A. laterale*) (Amphibia: Caudata) in New York and New England.** American Museum Novitates 3218, pp. 78., 8 figs., 16 tabs.
- Klemens, M. W., A. M. Nikundiwe, and L. S. Ford. 1997. (Abstract) **Amphibian and reptile biodiversity of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park: Some preliminary findings.** *In* Abstracts: International Conference on the Eastern Arc Mountains, 1-5 December 1997, Morogoro, Tanzania, pp. 31-32.
- Klemens, M. W. 1997. (Abstract) **The male nuptial characteristics of *Arthroleptides martiensseni* Neiden an endemic torrent frog from Tanzania's Eastern Arc Mountains.** *In* Abstracts: International Conference on the Eastern Arc Mountains, 1-5 December 1997, Morogoro, Tanzania, p. 31.
- Klemens, M. W. 1996. (Abstract) **Amphibian biodiversity in Tanzanian National Parks.** Pp. 5 *In* Ninth Symposium on African Amphibians, 9-12 September, 1996, University of Bristol, UK.
- Moll, D. and M. W. Klemens. 1996. **Ecological characteristics of the pancake tortoise, *Malacochersus tornieri*, in Tanzania.** Chelonian Conservation and Biology, 2(1).
- Klemens, M. W. and A. M. Nikundiwe. 1995. **A preliminary report on the amphibians and reptiles of Tarangire National Park, Tanzania.** *In* Preliminary Report on the Biodiversity of Tarangire National Park, Tanzania, March 1995.
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## **INVITED PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS**

### **Ecological Stewardship: Empowering Communities to Protect the Commons.**

Ramapo College of New Jersey April 11, 2013. *Re-invited by popular demand to give the same lecture that was given in February 2012.*

### **Ecological Sustainability and Economic Development: Can they Work Together?**

Keynote Address. CACIWC's 35th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference.  
Meriden, CT. November 17, 2012.

### **Ecological Stewardship: Empowering Communities to Protect the Commons.**

Creating a Sustainable World: Voices of Key Practitioners. Ramapo College of  
New Jersey. February 23, 2012

### **Ecological Stewardship and Economic Development: Do We Have To Choose?**

Keynote Address, CT Association of Wetland Scientists 14th annual Meeting,  
North Haven, CT. February 23, 2011

### **Ecological Thinking: A Toolbox for Landscape Professionals.**

NOFA Annual Gathering-Storrs. CT December 7, 2010.

### **Biodiversity and Land Use Policy at the Urban/Suburban Frontier—Westchester County (NY).**

The Pocantico River Watershed Conservancy at Pace University. September 17,  
2012.

### **Our Land, Air and Water**

A Symposium on Sustainable Development and Western Connecticut's Future.  
Co-moderated by Congressmen Earl Blumenauer (OR) and Christopher Murphy  
(CT). June 26, 2010.

### **Ecological Stewardship and Economic Development: Do We Have to Choose?**

Millbrook Garden Club, Millbrook, NY, April 14, 2010

### **Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor: A Ten Year Retrospective: 2000 – 2010**

North Salem Improvement Society, April 11, 2010

### **Ridgefield's Prospect**

Ridgefield Conservation Commission, April 7, 2010

**Keynote Address: Ecological Stewardship and Economic Development: Do We Have to Choose?**

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, March 6, 2010

**Keynote Address: Can We Have Both: Conservation and Economic Development?**

Mahopac Library, Mahopac NY, February 25, 2010

**Ridgefield's Prospect**

Ridgefield Garden Club, January 26, 2010

**Biodiversity Inventory of Headwaters and Vernal Pools: Barkhamsted, CT**

Barkhamsted, CT January 11 & January 20, 2010

**Where the Wet Things Are!!: Citizen Science Vernal Pool Survey**

Town of Washington, New York, December 2, 2009

**Managing the Ecological Footprint: Creating Human Communities in Harmony with Nature**

South West Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA) Lecture Series – Stamford Government Center, November 4, 2009

**Bridging the Gap Between Conservation Science and Land-use Planning: Where Science Ends and Policy Begins**

Connecting our Landscape: A Roundtable on Integrating Connectivity into Land Use Planning, Two Countries-One Forest- Lake Clear, New York, October 5-6, 2009

**Ecologically-informed Land Use Planning: Local Opportunities and Responsibilities.**

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Board Breakfast, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Millbrook, NY. May 18, 2009.

**Where the Wet Things Are: Citizen-science Vernal Pool Surveys/Public Policy.**

Town Board of Washington, Washington, NY. February 12, 2009

**Where the Wet Things Are: Citizen-science Vernal Pool Surveys/Public Policy.**

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Washington, NY. February 9, 2009.

**Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor.**

Town of Bedford Environmental Summit. Bedford, NY. January 31, 2009.

**Status of Amphibians and Reptiles in the Tri-State New York Metro Region.**

Highstead Arboretum, Redding, CT. October 18, 2008.

**Mediation: Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) Research/Conservation and**

**Agriculture: Great Swamp.** Pawling NY August 4, 2008.

**Effective Preservation of Biological Communities: Local and Regional Strategies.**

Keynote Speaker. Annual Meeting of the Winnakee Land Trust. Norrie Point Environmental Center, Staatsburg, NY. July 30, 2008

**Effective Preservation of Biological Communities: Local and Regional Strategies.**

Lake George Watershed Conference: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum on Water Quality & Resource Conservation, Fort William Henry Conference Center, Lake George, NY, June 18, 2008,

**Planning and Designing for Biodiversity**

Adirondack Research Consortium, 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on the Adirondacks, Lake Placid, NY May 21-22, 2008.

**Effective Preservation of Biological Communities: Local and Regional Strategies.**

Keynote Address: Planning for Biodiversity: Strategies for Developers and Municipalities sponsored by the Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance, Marist College, April 29, 2008.

**Status of Amphibians and Reptiles in the Tri-State New York Metro Region.** The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT. February 14, 2008.

**Effective Preservation of Biological Communities: Local and Regional Strategies.**

Yale University, New Haven, CT. February 5, 2008.

**The North Castle Biodiversity Plan.** Town Hall, Armonk, NY. January 9, 2008.

**Planning and Designing for Biodiversity.** Bedford-Somers Continuing Education

Course for Land-use Decision Makers: Biodiversity Lecture Series. Katonah Library, Katonah, NY . December 6, 2007

**Effective Preservation of Biological Communities: Local and Regional Strategies.**

Keynote Address, Connecticut Association of Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commissions (CACIWC) 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, Wallingford, CT. November 10, 2007.

**Keeping Connected: Securing Biodiversity in a Changing Landscape.** New York

City Bar Association Annual Conference on Animals and the Law. NY, NY. September 29, 2007.

**Stream Pirates, Clones and Island Hoppers: A Herpetological View of Coastal New**

**England.** Henry L. Ferguson Museum. Fishers Island, NY August 19, 2007.

- Nature in Fragments: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened Land Use Planning.** United States Society for Ecological Economics, 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference. Pace University NY City Campus. June 25, 2007.
- The Metropolitan Conservation Alliance: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened and Use Planning in the NYC Watershed.** Open Space Institute Lunch Seminar. NY, NY May 9, 2007.
- The Metropolitan Conservation Alliance: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened Land Use Planning in the NYC Watershed.** Presented in conjunction with Nature-Network to Ted Kheel and Nurture New York's Nature. NY, NY. May 9, 2007.
- Keynote Address: Dutchess County Planning Federation: Annual Awards Dinner. Bridging the Gap Between Conservation Science and Land-use Planning.** Poughkeepsie, NY. April 30, 2007.
- Bedford Biodiversity Study.** Bedford Town Hall, Bedford, NY. April 4, 2007.
- Biodiversity Conservation in a Rapidly Developing Environment.** Penn State Schuylkill Library. Co-sponsored by the Schuylkill Conservation District, Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Advisory Board, DCNR-Bureau of Forestry, and the Schuylkill County Conservancy. March 28, 2007.
- Local Land Use Planning and Herpetofauna Conservation.** NYTTS Seminar, American Museum of Natural History, NY, NY. March 25, 2007.
- Biodiversity Planning and Agriculture.** Marlborough, NY. February 28, 2007.
- Nature in Fragments: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened Land Use Planning.** Ridgefield Conservation Commission. Ridgefield, CT. April 6, 2006.
- Nature in Fragments: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened Land Use Planning.** Great Swamp Biodiversity Partnership Workshop. Dover, NY. March 30, 2006.
- Nature in Fragments: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened Land Use Planning.** Philipstown Town Council. Philipstown, NY. March 9, 2006.
- Nature in Fragments: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened Land Use Planning.** University of Chicago. Chicago, IL. February 9, 2006.

**Nature in Fragments: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened Land Use Planning.** Chicago Wilderness. Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. Chicago, IL. February 8, 2006.

**Nature in Fragments: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened Land Use Planning.** Lake Forest College. Chicago, IL. February 7, 2006.

**Nature in Fragments: Confronting Sprawl Through Enlightened Land Use Planning.** Professor Caleb Gordon's Conservation Biology Class. Lake Forest College. Chicago, IL. February 7, 2006.

**Our Extraordinary Backyards: Realizing the Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan.** Keynote address. *Our Extraordinary Backyards*. Workshop co-sponsored by WCS/MCA, Westchester Land Trust, and Cortlandt Land Trust. Cortlandt, NY. January 21, 2006.

**Gotham's Footprint: Can Science and Planning Save our Biological Heritage?** CUNY Nature of New York Course. New York, NY. November 29, 2005.

**The Wild Choice: Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** South Carolina Coastal Conservation League. Charleston, SC. November 28, 2005.

**The Wild Choice: Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Humans, Nature, and Democracy Conference. Graduate Center, New School for Social Research, New York, NY. November 17-18, 2005.

**The Wild Choice: Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Scenic Hudson. Poughkeepsie, NY. October 31, 2005.

**The Wild Choice: Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Environmental Congress. The Conference Center at Mercer. Mercer Community College, West Windsor, NJ. October 21, 2005.

**The Link Between Intact Ecosystems and Livable Human Communities.** Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Environmental Congress. The Conference Center at Mercer. Mercer Community College, West Windsor, NJ. October 21, 2005.

**The Wild Choice: Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Washington, CT Environmental Council. Washington, CT. July 14, 2005.

**Gotham's Footprint: Can Science and Planning Save our Biological Heritage?** CUNY Nature of New York Course. New York, NY. June 13, 2005.

**Integrating Biodiversity Principles into Land Use Decisions.** Connecticut Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA). June 3, 2005.

**Wildlife Conservation in an Urbanizing World.** WCS International Conservation Committee. Bronx Zoo. May 5, 2005.

**Wildlife Conservation in an Urbanizing World.** WCS Lunchtime Lecture Series. Central Park Zoo. May 4, 2005.

**Integrating Biodiversity Principles into Land Use Decisions.** Connecticut Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA). Ellington, CT. April 29, 2005.

**Finding the Forest between the Trees: The Challenges of Ecologically Scaling Land Use Decisions.** *Conserving our Local Landscapes: Build Your Tool-Kit of Land Management Practices.* Symposium funded by The Henry Philip Kraft Family Memorial Fund of the Westchester Community Foundation. Edith May Conference Center, Briarcliff Manor, NY. April 28, 2005.

**Biodiversity & Local Land Use Planning.** *Southern Wallkill Biodiversity Meeting* – Towns of Chester, Goshen, and Warwick. Warwick Town Hall, Warwick, NY. April 27, 2005.

**The Ecological Basis for Conservation Overlay Districts.** Dutchess County Environmental Management Council. Farm and Home Center, Millbrook, NY. April 21, 2005.

**Postcards from the Edge: Nature at the Suburban-Rural Frontier.** *Nature Network Launching Conference.* The Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY. April 14, 2005.

**Status of Amphibians and Reptiles in the Tri-State New York Metro Region.** *Nature Network Launching Conference.* The Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY. April 13, 2005.

**Planning with Nature in New Jersey.** *Biodiversity & Land Use Planning Workshop* – New Jersey Townships of Chester, Washington, and Lebanon. Lebanon Township Municipal Building, Glen Gardner, NJ. March 19, 2005.

**Moving Forward: The Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor and Beyond.** *Our Extraordinary Backyards.* Lewisboro Land Trust & Waccabuc Landowners Council. Waccabuc County Club, Waccabuc, NY. March 5, 2005.

**Planning for Nature and Wetlands, Biodiversity.** *Planning for Nature Workshop.* Connecticut Southwest Conservation District. The Center Building, Woodbridge, CT. February 19, 2005.

- Tools for Local Land Use Planning.** *Planning for Nature Workshop.* Connecticut Southwest Conservation District. The Center Building, Woodbridge, CT. February 19, 2005.
- The Wild Choice: Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** New Jersey Intermunicipal Meeting – Chester, Lebanon, and Washington Townships. Lebanon Township Municipal Building, Glen Gardner, NJ. January 27, 2005.
- Planning for Nature.** *Planning for Nature Workshop.* Connecticut North Central Conservation District. Tolland County Agricultural Center, Vernon, CT. January 22, 2005.
- Wetlands, Biodiversity, and Tools for Local Land Use Planning.** *Planning for Nature Workshop.* Connecticut North Central Conservation District. Tolland County Agricultural Center, Vernon, CT. January 22, 2005.
- The Wild Choice: Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Falls Village Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission. Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village, CT. January 21, 2005.
- Gotham's Footprint: Can Science and Planning Save our Biological Heritage?** . CUNY *Nature of New York* course. The School of Professional Studies at the University Center, New York, NY. December 12, 2004.
- Natural Systems, Human Systems, Planning and Design.** American Institute of Architects – *Conservation, Planning and Architecture: Biodiversity at Home and Abroad Session One: The MCA.* Center for Architecture, New York, NY. November 15, 2004.
- The Wild Choice: Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership Dinner. Warwick Valley Country Club, Warwick, NY. November 12, 2004.
- Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan.** Town of New Castle Town Board Meeting. New Castle, NY Town Hall. November 9, 2004.
- Gaining Ground Clinics: Celebrating Successful Local Leaders. Natural Resource Protection.** The New York State Judicial Institute, Pace University School of Law. White Plains, NY. November 6, 2004.
- The Wild Choice: Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Tarrytown, NY. November 4, 2004.
- Protecting Biodiversity While Planning for Growth.** Pace University Land Use Law Center, Land Use Leadership Alliance. Hudson Valley Center, New Windsor, NY. October 29, 2004.

**Moving Forward: The Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor and Beyond.** Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor Implementation Meeting. North Salem, NY. October 21, 2004.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), *Beyond Home Rule: Protecting the Environment through Regional Planning*. Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, New Jersey. October 15, 2004.

**Creative Planning to Conserve Wildlife: An Update from the Bronx Zoo's Backyard.** WCS International, Bronx Zoo. Bronx, NY. September 15, 2004.

**Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan.** Town of Putnam Valley Town Board Meeting. Putnam Valley, NY Town Hall. September 22, 2004.

**Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan.** Town of Yorktown Town Board Meeting. Yorktown, NY Town Hall. September 7, 2004.

**Will Better Land Use Decisions Protect our Region's Biodiversity?** Society for Conservation Biology 18th Annual Meeting. Columbia University, New York, NY. July 30 – August 2, 2004.

**Extreme Frogs: A Celebration of the Second Plague.** American Museum of Natural History. *Extreme Frogs*. Kaufman Theater, New York, NY. June 29, 2004.

**Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan: Implementation Phase.** Meeting with the towns of Cortlandt, New Castle, Putnam Valley, and Yorktown to discuss implementation strategies and priorities. Town of New Castle, NY. June 14, 2004.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** Westchester Land Trust & Westchester Community Foundation Conference. *Smart Growth from the Ground Up: How Community-Based Planning is Reshaping our Region's Land Use Policies*. Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY. May 18, 2004.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** *Norfolk Inland Wetlands Agency*. Norfolk, CT. April 24, 2004.

**Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan Press Conference.** Turkey Mountain Nature Preserve, Town of Yorktown, NY. April 22, 2004.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** Annual meeting of the *Goshen Land Trust*. St. Thomas Church, Goshen, CT. April 16, 2004.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** Meeting of the *Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)*. March 29, 2004.

**Keeping Connected: Securing Biodiversity in a Changing Landscape.** Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, Suffolk University Law School, Boston, MA. March 15-16, 2004.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation in Connecticut.** The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT. March 2, 2004.

**Amphibians & Reptiles of Connecticut: 1975-Present.** Hotchkiss School. Lakeville, CT. March 2, 2004.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation in the Wallkill Valley.** Inter-Municipal Biodiversity Project Meeting, Goshen Town Hall, Goshen NY. February 2, 2004.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation in the Wallkill Valley.** Inter-Municipal Biodiversity Project Meeting, Lloyd Town Hall, Lloyd, NY. February 4, 2004.

**Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** The Linnaean Society of New York. New York, NY. January 13, 2004.

**Linking Conservation to Scale in Westchester County.** Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY. December 10, 2003.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** Connecticut Land Trust, Norwalk, CT. November 18, 2003.

**Wetlands: Is there life after Avalon?** Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions, Wallingford, CT. November 15, 2003.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions, Wallingford, CT. November 15, 2003.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** CERC – Graduate Seminar, Columbia University, New York, NY. November 11, 2003.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** Croton-to-Highlands Corridor Meeting – Towns of Cortlandt, New Castle, Putnam Valley, & Yorktown, NY. October 27, 2003.

**Whose Water Is It?** Dutchess County Environmental Management Council, Vassar College, NY.

**What is Biodiversity?** Audubon Greenwich, Greenwich, CT. October 24, 2003.

**Wetlands and Vernal Pools.** Westchester County Park Curators Vernal Pool Walk/Lecture, Rye, NY. October 10, 2003.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** Eastern Connecticut District Workshop, Norwich, CT. September 29, 2003.

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** New York Bar Association, Fall Meeting, Hancock, MA. September 20, 2003

**Assembling the Pieces: A Bricks and Mortar Approach to Conservation.** The Society for Conservation Biology, Annual Meeting, Duluth, MN. June 28 – July 1, 2003.

**Planning for Nature: Integrating Biodiversity into Local Land-Use Decisions.** CT River Coastal Conservation District, Inc. – Planning for Nature Workshop, Haddam, CT. June 14, 2003.

**Intelligent Planning For Wildlife and Wild Places.** Sherman Conservation Commission – Conservation and Responsible Growth Workshop, Sherman, CT. June 7, 2003.

**Planning for Nature: Integrating Biodiversity into Local Land-Use Decisions.** Torrington, CT. May 17, 2003.

**Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, Inc., Southbury, CT. April 30, 2003.

**Conservation Practices and Strategies in the New York City Region.** Society Wide Educator Meeting: Conservation Update – "WCS, leading the fight to save and protect our planet's Living Landscapes", Bronx Zoo, Bronx, NY. April 21, 2003.

**Sustaining Biodiversity at the Suburban-Rural Frontier.** Knollwood Garden Club, Greenwich, CT. April 8, 2003.

**Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** CT Green Building Council; CT Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects – "Let Nature Do the Work!", New Haven, CT. March 21, 2003.

**Planning for Nature.** Planning For Nature Workshop, New Paltz, NY. March 19, 2003.

**MCA Program and FoSA Analysis.** Town of Lloyd Town Board Workshop, Lloyd, NY. March 5, 2003.

- Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Shawangunk Biodiversity Partnership: Eighth Annual Winter Lecture Series. SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY. February 27, 2003.
- Local Conservation Issues.** The Little Garden Club of Rye, Rye, NY. February 11, 2003.
- Biodiversity and the Empire State: Conserving our Landscapes.** TNC, CERC, & SIPA – "Biodiversity on the Brink: Challenges in Science and Policy." Columbia University, New York, NY. February 6, 2003.
- Assessing the Needs of the Towns Within the Croton-to-Highlands Corridor.** Meeting of towns within the Croton-to-Highlands Corridor. Cortlandt, New Castle, Putnam Valley, and Yorktown, NY. January 16, 2003.
- Conserving Vernal Pools for Biodiversity and Public Health.** Northeastern Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting. Mystic, CT. December 2, 2002.
- Discovering and Defending the City's Wildlife: A Conversation with Conservationists.** New York Public Library Public Program. Urban Neighbors, Urban Neighborhoods: Celebrating and Protecting New York's Wildlife and Green Spaces. New York, NY. November 7, 2002.
- Intelligent Planning for Wildlife and Wild Places.** Let Nature Do the Work. Federated Conservationists of Westchester County Informational Seminar. Pace University, Pleasantville, NY. October 18, 2002.
- Conservation at the Suburban-Rural Frontier.** Litchfield County Conservation District Annual Meeting. Bridgewater, CT. October 17, 2002.
- Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association Meeting.** Biodiversity Protection and Conservation Area Overlay Districts. Rocky Hill, CT. June 21, 2002.
- Land Trusts, Public Officials and Scientists: Collaborating on Quality Communities.** Tenth Anniversary New York Land Trust Conference. Saratoga Springs, NY. June 1, 2002.
- Biodiversity Protection: New Opportunities for Land Trusts and Public Agencies.** Tenth Anniversary New York Land Trust Conference. Saratoga Springs, NY. June 1, 2002.
- Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor.** North Salem Town Board Meeting. North Salem, NY. May 28, 2002.
- Defenders of Wildlife National Workshop on Land-Use Planning &**

**Biodiversity Conservation.** Aspen Wye River Conference Center, Maryland. February 28-March 1, 2002.

**Sustaining Ecosystems in Westchester County: Making Smart Growth Work for Wildlife.** Backyard Biodiversity: Conservation at the Community Level. Irvington Garden Club. February 19, 2002.

**Uncovering and Covering: The Region's Unexplored Environmental Stories - Society of Environmental Journalists 2002 Boston-to-Baltimore Briefing.** Sponsored by SEJ, EOHSI, the Hudson River Foundation and the New Jersey Center for Environmental Indicators. January 18, 2002.

**Biodiversity and Land-Use Advisory Meeting.** Island Press, Washington, DC. December 17-18, 2001.

**Examples of Regional Biodiversity Initiatives.** Farmington River Watershed Workshop, Simsbury, CT. November 30, 2001.

**Sustaining Ecosystems in Westchester County: Making Smart Growth Work for Wildlife.** PACE University Lecture, Anna Georgeou class, White Plains, NY. November 29, 2001.

**Sustaining Ecosystems in Westchester County: Making Smart Growth Work for Wildlife.** Westchester Land Trust Conference: Growing Smarter: How to Plan for Quality Communities, White Plains, NY. November 17, 2001.

**Sustaining Ecosystems in a Changing Landscape.** Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) Meeting, Simsbury, CT. November 15, 2001.

**Sustaining Ecosystems in a Changing Landscape.** PACE University Seminar, Dr. Josh Schwartz class, Pleasantville, NY. October 19, 2001.

**Sustaining Ecosystems in a Changing Landscape.** Stamford Land Conservation Trust Annual Meeting, Stamford, CT. October 16, 2001.

**Biodiversity and Agriculture.** Wallkill Valley Community Leadership Alliance Training Program. Cold Spring, NY. October 15, 2001.

**The Metropolitan Conservation Alliance: Protecting Wildlife at the Rural/Suburban Frontier.** Conservation Medicine in the New York Bioscape: A Research, Education, and Policy Agenda - Wildlife Trust, Tarrytown, NY. October 5, 2001.

- Conservation Strategies Combined with Local Land-Use Planning.** Tools for Watershed Management Workshop. Brooklyn, NY. October 3, 2001.
- The Geological and Ecological Framework of the Wallkill Valley.** Wallkill Valley Community Leadership Alliance Training Program. Cold Spring, NY. October 1, 2001.
- Wise Use in the Absence of Wisdom.** Property and the Commons: Rights and Responsibilities, Humans and Nature Consortium, July 17-18, 2001. Sponsored by The Hastings Center. Chicago, IL. July 18, 2001.
- Wallkill Valley Conservation: Placing Growth in an Ecological Context.** Informative Slideshow & Public Discussion: Wildlife in the Wallkill Valley - How we can learn about and protect it. Sponsored by the Wallkill River Task Force - Ulster Branch. New Paltz, NY. July 11, 2001.
- Sustaining Ecosystems in a Changing Landscape.** Orange County Land Trust Dinner. Warwick Center, Warwick, NY. June 14, 2001.
- Stormwater Design and Its Impact on Biodiversity.** 2001 Southeast NY Stormwater Conference and Trade Show, June 13-14. Sponsored by the Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts and Hudson Valley Regional Council. Fishkill, NY. June 13, 2001.
- Repatriation, Relocation, and Translocation: Real Solutions.** 57th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, April 22-25, 2001. Sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Saratoga Springs, NY. April 24, 2001.
- Biodiversity and Agriculture.** 2001 APA National Planning Conference, March 10-14, 2001. Sponsored by the American Planning Association. New Orleans, LA. March 12, 2001.
- Wildlife-Friendly Transportation Planning.** 2001 APA National Planning Conference, March 10-14, 2001. Sponsored by the American Planning Association. New Orleans, LA. March 11, 2001.
- Sustaining Biodiversity in a Changing Landscape.** Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions - 2001 Annual Meeting. Worcester, MA. March 3, 2001.
- Strategies for Providing Biodiversity Data to Key Decision-Makers (panel speaker).** Status of the States: Innovative State Strategies for Biodiversity Conservation. National Biodiversity Symposium. Sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute, January 17-18, 2001. Washington, DC. January 18, 2001.

- Justice: Humans, Nature and Time.** Humans, Nature, and Environmental Justice, Humans and Nature Consortium, January 15-16, 2001. Sponsored by The Hastings Center. St. Helen Island, SC. January 16, 2001.
- Biodiversity Conservation at the Suburban-Rural Frontier: New Opportunities for Land Trusts.** National Land Trust Rally 2000, October 12-22, 2000. Sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance. Portland, OR. October 22, 2000.
- Sustaining Biodiversity in a Changing Landscape.** Presentation to the Selectmen and interested public officials in the towns of Granby, East Granby, Simsbury, Avon, Canton, and Farmington Towns, Farmington Valley, CT. September 21, 2000.
- Sustaining Biodiversity in a Changing Landscape-Special Multi-Town Meeting.** Hosted by the Planning & Zoning Board/Inland Wetland Commission, Ridgefield Town Hall Annex, Ridgefield, CT. June 21, 2000.
- Biodiversity at the Rural Suburban Frontier: A U.S. Perspective.** The Consultative Group on Biological Diversity 2000 Annual Meeting, The Colony Hotel, Kennebunkport, ME. June 15, 2000.
- Wild New York: Local Conservation Strategies in the Metropolitan Region.** Wine and Cheese Evenings with Experts, Wild New York Speaking Engagement, Central Park Zoo New York, NY. May 3, 2000.
- Sustaining Biodiversity in a Changing Landscape.** The Institute of Ecosystem Study and the Conservation Committee of the Millbrook Garden Club Lecture, Millbrook, NY. April 28, 2000.
- No Place Like Home – The Metropolitan Conservation Alliance.** Wildlife Conservation Society Annual Meeting 2000, Lincoln Center, New York, NY. April 17, 2000.
- Ecological Effects of Poorly Planned Development.** Nature in Fragments: The Legacy of Urban Sprawl, Spring Symposium, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. April 13, 2000.
- Conservation of Wetland Landscapes in the NY Metropolitan Region: Science, Awareness, Policy, and Practice.** Environmental Protection Agency, Vernal Pools of the Northeast Conference, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI. April 1, 2000.
- Keynote Address: Wetlands and Wildlife: Conservation Issues.** Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists 2000 Annual Meeting, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Meriden, CT. February 17, 2000.
- Keynote Address: Landscape Conservation: Implications for the Protection and**

**Management of Reptiles and Amphibians.** Conservation and Ecology of Turtles of the Mid-Atlantic Region Conference, National Wildlife Visitor Center, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, MD. October 30, 1999.

**Linking Conservation, Land-Use Regulation, and Science.** American Planning Association Symposium, Chicago, IL. September 17-18, 1999.

**The Big Apple's Biodiversity: Prospects for Survival in the Post-Eisenhowerian Era.** Biodiversity and Climate Change: Center for Biodiversity and Conservation Spring Symposium, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. May 1, 1999.

**Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in the Northeast.** Fifty-fifth Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH. April 13, 1999.

**Sustaining Biodiversity in a Changing Landscape.** The Colebrook Land Conservancy Annual Meeting, YMCA Camp Jewel, Colebrook, CT. April 8, 1999.

**The Role of Veterinarians in Monitoring the Health Status of Free-Ranging Chelonians.** Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians Fifth Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza, Kansas City, MO. September 28, 1998.

**Keynote Address: Ephemeral Wetlands – Ephemeral Protection?** Our Hidden Wetlands: A Symposium on Vernal Pools in Connecticut, Wesleyan University, Wesleyan, CT. November 15, 1997.

**Urban Growth and Biodiversity: Can They Co-Exist?** Lecture for the Westchester Environmental Management Council and Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Texaco, Inc. October 27, 1995.

**Post-glacial Landscape Ecology of the Long Island Sound Basin: A Herpetological Perspective.** Jay Heritage Center Annual Meeting, Rye, NY. June 7, 1995.

**Global Conservation in a Changing Environment.** Biotechnologies for the Ecological, Evolutionary and Conservation Sciences Earth Day Symposium, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. April 29, 1995.

**From Kilimanjaro to Storm King: International Perspectives on Conserving Local Biodiversity.** Environmental Problem Solving in Dutchess County Lecture Series, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. January 26, 1995.

**Local Wetlands and Their Associated Uplands: A Conservation Challenge.** Wetlands Watch Lecture (Sierra Club), Chappaqua, NY. November 1, 1994.

**Turtle at the Crossroads.** A Symposium on the Status and Conservation of Florida Turtles, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL. April 3, 1994.

- Reptiles and Amphibians of the Metropolitan Region: Threats, Causes, Solutions.** Eco Impact Lectures, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. February 24, 1994.
- Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in the Hudson Valley.** Our Own Backyard. The Hudson River and New York Harbor: A Natural History, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. February 9, 1994.
- The Role of Museums and Systematics in the Biodiversity Crisis.** Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent, U.K. November 11, 1993.
- Conservation Action Planning.** World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, U.K. November 9, 1993.
- The Biological Significance of Aquatic Ecosystems.** The Future of America's Rivers/A Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Washington, DC. November 5, 1993.
- Preserving Local Biodiversity: Lessons from Herpetology.** 1993 New York State Conference on the Environment, White Plains, NY. October 23, 1993.
- Baseline Health Parameters of Free-ranging Pancake Tortoises, *Malacochersus tornieri*, in Tanzania.** Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Tortoises and Turtles-An International Conference, Purchase, NY. July 11-16, 1993.
- Status and Exploitation of the Pancake Tortoise (*Malacochersus tornieri*) in Tanzania.** Eighteenth Annual Symposium, Desert Tortoise Council, Palm Springs, CA. May 14-16, 1993.
- Conservation Efforts: Past Experiences, Future Needs.** Symposium on the Status and Conservation of Turtles of the Northeast, Worcester College. March 20, 1993.
- At Risk-Local Biodiversity.** Millbrook Garden Club, Salisbury, CT. October 19, 1992.
- Worldwide Turtle and Tortoise Conservation Efforts by the Turtle Recovery Program.** Minnesota Herpetological Society, Saint Paul, MN. May 1, 1992.
- Worldwide Turtle and Tortoise Conservation Efforts.** University of Minnesota, Conservation Biology Program, Minneapolis, MN. April 30, 1992.
- Turtles in Crisis-The Problems and Possible Solutions.** Brookfield Zoological Society, Brookfield, IL. April 29, 1992.
- Tortoise and Fresh Water Turtle Recovery Program.** Chicago Herpetological

Society, Chicago, IL. April 28, 1992.

**Tortoise and Fresh Water Turtle Recovery Program.** 633rd Meeting of The Kennicott Club, Chicago, IL. April 27, 1992.

**Building Conservation Partnerships to Conserve Turtles.** 17th Annual Symposium. Desert Tortoise Council, Las Vegas, NV. March 6-9, 1992.

**Nonmarine Turtle Decline.** Northeast Nongame Technical Committee Meeting, Luray, VA. September 26, 1991.

**Conservation Status of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Connecticut.** 71st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, New York, NY. June 15-20, 1991.

**Building a Coalition for Conserving Chelonian Biodiversity: The IUCN/SSC Action Plan.** 71st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, New York, NY. June 15-20, 1991.

**Massachusetts and Connecticut Bog Turtle Situations and Projects.** Bog Turtle Research Symposium, Moravian College, Lehigh, PA. April 27, 1991.

**Turtle Action Plan Initiative (IUCN).** Bog Turtle Research Symposium, Moravian College, Lehigh, PA. April 27, 1991.

**The IUCN's Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Conservation Action Plan: Reporting the First Year of Progress.** Seminar, Middlebury College, VT. April 4, 1991.

**The IUCN/Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group Conservation Action Plan: Report of the First Year's Progress.** 16th Annual Symposium. Desert Tortoise Council. Las Vegas, NV. March 8-11, 1991.

**Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles: An Action Plan for Their Conservation.** Joint initiative of the American Museum of Natural History and the World Conservation Union Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC), Special Members Lecture, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. February 6, 1991.

**IUCN Global Action Plan for the Conservation of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises and Recommendations on an Upland Habitat Acquisition Program for the Gopher Tortoise Council.** Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Gopher Tortoise Council, Brooksville, FL. October 26-28, 1990.

**Implementing the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Tortoise and**

**Freshwater Turtle Action Plan.** Symposium on Turtles and Tortoises: Conservation and Captive Husbandry. Chapman College, Orange, CA. August 9-12, 1990.

**Think Globally Act Locally: The Importance of Maintaining Local Wildlife Populations.** Long Island's Natural Habitat Management Series: Managing and Protecting Long Island's Endangered Species, Suffolk Community College, Long Island, NY. June 8, 1990.

**The IUCN Global Action Plan for the Conservation of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles.** New York Turtle and Tortoise Society Fifth Annual Seminar, Fordham University, Bronx, NY. April 28, 1990.

**Postglacial Hybridization of *Ambystoma jeffersonianum* and *Ambystoma laterale* (Amphibia: Caudata) in the northeastern United States.** First World Congress of Herpetology, Canterbury, UK. September 11-19, 1989.

### **FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE: AWARDS RECEIVED**

#### **State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection**

Support for "Barkhamsted Low Impact Development Project 2010  
Support for "Planning for Nature in Connecticut" workshop series, Wildlife Conservation Society, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, 2003 – 2005.  
Support for "Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project" and "From Planning to Action: Biodiversity Conservation in Connecticut Towns", Wildlife Conservation Society, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, 2004 – current.

#### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

Funding for "Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Municipal Planning Goals and Practices", Wildlife Conservation Society, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, 2004 – 2007.  
Funding for "Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Municipal Planning Goals and Practices for Target Communities", Wildlife Conservation Society, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, 2001 – 2003.

#### **Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation**

Support for "A Cooperative, Science-Based Approach to Improving Wildlife Management in New Jersey", Wildlife Conservation Society, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, 2003, renewal grant 2005.

#### **Westchester Community Foundation**

Renewed support for Westchester Biotic Corridor projects, Wildlife Conservation Society, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance Program. 1999 - 2010.

#### **Gage Fund**

Renewed annual support for Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor. 2002-2010

**Surdna Foundation, Inc.**

Funding for Wildlife Conservation Society, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance Program, 1998-2000.

Funding for Wildlife Conservation Society, NY Metro Program, 1997.

**Sweet Water Trust**

Support for "Wetland Landscapes of the Northeast," 1999-2000.

Support for "Inventory, Information, and Research Accomplishments in the Great Swamp," Wildlife Conservation Society, NY Metro Program, 1997.

**Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**

Funding for Wildlife Conservation Society, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance Program, 1999, 2001.

**Leo Model Foundation**

Wildlife Conservation Society, Tanzania Biodiversity and Training Program, 1997.

**The Bay Foundation**

Support for "Assessment of Amphibian and Reptile Biodiversity in Tanzania's National Parks," 1995-1997.

Support for integrating conservation science into Scenic Hudson 2008

Support for MCA at Cary Institute, 2010-2011.

**Geoffrey Hughes Foundation**

Support for Massachusetts/Connecticut bog turtle ecosystem study, 1995-1997.

**The Norcross Wildlife Foundation**

Funding for the Wildlife Conservation Society, International Programs, 1995-1997.

Support for the publication of "Amphibians and Reptiles of Connecticut and Adjacent Regions," 1993.

Funding for Turtle Recovery Program, American Museum of Natural History, 1991-1992.

**Field Day Foundation**

Support for Metropolitan Conservation Alliance 2009-2011.

**United States Department of Agriculture (Forest Service)**

Support for "Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles-An International Conference," 1993.

**United States Department of Defense (Legacy Program)**

Support for "Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles-An International Conference," 1993.

**National Science Foundation**

Support for "Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles-An International Conference", 1993.

**United State Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)**

Support for preparing conference proceedings "Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles-An International Conference," 1993.

Support for "Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles-An International Conference", 1992.

**Wildlife Conservation International (Now WCS International Programs)**

Field Assessment of the Status and Exploitation of the Pancake Tortoise (*Malacochersus tornieri*) in Tanzania, 1992.

**John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**

Tropical Rainforests: Can We Regain Paradise Lost? (educational programming grant), 1990.

Capacity building in Tanzanian National Parks: Biodiversity assessment and monitoring, 1994-1998.

**FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE: NGO, COPORATE  
& INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT**

Acorn Foundation

American Federation of Herpetoculturists

Aquarion Co.

Bay and Paul Foundation (*multiple awards to support conservation and biodiversity activities*)

Roland Betts

Brystie, Inc.

California Turtle and Tortoise Club

Camden House Publishing

Chelonia Institute

Chicago Zoological Society

Conservation and Research Foundation

Conservation International (*2 grant awards*)

Desert Tortoise Council (*2 grant awards*)  
Martin Diamond (*multiple grant awards*)  
Doris Duke Charitable Trust  
Dorothy R. Donnelley Charitable Trust (*6 grant awards*)  
Gordon and Jean (Phipps) Douglas (*multiple awards to support policy activities*)  
Field Day Foundation  
Robert and Alexandra Goelet (*multiple awards to support conservation activities*)  
Institute for Herpetological Research.  
J. P. Morgan & Co  
IUCN/SSC Trade Specialist Group  
Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust (*2 grant awards*)  
Knoxville Zoological Gardens  
Leyland Alliance  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
Model Foundation  
New York Return A Gift to Wildlife (*2 grant awards*)  
New York Turtle and Tortoise Society (*3 grant awards*)  
Norcross Wildlife Foundation (*3 grant awards*)  
Oklahoma City Zoological Park  
Peter Scott Fund-IUCN (*3 grant awards*)  
Sabin Conservation Fund (*7 grant awards*)  
Saint Augustine Alligator Farm  
Surdna Foundation (*2 grant awards*)  
Sweet Water Trust (*2 grant awards*)  
Tampa Bay Herpetological Society  
Tennessee Aquarium  
Tipton and Maglione  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Dr. Lucy (Rockefeller) Waletzky (*multiple awards to support conservation activities*)  
Westchester Community Foundation (*multiple awards to support biodiversity research*)

Submitted  
12/18/2019

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December 16, 2019

Rye City Council  
1051 Boston Post Road  
Rye, NY 10580

Re: Audubon New York comments on artificial turf at Nursery Field

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

It has come to our attention that you are considering the installation of artificial turf at Nursery Field, and we are writing to encourage you to delay this decision until the possible effects on water quality and local wetlands can be fully and carefully evaluated.

Nursery Field is upstream a short distance on Blind Brook from Marshlands Conservancy, which was designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) by Audubon because it has supported Seaside Sparrows, an at-risk species. Marshlands Conservancy is also one of the largest remaining open spaces in the area and it supports many bird species (over 250), both migratory and resident, which use this site for food, shelter, and nesting.

Nursery Field is also part of a Long Island Sound Stewardship site that extends from the Edith Read Wildlife Sanctuary in the north to the Marshlands Conservancy in the south and inland to the I-95 corridor. Long Island Stewardship sites are identified by the EPA Long Island Sound Study to help protect and enhance upland sites within the Long Island Sound ecosystem that have significant ecological, educational, open space, public access, or recreational values.

Coastal wetlands are under increasing stress from sea level rise, which causes vegetation and habitat changes and threatens birds and other wildlife that use these marshes. Additional stress from altered hydrology or chemical runoff that could potentially result from surface changes at Nursery Field could have undesirable downstream impacts on these important habitats.

We encourage you to reconsider the installation of artificial turf at Nursery Field until these potential impacts can be fully assessed and discussed. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Karen Thomas  
Chair, Board of Directors



Ana Paula Tavares  
Executive Director