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Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc.

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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## Conservation District Congratulates Conservation Award Winner Kathy Connolly

On Saturday, October 26, 2013 the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District held its 66th Annual Meeting at Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CT's State Parks. Attendees heard about our conservation highlights of the past year; helped us honor our annual conservation award recipients; and enjoyed a special presentation and guided walk led by Alison Guinness, CRCCD board member, birder, naturalist, historian and friend of CT state parks, about the park's history, geology, flora and fauna, and the lore behind the park's name.

This year's Conservation Award Winners included Kathy Connolly, *Speaking of Landscapes*, Old Saybrook, who was awarded a Special Merit Award for her professional contributions and integral role in the success of the Lake Hayward demonstration buffer project. According to Executive Director, Jane Brawerman, "Kathy was instrumental to the success of this project, which the Conservation District worked on in partnership with the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed group and the Lake Hayward Association. A professional landscape designer and Master Gardener, Kathy was recommended to us when we were looking for someone to help design a demonstration waterside buffer garden to protect water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and serve as a model and teaching tool to promote use of buffers at Lake Hayward and throughout the Eightmile River watershed. Generously volunteering her time, Kathy put in countless hours planning and designing the buffer, selecting and ordering plants—all CT natives—and supervising the site preparation and planting by community volunteers. Kathy turned what project partners imagined would be a functional vegetated buffer into a fabulous work of landscape art."

Kathy Connolly, a resident of Old Saybrook, earned a master's degree in 2010 from the Conway School of Landscape Design. She is a member of the Accredited Organic Land Care Professionals of NOFA-Connecticut as well as an advanced Master Gardener. She speaks regularly for community groups and is a columnist for the community papers of the New London Day.

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The Conservation District also applauds the efforts and contributions of our other annual conservation award winners:

- ♦ Environmental Professional – Stephen Gephard, Fisheries Biologist, CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection , for his significant efforts and accomplishments in support of fish restoration in Connecticut and Long Island Sound
- ♦ Cooperator – Urban Oaks Organic Farm, New Britain, for a commitment to environmentally sustainable practices at Urban Oaks Organic Farm, and efforts to engage the community through outreach and farm-based education
- ♦ Special Merit Award – Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist, University of CT Department of Animal Science, for her efforts to engage and inform the equine community in support of the Conservation District’s agricultural nutrient management work
- ♦ Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to: Clinton Nurseries; Comer & Company, LLC; R2 Graphics, Inc.; CT River Expeditions; Old Saybrook Shopping Center; Priam Vineyards; Sunny Border Nurseries Inc.; Organic Vintages for generous services, and support of two fundraising events, our CT native plant sale and Tree Swallow Cruise and Wine Tasting in support of the CT River Watch Program

The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, a nonprofit organization based in Middletown, CT, works to conserve natural resources in the towns of Berlin, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Hebron, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Marlborough, Middlefield, Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, Rocky Hill, Salem and Westbrook. Please visit our website at [www.conservect.org/ctivercoastal](http://www.conservect.org/ctivercoastal) for more information.

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