About our contributors

JIM SIRCH
Jim Sirch is education coordinator for the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, a trained naturalist and Connecticut master gardener. Jim lectures widely on gardening for pollinators.

WILLOW SIRCH
Willow Sirch is a writer for the Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound, author of EcoWomen: Protectors of the Earth, and an avid gardener.

They are slowly removing invasives and adding wildlife-attracting native plants on a former dairy farm in New Haven County.

BILL LEUKHARDT
Bill Leukhardt, a Waterbury native, was a daily newspaper reporter in Connecticut for 41 years. Now retired, he helps teach newswriting one day a week at the University of Connecticut. Exploring the Hudson reserve was a treat. He urges others to visit that lovely tidal river.

NANCY BALCOM
Nancy Balcom is the associate director and extension program leader for Connecticut Sea Grant and a senior extension educator with UConn Extension. Her extension interests range from safe seafood handling and safety at sea to disaster risk communication and community resilience. She earned her undergraduate degree from UConn and her masters in marine fisheries from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary.

JUDY BENSON
Judy Benson has been the communications coordinator of Connecticut Sea Grant and editor of Wrack Lines since 2017. Prior to that, she was a reporter and editor at The Day of New London for many years, including more than a dozen covering health and the environment. Exploring the tidal marshes, islands and natural beaches of Long Island Sound by kayak and on foot is one of her favorite pursuits. She earned both her undergraduate degree in journalism and her Master of Science in natural resources from UConn.

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Send us your photos, comments and questions about the places, people, plants, animals, habitats and articles in this issue.

We’ll post and respond to as many as possible on our website at: https://seagrant.uconn.edu under “Wrack Lines Share and Tell.”

Email your submissions to: judy.benson@uconn.edu.

ON THE HUDSON RIVER, A PLACE TO DISCOVER EELS, HOGCHOKERS AND THE VALUE OF ESTUARIES
Connecticut seeking its own research reserve on the southeastern coast

LONG ISLAND SOUND BLUE PLAN
A guide for the estuary’s future created from many voices

KEEPING UP WITH SEA LEVEL RISE: NATURAL AND HUMAN INFLUENCE ON SALT MARSH MIGRATION
What are the challenges to successful marsh migration — widely seen as essential to preserving these critical habitats?

GARDENING FOR THE BEES, BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS
Classes promote planting yards, public spaces to benefit the whole environment

LET IT BEE: OUR FREEDOM LAWN CAN BE YOURS TOO
Lose the lawn and bring on the natives

GROWING WILDFLOWERS FROM SEED

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