



# Annual Report 2013

Environmental action through legal and scientific expertise

## Our 2013 Achievements

What would the local landscape look like if Connecticut Fund for the Environment or Save the Sound did not exist? Many of our forests would be replaced by luxury housing developments; our drinking water would be less pure; a massive 20-story liquefied natural gas plant would tower over the middle of Long Island Sound; and more children and families would suffer with life-crippling asthma and lung cancer. And that's just a few of the differences.

For more than 40 years, we've tackled issues that require legal and scientific expertise, and that typically take years, not months,

to resolve. We engage and empower the public to work on these issues as well.

With your support in 2013, we stemmed multiple threats to our state's land, air and water, and Long Island Sound. We protected thousands of acres of forests and open space in two multi-year legal battles, prevented development of the last major coastal forest from New York to Boston—"The Preserve"—and secured protections for utility-owned open space in the Northeast Utilities/NSTAR merger. We found and shut down two major bacterial leaks through our water quality

monitoring program in the western Sound, setting the stage for reducing leaking sewage and beach closures around the region. We supported the citizens of Bethel who were concerned when their water company lands were suddenly put at risk of sale and possible development. We fought back against detractors of Connecticut's first rapid transit system—CTfastrak—to see that this important project stayed on track to provide a model for rapid transit that will get people to



Johan C. Varekamp, Ph.D.



Donald S. Strait

work, reduce our reliance on cars and improve air quality.

We are grateful for your support and your faith in the work we do.

Sincerely,  
Donald S. Strait, President  
Johan C. Varekamp, Ph.D., Board Chair

## CFE/STS ACHIEVEMENTS

### Forests, Islands and Coastal Lands Protection

In 2013, CFE's ten-year battle to stop development in The Preserve came to a successful conclusion when the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and landowner Lehman Brothers signed a contract for a conservation purchase of the property. Since then, we've been working with TPL and other partners to raise the funds needed to secure the purchase—hopefully this spring.

Another incomparable natural resource, Plum Island, is in danger of being sold to the highest bidder. Throughout the year, we worked closely with a coalition of conservation groups on the permanent protection of this 843-acre island off the eastern

end of Long Island. Because of the high-security federal animal disease research facility located there, human presence on the island has been restricted for decades. As a result, the island is a vital stopover site and breeding ground for more than 200 species of birds—including piping plovers, roseate terns and osprey—as well as seals and other wildlife. With the federal research facility currently slated to move to Kansas, one branch of the government is bent on selling Plum Island—at the very time that another branch recommends preservation. Conserving this remarkable reminder of the Sound's wild past will not be an easy or short fight, but we're committed to it.



For more than a decade, CFE successfully fought development in "The Preserve" in Old Saybrook—the last, large, coastal forest between Boston and New York. Photo by Robert Lorenz.

### Climate and Energy

We're working to make Connecticut an energy leader nationwide. We worked with state leaders to increase energy efficiency funding through Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy. We also defended Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standards from being weakened. These regulations require increases in energy production from

renewable sources like wind, solar and geothermal. And we worked to make it a priority to repair and improve existing gas lines before pursuing new expansion projects.

With Connecticut's last coal-fired power plant located in Bridgeport, we advocated for a prosperous, equitable coal-free Connecticut. We helped launch New Haven's Healthy City/Healthy Climate

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Challenge—a five-part pledge in answer to climate change.

We set the stage for our Stamford 2030 project, based on the nationwide “2030 District” model established by Architecture 2030, to create and build up a vibrant business-based organization that will lead the way on reducing energy, water usage, and transportation greenhouse gas emissions. Watch for the launch of Stamford 2030 soon.

## Transit for Livable Communities

Transit-oriented Development directs Connecticut’s growth toward livable, walkable, bike-friendly and transit-centered communities. It brings cleaner air, reduced illness, economic and other benefits of reduced vehicle miles traveled. We worked with state lawmakers to maintain funding for CTfastrak (the New Britain-Hartford busway) to help ensure cleaner air and smarter urban development patterns. We also successfully advocated for an amendment, effective 2015, that requires all money in the Special Transportation Fund to be used only for transportation projects, instead of allowing that fund to be raided for other purposes as typically happens each year.

## Western Long Island Sound

Every year more than two billion gallons of raw sewage are dumped into Long Island Sound and its tributaries, closing beaches and shellfish beds. In the past ten years, the number of beach closures tripled over what it had been during the previous decade. In addition, excess nitrogen threatens the health of fish and other marine life, causing a low-oxygen “dead zone” in the western Sound where nothing can live.

We launched our Western Long Island Sound program in response to these challenges. We initiated citizen-based water quality monitoring to identify and eliminate sources of bacterial pollution in Mamaroneck, New York; launched our Sound Swim Alert system to promote beach safety while



*American Oystercatcher. Photo by A.J. Hand*

building an active constituency to prevent sewage pollution; started a youth education program; and worked to ensure that New York sewage treatment plants meet nitrogen-pollution reduction targets set by the EPA and Clean Water Act. We will continue building on these successful initiatives.

## Protecting Clean Water

Across the region, municipal sewage pipes are aging, cracked and broken. The nearly \$1 billion we helped secure in 2013 for the Clean Water Fund is paying for scores of needed upgrades at sewage treatment plants, helping keep beaches open, keep children safe and keep sewage out of the Sound.

Connecticut drinking water resources are filtered and safeguarded by surrounding forests. Last year, when the Town of Bethel entered into an agreement to sell the Bethel Water Department and its many acres of water company lands to a private company, concerned residents reached out to CFE for help. Undeveloped watershed lands form the backbone of drinking water protection in Connecticut. We worked to help educate the public on what they really stood to lose through the proposed “deal.” Citizens subsequently opposed development in a town referendum, ensuring the safety of Bethel’s drinking water resources for years to come.

## Habitat Restoration

Most rivers throughout our region are blocked by dams. Dams keep migratory fish like river herring from their native spawning grounds. River herring are foundational to the Long Island Sound food web and serve as feeder fish for the larger fish species that humans eat. Our habitat restoration work opens or repairs migratory fish passages and restores tidal wetlands and marshes, allowing the return of native animals and plants.

In 2013 with multiple partners including the federal government, we completed our new fishway on the Pequonnock River in Bridgeport.



*Together with dedicated volunteers, Save the Sound planted nine rain gardens in Southington, CT to capture, clean and reduce polluted runoff.*

We also replaced two deteriorated culverts with an open channel and pedestrian bridge at Sunken Meadow State Park in Kings Park, New York. Our goals for 2014 include



*Volunteer Katherine Desmond helped Save the Sound monitor water quality in the Village of Mamaroneck, NY.*

dam removal projects on New Haven’s West River and at Mystic’s Hyde Pond, as well as additional restoration work at Sunken Meadow.

## Green Infrastructure

Stormwater runoff causes flooding and sewage overflows. It carries toxins from paved streets and parking lots into our rivers and Long Island Sound. Rain gardens and other green infrastructure techniques capture, clean and cut down on contaminated runoff. We mobilized volunteers to install nine rain gardens in Southington last year. We laid the groundwork to collaborate with municipal officials

in Bridgeport to install a series of future green infrastructure projects at Bridgeport’s Housatonic Community College. Our web site [www.reducerunoff.org](http://www.reducerunoff.org) is an important resource for anyone interested in reducing polluted stormwater runoff.

## Coastal Cleanup

2013 was our eleventh straight year of serving as Connecticut Coordinator for the International Coastal Cleanup. We rallied 1,500+ volunteers to help clean nearly 9,000 pounds of trash from 68 miles of Connecticut beaches. In 2014, we anticipate coordinating 40+ beach cleanup events, continuing our work to keep beaches and oceans safe for people and wildlife.

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## CFE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of September 30, 2013

### ASSETS

<i>Current Assets</i>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$ 20,317
Cash and cash equivalents, restricted.....	\$ 474,295
Accounts and Grants Receivable.....	\$ 116,362
Promises to Give.....	\$ 44,650
Prepaid Expense.....	\$ 34,203
<b>Total Current Assets.....</b>	<b>\$ 689,827</b>

### *Noncurrent Assets*

Promises to Give, Long term.....	\$ 69,300
Marketable Securities.....	\$ 3,053,270
Furniture and Equipment, Net of Depreciation.....	\$ 14,836
Beneficial Interest in charitable lead unitrust.....	\$ 2,050
Beneficial Interest Remainder Trust.....	\$ 1,683,393
Beneficial Interest in perpetual trust.....	\$ 983,752
<b>Total Noncurrent Assets.....</b>	<b>\$ 5,806,601</b>
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b>\$ 6,496,428</b>

### LIABILITIES

<i>Current Liabilities</i>	
Accounts Payable.....	\$ 31,234
Accrued Expenses.....	\$ 85,125
<b>Total Current Liabilities.....</b>	<b>\$ 116,359</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted.....	\$ 1,461,018
Temporarily Restricted.....	\$ 2,582,817
Permanently Restricted.....	\$ 2,336,234
<b>Total Net Assets.....</b>	<b>\$ 6,380,069</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets.....</b>	<b>\$ 6,496,428</b>

## CFE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

As of September 30, 2013

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Individual Contributions and Foundations.....	\$ 1,027,703	\$ 652,548		\$ 1,680,251
Government Grants.....	\$ 687,188			\$ 687,188
Bequests.....	\$ 10,250			\$ 10,250
Interest and Dividends.....	\$ 27,510	\$ 37,641		\$ 65,151
Other (includes In-kind donations).....	\$ 23,458			\$ 23,458
Net Assets Released from Restriction.....	\$ 774,424	\$(774,424)		\$ —
<b>Total Revenue.....</b>	<b>\$ 2,550,533</b>	<b>\$ (84,235)</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 2,466,298</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Program Services.....	\$ 1,869,330			\$ 1,869,330
Management and General.....	\$ 265,430	\$ 14,038		\$ 279,468
Fundraising.....	\$ 350,827			\$ 350,827
<b>Total Expenditures.....</b>	<b>\$ 2,485,588</b>	<b>\$ 14,038</b>		<b>\$ 2,499,626</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets before Other Changes.....</b>				
	\$ 64,945	\$(98,273)	\$ —	\$ (33,328)
<b>OTHER CHANGES</b>				
Investment Gains and Losses ...	\$ 142,020	\$ 147,241		\$ 289,261
Increase (decrease) in Value of Trusts.....		\$ 241,937	\$ 8,580	\$ 250,517
<b>Total Other Changes.....</b>	<b>\$ 142,020</b>	<b>\$ 389,178</b>	<b>\$ 8,580</b>	<b>\$ 539,778</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets.....</b>	<b>\$ 206,965</b>	<b>\$ 290,905</b>	<b>\$ 8,580</b>	<b>\$ 506,450</b>

## Message from the Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2013 was a year of change and progress for Connecticut Fund for the Environment. With the advent of significant initiatives in water quality and energy along with a recovering economy, we saw an increase of 17.6% in individual contributions and ended the year with a \$54,695 operating surplus, the first in four years. The Pequonnock Fishway project in Bridgeport was completed in early September and was celebrated with a volunteer planting and celebration in May of 2014. Our efforts to open a Save the Sound satellite office in Westchester and address the serious water quality problems of the western Sound gained momentum, garnering over \$200,000 in support. Our Climate and Energy Program helped to implement a number of policy measures that maintain Connecticut's leadership role in reducing carbon pollution, and nine legal actions against scrap metal firms in violation of the Clean Water Act were successfully resolved with provisions for legal costs. Administrative expenses constituted 10.7% and fundraising 14.1% of operating expenses.

**Diane Stoner**