



ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Connecticut scientists doing research on land trust properties in the region will be presenting their ongoing environmental work and its implications. Attendees will gain a greater understanding of our changing natural environment here in Connecticut. Following the presentations, there will be an opportunity to meet the scientists and ask further questions.



Thursday, November 5, 2026



7:00 PM - 9:30 PM



Hosted at The Taft School,
Laube Auditorium
110 Woodbury Road, Watertown, CT

Register now at :

<https://flandersnaturecenter.org/event/environmental-research-symposium/>



SPEAKERS



Matthew Baker, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher
Northeastern University &
Visiting Researcher
Yale University



James Fisher

Research Director
The White Memorial
Conservation Center



Meredith Goza

Doctoral Student
University of Connecticut



Billy Gridley

President & Head Steward
Aton Forest



Jack E. Hatajik, M.F.S.

Agricultural Research
Technician I, Department of
Environmental Science and
Forestry, The Connecticut
Agricultural Experiment Station



Rory Larson

Director of Conservation
Steep Rock Association



Tara Spears

Public Lands Manager
Northwest Connecticut Land
Conservancy



Alton Spencer

Graduate Student
Western Connecticut State
University

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2026

*Presented by Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust
and The Taft School*



Thursday, November 5, 2026 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Program Schedule

Presentation	Speaker	Affiliation
Welcome	Vincent LaFontan, MHA Executive Director Michael McAloon, MS Science	Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust The Taft School
Geographic Variation in Arthropod Climate Change Responses & Their Role in Ecosystem Functioning	Matthew Baker, PhD Postdoctoral Researcher	Northeastern University Visiting Researcher, Yale University
When "Common" Disappears: Bats, Change, and Community Science	James Fischer Research Director	White Memorial Conservation
Listening for Biodiversity: Bats and Forest Management	Meredith Goza PhD Student	University of Connecticut
The Lichens of Aton Forest, CT: 70 Years of Change	Billy Gridley President & Head Steward	Aton Forest Inc
Forest Inventory: A Scientific Approach to Understanding Current Forest Health & Informing Forest Management Practices	Jack E. Hatajik, M.F.S. Agricultural Research Technician I	Department of Environmental Science & Forestry the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Inventorying Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies) in Washington, Connecticut	Rory Larson Director of Conservation	Steep Rock Association
Restoration of <i>Castilleja coccinea</i> in Northwest Connecticut	Tara Spears Public Lands Manager	Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy
Vegetation Influence on Prairie Warbler (<i>Setophaga discolor</i>) Occupancy in Early Successional Habitats	Alton P. Spencer Graduate Student Researcher	Western Connecticut State University

Please join us in the lobby after the presentations for a question and answer session with light refreshments.