



# CONSERVATION



**Lynn Sellers**

# **CONSERVATION**

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My theme for the Conservation Department for the next two years is : GO GREEN: Use, Recycle, Repeat. We have all heard this theme echoing thru all the media types that we are bombarded with. America is waking up to the fact that we need to preserve the earth and our surrounding environments by using earth friendly products, conserving energy as much as possible and protecting our natural resources. Let's all find Eco-Friendly solutions for our current habits!

We have all read the many "horror" stories about the earth and our destuction of such. Hopefully with the information I pass on to each of you, we can begin to do our part to cut down on the vast amounts of waste that are going in to our landfills; the waste of our basic natural resources; the push to recycle just about everything; and the need to get back to basics and not be a "throw away society."

I challenge the Clubs and the Districts to do their part to help us all save the earth for future generations. The divisions of the Department include: Beautification; Environmental Awareness/Action; Resource Preservation and In-Club. Throughout the year I hope to share ideas from other clubs; give you food for thought; perhaps come up with a state wide/distirct challenge project(s); and educate all the members and their families that Conservation is Fun and with each of us-our families and communities-doing our small part; we can indeed make a difference--We are Connecticut Juniors!!

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# **CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

The activist Julia Butterfly Hill says, "You have the freedom to choose, the freedom to act and the freedom to make a difference in the world!"

Welcome to Conservation! Most conservation projects are easy and require very little manpower. Some are so simple that you might think, how could it accomplish anything that would be significant? Remember **every little bit helps**. Individuals working together will make a difference. Every positive change in our lives, no matter how big or small, contributes to saving our world.

Our environmental problems are, in large part, due to the lack of understanding, which is due to a lack of awareness. A major step towards the solution...or at least to the control...of many environmental problems is to change people's attitudes and this requires education. Education brings awareness, awareness leads to action and action produces change. There is a sign at the Bronx Zoo with the words of African ecologist and philosopher, Baba Dioum, that says it best:

*In the end,  
We will only conserve what we love;  
We will only love what we understand:  
We will only understand what we have been taught.*

Let's teach our families, our friends, our Club members and our communities to love our world. Make it your job to educate. Have fun and be creative and remember, **every little bit helps!**

There are tremendous resources available from which to obtain information – some examples of which are included herein. The monthly newsletter will provide you with additional information. Remember most organizations will have speakers willing to come out and speak—they want to get the word out. In addition, below, I have provided project ideas for each department. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional ideas or questions. Conservation is everyone's job and as such, we need to start within our own individual communities before we tackle more global problems and concerns.

**Have fun and be creative!**

1. **BEAUTIFICATION DIVISION**: to initiate, maintain or otherwise participate in local, regional or statewide projects, which enhance our community's appearance and preserve our cultural heritage.

Project Ideas: Determine areas that need beautification skills. Work with your local parks department, conservation or beautification commission. Let them know you're willing to help.

**Cleanups**: (example – litter pickup, weeding, pruning, and planting): local streams, ponds, parks, roadways, historical sites, nature trails, schoolyards. Help with painting. We all have some talent for cleaning—put it to use on a project

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**Adopt-a-road:** Adopt-A-Road is a program for volunteers to assist in providing a cleaner environment and a more scenic roadway system by collecting refuse and debris from the roadway. Contact your local Public Works Department to see if your town participates in this program.

**Gardens:** includes flower, vegetable, butterfly, herb, etc. These can be found at any public building or common area. Also, you might work with Current Affairs committee and plant a memorial garden at a cemetery or local historical society.

**Arbor Day:** Check with your local town to see if there is a location where a tree would be appropriate. Note – Arbor Day is the last Friday in April.

**Donations:** Raise money to help the town purchase items such as benches, signs, various types of plantings, etc.

**Civic Groups:** Get local groups such as youth groups, school classes, scouts, Juniors and others to assist you in various “fix-up” projects within your community.

2. **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS ACTION DIVISION:** To promote public education of environmental issues, to increase the awareness of the importance of recycling, energy conservation and hazardous waste management. So that we leave our children an earth that is safe to live in. Remember to think globally but act locally!

Project Ideas: Classroom challenge for a trashless meal. Promote non-chemical solutions for housecleaning. Donate books or subscriptions to magazines on conservation to your public or school libraries.

**Promote cloth grocery bags** – have a fundraiser to raise enough money so that each club member will have at least one.

**Collection Days:** Help out with your town’s Hazardous Waste Day, collect Christmas trees, and check with the local fire department to see if they will permit you to have a bon fire with the trees.

**Recycling:** When engaged in a project that involves recycling, please remember the meaning of recycling – to take one item and make it new, to change it or use the item in another way other than what it was intended for. Ideas include the collection of clothes to pass along to someone else, books and magazine drives, and sheets and towels for animal shelters and nature centers. In addition, various items such as egg cartons, popsicle sticks, plastic containers, toilet paper rolls, film containers and the like can be donated for use by local groups in art projects. Have a bottle drive to raise money to benefit conservation organizations. Know your recyclables – glass, plastics, cans, scrap metal, junk mail and newspapers. Check with your schools, offices and public offices to see if they have Xerox copiers—most of their parts are recyclable back to Xerox.

## **CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

**Outings:** Offer trips to nature centers, zoos, fish hatcheries, trash to energy plants, recycle plants, etc.

**Essay Contests:** Work with the education department on an essay contest. Have second graders write a piece about conservation and what it means to them.

**Earth Day:** Sponsor a poster contest, hand out brochures on global warming, and clean up a local area.

3. **RESOURCE PRESERVATION DIVISION: To increase awareness of our responsibility to protect the earth's natural resources of land, water, air, minerals and wildlife for future generations.**

Project Ideas: Wildlife and pets. Adopting an animal at a zoo, local nature center, Mystic Seaport, etc.

**Birds:** Constructing birdhouses, bat houses, duck houses and placing them on town property. Working with a group to make suet balls, peanut butter pine cones strings of cereal and cranberries to be distributed around your community.

**Rainforest:** Make monetary donation, purchase rainforest acreage, make donations to groups such as Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, CT Audubon, World Wildlife Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, National Arbor Day Foundation, Sierra Club, Mystic Aquarium, or any other land trust organization. Contact the above organizations and ask this there are any projects you can help.

4. **IN CLUB DIVISION: to have fun helping Club members to become environmentally aware citizens who will “do their part”, teaching them that every little bit helps. Conservation needs to start today because tomorrow may be too late!**

Project Ideas: Cooperative yard cleanup, weeding and planting. Plant exchanges at club meetings. Collect and return clothes hangers—check to see if there could be a refund like grocery bags. Workshops-- make wreaths out of grapevines and decorate them for the holidays. Save plastic onion mesh bags for use at suet ball making parties. Make recycled X-mas tree ornaments.

**Contests:** Have an environmental contest. Bring in various items to a meeting and ask members which ones are recyclable and can be made into what new product. Wonderful speakers available through DEP (860-424-3365).

**Speakers:** Host a speaker on pertinent topics such as recycling, environmental issues, and beautification. Host a “Ms. Fixit” workshop for club members to give ideas as to how their car can be made to run more efficiently.

**Carpooling:** Encourage club members to car pool to club meetings and CJW activities. Also, remind your club members to “lug a mug and dishware” to meetings.

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**Outings:** Arrange day trips for members to visit places such as White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Catnip Acres Herb Farm in Oxford, Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, any of the Audubon Societies in Glastonbury, Fairfield, and Milford Point, or, any of the other nature centers in or near your town. Take your family on a “pick your own” fruit or vegetable trip.

**Other ideas:** Host a “White Elephant” tag sale or auction at your monthly meeting—not only is this a money raiser, but can be very assuming!! Include tips in your newsletter. Stop junk mail. Recycle magazines and books among member. Host a recycle art show. Provide handouts. Provide car trash bags for every member—check with police department for supplies.

## CONSERVATION RESOURCES

<p><b>Beardsley Zoo</b>          1875 Noble Ave          Bridgeport, CT 06110          203-394-6565  <a href="http://www.beardsleyzoo.org">www.beardsleyzoo.org</a></p>	<p><b>Children's Garbage Museum &amp; Recycling Center</b>          1410 Honeyspot Road Extension          Stratford, CT 06497          203-381-9571  <a href="http://www.crra.org/pages/edu.museums">www.crra.org/pages/edu.museums</a></p>
<p><b>Children's Museum</b>  <i>Formerly Science Museum of CT</i>          950 Trout Brook Drive          West Hartford, CT 06119          860-231-2824  <a href="http://www.thechildrensmuseumct.org">www.thechildrensmuseumct.org</a></p>	<p><b>CT Audubon Society</b>  <b>Larsen Sanctuary &amp; Nature Center</b>          2325 Burr Street          Fairfield, CT 06430          203-259-6305  <b>Holland Brook Nature Center</b>          1361 Main Street          Glastonbury, CT 06033          860-633-8402  <b>Audubon Greenwich</b>          613 Riversville Rd          Greenwich, CT 06831          203-869-5272  <a href="http://www.audubon.org">www.audubon.org</a></p>
<p><b>CT College Arboretum</b>          Connecticut College          New London, CT          860-439-5020  <a href="http://www.arboretum.conncoll.edu">www.arboretum.conncoll.edu</a></p>	<p><b>CT Forest &amp; Park Assoc</b>          16 Meriden Road          Middletown, CT 06457          860-346-8733  <a href="http://www.ctwoodlands.org">www.ctwoodlands.org</a></p>
<p><b>CT River Museum at Steamboat Dock</b>          67 Main Street          Essex, CT 06426          860-767-8269  <a href="http://www.ctrivermuseum.org">www.ctrivermuseum.org</a></p>	<p><b>CT Wildlife Rehabilitators Assoc</b>          c/o Eastham 78 Sanford Rd.          Woodbury, CT 06798          203-389-4411  <a href="http://www.cwrawildlife.org">www.cwrawildlife.org</a></p>
<p><b>Defenders of Wildlife</b>          1244 19<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.          Washington, DC 20036          202-659-9510  <a href="http://www.defenders.org">www.defenders.org</a></p>	<p><b>Dinosaur State Park</b>          400 West Street          Rocky Hill, CT          860-529-8423  <a href="http://www.dinosaurstatepark.org">www.dinosaurstatepark.org</a></p>
<p><b>Discovery Museum</b>          4450 Park Avenue          Bridgeport, CT 06604          203-372-3521  <a href="http://www.discoverymuseum.org">www.discoverymuseum.org</a></p>	<p><b>Earth 911</b>          Recycling info  <a href="http://www.earth911.org">www.earth911.org</a></p>

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<p><b>Earth Care Paper Company</b>            555 Leslie Street            Ukiah, CA 95482-8507            800-347-0070  <a href="http://earthcarepaper.net">http://earthcarepaper.net</a></p>	<p><b>Earth Place</b>            10 Woodside Lane            Westport, CT 06881            203-227-7253  <a href="http://www.earthplace.org">www.earthplace.org</a></p>
<p><b>Environmental Defense Fund</b>            257 Park Avenue South            New York, NY 10010            212-505-2100  <a href="http://www.environmentaldefense.org/home">www.environmentaldefense.org/home</a></p>	<p><b>(1) Environmental Learning Center of CT - Indian Rock Nature Center</b>            501 Wolcott Road            Bristol, CT 06010            860-583-1234  <a href="http://www.elcct.org">www.elcct.org</a></p>
<p><b>2) Environmental Learning Center of CT - Barnes Nature Center</b>            175 Shrub Road            Bristol, CT 06010            860-589-6082  <a href="http://www.elcct.org">www.elcct.org</a></p>	<p><b>Flanders Nature Center</b>            5 Church Hill Road            Woodbury, CT 06798            203-263-3711  <a href="http://www.flandersnaturecenter.org">www.flandersnaturecenter.org</a></p>
<p><b>Greenpeace USA</b>            702 H Street, NW            Washington DC 20001            202-462-1177  <a href="http://www.greenpeace.org">www.greenpeace.org</a></p>	<p><b>Greenways Committee</b>            C/o Council of Environmental Quality            79 Elm Street            Hartford, CT 06106            860-424-4000  <a href="http://www.ct.gov/dep">www.ct.gov/dep</a></p>
<p><b>Houstatonic Valley Assoc</b>            PO Box 28            Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754            860-672-6678  <a href="http://www.hvatoday.org">www.hvatoday.org</a></p>	<p><b>Humane Society            New England Regional Office</b>            PO Box 362            East Haddam, CT 06423  <a href="http://www.hsus.org">www.hsus.org</a></p>
<p><b>Institute for American Indian Studies</b>            38 Curtis Road            Washington, CT 06793            203-868-0518  <a href="http://www.birdstone.org">www.birdstone.org</a></p>	<p><b>Lutz Children's Museum</b>            247 South Main Street            Manchester, CT 06040            860-643-0949  <a href="http://www.lutzmuseum.org">www.lutzmuseum.org</a></p>
<p><b>Maritime Aquarium</b>            10 North Water Street            South Norwalk, CT            203-852-0700  <a href="http://www.maritimeaquarium.org">www.maritimeaquarium.org</a></p>	<p><b>Master Gardeners</b>            UCONN Cooperative Extension Service            1380 Storrs Rd.,            Storrs, CT 06269            860-486-1987  <a href="http://www.ctmga.org">www.ctmga.org</a></p>

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<p><b>Mid CT Visitors Recycling &amp; Recovery Center</b>                  211 Murphy Road                  Hartford, CT 06114                  860-757-7765  <a href="http://www.crra.org">www.crra.org</a></p>	<p><b>National Arbor Day Foundation</b>                  100 Arbor Avenue                  Nebraska City, NE 68410                  402-474-5655  <a href="http://www.arborday.org">www.arborday.org</a></p>
<p><b>Nature Conservancy, CT Chapter</b>                  5 5 High Street                  Middletown, CT 06457-3788                  860-344-1334  <a href="http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northam">www.nature.org/wherewework/northam</a></p>	<p><b>National Resources Defense Council</b>                  40 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street                  NY, NY 10011                  212-727-2700  <a href="http://www.nrdc.org">www.nrdc.org</a></p>
<p><b>National Wildlife Federation</b>                  11100 Wildlife Center Dr                  Reston, VA 20190                  800-822-9919  <a href="http://www.nwf.org">www.nwf.org</a></p>	<p><b>New Canaan Nature Center</b>                  144 Oenoke Ridge                  New Canaan, CT 06840                  203-966-9577  <a href="http://www.newcanaannature.org">www.newcanaannature.org</a></p>
<p><b>New England Wildflower Society</b>                  180 Hemenway Road                  Framingham, MA 01701-2699                  508-877-7630  <a href="http://www.newfs.org">www.newfs.org</a></p>	<p><b>Pennsylvania Resources Council</b>                  PO Box 88                  Media, PA 19063                  610-353-1555  <a href="http://www.prc.org">www.prc.org</a>  <i>recycling materials for teachers,                  environmental shopping lists</i></p>
<p><b>Rainforest Action Network</b>                  221 Pine St, 5th floor                  San Francisco, CA 94104                  415-398-4404  <a href="http://www.ran.org">www.ran.org</a></p>	<p><b>Rideshare</b>                  800-842-2150  <a href="http://www.rideshare.com">www.rideshare.com</a></p>
<p><b>Roaring Brook Nature Center</b>                  70 Gracey Road                  Canton, CT 06019                  860-693-0263  <a href="http://www.sciencecenterct.org/rbnpage">www.sciencecenterct.org/rbnpage</a></p>	<p><b>Stamford Museum &amp; Nature Center</b>                  39 Scofieldtown Road                  Stamford, CT 06903                  203-322-1646  <a href="http://www.stamfordmuseum.org">www.stamfordmuseum.org</a></p>
<p><b>US Environmental Protection Agency</b>  <a href="http://www.epa.gov">www.epa.gov</a></p>	<p><b>White Memorial Conservation Center</b>                  80 Whitehall Road                  Litchfield, CT 06759                  860-567-0857  <a href="http://www.whitememorialcc.org">www.whitememorialcc.org</a></p>
<p><b>Wilderness Society</b>                  1615 M Street, NW                  Washington DC 20036                  1-800-the-wild  <a href="http://www.wilderness.org">www.wilderness.org</a></p>	<p><b>World Wildlife Fund</b>                  1250 24<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.                  Washington, DC 20090-7180                  202-293-4800  <a href="http://www.worldwildlife.org">www.worldwildlife.org</a></p>

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## **CJW CONSERVATION JOB DESCRIPTION**

GOAL: To provide clubs with project ideas to initiate or maintain projects that enhance and preserve our state's appearance and natural resources and to promote public education of environment issues.

Job Responsibilities:

1. Submit monthly newsletter articles for the CJW Junior Bulletin.
2. Prepare a handout for Fall & Spring Conference, CJW September Board meeting & CJW March Board meeting.
3. Organize a workshop for the September Board meeting. This workshop can contain project ideas, discussion of club projects, hands-on training or review of past successes. This workshop should include a handout of workshop contents.
4. Assist clubs by answering their inquiries regarding this department, if you are unable to answer a question contact the CJW Director for help.
5. Attend events hosted by clubs that pertain to this department if available.
6. Judge club reports submitted in March. Submit a list of department awards, including the "Mother Earth Award", to the CJW Report Writing Judging Committee.
7. Refer to **General Information Section 10-H & I** for other responsibilities of CJW Board of Director members.