

# ***CACIWC: New Updates and Initiatives***

**Connecticut Association of Wetlands Scientists (CAWS)  
Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023**

**Alan J. Siniscalchi, President  
Connecticut Association of Conservation  
and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. (CACIWC)**



# Presentation Objectives:

- **CACIWC, a brief early history**
- **Our members, mission and goals**
- **Updates on our educational & outreach products**
  - **The CACIWC Annual Conference**
  - **Our publication *The Habitat***
  - **Our website & ListServ**
- **New initiatives involving CAWS members**



# CACIWC, a *brief early history*:

- Following CT legislation in 1961 & 1963 that established and clarified the roles of conservation commissions, the **Connecticut Association of Conservation Commissions (CACC)** was formed in 1964,
- After the creation of the 1972 CT Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act (IWWA), and 1973 legislation expanding the size of conservation commissions, CACC was expanded to form our current organization, **Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. (CACIWC)** in 1974,
- Publication of *The Habitat* also began in 1974,
- CACIWC began organizing its expanded **Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference** in 1977,
- Our [www.caciwc.org](http://www.caciwc.org) website was established in 1999.



# CACIWC, our administration & membership:

- CACIWC is guided by a **Board of Directors** consisting of an Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, & Treasurer), eight County Representatives and Alternates who usually meet monthly,
- CACIWC membership consists of both our **voting member** Connecticut Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, and **non-voting members**, including individual, business, and organization members,
- Current CACIWC **member benefits** include substantial discounts on registration for our annual conference and other educational forums and materials.



## **CACIWC, our mission:**

***To promote the statutory responsibilities of Connecticut Conservation Commissions and Inland Wetlands Commissions and to foster environmental quality through education and through the conservation and protection of wetlands and other natural resources.***



# CACIWC, our goals:

As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization CACIWC, Inc.'s goals are to:

- provide **timely information and education** to the municipal Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions in Connecticut,
- **establish separate Conservation Commissions** in towns where they do not currently exist,
- provide **coordination and assistance** in carrying out the purposes of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions,
- and **educate** Connecticut citizens in the preservation and management of our natural resources.



## CACIWC Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference:

- provides **timely information and education** to Connecticut's Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions and staff,
- usually held in-person during **fall** (October – early December),
- conference schedule includes a brief business meeting, a **keynote speaker** or speaker panel and up to 12 educational **workshops**,
- includes space for nonprofit and commercial **exhibitors**,
- **conference themes**: last year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the CT Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act; this year we will honor Conservation Commissions.



## CACIWC's Publication, *The Habitat*:

- provides **timely information and education** to the municipal Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions in Connecticut,
- content includes **scientific & legal articles**, updates, & advertisements,
- published **up to four times a year** (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall),
- *The Habitat* was originally printed and mailed to our members, but it is now prepared as an **electronic publication** to both ease distribution and allow *color illustrations* and *live web links* in the articles and advertisements.





## Our CACIWC website:

- Our [www.caciwc.org](http://www.caciwc.org) website was **first established** in 1999,
- The website is frequently updated and provides an easily accessible location to obtain the **schedule** for upcoming CACIWC conferences and other events along with links to current and past issues of *The Habitat*, **membership information and forms**, **links** to relevant CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) sites, and other information,
- We have also expanded the website to include listings of **Other Conferences and Workshops** and current **Environmental Job postings**.



## CACIWC ListServ:

- Our ListServ was developed to provide annual conference registration announcements and other **time-sensitive updates and information** to Connecticut's Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions and staff,
- The ListServ can also quickly send updates and other information to **non-voting member organizations, businesses, and individuals,**
- CACIWC plans to **expand the use** of our ListServ system and make it available to other subscribers.



# New initiatives involving CAWS members:

- CACIWC strongly encourages CAWS member participation in our 2023 Annual Conference, both as **exhibitors** and workshop **panelists**,
- **Field demonstrations** by wetlands scientists are being considered,
- We seek more **articles** in *The Habitat* from CAWS members,
- We are continuing our **ongoing evaluation** of the CT Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act and the enabling legislation for conservation commissions and seek additional **input from wetlands scientists**,
- We seek volunteer **environmental science judges** for the CT Science & Engineering Fair,
- Watch for additional information on [www.caciwc.org](http://www.caciwc.org) in *The Habitat* or contact us at [Board@caciwc.org](mailto:Board@caciwc.org)



# Acknowledgments

CACIWC is very grateful for the opportunity to present to CAWS members and other participants at your 2023 Annual Meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or suggestions at: [Board@caciwc.org](mailto:Board@caciwc.org)

***Thank you for all that you do!***

Alan J. Siniscalchi, President

Connecticut Association of Conservation  
and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. (CACIWC)

