

**2023 Annual Meeting**  
**Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation**  
**“Sharing the Landscape”**  
**Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut**  
**July 23-25, 2023**



To view oral and poster abstracts, scan the QR Code below!

**Sunday, July 23, 2023**

8:00AM-9:00PM — Registration and Check-in

9:00AM-4:00PM — Workshops and Field Trips (lunch is not provided)

4:00PM-5:30PM — State Biologist Meeting (location TBA)

5:30PM-7:00PM — Dinner (on your own in Middletown)

7:00PM — *Silent Auction Begins*

7:00PM-10:00PM — Kick-off social and Book Signing with authors of *Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians of Connecticut* (Beckham Hall) - books will be available for sale

**Monday, July 24, 2023**

7:00AM-8:30AM — Breakfast (on your own: in town or prepaid on campus)

8:30AM-8:45AM — Welcome and Meeting Info – NEPARC Co-Chairs (Jessica Meck and Luke Groff)

8:45AM-8:55AM — Welcome to Connecticut! (TBD)

8:55AM-9:30AM — What is PARC?/National Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Team (DEITT) Update (Kerry Wixted, Amphibian & Reptile and Invasive Species Program Manager, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies; Michelle Christman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Agencies Coordinator, Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)

9:30AM-9:40AM — State Amphibian and Reptile Regulation and Land Acquisition Update (TBD)

9:40AM-10:00AM — Collaboration to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtles (CCITT) (Mike Ravesi, Herpetologist, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Scott Buchanan, Herpetologist, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; Julie Slacum, Division Chief of Strategic Resource Conservation, United States Fish & Wildlife Service )

10:00AM-10:30AM — *Break*

10:30AM-11:30AM — Oral Presentations

- Solar-powered GPS Monitoring of Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) Movements Near a State Highway in Advance of Wildlife Passage Upgrades — *Kiley Briggs, The Orianna Society*
- Using CHANJ Tools to Inform Terrestrial Wildlife Connectivity Work in New Jersey — *Brian Zarate, NJDEP Fish and Wildlife*

- The Influence of Reduced Upstream Riparian Forest Cover on the Viability of Eggs from Eastern Hellbenders (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) — *Holly A. Funkhouser, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech*
- Improving Wildlife Fencing for Herpetofauna to Ensure Effective Implementation: An Analysis of Global Mitigation Case Studies — *Steve Béga, Animex International Inc.*

11:30AM-12:00PM — Group Photo

12:00PM-1:15PM — Lunch (Provided with Registration)

1:15PM-2:15PM — Oral Presentations

- Informing Historical *Bd* Prevalence in Pennsylvania through the NSF-funded RIBBiTR Project on Mechanisms of Amphibian Resilience to Global Change Stressors — *Rachel Verdi, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh*
- Mass Audubon's Eastern Spadefoot Toad Conservation Project: Habitat Creation, Translocation, and Monitoring Techniques — *Jay Cordeiro, Mass Audubon Cape Cod*
- Creative Solutions and New Partners Building the Path from Confiscation to Conservation to Keep American Turtles SAFE — *Dave Collins, Turtle Survival Alliance*
- Wildlife Rehabilitation: The Untapped Resource of Herpetofaunal Conservation — *Pam Meier, The Turtle's Back Inc.*

2:15PM-3:00PM – Working Group Breakout Sessions (TBD)

3:00PM-3:30PM — Break

3:00PM-4:30PM – Workshops: Photography, Epicollect, Herp Education

4:30PM-6:00PM – Poster Session

6:00PM-7:30PM – Dinner (Provided with Registration)

7:30PM — Silent Auction Ends

7:30PM-8:30PM - Keynote Presentation (Dr. Kealoha Freidenburg, Yale University)

8:30PM-9:15PM – Silent Auction Check-Out

## **Tuesday, July 25, 2023**

7:00AM-8:30AM – Breakfast (on your own: in town or prepaid on campus)

8:30AM-8:45AM – Updates

8:45AM-9:30AM — Oral Presentations

- *ParthenoGenius*: A heuristic for inferring facultative parthenogenesis in reptiles using genetic and genomic data — *Brenna A. Levine, Department of Biology, Kean University*
- Using the Past to Predict the Future: What Museum Specimens Can Tell Us About Ecological Responses to Anthropogenic Change — *Jennifer A. Sheridan, Department of Amphibians and Reptiles, Carnegie Museum of Natural History*
- Balancing Competing Demands (Conservation, Forestry, and Recreation) in a State Forest, Middlesex County, CT — *Michael W. Klemens, Department of Herpetology, American Museum of*

*Natural History; Michael J. Ravesi, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Alex Amendola, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection*

9:30AM-10:00AM – Break

10:00AM-12:00PM – Panel discussion: Sharing the Landscape (*Moderator: Tracy Rittenhouse, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resources & the Environment, University of Connecticut. Panelists: Paul Bowman, Owner, Diversified Builders Cheshire CT; Laura Heady, Conservation & Land Use Program Coordinator, Hudson River Estuary Program; Michael Klemens, PhD, Land Use Planner Town of Salisbury, Research Associate in Herpetology, American Museum of Natural History; John Rook, Planner, Town of Glastonbury Office of Community Development (retired); Marjorie Shansky, Attorney specializing in land use law; and Bryan Windmiller, PhD, Director of Conservation, Zoo New England. )*

12:00PM-1:30PM – Lunch (Provided with Registration)

1:30PM-2:30PM — Oral Presentations

- Using Google Earth Engine to Rapidly Identify Habitat of Two Freshwater Turtle Species — *Connor J. Hughes, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech*
- A Preliminary Census of Copperheads (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) in Connecticut, USA — *Andrew Powers\*, Department of Biology, Western Connecticut State University*
- Female Diamondback Terrapin *Malaclemys terrapin* use of marsh adjacent to nesting areas — *Brian Williamson, The Wetlands Institute*
- Nest Monitoring and Head Starting Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtles — *Ira Powsner, ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain*

2:30PM-3:00PM – NEPARC Business Meeting and Presentation of Student Awards (NEPARC Co-Chairs Jessica Meck and Luke Groff)

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