



NOVEMBER 2016

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## EVENTS

### Educational Presentation

**Topic:** The Affordability and Ease of Going Solar in Connecticut

**Speaker:** Madeline Priest, Green Bank



*Madeline Priest promotes clean energy projects in CT by attracting private capital investment to accelerate green adoption energy in the state.*

**Sponsor:** Greater Hartford Sierra Club

**Date:** Thursday, November 10th

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Location:** Westmoor Park  
119 Flagg Road, West Hartford

**Open to club members and the public**

**Cost:** \$4 donation to defray hall rental

**Refreshments:** Provided

**Activist Letter Writing** 7:00pm

**Questions:** Contact Renee at [mchawigirl@yahoo.com](mailto:mchawigirl@yahoo.com)

**Content:** The Connecticut Green Bank is the nation's first green bank. Their purpose is to help accelerate the growth of green energy by making green energy accessible and affordable to everyone in the state. Madeline Priest will tell stories of how the power of positive energy works in sparking the green energy movement and reaping the benefits.

**Biography:** Since 2013, Madeline Priest has worked at The Connecticut Green Bank, which uses limited public dollars to private capital investment to promote clean energy projects in CT.

Before Green Bank, Madeline worked with the Clean Water Fund as the Lead Clean Energy Organizer on the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge, a 14 town DOE Better Buildings Neighborhood Program funded initiative. In addition to heading up outreach, including partnering with over 130 community groups, Madeline oversaw the customer pipeline with ten efficiency contractors and managed the day to day operations of the campaign.

Madeline graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a degree in International Political Economy with an emphasis in Global Development Studies and a minor in Environmental Policy and Decision Making.

## Coastal Cleanup Makes a Dent

by Tom Paul

The 2016 Coastal Cleanup at the Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, CT September 17th was part of the 'Save the Sound' coast clean-up weekend. Created by Ocean Conservancy, the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) has worked for 31 years to include 37 states and 93 countries around the world. This year 21 CT Sierra Club volunteers focused on the East Beach and collected 23 pounds of debris in 12 bags.

The clean ups are co-hosted by local partners including civic associations, youth groups, churches, clubs and environmental organizations.

"Ocean trash threatens the health of beach-goers, birds, sea turtles, fish and marine mammals and damages economic activity such as tourism and the fishing industry. Every piece of trash volunteers find is tracked, reported to Save the Sound and included in Ocean Conservancy's annual index of marine debris." <sup>1</sup>



John Dixon, Sierra Club member far right in the picture with his wife and granddaughter. Photo by Chris Cryder, *Save the Sound*

*Tom Paul ran the 2016 Coastal Cleanup at East Beach. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club.*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://lymeline.com/2016/09/its-save-the-sound-coastal-clean-up-weekend/>

## REQUEST FOR CONTENT

All CT Sierra Club members are invited to contribute to The *Quinnehtukqut*. We accept articles, puzzles, events, photos, poems, etc.

If you post information to the website and would like it in the newsletter, too, submit those postings separately to the newsletter.

The Winter *Quinnehtukqut* will distribute at the beginning of January, 2017.

To contribute to the Winter issue: **Submissions are due the first week of December: Final deadline is December 9th.**

Comments, letters to the editor and all submissions may be sent to [ctsierraq3@gmail.com](mailto:ctsierraq3@gmail.com) for inclusion in future newsletters.

All decisions regarding use are made by the communications committee.

## ARTICLES

### Chapter Outlook and Campaign 2017

by Roberta Paro



Roberta Paro, Chair  
Connecticut Chapter of  
The Sierra Club

Connecticut is primed to make major decisions next year that will shape our environment and economy for decades to come. In 2017 the State of Connecticut will be updating our Comprehensive Energy Strategy at the same time we are racing to meet our goal of protecting 21% of Connecticut's land by 2023.

With your support, I believe the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club can make lasting change that benefits Connecticut's environment and the people whose quality of life depends on it. As an advocacy group, we strive to make the voices of the public heard to ensure that our elected and appointed officials make the right decisions.

#### **Gas Pipeline Expansion**

The stakes are high in 2017. Rather than using more clean energy, fossil fuel companies are planning to expand gas pipelines that threaten our water, air, health and climate. And as you are well aware, Connecticut's fiscal situation threatens financial resources that are needed to help electrify our transportation system, keep our state parks open and weatherize the homes of low-income residents.

With your help, the Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter has been working tirelessly to make the best outcomes possible. To continue that work, your financial support is needed.

#### **Pledge Your Support**

Will you donate \$50, \$100, \$250 or more to the Connecticut Chapter so we have the funds we need NOW to move our state toward a clean energy future and to protect our local natural habitat, so important to us all? *Make your donation online at [www.sierraclub/connecticut](http://www.sierraclub/connecticut).*

## Invest in Focus Projects

Supporters of the Connecticut Chapter have been at the forefront of stopping the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. We need your 2017 investment to build on this momentum. With your help we can:

- Stop consumer subsidies for fracked gas expansion
- Protect critical open space for habitat and access to nearby nature
- Escalate our work to create an electric grid powered by 100 percent clean energy

In addition to that critical work, the Connecticut Chapter continues to focus its efforts on:

- Ensuring that everyone who wants to can use clean energy by increasing the amount of shared renewable energy projects in local communities, such as solar gardens
- Stopping the Trans Pacific Partnership, a bad trade deal for the environment and for people
- Electrifying our transportation sector

Connecticut's ambitious goals to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 from our 2001 levels and to protect 21% of its land as open space by 2023 are a bit daunting, but with the help of our dedicated volunteers and staff, along with your financial support, we will make a critical difference and those goals will be met.

Let's do this together! Please invest in us with a gift of \$50, \$100, \$250 or more to help fund our many efforts to move Connecticut toward a clean, sustainable energy future while protecting our precious natural resources.

***Make your donation online at [www.sierraclub/connecticut](http://www.sierraclub/connecticut)***

*Roberta Paro is Chair of the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club.*

## People Over Pipelines Walk

by Deb Roe and Martha Klein

One hundred people from across Connecticut and central and western Massachusetts walked the Kinder Morgan gas pipeline route Saturday, September 24th, to protest the expansion of pipelines carrying fracked gas. Billed as the *People Over Pipelines Walk*, walkers, ages one to eighty-five, covered seven miles of the route from the compressor station in Agawam, Massachusetts along Route 75 to West Suffield, Connecticut.

### Walkers' Comments

One Suffield mother, Milly Guzman-Young, brought her two children with her. She expressed her concern about the pipelines, "I can't believe this is going through our town. I don't think people are aware of this. I didn't know about it until just recently. I want to learn more and let people know about the dangers of these pipelines."

Arielle Landau, a student in her senior year at Choate in Wallingford, CT said, "It's so important for us to be a part of this fight, because it's about our future and the future of our planet. There is simply no reason to build another gas pipeline in Connecticut that my generation will be forced to pay for when we have so many better and cheaper renewable energy options such as solar and wind power."



## CT Expansion Moves Forward

The Kinder Morgan project CT Expansion is expected to break ground in Suffield and East Granby after receiving its final permits. The project is particularly galling to Connecticut residents as they have unknowingly subsidized what many consider the fabricated need for the pipeline.

To review: Connecticut's energy policy, the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, mandated ratepayer-subsidized, residential conversions to gas in 2013. Although the state planned to convert 280,000 customers to gas, the price of oil plummeted and the conversions no longer made economic sense to customers. The pace of conversions slowed. Yet enough customers, about 100,000, were converted and that number justifies construction of the CT Expansion. The new pipelines will supply increased fracked methane gas to the only purchasers of gas for the project: Eversource (owner of Yankee Gas) and Iberdrola (owner of CT Natural Gas and Southern CT Gas). Although the people subsidized the dirty gas expansion, private corporations will profit.

## Sense of Purpose

In addition to local families with children, there were high school students whose teacher brought them and activists from the environmental, faith and justice communities. They came from as far away as New Haven, Worcester and Sandisfield, MA. One man carried a sign in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux, who are fighting a much bigger pipeline in North Dakota. For more information-click on this link: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/joint-statement-department-justice-department-army-and-department-interior-regarding-dc> Musicians Ben Grosscup and Sarah Stockwell-Arthen of Massachusetts sang and played guitars on the bus and at the rally at the compressor station.

People carried signs, banners and megaphones, calling for a halt to the expansion of gas infrastructure and for the transition to 100% renewable energy. Then in the beautiful, warm early autumn sunshine, walkers sang, chanted and waved for the seven mile trek through towns and across rolling countryside, old farmsteads and fields of tobacco farms.

For press coverage of the walk, click here:

<http://ctbythenumbers.info/2016/09/25/opponents-to-natural-gas-pipeline-rally-to-grow-public-interest/>

Photos by Deb Roe

*Martha Klein is Communications Chair of The Connecticut Chapter of The Sierra Club*

*Deb Roe is Forum Organizer for pipeline expansion forums*



## Volkswagen Cloud Has Silver Lining

by Robin Woerner

Last year, a small research laboratory team at West Virginia University was hired by an air quality advocacy group to do independent emissions testing on new Volkswagen (VW) diesel automobiles, which were boasting remarkably low emissions and marketed as good options for eco-conscious buyers.

No one expected what the little WVU lab discovered. Scientists were astounded to find that some of the vehicles released up to 35 times more nitrogen oxides (NOx) gas than their touted ratings, putting them far beyond National EPA regulations in emissions. Nitrogen oxides are chemical compounds produced from combustion that cause air pollution, smog, acid rain and ozone.



The implications? Nearly 500,000 newly purchased, hyper-polluting cars on U.S. roads were revealed to be gushing NOx into the atmosphere under the noses of the EPA, state governments and the consumers who had purchased them.

As government confrontation with VW began to escalate, leaders in the company confessed the unthinkable: the emissions cheating was calculated and wholly intentional, relying upon a special computer system designed to cloak actual emissions values during testing.

### **The Good News for EVs**

In reparations for the scandal, VW has agreed to pay a settlement of \$14.7 billion to the U.S. Government to cover the damages for its criminal pollution and blatant violation of federal law. The funds are being allotted to repay consumers of the vehicles and to remediate environmental damage – partially through the build-out of clean transportation infrastructure.

State governments are invited to apply for over \$2 billion of funding to support local projects building up infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) and other low-emissions transportation options. In Connecticut, The Sierra Club will be instrumental in suggesting projects and proposals for use of these funds to make new charging stations and other EV infrastructure move forward.

### **Fast and Tricky Moves**

The application process for the VW money will be a quick one, wrapping up in about 90 days from the moment the gavel dropped on the settlement, which was finalized October 25, 2016. States will now be rushing forward to secure the funds with various eligible proposals – and this will be fast and tricky for environmental groups like The Sierra Club to navigate.

The biggest threat in the process is the fact that in addition to vehicles that are zero-emission, some “natural gas”- fueled technologies are eligible to be funded by settlement money. While at one point Sierra Club believed that natural gas could be a wise “bridge fuel” towards renewables, the Club now strongly opposes any conversion to natural gas and rejects the technology entirely. Not only are extraction methods (fracking) catastrophic for water security and human health while causing increased seismic activity, but low point-of-use emissions claims must consider gas field leakage and pollution associated with extraction. Similarly, known leakage from pipelines, compressors, meter stations and gas power plants can be expected. "Natural gas" (methane) leakage is as grave a threat to our climate as is carbon dioxide.

Our CT Sierra Club Chapter and our growing volunteer EV Team is ready to keep up with the pace and support The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in putting forward proposals that secure significant funds to build out EV infrastructure in Connecticut, while on guard to prevent the gas industry from steering money in the wrong direction.

### **Join the EV Team**

With VW settlement money on the horizon, now is an exciting time to join the volunteer EV Team and our project needs more help than ever. If you are interested in getting involved, we can find a place on the team for you! Beginners welcome and no need to be an EV owner. Call or email Robin at 203.641.0264 or [robin.woerner@sierraclub.org](mailto:robin.woerner@sierraclub.org).

### **Upcoming EV Events**

Sunday, November 13th, **Climate Stewardship Summit (EV Panel)**

- Climate Stewardship Summit hosted by the Inter-religious Eco Justice Network is a full day event at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) at 1615 Stanley Street, in New Britain, CT. The Sierra Club is hosting an EV panel presented by Sierra Club regional organizing manager, Jameelah Muhammad. We are seeking EV volunteers and interested participants, faith or non-faith based.

Friday-Sunday, November 18th-20th, **Connecticut Auto Show**

- The Sierra Club will have an EV booth for educating guests attending the event at The Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT.

Hours: 10:00am-8:00pm, Friday and Saturday; 10:00am-5:00pm, Sunday.

We may have some public officials attend to do a press conference. We will be staffing the table with EV Team volunteers and welcome new participants.

### **Sources:**

- *The Atlantic*, “Volkswagon’s \$10 Billion Settlement” by Bourree Lam June 24, 2016
- *BBC*, “Volkswagen: The Scandal Explained” by Russel Hotten. December 10, 2015
- *Bloomberg* “VW’s Emissions Cheating Found by a Curious Clean Air Group” by Jeff Plungis and Dana Hull. September 19, 2016
- *NPR Business*, “How a Little Lab in West Virginia Caught Volkswagen’s Big Cheat” by Sonari Glinton. September 24, 2015

*Robin Woerner is The Sierra Club Electric Vehicle Campaign Organizer – CT*



# The American Chestnut Tree

## Part One of a Two Part Series

by Nora Hulton

Residing in New England we live with constant reminders of the majestic American Chestnut tree that used to populate our forests. It's hard to find a town in Connecticut that doesn't have a road or street named after the once ubiquitous tree. Some may even be lucky enough to live in a chestnut framed house or have a table or chest made out of the precious wood, but few have seen a living American Chestnut in the wild. Most people know the name of the culprit that denuded our forests of this almost mythical tree, but few know the true havoc it wreaked with our forest ecosystem. To date, ecologists believe that Chestnut Blight is the single worst ecological disaster to ever hit North America. In less than 50 years, four billion trees were destroyed by a microscopic pathogen.

To completely appreciate the disappearance of the American Chestnut from our landscape, one must first become familiar with its historical significance. Commonly referred to as the "Redwood of the East," *Castanea dentata* grew to a height of 100 feet or taller, and would commonly reach widths of ten feet or more. It was found along the eastern seaboard from Maine to Georgia and in some regions it made up over 30% of the forest. In June, abundant white flowers blanketed the tree canopies and gave the mountains a snow-capped look. The Appalachian Mountain states contained the densest population of these native beauties.

### Wildlife and Human Benefits

Wildlife derived the most benefit from the chestnut, and it was considered to be the most important food source for many animals. Squirrels, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, black bear, raccoon and grouse all gained from its copious supply of nuts, and myriad species of insects relied on it as their primary food source. Wild animals weren't the only beneficiaries of the bountiful forest mast; Native Americans had long used the nuts mixed with cornmeal for baking and the leaves for many medicinal uses. It wasn't uncommon for one healthy tree to generate ten bushels of the nutritious fruit.

The American Chestnut was essentially the backbone of most rural Appalachian communities as it fueled the economy by making it possible for people to eke out a living without loads of capital. Most families had a chestnut grove on their property where the fruit was gathered in the fall and hauled by wagon into the cities. Others shipped them directly by rail to the urban areas where the superior quality of our native chestnut was in extremely high demand during the holidays. It was also common practice for subsistence farmers in the Appalachians to let their pigs loose to forage freely for the tasty fruit. In fact, the meat from these "free range" hogs was known to be more flavorful than any other regions.



Several lumberjacks stand near massive trunks of several chestnut trees. Picture courtesy of the Forest History Society, Inc.

## Economic Powerhouse

Fruit wasn't the only product reaped from the invaluable chestnut. Its durable, decay-proof wood was harvested by settlers for fencing, beams, shingles and ship masts. In later years it was utilized for railroad ties and telephone poles. Additionally, the high tannic acid content, which made it disease and insect resistant, also made its bark valuable for tanning animal hides for leather. There was no other tree that was as crucial to the eastern economy as the American Chestnut.

*Nora Hulton is a Connecticut master wildlife conservationist.*

## Sustainable Fall Landscaping Practices

by Michele MacKinnon

*Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree. ~Emily Brontë*

The practice of sustainable landscaping is gaining new fans daily, but, did you know there are sustainable approaches to fall cleanup as well? A few simple changes in this annual ritual will reap benefits for the environment.

First, focus on weed control. In late summer weed growth skyrockets as these undesirable plants focus their energy on producing seeds. Timely action prevents seeds from ripening and sprouting into the next generation of weeds. Tackle common weeds with visible flowers or seed heads by cutting these off and disposing of them. Cut remaining stalks at ground level and dump them in your compost pile.

### Invasive Plant Control

In the case of invasive plants, different weed control methods are needed. You have probably seen extensive roadside stands of Japanese Knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*, distinguished by its three to five-foot high arching stems and heart-shaped leaves. The leaves start turning brown and falling off after the first frost, revealing bamboo-like stems, hence its nickname, Japanese Bamboo.

Control young plants by pulling and disposing of them. Extracting the entire root is essential since even a tiny remnant will grow back. For large stands, cut stems at ground level and dispose of them. They are most vulnerable in Fall after expending energy the plants used to flower in August. In Fall remaining food from stems and leaves is sent down into the roots to help them survive winter. Fall cutting also reduces the vigor of plants next year. Repeated cuttings over several years may be needed to subdue this and other aggressive plants.



Japanese Knotweed

### Leaves as Compost

Leaf cleanup is another opportunity for sustainable landscaping practices. Dried and decomposed leaves are a rich source of natural nutrients and they are 100% free, so why discard them with your garbage and spend money buying fertilizer products? Leaf and lawn litter accounts for approximately 60% of landfill waste, so diverting even small amounts of material will be helpful.

Gather leaves into piles and reduce their volume up to 75% by running over them with a lawnmower which helps start the decomposition process. Pick a spot for keeping a leaf pile over the winter and erect a temporary fence to contain leaves or simply lay a few large branches across the pile. Uncovered piles allow rain and snow to break them down. By next spring the dark crumbly mixture can be used to mulch ornamental plants or cover vegetable gardens. Bagging dry leaves and storing them provides a steady supply of carbon material for compost piles. A composting rule of thumb is mixing 60% brown material (dry debris) with 40% green (fresh) material.

### Cover Your Soil

A third and possibly best sustainable practice to follow is keeping soil covered year-round. Lee Reich is an evangelist on this topic and details it in his book, *Weedless Gardening*, or visit [leereich.com](http://leereich.com) and read his October 6, 2016 blog post entitled, *Good For Crops, Good For The Earth*. Exposed and disturbed soil invites weeds and invasive plants to gain a foothold. Turning soil over exposes weed seeds to light, triggering them to start growing.

Rather than disturbing soil by pulling spent vegetable plants or annuals, cut plants off at soil level and add them to the compost pile. Dispose of diseased material in the trash. Decomposing roots add nutrients and leave soil microbial colonies intact where they perform their beneficial work. Soil is often exposed when blowing or raking leaves beyond the fringes of our lawns into woodland edges. This practice removes the natural layer of duff (decaying vegetable matter) that accumulates and decomposes there and the exposed soil allows weed seeds to grow and establish colonies next year. This is one reason invasive garlic mustard plant has gained such a foothold in Connecticut.



Garlic mustard

Improve your sustainable fall cleanup practice this year by collecting leaves, keeping soil covered and corralling invasive plants.

**Questions?** Michelle will answer your gardening questions in the Winter issue of *The Quinnehtukqut*. Send your queries to her at [beehappygardener@gmail.com](mailto:beehappygardener@gmail.com) where you can also obtain a list of her Fall programs.

*Michele MacKinnon, is a UCONN Certified Advanced Master Gardener, Garden Educator and Speaker*

## National Parks 100th Anniversary Celebrates Muir as Father of The National Park Service

Our country's National Park Service is off to a second century of stewardship of America's national parks. The mandate is to engage communities through recreation, conservation and historic preservation programs. Note: This article first appeared in [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov).

Although there were national parks, prior to 1916, protected by the Army, Congress passed a bill to create a bureau in the Department of the Interior to operate the existing 35 parks and to advocate for park preservation in Washington, D.C. It was called the National Park Service, signed into law on August 25, 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson.

John Muir known as "the Father of the National Park Service,"<sup>2</sup> was "an advocate for Nature. As America's most famous naturalist and conservationist, Muir fought to protect the wild places he loved, places we can still visit today. Muir's writings convinced the U.S. Government to protect Yosemite, Sequoia, Grand Canyon and Mt. Ranier as national parks." [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)

Muir still speaks to us through his writings. The following excerpt helps us to understand why he supported the necessity of national parks and public involvement.

Only thirty years ago, the great Central Valley of California, five hundred miles long and fifty miles wide, was one bed of golden and purple flowers. Now it is ploughed and pastured out of existence, gone forever,- scarce a memory of it left in fence corners and along the bluffs of the streams. The gardens of the Sierra, also, and the noble forest in both the reserved and unreserved portions are sadly hacked and trailed, notwithstanding the ruggedness of the topography,- all excepting those of the parks guarded by a few soldiers. In the noblest forests of the world, the ground, once divinely beautiful is desolate and repulsive...The same fate, sooner or later, is awaiting unto them all, unless awakening public opinion comes forward to stop it. <sup>3</sup>

Muir, who died in 1914, did not live to see the NPS come into existence. He was opposed to the Department of Interior managing the parks, preferring the Army to protect and preserve.

View two biographical videos about John Muir at YouTube.

<http://click.emails.sierraclub.org/?qs=801ff2ace9e430fc9b5459646625dcd4f631bebba2d46f2c911318c2892242111995166c31940470>

<http://click.emails.sierraclub.org/?qs=801ff2ace9e430fc5509e7fc41853b8829de5d194771fb0bd6463e4b0c1c1956b11a0f225f0dae57>

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<sup>2</sup> [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov) John Muir

<sup>3</sup> Muir, John "Our National Parks" Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1901

# The History of John Muir and the Sierra Club

## A Serial in Seven Parts

by Helen R. Applebaum

### Part Six: Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of America's National Parks, we focus on a three-night camping trip that John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt spent together in 1903. It is probably the most significant camping trip in conservation history because during those three days, Muir was able to persuade Theodore Roosevelt to return Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove to federal protection as part of Yosemite National Park. The trip made a lasting impression on Roosevelt who became known as the "conservationist president."

One of the rangers on duty during the three days was Charles Leidig who wrote about the event. "According to Leidig, among the topics the two discussed were: lion hunting; Muir's theory--controversial at the time--that Yosemite had been shaped by glaciers; the importance of forest conservation; and the need for more national parks. Roosevelt and Muir had some difficulty communicating, Leidig observed, 'because both men wanted to do the talking.'"<sup>4</sup>

#### Roosevelt's Path to Conservation

Why was Theodore Roosevelt the right man at the right time? Roosevelt had been a sickly boy growing up in New York City. He kept busy with a hobby of taxidermy, the preparing, stuffing and mounting of animal skins in lifelike poses, which at the time was considered acceptable. His collection of stuffed specimens was good enough to donate a dozen mice, a turtle, four birds'



Roosevelt's book cover

eggs and the skull of a red squirrel to the American Museum of Natural History at age 12 in 1870. By age 23, in 1881, the museum accepted Roosevelt's presentation of 622 carefully preserved bird skins.

As his health improved, Roosevelt entered politics and the great West. In 1883, at age 25, Roosevelt was a New York City alderman, an elected member of a municipal council. When he learned that the buffalo was close to extinction, Roosevelt took a train to North Dakota to obtain a specimen. He shot a bull and had its head mounted on his wall in New York City.

The Dakotas also influenced Roosevelt's life. He bought a ranch in the Dakota badlands where he rode and hunted on regular visits. He even wrote a book, "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman" describing his times in the West which the magazine *Field and Stream* didn't review favorably. Roosevelt visited the publisher,



Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir at Glacier Point, Yosemite National Park. 1903

<sup>4</sup> <http://nyer.cm/TZIO4RF>

George Bird Grinnell, intending to complain about the review, yet the meeting ended with the two becoming lifelong friends. Together in 1887 they formed a hunters' club they called the (Daniel) Boone and (Davy) Crockett Club. It was for prominent Easterners and Roosevelt was its first president.

The club's name reflected pioneering men who hunted extensively as they opened the West, but who also realized there were consequences to overhunting. The club, still in existence, worked for the 1888 "fair chase" statement of hunter ethics (hunting only game that are wild and free ranging), the expansion of Yellowstone Park and the establishment of American conservation.

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boone\\_and\\_Crockett\\_Club](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boone_and_Crockett_Club)

### **TR First Elected President of 20th Century**

Roosevelt was elected the first U.S. President of the twentieth century in 1900. He took office in 1901. His interest in conservation was already set. In 1887 he championed passage of the Timberland Reserves Bill, which allowed the National Forest Service system to be born. In 1894 it was the Yellowstone Protection Act, in 1895 the New York Zoological Society and in 1900 the Lacey Act that brought an end to commercial market hunting.



Photo of Theodore Roosevelt 1885

At the same time John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, offered a blueprint of sorts for spurring people to become involved in protecting the environment. In his book "Our National Parks," Muir wrote, "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life." Muir invited President Roosevelt to join him in Yosemite.

### **TR Remembers John Muir**

In his autobiography Roosevelt describes his meeting with John Muir. He wrote, "When I first visited California, it was my good fortune to see the 'big trees,' the Sequoias, and then to travel down to Yosemite, with John Muir. Of course of all people in the world he was the one with whom it was best worth while thus to see the Yosemite. He told me that when Emerson came to California he tried to get him to come out and camp with him, for that was the only way in which to see at their best the majesty and charm of the Sierras. But at the time Emerson was getting old and could not go.

John Muir met me with a couple of packers and two mules to carry our tent, bedding, and food for a three days' trip. The first night was clear and we lay down in the darkening aisle of the great Sequoia grove. The majestic trunks, beautiful in color and in symmetry, rose round us like the pillars of a mightier cathedral than ever was conceived even by the fervor of the Middle Ages. Hermit thrushes sang beautifully in the evening, and again, with a burst of wonderful music, at dawn.

I was interested and a little surprised to find that unlike John Burroughs, John Muir cared little for birds or bird songs, and knew little about them. The hermit-thrushes meant nothing to him, the trees and the flowers and cliffs everything. The only birds he noticed or cared for were some that were very conspicuous, such as the water-ouzels always particular favorites of mine too. The second night we camped in a snow-storm, on the edge of the canon falls, under the spreading limbs of a grove of mighty silver fir; and next day we went down into the wonderland of the valley itself. I shall always be glad that I was in Yosemite with John Muir and in the Yellowstone with John Burroughs."<sup>5</sup>

"John Muir talked even better than he wrote. His greatest influence was always upon those who were brought into personal contact with him."

*Helen R Applebaum is the editor of The Quinnehtukqut.*

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<sup>5</sup> Theodore Roosevelt, *An Autobiography* (1913). Excerpted from Chapter IX. Outdoors and Indoors

[http://vault.sierraclub.org/john\\_muir\\_exhibit/life/in\\_yosemite\\_by\\_roosevelt.aspx](http://vault.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/life/in_yosemite_by_roosevelt.aspx)

## My Roses

by Renee M. Taylor

My roses are robed in deep colors, as cool nights raise their sugar levels.

Too greedy before, by mid October, I stop pruning for blooms. Then rosehips form and sugars store in roots to survive winter.



Sutter's Gold



Mardi Gras floribunda



Don Juan climber



Gene Boehner floribunda



Touch of Class hybrid tea

But for now, this grateful handmaiden is enjoying a generous second flush. My thorny, smiling girls are relieved after a severe summer for a bit of rain and less heat. Each bloom is precious now and stays open longer...



New Day hybrid tea



Pristine hybrid tea



Perfume Delight hybrid tea





Iceberg floribunda



Camelot Grandiflora



Tropicana Hybrid Tea



Shreveport grandiflora



Camacho hybrid tea



New Day hybrid tea



Double Delight hybrid tea



Touch of Class hybrid tea



Princess Diana hybrid tea

*Renee M. Taylor, aka the Rosarian, is a member of the Hartford Group Executive Committee and an outings leader.*

## POETRY

### Where Only the Eagle Knows

More than cities, country or sea,  
the mountains always beckon me.  
High in the crags where the wind blows,  
I explore places only the eagle knows.

My journey begins in green meadow  
and leads into dark pine shadow  
where sweet scents and solitude  
ease my efforts at gaining altitude.

As I labor onward and ever higher,  
I'm aware of the body's desires,  
but satisfy them with simple things,  
like food, rest and mountain springs.

As my past troubles disappear,  
my mind becomes fresh and clear.  
Here in the mountains I always find  
a reunion of body, spirit and mind.

Above timberline I look down  
at tiny flowers on the ground,  
then up to the sky and see  
clouds above and below me.

Here, Nature's powers are a certainty,  
but life's changes last to eternity.  
When I return below, not the same man,  
acutely aware of Nature's plan.

But, when it's time to release my soul,  
let it be up there, not down below,  
up there, where the cool wind blows,  
up there, where only the eagle knows.

*Jay Stewart*

*Jay Stewart, a Sierra Club member, is associate professor of sociology at the University of Hartford.*



American Bald Eagle  
Photo: [true-wildlife.blogspot.com](http://true-wildlife.blogspot.com)

## The Q is brought to you by:

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