



# The Quinnehtukqut Connecticut Chapter

The Monthly Newsletter for Events, Information, and Action

SUMMER 2016

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# KAYAKING 1

## Greater Hartford Sierra Club

**Date:** Saturday, September 3rd

**Time:** 10:00am

**Location:** Willimantic River and Eagleville Lake, Mansfield/Coventry, CT

**Activity:** Paddle quiet river area down to Eagleville Lake and its dam before return trip

***Free event open to club members and the public***

**Meet:** Plains Road, Mansville

**Directions:** At the intersection of Route 44 and Route 32, travel south on Route 32 for 0.35 miles. Turn right onto Plains Road and travel 0.2 miles. Parking area is on the right

**Access:** Carry in paved boat launch at River Park in Mansfield



Willimantic River and Eagleville Lake

**RSVP:** by 9/3 to Renee at [mchawigirl@yahoo.com](mailto:mchawigirl@yahoo.com). Be sure your cell phone is on that morning, in case weather or winds require site change or canceling outing.

**Restrictions:** No cell phone use or smoking on the water.

**Safety:** Safety vests must be worn at all times.

*All attendees must sign a liability waiver. You may review the waiver by clicking the attachment here:*

[https://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-sign-in\\_waiver.pdf](https://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-sign-in_waiver.pdf)

## KAYAKING 2

### Greater Hartford Sierra Club

**Date:** Sunday, September 4th

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Boat launch at the upper Moodus reservoir

**Activity:** Paddle the perimeter of this rambling upper basin of 361 acres surrounded by woods, farmland, swamp and some homes. Lots of nooks to explore.

***Free event open to club members and the public***

**Meet:** Upper Moodus reservoir boat launch

**Directions:** Route 149, south on Bashan Falls Road, east on Haddam-Colchester Turnpike, right on Launching Area Road, just before causeway.

**Map** and description of both upper and lower reservoirs:

<http://bostonkayaker.com/cgi-bin/bkonekpage.cgi?pagekey=moodus>



Upper Moodus Reservoir

**RSVP:** by 9/4 to Renee at [mchawigirl@yahoo.com](mailto:mchawigirl@yahoo.com). Be sure your cell phone is on that morning, in case weather or winds require site change or canceling outing.

**Restrictions:** No cell phone use or smoking on the water.

**Safety:** Safety vests must be worn at all times.

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[https://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-sign-in\\_waiver.pdf](https://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-sign-in_waiver.pdf)

# PREVIEW OF FUTURE EVENTS

## Beyond Gas Campaign: Future Events

*The challenge to protect our environment*

### 1. Gas Pipeline Educational Forums: Plainville and Danielson, CT

**Date:** Wednesday, September 7th

**Time:** 6:30pm dinner; followed by forum

**Sponsor:** Plainville Lion's Club

**Location:** Lola's Bistro and Grill, 161 Woodford Avenue, Plainville CT 06062

**Presenters:**

- ~ Jen Siskind-Local Volunteer Coordinator with Food and Water Watch
- ~ Ben Martin-Volunteer Organizer for 350CT
- ~ Marc Cohen-Source Water Program Manager for Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association
- ~ Deb Roe-Volunteer Forum Coordinator for CT Chapter Sierra Club

### 2. Quinebaug Valley Community College-Learning in Retirement program

**Date:** Thursday, September 29th

**Time:** 1:00pm to 2:30pm

**Location:** QVCC Auditorium, 742 Upper Maple Street, Danielson, CT 06239

**Presenters:**

- ~ Martha Klein-Volunteer Communications Chair for CT Chapter Sierra Club
- ~ Marc Cohen-Source Water Program Manager for Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association

### 3. People Over Pipeline Walk

**Date:** Saturday, September 24th

**Event:** A legal and peaceful **People Over Pipeline Walk** along the segment of Kinder Morgan's Connecticut Expansion that passes through our state.

**Location:** The walk will begin at the soon to be expanded compressor station in Agawam, MA, half a mile north of the CT border, and will continue along the pipeline route in Suffield and East Granby.

**Purpose:** CT residents walk to call attention to this interstate project that they believe is unnecessary and will profit Eversource and Iberdrola at the expense of our clean and safe environment.

**Leaders:** The CT Chapter Sierra Club, 350 CT and Toxics Action Center

**History:** People in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island held walks in July along the AIM route, but in Connecticut AIM covers hundreds of miles and literally the whole state. We are choosing to walk the eight mile segment of Kinder Morgan's pipeline expansion.

*Look for details in the September Issue of the Quinnehtukqut.*

### 4. Hartford March

**Date:** Saturday, December 3rd

**Location:** Hartford

**Participants:** 350 CT, the CT Chapter Sierra Club and other allies

**Event:** A legal, peaceful march in Hartford calling for an immediate transition to 100% renewable energy, and for a safe, healthy and just world.

**More Information:** website: [sierraclub.org/connecticut](http://sierraclub.org/connecticut) and click on 'Issues/Gas Pipelines, or in the September Q newsletter.

**Questions/Volunteer:** Contact [Martha Klein](#)

# EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

## Topic: Connecticut Geology



Janet Stone

**Speaker:** Janet Stone is a Research Geologist since 1972 with the US Geological Service, focusing on long term New England and regional studies. She is a founding member of Geological Society of CT.

Stone's field trips have identified the Pleistocene glaciers. These great ice-sheets that deposited an incredible variety of glacial deposits in the Central Connecticut Valley are valuable natural resources used today in construction.

**Sponsor:** Greater Hartford Sierra Club

**Date:** Thursday, September 8th

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Activist Letter Writing:** 7:00pm

**Cost:** \$4 donation requested to cover cost of rental site

**Refreshments:** Provided

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



Photo credit: [epic.org](http://epic.org)

Photo title: Pleistocene glaciers in Connecticut Valley

# QUIZ

## Test Your Environmental IQ

by Peter McKnight

1. Where is the largest unprotected urban forest in the Northeast?
2. Which of these is the most potent greenhouse gas?
  - A. Carbon dioxide
  - B. Methane
  - C. Argon

**Answer 1.** Remington Woods in Bridgeport and Stratford is 422 acres in total. Remington Woods is the largest urban, privately owned, undeveloped land remaining in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Formerly used as a munitions testing site, the Woods is now an attractive open space with trees, plants, all kinds of wildlife, a twenty-three acre lake called Lake Success and many inland wetlands. It is surrounded by a metal fence and is NOT open to the public.

**Answer 2.** Methane. Pound for pound, the comparative impact of methane on climate change is more than 25 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub> over a 100-year period and more than 100 times over ten years. Argon, an element found in relative abundance in the Earth's atmosphere, is not a greenhouse gas because, like oxygen, nitrogen and other gases, it is largely transparent to the wavelengths of light responsible for trapping heat. Argon does not form molecules large and complex enough to block infrared light, as known greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane do.

*Peter McKnight is Vice Chair of CT Sierra Club*

## SIGN UP FOR NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK

**Dates:** September 10-18, 2016

### Directions To Log In:

1. **Open Website:** <https://driveelectricweek.org/volunteer.php>
2. **Go to:** Job/Request Event
3. **Select:** Help with an existing event
4. **Complete:** Log in information



## SEE EVS

### Attend 2nd Annual Electric Vehicle Showcase

Last year 50 electric vehicles were on view from local dealers and private owners from as far away as New Jersey! We had cars from Tesla, BMW, Porsche, Chevrolet, Toyota, Honda, VW and electric bikes courtesy of Zane's Cycles. We were proud to have the Westport Electric Car Club join us and they'll be coming back this year! Hope you will too.

**Dates:** Saturday, September 9th and Sunday, September 10th

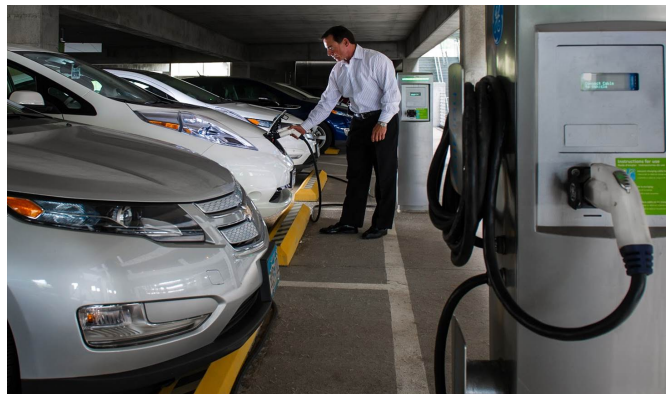
**Time:** 11am-2pm

**Location:** Auxiliary Commuter Lot  
140 Mill Plain Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

**Information:** [FairfieldCleanEnergy@gmail.com](mailto:FairfieldCleanEnergy@gmail.com)

**Contact:** Mary Hogue 203.256.9802 [maryhogue@optonline.net](mailto:maryhogue@optonline.net)

**Web page:** <https://driveelectricweek.org/event.php?eventid=613>



Check out EVS

## SUMMER 2016 BEYOND GAS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

by Martha Klein

### Massive Fracked Gas Expansion Continues

Connecticut is currently undergoing a massive increase in methane, or natural gas, infrastructure. The enlarged Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) pipeline is under construction across the entire state, and the next two stages of AIM (called Atlantic Bridge and Access Northeast) are undergoing approval at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

What is the purpose of these additional construction projects? Although they are segmented, they are effectively one project whose goal is to allow AIM to function as an export pipeline. Eversource is co-owner of the third stage of Spectra's AIM project, Access Northeast.

Although there are other methane gas projects that are instrumental to AIM, the following may be on hold. Proposed projects include a new UCONN to Coventry gas mainline and a gas infusion station (defeated in Rocky Hill and Andover, but now searching for a new location). The approved gas/oil power plant in Oxford has not yet begun construction, although the site has been cleared; the plant owner CPV is undergoing federal investigation in New York related to questionable financial practices and those troubles may delay this project.

**Read:** Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino Submits to Gas Pipeline Influence: <http://www.truth-out.org/speakout/item/36817-westchester-county-executive-rob-astorino-submits-to-gas-pipeline->

### **Connecticut Expansion Pipeline Greenlighted**

One construction project that has a green light is the Connecticut Expansion pipeline that will shortly begin in Suffield and East Granby, Connecticut, as well as in Massachusetts and New York. Kinder Morgan is the construction company. How does Kinder Morgan fit with Eversource? Kinder Morgan's Connecticut Expansion will be constructed in three states to satisfy a contract exclusively with Eversource and Iberdrola/Avangrid, the two private corporations that control the entire methane supply in the state.



Gas Pipeline

Why is this project going forward? This regional project is the direct result of the legislated state energy plan, The Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES). The plan was passed into law in 2013 and is up for revision this year. It calls for nearly 300,000 residential or commercial buildings to be converted to fracked methane gas for heating. Ratepayer subsidized conversions mean the state now needs increased methane for the converted customers, a costly service.

### **DEEP Procures Gas Projects**

A 2015 law, Public Act 15-107, originally known as Bill 1078 and opposed by the Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club, gave the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) the authority to procure and develop large fracked gas projects, turning it into the state's energy regulator. Thus, DEEP selects the companies for each project. According to a June 27, 2016 *Hartford Business Journal* article, "Connecticut's energy regulator is in the midst of a major power procurement that could determine the fate of New England's largest proposed natural gas expansion project."

For example, DEEP may choose Access Northeast as part of its energy RFP process, which is pitting renewable energy against fracked gas projects although Access Northeast, a \$3 billion methane expansion project, has yet to demonstrate its viability and, as of June, 2016, Eversource had only half the customer contracts needed to make Access Northeast economical. Source: <http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/20160627/PRINTEDITION/306249937>

The Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) is calling for a reduced role of natural gas in the soon to be revised CES. According to John Humphries, organizer with CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs and GC3 member, GC3 is calling for a "significant reduction in our current level of reliance on natural gas as a fuel source." At the same time as the advisory body GC3 is advising DEEP to limit the role of methane in its energy strategy, DEEP is procuring billion dollar



fracked gas projects. DEEP's role as our state's "energy regulator" may overshadow its previous role as an environmental protection agency.

Billion dollar projects that get built and then abandoned on the taxpayer's dime are a concern to many. A lack of customers was the reason Kinder Morgan cancelled the \$3.3 billion Northeast Energy Direct gas pipeline, although their CT Expansion project is going forward. According to energy expert Joel Gordes, the state energy regulator should "strictly reduce or limit support of future utility and other third-party investments into technologies that further centralize the grid. These include large transmission facilities, gas pipeline expansions and nuclear plants that may lead to huge stranded costs for ratepayers in the future."

### **No Cost Savings**

The primary driver of the state mandated gas expansion was presumed cost savings. These savings have never been realized.

**First**, the price of oil dropped along with the price of gas because of a glut of fracked products on the market. This change meant that the gas conversions, which cost about \$5,000 or more per residence, would not pay for themselves in fuel cost savings. In fact, customers who consent to gas conversions can have liens put on their houses by the utilities, so if they can't make the payments, Eversource or Iberdrola could take ownership of their home.

**Second**, all electricity customers in Connecticut have been subsidizing the gas conversions since 2013, and many have seen their electric bills increase from the added charges. The extra money has been used to pay for gas conversion advertising and for necessary infrastructure that accompanies adding customers and miles of new gas pipeline.

**Third**, Public Act 15-107 mandates that all electricity customers subsidize the construction of future regional methane pipeline, such as Access Northeast, which will make electricity even more expensive for consumers without bringing a cheaper supply of fuel to the region.

**Fact:** The home heating oil commonly used in Connecticut now is called bioheat 2 or B2. It is made of 2% refined reclaimed food grade oil, such as fryer oil from restaurants. B2 can be used interchangeably with home heating oil and it produces less carbon dioxide, SOX, NOX and particulate matter than natural gas. B2 is around the same price as natural gas, BTU per BTU, and in some parts of the state, is cheaper. There is no economic benefit in spending \$5,000 or more to convert to a fuel which is not cheaper than oil, not more efficient and is worse for the climate and air. Source: <https://noraweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Developing-a-Renewable-Biofuel-Option-May-2015-R2.pdf>

### **Energy Plan Accelerates Climate Change**

Another driver of the CES was the idea that natural gas provides environmental benefits. Those beliefs have been proven false in the years since the original CES was drafted. When burned, methane produces less carbon dioxide than burning coal or oil; however, over its life span from extraction through transport to use, it produces more carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels.

Even more troubling, we learned that methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, about 100 times stronger at trapping heat in the atmosphere in the decade or more that methane persists. DEEP and the EPA both use outdated and inaccurate figures in their calculations of the harmfulness of methane, although numerous scientists and organizations have called for EPA to update the numbers.

*For the scientist letter on methane, click on the following link:*

[http://sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/connecticut-chapter/Scientist letter re methane GWP 7-29-14-2.pdf](http://sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/connecticut-chapter/Scientist%20letter%20re%20methane%20GWP%207-29-14-2.pdf)

This spring we saw unprecedented forest fires in New Hampshire due to drought. Every month so far this year has set a record for higher temperatures. A recent Acadia Center report shows that CT has not met its targeted carbon dioxide reductions; carbon dioxide has been rising since 2012. As a result of the known incidence of fugitive methane emissions, which independent research measures at 4% to 5%, Connecticut's state energy policy is responsible for significant methane emissions which will have and already are having a dramatic and harmful effect on the climate.

### **Fracked Gas Expansion Is Not Needed**

The methane expansion strategy hurts Connecticut ratepayers, is terrible for the climate, and with low electricity demand, is not needed.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Our state government should invest immediately in utility scale 100% renewable power infrastructure, and prepare to close the nuclear, coal and gas and oil power plants.
2. Concurrently, the state should push for electrification, of residential heating and cooling via electric air source heat pumps, as well as of the transportation sector.
3. Stop the ratepayer sponsored gas conversions and deny the energy corporations public money, which in most cases will make their multi-billion dollar projects uneconomical and unviable.
4. Take away the envy in the energy industry over the give-aways to the gas corporations. Dominion, the owner of Millstone in Waterford, the last nuclear plant in New England, filed with FERC in July to apply a tariff, or a tax on all electric consumers, to keep Millstone open, after the Connecticut legislature refused in the spring to pass a ratepayer subsidy for Dominion.
5. Increase energy efficiencies and new renewable power coming online. These have kept electricity demand in New England virtually flat for the past five years, according to a study released by Massachusetts Attorney General, Maura Healy. Independent System Operators-New England (ISO-NE) found similar low levels of demand, noting that in 2015, summer electricity demand (normally a time of peak demand) was at the fifth lowest level since 2003. "While the average weather was similar, energy usage during July 2015 dropped to 12,077 GWh, about 1.4% lower than the July 2014 energy consumption, and the fifth-lowest level of energy consumption during any July since 2003. **Source:** "Wholesale electricity prices and demand in New England, July 2015" [www.isone.com](http://www.isone.com) Aug. 11, 2015
6. Meet greenhouse gas targets with an immediate transition to a 100% renewable energy economy. It is the best way to meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets and is necessary to minimize the worst effects of climate disruption. Renewable energy can put our economy back on track, and provide jobs for the young and the unemployed. A 100% renewable energy economy minimizes environmental injustice and creates a safer and healthier world for all.

### **What's Next: Strategy for Beyond Gas Campaign**

During the autumn of 2016, the CT Chapter will lead in-district meetings to educate and influence state legislators, the ultimate deciders of the CES, about energy economics, risks of methane and alternatives. As we nail down future dates, we will keep you informed, and anticipate that you will want to join us in your district. We are grateful for your participation and support.

*Martha Klein is Communications Chair of the CT Chapter of The Sierra Club.*

# CT Wildlife and Forests, Yesterday and Today

## *Part One: Yesterday*

by Nora Hulton

Before the arrival of the first European settlers, Connecticut was home to elk, grey wolf, and passenger pigeon; species that will never grace our landscape again. What most people don't realize, however, is that many commonly sighted animals today such as: turkey, beaver, black bear, and fisher were extirpated from the Nutmeg State for decades and some for centuries. Essentially, children growing up in the 21st century are exposed to more wildlife than the three or four previous generations.



Passenger Pigeon



Grey Wolf



Elk

When the first settlers arrived in the early 1600s, the area that is now known as Connecticut was a mostly forested landscape inhabited by roughly 50,000 Native Americans. Approximately 96% of the land was wooded with the dominant tree species being American Chestnut, Oak, and White Pine. Within these forests were tucked marshes and swamps that created a unique ecosystem that was host to a diverse array of plant and animal life. There was no ownership of the land and it remained virtually unchanged over the 10,000 years it was occupied by the indigenous people.



American Chestnut Tree



Oak Tree



White Pine Tree

### **Homesteading to Industrial Revolution**

The colonists established their homesteads by clearing the land for agriculture and using the harvested wood for homebuilding, firewood and fencing. As many more colonists arrived, the continued hacking of trees and reduction in forests started taking its toll on the wildlife. By the early 1800s, white tailed deer populations were low and on a continuous decline, elk were almost eradicated and the forest dwelling turkey was just a memory.

The early 19<sup>th</sup> century also brought the construction of railroads, which increasingly taxed the woodlands as more trees were needed for track material. By the mid-1800s, only about 20% of Connecticut remained forested. The last black bear was spotted in Goshen in 1840, elk finally succumbed to the destruction of their habitat and beaver had been successfully extirpated because of over-hunting. Logically, with the disappearance of the beaver came the degradation of the wetlands and the decline of the wildlife that depend on that habitat such as the wood duck and river otter.

The late 1800s, however, saw the dawn of the Industrial Revolution and the abandonment of farms when farmers migrated to cities for factory jobs. Still more fled West as the government offered free farmland to Civil War Veterans. Others followed the lure of the California Gold Rush. Slowly, the abandoned farmland reverted to forest. The stage was being set for Act II of the Connecticut Woodlands.

### **Wildlife in the 20th Century**

The white-tailed deer, whose population was perilously low between 1700 and 1900, began to experience a slow, but steady comeback. The resurgence of forests, coupled with protective laws, helped facilitate the growth of their numbers. In 1907, a law was passed to allow farmers to shoot nuisance deer that were browsing on their crops, but it wasn't until 1975 that Connecticut held its first firearms hunting season for deer. The population has continued to grow, and hunting regulations have evolved to help maintain a healthy and viable community while still dealing with the increasing deer damage problems.

In the next issue of *The Quinnehtukqut*, Hulton discusses the reintroduction of wildlife into Connecticut and its effects.

*Nora Hulton is a Connecticut Master Wildlife Conservationist.*



# The History of John Muir and The Sierra Club

## *A Serial in Seven Parts*

by Helen R. Applebaum

### Part Three: Yosemite Becomes a National Park

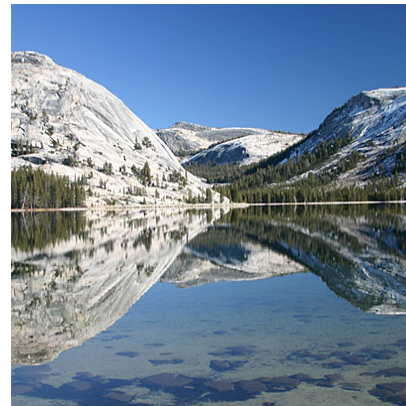


Yosemite National Park

Harmony between man and nature were central to John Muir's life in 1889. Tenaya Lake, an alpine lake in Yosemite, CA was born when an ice sheet flowed over the Yosemite Valley. Native Americans recognized the beauty of the 100 foot deep lake, cupped by a basin of rock formations surrounded by mountains rising 8,150 feet. They named it Pieweack or "Lake of Shining Rocks." It is an example of a place that Muir sought peace and tranquility. Today it is referred to as the "Jewel of the High Country." It's a site that Muir took Professor Joseph LeConte to admire its wonders.

#### **Century Magazine Plays a Role**

In the same year, 1889, Muir traveled to northern Yosemite with Robert Underwood Johnson, editor of *Century* magazine, one of the most influential magazines of its time. Muir wanted to show Johnson how sheep were damaging the mountain meadows while pigsties and corrals littered the Yosemite Valley. Only a portion of Yosemite had been preserved as a state park by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864. Under its current management, there was wide spread devastation.



Tenaya Lake in Yosemite National Park



John Muir in Yosemite

The two men camped at Soda Springs, natural springs of clear, carbonated water in Tuolumne Meadows. The location is one of the largest high-elevation meadows in what is now referred to as the Sierra Nevada. The Tuolumne River meanders through the meadow and cascades over the granite river bottom surrounded by rugged mountain peaks and domes carved by glaciers. The Miwok and Paiute Indians accessed this area for thousands of years. The Tioga Road was a trade route through the Sierras, originally called Mono Trail when it linked the Miwok Indian encampments with those of the Paiutes of the Mono Lake region.

## How a National Park Was Born

With Robert Underwood Johnson beside him, John Muir proposed a way to create a national park, a Yosemite National Park to save the area. Johnson was convinced of the value of incorporating the land into a national park and ran two long Muir written articles in *Century* magazine. Muir wrote about the preservation of our forests, the country's natural resources and its ecosystems. Johnson's publication sparked a bill in the U.S. Congress that proposed creating a new federally administered park surrounding the existing Yosemite Grant. Yosemite National Park became a reality in 1890 covering 1200 square miles. The National Park Service today describes it as, "Not just a great valley, but a shrine to human foresight, the strength of granite, the power of glaciers, the persistence of life and the tranquility of the High Sierra."



A cascade in Yosemite Park

Today the John Muir Trail is a 211 mile long distance hiking trail that follows the Sierra Nevada mountain range north to south. It passes through Kings Canyon National Park and Sequoia National Park and is one of the best known hiking trails in the world.

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

## Audio

Listen to information about John Muir at the following website:

<http://myhero.com/audio/listen.asp?artid=32>

## Bibliography

[nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

[http://vault.sierraclub.org/john\\_muir\\_exhibit/life/in\\_yose\\_with\\_muir\\_clara\\_barrus/default.aspx](http://vault.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/life/in_yose_with_muir_clara_barrus/default.aspx)

[http://vault.sierraclub.org/john\\_muir\\_exhibit/writings/features\\_of\\_the\\_proposed\\_yosemite\\_national\\_park/default.aspx](http://vault.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/writings/features_of_the_proposed_yosemite_national_park/default.aspx)

[backpacker.com](http://backpacker.com)

[learnnc.org](http://learnnc.org)



## SUMMER POEM

### Rose Rhapsody

My roses grow lush this year.  
Soaking rain and warm days abound,  
But with too little sun I fear.  
Still, their many blooms astound.

Their gentle glow lightens any despair,  
From the chaos filled outer world.  
Sweet, spicy, fruity and musky rose scented air,  
As I gaze at solid, picoteed or swirled.

Snipping spent blooms in morning light,  
Bright colors or blushing off white,  
Soft or deep tones, a cheering sight.  
Ovoid, pointed or urn shaped all delight.

Be their form classic rose or ruffled single,  
In my enchanted garden, diversity is prized.  
Proud, generous and free spirited bushes mingle,  
Yearning climbers to smug minis are organized.

But after the thrill of an abundant first flush,  
How to keep them from succumbing,  
As pelting rains posies bend and crush?  
Despite this and biting bugs, more are forthcoming!

My thorny ones' crusty canes have a lesson to heed,  
Beneath their fabled beauty's joy and peace.  
More often I prune and feed, spray and weed.  
In our symbiosis, life perils we appease.

For if humans, pets or roses your life enhance,  
Take them as they are, tend their needs and together advance.

*M. RENEE TAYLOR*



A Rose at Sunset  
Photo credit: Abby Ripley, New Milford, CT

## The Q is brought to you by:

Martha Klein, Communications Chair  
Helen Applebaum, Editor  
Heather Fronczek, Graphic Designer  
Dennis Desmarais, IT  
John Calandrelli, Website, Program Manager

## Request For Content

*The September Quinnehtukqut will distribute at the beginning of the month.*

**Submissions are due the week of August 8th: Final deadline is August 15th.**

*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.*

## SOLAR POWER

### **Have you ever considered going solar?**

If so, **now is the time** because it's cheaper and easier than ever. Here's the proof: A new study just found that in 42 out of 50 of the largest U.S. cities, a typically-sized, \$0-down home solar system costs less than the energy purchased from a residential customer's local utility.\*

**Join more than 1,100 Sierra Club supporters in making the switch to clean energy.**

With flexible financing through different Sungevity Energy Plans, you can get an efficient solar system without emptying your pockets. Plus you'll lock in your electricity rate for years to come! It sounds too good to be true, but it's not!

Now is the time to go solar.

**Join the clean-energy movement today!**

**Check it out at:** [www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes](http://www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes)



Solar energy lifts life on earth



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Create a Lasting Legacy

By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come.

For confidential assistance, contact:  
**Sierra Club**  
**Gift Planning Program**  
85 Second Street, Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org)  
(800) 932-4270



... Your lasting legacy...

## CREATE YOUR LEGACY

To create your legacy go to:  
[sierraclubfoundation.org](http://sierraclubfoundation.org)  
or email: [gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org)