



EARTH DAY EVENT at the LYME PUBLIC HALL

249 Hamburg Rd. (Route 156), Lyme CT
Sunday, April 21, 2024
10:00 am -- 4:00 pm



10:00 am -- Jim Arrigoni Environmental Director, Lyme Land Conservation Trust

A Biologist's Perspective on What Makes Lyme Special

Lyme is renowned for its rural character and network of protected natural areas, making it dependable habitat for the strange and wonderful critters doing fascinating things all around us. We'll take a close look at a variety of Lyme wildlife species and consider their unique characteristics and how they make their livings, often in preserves that you are also welcome to visit and enjoy. Many of these wildlife species are rare or absent elsewhere in southern New England, indicating the richness of Lyme's natural heritage and the importance of our stewardship responsibility.

Jim Arrigoni is environmental director at the Lyme Land Trust in Lyme, Connecticut, where he oversees stewardship of over 3,200 acres spread across 112 parcels that are owned or managed by LLT. He has 25 years of experience spanning ecological research and restoration, natural resource and protected areas management, and environmental education, with conservation of biological diversity as the common connective thread. Jim holds a BS degree in wildlife and fisheries biology from the University of Vermont and a MS degree in conservation biology from the State University of New York in Syracuse.



Just two examples of wildlife species residing in Lyme's protected forest lands: the Spotted Turtle and Yellow Spotted Salamander. *Photos courtesy of Jim Arrigoni*

11:00 am -- Judy Preston
Environmental Professional

Why Backyard Habitat Matters

We have an opportunity to redefine the way we value our backyard gardens and landscapes: what used to be designed for curb appeal and weekend puttering for many, now has the capacity to

deliver so much more. This program explores the benefits of transitioning our gardens and yards into landscapes that can complement the many acres of protected natural areas surrounding us.

- Learn what “native” is and why that matters
- How to attract and sustain wildlife
- Manage your landscape to store and sequester carbon, while reducing water, fertilizer and chemical inputs
- Collectively make a significant environmental difference

Judy Preston is a long-time environmental professional in Connecticut where she focuses on community-based conservation and education. An avid gardener, she has transitioned her yard into native habitat that informs her writing, public speaking and commitment to environmental well-being. Judy was awarded the Garden Club of America Coastal Zone Conservation award in 2021. She holds an undergraduate degree in geology, an MS in botany (UVM Field Naturalist Program) and a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale Forestry School. She writes about the intersection of people and nature.



A diverse native habitat garden. *Photo by Judy Preston*

12:00-1:00 -- Lunch Break Bring your own Brown Bag (drinks and cookies provided by Lyme Public Hall)

1:00 pm -- Emma Sutphen Farmer, Adesa Farm, North Stonington

Beyond Organic Pest Management



Emma Sutphen at work in the garden. *Photo courtesy of Emma Sutphen.*

Emma will lead us in a discussion of the methods of biological pest control and best practices for mitigating pest pressure on plants. Discover ways to mimic Nature’s systems by using available natural soil foods, green manures and composts to enhance your soil’s vitality. You’ll learn about the soil food web and biological pest control to combat New England’s common pests.

Emma is the owner and manager of a small, no-till farm in North Stonington, CT and resides there with her 100 poultry, three dogs and partner. Her interest in sustainable agriculture was sparked when she took a position as an intern for Worcester’s Regional Environmental Council, and the following summer at the Coogan Farm Giving Garden. Since then, she has developed a passion for increasing food security, small scale sustainable farms working to increase the density of local food supply chains, and introducing backyard

gardeners to methods that decrease chemical inputs and tillage practices. She dreams of a world where every family has a backyard garden.

2:00 pm -- Craig Floyd Retired Farm Manager, Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center's *Craig Floyd Giving Garden* at Coogan Farm

Mother Earth Friendly Gardening

Craig is here to tell us about a Mother Earth friendly way to garden that uses no harmful chemicals, attracts native pollinators and beneficial insects and delivers up to 78% more production than conventional Agriculture and helps those with special needs and PTSD. Using regenerative techniques, Craig explains that health plants are indigestible to bugs...no sprays needed. He will also explain how the garden helps Veterans with PTSD and he will enlighten you to the emergency mission situation pertaining to soil degradation...**we have just over 50 years of soil left on the planet and we must change how we farm.**

Farmer Craig is a 10th generation, 76-year-old farmer in Old Mystic, CT. Craig teaches many classes in regenerative agriculture to students all over the country, but his focus has been in making a difference in the local area by managing a volunteer work force of over 300 people to grow nutrient-dense food for those in need. Having donated over 30 tons of produce since 2015, his work at Coogan Farms leads the way in SE Connecticut in teaching and using regenerative ag. Craig is currently the Commander of the Hugo A. Simonelli Post 3263 VFW, Mystic. He is a Vietnam veteran with 20 years of military service, a past Clerk in Charge of the West Mystic Post Office and the owner, along with his wife Sheryl, of Footsteps Farm, which was Connecticut's first certified humane farm. Craig's family has been farming the same land since 1712. *Farm on!*

3:00 pm -- Tom Kalal Cranberry Meadow Farm, East Lyme

Beekeeping Basics

Tom will review the basics of Beekeeping: how to establish, maintain and overwinter a hive; harvesting honey; pest control; gardening for bees and what



Bees resting on their "front porch" to beat the summer heat. *Photos courtesy of Tom Kalal*

equipment you will need to get your apiary going.

Tom and his wife Nancy operate Cranberry Meadow Farm in East Lyme. They raise honey bees, beef cattle, pigs and chickens, focusing on health and humane animal care. In addition to honey bees, Tom is a plant lover and grower of fruits, vegetables and native shrubs and flowers. Tom is a graduate of UConn with a BS in Agriculture, a Master Gardener and Master Composter.



Tom Kalal installing a package of bees.

Thank you to our sponsors: the [Lyme-Old Lyme Food Share Garden](#), the [Lyme Land Conservation Trust](#), the [Lyme Garden Club](#) and the [Lyme Pollinator Pathway](#).



Lyme Land Trust



Lyme Public Hall



& Local History Archives, Inc.
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