## BACKYARD Tips on Creating Your Own Compost Material CONSERVATION

Your garden will benefit from nutreint-rich compost material. Composting your kitchen and yard waste keeps lots of organic matter out of landfill too.

## Composting Made Simple

Composting turns household wastes into valuable fertilizer and soil organic matter. It's the ultimate soil amendment experienced gardeners call it black gold.

To begin, put your bin in a level, well-drained area in full sun, with good air-circulation. Add equal parts brown and green wastes, see list right. To aerate the pile, mix or toss frequently with a garden fork, or poke air holes into it with a broom handle. Keep the pile moist, like a sponge, but not soaking wet. The process is finished when the bottom of the pile has dark, rich soil that crumbles in your hand.

#### Compost Mantra

If your compost has an ammonia odor, you need more carbon-rich brown debris. if your compost isn't decomposing fast enough, you can add more nitrogen-rich green debris.

Appointed by the Planning and Zoning Commission the Land Use Committee acts as its subcommittee to update the town's 2002 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The plan is to be updated at least every ten years, under Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General

#### Future Growth and Development

The most important function for the Plan is to help guide the future growth and development of Beacon Falls through a series of publically approved goals, policies and strategies.

The Plan should record the best thinking of the Town for its future physical growth and development and give direction to both the public and private development

In addition, it will serve as a reference for Regional and State representatives to evaluate various developments and projects including potential funding.

The Board of Selectmen thought that the town would be best represented in Here are a few common sources of green and brown debris:

#### Green Waste (Nitrogen)

Fruit wastes Spent annuals Grass clippings Manure Seaweed and kelp Vegetable peelings Coffee grounds



#### Brown Waste (Carbon)

Cornstalks and cobs Evergreen needles Paper Sawdust and wood chips Straw and hay Most tree leaves

#### What NOT to Compost

Disease and insect-infested plants Charcoal ashes Fabric Grass clippings treated with weed killer Meat, fish, and bones Egg whites, yolks and fats Pet, bird and human waste Weeds gone to seed

PLAN of CONSERVATION & **DEVELOPMENT** by Rich Minnick, Chair

> developing the Plan by a diverse Land Use Committee, P & Z agreed. The Committee consists of representatives from Planning & Zoning, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses, Parks & Recreation, Conservation, Economic Development and the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Land Use Committee

#### Get Involved and Informed

Citizens are encouraged to take an active role its development. To view the POCD visit the town web site at:

www.beaconfalls-ct.org and click on the Planning & important document.



#### by Bill Chellis

Huddled around countless hearths, over innumerable nights, the ancients watched the ceaseless movements of the heavens overhead and wove together a legacy of timeless tales. They imagined the night sky itself as a grand canvas, upon which the epic struggles of the mythological figures in their constellations played out. The light cycle of the sun and moon set a natural pace for human activity.

In this way, man found order and meaning, and began to understand his place in the Universe. Sadly for many, that connection, that meaning, is now lost. We instead choose to huddle around the cold glow of countless, comparably tiny, flatscreen televisions.

When we do look up, we now wonder: where have the stars gone? The skies of our ancestors are still there, but they are now garish glow of the lights millions use to turn back the night. That wasteful glow carries steep economic and health costs.

According to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) "Human-produced light pollution not only mars our view of the stars; poor lighting threatens astronomy, disrupts ecosystems, affects human circadian rhythms, and wastes energy to the tune of \$2.2 billion per year in the U.S. alone."

Of course, some lights at night are needed for safety or for recreation. The IDA recommends you only light what you need, when you need it. Doing so cuts electric costs, light trespass, and helps restore the natural balance of night and

The next time you step outside on a clear night, leave the light off and look up first. Give your eyes just a few minutes to take in the night. Let your mind wonder among bright stars. Look for the moon or the drowned out, endangered, and lost in the Milky Way—let the cosmos in. When you come to realize the true grandeur hanging right over your head, you may never take the night sky for granted again.

# RECYCLING & by Chris Yanarella PHANTOM LOADS

you may find yourself asking what to do has been wiped clean

electronics. Some big-box retailers offer

- · Handing down older working technol-
- recyclable form.

visit www.thecomputerrecycler.com.

**UNPLUG** these items to keep the meter

















An exciting **Discovery Day Event** in store for students from Region 16 on Friday, October 14TH.

**DISCOVER** 

C DAY

Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Head of the Science Programs at Post University, Jil Blasi, Chair Science Department at Woodland Regional High School and AP teacher Lisa Croce will lead the event for a fun-filled day of educational activities in science and nature. Science students from Post University will assist the teachers The Discovery Day event aligns perfectly with the No Child Left Inside program.

#### Details of the Event

The **Discovery Day** interactive event will be held at Matthies Park in Beacon Falls from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

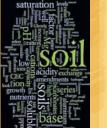
#### Science & Nature Activities

Science and nature stations will be set up featuring the following interesting topic

- Vegetation Identification
- Compass Reading
- Soil Assessment Station
- Water Critters • Science Craft Station

University will set up and manage the interactive science stations.

The grand finale will be an environmental *Scavenger Hunt* where students will hunt for items using the knowledge they learned from each science station including compass reading. More details will be released in school in September



2011

Protecting. Preserving. Making a Difference.



The Night Sky Composting, Black Gold Plan of Conservation and Development Electronic Recycling and Phantom Loads Our-Space Bulletin - Members Share Ideas Community Forum and Discovery Day Events CONSERVATION COMMISSION of BEACON FALLS

We can never have enough of nature.

Henry David Thoreau

The commission meets the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm in Town Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

present to you the third issue of our annual newsletter CONSERV.

Our goal is to summarize the latest news and events in a

single communication piece, CONSERV serves this purpose.

The community we share is rich in valuable resources — enjoying and respecting these beautiful assets should be made by all. Their ongoing existence is dependent upon how we individually, and as a community protect, manage, maintain and preserve these valuable resources for generations to come.

Speaking of our natural resources, it is with great pleasure to announce that we will again host a Community Forum featuring guest speakers that will inspire all stakeholders, young and old alike. Save the Date - October 13<sup>TH</sup> and read all about the event in this newsletter.

Thank you for your commitment to our natural resources, we hope you enjoy this issue of **CONSERV** 

Sincerely, Dran Gettlos ki Diane Betkoski



5-Tips for Your Health

The Nature Conservancy offered an eating green article with tips that I'd like to share. We try to employ these tips regularly at home.

- 1) Eat Smart. Know your food what's in it, where it came from and who it impacts.
- 2) Eat Local. Support local farmers.
- 3) Eat Sustainable. Learn about sustainable food and how to prepare.
- **4) Eat Green.** Incorporate more fruits and vegatables into your diet.
- 5) Eat Out. Enjoy a picnic at one of our beautiful parks and Manga.

- Anita Goerig

#### The following volunteer's serve on the conservation commission:

Diane Betkoski, Chairperson Anita Goerig, Vice-Chair Christian Yanarella, Secretary Chris Bielik, Commissioner Jeffrey Goerig, Commissioner

Two seats are available for those who would like to volunteer.

## CAPTURE FREE, RAIN WATER

Keep Your Garden Lush

Collecting water in a rain barrel will help keep your garden lush this summer and conserve water.

Rain barrels typically hold about 50 to 60 gallons each enough to irrigate a small

garden. A rain barrel should include an intake line, spigot, overflow attachment, screen cover to keep out leaves and removable solid cover.

Position the barrel beneath a downspout. To keep the rainwater pure, remove the solid cover an hour or two after rainfall has washed pollen and other pollutants off the roof. Average cost about \$150.

- Jeffrey Goerig

## THE 10 ESSENTIALS For a Safe Hike

1. Extra clothing and sturdy footwear. Be prepared for unexpected weather changes, dress in layers.

- 2. Food and water. High calorie foods, granola bars, candy, and nuts supply energy and drink plenty of water.
- 3. Pocket knife. This lightweight tool provides a variety of options for repairs, food preparation, bandage cutting, etc.
- 4. Map and compass. Lost? Disoriented in the fog? A compass can get you home if vou know how to use it.

#### 10 Essentials for a Safe Hike (con't)

- 5. Timepiece. Allow enough time to return to the trailhead before the sun goes down.
- 6. Flashlight. An injury or miscalculation may keep you on the trail after nightfall.
- 7. Waterproof matches/fire starter. Warmth of a fire could save your life.
- **8.** First-aid kit. Bring the basics; bandages, pain relievers and antiseptic
- 9. Whistle. A far-reaching, energy efficient signal for help.
- 10. Hunting calendar. Always obtain up-to-date information about hunting season. Wear blaze orange for added protection.

Courtesy of the CT Forest and Park **Association** www.ctwoodlands.org

## 13<sup>TH</sup> Annual SAVE THE DATE RiverFest & Duck Race

Saturday October, 1<sup>ST</sup> 10:30 am to 4:30 pm Volunteer Park, Beacon Falls Race starts at 3:00

## **Fabulous Prizes** Bands/Food/Crafts/Games Beacon Hose F.D.

will kick off Fire Safety Week! More info. call Sue Mis at 203-560-1586

# **←FORUM**→

Region 16 students will

enjoy an exciting science

exploration **Discovery** 

Day on October 14th.

Details are on the back of

this newsletter.

**FUN FILLED EVENT** 

**√3** inter-active displays from

the Connecticut Science

Center, managed by a Staff

Scientist will delight 1ST

through 8<sup>TH</sup> grade students

from **4:30 - 5:30 PM.** This

program is sponsored by CT

An exciting educational

science presentation for all students,

\chi An informative program

young and old alike,

for the entire community,

Vendors will display their

products and services in

tradeshow like atmosphere

Region 16 students will

• Connecticut Outdoors LLC,

• The Natural Princess

• Gabriela's Bicycle Shop,

• Boy Scout Troop #104,

• Seymour Land Trust,

• Post University,

and more...

CT Community Foundation,

display a science project.

Community Foundation

#### AWARD CERTIFICATE'S Susan Peterson, Watershed

Mgr., CT DEEP will present certificate's to Patrick O'Dell for his Eagle Scout project and Boy Scout Troop #104 for their work on the Storm Drain Marker Program.

#### · • DINNER • • •

Food vendors will be available for the purchase of light dinner fare from 4:00 - 6:00 PM.

COMMUNITY Join us as we discuss our Diverse

FORUM Greenway opportunities in the



PLACE: WOODLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTATIONS BEGIN AT: 6:00 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Director of the Science Programs at Post University

Presentations by:

Phil Goff, Senior Planner with Alta Planning (Greenways) Elaine Sych, ERT Coordinator with Kings Mark (Environment)

Event Moderator:

Jack Betkoski, Commissioner, CT DEEP







CONSERV is designed, written and managed by Anita Goerig, Chair of Community Outreach. For more information visit us on-line where you'll find a link to our Twitter, Blog & Facebook pages.

www.beaconfalls-ct.org/conservation