



Chief, Facilities Engineering Division

CDR Scott Gesele
(860) 701-6727

Environmental & Safety Branch:

Mr. Mark Buck
(860) 444-8224

Mr. Steve Tartaris
(860) 701-6165

Ms. Ashley Cordi
(860) 444-8233

Staff Contributors:
Dr. Ian Frommer

Cadet Contributors:
1/c Greg Bernstein
3/c Justine Morrison
3/c Cyrus Unvala

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Eco-Friendly 2

Cute Chicks 2

Mind the... 3

Caught! 3

Forum & Class 4

Beehive 5

A Word From 6



Sustainability Today

VOLUME I, ISSUE 5

MAY / JUNE 2011

Fair Winds and Following Seas, Admiral Burhoe



Admiral Burhoe with Cadet Sustainability Club members (Class of '08/'09). The Sustainability Club was founded in 2006 by cadets to develop a "Green Network" a coalition of future leaders dedicated to green living and keeping themselves and the planet healthy by advancing Coast Guard sustainability initiatives.

Since his arrival in 2007 to the Academy, Rear Admiral Burhoe made it clear that he was committed to implementing a culture of sustainability that will influence members of the Coast Guard to become Environmental Stewards.

Under his leadership, the Coast Guard Academy strives to lead by example through facilitating a culture of sustainability and to lead the Coast Guard by example, "since sustainability starts with each of us and must be a constant consideration in every action we take."

The Academy's sustainability policies and practices that were developed and instituted under Rear Admiral Burhoe's direction are directly linked to the Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

The Sustainability Policy Statement, for example, has the overall goal to institute activities and policies that

constructively encourage sustainable activities such as source reduction, recycling, and pollution prevention initiatives. Through the Sustainability Policy Statement, he targeted three main areas of responsibilities:

Academy Community: To lead by example and foster environmental stewardship; to serve as a model to the Coast Guard and local community; to create and spread awareness on the importance of sustainability; to recycle, reuse, and reduce the amount of waste we generate; to focus on long-term benefits despite potential higher initial costs; and support the Cadet Sustainability Club.

Facility Operations: To develop indicators for sustainability that will enable monitoring, reporting and continuous improvement to inform and guide Academy strategic planning, decision making, and daily operations; follow Leadership in Energy

and Environmental Design (LEED®) principles for operations, maintenance, construction, and renovations; monitor change and improvements the Academy makes in regards to our impact on the environment by using resources such as a carbon or greenhouse gas calculator; reduce the purchase of hazardous materials with more environmentally friendly items and establish a strong source control program.

Academics: To encourage environmental inquiry and institutional learning throughout the Academy community by supporting staff research on sustainability topics; infuse curriculum with sustainability topics and integrate sustainability issues into research, capstone projects, and student life; and identify appropriate ways for faculty and student research to be pilot tested on campus.

Rear Admiral Burhoe is a strong supporter of the Cadet Sustainability Club and other cadet sustainability activities. Rear Admiral Burhoe's influence on the Academy's Sustainability program is designed to lead through an intentional, positive influence that is aimed at the Corps of Cadets, staff, and guests demonstrating that "a sustainable Coast Guard begins with a sustainable Academy."

Thank you, Admiral Burhoe, for your vision, strong support and positive influence to help develop the Academy's sustainability program. We wish you "fair winds and following seas" in the new adventures waiting for you ahead.



Eco Conscious



<http://www.indiansnewscenter.com/news/local/Watch-Three-American-Eaglets-Grow-Up-119855724.html>

Eco-nomic, Eco-Friendly, Eco-Fun

Eco-friendly does not have to mean "eek-o-geeky." With school out, the economy down and petroleum prices high, many people are opting for "stay-cations" and are looking for free or inexpensive fun closer to home. Here are a few eco-fun and eco-friendly ideas that you may enjoy:

Hold a Garage Sale: Gather all the unwanted things you don't use or need anymore and recycle by selling!

Grow a Plant: Have you seen the price of tomatoes recently? Try to grow your own fruits or vegetables, something that can be used in your kitchen. Many fruits and vegetables can easily be grown on a patio in containers.

Have a Picnic: Fun without the kitchen table cleanup. Enough said!

Visit a "Pick Your Own" Farm or Orchards: Farms are a great place to see how food is

grown and harvested. Learn which fruits and veggies grow in your area. Interact with and learn about farm animals.

Go to the Library: Libraries are full of information about the environment.

Visit Nature Parks, Preserves, & Beaches: Explore a natural trail. Let the kids look in nooks and crannies and climb on rocks, or watch a waterfall. Play in the sand, jump in waves. Pack a lunch and picnic next to a swimming hole where you and the kids can take a swim or cool your feet.

Your Own Backyard: Walk around your neighborhood. Hold a nature scavenger hunt for the kids. Write down several items on a piece of paper (leaf, rock, flower, etc), give them each a bucket to collect the items found on the list, such as a leaf, rock, flower, feather. This can be tons of fun

and gets them looking for items they may have otherwise overlooked. Don't forget, the Great American Backyard Campout is June 25th!

Canoeing, Kayaking, Row Boating:

Instead of renting a motorboat this summer, opt for a non-polluting water activity. Canoeing and kayaking are fun solo or in groups. A row boat is a environmentally-safe option for fishing outings. Make sure everyone is wearing their lifejackets!

MWR Office & Rental Center:

The Academy's MWR can provide you information and discount tickets to activities. The Rental Center has an assortment of equipment at a very reasonable price. Give them a call at X8474 or X8476.

Don't forget the sun-screen! Have a safe, happy summer!



Check This Out: Cute Chicks

Like most reality show stars, three cute chicks in Iowa became overnight internet sensations without doing much of anything—except for hatching!

For the past few years, the Raptor Resource Project (<http://raptorresource.org/>) and other organizations position streaming web cameras ("birdcams") near nesting sites or boxes around the world.

From April 2 to April 6, 2011 via birdcam, an estimated 11 million people were able to log-on and witness three bald eagle chicks (eaglets) from Decorah, Iowa hatch in their nest about 80 feet from the ground. Since then, millions of people have logged on to watch the "doting parents" feed and tend to their offspring.

A few years ago, CBS News dubbed bird watching as the #1 spectator sport in America, attracting more people than NAS-

CAR and all professional sports combined. The US Fish & Wildlife Service estimate that 51.3 million Americans are "birders" - and this number continues to grow.

Birdcams are perched over all kinds of raptors nests: owls, ospreys, falcons, and kestrels. Using birdcams, viewers get to observe the intimate lives of birds, something they would not normally be able to see.

People worldwide are hooked on watching everything from the fascinating to the mundane: the effects on a nest from a vanished mate; mated pairs surviving through snow, ice, and rain storms; waiting for the brood to hatch; hatching; feeding the brood; the interaction between parent and siblings, sibling rivalry... it can go on!

Why is birding so popular? Maybe because attracting birds is easy. Birds only require a food and water source, and a safe nesting site.

Birding is a "bloodless sport." Birds

are captured by binoculars, cameras, journals, and sketches. Birding is also free entertainment and it's educational. Information about birding is widely available from government and private sources.

Birding can also be mentally and physically challenging: For example, one may pursue birding beyond their backyard and hike and climb to other birding sites. Migratory habits of birds are not the same. Plumage vary depending upon the sex of the bird. Many species have seasonal plumages, and many birds have plumage that vary during their first couple of years of life.

Birding is also popular with families because every member of the family can take part regardless of age or budget. With the popularity of birding ever increasing, maybe the *Pezoporus occidentalis* won't be the most elusive bird in the world for long!



Mind the Bats!

Many People are afraid of bats, but they have really no reason to be. Bats are mammals in the order Chiroptera, a name derived from the Greek word meaning "hand-wing." A bat wing incorporates its hands, legs, and tail, connected together by two thin pieces of skin that make up the wing membrane. It's this feature that makes the bat the *only* mammal capable of true and sustainable flight.

There are eight species of bats common to Connecticut. The two most common are the "Big Brown Bat" and the "Small Brown Bat":

Big Brown Bats, *Eptesicus fuscus*, are between 4 and 5 inches long, and weighing between 1/2 and 5/8 of an ounce. Their fur is moderately long and shiny brown. The wing membranes, ears, feet and face, are dark brown to blackish in color.

Little Brown Bats, *Myotis Lucifungus*, are one of the most common bats found all over the world. They are usually between 2-1/2 to (almost) 4 inches long, and weigh between 0.2 to 0.5 ounces. Their fur is uniformly dark brown and glossy on the back and upper parts, and slightly paler, grayish underneath.

Since bats suffer a "bad rap" here are a few facts that may help clear any misconceptions:

- Contrary to popular misconception, most bats have very good eyesight, and excellent echolocation. They do not become entangled in human hair, and seldom transmit disease to humans or other animals.

- Bats are the slowest reproducing

animals on earth for their size. Baby bats are called "pups." Most bats give birth to only a single pup each year, making them very vulnerable to extinction.

- Bats are very clean. When they are not eating or sleeping, they are constantly grooming themselves.
- A single little brown bat can eat up to 1,000 insects an hour, and is one of the worlds longest living mammals, for its size. Some species have life spans of almost 40 years.

•Bats pollinate plants and they scatter seed.. A single colony of 150 big brown bats can protect local farmers from up to 33 million or more root worms per year.

• Bats help prevent the spread of insect -borne disease. A small colony of 2,500 Little Brown Bats consumes about 66 pounds of insects in one night. With insect-borne diseases like Dengue Fever and West Nile on the rise in the United States, bat population are more important than ever.

•Most bats do not have rabies. Because bats are mammals, they can develop rabies, but most do not have the disease. Just like any other wild animal, don't handle bats. Being bitten my any wild animal should never be taken lightly.

The sad news is that nearly 40% of American bat species are in severe decline or already listed as endangered or threatened. Losses are occurring at an alarming rate world wide. Even worse, the Connecticut's Department

of Environmental Protection (DEP) Wildlife Division estimates that more than 90% of Connecticut's bat population have been killed by a cold-loving fungus that causes "White Nose Syndrome" (WNS).

The WNS fungus (*Geomyces destructans*) does not affect humans. There have been no reported human illnesses attributed to white-nose syndrome. This fungus is common in buildings and sandboxes, particularly in the northern areas. However, human interaction may pass the fungus to bats. Because of colony collapses due to WNS, the CT DEP anticipates the once-common Big and Little brown bats will soon be listed as threatened or endangered species.

CT DEP is asking the public to report any known summer bat colonies by calling (860)675-8130 or via email to Wildlife Technician, Christina Kocer (christina.kocer@ct.gov). As bats continue to return to maternity sites and summer roosts, DEP would also appreciate to hear from people about changes in the number of bats they are seeing or even about bat colonies that once existed and do not return to their previous homes.

<http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/>

<http://www.batconservation.org/>

http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=325964&depNav_GID=1655



Big Brown Bats are a common (unintended) Academy resident. Their numbers, however, are declining at an alarming rate. This Big Brown Bat was found in Hamilton Hall in February. It was turned over to a local certified wildlife rehabilitator.

"White Nose Syndrome continues to have a catastrophic effect on bats... In [2007] one of Connecticut's largest hibernacula had over 3,300 wintering bats. This year fewer than a dozen remain—all but one showed active signs of WNS. The outlook for their survival is grim."

**-Jenny Dickson, DEP
Supervising Wildlife Biologist**



Caught @ FiddleHeads

3/c Cyrus Unvala and 4/c Tony Seleznick letting local residents know what Cadet Sustainability is all about!



Sustainability Forum & Class: The Update

PAGE 4

The Forum: Developing Leaders in Sustainability

On Friday, April 8, 2011 the Sustainability Club hosted its first forum, "Developing Leaders in Sustainability. Lt/c Greg Bernstein, President of the Sustainability Club, introduced the esteemed guests:

Mr. Art Costa Moderator/Panelist, Re-New London Council, President, Sustainable Systems

Ms. Majora Carter Panelist, Majora Carter Group, Eco-entrepreneur

Dr. Norman W. Garrick Panelist, University of Connecticut, Urban Transportation

Ms. Amy Cabanis Panelist, Connecticut College, Sustainability

LCDR Brian Maggi Panelist, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Civil Engineering, Sustainability

The event was largely attended by local New Londoners, was an incredible success with panelist driven discussions.

The Sustainability Club enjoyed the opportunity to bring the Academy and local community together, and looks forward to holding another Forum next year.



The Class: Developing Leaders in Sustainability

The spring 2011 "Developing Leaders in Sustainability" course is now over. It was a very interesting experience for all involved. We heard from sustainability leaders from across the country talking about a wide range of sustainability topics, including:

Energy:

Prof. Andy Foley, USCGA Mech. Eng. (thermodynamics)
Prof. Elisha Garcia, USCGA Nav. Arch (marine renewables)
Mr. Daryl Dejean, ETA (energy efficiency)
Mr. Bill Leahy, ECSU (CT energy picture)
Ms. Anne Korin, IAGS (energy security)

Mr. Jeff Henning, CG retired, (wind energy)

Coast Guard:

CAPT John Hickey, USCG SMC
Admiral Tom Ostebo, USCG Engineering & Logistics

Materials:

Dr. Matthew Eckelman, Yale (industrial ecology)
Mr. Jonathan Hsu, CEO Recyclebank, (recycling)

Socio-economic:

Ms. Majora Carter ("Home(town) Security")

Other:

Mr. Art Costa (New London local economies)
Prof. Norman Garrick, UConn Civil Eng (urban transportation)
Ms. Wendi Goldsmith, CEO Bioengineering (Net-0 Military Installations)
LCDR Corinna Fleischmann, USCGA Civil Eng (water)

Ms. Amy Cabaniss, Conn College (campus sustainability)



Students read *Cape Wind*, *Cradle to Cradle*, the *Skeptical Environmentalist*, and a large number of articles, book chapters, etc. on various aspects of sustainability. Tours of CGA facilities (thanks to CDR Gesele and his staff) and LCDR Gudbrandsen's home to see renewable energy systems were conducted. The course wrapped up with student projects on topics such as CGA net-0 greenhouse and marine renewable energy at the Race in Long Island Sound.

We are grateful to SAIC and the CGA LDC for the generous grant we received to support the course.

- Dr. Ian Frommer

GO (GREEN) BEARS!

SUSTAINABILITY TODAY

Think before you print! Please use 2-sided printing.

The Beehive Collective

On April 25, 2011 the Cadet Sustainability Club and the Saul S. Krasner Science Lecture Series welcomed the "Beehive Collective" to the Academy.

The mission of the Beehive is to cross-pollinate the grassroots through non-copy-written art.

The structure of the event was unique. It included large representative murals that the audience was guided through by a "storyteller" from the Beehive.

The Beehive Collective's mural, "True Cost of Coal" was based around the group's efforts to spread awareness about mountaintop removal in Appalachia.

The storyteller related the ways our dependence on coal energy is becoming increasingly detrimental not only to our environment but also to our communities as well.



The Sustainability Club would like to thank everyone that attended our 1st Sustainability Forum and the Beehive Collective event.

The Club plans to sponsor a second Sustainability Forum and other events next year.

We want to know what sustainable topics and activities that interest you. Please give any Sustainability Club member your ideas. Better yet, come help make a difference at the Academy and beyond - join the Club!

Go (Green) Bears!





A Word from the Cadet Sustainability Club

What about submitting one of your photos? Do you have an idea or suggestion? Your help is always appreciated! Please contact Ashley Cordi 860.447.8233 or email: ashleyj.cordi@uscg.mil

In accordance with the expectations laid out in Admiral Papp's *Sustainability, Environmental, and Energy Policy Statement* and the Academy's *Sustainability Policy Statement* set forth by Admiral Burhoe, the Cadet Sustainability Club is taking steps to create a culture and policy change that is meant to lead the Academy and subsequently the Coast Guard in a "greener" and more environmentally conscious direction!

We must first strongly impress upon the incoming classes of the Academy that we, the Corps of Cadets, really do have invested interest in recycling, sustainability, and the environment itself.

In order to foster this vision, the Sustainability Club is asking that, over the course of the summer, all cadre teach their Swabs to properly sepa-

rate RECYCLING from GENERAL WASTE and to incorporate a mandatory recycling collection component to all "trash" orderlies.

A Sustainability Club POC has been assigned in each company to ensure that these procedures are being properly instructed and followed throughout the course of the summer.

If any questions or concerns regarding sustainability arise in your company over the summer, the Sustainability Club POC serves as the "go to person".

Some PowerPoint training is available regarding single stream recycling and recycling orderlies. This training was created last Fall by Regimental Recycling. We encourage you to review the PowerPoint presentations on the Academy's .edu site:

<http://www.cga.edu/display.aspx?id=14407>

The training available is entitled, "Regimental Recycling" and "Recycling Orderlies".

Further information will be presented to the Class of 2013 at a later date.

If your Sustainability Club POC is away or if you have any concerns of your own, please feel free to contact myself (2/c –select Justine Morrison) or , 2/c-select Cyrus Unvala, Maddie Blackburn or 1/c-select Katie Schumacher.

The Sustainability Club is here and dedicated to help make the Coast Guard Academy THE leader in sustainability and environmental stewardship. Go (green) Bears!

Very Respectfully,
3/c Justine Morrison,
On behalf of the Sustainability Club