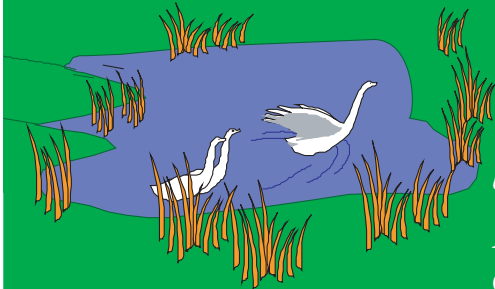
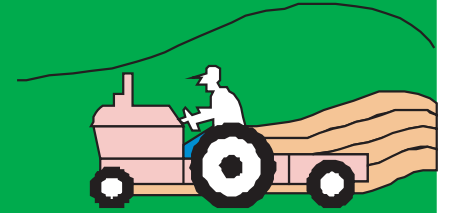


The Valley Environmental Education Collaborative presents

Land Use In The Valley Flowing Through Time

The Connecticut River Valley has the second highest number of rare species occupying core Habitat Areas (as defined by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs), many of which are in need of protection. Approximately 56% of the land is developed and 6% of the protected land contains Core Habitat Areas and supporting natural landscapes. We are at a critical juncture where the pace of population growth and increasing land use conversion may outstrip the rate of land protection in our area, changing the quality of life we enjoy. With this in mind, VEEC offers this lecture series.



January 27: New England Forest Through Time: The Historical Perspective by John O'Keefe, Fisher Museum at Harvard Forest.

Held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, 7:00 p.m.

From the seemingly limitless forest tracts of colonial time, to the largely cleared agricultural landscape of the nineteenth century, and back to the predominantly forested region of today, the Massachusetts landscape has gone through major historical transformations.

John O'Keefe, forest ecologist, discusses the legacy of these transformations, reflecting how a series of human and natural disturbance has shaped the character of our modern landscape and influences virtually all aspects of our lives.

For more information call 413-253-8303. Free to the public.



February 10: Industry and the Environment in Holyoke by Jeffrey Hayden, Holyoke Office of Economic and Industrial Development.

Held at Holyoke Heritage State Park, Holyoke, 7:00 p.m.

In the 1800's, Holyoke was known for its fine manufacturing. Holyoke Heritage State Park tells the story of changes in Holyoke's landscape over time. In a fitting partnership with Jeffrey Hayden, Holyoke Heritage State Park presents a program for the public which tells of Holyoke's land use over time with respect to the story of manufacturing and how it has affected our local environment.

To register call 413-534-1723. A \$5.00 donation is appreciated.



February 24: Recreational Land Users Unite! A panel discussion with Bill Labich, Leigh Youngblood, Chris Ryan, and others.

Held at Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, Northfield, 7:00 p.m.

Ever Since the early 1900's when hundreds of visitors flocked to the Summit House, outdoor recreation has thrived in the CT Valley. What is the current status of access to recreational land in the valley? Are there places where we may lose this access? What do recreational users want and what are the challenges to provide it? How many boot and tire tracks can the valley land and habitat support? These and other questions will be the focus of this panel discussion about recreational land use in the valley.

To register call 800-859-2960. A \$5.00 donation is appreciated.



March 9: Farmland Preservation in the Valley: Who Benefits? By Bob Rakoff, Hampshire College.

Held at the Hitchcock Center, Amherst, 7:00 p.m.

Farmland preservation looks like a big success in the Pioneer Valley, with thousands of acres protected in the last 20 years. Advocates promote preservation as a planning tool to ease development pressures and provide open space, as well as a way to strengthen agriculture and local self-sufficiency. But are these goals compatible? Does farmland preservation help to guarantee the future of local farming? Bob Rakoff, Professor of Politics and Environmental Studies at Hampshire College will discuss the myths and realities of farmland preservation and ask, "Who benefits?" from these programs.

To register call 413-256-6006. A \$5.00 donation is appreciated.



March 24: Land Protection in the Valley – Now or Never...Forever by Bob Wilber, Mass Audubon.

Held at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton, 7:00 p.m.

This presentation will highlight Mass Audubon's updated Land Protection Strategy – a new science – based approach to protecting the nature of Massachusetts. Unprecedented rates of land development are resulting in habitat fragmentation and loss.

The window of opportunity to make a difference in conserving the landscape is closing rapidly.

To register call 413-584-3009. A \$5.00 donation is appreciated.

This lecture series is funded in part by a grant from Western MA Electric Company



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