



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: Oct. 29, 2008**

### **Connecticut Audubon Society To Assist U.S. Army Corps of Engineers With Wildlife and Flora Field Survey of Naugatuck River Area Flood Control Projects**

**Fairfield, CT, Oct. 29, 2009** -- The Connecticut Audubon Society, the state's leading science-based conservation organization, is pleased to announce it has received a contract award from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, to perform field surveys and data analysis, and provide management recommendations for a Wildlife and Flora Field Survey on five flood control projects in the Naugatuck River Area, Connecticut. The \$30,000 contract will provide baseline biological information necessary for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' preparation of master plans for their Connecticut projects.

"The Wildlife and Flora Field Surveys are the first steps of an intricate process to create Project Master Plans," said Steven Patchkofsky, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The Master Plan will be the guiding document that will assist Project Managers and park personnel with future development of the flood control areas. These surveys will allow us to develop high visitation parks appropriately, and protect the natural diversity that is found within these areas. This is an exciting project and we look forward to working with Connecticut Audubon Society."

Dr. Anton (Twan) Leenders, CAS Conservation Biologist, will head the effort for Connecticut Audubon Society. "This is a very exciting opportunity for us," said Dr. Leenders. "These five Army Corps of Engineers' flood control projects together protect over 2,300 acres of wetland and upland habitat, some of it relatively undisturbed. Due to regular flooding of the larger basins, substantial areas within these project sites now support early successional habitat types, such as grassland and scrubland, which are critical to many of the state's threatened and endangered plants and animals. It will be very interesting to see what we are going to find. Of course, Army Corps of Engineers sites are primarily managed for flood control, but it is commendable that they are trying to balance this important function with passive recreation and biological conservation."

The projects include the Thomaston Dam, Black Rock Lake and Northfield Brook Lake in Thomaston, Hop Brook Lake in Middlebury, and Hancock Brook Lake in Plymouth.

The Connecticut Audubon Society is an independent, statewide conservation organization with Conservation Centers in Fairfield, Milford, Glastonbury and Pomfret and over 2,600 acres of wildlife sanctuaries around the state. Website: [www.ctaudubon.org](http://www.ctaudubon.org).

**Contacts:** Mara Neville/CAS, 203-259-6305, ext. 103, [mneville@ctaudubon.org](mailto:mneville@ctaudubon.org)  
Twan Leenders/CAS, 203-259-6305, ext. 114, [tleenders@ctaudubon.org](mailto:tleenders@ctaudubon.org)  
Steven Patchkofsky/USACE, 978-318-8369, [Steven.D.Patchkofsky@usace.army.mil](mailto:Steven.D.Patchkofsky@usace.army.mil)

# # #