

Tilcon CT's Wildlife Habitat Site Receives Certification

Employees at Tilcon Connecticut's Colchester Site received international recognition for their contributions to wildlife habitat conservation at the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) 20th Annual Symposium, *20/20 Vision: Celebrating the Past, Looking to the Future*. Frank Lane and Chris Costello accepted the *Wildlife at Work* certification plaque on behalf of Tilcon Connecticut at the November symposium in Baltimore, Maryland.

Tilcon Connecticut began managing a small, undeveloped parcel of land for wildlife habitat in 2005. The narrow 1.75 acre riparian property consists of shrublands, grassland, inland wetland and forest habitat, four of six major habitats in the state of Connecticut. The property is situated alongside a section of the 50-mile long the Airline State Park Trail which is parallel to the Jeremy River. Prior to initiating any programs the wildlife team conducted numerous site inventories of plant and animal species in order to establish a baseline for the development of a habitat enhancement plan. During the baseline inventories an Eastern box turtle was discovered on the property. Eastern box turtles are listed as a species of special concern by Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection, and as such the site has since implemented a program aimed at the improvement of habitat to benefit them.

Cavity nesting birds in Connecticut have been negatively impacted due development. In order to supplement cavity nesting bird's in the area the site implemented a nest box program. The program was carefully planned out and ideal locations for blue bird boxes, two wood duck boxes and two screech owl boxes were carefully chosen and installed for the 2008 nesting season. In an effort to increase plant biodiversity on the site for wildlife, a non-native invasive plant species control and eradication plan was implemented. Seven species of non-native plants were identified and removed from the property. The control and eradication of the invasive species is a focal point of the restoration and management of the Colchester site. Monthly monitoring and control methods, such as spraying and a three-year rotational mowing schedule, were implemented to ensure that non-native invasive plant species were not becoming re-established on the property.

“This year, our 20th Anniversary, WHC celebrates two decades of solid leadership and on-the-ground achievements by our members in wildlife habitat preservation and conservation education,” said Robert Johnson, WHC President. “WHC members are continuing to lead the way to further define and demonstrate how corporations can use their lands to preserve our biodiversity, while preparing new generations through conservation education to understand how to be better leaders and managers for tomorrow's sustainable businesses and communities. Congratulations to Oldcastle Materials for their corporate and volunteer-based efforts to preserve the biodiversity of their community and the world, and to connect people to nature.”

Celebrating 20 years in conservation, the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation

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groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. More than 2.4 million acres in 46 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 16 other countries are managed for wildlife through WHC-assisted projects. To learn more, visit www.wildlifehc.org.

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