Interested in A Green Lifestyle for Your Yard?

There is considerable technical information available on the Internet to assist residents who are interested in more ‘green’ practices for their property, whether adjacent to protected conservation land, or just trying to do the ‘right’ thing for future generations. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has a number of weblinks on their website, most of which draw on the resources of our own University of Connecticut. Here are a few of the many links that can be found on the DEP website at www.ct.gov/dep/:

The Home and Garden Education Center provides information on gardening topics, with an emphasis on minimizing environmental impacts. Visit the Home and Garden Education Center website for more information and contacts at www.ladybug.uconn.edu/.

More and more homeowners are aware of the many problems with Invasive Plants; some plants have been here for generations and are so common that no one realizes the problems they pose. The University of Connecticut conducts education programs on invasive plant pests; their website is at http://www.invasive.org/species/weeds.cfm -- this contains a list only. For photographs of invasive plants, two sites might be useful: http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/catalogOfSpecies.do or the New England Wild Flower Society website which offers good pictures: http://www.newfs.org/protect/invasive-plants/photo-gallery. We have also put the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District’s brochure on this topic on our website.

The University of Connecticut offers extensive information on Sustainable Landscaping and ideas to help Residential Water Quality. Their programs incorporate regional and national research results from septic systems and well water, nutrient and pesticide management, landscaping management, and plant selections. A variety of information can be found on their residential water quality website, http://www.sustainability.uconn.edu/. Information on Integrated Pest Management [IPM] is important to consider in support of sustainable landscaping, and can be found at http://www.hort.uconn.edu/IPM/index.html.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has a publication on greenscaping that we have placed on the Town of Berlin website as noted below, but if you want to get it yourself, it can be found at http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/catalog/greenscaping.pdf. They have several interesting topics!

You might also want to look at the Backyard Stream Guide for the Mattabesset Watershed, as well as the other publications found at the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District at http://www.conservect.org/ctrivercoastal and click on Resources.

For more information, please look at our Town Website at www.town.berlin.ct.us and click on Community Services, then Conservation Commission