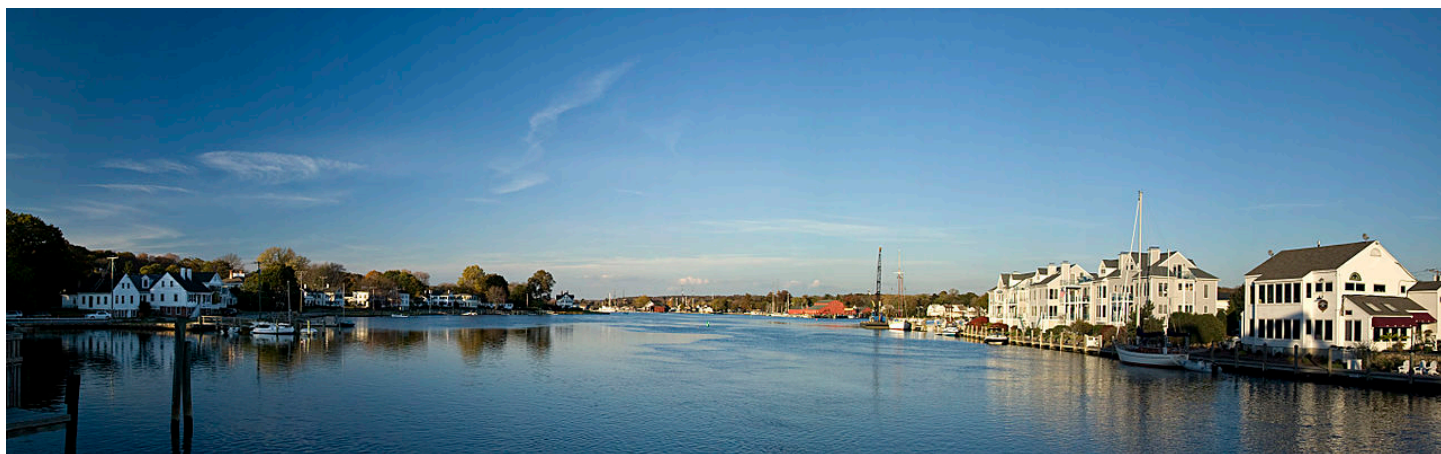


Project WET USA  
2018 Coordinators Conference and Training  
*Resiliency in the Face of Change*

**Information Packet**

Mystic, Connecticut  
September 10-14, 2018



## Table of Contents

1. Welcome to Mystic, Connecticut .....	3
2. Important Dates .....	3
3. Hotel Reservations .....	3
4. Airport Arrival/Transportation .....	4
5. Going Paperless with Whova .....	6
6. Conference Culture: What to Wear, What to Expect .....	5
7. New Coordinator Training .....	6
8. Overall Conference Agenda .....	7
9. Network Meeting Agenda.....	8
10. Content Sessions Agenda.....	9
11. Advanced Training Topics .....	10
12. Field Experiences .....	10
13. Off-site meetings .....	10
14. Silent Auction .....	11
15. Free Night .....	11
16. Fun Night .....	11
17. Important Phone Numbers .....	12
18. Featured Reading .....	12
19. Things to See and Do .....	13

## **1. Welcome to Mystic, Connecticut**

Mystic is a historic town on the coast, located in the southeast region of Connecticut. It has preserved the area's rich history meticulously; boats sit in calm, blue waters as they await the opening of the [Bascule Drawbridge](#), tall ships tied to the [wharf](#), the hustle and bustle of [Downtown Mystic](#) and [Captain's mansions](#) lining the winding roads all contribute to making Mystic so special for [visitors](#) and residents alike.



## **2. Important Dates**

Everyone attending the conference must register in advance. See the [conference website](#) at [www.projectwetusa.org](http://www.projectwetusa.org) for registration details.

July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Early Bird Registration deadline
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Deadline for cancellation with full refund
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Final Registration deadline
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for special room rates at Mystic Place Hyatt Hotel

## **3. Hotel Reservations at Hyatt Place Mystic**

[The Hyatt Place Mystic](#) is near Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport and Olde Mistick Village, making it a central location to get to restaurants and attractions. The hotel provides a shuttle locally, although many locations are also within walking distance. The hotel provides for use of local gym at YMCA, for those wishing to keep up a workout schedule. Shuttles to and from may be arranged at the front desk, along with some local attractions.



The hotel address is:

224 Greenmanville Avenue  
Mystic, CT 06355

### *Room Rates*

The hotel has a negotiated rate of \$129.00 per night, plus the applicable state and local taxes.

The negotiated rates for Project WET are **available only until Tuesday, August 7, 2018**. Rates and availability are not guaranteed after that date and are only honored on an availability basis. Make your hotel reservations early!

Please contact the hotel directly to make your own room reservations by calling 1-888 HYATT HP (1-888-492-8847) or booking online at [Hyatt.com](http://Hyatt.com) using the group/corporate code G-PWET. Click [here](#) to access room reservations.

### *Cancellation Policy*

Individuals may cancel their reservations without penalty at least 48 hours prior to arrival. Reservations cancelled within 48 hours will be charged for one night's stay at the negotiated rates.

#### *Check-in and Check-out Times*

Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. on the day of arrival, and check-out time is 12:00 p.m. on the day of departure. Anyone needing special consideration for a late check-out should inquire at the Front Desk on the day of departure.

#### *Hotel Room Features*

- Living room area with sofa sleeper
- Mini-fridge, coffeemaker and safe
- Work desk with lamp and outlets
- Swiveling 42" HDTV
- Hyatt Plug Panel™ for connecting your laptop or media device to the TV



#### *Hotel Amenities*

- Complimentary Wi-Fi and parking
- Outdoor heated pool (seasonal - April to September, 10am – 8pm)
- Free YMCA Pass – full fitness center and year-round indoor pool access
- Fitness center
- Business center with computers and printing
- 100% Smoke-free hotel
- Pet-friendly rooms available

#### *Dining, Bar & Market*

- Free breakfast with daily rotating menu of hot breakfast items, cold items and beverages
- Freshly prepared meals, grab-n-go food items and sundries are available 24/7
- Coffee to Cocktails Bar offers specialty beverages made with Starbucks® espresso roast and a variety of premium beers, wines & cocktails

### **4. Airport Arrival/Transportation**

The best airport to fly into is Bradley International Airport (BDL) in Hartford, CT. Hartford is approximately one hour from Mystic. Transportation from BDL will be provided by Connecticut Project WET, the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). Participants will need to confirm their flight schedule and transportation with Project WET before the conference. Enter your flight information in the shuttle schedule [here](#).

Providence, RI, is also approximately one hour from Mystic. Transportation may be available through the Rhode Island Coordinator but is not guaranteed. An Amtrak train runs between Providence and Mystic as an alternative option. For more information on schedules and prices, visit <https://www.amtrak.com/plan-your-trip.html>.

Another option is to fly into Boston, which is roughly 2 hours from Mystic; however, traffic is often unpredictable, so travel time could end up being much longer. Amtrak also has a train that runs from Boston through Providence to Mystic. There is no supplied transportation from Boston.

## **5. Going Paperless with Whova**

This year Project WET is trying to go as paperless as possible. We will be using an app called [Whova](#) for event management at the conference. Please download this app to your smartphone or tablet to stay connected during the conference. If you don't have a smartphone you can still access the agenda and speaker information (and print it!) through the Whova Project WET website. Click [here](#) to access the agenda website. Please note that we are still updating agendas and speaker bios and will likely be doing so through the conference.

In the Whova App you can view the agenda, speaker information, attendee bios, see last minute updates, upload pictures and give feedback on sessions. For more information, and to watch a brief tutorial on Whova, click [here](#).

Please be sure to sign in to Whova before the conference and edit your information so everyone can find you! You can log in with your email or the code

**WETUSA18.**

You can also contact event organizers through the app and send messages to participants. This will allow everyone to stay connected throughout the conference. Also look for updates, messages about updates and social meetups throughout the conference.



## **6. Conference Culture**



### *Mystic Weather: What to wear*

Average high and low temperatures in September are 73 °F and 57 °F, respectively. Conference attire is casual, except for the opening and closing dinners which are generally dressy casual. The opening dinner is on Monday night, and the closing dinner is on Thursday night. The opening dinner this year is at nearby [Coogan Farm Nature and Heritage Center](#) where we will have a farm-to-table dinner sponsored in part by Farm Credit East. The closing dinner will be at the Hyatt Place Mystic.

Flip-flops are acceptable as casual attire, but if you plan to attend any field experiences, please bring sturdy walking shoes. Bring a jacket for the evenings. Rain is always possible, so raincoats and/or umbrellas are advisable.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be participating in an Aquaculture and Long Island Sound boat tour with [Project Oceanology](#). Please wear closed toe shoes with rubber soles. It is chilly on the boat so a jacket is suggested.



### *Gathering of the Waters*

The Gathering of the Waters is a tradition at Project WET USA conferences. Each person shares an experience or memory of water from their home or favorite water place and pours a small amount of water from this place (literally or symbolically) into a collective pitcher. A small amount of water from the pitcher from the previous years' conference, containing water added since the year 2000, is also added. This unites all participants from conferences past and present. Please bring water (an ounce or two in a travel-size container) from your favorite water place, your home or local tap water as a symbol of your water place.



### *Hospitality Room*

Project WET USA conferences include a “hospitality room” where coordinators can gather to chat, snack and drink in our own private hotel suite. Some snacks will be provided, but please BYOB and any snacks you may want to share. The location of the room and the hours it will be open will be announced upon arrival at the conference. Check your Whova app for more details.

### **7. New Coordinator Training**

Offered by Project WET and the Instruction and Training WETteam, the New Coordinator Training on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, offers important details about being part of the Project WET USA Network and answers any questions coordinators may have about managing their own networks. The Training follows the hands-on methods and interactive format of workshops that Project WET is known for. You do not have to be new to attend—seasoned coordinators are welcome too!

Before attending the training, please watch the New Coordinator webinar and review the coordinator and facilitator handbooks located on the [www.ProjectWETUSA.org](http://www.ProjectWETUSA.org) website.



## 8. Overall Conference Agenda

	Sunday September 9	Monday September 10	Tuesday September 11	Wednesday September 12	Thursday September 13	Friday September 14
<b>Breakfast</b>	on your own	on your own	included <b>6:30-7:45am</b> <i>(Silent Auction opens)</i>	included <b>6:30-7:45am</b>	included <b>6:30-8:15am</b>	included <b>6:30am-9:00am</b>
<b>Morning</b>		<b>Closed Session:</b> New Coordinator Training <b>9am-4pm</b>	<b>Closed Session:</b> USA Coordinators Network Meeting <b>8am-12pm</b>	<b>Field Experience:</b> Mystic Aquarium <b>8:30am - 12pm</b>	<b>Advanced Training:</b> <i>Project Oceanology</i> <b>8:45am - 11:15am</b>	Optional Field Experiences/Travel Day
<b>Lunch</b>		on your own	included	on own	included	on your own
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Closed Session:</b> Project WET Council Meeting <b>(9-4pm)</b>	<b>Closed Session:</b> New Coordinator Training <b>9am-4pm</b>	<b>USA Network Meeting</b> <b>1:30-4:30pm</b>	Content Sessions <b>1:00pm - 4:00pm</b>	<b>Off-site presentations:</b> <i>Sea Grant Marine Research Facility</i>	
<b>Dinner</b>	on your own	<b>Closed Dinner :</b> Conference Opening for USA Coordinators <b>6pm-7:30pm</b> <i>Coogan Farm Nature &amp; Heritage Center</i>	on your own	TBD	<i>(Silent Auction closes at 4pm)</i> <b>Dinner Session</b> Conference Closing <b>6pm-7:30pm</b>	on your own
<b>Evening</b>		<b>Conference Opening</b>	<b>Free Night!</b>	<b>Fun Night!</b> 5:30pm-7:30pm	<b>Conference Closing</b>	

Color Key:	included meals	closed sessions for USA Coordinators only	open sessions for all conference attendees	Field Experiences	on your own
------------	----------------	---	--	-------------------	-------------

## **9. Project WET USA Network Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, September 11, 2018**



Agenda TBD

Included will be advanced training(s) with Project WET activities, updates from the Project WET Foundation and regional and WETteam meetings. This is a time for coordinators to discuss how the Foundation can help support their programs and learn about the new initiatives at the Foundation.



## 10. Content Sessions

*\*This is a draft agenda and subject to change*

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
breakfast	included	included	included
Morning	Mystic Aquarium	Off-site Session 2: Project Oceanology	Optional: Field Experiences (bike tour, kayaking, hiking)
		8am - 11am Project Oceanology Sea Grant Guest Speaker(s)	
Lunch	on your own	11:15am - 12pm lunch at Sea Grant Marine Research Facility	on your own
Afternoon	Content Session 1:	Content Sessions 3: at Sea Grant 12:00pm - 1:00pm Guest Speaker from Sea Grant	Optional: Field Experiences
	1:00pm - 1:45pm Lauren Daniel "Ocean Habitats- Understanding Diverse Ecosystems"	1:00pm - 1:45pm Mike Jabot Bring the SEES Model Into Your Work	
	1:45pm - 2:30pm Candice Miller Using Project WET to Empower an Existing Network of Citizen Scientists	Break 1:45pm - 2:00pm	
	Break	2:00pm - 2:45pm Holly Thomas-Hilburn Community Resilience Through STEM Education	
	2:45-4:00 round table discussions	3:00pm Shuttle departs to hotel	
Dinner	on your own (food available at fun night)	included (Conference Closing)	on your own
Evening	6pm-8pm Fun Night!	6pm-7:30pm Conference Closing	

included meals
closed sessions for USA Coordinators only
open sessions for all conference attendees
Field Experiences
On your own

## **11. Advanced Training Topics**

This year's advanced trainings at the conference will focus on topics around Climate Resiliency. Experts from Sea Grant will speak during the off-site Project Oceanology session and after lunch on Thursday at Sea Grant. Various Project WET Coordinators will also share how to use specific activities to teach about climate change.



*"Did you know beluga whales only have one set of teeth during their lifetime? Both Juno and Kela have their very own toothbrushes that trainers use to maintain a healthy set of teeth."*

- From Mystic Aquarium Facebook page

## **12. Field Experience**

*Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>: Mystic Aquarium*  
Project WET will take a private tour of the [Mystic Aquarium](#) in the morning. Guest speakers and scientists from the aquarium will be featured. As a leader in aquarium and marine research facilities with a long time commitment to ocean conservation, the Mystic Aquarium is the perfect setting to focus on the connection between climate and oceans and launch the content session on Climate Resiliency at the conference.

## **13. Off-site Meetings**

*Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>: Project Oceanology and Sea Grant- UCONN Avery Point Campus*

As an internationally recognized organization, [Project Oceanology](#) uses inquiry-based learning and field experiences on the water to teach 4th to 12th graders about the ocean and the animals that live in it. With over 40 years as New England's premier marine science education program, it is sure to help conference participants enhance their own professional development programs and improve classroom teaching related to marine biology.

During the morning session participants will embark on Project Oceanology's Enviro-Lab Research Vessel to head out to the Long Island Sound to learn marine science, aquaculture and shoreline actions in the field. Accompanying "Project O" staff will be two aquaculture specialists from Sea Grant. They will highlight the findings of aquaculture studies and actions being taken to meet changes seen in the shoreline environment. Those participants not wanting to be on a boat may stay at the lab for hands-on science experiences. Lunch will be provided at The Marine Research Facility on the campus of UCONN Avery Point after the boat tour. After lunch, content sessions will continue knowledge at the waterfront Marine Research Facility at UCONN Avery Point with guest speakers from Sea Grant and presentations from conference participants.

For more information on Project Oceanology visit their website at [www.oceanology.org](http://www.oceanology.org).

## **14. Silent Auction**

Please bring something to contribute (and your money to bid in the auction!) for the Project WET USA Silent Auction. Proceeds go to providing scholarships for the 2019 Project WET USA Conference—it could be YOU needing a scholarship in 2019! Ideally, we are looking for water and other environmental education-related items (fun and functional). Think about bringing a basket representing the best of your state or clean out the closet by bringing Project WET swag that you aren't using. You can use check, cash or credit card to pay for your items. We have been able to provide scholarships for three Coordinators in each of the last three years—let's aim for four scholarships in 2019!

### *Mailing Packages to Hotel:*

If it is necessary to ship materials to the hotel for the silent auction, each item must be properly packaged and marked with your first and last name. Packages should not be scheduled to arrive any earlier than one week before the conference (September 2, 2018). Materials should be shipped to:

Your first and last name  
c/o Project WET Conference  
224 Greenmanville Ave.  
Mystic, CT 06335

Please keep a record of your packages sent, shipping service and tracking number(s). Once you arrive at the hotel, you may check at the front desk or the Project WET registration desk to retrieve your mailed packages.

## **15. Free Night**

Tuesday night is designated as a “free night” with no formal agenda set. Explore Mystic with fellow coordinators or enjoy some down time at the hotel. You will receive information about restaurants and activities to do that evening. For those arriving early or staying on Friday, there will be information about daytime activities available before the conference.



## **16. Fun Night**

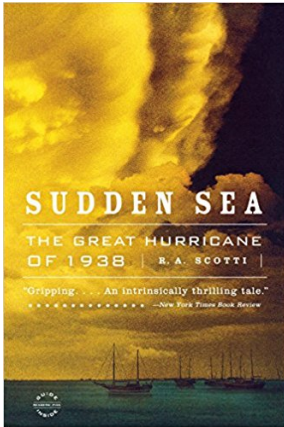
This year's fun night will be at the [Steak Loft](#), a steakhouse and seafood restaurant in Mystick Village. Project WET has reserved a room for a “nature experience” trivia night (pub trivia with a nature focus). Food and beverages may be purchased there.

Trivia will run from 5:30 – 7:30. Join a team and play trivia to win prizes. Eat, drink, think, win. Guaranteed to be a fun time! Musical entertainment starts in the bar around 7pm, so feel free to stay and socialize after the official “Fun Night” ends.

## **17. Important Phone Numbers**

- ◆ Sue Quincy, CT Project WET: (203) 734-2513 work#, (475)355-5748 Cell#  
email: [Susan.Quincy@ct.gov](mailto:Susan.Quincy@ct.gov)
- ◆ Nicole Rosenleaf Ritter: cell (406) 570-9540; email: [nicole.ritter@projectwet.org](mailto:nicole.ritter@projectwet.org)
- ◆ Megan Regnerus: cell (406) 579-8135; email: [megan.regnerus@projectwet.org](mailto:megan.regnerus@projectwet.org)
- ◆ Hyatt Place Mystic: (800) 536-9997
- ◆ Julia Beck: (406) 585-4104; cell (406) 570-5036; email: [julia.beck@projectwet.org](mailto:julia.beck@projectwet.org)  
**\*\*\*Julia will not be at the conference—use Megan and Nicole as contacts during the conference\*\*\***

Don't forget you can contact conference organizers through the Whova app in case you lose these numbers! Whova makes it easy to keep informed of updates and message people.



## **18. Featured Reading**

The featured book for this year is *Sudden Sea: The Great Hurricane of 1938* by R. A. Scotti. The 1938 hurricane is the most financially destructive hurricane on record. During the conference, references will be made of this book and comparing it to current natural disasters, changing climate and resiliency.

*Former journalist and mystery novelist Scotti successfully applies her skills in both genres to this detailed retelling of the 1938 hurricane that ripped across seven Northeastern states and killed 682 people, "the most destructive natural disaster in U.S. history—worse than the San Francisco earthquake, the Chicago fire, or any Mississippi flood." Although the enormity of the destruction has been written about before, Scotti focuses on "a few experiences that seem representative of many more" through interviews with hurricane survivors, their families and friends, as well as previously published recollections by survivors, including the late Katharine Hepburn. Scotti's detailed look at the general extent of the hurricane's destruction adds poignancy to individual stories, such as those of Joseph Matoes, who sees his children swept away from their school bus as they are battered by huge waves; Lillian Tetlow and Jack Kinney, two sweethearts who survive a storm that destroys Napatree, R.I., and who later marry; and Charles Pierce, a "green and unsure" junior forecaster for a woefully underprepared U.S. Weather Bureau (now the National Weather Service) who stands against his experienced superiors as the only forecaster to recognize the danger of the hurricane. Scotti also skillfully presents the details of a hurricane, although she reminds us that "after decades of study and with all the technological tools of the trade... we still cannot predict a hurricane more than twenty-four hours in advance."*

[Learn more or buy the book at Amazon.](#)



## **19. Things to See and Do**

There are many things to do along the shoreline and further inland. If you come early or stay longer we suggest you take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about Connecticut and New England. Below are a few suggestions.



*New Bird*

*Ambassador, DPNC*

### **Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center**

**Mystic, CT**

#### **A Wildlife Sanctuary**

Whether you're interested in birding, plant identification, hiking, or nature photography, you'll enjoy the varied woodland, wetland and meadow habitats at DPNC. With 10 miles of hiking trails to explore, you can search for bluebirds in the meadow, painted turtles or bullfrogs in the pond, admire our summer wildflower garden or simply enjoy a peaceful walk in the woods. Several species of hawks and owls that are unreleasable reside in outdoor flight enclosures on the sanctuary. Meet Barred, Great Horned and Eastern Screech owls, a Peregrine Falcon, Red Tailed Hawks, Broad Wing Hawk, American Kestrel – all raptors native to southern New England. You can also see birds and other animals that we are working with to help them be released back into the wild when they are healthy



Tribally owned and operated since it opened on Aug. 11, 1998, the [Pequot Museum](#) brings to life the story of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. It serves as a major resource on the histories and cultures of Native Americans in the northeast and on the region's rich natural history.

Multi-sensory dioramas and exhibits introduce visitors to the history of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the natural and cultural history of the eastern woodlands. Films and videos, interactive programs, archival materials, ethnographic and archaeological collections, commissioned art, and traditional crafts by Native artisans are featured in the exhibits.

The building is designed to interact with its surrounding environment while maintaining the ecological integrity of the area. It embraces the tree line and is nestled into the landscape; two of the five levels of the facility are below ground. A 185-foot, stone-and-glass tower provides visitors with sweeping views of the swamp and region. The large, circular, glass-and-steel Gathering Space serves as an arrival area. The restaurant features a variety of Native American cuisines, and the museum shop specializes in contemporary Native American arts and crafts.

---

## **Mystic Seaport**

**Mystic Seaport Museum**  
**75 Greenmanville Ave.**  
**Mystic, CT 06355**  
**860.572.0711**



[Mystic Seaport Museum](#) brings to life the joy of discovery and our need for connection. Our interactive campus is a portal into an unexpected, authentic world, inspiring an enduring connection to the American maritime experience. There is always something to do and see from visiting the shipyards, to dining. Tour the past and present in the Seaport Village—get on board the Charles W. Morgan (the last wooden whale ship in the world) and other historic vessels to learn about the arts and science of maritime explorations.

---

## **Connecticut State Parks**

Connecticut State Parks offer a selection of historical and cultural opportunities as well as outdoor enjoyment. We have highlighted a few parks below that offer easy hikes and beautiful history of our state. There are many other opportunities offered by our State Parks and we suggest if you have a car and some time to visit them.

- [Bluff Point State Park, Groton CT](#)
- [Fort Trumbull](#) and [Fort Griswold](#) Battlefield State Park, New London, CT
- [Gillett Castle State Park](#), East Haddam
- [Dinosaur State Park](#), Rocky Hill, CT

---

## **Lyman Allyn Art Museum**

625 Williams Street  
New London, CT

The Lyman Allyn Art Museum, located in New London, Connecticut, was founded in 1926 at the bequest of Harriet Upson Allyn (1840 -1926) Architect Charles A. Platt designed an elegant neo-classical granite structure on a hill overlooking New London and the Thames River. The museum opened in 1932, displaying a collection built by the first Director, Winslow Ames, which famously consisted of only thirteen works! Today it houses thousands of artworks and hosts many special exhibitions. We encourage you to come see:

## Hidden Water: Paintings and Sculpture by Judy Cotton

July 14 – November 11, 2018



In an environment impacted by global warming, contemporary artist Judy Cotton focuses on water, glaciers, melting ice, and insect life, offering a meditation on the natural world and the forces that threaten its balance. Hidden Water, a multi-media exhibition, presents art that speaks to the artist's ecological concerns. Cotton's paintings and small sculpture will be displayed in the Lyman Allyn's galleries, with one room imagined as a cabinet of curiosities containing sculpted nests, insects and other natural and artificial

"specimens." Several water-focused installations will occupy the museum's outdoor grounds, engaging viewers in a dialogue about water use, pollution, rising ocean levels, and other environmental concerns.

---

For the wine and beer enthusiasts, consider the **Connecticut Wine Trail** or **Connecticut Beer Trail**.



[The Connecticut Wine Trail](#) follows vineyards and wineries throughout the state of CT. For a map of wineries click [here](#). The closest vineyard is the Saltwater Farm Vineyard in Stonington, CT.



[The Connecticut Beer Trail](#), like the Wine Trail, follows breweries throughout the state of CT. Click [here](#) for a map of breweries. The closest brewery is Beer'd Brewing Company in Stonington.

The Connecticut Beer Trail