

# Protecting Native Turtles

BY CONNECTICUT RIVER CONSERVANCY

Wood and Spotted Turtles thrive in environments with clean water, but they need space to roam on land as well, so improving habitat connectivity between land and water benefits them greatly. This not only helps rare turtles, but also creates habitat for other fish and wildlife, cleanses the water, and improves recreational opportunities. Farm Bill conservation programs also promote agricultural sustainability. “Programs like this are a win for everybody” said Kiley Briggs, Director of Conservation with The Orianne Society (TOS).

Reptiles and amphibians have an incredible value and play integral roles in the function of healthy ecosystems. TOS works to conserve critical ecosystems for imperiled reptiles and amphibians using science, applied conservation and education. Learn more about Wood and Spotted Turtles, and TOS’s mission at



Wood Turtle, courtesy of Connecticut River Conservancy

[www.orianne.org](http://www.orianne.org).

Since 1952, Connecticut River Conservancy has been the voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. They collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for the river and educate and engage communities. They bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of the Connecticut River and its tributary streams. Healthy rivers support healthy economies. To learn more about CRC, or to make a

contribution to help protect rivers and local wildlife, visit [www.criver.org](http://www.criver.org).

The CRC recently announced that they have received a new grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that will help protect native turtles. The grant will fund landowner outreach by CRC and wood turtle site assessment by TOS, CRC’s project partner.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has designated

northeast turtles as a “Working Lands for Wildlife” priority and offers programs to help with their conservation. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and each state wildlife agency have prioritized the restoration and preservation of the wood turtle, advancing both conservation science and action plans. This grant will help unite efforts by this coalition of organizations and find new project sites to help this species rebound and thrive.

Wood Turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*) and Spotted Turtles (*Clemmys guttata*) are the special focus of this project. Wood Turtles are considered a Species of Conservation Concern in the three states where CRC will focus outreach efforts. These turtles have suffered declines due to illegal collecting, development, agriculture, and stream alterations. CRC and TOS will work with federal and state agency partners in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts to find willing landowners and sites that will lead to improving working lands, water quality, and wood turtle habitat in the Connecticut River watershed.

## U.S. Constitution Study Group

BY CONNIE BURTON

Gain the ability to discuss the Constitution knowledgeably and with confidence. Learn of the hard work and immense dedication that went into the framing of this amazing document. Learn of the duties that are ours as citizens of the country that is governed by this enduring document. You are invited to join a group of fellow Guilfordites who have been pursuing a course of study on the United States

Constitution with its Bill of Rights and other Amendments and are hosting study sessions open to any and everyone in the area. For more information please contact Connie Burton at 802-257-1550 or email [connie@burtoncarwash.com](mailto:connie@burtoncarwash.com). If you’ve already been in touch with Connie, rest assured that you will be contacted as soon as time and place are solidified.

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