



To explore case law summaries in the Conservation Defense Clearinghouse, visit <http://clearinghouse.lta.org>.

Now Online: Case Law Summaries

The latest edition of *Land Conservation Case Law Summaries* by Rob Levin is online at the Land Trust Alliance’s website, The Learning Center (<http://learningcenter.lta.org>), and updated as of the end of 2009. Check out the Conservation Defense Clearinghouse too at <http://clearinghouse.lta.org> for the actual court opinions. A new feature allows you to comment on cases in the Clearinghouse—see what the attorney network and others are saying about these important cases!

To find the opinions, go to the Clearinghouse homepage and enter part of the case name in the search box at the top of the page. Or, click on ‘show all’ in the *Content Type* box (second from the top), click on ‘judicial opinions,’ then scan the case list on the right. You can also narrow the search by clicking on the ‘year’ sorting option. The opinion will pop right up. The comment box is at the bottom. •

Finance Camp for Conservationists

THE 4TH ANNUAL Conservation Finance Camp will be held at Yale University from June 14 through June 18, 2010. The course provides a framework for analyzing and packaging a wide range of cutting-edge sources of private and public conservation

finance, including new types of philanthropic funds, public capital and private investment. It is focused on useful, hands-on tools for conservation practitioners and is limited to 20 participants. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. •

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT **AMY BADNER** AT AMY.BADNER@YALE.EDU.

Free Visualization Software

NOT ONLY IS THIS SOFTWARE FREE AND EASY TO USE, it also is a great help when it comes to conservation planning efforts. With CanVis (www.csc.noaa.gov/canvis) people can “see” what future land use changes might look like. Users take a photograph of the site in question, and then add the pertinent objects, which might include a new high rise, docks, a marina, rock revetments, etc. There is even a way to illustrate sea level rise.

CanVis was developed by the USDA National Agroforestry Center (www.unl.edu/nac) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The tool can be obtained from the website; the website also includes many examples of municipalities and other organizations using CanVis as a planning and communication tool. •



A visual simulation of a proposed stream corridor restoration project created in CanVis.



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A Nature Website that **Rocks**

“WE ARE WORKING FOR the day when every child in America will grow up within 10 minutes of a park, trail or protected open space.” Six years ago Rand Wentworth, president of the Land Trust Alliance, published this vision statement in the Alliance’s strategic plan. And now the Nature Rocks website (www.naturerocks.org) tells us that “Nature is closer than you think!” As “your family fun nature planner” this site will help visitors find all sorts of nature activities, plus tools to help guide and plan their adventures. The site promises “useful tips and information to help you get into nature without getting over your head. It’s fast and easy so you can shut your computer down quickly, open up that door and be on your way in as little as 5 minutes.”

Nature Rocks was founded by the Children & Nature Network and ecoAmerica, and has been brought to life through partnerships with The Nature Conservancy, REI, the Flora Family Foundation, and American Camp Association, all of which provide funding and/or in-kind support. •

This site will help visitors find all sorts of nature activities, plus tools to help guide their adventures.

Matching Funders with Projects

DEVELOPING NEW SOURCES of funding for conservation is a time-consuming and technical task that takes a deep knowledge of existing environmental laws, regulatory programs and philanthropy. One solution to this is provided by Conservation Resources Inc., which runs an exchange, or matchmaking service, between conservation projects in New Jersey and non-traditional funders.

Things are going very well for the website www.theconservationexchange.org, which just received the New Jersey Governor’s Award for Environmental

Excellence. And President Michael Catania reports there has been lots of interest in *The Conservation Exchange* by both land trusts and potential contributors to their projects.

Conservation Resources Inc. charges the regulated party a management fee if an appropriate project is identified using *The Conservation Exchange*. It then acts as an intermediary between the regulatory agency, the regulated party and the project sponsor to develop both regulatory contribution agreements and grant agreements. There is no charge whatsoever to land trusts for CRI’s services. •

Book Lauds Early Urban Environmentalists

In *The Environment and the People in American Cities, 1600s–1900s: Disorder, Inequality, and Social Change*, University of Michigan professor Dorceta Taylor provides an in-depth examination of the development of urban environments and urban environmentalism in the United States. Taylor, with the School of Natural Resources and Environment, focuses on the evolution of the city, the emergence of elite reformers, the framing of environmental problems, and the perceptions of and responses to breakdowns in social order, from the seventeenth century through the twentieth. She demonstrates how social inequalities repeatedly informed the adjudication of questions related to health, safety and land access and use.

While many accounts of environmental history begin and end with wildlife and wilderness, Taylor shows that the city offers important clues to understanding the evolution of American environmental activism.

The book grew out of an undergraduate class on environmental politics Taylor taught more than a decade ago. “Minority and female students noted that one of the main textbooks—the best available at the time—focused heavily on the actions and accomplishments of middle- and upper-class white males while ignoring everyone else or portraying them in stereotypical terms,” she explained.

“While all-male expeditions and solitary males who retreat to the woods for months or years at a time are idealized in many environmental history accounts, the urban activists receive no such acclaim or glory,” she said, noting that female, working class and ethnic minorities were active in environmental activism and affairs. “In the city, the classes, races and genders interacted with each other to create a kind of environmentalism that was very fluid and dynamic.” 🍌

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