

The Weston Sustainability Committee  
is pleased to invite you  
to join us for a fascinating evening with

## **Tom Wessels**

Ecologist, author and founding director  
of the master's degree program in Conservation Biology  
at Antioch University of New England.

His topic of discussion will be

## **The Foundational Principles of Sustainability**

Thursday, June 7 at 7:00 pm

at the Norfield Grange

12 Goodhill Road, Weston, CT 06883

Refreshments will be served and books will be available for purchase

For 3.5 billion years, life has not only sustained itself, but has thrived on this planet. To create sustainable systems we don't need to reinvent the wheel, we only need to embrace the foundational scientific principles that govern sustainability in all living systems. This presentation covers three of these foundational principles: the law of limits to growth, the second of thermodynamics and its relationship to entropy, and the law of self-organization. Examples of how these laws work in the natural world will be used to show how they can be applied to human systems like a community or an economy.

Mr. Wessels is the current chair of The Center for Whole Communities that fosters inclusive communities that are strongly rooted in place and where all people –regardless of income, race, or background -have access to and a healthy relationship with land. He is former chair of the Robert and Patricia Switzer foundation that fosters environmental leadership through graduate fellowships and organizational grants. He served as an ecological consultant to the Rain Forest Alliance's SmartWood Green Certification Program. In that capacity Tom helped draft green certification assessment guidelines for forest operations in the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. Tom has conducted landscape level workshops throughout the United States for over 30 years.

His books include: *Reading the Forested Landscape*, *The Granite Landscape*, *Untamed Vermont*, *The Myth of Progress*, and *Forest Forensics: A Field Guide to Reading the Forested Landscape*.

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