Catherine Violet Hubbard
ANIMAL SANCTUARY

KEN ELKINS

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PARTNERSHIPS

BIO

Ken Elkins is the new Director of Education and Partnerships at the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary, bringing over two decades of leadership in environmental education and conservation. A dedicated professional with a B.S. in Environmental Biology, Ken has held prominent roles at several Audubon centers, most recently as the Director of the Coastal Center at Milford Point. His tenure is marked by significant program growth, notably expanding the Summer Nature Day Camp at the Audubon Center at Bent of the River. Ken's deep commitment to connecting people with nature has also taken him around the world, as he has successfully led ecotourism and conservation travel trips across the United States and abroad.

Ken has built a distinguished career by forging impactful program partnerships and expanding community outreach. His expertise includes developing and conducting professional development workshops for school teachers, often co-facilitating with state agencies and other key nonprofit organizations. Ken is an established presenter and educator who has taught diverse audiences, from preschool students on field trips to adult groups in library workshops, ensuring programs are engaging and accessible for all ages. He has a proven track record of creating new audiences for conservation education by establishing partnerships with diverse institutions, including Purdue University, Wesleyan University, and local community groups. This focus on collaboration has allowed him to co-develop and deliver comprehensive, district-wide education programs, reaching thousands of students and community members.

A core belief in kindness, compassion, and inclusion drives Ken's program development. He is the co-developer of the acclaimed Bird Tales program, a therapeutic initiative that earned him a prestigious Toyota TogetherGreen Conservation Leadership Fellowship. Ken has since trained educators and volunteers nationwide to implement this program, which brings the restorative joy of birds and nature to individuals in retirement and assisted living communities. Furthermore, Ken designed and implemented "A Dose of Nature," a specialized after-school program for children on the Autism Spectrum. His dedication to inclusive spaces extends to staff training, where he develops workshops to educate counselors on strategies to infuse a sense of belonging and foster social-emotional learning in all sanctuary programs.

Ken's commitment to the field extends beyond his professional roles. He has demonstrated his dedication to conservation education and research through volunteer leadership, proudly serving as past-President of the Connecticut Ornithological Association and a previous Board member of the CT Outdoor Environmental Education Association.

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