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NHACC December Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Happy Winter Solstice

On this shortest day, may you let the light in.



Ruffed Grouse in the snow, Drew Groves

CCs in the News

The Barrington Conservation Commission

The Barrington Conservation Commissions and the Southeast Land Trust partner with Nippo Lake Association to protect 163-acre Landry Forest property. "The Landry forest is a critical piece of the mosaic of wildlands in Barrington," said Doug Bogen, Chair of the Barrington Conservation Commission. "It's conservation protects much of the shore of the fragile Nippo Lake as well as historic and diverse open space in a relatively untouched portion of our town." [Read the article here.](#)

The Hampton Conservation Commission

To help educate the community, the Hampton Conservation Commission publishes a quarterly newsletter titled Conservation Talk. This edition of newsletter features articles about monitoring conservation land, dune restoration and citizen science. To read the newsletter go to [October 2023 Conservation Talk.](#)

The Bow Conservation Commission

The Bow Kingston Conservation Commission is conducting a wetlands survey to address concerns over beaver dam flooding on town land. The commission has plans to restore the pond and hired a wetlands scientist to determine the historical water level and elevation of connecting trails. "The survey is to find out what's the right bridge elevation and how constraining it is currently," said Sandy Crystall, the chair of the Conservation Commission and member of the subcommittee to address beaver dam issues. [Read more.](#)

Education & Training Opportunities

Save the Date for Taking Action Wildlife Training Series

Conservation Commissioners and other town volunteers are invited to join *Taking Action for Wildlife* for a webinar series focused on wildlife and habitat conservation. This four-part series will provide participants with information and resources related to conservation actions they can take for wildlife in New Hampshire, including identifying conservation priorities for wildlife, land-use planning as a tool for wildlife conservation, actions you can take on town lands to benefit wildlife, and considerations for wetland habitats. Presenters will include wildlife professionals from UNH Cooperative Extension, NH Fish & Game Department, NH Association of Conservation Commissions, and Moosewood Ecological. See [TAFW website](#) for dates and times.

Winter Wildlife Ecology For Educators

Educators, both formal and informal, are invited to join New Hampshire Fish and Game on Friday, January 26, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Dewey School in Canterbury to explore how wildlife survive New Hampshire's winter. This workshop is for educators of children in grades K-12, and attendees will experience several hands-on activities from the Below Zero curriculum book, published by the Canadian Wildlife Federation. All participants will receive a copy of an activity guide following completion of the workshop. See [NH Fish & Game](#).

Gulls of Appledore Project Looking for Volunteers

Volunteers for the Gulls of Appledore Project report sightings of banded Herring and Great Black-Backed Gulls. This research relies on people like you—birders, beach goers, casual observers, to report banded birds! By reporting gull sightings of banded gulls from sites along the New England coast you will be helping the study of seabird ecology on the Maine island of Appledore. Sightings of banded birds contribute important information about survival, longevity, habitat use, movement, and population trends of these two common, but under-appreciated species. See [Nature Groupie](#) for more information.

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation. Volunteers participate daily by measuring precipitation and reporting through the CoCoRaHS data entry form on the website. Participants can also enter precipitation over multiple days if they are not able to participate daily. By using low-cost measurement tools, training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, our aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. See [Nature Groupie](#) for more information.

Grants

NH Fish & Game Habitat Improvement Small Grants Program

Are you interested in improving wildlife habitat on townland? NH Fish and Game's Small Grants Program may be able to help. The Small Grants Program can help

municipal, private, and land trust landowners, who own a minimum of 25 contiguous acres, restore or enhance habitat for wildlife. Projects that may qualify for funding include: brush clearing or mowing to maintain grasslands and shrublands; release of old apple trees; and maintenance of woodland openings. In exchange for the grant, landowners agree that their land will remain open for non-motorized public access activities, including hunting. Visit [NH F&G website](#) to learn about what other types of projects qualify and how to apply.

American Trails Capacity Grants

America's trails suffer from a trail maintenance backlog which is exacerbated by increased use, extreme weather and a diminishing pool of skilled trail professionals and volunteers. Addressing trail maintenance needs across the country starts with training and informing the next generation of trail stewards, and understanding where grant dollars can do the most good. This grant program targets available funding toward supporting small local trail projects that engage the community and connect trail assets to a broader spectrum of users. Go to the [American Trails website](#) to learn more.

The US Forest Service Funds for Community Forests

The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program offers the opportunity for communities to acquire and conserve forests. These forests provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products. Community forests can be owned by local or tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit entities. Lands acquired through the program must be managed in accordance with a community forest plan to provide community benefits. Application deadline: January 12, 2024. For more information; [US Forest Service website](#).

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