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NHACC March 2025 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Grant Updates and more!



Living with Wildlife; Don't Attract Bears

As the temperatures warm, black bears are coming out of hibernation. They typically emerge from dens during late March or early April looking for food. Everyone should take down their bird feeders and clean up all bird seed by April 1 to prevent attracting bears to your home. According to NH Fish & Game, the black bear is the only bear species in New Hampshire. Dens may be burrows, caves, hollow trees, wind-thrown trees, slash piles or leaf nests on the ground. Population estimates range between 4,800 to 5,000 bears statewide. Check out the [NH Fish & Game website](#) for more information on bears.

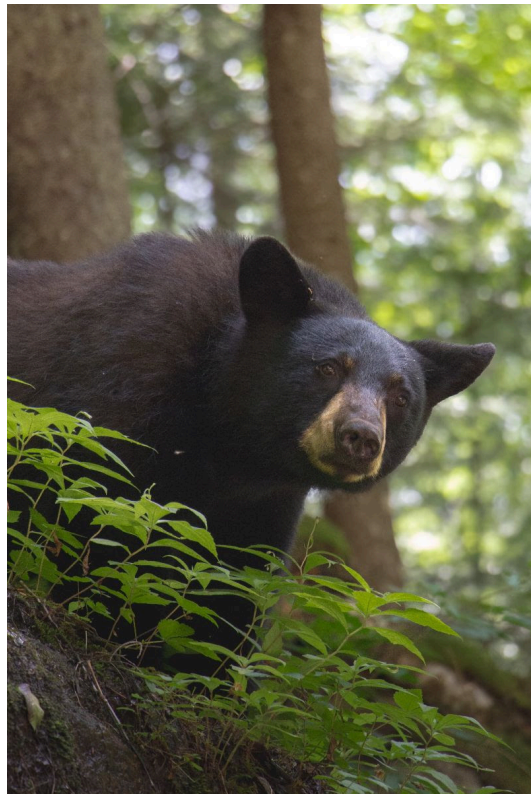


Photo: Aubrey Boucher

CCs in the News

Meredith Leads Town Forest Tour

The Meredith Conservation Commission led a guided tour of the Page Pond Town Forest in February. The hike was well attended and included participants, ages up to 79, who traversed 3.2 miles through the town forest. It was a beautiful snowy day, perfect for looking for animal signs and learning about winter tracking. Along the way hikers saw signs of 14 different animals.



Wilton Conservation Commission Member: Women of the Year

A Wilton Conservation Commission member and NHACC Board member was recognized in local news for her volunteer contributions. Jennifer Beck's volunteer activities include the Wilton Economic Development Team Chair, Wilton Conservation Commission Commissioner, Legislative Committee NHACC Board, Wilton Alliance Board Chair. [Read more](#)

The Brentwood Conservation Commissions Protects Ag Land

Working with [Southeast Land Trust](#) Brentwood completed the conservation of the Fuller property off Pickpocket Road. The property features 28 acres of field, forest, and wetlands and abuts two easement properties, providing crucial wildlife connectivity. In addition, the fields contain rich agricultural soils, making the property a prime site for a future farm. For this reason, the easement contains an OPAV (Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value), a tool to help ensure that the next steward of the property will actively farm the land. A large portion of the project's cost was paid by the town of Brentwood through a recently passed conservation bond. [Read more.](#)

Education & Training Opportunities

NHACC Lunch & Learn Series NH Climate Plan Update

Thursday, March 27, 2025 12:00 noon on Zoom.

Kurt Yuengling, NH Department of Environmental Services

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is drafting a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) as the next deliverable under the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. Due in December 2025, the CCAP will identify and model potential measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and associated air pollution. NHDES staff will give an overview of the process plan for CCAP development, including the schedule of opportunities for public and stakeholder participation. There will also be significant time for participants to engage with NHDES staff, particularly by sharing local planning efforts on municipal level projects, programs, and policies: success stories, challenges/barriers, funding resources, and pilot projects.

[Register Here](#)

The Intersection Between Climate, Clean Energy and Community

Thursday, April 24, 2025

12 noon to 1 pm, Presented on Zoom

Sandra Jones, Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative

This webinar will examine how NH towns and environmental organizations are finding ways to address climate change by taking action to expand their renewable energy programs and projects. Panelists from Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative and Lakes Region Conservation Trust, will describe the NH Solar Shares Program and how they created a partnership between land conservation and renewable energy, while making solar energy more accessible to families in need of support. Participants will learn they can locate solar array systems in appropriate locations to help support renewable energy while continuing to preserve fragile and environmentally important natural resources.

[Register Here](#)

NH'S ANNUAL LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Saving Special Places 2025 Friday, April 18 | Concord, NH

Saving Special Places provides professional development and networking for land trust staff and their board members, other conservation/watershed organizations, conservation commissioners and other municipal boards, and natural resource professionals from New Hampshire and beyond. Learn more and register at: www.savingspecialplaces.org

Atkinson Annual Pollinator Event 2025

Saturday, April 12th from 10:00am to 2:00pm
at Freshwater Farms (1 Kipkam Rd, Atkinson, NH 03811)

Join Atkinson Conservation Commission for their 5th Annual Pollinator Event. Conservation commission members will be handing out FREE Milkweed Seeds (picked in Atkinson) and Native Wildflower Seeds to help save our Monarchs and other pollinators! There will be activities for everyone and lots of supplemental materials to guide you into making your property a pollinator friendly haven. Pollinator Pathways NH will be on hand with materials and to answer all of your pollinator related questions. No registration required – just stop by and enjoy!

NH's Odd Couple: Nature & Technology Presentations

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 • 10:00am–12:00pm

27 Elwin Rd, Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Join the Division of Forests & Lands to learn about how technology is used in forestry today and how we can work with you and your community! We will discuss projects that incorporate technology into forest health monitoring and management. This work was done in partnership with the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative (FEMC) and UNH Cooperative Extension. Come learn about how we used a drone to survey and map oak damage in Conway, NH and complete a town park tree inventory in Kingston, NH. Be one of the first to get a tour of our new online Ecosystem Services Map of NH and learn how this technology can assist you and your community. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

Grant Opportunities

\$750,000 AVAILABLE for AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION GRANTS

Agricultural Land Preservation grants will be available to assist municipalities and non-profit land trusts who are working to preserve active farmland for future agricultural production through easements. The Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food's has announced that \$750,000 in grant funding will be made available through its Agricultural Land Preservation program. The goal of this round of grants is to partner with other funders to maximize the number of farms preserved throughout the state. The Agricultural Land Preservation Program's 2025 grant round is now open. Funding proposals will be due by April 11, 2025. Grant funds, which will be awarded through a competitive grant process, will assist eligible entities, including land trusts and municipalities, in preserving New Hampshire's farmland through the acquisition of agricultural land preservation easements. Complete program guidelines and application materials will be available on the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Foods website, www.agriculture.nh.gov or by request at ALP@agr.nh.gov.

NEW ENGLAND GRASS ROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

Grants to fund community involvement in projects that address environmental issues including agriculture, air quality, alternative energy, aquifer protection, biotechnology, community gardens, environmental justice, energy conservation, forestry, global warming, land trusts, marine environment, public health, sprawl, sustainable communities, toxics and hazardous waste, trails, water quality, watershed management, wetlands, wildlife, and youth-organized environmental work. [SEE WEBSITE.](#)

FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PROTECT WILD PLACES

The Conservation Alliance (TCA) protects outdoor spaces and wild places through the collective power of its member companies. TCA members' annual contributions go directly to its grants program. Twice a year, TCA's **Member-Directed Grants** provide support for projects that seek to secure lasting and quantifiable protection of a specific wild land or waterway. As part of this process, TCA member companies nominate up to two organizations to apply for funding of up to \$50,000 and help to select grantees who are committed to creating a healthy, liveable planet for all. Organizations should connect with **member companies** in their state to secure a nomination. This program is led by an advisory committee made up of individuals from member companies, philanthropy, and

grantee organizations. Visit the Conservation Alliance's website for further information on its grant programs. For more info go to: [The Conservation Alliance](#)

Visit our Website

NHACC.org

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