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# NHACC September 2023 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



## Please Join Us for the NHACC Annual Meeting & Conference

Journey to the swamp with naturalist, author, and artist David Carroll as he shares his love of wetlands and turtles. David will present a program consisting of brief readings from his published work, with story-telling and discussions centering on turtles and wetlands. David will address associated conservation considerations of three turtle species in decline – the Spotted, Wood, and Blanding’s turtles – that are now listed as NH species of concern, threatened and endangered throughout their ranges.

**The Conference will be held on Saturday, November 4 at Pembroke Academy.** Don’t miss this educational and networking opportunity to learn from both peers and professionals. You can attend 3 **workshops** of your choice to enhance your learning experience. Sign up before October 28 to get the early bird rate of \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members.

Register Now

## CCs in the News



### Summer Local River Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer Opportunities

*Written by: Myrtle Lewis, Thornton Conservation Commission*

Each summer, local volunteers collect samples and conduct field analytical measurements to monitor the water quality in rivers throughout New Hampshire. It is a fun activity that supports keeping New Hampshire rivers healthy. The New Hampshire Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) is managed by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). The work of VRAP volunteers increases the amount of river water quality information available to local, state and federal governments, which allows for better watershed planning. At last count, DES supported over 40 volunteer groups on numerous rivers and watersheds throughout the State. Further, VRAP volunteers monitor over 300 river/stream stations and collected over 10,000 chemical and biological samples results annually. These monitoring results have contributed to the water quality assessment of more than 2,500 miles of rivers and streams in New Hampshire.

DES staff develop a sampling plan and establish monitoring locations for river water sampling, based upon previous sampling data trends. DES staff train volunteers to use the portable water quality monitoring equipment to take field measurements. Volunteers measure water quality constituents, such as pH (acidity/alkalinity), turbidity, dissolved oxygen, water temperature and specific conductance. Volunteers are also trained to properly record the data on field data sheets, to assure the monitoring results comply with required quality assurance/quality control procedures. Periodically, E. coli, phosphorous, chloride, nitrate and nitrite samples are collected and sent to the DES Laboratory in Concord, NH for analysis.

This river monitoring program is important because more locations along New Hampshire's rivers are monitored and with greater frequency than DES staffing levels allow. This improves the likelihood of finding harmful discharges in the river systems, as an example, from an improperly operating septic system. The monitoring program is conducted during the summer months when there are increased recreational activities in the rivers and this is also a critical time for fish and wildlife in the rivers. Additional information is available about the VRAP program at: [River and Lake Monitoring | NH Department of Environmental Services](#)

## Grant Opportunities

### The Climate Initiative: Youth Action Grants

The Climate Initiative (TCI) seeks to empower youth voices for climate action. Through its Youth Action Grants, TCI supports individuals or groups who demonstrate a commitment to mitigating or adapting to the impacts of climate change in their communities. Grants are available throughout the U.S., including the U.S. territories and tribal nations. The program seeks to encourage youth (ages 13–23) to take action within their communities to:

- better mitigate climate challenges;
- foster climate change discussion and education; and,
- provide young people with the necessary resources to fill the gaps of climate adaptation in their communities.

Projects should be student-led and community-based, and empower students to develop local climate solutions. Go to the [Climate Initiative website](#) for more information.

### Grants for Getting Children Outside

National Park Trust, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, offers several grants to get kids outside and connecting with community.

- Every Kid Outdoors Small Grants Program, supporting the needs of non-profits and schools that are connecting elementary school-aged youth to public parks, lands, and waters.
- Kids to Parks Day School Grants Program helps under-resourced U.S. schools and students to discover and explore parks, historic sites, public lands, and waters.
- National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program is a funding opportunity intended to build collaborations between the National Park Service and community project partners.

For more information on these and other grant opportunities go to [National Park Trust website](#)

## Lunch & Learn Zoom Series

### HOW TO PASS A CONSERVATION BOND

Tuesday, October 24

12 noon on Zoom

Katherine Heck, Government Finance Advisor, NH Municipal Association  
Rob Clemens, Amherst Conservation Commissions

Municipal bonds are growing in popularity as a significant funding source for communities interested in conserving land. Pursuant to RSA 36-A:4, Conservations

Commissions are authorized to protect and limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve and properly utilize open spaces and other land and water areas. Learn how your municipality can utilize the bonding authority within the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33:1) to link your community's Master Plan using this financial tool. In this session we will cover the process for issuing Conservation Bonds and explain how the Town of Amherst successfully passed a bond by providing the public with a clear understanding of the program and its long-term benefits while engaging the voters throughout the process.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PFAS**

Wednesday, November 15

12 noon on Zoom

Amy Rousseau, PFAS Response Coordinator for the NH Dept. of Environmental Services

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of chemical compounds used for waterproofing and stain resistance. They came into awareness in NH in 2014. This lunch and learn will be an overview of PFAS touching on the who, what, where, when, why and how of this chemical family class. The presentation will include a brief introduction to PFAS, health effects, PFAS in NH, and what is being done at the State and Federal levels.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

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[NHACC.org](https://www.nhacc.org)

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