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NHACC August 2023 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Forests Are an Important Asset in New Hampshire

Forests are Important to both Landowners and Communities. They can provide revenue from timber sales and offer recreational opportunities for landowners and the public. They protect wildlife habitat, air quality, and water supplies. Woodlots create resilient communities by linking natural areas to create corridors, by providing cooling islands near urban areas and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Landowners who own large tracts of land can enjoy these many benefits by taking care of their land and understanding how to carefully manage and protect natural resources. Conservation commissions can showcase exemplary stewardship on public lands by demonstrating sustainable forestry and wildlife habitat management practices.



[Learn more about the health of NH's Forests with UNH Extension at their upcoming programs listed below in the training and education section.](#)

Enter the NHACC Photo Contest for a chance to win \$250

Help NHACC Spread the Word

We encourage our member commissions to spread the word and invite community members to participate in the contest. Local Conservation Commissions are challenged to encourage their residents to submit photos, and be the town with the most entries. **Please share this poster** in your community. The NH town with the most submissions will receive a free ticket to the NHACC conference to invite anyone they wish, plus have the ability to use the visual content in their own social media and on town websites.

Get outside this summer and take photos

If you like to capture nature's beauty, please share your amazing photos with NHACC as part of our Water, Wetlands, and Wildlife in the Natural World photo contest. We are primarily looking for photographs that inspire the preservation of our natural environment. Winners in each category will receive \$250, and Honorable Mentions will receive \$50. You are encouraged to take photographs on conserved lands in or near your town, but they also may be made in other places such as your own backyard. A complete list of rules can be found on the [NHACC website](#).

How to Enter:

We will be using the [ArtCall website](#) to host entries into the contest. The entry form will be open between June 1 and September 8, and contestants will be able to edit or change their entry any time before midnight on September 8. Send in your photos today.

CCs in the News

The **Atkinson Conservation Commission** received a donation from the Garden Club to help build an accessible trail in the Slade Town Forest. The Conservation Commission has documented plans for an ADA compliant trail system for wheel chair access with gentle grades and a 6 ft wide smooth, compacted gravel surface and an observational platform overlooking Stewart Farm Pond. Already existing trails will be extended, some leading to large areas perfect for large native wildflower plantings and a native shrub restoration project. [Read more](#)

The **Hanover Conservation Commission** partnered with with the Hanover Conservancy to permanently protect the King Bird Sanctuary. The Etna town natural area is now permanently protected with a conservation easement. In the context of the open space plan, the Etna Walkway is described as one example of the many opportunities in Hanover to create new public assets by linking existing protected lands and trail easements. Now, the King Bird Sanctuary and the neighboring Trescott Ridge Wetlands — owned by the town of Hanover — are under a permanent conservation easement. The easement, which includes 17.4 acres of land is held by the Hanover Conservancy, a nonprofit organization and land trust. [Read more](#)

Kingston Conservation Commission offers programs on Pollinator Pathways. While Kingston Conservation Commission's Trails subcommittee has been busy building bridges and kiosks, Kingston's other active subcommittee, Pollinator Pathways NH, has been reaching out both locally and nationally. Founded by Commission

member Marghi Bean in 2018 and co-chaired by Evy Nathan, the committee has been sharing the pollinator conservation message throughout Rockingham County and beyond. PPNH is now associated with the Pollinator Partnership, the Pollination Project, the Homegrown National Park movement, and most has recently joined the national Pollinator Pathways organization. For more information go to the [Pollinator Pathway website](#).

Manchester Conservation Commission presents the trail tour series. The Conservation Commission wants to help rewrite the existing narrative about Manchester by highlighting our abundance of outdoor natural spaces and outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities. The universally accessible Cedar Swamp All Persons Trail includes a spacious parking area, inclusive, informational signage, immersive interpretive points of interest, a non-gendered, family-friendly, ADA-compliant portable restroom, and an audio tour available in both English and Spanish. [Learn more](#).

Fall 2023 NHACC Lunch & Learn Series

Free for NHACC members

USING TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS TO FUND LAND PRESERVATION

Wednesday, September 13

12 noon on Zoom

Donna Benton, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development

Jackson Kaspari, Ph.D., Resilience Manager

The City of Dover implemented a Transfer of Development Rights program (TDR) decades ago. This session will review the program and how it has evolved over the years, and now includes land preservation and affordable housing opportunities for property owners, the City and community. Dover staff will review examples of utilization, revenue generated, and discuss how changes have been implemented and received by the Development community.

[Register Now](#)

MANAGING INCREASING OUTDOOR RECREATION VISITATION—

An Overview of Recent NH Visitor Use Research

Wednesday, September 20

12 noon on Zoom

Mike Ferguson, UNH Dept. of recreation management and policy

Learn more about the impact of the increased use of natural areas during the pandemic in this program covering UNH research that found a dramatic increase of visitors to the parks and protected areas of New England. The results of the UNH study found the soaring rate of park guests caused significant social, situational and ecological impacts on people's behavior, decision making and experience quality.

Additional challenges of increased visitation include long traffic lines, lack of parking, trail congestion and unprecedented instances of overcrowding and discord. Learn how park officials responded to this increase by managing access to the National Parks to control overcrowding.

[Register Now](#)

Upcoming October Programs

How to Pass a Conservation Bond

Tuesday, October 24 at 12 noon

Katherine Heck, Government Finance Advisor, New Hampshire Municipal Association
Natch Greyes, Government Affairs Counsel, New Hampshire Municipal Association

Education & Training Opportunities

New Hampshire's Forest Health: Hands on with Today's Insects and Diseases

September 15, 2022 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Southeast Land Trust, Burley Farms

During this all-day, "in the field" workshop, small groups will rotate through six stations at Burley Farms. At each station there will be a unique set of insects, invasive plants, or diseases that a specialist will show you, let you handle, and then moderate a discussion of how these pests could influence your forest or habitat management. Bring your own samples or pictures of pests or damage you're seeing in the woods and our experts will ID them. Gather that weird forest insect or damage and stump the experts!. Go to the [Extension website](#) for information.

Eastern Old Growth Forest Conference

September 21- 23, 2022

Geneva Point Center, Moultonborough, NH

This event will be the 7th in a series of conferences dedicated to the study, awareness and appreciation of the original forests of the Eastern United States and Eastern Canada. Since the last conference in 2004, advancements in the understanding of the distribution, dynamics and values of these old forests have been significant and far-reaching. Hosted by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, the 2023 conference will provide an important and unique forum for the exchange of ideas and discussion of numerous topics relative to the special role old forests have in today's world. Multicultural perspectives, knowledge and wisdom will be infused throughout the conference experience. CEU credits will also be available for resource professionals. Field experiences will introduce participants to several old-growth forest sites in the area. Go to the [UNH Extension website](#) for more information.

Grant Opportunities

Moose Plate Grant Applications Are Due in September

The New Hampshire State Conservation Committee (SCC) announces the opening of 2024 Conservation Moose Plate Grants. Grant funds are available for projects that support and promote programs and partnerships that protect, restore, and enhance the state's valuable natural resources. Grant applications are due on September 15, 2023. Awards will be announced in December 2023, and funding will be available to successful applicants in July 2024. Eligible applicants include municipalities, County Conservation Districts, qualified nonprofit organizations engaged in conservation programs, public and private schools, County Cooperative Extension natural resource programs, and scout groups. For SCC grant program inquiries, contact Dea Brickner-Wood, Administrator, nh-conservation-committee@nh.gov. The 2024 Conservation Grant Application Instructions and Application Form may be downloaded from the [SCC website](#).

Grassroots Fund

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund grant programs aim to energize and nurture long-term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe, and environmentally sustainable communities throughout the six New England

states. The Grassroots Fund is currently accepting applications for Seed grants, designed to support new (often less than one year old) environmental projects, and Grow grants, for initiatives that look to deepen their work or broaden participation. Grants focus on groups doing local, grassroots work, with priority on community groups that have an approximate annual operating budget under \$100,000, represent a broad range of voices in their community, and are not being reached by other funders. Seed grants range from \$500 to \$1,000 while Grow grants range from \$1,000 to \$4,000. (Applicant groups do not need to have formal tax status or a fiscal sponsor.) [For more information.](#)

US Fish & Wildlife

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative and grant agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources. Priorities include complementing activities on National Wildlife Refuge System lands, improving habitat for species at risk and federally designated species, and supporting five-year strategic plans to identify focal species and focal areas in which to invest limited resources. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through September 30, 2023. [For more information.](#)

Wharton Trust has Funds for New England Environmental Conservation

The William P. Wharton Trust supports nonprofit organizations that promote the conservation, study, and appreciation of nature. The Trust's funding objectives in order of priority are as follows: conservation of renewable resources in New England, including funding the acquisition of land for conservation purposes; management techniques designed to improve environmental quality and species diversity; bird and forestry research and management, especially at the applied level rather than the theoretical or molecular level; and the creation of materials or projects designed to foster an appreciation of and a concern for wildlife and natural systems. Grants are generally less than \$15,000. The upcoming deadline for preliminary applications is September. Visit the [Trust's website](#) to review the application instructions.

Save the Date Saturday, November 4, 2023 Pembroke Academy

The NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference is the only State-wide conference dedicated to municipal conservation commission members. We will be offering 18 breakout sessions after the business meeting including *our foundations programs, creating a wetlands ordinance, climate resilience*, and more! Check out our website in September for more details.



Visit our Website
NHACC.org

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