



# New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference  
November 2, 2024  
Pembroke Academy

## Conference Presenter Biographies

### **Keynote: David Anderson and Chris Martin**

Dave Anderson is Senior Director of Education for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. He joined the Forest Society in 1990 and is responsible for design, development, and delivery of conservation education public programs or field trips. He is a well-known naturalist, guiding field trips on Forest Society properties and teaching about forest ecology, wildlife habitats and land conservation. Dave is a co-author of the "Forest Journal" column in the statewide NH Sunday News. He has co-hosted NHPR's "Something Wild" since 2008.

Chris Martin is a Senior Biologist with NH Audubon. He has coordinated various raptor monitoring and management projects for Audubon for 34 years, working with volunteers and with state and federal partners to aid the recovery of Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Northern Harriers, and Ospreys. He has been Audubon's voice on NHPR's Something Wild since 2009. Chris started out wanting to be a forester but was always distracted by birds, and eventually they became the focus of his professional career.

### **Beck, Jennifer; Wilton Conservation Commission, NHACC Board**

Jennifer recently retired from a marketing job where she cajoled corporate executives into consensus on complicated issues. She is chair of the Wilton Economic Development Team and serves on the Wilton Conservation Commissions. She has served on the NHACC Board since 2019 and is chair of the marketing committee.

### **Bennett, Karen; UNH Cooperative Extension Forester, Emeritus**

Karen retired in 2019 after a 40-year career with UNH Cooperative Extension helping landowners and foresters care for their land, first as a County Forester and then as the State Extension Forester. She specialized in private lands management, providing education to landowners, land managers, conservation volunteers, and public decision-makers. She is pleased to be the project manager and editor for *Good Forestry in the Granite State*. She's served on the boards and committees of many conservation and forestry organizations. She lives with her husband, Andras Lazar, in Antrim and joined her conservation commission this year. Her favorite activities are tending her gardens, and spending time outdoors with her grandchildren, Milo, Hazel and Ari.

### **Berger, Emma; NH DES, Inland Wetland Permitting Section Supervisor**

Emma Berger is the Inland Wetland Section Supervisor in the Wetlands Bureau at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. She supervises and reviews applications for work in wetlands and surface waters as well as oversees the issuance of permits, denial letters, and other permitting documentation. Emma is nationally certified as a Certified Professional Soil Scientist and a certified Professional Wetland Scientist. She holds a Master of Science in Soil and Water Science from University of Florida and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Florida Gulf Coast University with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science. Emma has been working as a regulator for the past 6 years, but also enjoys working part time as an adjunct professor at the Community College of Vermont and previously taught at Florida Gulf Coast University.

### **Boland, Kelley; NH Natural Resource Conservation Service**

Kelly Boland is the State Biologist for NH NRCS. She received her B.S. from University of Wisconsin-Madison in Conservation Biology, then moved out east working at Cape Cod National Seashore for many years before pursuing a Master's in Wildlife Ecology from UNH. Before landing at NRCS she was a biologist at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Maine. Her focus has been on field and forest management for turtles, rabbits, pollinators and everything in between and helping landowners in NH meet their wildlife goals.

### **Boyajian, Zachary; Chichester Conservation Commission**

Zachary Boyajian has been a member of the Chichester Conservation Commission since 2003 and is currently the chair. He is also the chair of the Chichester Parks and Recreation Commission. He served on the NHACC Board of Directors from 2016 to 2022. Mr. Boyajian has been employed as an environmentalist for the NH Army National Guard since 1995 and is a founding member of the NH Prescribed Fire Council. Mr. Boyajian holds a BS from University of Massachusetts in Natural Resources Studies and MS from Antioch New England in Resource Management and Administration.

### **Brown, Vicki; East Kingston Conservation Commission**

Vicki is a naturalist and marketer with 30 years of experience leading marketing at such organizations as Joslin Diabetes Center, IDC and Wolters Kluwer | UpToDate. She co-founded Pollinator Pathways NH, served as the volunteer Marketing lead for the Eastern Old-Growth Forest Conference, and acts as an advisor on old-growth forests in Rockingham County, NH for the Old Growth Forest Network. Vicki leverages her passion for sustainability, healthcare outcomes and natural resources at mission-oriented organizations, including the NH Department of Health and Human Services, where she provided marketing and strategy consulting on diabetes, heart health and other services for the public health division. A NH Natural Resources Steward and NH Big Tree volunteer, Vicki volunteers for UNH Extension, her towns Conservation Commission, and her local land trust, SELT. Vicki has an M.S. in Science Communication / Industry and Technology Assessment from Boston University.

### **Doner, Lisa; Plymouth State University**

Dr. Doner is a professor of environmental science at Plymouth State University and Chair of the Plymouth Conservation Commission. She has nearly 40-years of experience studying the impact of climate change and communicating about it to the public.

### **Galbraith, Jennifer; NH DES Climate and Energy Program Manager**

Jennifer Galbraith joined NHDES as the Climate and Energy Program Manager in July of 2023 to manage the NHDES's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. Jennifer has also worked as an air permit engineer and air quality modeler for NHDES. She has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from NC State University and a M.S. in Atmospheric Science from University of Wisconsin.

### **Gerson, Deborah, MD; NH Health Care Workers for Climate Action**

Dr. Gerson is a pathologist practicing at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, NH. She received a B.S. in Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.D. from Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Gerson completed her pathology residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami, FL, and her fellowship in surgical pathology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA. She practiced pathology for several years in Florida where she learned first-hand the health dangers caused by hurricanes and extreme heat. Dr. Gerson has seen the health effects of global warming in her New Hampshire practice with the increase in tick-borne diseases such as babesiosis and Lyme disease. She has a passion for promoting action on the climate crisis to protect her family, her community, and the global population from the health impacts of climate change. Dr. Gerson serves on the board of directors and co-chairs the Education Working Group for the NH Health Care Workers for Climate Action.

### **Hart, Leah; Society for the Protection of NH Forests**

Leah has worked at the Forest Society since 2020 as a Land Conservation Project Manager, primarily on projects in the northern portion of the state. Prior to that, she held positions in conservation easement stewardship with the Forest Society and Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

### **Hernandez, Stacie; Society for the Protection of NH Forests**

Stacie started at the Forest Society in 2019 as a regional stewardship manager. In 2022, Stacie started working with private landowners to conserve land in the southern portion of the state and secure funding for land conservation projects.

### **Holman, Heidi; NH Fish & Game**

Heidi Holman is a wildlife diversity biologist with the NH Fish and Game Department. Her primary responsibilities include implementation of recovery efforts for the Karner blue butterfly and the New England cottontail rabbit with habitat restoration and release of individuals from captive breeding programs. Recently, Heidi launched the NH Butterfly Monitoring Network, a collaborative effort across the state to create awareness of the species in our state and collect current data on their distribution and abundance.

### **Johnston, Mickayla; NH Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator**

Mickayla is the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, helping to lead the 2025 update and revision of the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan. Mickayla has been coordinating revision efforts, including updates to the Species of Greatest Conservation Need list, threats assessments, and conservation action development with partners including NH Audubon, NH Natural Heritage Bureau, and The Nature Conservancy. In addition to these updates, she is collaborating with partners at NH Listens, UNH Cooperative Extension Community and Economic Development team, and Taking Action for Wildlife to develop public outreach and

engagement opportunities as a part of the Wildlife Action Plan revision process. Mickayla previously worked as a Conservation Biologist for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. She received her Bachelor's degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from Keene State College and earned her Master's in Environmental Biology from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

**Jordan, Greg; UNH Cooperative Extension**

Greg Jordan is a Forestry Field Specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension in Rockingham County. He holds two degrees in forestry from the University of New Hampshire and is a licensed forester, a certified arborist, and Chair of the New Hampshire Tree Farm Committee. Prior to joining UNH in 2017, he spent more than a decade working as a consulting forester in southern New Hampshire and Maine and has taken part in hundreds of projects helping landowners manage private and public forests.

**Littleton, Jeffry; Conservation Ecologist, Moosewood Ecological**

Jeffry Littleton is very enthusiastic about exploring our natural world. He is the principal ecologist with Moosewood Ecological LLC, having more than 30 years of experience in ecological studies and environmental education. He specializes in conservation planning, land management and stewardship, habitat restoration/enhancement, and native plantings to promote biodiversity and ecological resilience on multiple scales. Moosewood Ecological offers ecological services for a wide range of entities, including private landowners, federal and state agencies, and municipalities, as well as land trusts and other non-profit organizations. Jeffry employs a systems approach to understanding the spatial dynamics of the environment, blending conservation biology with the ecology of landscapes. He uses a GIS to analyze natural resources to help guide conservation and restoration planning efforts. Jeffry serves as an adjunct faculty member at Antioch University where he provides course instruction on forest community ecology and interpreting past land use histories from clues remaining in our forested landscape. In addition, he is a member of the Cheshire County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board.

**Manzelli, Amy, Esq., Co-owner and Attorney,  
BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC**

Amy is the Managing Member and a part owner of the law firm of BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC, with offices in Concord, NH, and Portland, ME, where she practices environmental, conservation, and land law across northern New England. She is also the President of the Board of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire. Ms. Manzelli regularly advocates for clients' issues at the State House, with lawmakers and with officials of executive agencies. She uses her governmental relations skills to encourage passage, modification, or defeat of proposed laws. Ms. Manzelli holds an advanced degree in environmental law and a juris doctor from Vermont Law School. Ms. Manzelli earned her B.S. in Environmental Conservation and her B.A. in Spanish at the University of New Hampshire, where she is now a Distinguished Alumna. Ms. Manzelli makes her home in Pembroke, along with her husband, two children, and their dog. She enjoys family time, food, gardening, edible landscapes, hiking, biking, cooking, and travel.

### **Nichols, Cynthia, MS, BSN, RN; NH Health Care Workers for Climate Action**

Cynthia Nichols is an RN Care Manager working in the Dartmouth Health system acute care and critical access hospitals. Prior to becoming a nurse, Cynthia had an MS in Conservation Biology and has a deep passion for and understanding of how natural ecosystems support animals and the planet. Seeing how people's health is also directly connected to a healthy planet and impacted by things like air pollution, extreme heat or cold, changing ecosystems, and extreme weather, Cynthia recognized that she could bring both passions together and recently attained a certificate in Climate Resilience. Her hope is to use this background to help mitigate climate impacts and contribute to more resilient, equitable, and environmentally friendly communities. With those goals in mind, she is also working with the New Hampshire Nurses Association Planetary Health Commission and the Dartmouth Health Alliance for Climate and Health.

### **Roberge, Steven; UNH**

Steven Roberge is the UNH Cooperative Extension's State Extension Forester. In this role he oversees the system of county Extension foresters, coordinates outreach to forest owners and professionals, and implements the State's Forest Stewardship Program. His primary role is to transfer research to forest owners and natural resource professions. Steve earned a B.S. in Forest Science from the UNH, a Masters of Forest Science from Yale University, and a graduate of the Northeast Silviculture Institute for Foresters in 2017.

### **Schadler, Chris; Project Coyote**

Chris' interest in wild canids began in the 1970s as a volunteer at the Wolf Park in Battleground, Indiana. This opportunity and others inspired an eventual Masters in Conservation Biology at Antioch University Graduate School. Her thesis focused on the Natural Recovery of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Michigan. Chris lived in Michigan and Minnesota during the early 1980s where her research into the gray wolf continued and her speaking career began. Beginning in the early 1990s, Chris taught in the Natural Resources Department at and mentored adult degree candidates in the UNH System at Granite State College. She is now the NH and VT Representative for Project Coyote, a national organization promoting coexistence with coyotes. Following the defeat of a proposal to hunt and trap bobcats, Chris co-founded the NH Wildlife Coalition which aims to broaden public input into wildlife decision-making.

### **Spencer, Larry; Holderness Conservation Commission and NHACC Board**

Larry Spencer is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Plymouth State University where he started teaching in September of 1967. His areas of interest there were vertebrate and invertebrate zoology, ecology and evolutionary biology. Since the 1970's he's been chair of the Holderness Conservation Commission. He serves as the NHACC representative to the NH Rivers Management Advisory Council where he is the vice chair of the group. Until a few years ago, he ran many races going from 5k to marathons and did triathlons. Now he is just happy doing short bike rides.

### **Stanwood, Sabrina; Administrator of the NH Natural Heritage Bureau**

She oversees a staff of botanists and ecologists that are passionate about NH plant species. She has a Master's degree in Forest Resources and a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Studies. She enjoys swimming and beach trips with her daughter and hiking in NH.

### **Sullivan, Kevin; NH Fish & Game**

Kevin Sullivan is the Environmental Review Program Supervisor for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Nongame/Wildlife Division. Kevin has worked for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as a marine biologist for 21 years, with a focus on anadromous and recreational fisheries. He was involved in several successful dam removals on New Hampshire's coastal rivers and has conducted multiple fisheries stock assessments with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Most recently Kevin has begun supervising the NHFG Environmental Review Program and works with a team of reviewers to complete reviews of projects of all kinds from single house construction to residential/industrial villages to ensure rare wildlife species are protected through avoidance, minimization, and mitigation.

### **Thompson, Charlotte; UNH Cooperative Extension**

Charlotte is the Stewardship Outreach Program with UNH Cooperative Extension. She helps organizations and volunteers across New Hampshire manage their conservation land. Charlotte leads communications for [Nature Groupie](#), which helps groups recruit outdoor volunteers and is part of a new program to help understand accessibility of trails across the state. She also worked on the [NH BioBlitz Project](#) to develop the NH BioBlitz Guide. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of New Hampshire and is currently working towards a Master's of Science in Natural Resources and a Masters Certificate in Citizen and Community Science from the University of New Hampshire.

### **Tilton, Mary Ann; NH Department of Environmental Services**

Mary Ann Tilton, serves as the Assistant Wetlands Bureau administrator and has worked on compliance, permitting and program development. She has been with the wetlands bureau for more than 30 years. She has a Master's of Science from URI (in wetlands ecology); a BA from Connecticut College, and a JD from UNH Law School.

### **Tutein, Emma; UNH Cooperative Extension**

Emma Tutein is the Community Conservation State Specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension. In her role, Emma works closely with conservation professionals, communities, and volunteers to support their work in protecting New Hampshire's natural resources. She provides educational opportunities, professional development, and technical assistance related to land conservation, conservation planning, outreach, and stewardship and management of conservation lands.

### **Wainwright, Paul; Atkinson Conservation Commission, NHACC Board**

Paul Wainwright has been a member of the Atkinson Conservation Commission since 1998, and has served as its Chair since 2018. Photography is one of his passions (he is the administrator of the NHACC Photo Contest), and he finds many innovative uses for Photoshop in his conservation work. Paul is also on the NHACC Board of Directors, where he currently serves as the Board's Vice President. And he loves golden retrievers.

### **Wilkinson, Jim; Hampstead Conservation Commission**

Jim Wilkinson is Vice-Chair of the Hampstead, NH Conservation Commission and a retired software executive. When first retiring, Jim took on the task of remaking and improving the Hampstead, NH Conservation trail maps and after extensive research settled on the combination of QGIS and Avenza to provide completely custom maps. Adjacent towns have noticed the quality of Hampstead's maps so Jim has extended his project to help adjacent towns by either producing maps for those town or training their Conservation Commission members to produce their own maps.

**Wingate, Stephen; Tuftonboro Conservation Commission, NHACC Board**

Steve has been a TCC member since 2009 and chairman from 2012 to 2022 and is currently Vice Chair. He joined the NHACC Board of Directors in 2023. Steve is also Vice Chair of the Board of the Carrol County Conservation District, Member of Wolfeboro/ Tuftonboro Land Bank, and NH Lakes Management Committee. Steve Retired from the US Forest Service in 2006 and is a veteran of the US Army. He holds a BBA from Nichols College and an MS in Forestry from the University of Massachusetts.

**Yuengling, Kurt; NH DES**

**Kurt Yuengling** joined NHDES' Environmental Health Program in November 2023 in a new Community Engagement position. Kurt has taught earth and environmental science at community colleges in Michigan and Arizona, worked as a geologist in Alaska and New Hampshire, and worked in wetlands and stormwater compliance programs at NHDES and Maine DEP. Kurt received his BA and MS in Geological Sciences from SUNY Geneseo and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.