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1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Spring Wetlands Training Series Featured Field Study

In May, NHACC presented *Intro to Wetlands Assessment Field Study* as part of a comprehensive training program for conservation commission members. This series was developed with the assistance of NH DES staff and wetlands scientists to help conservation commissions develop an efficient and effective response to state wetlands permit applications. Wetlands are protected under state law in accordance with the [Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act \(RSA 482-A\)](#). On a municipal level, only a conservation commission has the power to “intervene” or provide comments on an application to the Wetlands Bureau to allow for local review of the proposal. To provided comments to NH DES, conservation commissions must have a good working knowledge of wetlands identification and the NH DES wetlands rules in order to comment effectively and support the protection of high-value wetlands.

You can find recordings of the wetlands trainings on the [NHACC YouTube channel](#).

The photo below was taken by Paul Wainwright at the Wetlands Assessment Field Training.



CCs in the News

The **Rindge Conservation Commission** opens a new conservation property. In 2022, the Town of Rindge purchased 228 acres of mostly undeveloped land previously owned by Rindge Stone and Gravel. Since then, the Rindge Conservation Commission has prepared the area for visitors by marking trails, installing a kiosk and constructing the entry and parking lot with help from the current owner of Rindge Stone and Gravel. Once the work is completed, Mattabeseck will be open to the public year-round. [Read more.](#)

The **Laconia Conservation Commission** features exhibits at the Belknap Mill. The Belknap Mill has a series of displays on view until the end of the month, organized by the city's Conservation Commission to educate the public about ongoing area volunteer conservation efforts. The display is free and available to the public between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., weekdays through May 31.

The **Atkinson Conservation Commission** posts turtle crossing signs. The Conservation Commission hopes to protect turtles from being killed or injured on busy streets this spring, as they begin egg-laying season. The Commission purchased six "Turtle Crossing" signs last fall to aid in the cause. Those signs will be erected in the coming weeks on streets including Maple Avenue and Island Pond Road where numerous turtle road fatalities have been reported. [Read more.](#)

Education & Training Opportunities

Bird Identification, Ecology & Habitat Management

Saturday, June 3, 2023 | 5:30 - 10:45am

Join Extension's Matt Tarr, with the **Harris Center for Conservation Education's** Phil Brown and

others for a morning of birding and learning at Stone Fence Farm, a property owned and managed for a diversity of native species by professional foresters Jeremy Turner and Laura French. This workshop will include slow walking tours visiting a variety of field, forest, and wetland habitats to learn tips for identifying the birds we encounter by sight and sound.

[For more information.](#)

Why does cutting trees improve habitat?

Sunday, June 4, 2023 | 1:00 to 2:30 pm

This will be an educational, family-friendly, easy walk through Atkinson's Caroline Orr Town Forest, which was selectively harvested 7 years ago. Led by Consulting Forester Charlie Moreno, you will see that the forest is bursting with new trees, new vegetation, new wildlife habitat, and it is beautiful! [For more information.](#)

Weed Watcher Training at Newfound Lake

Thursday, June 22, 2023 • 2:00pm–4:00pm

Thursday, July 13, 2023 • 2:00pm–4:00pm

Friday, August 11, 2023 • 9:00am–11:00am

Learn to identify aquatic plants and join a community of volunteers who paddle with a purpose. Weed watchers are trained volunteers who form an early detection network, scanning shorelines for outbreaks of invasive aquatic plants. Trained weed watchers can participate in NLRA's annual Weed Stampede (August 26–27), our annual volunteer-driven survey of Newfound's shoreline!

[For more information.](#)

NH Bat Count Training

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 • 7:00pm–9:00pm

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, NH

Join UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Conservation State Specialist Haley Andreozzi for a presentation and demonstration at Squam Lakes Natural Science Center to learn more about the bat species found in New Hampshire, the threats leading to population declines, and how you can help conserve bats. The training will start with an indoor presentation on bats in New Hampshire, followed by a bat counting demonstration outdoors at dusk. Attendees will be trained to participate in the NH Bat Counts project, which involves citizen science volunteers in helping to monitor summer bat colonies in New Hampshire.

This event is free, but space is limited and registration is required. [For more information.](#)

Grant Opportunities

AQUATIC RESOURCE MITIGATION (ARM) FUND

The 2023 Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Grant Round is open and **pre-proposals** are due by May 31, 2023. The Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program aims to sustain the functions and values of aquatic resources in New Hampshire through protection, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and streams, to compensate for the aquatic resources lost from development and other impacts. When wetland functions and values will be lost due to development, funds may be placed into the ARM fund. Fees collected by ARM are pooled within the same major watershed and then distributed as competitive grants so that the money collected is going back to the areas affected by the project. For more details on the grant round, application process, and this year's target goals and objectives, please review

the [2023 ARM Grant Pro-Proposal Form and Guidance](#) or visit the [DES website](#)

NH CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM

NHDES is now accepting Pre-applications for the 2023 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source projects. CWSRF funding is available for water pollution control, watershed protection and restoration, and estuary management projects that contribute to the protection of public health, water quality and the environment. A sizable increase in CWSRF appropriations has been made available over the next five years with the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). BIL includes the CWSRF base capitalization grant, as well as new capitalization grant with supplemental funding, and funds for addressing emerging contaminants.

Deadline for CWSRF pre-applications: Thursday, June 1, 2023. [For more information.](#)

National Fish & Wildlife: NEW ENGLAND FORESTS & RIVERS FUND

The New England Forests and Rivers Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), is dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native fish and wildlife populations in the six New England states, as well as Lake Champlain, St. Lawrence River, and Upper Hudson watersheds in New York. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions.

Full Proposal Due Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 by 11:59 PM EDT

Applicant Webinar: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM EDT. [For more information.](#)

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