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NHACC March 2024 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Conservation Commissions Adapt to a Changing Climate

Conservation commissions in NH are looking for ways to prepare for climate change and protect natural resources from rising temperatures and extreme weather events. There are many actions that communities can take to adjust to environmental disturbances caused by climate change. Conservation commissions' identification and protection of natural areas will help communities mitigate and adapt to climate. Top resources to identify and protect are high value wetlands and unfragmented forests. Commissions can also restore and manage habitats with climate resilience in mind. Identification of climate corridors, or wildlife corridors that will help species migrate to cooler areas, either farther north or to higher elevations, is an important resilience strategy. [Read more.](#)

Photo: Drew Groves – Dunbarton



CCs in the News

Chichester Protects Family Farm

The Town of Chichester has purchased a conservation easement on 27 acres of agricultural land. The easement purchase, which does not include the farm buildings, covers the fields and forest land now known as the Valley View Conservation Area after the farm's storied past as a summer tourist destination over a century ago. The undeveloped parcel, which is primarily hay field and partly wooded, is located adjacent to 41 acres of conservation land previously donated to the Chichester School District.



The easement permanently protects the 27 acres from development, allows for continued agriculture and forestry by the landowner, helps protect the well water quality at the school, and provides public access by way of a parking area and foot paths leading to the adjacent School conservation lands. The Conservation Commission paid about half of the Town's project costs, including legal work, through grants from the NH Conservation (Moose) License Plate program and the NH Department of Environmental Services Source Water Protection Program. The remainder of the easement purchase was paid through the Town Conservation Fund.

Claremont Conservation Commission reaches out to landowners

As part of their natural resources inventory update, the Claremont Conservation Commission has asked landowners for permission to visit their land to collect rare species and rare natural community data. Letters were sent to landowners who may have rare species on their property based on information supplied by NH Natural Heritage Bureau. Jeff Littleton of Moosewood Ecological said the landowners were selected, "based on a simple model we developed in GIS with ecological data we have our hands on." [Read more](#)

Education & Training Opportunities

NHACC Lunch & Learn Series

Overview of the ARM Fund

Wednesday, March 27

12 to 1:00 pm presented on Zoom

Emily Nichols, Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Program manager and

Seta Detzel, ARM Fund Program Wetland Mitigation Specialist

This program will provide an overview of compensatory wetland mitigation requirements, the ARM Fund Program, and details on the 2024 ARM Fund Grant round. Compensatory mitigation is required for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources authorized through state and federal permit actions when impacts exceed thresholds defined in NH Wetlands Rules. The purpose of compensatory mitigation is to off-set lost functions from aquatic resource impacts at the watershed scale. Compensatory mitigation requirements may be

satisfied by an in-lieu fee payment into the ARM Fund, permittee responsible mitigation, or a combination of both. In-lieu fee payments into the ARM Fund are pooled according to watersheds, and made available as competitive grants to fund restoration, enhancement and in certain circumstances preservation activities across the state. This presentation will summarize when mitigation is required, compensatory mitigation approaches, and how pooled funds are awarded as grants to offset functions and values lost in the watershed.

[Register Here](#)

State of the Piscataqua Watershed...What we can do about it
Wednesday, April 10

12 to 1:00 pm presented on Zoom

Kalle Matso, Director, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

Learn more about how we can protect water quality in the Great Bay Region. Protecting our watersheds helps to provide clean drinking water, recreational opportunities, and supports wildlife. Using two estuaries as our focus points, we explore trends in the health of our watershed by looking at changing health of valuable habitats and changing levels of stressors, such as impervious surfaces and pollution. We also take the time to discuss what we can do to protect and restore our lovely watershed.

[Register Here](#)

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ANNUAL LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Saving Special Places 2024

April 6, 2024 | Prospect Mountain High School, Alton, 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

Cyanobacteria in New Hampshire and How You Can Help

March 20, 2024, 12pm

Webinar with NH Dept of Environmental Services

NHDES will host a webinar to provide an overview of the science of cyanobacteria blooms and how the public can keep safe. The webinar will feature Kate Hastings, Cyanobacteria HAB Program Manager and NHDES' subject matter expert. Kate will dive into the science of cyanobacteria and describe how to do a self-risk assessment. She will also provide a detailed description of what happens at NHDES when a bloom is reported, walking through our initial response, monitoring (immediate and on-going while the bloom is present), and notification process and answer questions from the public. The webinar is open to anyone interested in learning more about cyanobacteria. Click [HERE to REGISTER](#)

NH Annual Geologic Mapper's Workshop

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The Annual Geologic Mapper's Workshop is hosted by the New Hampshire Geological Survey, part of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. It features presentations and results from geologists working in NH that showcase their surficial and bedrock mapping work during the past year, and how their applied and scientific contributions further our knowledge of NH geology and its use by stakeholders. This year's workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 9 starting at 8 AM and lasting until mid-afternoon, at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (7 Hazen Drive in Concord). If you can not attend in person, they will have an online option. If you plan to attend, please email RSVP to Rebecca LeCain at geology@des.nh.gov before Friday, March 22.

Stream Restoration Workshop at Tin Mountain

Friday, May 3, 2024 • 9:30 am–3:00 pm

Tin Mountain Conservation Center and NH Assoc. of Conservation Districts

Learn how to restore stream habitats and how to prevent stream incisement at this day long workshop. Participants will also learn how to reduce downstream siltation and how to re-engage floodplains to help prevent property damage. AND How to permit it and pay for it!!! Click the [Workshop Flyer](#) for more information. Click here to [REGISTER](#)

Grant Opportunities

LWCF GRANTS AVAILABLE for REGIONAL PROJECT

The NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation has just released Grant Round 35 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund–State and Local Assistance Program. See [NH State Parks](#) for more Info. The office will be accepting intent-to-apply forms through June 7, 2024. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out directly, to lwcf@dncr.nh.gov.

NH DES ARM FUND

The NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund is now accepting pre-proposals for the 2024 grant round. The ARM Fund Program ensures that funds generated through In-Lieu Fee (ILF) mitigation payments for unavoidable impacts to wetlands, streams and other aquatic resources are used to fund projects that replace, restore, or protect aquatic resources within the same watershed. The primary goal of the ARM Fund is to provide sustainable compensatory mitigation meeting the federal goal of “no net loss” of functions and values of waters and wetlands nationwide. Pre-proposals are due May 31, 2024. Please view the [grant flyer](#) to understand the project goals and requirements.

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.](#)

Funding 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](https://www.nhacc.org)

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