



# New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970  
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## 53rd Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

November 4, 2023 | Pembroke, NH

**9 AM**

**Business Meeting for Members**

**9:30 AM - 10 AM**

**Keynote Speaker: David Carroll**

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, leading on to sharing stories and discussions centering on turtles and wetlands. Drawing from his extensive long-term field work with a key focus on declining populations of three turtle species - the Spotted, Wood, and Blanding's turtles. David will address associated conservation and preservation considerations for the species. These will include the critical need for setting aside significant habitats - wetland mosaics and ecosystem-level landscape elements and their increasingly imperiled ecologies and biodiversities. The difficult and complex matter of public access will be explored. The impact of the recent Supreme Court ruling on removing protective regulations from all wetlands and its significance for all conservation agencies and agendas will be a matter of consideration and discussion.

# Session A - 10:15AM - 11:15 AM

## 1A

### **FUNDAMENTALS of CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS**

Zachary Boyajian, Chichester Conservation Commission, NHACC Board  
Larry Spencer, Holderness Conservation Commission, NHACC Board

New to your conservation commission? Join us for this informative session on the fundamentals of conservation commissions. This session will give new commissioners the basics on conservation commissions, the laws governing what conservation commissions are established to do and some of their optional roles. We will cover the ins and outs of how to make sure your meetings are successful. Bring your questions! The *Handbook for NH Municipal Conservation Commissions* is complementary to the new commissioners who register and attend this session.

## 2A

### **BASICS OF WETLANDS ASSESSMENT**

Mary Ann Tilton, NH Department of Environmental Services

Wetlands provide many benefits to people and wildlife and it is important to be able to determine what the highest values are in each individual wetland in order to protect their integrity. Each individual site has measurable physical features and ecological values that can be prioritized for protection. This program will cover the basics of site evaluation for wetlands functions and values and will focus on water quality, ecological integrity and wildlife values provided by wetlands. Participants will learn the various methods of wetlands assessment so they will be better prepared to review wetlands applications.

## 3A

### **LIVING WITH BEAVERS IN NH: PANEL DISCUSSION**

Joshua Megyesy, Ben Nugent, and Patrick Tate from NH Fish & Game  
along with Skip Lisle from Beaver Deceivers

Learn more about the biology of beaver and the importance of the species with a panel of experts from NH Fish & Game and Beaver Deceivers. Find out how they manage and monitor the beaver population in NH. Discover how your commission can help to improve habitat while finding creative ways to control beaver activity. Join this session and share your town's experience with beaver management.

# 4A

## **PROTECTING THE LITTLE BIG FOREST: 'FAILURE WAS NOT AN OPTION'**

**Geoff Jones, Stoddard Conservation Commission**

On April 4, 2021, three contiguous lots totaling 41 acres with 4,000 feet of shoreline on Highland Lake, Stoddard, NH offering multiple possible house sites with subdivision potential went on the market listed at \$1.3 million dollars. As a forester I was asked by a very worried abutter if I could conduct a windshield appraisal to let him know what resource values were at stake. What should have been a 2-hour walk followed by a 2 page summary turned into a 26-page report and a 26 month saga to protect this iconic forest. Listen & learn from the story of how a small town (inexperienced) conservation commission single handedly raised \$1.5 million dollars, beating the odds when they closed on the property July 7, 2023.

# 5A

## **THE GLOBAL STAKE OF CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY: THE ROAD TO COP 28 IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)**

**Robert Werner, League of Conservation Voters**

Global climate negotiations continue with the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) 28 in the United Arab Emirates (UAR) in December of 2023. National, state, and local climate action is essential to avoid the worst impacts of global climate change and build a resilient and inclusive clean energy economy. This session will provide a perspective on the state of global climate negotiations, what to expect as world leaders gather in Dubai for COP 28, and how local action can support communities as part of the global climate and clean energy discussions.

# 6A

## **LiDAR & THE NH STONEWALL MAPPING PROJECT**

**Rick Chormann, Retired State Geologist**

Learn more about LiDAR (light detection and ranging) and how it is used to measure topography and details like stone walls. This presentation will be an introduction to LiDAR technology, including an overview of it how it works and examples of its application in digital terrain analysis. Rick will focus on the recognition of stone walls as landforms, their place in NH history, and the crowd-sourced NH Stone Wall Mapping project.