



# **New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions**

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference  
November 5, 2022  
Pembroke Academy

## **Conference Presenter Biographies**

### **Ahern, Ina; Plymouth Regional High School**

Ina Ahern is a high school science teacher at Plymouth Regional High School. The Environmental Science class at PRHS frequently collaborates with the Plymouth Conservation Commission on projects utilizing geospatial technology.

### **Boyajian, Zachary; Chichester Conservation Commission and NHACC Board**

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 joined the NHACC Board of Directors in 2016 and is currently the chair. 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.

### **Clark-Kevan, Margie; NH Envirothon Program Coordinator.**

Margie works with the NH Association of Conservation Districts on the Envirothon Program. She was previously a High School Science Teacher with a focus on Biology and Chemistry at Conant High School where she was also the Science Department Coordinator and Varsity Swim Coach. She is an eMSS mentor at New Teacher Center and Adjunct Faculty in biology and chemistry at Nashua Community College. She has an B.S. in Biology from Chatham College and Master of Chemical and Life Sciences from University of Maryland.

### **Crystall, Sandy; Bow Conservation Commission**

Sandy worked for the NHDES for more than 22 years serving in the Wetlands and Watershed Management Bureaus on wetland permitting, outreach and training, and wetland bioassessment. Sandy also worked in the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau administering the source water protection land conservation grant program under the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund and managing the Chemical Monitoring Waiver Program. Sandy has a bachelor's degree in Biology and has done post-graduate work in regional planning, natural resources and GIS. She is on two town boards, the Planning Board, for which she is Vice Chair, and the Conservation Commission, for which she is Chair.

**Cygan, Doug, NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food**

Douglas Cygan has been the Invasive Species Coordinator for the NH Department of Agriculture for the past 20-years as well as being a nursery inspector and an Authorized Certification Official for the USDA. Prior to this he was a Wetlands Permitting Officer for the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) for 2-years, and before that he was a Senior Environmental Manager for the NH Department of Transportation's (DOT) Bureau of Environment for 7-years. In 1992 he graduated from the University of Maine, Orono, with a B.S and an A.S in Plant Science with a minor in Conservation Biology and Wetland Science.

**Deegan, Carrie; Society for the Protection of NH Forest**

Carrie is the Reservation Stewardship & Engagement Director for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (Forest Society). She has worked to engage volunteers, community members, and staff in stewardship of the Forest Society's fee-owned lands since 2008. Prior to that, Carrie worked as an Environmental Planner for the Town of Williston, VT and the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, and also taught biology courses at the Community College of Vermont. She lives in New London, NH, and spends her non-work time birding, mushroom hunting, and making her own hot sauces.

**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.

**Engel, Ben; Land and Community Heritage Investment Program**

Ben has a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Maine Farmington, and an M.S. in Natural Resources and Forestry from the University of Vermont. Ben has been Land Protection Specialist at LCHIP since February, after moving to New Hampshire from Massachusetts. He lives in Concord and spends most of his free time in the mountains.

**Hanley, Yohann; Southeast Land Trust**

Yohann Hanley is the Trails & Community Engagement Director for SELT. Previously he was the Project Manager for the White Mountain Trail Collective. He is an AMC Professional Trail Crew alumnus (2004-2006) and the co-founder of the Ragged Mountain Foundation's Conservation Crew (2013-2016) in Connecticut. He has spent most of his professional career in education, both in classrooms and the outdoors. As an avid climber and hiker, he believes that the outdoors can and should be accessible to all people.

**Hasting, Kate, NH Dept. of Environmental Services**

Kate is the Cyanobacteria Harmful Algae Bloom Program Manager for NH DES. Kate studied at the University of New Hampshire, earning her B.S. in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior (2015), and an M.S. in Biology (2019) with Dr. Jim Haney in the Center for Freshwater Biology. Her research was on the aerosolization of cyanobacteria cells and toxins as a novel route of exposure. She worked as the Aquatic Biologist on the Quabbin Reservoir, part of Boston's drinking water supply in Massachusetts, prior to starting her current position with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services as the new Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom Coordinator.

**Heck, Katherine; NH Municipal Association**

Katherine Heck provides legislative advocacy and serves as a resource to municipal officials and staff on a variety of government finance and taxation issues. She works collaboratively on publications and workshops for local finance officials to assist them in understanding and successfully performing their fiduciary responsibilities to promote fiscal health in New Hampshire cities and towns. Katherine lives in Greenfield where she has served as the Town Treasurer for the past 15 years and is elected to the local School Board. Katherine received her bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College and is certified in Municipal Finance from the University of Chicago and Public Financial Management from the International Monetary Fund.

**Jasper, Shawn; NH Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets & Food**

Jasper's agriculture roots are in the poultry industry where he grew up and worked in the prominent family business, Jasper Poultry Farms, begun by his grandparents and continued by his parents. Jasper operated the farm from 1979-83 before he transitioned the business to property management and residential storage. He is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. He joined the agricultural fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR), while a student and has maintained his agricultural connection by serving as advisor to Alpha Gamma Rho on the University of New Hampshire campus, since 1988. Jasper was a selectman in the town of Hudson for 17 years. He has served 12 terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives since his first election in 1984. He was elected Speaker of the House in 2014, a post he held until his resignation in 2017, to become Commissioner of Agriculture.

**Littleton, Jeffry N.; 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 and land management planning and habitat restoration on multiple scales 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. He 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 at Antioch University where he provides course instruction on community ecology and inventory techniques for wildlife and their habitats, as well as vegetation and natural communities.

**Marks, Nisa, NH Dept. of Environmental Services**

Nisa Marks is the watershed coordinator in watershed management at NH DES. She provides recommendations, technical assistance, and research to communities and local groups on lake and watershed protection efforts through the New Hampshire Lakes and Rivers Management and Protection programs. She holds a BS in Biology from Yale University and an MLA in Government from Harvard University Extension School.

**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, local food, gardening, edible landscapes, hiking, biking, cooking, and travel.

**McNamara, Mei-Ling; English and journalism, University of New Hampshire**

She is an award-winning journalist and documentary filmmaker with an extensive background in short and long-form storytelling. Her background combines her extensive teaching, creative media and immersive pedagogy alongside reporting projects for international media outlets including The New York Times, the Guardian, Al Jazeera English, CNNi, Channel 4 and the BBC. Her industry work has included narrative journalism, travel writing, print/radio features, live news production, foreign/current affairs productions, investigative projects and long-form documentaries. Dr. McNamara holds a PhD in Trans-Disciplinary Documentary Film at the University of Edinburgh, an MA in Journalism from Goldsmiths, University of London, an MA in American Poetry and Prose from the University of Essex, and a BA in English from the University of California, Davis. She has lived in the US, UK and North and Sub-Saharan Africa, and holds memberships and runs mentorships with Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), the Society of Professional Journalists, the Freedom of Information Coalition, the Foreign Press Association and the ACLU.

**Moore, Matt; Appalachian Mountain Club**

Matt is the AMC's Professional Trail Crew Manager. He has experience from a lifetime in the outdoors and many years of professional trail crew experience from Mt Rainier, the Tetons, the American Southwest, and the Northeast. Matt lives in northern NH and works across New England the mid-Atlantic regions supervising AMC's professional crews as they assess, rehabilitate and construct today's sustainable recreational trails.

**Parker, Christopher G., AICP**

Mr. Parker, Dover's Deputy City Manager, leads (re)development and strategic projects for the City of Dover in support of enhancing the community's vibrancy for Dover residents and businesses. He coordinates interdepartmental activities ranging from strategic planning and resiliency, to capital investment and best management practices. Chris is committed to initiatives that encourage resiliency, public participation and education for planning, capital improvement, and financial policies. Mr. Parker was named professional planner of the year for New Hampshire and Northern New England in 2011, and has held a variety of roles with the City over the past 25 years.

**Paul W. Pouliot, Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People**

Paul W. Pouliot has been the Sag8mo or Chief Speaker for the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook and Abenaki People and president of COWASS North America and the Abenaki Nation of Vermont since 1990. Paul is an Indigenous historian, lecturer, Federal Religious Advisor, and a founding member of the Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective and the New Hampshire Commission of Native American Affairs. He is also an Affiliate Faculty member of the UNH Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor and recipient of the UNH Platinum Sustainability Award for community building and was named as one of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 60 individuals and organizations that have positively impacted the natural world in honor of TNC's 60 years of conservation in New Hampshire 2021.

**Denise K. Pouliot, Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People**

Denise K. Pouliot is the Sag8moskwa (Female Head Speaker) of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People and traditional artist. She currently serves on the New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs, is a Federal Religious Advisor, the treasurer for COWASS North America and the Abenaki Nation of Vermont, and a founding member of the Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective. Denise is also an Affiliate Faculty member of the UNH Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor and recipient of the UNH Platinum Sustainability Award for community building and was named as one of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 60 individuals and organizations that have positively impacted the natural world in honor of TNC's 60 years of conservation in New Hampshire 2021. In her spare time, she creates coil, bark or woven baskets and produces traditional ceremonial clothing.

**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.

**Dr. Mary Stampone,  
New Hampshire State Climatologist, Associate Professor at UNH**

Dr. Stampone is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of New Hampshire where she teaches undergraduate courses on weather, climate, and natural hazards. As an applied climatologist, her research focuses on monitoring and modeling variability and change in regional-scale climate system processes with an emphasis on hydroclimatic hazards (i.e., drought, flooding, severe weather). Dr. Stampone is also the State Climatologist for New Hampshire, providing citizens, educators, and government agencies with weather and climate information in support of environmental management and adaptation activities. She is the point of contact for state weather and climate observing networks including the US Climate Reference Network, Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network, and is the NWS cooperative observer for Durham, NH. Recently, she co-authored the "Northeast" chapter of the 4<sup>th</sup> *National Climate Assessment*, served on the NH Coastal Flood Risk Science and Technical Advisory Panel, and continues to serve as a member of the NH Drought Management Team.

**Stone, Amanda, UNH Extension**

**Amanda Stone** is State Specialist for Natural Resources & Conservation with UNH Extension. She provides technical assistance, guidance and facilitation to communities working on natural resources inventories, land conservation planning, identifying and prioritizing resources for protection, education & outreach planning, and using NH's Wildlife Action Plan. She also provides resources and assistance to NH land trusts.

**Steckler, Peter; Principal at Northeast Conservation Services, LLC**

Peter Steckler brings more than 20 years of natural resource management and conservation expertise to advance the conservation priorities of municipalities, land trusts, and state governments across the Northeastern US. Peter especially enjoys advancing the protection and enhancement of wildlife corridors, conservation planning and strategy implementation, geospatial analysis and cartography using GIS, and incorporating nature-based solutions to mutually support both human and natural systems. Peter formerly led geospatial planning, wildlife connectivity, and climate adaptation programs at The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire, and before that provided environmental services at a civil engineering firm. Peter holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Vermont and is a Certified Wetland Scientist in New Hampshire.

**Tetreault, Stefanie, NH Department of Environmental Services**

Stefanie has worked as a permitting specialist for the Wetlands Bureau for more than 5 years. Stefanie also served on her local Conservation Commission for nearly 6 years. She completed her undergraduate degree at Western Washington University in 2011, studying Freshwater Ecology and working for the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife collecting data and samples from Pacific salmon, coastal finfish and recreational fishing effort. Before joining the team at the NHDES Wetlands Bureau in Spring 2015, Stefanie completed her graduate degree at the University of New Hampshire, studying Civil & Environmental Engineering and working part-time for the NHDES Alteration of Terrain Bureau and Shellfish Program.

**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.

**Villamagna, Amy; Plymouth State University**

Amy Villamagna is an Associate Professor in the Environmental Science & Policy and the Sustainability Studies programs and a Conservation Ecologist with the Center for the Environment at Plymouth State University.

**Von Mertens, Francie; Peterborough Conservation Commission**

Francie Von Mertens is a longtime Peterborough Conservation Commission member active in land conservation and stewardship with the Harris Center, New Hampshire Audubon, and the town of Peterborough.