



Barbara Richter <barbara@nhacc.org>

Happy Winter Solstice

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Celebrate Winter Solstice

*On this shortest day of the year may you let the light in
and take time to enjoy nature's promise of Spring.
Wishing you a wonderful holiday season.*



Photo by Victoria Tully

Please make a year-end donation to NHACC!

Your support helps us to build strong conservation commissions in NH by providing educational programs, technical assistance, and responsible legislative action. Make a donation on our secure website at [NHACC.org](https://www.nhacc.org) or mail your check to NHACC, [54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301](https://www.nhacc.org).

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CCs in the News

Meredith Conservation Commission

The Meredith Conservation created a trail video to celebrate the season and good work of their volunteer trail crew. It was created by Scott Powell, Chair of Meredith Conservation Commission, and the songwriter and volunteer trail crew member, Scott MacKenzie. It is a dedication to volunteer Meredith Conservation Commission Tuesday Trail Workday Trail Crew. You can [view the video here](#).

The Greenfield Conservation Commission

The Greenfield Conservation Commission hosted a presentation, "Black Bear Happenings in New Hampshire," led by New Hampshire Fish and Game environmental educator Rich Masters, in December. Masters discussed black bear behavior, habitat and conservation efforts, sharing recent research and answering audience questions. If your commission would like to present a Wildlife Steward program go to the [Fish & Game website](#) for more info.

The Hampton Conservation Commission

To help educate the community, the Hampton Conservation Commission publishes a quarterly newsletter titled Conservation Talk. The newsletter provides information on the local ecology, land use history, and actions to help reduce your impact on the environment. To read the newsletter go to [Hampton NH Website](#).

Education & Training Opportunities

Save the Date for Taking Action Wildlife Training Series

Conservation Commissioners and other town volunteers are invited to join *Taking Action for Wildlife* for a webinar series focused on wildlife and habitat conservation in New Hampshire. This four-part series will provide participants with information and resources related to conservation actions they can take for wildlife, including protecting priority habitats for wildlife, wildlife corridors and road crossings, wildlife considerations for trails, and outreach and community engagement focused on wildlife and habitats. Presenters will include wildlife professionals from UNH Cooperative Extension, NH Fish & Game Department, and the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. ***Webinar Topics & Schedule is listed below:***

- **Protecting Important Wildlife Habitats**, February 5, 2025 – 4:00–5:15pm
- **Wildlife Corridors & Road Crossings**, February 19, 2025 – 4:00–5:15pm
- **Wildlife & Habitat Considerations for Trails**, March 5, 2025 – 4:00–5:15pm
- **Community Engagement for Wildlife & Habitats**, March 19, 2025 – 4:00–5:15pm

More details and registration information will be sent in early 2025. Stay tuned!

UNH Extension Upcoming Training

- January 7 – [Winter Tree Identification Workshop](#) – Harrisville
- January 25 – [Forestry for the Birds & Climate Resilience Tour at Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary](#) – Antrim
- January 31 – [Winter Wildlife Tracking Workshop](#) – Peterborough
- February 7 – [Winter Wildlife Tracking Workshop](#) – Bethlehem

NH Fish & Wildlife Stewards Presents;

Understanding Bobcats

January 16, 2025 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Wilmot Public Library, [11 North Wilmot Road, Wilmot, NH 03287](#)

A New Hampshire Fish and Wildlife Steward will share information about bobcats in the state. You will learn about the natural history of the elusive cat, its habitat needs, and the status of the population. Also, hear about the amazing federal funding mechanism that supports long-term research and is largely responsible for our country's abundant fish and wildlife. See [NH Fish & Game](#).

NH Fish & Wildlife Stewards Presents; The Survival Story of Moose in New Hampshire

January 7 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

All Saint's Episcopal Church, [258 S Main Street, Wolfeboro, NH 03894](#)

A New Hampshire Fish and Wildlife Steward will share information about moose in the state. You will learn about the natural history of moose, where they are most likely to be found in the state, and about how climate change is impacting their survival in New Hampshire. Also, hear about the amazing federal funding mechanism that supports long-term research and is largely responsible for our country's abundant fish and wildlife. See [NH Fish & Game](#).

2025 Introduction to Bird Identification, Ecology & Habitats Course

This is a very popular online & field-based course with field trips offered in a variety of habitats at popular birding hotspots and at less-known birding locations throughout NH. This course is led by Matt Tarr (Extension Professor & Wildlife Habitat Specialist, UNHCE) with help from other experienced birding instructors. Weekly Online Lessons occur March 8 - May 30 and can be completed on your own schedule. Optional Course Field Trips occur April 5 - June 28. This course fills up fast, so please plan to register on February 4th. Email matt.tarr@unh.edu if you would like to receive the registration link that will be emailed on February 3rd.

Grants

NH Fish & Game Habitat Improvement Small Grants Program

Are you interested in improving wildlife habitat on townland? NH Fish and Game's Small Grants Program may be able to help. The Small Grants Program can help municipal, private, and land trust landowners, who own a minimum of 25 contiguous acres, restore or enhance habitat for wildlife. Projects that may qualify for funding include: brush clearing or mowing to maintain grasslands and shrublands; release of old apple trees; and maintenance of woodland openings. In exchange for the grant, landowners agree that their land will remain open for non-motorized public access activities, including hunting. Visit [NH F&G website](#) to learn about what other types of projects qualify and how to apply.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

Application deadline: January 30, 2025

The 2025 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration program, a program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and various partners, will award approximately \$2.5 million in grants nationwide to local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support. Supported projects must restore or create wetlands, coastal, or riparian areas and integrate outreach, education, and training to

advance local watershed and conservation goals. Ecological improvements may include one or more of the following: wetland, riparian, forest, and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation; community tree canopy enhancement; wildlife habitat; urban agriculture and community gardens; wildlife and water quality monitoring; and green infrastructure best management practices for managing run-off. Projects must involve five or more partners. Go to the [NFWF website](#) for more information.

American Trails Capacity Grants

America's trails suffer from a trail maintenance backlog which is exacerbated by increased use, extreme weather and a diminishing pool of skilled trail professionals and volunteers. Addressing trail maintenance needs across the country starts with training and informing the next generation of trail stewards, and understanding where grant dollars can do the most good. This grant program targets available funding toward supporting small local trail projects that engage the community and connect trail assets to a broader spectrum of users. Go to the [American Trails website](#) to learn more.

The Nature Conservancy: Connectivity, Climate, Communities Fund

Application deadline: February 7, 2025

Description: The Nature Conservancy is currently offering two grant programs as part of its Connectivity, Climate, Communities Fund to protect and conserve the Appalachian region and New York. The Resilient and Connected Appalachians Grant Program provides grants of up to \$100,000 for fee and easement land acquisition projects throughout the Appalachians. Projects must include lands that are mapped as part of the Resilient and Connected Network. Specific to New York, the Climate Resilience Grant Program provides up to \$50,000 for fee and easement land acquisition projects that connect with important floodplains and shorelines, as well as for organizational capacity building, planning, and strategy development that ultimately increases resilience to climate change for people and nature. For more information, go to the [TNC website](#).

The US Forest Service Funds for Community Forests

The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program offers the opportunity for communities to acquire and conserve forests. These forests provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products. Community forests can be owned by local or tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit entities. Lands acquired through the program must be managed in accordance with a community forest plan to provide community benefits. Applications are due to State Foresters or equivalent Tribal officials by January 13, 2025. For more information; [US Forest Service website](#).

*Happy New Year - Looking forward to working
with our members in 2025.*

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