



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 | (603) 224-7867 | www.nhacc.org

54th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions
November 2, 2024 | Pembroke, NH

Session C - 2:15 - 3:30PM

1C

DO MORE WITH YOUR NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY —

Let's Get Into the Field

Jeffrey N. Littleton, Conservation Ecologist, Moosewood Ecological LLC

So, your Conservation Commission has conducted a basic Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Wondering where to go from here? This workshop will focus on the various ways that Conservation Commissions can refine basic NRIs to expand on more meaningful conservation and land use planning techniques. Let's head into the field to learn how site assessments can enhance your understanding of various natural resources, habitats, wetland functions, and wildlife in your town. We'll explore on-site ecological characteristics that can be used in consideration for garnering support for conservation and sustainable land management, as well as community engagement.

2C

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.

3C

CONSERVING PLANT DIVERSITY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sabrina Stanwood, NH Natural Heritage Bureau

Learn how the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) can assist with developing/updating your town's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). NHB's mission, as mandated by the Native Plant Protection Act of 1987 ([RSA 217-A](#)), is to determine protection and conservation measures and requirements necessary for the survival of native plant species in the State, to investigate the condition and degree of rarity of plant species, and to distribute information regarding the condition and protection of these species and their habitats. Learn more about NHB's database, how to use the DataCheck tool, what are NH exemplary natural communities, what is involved in requests by landowners for NHB data on their property, and NHB's recommendations to protect NH's biodiversity.

4C

GOOD FORESTRY IN THE GRANITE STATE

Karen Bennett; UNH Cooperative Extension Forester, Emeritus

This seminal guide for landowners and land managers is being revised. This workshop will review the tried-and-true topics included in it and review some of the newer elements, such as managing for climate and carbon. Special emphasis will be placed on how conservation commissioners can use the guide to care for town-owned land and how they can share the contents with town residents.

5C

CONSERVATION, CLIMATE & HEALTH

Dr. Deborah Gerson & Cynthia Nichols, MS, BSN, RN; NHHCW

Climate change can impact human health wildlife health, and even human mental health. Thoughtful land and watershed management, protection of wildlife corridors and open space can all help mitigate the impacts of climate change and even promote mental health. Come join healthcare workers from NH Healthy Climate to learn about the connections and how you can be part of the solutions.

6C

CO-OCCURRENCE MAPPING FOR DUMMIES – A NON-GIS APPROACH

Paul Wainwright, Atkinson Conservation Commission

A Co-Occurrence Map is the end result of a comprehensive study of your town that color codes areas of your town according to their conservation “value.” It is based on a set of GIS maps that are commonly available from your Regional Planning Commission, such as wetlands, wildlife corridors, streams, etc. Making a co-occurrence map using GIS tools requires a skillset not commonly available to most conservation commissions, and consultants who do this kind of work can be quite expensive. The Town of Atkinson took a different approach. Since the end result is, basically, a “picture” of your town, they converted their GIS maps into high-resolution photographs, and used Photoshop to overlay them to produce their co-occurrence map. This presentation will give an introduction about how to do that, and will step through the process that Atkinson followed when making their map.

7C

EASTERN COYOTE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE;

Is It a Wolf and Why It Matters

Chris Schadler, Project Coyote

Since its arrival, the evolution of the eastern coyote into a more wolf-like creature has captured the attention of geneticists because this animal reflects a regional phenomenon: wild canids in the northeast, Quebec and Ontario have been interbreeding for generations, magnifying the DNA of the coyote with the DNA of the eastern wolf. The pace of the change has been rapid, ironically exacerbated by heavy hunting. As Conservation Commissioners concerned with natural resources, how do we consider the potential impacts of a more wolf-like animal?

8C

SURVEY MAP SCAVENGER HUNT

Emma Tutien and Charlotte Thompson, UNH Extension

Puzzled by survey maps? Not sure how to make sense of the tiny print, obscure abbreviations, and strange numbers? Join Emma Tutien, for this fun and interactive workshop session. Attendees will learn how to glean important information from a survey map and then compete in a fun scavenger hunt to practice their new-found skills!