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NHACC July 2024 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Supreme Court Ruling Limits Power of Federal Agencies



OP-ED by Michael Cohen, NHACC Board Member

The US Supreme Court has been in the news lately. The end of the session brings a number of important and controversial rulings out. Especially, those related to environmental quality, climate and health of our communities, because these rulings will have serious impact on the progress toward addressing climate change

and health. In particular, on Friday, June 29, 2024, by a vote of 6–3, the justices overruled their landmark 1984 decision in [*Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*](#), which established the doctrine known as the *Chevron* doctrine. This ruling breaks with long-standing court precedent and which has the potential of upsetting significant federal agency and department legal interpretations, policy development, and regulatory rules. [Read more](#)

Annual Meeting & Conference

Save the Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024

Don't miss NHACC's 54h Annual Meeting and Conference. Our focus this year is on wildlife with a keynote presentation from "Something Wild" hosted by Dave Anderson from the Forest Society and Chris Marin from NH Audubon. We will be offering 24 breakout sessions after the annual meeting highlighting conservation commission projects, our foundations classes and much more. The full workshop schedule will be up on the new NHACC website in August. We look forward to seeing everyone the first Saturday of November.

Training & Education Opportunities

Easement Monitoring for Conservation Commissioners

August 23, 2024 | 10:00am – 4:00pm

Harris Center for Conservation Education

83 King's Highway, Hancock, NH 03449

Are you a volunteer responsible for monitoring conservation easements for your town? This FREE workshop will offer best practices for performing annual monitoring of easements. We'll spend time indoors learning before heading outside to put your new skills to work. This workshop is aimed at conservation commissioners or other volunteers interested in monitoring conservation lands. [For more info and to register.](#)

This workshop is hosted by Extension, the [NH Association of Conservation Commissions](#), and the [Harris Center for Conservation Education](#).

AMC Offers Trail Training

The Appalachian Mountain Club Trails Training Programs are excited to now be able to travel to you and deliver a training to your staff and volunteers. Depending on your commission's needs, AMC trails team can create and deliver a training curriculum specifically for you. Whether that is trail assessments, trail layout, rock work progression, timber work, priority maintenance, axe, Leave No Trace, alpine stewardship, trail crew leader, or any other best trail practices we would love to collaborate and help support your programs. Please keep AMC in mind if you have any training needs and reach out to AMC's Trails Training Programs Supervisor, Erik Samia at esamia@outdoors.org.

Bee Our Guest: Gardening for Pollinators

July 24, 2024 from 6:00 – 7:30pm

NH Audubon's Massabesic Center

Let's transform our yards and gardens into bountiful, beautiful habitats that not only appeal to our aesthetics, but to our pollinator pals as well. We'll start by highlighting some of our lesser-known native pollinators before exploring a variety of tips and tricks to both invite them and support them in our own yards and gardens. Participants will also learn about the role NH Audubon and UNH Extension play in pollinator conservation and habitat promotion across the state when we conclude our program with a garden walk highlighting the native plants at the Massabesic Center. Presented by: Willa Coroka, NH Audubon Educator and UNH Extension Master Gardeners. [For more information and to register](#)

Resurgence of Bald Eagles in New Hampshire

July 30 from 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm

NH Audubon's Newfound Center

This program examines the dramatic Bald Eagle population recovery in New Hampshire and describes management efforts and partnerships that have helped eagles. Chris Martin has been a raptor biologist for NH Audubon for more than 30 years. His work focuses on recovery of the state's endangered and threatened raptors in close collaboration with NH Fish & Game. He recruits, trains, and supervises an enthusiastic corps of NH Audubon volunteer field observers who monitor these species throughout the state. Speaker: Chris Martin, NH Audubon. [For more information and to register](#)

NH's Forest Health: Hands on with Today's Insects and Diseases

August 28, 2024 from 8:00am – 3:30pm

The Rocks – Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest

During this all-day, outdoor workshop, small groups will rotate through six stations at The Rocks. At each station there will be a unique set of insects, invasive plants, or diseases that a specialist will show you, and then moderate a discussion of how these pests could influence your forest or habitat management. Bring your own samples or pictures of pests or damage you're seeing in the woods and our experts will ID them. Gather that weird forest insect or damage and stump the experts! We'll be outside for the stations but will have classroom access in case of rain and bathroom facilities are available. [For more information and to register.](#)

CCs in the News

The Meredith Conservation Commission has been awarded \$154,000 by US Forest Service Community Forest Program towards the purchase and permanent protection of a 38 acre parcel of land on Meredith Neck that abuts the existing Page Pond Community Forest. The property, once protected, will become part of Page Pond which was itself conserved for public use by grants from the USFS as well as the NH LCHIP and Moose Plate programs and the Open Space Institute, the Town of Meredith, and private donations. The addition will allow a new trailhead to be built on Meredith Neck Road with a trail connecting to the existing 765 acres of conserved land and ten miles of hiking trails. The Conservation Commission has already received a NH Moose Plate grant and has applied for an LCHIP grant. Private donations will be needed to raise the remaining funds to purchase the land. Contact Conservation@meredithnh.org for more information and how to donate.

The Atkinson Conservation Commission is raising money for Accessible Trails project. To make the Slade Town Forest more accessible, the conservation commission plans to start rebuilding a parking lot to create accessible grade and surfaces. Starting in September, we they will upgrade

all of the Phase 2 trails and later in the fall, we will build the bridge on the Blue trail. For more information [go to the website](#).

The **Rindge Conservation Commission** invites the public to explore the wooded trails and diverse habitat at Mattabesock Wildlife Corridor on Sunday, July 21, 1:30 p.m. Four new educational nature signs along the trail will be featured. The 1 1/2-hour hike is free and open to everyone. The hike will begin at the parking area on Old New Ipswich Rd. Participants will travel over newly marked trails with terrain that varies from easy to moderate difficulty. July can be hot and humid. When participating in summer outdoor activities, please protect yourself with sunscreen and bug spray, and bring a bottle of water.

Enter the NHACC Photo Contest for a chance to win \$250

NHACC has launched a state-wide amateur photo contest to celebrate The Natural World of NH. NHACC wants to encourage the public to get outdoors and explore conservation land. There's an added incentive of cash prizes; \$250 for winners, \$100 for second place and \$50 for honorable mentions.

Help NHACC Spread the Word

We encourage our member commissions to spread the word and invite community members to participate in the contest. Local Conservation Commissions are challenged to encourage their residents to submit photos, and be the town with the most entries. [Please share this poster](#) announcement in your community. The NH town with the most submissions will receive a free ticket to the NHACC conference to invite anyone they wish, plus have the ability to use the visual content in their own social media and on town websites. For more information and to submit your photos go to the [NHACC website](#).

Grant Opportunities

Moose Plate Grant Applications Are Due in September

The New Hampshire State Conservation Committee (SCC) announces the availability of the 2025 Conservation "Moose Plate" grant application. Grant funds are available for projects that support and promote programs and partnerships that protect, restore, and enhance the state's valuable natural resources. Grant applications are due on September 13, 2024. Awards will be announced in December 2024, and funding will be available to successful applicants in July 2025. Eligible applicants include municipalities, County Conservation Districts, qualified nonprofit organizations engaged in conservation programs, schools, County Cooperative Extension natural resource programs, and scout groups. For SCC grant program inquiries, contact Dea Brickner-Wood, Administrator, nh-conservation committee@nh.gov. The Conservation Grant Application and Instructions may be downloaded from the [SCC website](#).

The Merrimack Conservation Partnership Grants now available

The Merrimack Conservation Partnership is a regional conservation alliance formed to protect the southern portion of the greater Merrimack River watershed in New Hampshire and

Massachusetts through accelerated land and water protection, advocacy, restoration, outreach, and education. The Merrimack Conservation Partnership has two 2024 grant programs:

- Land Conservation Grant Program, which funds transaction-related expenses on land conservation projects in the lower Merrimack Valley watershed of southern New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. The program underwrites transaction costs—appraisals, surveys, title research, staff time, etc.—on conservation transactions that protect land identified as a priority in the Merrimack Valley Regional Conservation Plan (2014). The MCP has \$91,304 to re-grant in 2024 for this grant program.
- Environmental Science, Education and Outreach Grant Program, which provides funding for environmental science, education and outreach activities related directly to the Merrimack River or its watershed. Funds can be used for activities such as youth or public environmental educational activities, development of outreach and educational materials, river clean ups, water quality testing and monitoring activities, and other related activities. The MCP has \$25,000 to re-grant in 2024 for this grant program.

The grant programs are privately funded and administered by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests on behalf of the Merrimack Conservation Partnership. Land trusts, municipalities, and state agencies are eligible to apply for a grant. [For more information.](#)

Funding Enhances Community Spaces in Small Towns

Grant amount: Up to \$50,000

Through the Hometown Grants Program, T-Mobile is investing \$25 million over five years, to fund community projects in small towns across the United States. Each quarter, 25 grants of up to \$50,000 are provided for shovel-ready projects to build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections in small towns. Examples of eligible projects include, adaptive uses of older and historic buildings into community gathering spaces, improvements to outdoor parks or trails, and technology projects for public libraries. Applications are accepted from elected officials, town managers and employees, tribal leaders, and nonprofit community leaders from small towns with a population of less than 50,000. The next application deadline is September 30, 2024. For more information go to the website [T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program](#)

Grants Strengthen Conservation in Massachusetts and New England

Grant amount: Up to \$15,000

The William P. Wharton Trust supports projects that promote the conservation, study, and appreciation of nature. The Trust's specific objectives, include conservation of renewable resources (water, soil, wild animal life, forest resources, etc.) primarily in Massachusetts and New England, including land acquisitions for conservation purposes; management techniques to improve environmental quality and species diversity; bird and forestry research and management, especially at the applied level; and creation of materials or projects designed to foster an appreciation of and a concern for wildlife and natural systems. **Application deadline:** March 15 and September 15, annually, for preliminary applications. For more information go to [William P. Wharton Trust](#)

Visit our Website

NHACC.org

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