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NHACC April 2024 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Celebrate Earth Day

Communities across NH will be celebrating Earth Day with educational and outreach programs, clean up days, citizen science activities, wildlife hikes, vernal pool identification outings, and many more art and music events celebrating the day. Conservation commissions know that every day is Earth Day and are committed to protecting NH's environment all year long. If your commission is looking for ideas for Earth Day see the resources below and check out [Earthday.org](https://earthday.org) science and education tool kits and ways to take action on Earth Day.



To help educate the public and spread the word about the dedication of conservation commissioner working to ensure NH's environment remains healthy for future generations to enjoy, NHACC Board member, Michael Cohen wrote an Op Ed for [InDepth NH](#). This article highlights the work of NH Conservation Commissions in celebrating Earth Day and actions everyone can take to help protect our environment.

CCs in the News

Lebanon Conservation Commission Restores Blueberry Patch

The Lebanon Conservation Commission has been working with volunteers to prune and revitalize blueberry patches in the Jackson Conservation Area, a roughly 15-acre property of conserved land near downtown. The goal is to make the blueberry patches viable so that people who visit the property later this summer can pick them freely. [READ MORE](#)

Bennington Conservation Commission Hosts Land Conservation Program

The Bennington Conservation Commission invited Eric Masterson, land program manager of the Harris Center for Conservation Education, to present information on the options to preserve natural areas. Local landowners had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss land conservation opportunities with the community.

[READ MORE](#)

Climate and Health Lunch & Learn Series

Climate and Health 101

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 12 noon to 1:00 pm, presented on Zoom

Robert Dewey, MD

Climate change is having a real and increasing impact on human health. A physician representing the New Hampshire Healthcare Workers for Climate Action, a grassroots, non-partisan coalition of healthcare workers, will discuss the basics of climate science and how climate change impacts health (including extreme heat, air pollution, vector borne diseases, and extreme weather events, among others). Adaptations to protect ourselves from these impacts, climate solutions, and suggested actions will also be discussed. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Environmental Justice and Health

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 12 noon to 1:00 pm, presented on Zoom

Semra Aytur, PhD, MPH

Access to nature, including parks, green space, and blue space, has been associated with positive physical and mental health outcomes. Additionally, time spent in nature and nature-based therapeutic interventions have been associated with pro-social and pro-environmental behaviors, empathy, and emotional well-being. However, access to nature is often limited for many groups, including historically and structurally marginalized communities. This presentation will discuss relationships between access to nature and environmental justice, drawing from data collected in NH, nationally, and internationally. The role of conservation commissions in addressing environmental injustice will be discussed. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Preserving Open Space: Promoting Spiritual and Mental Health

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 12 noon to 1 pm, Presented on Zoom

Robert Feder, MD and Christine Tappan, MSW, CAGS, CWMF

Bob Feder will give a summary of the scientific evidence that exposure to green spaces improves health generally, and mental health in particular. Bob, who chairs the Behavioral Health Working Group for NHHWCA, recently retired from a 40 year career as a psychiatrist in New Hampshire. Christine Tappan will describe her personal journey regarding exposure to nature and mental health, as well as the work she is currently doing with forest bathing. Christine recently founded BirchWalking, an organization that brings beings together in nature and create a safe spaces to deepen connections that promote resiliency and capacity for all to thrive and live well. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Training & Education Opportunities

Wetlands Ecology for Conservation Commissioners

Friday, June 14, 2024 8:30am to 4:30pm

Leader: Mark West, West Environmental, Inc.

This full day field workshop will explore a wide variety of Wetland Plant Communities and Wildlife Habitats located in and around Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham. This region has a great diversity of wetland types including Forested Floodplain Wetlands, Scrub-Shrub Beaver Swamps, Vernal Pools, Fens and Peatlands. We will learn about what functions these wetlands provide and how they fit into the broader landscape of wildlife habitat. This course will cover assessment of plant communities, soils, hydrology, rare plant communities and habitat for rare wildlife species. We will learn some of the special habitat requirements of amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species that use wetland habitats. We will learn about wetland resource mapping used by the NHDES including what is a Priority Resource Area and how that determines permitting. To Register contact Mark West at mark@westenv.net or 603-734-4298.

AMC Offers Trail Skills College

Join the Appalachian Mountain Club and White Mountain National Forest at Trail Skills College at the at Camp Dodge Trails Training Center from May. 16–20, 2024. This year's 5–day event is filled with a variety of trainings, workshops, and evening programs that any trail or outdoor enthusiast would love.

Registration for the [2024 Trail Skills College](#) is open for enrollment. This event is for the entire trails community—volunteer and professional trail stewards with all levels of experience. Whether you are just starting out and looking for ways to get involved, or a professional looking to further your skills and build your network, this event offers opportunities for everyone, and all are welcome!

NH Drinking Water Source Protection Conference

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) will hold its 2024 Drinking Water Source Protection Conference on **May 16**, at the Army National Guard Edward Cross Training Complex, [722 Riverwood Drive](#) in Pembroke, NH. This year's conference will feature presentations on:

- Research on product substitution to reduce PFAS
- State legislative and Drinking Water Program Funding Priorities
- UNH research on the distribution and fate of PFAS in surface water
- Municipal planning to manage growth and water resources
- Examples using GIS to prioritize land conservation of critical water supply lands
- Nutrient reduction in a major lake used as a drinking water source
- Innovative monitoring and response to cyanobacteria blooms

The conference fee is \$50 and includes light refreshments/lunch.

REGISTER for the event at the [American Ground Water Trust website](#).

Grants

NHDES Source Water Protection Program Funds

The Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Advisory Commission has \$2,000,000 in funding for source water supply protection. NHDES is now accepting applications for the 2024 funding round. Grants are available to cover up to 50% of total project costs to permanently protect high–priority water supply lands. Grants are capped at \$500,000 per project. Pre–applications are required to be considered for funding and are due **May 30, 2024**. Full applications are due **August 8**, and site visits and application review will occur September–October with funding decisions made in November. **View the high–priority water supply lands in the [Source Water Protection Mapper](#) to determine if your project is eligible. Learn more about the [application process](#) and steps to apply!**

US Fish and Wildlife Funding for Invasive Species Control

Application deadline: May 27, 2024

Description: The Invasive Species Eradication Funding Opportunity invites proposals to support the eradication of newly introduced or established species in terrestrial or aquatic habitats (including freshwater, wetland, riparian, estuarian, and marine) of the United States and its territories. While preference will be given to proposals that result in eradication of invasive species, research proposals that advance research that increases the effectiveness and availability of eradication tools will also be considered. [For more information.](#)

Walmart Spark Local Grants

Application deadline: Applications are accepted quarterly during the following periods: March 1 to April 15, May 1 to July 15, August 1 to October 15, and November 1 to December 31, 2024.

Geographic scope: Communities with Walmart stores, Sam's Clubs, and distribution centers

Grant amount: \$250 to \$5,000

Description: Walmart's Spark Good Local Grants aim to address the unique needs of the communities where Walmart operates in the United States. Grants are provided to organizations that operate locally and directly benefit the service area of local facilities in U.S. communities where Walmart stores, Sam's Clubs, and distribution centers are located. Grants support a variety of organizations, such as animal shelters, elder services, and community clean-up projects. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations; state or local government entities, including law enforcement or fire departments; K-12 public or nonprofit private schools, charter schools, and higher education institutions; and churches or other faith-based organizations with a proposed project that benefits the community. [For more information.](#)

State Funding for Conservation

NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)

The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program is an independent state authority that makes matching grants to NH communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. Through this investment program, every \$1 in resources brings back more than four times local, private, federal funds, and helps to secure NH's greatest business advantage: The quality of life and traditional values of our state. [Learn more.](#)

Source Water Protection Grants

The Department of Environmental Services administers these grants, whose purpose is to provide funds to municipal or water suppliers to acquire land to protect water supplies. The land must be within a source water protection area as shown on GRANIT's water supply coverage layer. DES website has more information on [Drinking Water-Related Grants.](#)

NH DES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund

The Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program aims to sustain the functions and values of aquatic resources in New Hampshire through protection, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and streams, to compensate for the aquatic resources lost from development and other impacts. When wetland functions and values will be lost due to development, funds may be placed into the ARM fund. Fees collected by ARM are pooled within the same major watershed and then distributed as competitive grants so that the money collected is going back to the areas affected by the project. For more information go to the [DES website](#).

Mooseplate Grants

The State Conservation Committee's Conservation Grant Program supports and promotes programs and partnerships that protect, restore and enhance the state's valuable natural resources. The Conservation Grant Program's six focus areas include restoring water quality, creating or restoring wildlife habitat, soil conservation, best management practices for agriculture, stormwater or forestry, conservation planning, and land conservation projects. For more information go to the [NH Dept. of Agriculture website](#).

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