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NHACC January 2026 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Educational Opportunities and more!



2025 Forest Health Report

The New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands Forest Health Program has published the [2025 Forest Health Report](#). The Forest Health Program was established to provide and maintain forest and tree pest control programs in coordination with other state and federal agencies. They provide leadership in all forest pest problems, keeping current through systematic detection programs and close liaison with other sources of information. The Forest Health Program maintains close contact with all segments of the forestry profession in forest insect and disease matters. They provide service for identification of forest pests cooperating in this regard with the UNH Cooperative Extension, NH Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

CCs in the News

Brentwood Conservation Commission Purchases Land

Last fall, Brentwood celebrated a special day when they finalized the purchase of an 11-acre property in town for conservation purposes. The signing was the culmination of 11 months' work by Commission members to meet all the requirements for purchase and the use of the Open Space Bond passed at Town Meeting in March 2022. The land is strategically located adjacent to the 34-acre Stevens Conservation easement and the Town owned Split Rock 40-acre property. Both parcels are open to public access with trails for hiking and open space which provides excellent habitat for wildlife. Adding the 11-acre parcel will expand conservation use, enlarge the area for wildlife habitat, and provide additional trails for the benefit of residents.

The Hopkinton Conservation Commission Helps Protect Dustin Farm

Another parcel along the Warner River in Hopkinton has been preserved, a 39-acre property known as Dustin Woods, which has been in the Dustin family for more than 200 years, is now covered by a conservation easement, completed along with the town of Hopkinton and supported by multiple funding sources. Among the sources of funding to buy the easement were the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, known as LCHIP, the NH Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund, the DES Local Source Water Protection Grant, the Hopkinton Conservation Commission, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Local Land Conservation Fund, and local donations. The preservation is part of continuing efforts to maintain water quality upstream of Concord's water supply intake on the Contoocook River. [Read more.](#)

Education & Training Opportunities

Invasive Species Webinar Series Starts Jan. 22

With invasive plant species growing into an increasingly complicated challenge, the Carroll, Coos, and Grafton County Conservation Districts have teamed up to provide a month of invasive plant species education. In this free webinar series, experts from across the state will share with you their knowledge and stories.

What is Japanese Knotweed and why is it a problem? will be presented on January 22. Each webinar runs from 5:00–6:00pm and will center state professionals with time for questions. Sign up for one or for all—these offerings are customizable based on your interests. [FOR MORE INFORMATION.](#)

Introduction to Bird Identification Course

This very popular course is for anyone interested in improving their ability to identify birds by sight & sound and in learning more about bird ecology and the habitats birds require. Online Lessons are emailed to you weekly March 7 – May 29. Each week's lesson introduces you to 2 to 4 new bird species and includes review quizzes to help you learn each species. You complete the online lessons on your own schedule. Optional Birding Field Trips will occur April 4 – June 27 at popular birding hotspots and at less-known birding locations throughout NH and into ME, VT, and MA.

This course is led by Matt Tarr (Extension Professor & Wildlife Habitat Specialist, UNHCE). This course fills up fast, so please plan to register on Tuesday February 3rd. Email matt.tarr@unh.edu if you would like to receive the registration link that will be emailed on Sunday February 1st. [FOR MORE INFORMATION.](#)



NH Coverts Project is accepting applications

Each year, UNH Cooperative Extension and NH Fish & Game bring together 25 conservation-minded individuals with a team of natural resource professionals to learn about wildlife and forest ecology, habitat management, conservation, and effective outreach. The 2026 NH Coverts Project Workshop will take place from May 6–9 in Greenfield, NH. Participants pay a \$50 registration fee; program sponsors fund all lodging, food, and other expenses. Application deadline is March 1, 2026.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

Grant Opportunities

Drinking Water Funds Available from NH DES

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) will be hosting the **2026 Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop**, from April 13–17, 2026.

This online workshop will include a series of virtual sessions focusing on updates regarding funding programs administered by NHDES, asset management, sustainability, drinking water funding process, clean water disbursements, lead service lines, PFAS, and borrowing basics. **Registration information and a preliminary agenda will be sent out at a later date.** Please note, continuing education credits and technical contact hours will not be offered for this year's workshop. Visit our funding program websites for additional program information.

- [Common Grant and Loan Programs for Public Water Systems in NH](#)
- [Common Grant and Loan Programs for Wastewater Infrastructure in NH](#)
- [Loans and Grants Administered by NHDES](#)
- [State Revolving Fund](#)
- [NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund](#)
- [PFAS Response Website](#)

Contact DES if you have any questions about the workshop at dwsrf@des.nh.gov.

Fields Pond Foundation

The primary mission of the Fields Pond Foundation is to provide financial assistance to nature and land conservation organizations that are community-based and that serve to increase environmental awareness by involving local residents in conservation issues. The Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations and municipalities that request one of the following: project grants for trail making and other enhancement of public access to conservation lands, rivers, coastlines, and other natural resources; land acquisition for conservation; assistance in the establishment of stewardship endowments as a component of a land protection project; and support for related education programs and publications as components of a land protection project. Proposal outlines and formal applications may be submitted throughout the year. Detailed guidelines and forms are available on the [Foundation's website](#).

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Your support of NHACC helps build a stronger New Hampshire conservation community, which works diligently to protect NH's natural environment.

Visit our Website
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