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NHACC August 2024 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Updates and more!



Protect Biodiversity

Conservation commissions are working to retain biodiversity by protecting native habitat and through the control of invasive species. Several commissions have initiated projects to identify, track and control invasive plant species in their communities. The NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food works to ensure the health of our native species through the Invasive Species Act. You can find information on invasive species control on the [DAMF website](#). [UNH Extension](#) has more information on removing and controlling invasive species. The NH Natural Heritage Bureau is charged with finding, tracking, and facilitating the protection of New Hampshire's rare plants and [exemplary natural communities](#). Go to the [NHNHB website](#) to find rare native plan list and rare plant reporting form to report a sighting of a rare species.



photo by Judith Lindsey, Candia NH

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

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](#) in your community.

Get outside this summer and take photos

The program is about getting people outside to explore and appreciate the wonder of our natural world in their own backyards, on their town lands, and amongst the state's great outdoor treasures. The contest's theme this year, is "This is Worth Protecting." Each category will award \$250 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place. Winning photos will be on display at NHACC's Annual Meeting and Conference November 2, 2024. A complete list of rules and the entry form can be found on the [NHACC website](#).

CCs in the News



The **Windham Conservation Commission** purchased a 22.6 acre area with a large open field near the road and a large wetland in the back. The property connects a trail system to another town property know as Clyde Pond. The conservation commission plans to make this a place where people can connect to nature and enjoy themselves outdoors. The project was spearheaded by Chair Mike Specian and commission member Wayne Morris.

The **Chesterfield Conservation Commission** launches watershed programming on ecological connections and watershed health, starting with a free talk on watersheds at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, at the Chesterfield Town Hall. This free

event is open to the public and should be of interest to people of all ages who want to protect their drinking water and keep local lakes safe for recreation. The event is sponsored by the Chesterfield Conservation Commission and supported by the Chesterfield Watershed Committee and the Spofford Lake Association. [For more information.](#)

The **Dunbarton Conservation Commission** worked with Five Rivers Conservation Trust to protect the 134-acre Kathryn Layne property near the center of Dunbarton! These 134 acres contribute to a large block of over 750 mostly contiguous acres protected by Five Rivers in Dunbarton. In addition to protecting the land and important wildlife habitat, conservation of the Layne property allows the Dunbarton Conservation Commission to extend walking trails from the Dunbarton Elementary School parking lot and loop through both the Koerber and Layne properties. [Learn more](#)

Education & Training Opportunities

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

August 28, 2024 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

**The Rocks – Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest
Bethlehem, NH**

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, let you handle, 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. Go to the [Extension website](#) for information.

Introduction to Recognizing and Improving Wildlife Habitat

September 13, 2024 | 9 am to 5 pm

Sanborn Mills Farm, Loudon, NH

This day-long workshop will provide a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the basic skills necessary to: recognize important wildlife habitat components on your land, understand how different habitat features are used by specific wildlife species, and understand what you can do on your land to create & enhance habitat opportunities for wildlife. This workshop will not be held in the rain. Students will be notified the evening prior to the event if it must be cancelled for bad weather. The scheduled rain date is September 27th. Go to the [Extension website](#) for information.

Tree Identification

September 13, 2024 | 2:00 - 4:30pm

Hillsborough County Extension Office, Goffstown, NH

Learn to identify trees using a variety of characteristics. Steven Roberge, Extension's State Forestry Specialist, and Michael Gagnon Extension's Hillsborough County Forester will share their tips for using bark, buds, twigs, and leaves as clues to help in tree identification. Go to the [Extension website](#) for information.

Grant Opportunities

Moose Plate Grant Applications Are Due in September

The New Hampshire State Conservation Committee (SCC) announces the opening of 2025 Conservation Moose Plate Grants. 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, public and private 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 2025 Conservation Grant Application Instructions and Application Form may be downloaded from the [SCC website](#).

Watershed Assistance Grants

Each year NHDES solicits projects to address nonpoint source (NPS) pollution through the implementation of watershed-based plans in priority watersheds. Projects must comprehensively address NPS problems and must have a quantitative way to assess progress and determine success. The watershed-based plan must have a clear water quality goal and include the nine, minimum elements (a) through (i) required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Funded projects must make reasonable progress toward achieving the water quality goal established in the watershed-based plan. NHDES' Watershed Assistance Section has released the 2025 Watershed Assistance Grants' Pre-proposal request for proposals (RFP) to support local initiatives to restore impaired waters or protect high quality waters. Pre-proposals are due by 4:00 PM, September 13, 2024. For more info, go to [NH DES](#)

New England Grassroots Fund

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund grant programs aim to energize and nurture long-term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe, and environmentally sustainable communities throughout the six New England states. The Grassroots Fund is currently accepting applications for Seed grants, designed to support new (often less than one year old) environmental projects, and Grow grants, for initiatives that look to deepen their work or broaden participation. Grants focus on groups doing local, grassroots work, with priority on community groups that have an approximate annual operating budget under \$100,000, represent a broad range of voices in their community, and are not being reached by other funders. [For more information.](#)

Save the Date

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Pembroke Academy

Don't miss the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) 54th Annual Meeting and Conference, featuring **'Something Wild'** presenters Dave Anderson and Chris Martin. The NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference is the only State-wide conference dedicated to municipal conservation commission members.



Visit our Website

NHACC.org

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