



# New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference  
November 4, 2023  
Pembroke Academy

## Conference Presenter Biographies

### Keynote: David M. Carroll

Artist-Naturalist and Writer David M. Carroll, who in 2006 was awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (aka “Genius Grant”) is the author-illustrator of three acclaimed natural histories: *The Year of the Turtle*; *Trout Reflections*; and *Swamp walker's Journal* (winner of the John Burroughs Medal for distinguished nature writing) – his “wet sneaker trilogy”.

In addition to his own field work with turtles, David has conducted investigations for the Endangered Species programs of NH, VT, and ME, as well as such agencies as the US Environmental Protection Agency; the National Park Service; and the USDA Forest Service. His research has been published in scientific journals including *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* and the *Northeastern Naturalist*.

He is an active lecturer and turtle and wetlands preservation advocate, for which he was the recipient of an Environmental Merit Award from the US EPA; other awards include the USDA Forest Service; The International Society of Arboriculture; and the NH Audubon Society's Tudor Richards Award.

David is a graduate of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Tufts University. He has received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of New Hampshire and an Honorary Master's in Environmental Science from New England College.

**Andreozzi, Haley; UNH Cooperative Extension**

In her role as the Wildlife Conservation State Specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension, Haley works with volunteers, landowners, natural resources professionals, and communities to enhance, restore, and conserve wildlife and habitats throughout New Hampshire. She provides technical assistance for outreach, citizen science, and stewardship projects related to New Hampshire's wildlife species and their habitats, including New England cottontails, bats, butterflies, and other species of greatest conservation need. Haley leads the [NH Coverts Project](#), [Taking Action for Wildlife](#), the [NH BioBlitz Project](#), and the [Women in the Woods](#) program. She received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science & Natural Resources Management from the University of Rhode Island and earned a Master's of Science in Wildlife & Conservation Biology from the University of New Hampshire.

**Boyajian, Zachary; Chichester Conservation Commission and NHACC Board**

Zachary Boyajian has been a member of the Chichester Conservation Commission since 2003 and is currently the chair. He is also the chair of the Chichester Parks and Recreation Commission. He joined the NHACC Board of Directors in 2016 and is currently the chair.

Mr. Boyajian has been employed as an environmentalist for the NH Army National Guard since 1995 and is a founding member of the NH Prescribed Fire Council. Mr. Boyajian holds a BS from University of Massachusetts in Natural Resources Studies and MS from Antioch New England in Resource Management and Administration.

**Brown, Vicki; East Kingston Conservation Commission**

Vicki is a naturalist and marketer with 30 years of experience leading marketing at such organizations as Joslin Diabetes Center, IDC and Wolters Kluwer | UpToDate. She co-founded Pollinator Pathways NH, served as the volunteer Marketing lead for the Eastern Old-Growth Forest Conference, and acts as an advisor on old-growth forests in Rockingham County, NH for the Old Growth Forest Network. Vicki leverages her passion for sustainability, healthcare outcomes and natural resources at mission-oriented organizations, including the NH Department of Health and Human Services, where she provided marketing and strategy consulting on diabetes, heart health and other services for the public health division. A NH Natural Resources Steward and NH Big Tree volunteer, Vicki volunteers for UNH Extension, her towns Conservation Commission, and her local land trust, SELT. Vicki has an M.S. in Science Communication / Industry and Technology Assessment from Boston University.

**Chormann, Richard; Retired State Geologist**

Rick served 10 years as NH State Geologist and Director of the NH Geological Survey before retiring in April 2021. Prior to that he was a senior hydrogeologist with the NH Department of Environmental Services, principally involved with water resources assessment and water quantity issues, beginning in 1984. He has been a promoter and user of GIS throughout his entire career and is a true believer in the potential of LiDAR to revolutionize geologic mapping and digital terrain analysis.

**Dewey, Robert, MD**

Bob Dewey is a retired Interventional Cardiologist who practiced for 30 years at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, NH. While caring for complex cardiac patients, he witnessed how extreme heat and poor air quality would complicate these patients' care. Bob has been a community volunteer and is past president and a long-standing board member of the NH affiliate of the American Heart Association. As a local and state-wide political activist, he has had a special interest in maintaining green space and protecting our local forests. Bob and his family have spent a great deal of time hiking in the white mountains, and he is eager to help preserve this legacy for his grandchildren.

**Diener, Jay; Hampton CC and NHACC Board**

Jay Diener has been a member of the Hampton Conservation Commission since 2003, and is a past chairman, and the current vice chair. He is a member of the Board of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, Marketing Committee, and president of the Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance. Since 2015, he has led the Coastal Conservation Roundtable - a discussion group of conservation commissions in coastal New Hampshire.

**Ely, Larry; Shelburne CC & Mahoosuc Land Trust**

Larry became involved in land conservation after a career in federal law enforcement and the purchase of a small mountain forest in Shelburne in 1994. The purchase of First Mountain Forest by Larry and his wife Ginger became the starting point for an ever-expanding conservation effort, aided by multiple partner organizations, which led to the protection of well over 30,000 acres of forest land in the Mahoosuc Mountain Range. Larry is a board member of Mahoosuc Land Trust and chairs the land trust's stewardship committee, serves on the Shelburne Conservation Commission, and is the Shelburne Trails Club Secretary.

**Gerson, Deborah , MD**

Deb Gerson is a pathologist practicing at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, NH. She completed her pathology residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami, FL, and her fellowship in surgical pathology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA. Deb practiced pathology for several years in Florida where she learned first-hand the health dangers caused by hurricanes and extreme heat. She has also taught pathology to medical students at the University of Otago, in Dunedin, New Zealand for two years. Deb has seen the health effects of global warming in her New Hampshire practice with the increase in tick-borne diseases such as babesiosis and Lyme disease. Deb lives in Bedford, NH with her husband, two daughters, and three dogs. She has a passion for promoting action on the climate crisis to protect her family, her community, and the global population from the health impacts of climate change.

### **Hepp, Donna, County Conservation District & NH Association of Conservation Districts**

Donna is a Belmont resident working with communities, landowners and conservation partners to help retain the quality of life in New Hampshire. She volunteers with County Conservation Districts at the local and state level as NH Association of Conservation Districts president and State Conservation Commission vice chair. During her career with the US Forest Service, Donna served as Supervisor of the White Mountain National Forest and Eastern Region Director of Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage, as well as positions in Vermont, Colorado, Florida, Washington DC and Oregon. Her education background is in Landscape Architecture, Forestry and Regional Planning. Now retired, Donna serves on the Belknap County Conservation District Board with a strong interest in stream restoration and on-the-ground projects to promote best management practices for water, soil and habitat improvement and addressing food insecurity. She represents Belknap and Carroll County Conservation Districts on the State Conservation Committee and currently serves as the Committee Chair. Donna and her husband, enjoy tending their small apple orchard, travel and bicycling.

### **Jacobs, Marc; Certified Wetland Scientist**

Mr. Jacobs is a NH Certified Wetland and Soil scientist. He is also Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control. He has 37 years of consulting experience in natural resource assessment and mapping. He has provided third-party peer review and other support services to Conservation Commissions and other municipal boards. He has interfaced with local, state and federal regulatory agencies to provide permitting assistance and has provided expert testimony on environmental impact at local and state regulatory hearings and for litigation. Mr. Jacobs has provided instruction at numerous workshops and seminars for lay people and other professionals.

### **Jones, Geoff; Stoddard Conservation Commission & Loveland Forestry**

Geoff Jones is a professional forester with 44 years of experience. He received a BA in Biology from Keene State College and an AAS in Forest Technology from the TSAS/UNH. He is the former director of land management with SPNHF, where he served for 30 years. In 2010, he founded Loveland Forestry, offering forestry and residential tree removal services. Geoff is a charter member of the New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Council; served on the UNH Thompson School Forest Advisory Committee from 1984-present; served on the 1997, 2010, & 2023 committees that developed the “*Good Forestry in the Granite State*” guidebook. He is author of several articles including the publication: “*A Guide to Logging Aesthetics: Practical Tips for Loggers, Foresters, and Landowners*”. Geoff has helped to protect thousands of acres of land in Stoddard. In 2021-23, he was the project leader on a \$1.5+ million-dollar fund drive to protect 40-acres of unmanaged forest with 4,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Highland Lake. The closing was on July 7, 2023. Geoff serves on the Stoddard conservation commission (since 1996) and has been the chair since 1999. He is a US Coast Guard Vietnam Veteran (1969-73).

### **Lisle, Skip, Beaver Deceivers**

Skip Lisle is driven by a love of wildlife. His favorite professional or leisure activity can be summed up as “**improving wildlife habitat.**” However, growing up in rural Vermont (USA) he gained a special appreciation for beavers early in life. His parents would frequently drive him to

local beaver haunts at dusk to watch them. Then, when beavers arrived at their own property, observations became even easier. Throughout his childhood, Skip watched as their relatively sterile, manmade pond began to teem with life as beavers slowly raised the water level and re-shaped the topography with dams, canals, and lodges, making the habitat more structurally complex and valuable. It soon became clear to Skip that beaver-created wetlands, or flowages, were special: their density of life being unquestionably greater than the abutting uplands.

### **Littleton, Jeffry N.; Conservation Ecologist, Moosewood Ecological**

Jeffry Littleton is very enthusiastic about exploring our natural world. He is the principal ecologist with Moosewood Ecological LLC, having more than 30 years of experience in ecological studies and environmental education. He specializes in conservation and land management planning and habitat restoration on multiple scales for a wide range of entities, including private landowners, federal and state agencies, and municipalities, as well as land trusts and other non-profit organizations. He employs a systems approach to understanding the spatial dynamics of the environment, blending conservation biology with the ecology of landscapes. He uses a GIS to analyze natural resources to help guide conservation and restoration planning efforts. Jeffry serves as an adjunct faculty at Antioch University where he provides course instruction on community ecology and inventory techniques for wildlife and their habitats, as well as vegetation and natural communities.

### **McGuin, Beth; ReVision Energy**

Beth McGuinn is a Solar Project Developer for ReVision Energy, applying 30+ years of land management and land conservation experience to her work with landowners and others on community-scale solar development. ReVision Energy is ranked as NH's #1 solar installer and 7th in the country by Solar Power World

### **Megyesy, Joshua; NH Fish & Game**

Josh is a wildlife biologist with the NH Fish & Game's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program. He is the Program's turtle specialist with extensive experience monitoring and managing populations of Blanding's, spotted, wood, and eastern box turtle populations. Josh helps manage the Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program (RAARP), monitors other reptile and amphibian populations, and works on environmental review projects when they involve potential impacts to state listed turtle populations. He also participates in regional turtle working groups with other federal, state, and NGO biologists to conserve turtle populations at the range-wide scale.

### **Nieaber, Suzanne; Southern NH Planning Commission**

Suzanne is a Principal Planner at the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, bringing expertise in urban planning, facilitation, and non-profit management. She holds a Master of Urban Planning from New York University and a Bachelor of Sociology from Kenyon College. In her previous role at the Center for Active Design, Suzanne worked at the intersection of design and public health to cultivate strategic partnerships and create evidence-based tools to advance healthier, more engaged communities.

**Nugent, Benjamin; NH Fish & Game**

Ben is a fisheries biologist with the NH Fish and Game Department based out of the New Hampton regional office. He has spent several years evaluating wild brook trout populations and problematic stream crossing structures at the watershed level.

**Scribner , Wendy, UNH Cooperative Extension**

Wendy is a Natural Resources Field Specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension. She works in Carroll County and provides research-based natural resource information and assistance to a wide range of clientele including: private landowners, licensed foresters, members of the logging and forest products industry, municipalities, schools and organizations. She specializes in forestry and wildlife. She provides assistance and information on topics including: managing woodlots, selling timber, enhancing wildlife habitat, controlling invasive plants, and improving forest health and productivity. Wendy is a licensed forester in both NH and Maine and holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Forestry from UNH.

**Spencer, Larry; Holderness Conservation Commission and NHACC Board**

Larry Spencer is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Plymouth State University where he started teaching in September of 1967. His areas of interest there were vertebrate and invertebrate zoology, ecology and evolutionary biology. Since the 1970's he's been chair of the Holderness Conservation Commission. He serves as the NHACC representative to the NH Rivers Management Advisory Council where he is the vice chair of the group. Until a few years ago, he ran many races going from 5k to marathons and did triathlons. Now he is just happy doing short bike rides.

**Stevens, Rachel; NH Fish & Game**

Rachel is the stewardship coordinator for Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and wildlife ecologist for NH Fish & Game. She has an undergraduate degree in Zoology from Bristol University, England and a Masters in Natural Resources from UNH. She currently focuses on ecology of coastal habitats, land protection and its subsequent stewardship.

**Stuart, Katherine; Sheburne CC & Mahoosuc Land Trust**

Katie Stuart is Chair of the Town of Shelburne Conservation Commission. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service in several states across the country, retiring after serving as District Ranger on the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri and then the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine. She is also on the Board of the Shelburne Trails Club, and on the board and various committees of the Mahoosuc Land Trust (MLT). In the last few years, she was part of a group working on two conservation projects including the 880-acre Shelburne Riverlands, protecting more than 8 miles of the Androscoggin River shoreline ( [mahoosuc.org](http://mahoosuc.org) ), and more recently helping toward SPNHF's 3,750-acre acquisition of the "Mahoosuc Highlands" in Shelburne.

**Tate, Patrick; NH Fish & Game**

Patrick Tate is a Certified Wildlife Biologist employed by New Hampshire Fish & Game. He holds a Master of Science in Wildlife Ecology from the University of New Hampshire. In his free time, he spends many hours within New Hampshire's forest pursuing a myriad of activities.

**Thompon, Charlotte; UNH Cooperative Extension**

Charlotte is the Stewardship Outreach Program with UNH Cooperative Extension. She helps organizations and volunteers across New Hampshire manage their conservation land. Charlotte leads communications for [Nature Groupie](#), which helps groups recruit outdoor volunteers and is part of a new program to help understand accessibility of trails across the state. She also worked on the [NH BioBlitz Project](#) to develop the NH BioBlitz Guide. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of New Hampshire and is currently working towards a Master's of Science in Natural Resources and a Masters Certificate in Citizen and Community Science from the University of New Hampshire.

**Tilton, Mary Ann; NH Department of Environmental Services**

Mary Ann Tilton, serves as the Assistant Wetlands Bureau administrator and has worked on compliance, permitting and program development. She has been with the wetlands bureau for more than 30 years. She has a Master's of Science from URI (in wetlands ecology); a BA from Connecticut College, and a JD from UNH Law School.

**Werner, Robert; League of Conservation Voters**

Rob Werner is the New Hampshire State Director for the League of Conservation Voters, a national advocacy organization that works to turn environmental values into national, state, and local priorities. Rob formerly served as the National Field Director of Americans for Campaign Reform. A public policy analyst and advocate, Rob has organized successful advocacy and legislative campaigns for the American Heart Association, Smoke-Free NH Alliance, and the American Cancer Society. Rob is a graduate of Northfield Mount Hermon School and the University of Vermont. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Suffolk University as well as two certificates from the Harvard Kennedy School, Senior Managers in State and Local Government and Climate Change and Energy Policy. Rob served for seven terms on the Concord City Council and chairs the Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee. Rob is a Global Affiliate to the Gund Institute for Environment at the University of Vermont. Active in the Greater Concord, NH Chamber of Commerce, Rob serves on the State Government Affairs Committee. Rob serves on the Board of Directors for the Harvard Kennedy School New England Alumni Association and the Harvard Club of New Hampshire. Rob is a graduate of Leadership New Hampshire and a member of the Bow, NH Rotary Club.