



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970
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50th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions
November 7, 2020 | Zoom

Session B - 10:45 AM- 12:00 PM

1B

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY and INTERPRETING CO-OCCURRENCE MAPPING

Jeffrey Littleton, Conservation Ecologist Moosewood Ecological LLC

You can't protect it all, so how do you decide what to prioritize? A natural resources inventory (NRI) provides a scientific basis to support your natural resources protection and land conservation decisions. Learn what data and information is needed for an NRI and what is new! We will discuss the use of co-occurrence mapping as one method of prioritizing conservation focus areas. How do you determine what you have for natural resources? How do you get started, update, or implement an NRI? We will address these and other questions you may have during this informative workshop.

2B

ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS:

Bringing New Energy and People to Your Commission's Work

Malin Clyde, UNH Extension

Learn how to look beyond your conservation commission to engage community volunteers in caring for and protecting natural resources. Malin Clyde of UNH Extension has worked with natural resource volunteers throughout her career in non-profits, government, and at UNH. She'll share perspectives on what successful volunteer programs do to recruit, train, engage and thank volunteers, and how these techniques can infuse vitality in our commission work (after all, commissioners are volunteers too!). She'll share trends about what tomorrow's volunteers want from an experience (hint: it's less about duty and more about happiness and joy) and ways conservation commissions can include new community members in their work, using such tools as the Nature Groupie website and Extension's Stewardship Training Guides. Participants will come away with practical ideas for engaging a diverse range of community members in conservation work, and will learn about volunteer resources that can support the work of conservation commissions in New Hampshire.

3B

TOWN-LEVEL TURTLE CONSERVATION:

Resources and Tools Developed Through Intensive Regional Population Monitoring of At-Risk Turtles

Josh Megyesy, wildlife biologist, NH Fish & Game's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Research and Outreach Assistant, Harvard Forest.

Josh Megyesy will give an overview of the turtle population research conducted in NH, including the identification of priority areas for conservation and critical actions needed. He will discuss the importance of conservation commission involvement in turtle conservation and examples of state/town partnerships that have resulted in significant action. Josh's workshop will also provide an introduction to the tools available to help towns identify priority areas, key conservation actions, and best management practices. These resources will include the Natural Heritage Bureau's data check tool, the Wildlife Action Plan (WAP), Trails for People and Wildlife online tool, regionally-developed Best Management Practices documents, and citizen science engagement. Other discussions will include the importance of abandoned sand and gravel sites, wetland, stream, and vernal pool buffers, town ordinances, and identifying turtle road mortality hotspots for turtle crossing signs.

4B

POLLINATOR PATHWAYS

Marghi Bean and Evy Nathan, Kingston Conservation Commission

"Lawns are what we grow best in Rockingham County" Marghi Bean says to begin our events. In the summer of 2018 Marghi was invited to a neighbor's butterfly garden, and having watched for years as the old farms and fields around her gave way to subdivisions, the garden provided inspiration – a way to provide pollinator habitat – one yard at a time. Why not miles of connected butterfly gardens instead of lawn?

Marghi approached Evy Nathan, conservation chair in Kingston, about launching an endeavor through the ConsCom to promote the idea. Evy agreed, and the two set up a table at the town election armed with a large map of the town, some dollar store sequins, and all the pollinator pamphlets they could print. By the time the polls closed they'd placed 60 sequins on the map representing that many homeowners on board with their idea. Pollinator Pathways NH had been born!

Since that event the Pathway has become a true, DIY, grassroots movement in NH, even sending a few tentacles beyond. Learn how the five core members of the PPNH team have brought 13 neighboring towns into the partnership with their homegrown approach. What was a modest idea has matured into a movement, inspiring homeowners to re-think some of our time-honored approaches to landscaping.

5B

TECHNOLOGY AND ITS IMPACT ON STEWARDSHIP

Zach Pearo, Society for the Protection of NH Forests

This workshop will focus on leveraging GPS technology in the field to efficiently, safely, and accurately monitor conservation properties, to track your hiking route, and manage this information for future use. Smartphone GPS apps such as GAIA GPS have improved considerably in the past few years. This workshop will be a guide on how to download the app, upload property boundaries, download offline maps so navigating is possible without cell service, and track and save your monitoring routes and waypoints for future reference. Jumping into new technology can be daunting. By the end of this workshop, you will have the tools, reference materials, and confidence to start exploring parts of the forests you never thought to trek into before.

6B

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS OF CE MONITORING & VIOLATIONS

Amy Manzelli, BCM Environmental & Land Law

Is your conservation commission responsible for monitoring conservation easements? Are your monitoring reports subject to the Right-to-Know law? Do your monitoring obligations differ based on whether you hold a conservation easement or own the land outright? Learn all the legal ins and outs of monitoring conservation easements with attorney Amy Manzelli. In this dynamic session packed full of practical pointers, you will also have the opportunity to get answers to your specific questions.