



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

51st Annual Meeting & Conference
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Zoom

Conference Presenter Biographies

Andreozzi, Haley, UNH Extension

In her role as the Wildlife Outreach Manager at UNH Cooperative Extension, Haley Andreozzi works with volunteers, landowners, natural resources professionals, and communities to enhance, restore, and conserve wildlife habitat throughout New Hampshire. She provides technical assistance for outreach, citizen science, and stewardship projects related to New Hampshire's wildlife species and their habitats. Haley coordinates the NH Coverts Project and Speaking for Wildlife volunteer programs, and is a team member of Taking Action for Wildlife. She also coordinates landowner outreach, citizen science, and volunteer efforts related to species of greatest conservation need. 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 vice 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.

Callahan, Catherine (Katie); New Hampshire Fish & Game, GIS Coordinator

Katie joined the NH Fish and Game Department in 2003 as coordinator of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program which supports the entire Department through the collection and analysis of spatial data for conservation, management, and protection of the state's fish, wildlife, and marine populations and their habitats. She previously worked for the NH Department of Environmental Services, Water Division as a GIS specialist. Katie received a B.A. in Zoology from UNH and earned her Master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Plymouth State University. She is a wildlife tracking enthusiast, was a volunteer for

the Canada lynx/carnivore surveys in NH for the past 7 years, and looks forward to helping with the upcoming Northeast regional moose surveys.

Clemens, Rob; Amherst Conservation Commission

Rob has been a member of the Amherst Conservation Commission (ACC) since 2013, and Chair since 2017. During this time the ACC has continued its efforts to increase the acreage of conserved open space in Amherst, including grassland habitats. Rob has undergraduate and graduate degrees in geology and worked as an environmental scientist and consultant for more than 35 years.

Doperalski, Melissa; New Hampshire Fish & Game

Melissa is a Certified Wildlife Biologist for the Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG). She received her M.S. in 2007 and her B.S. in 2000, both from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and has extensive background working with a variety of wildlife, including both state and federally listed species, in both the private and public sectors with field experience throughout the Midwest, California, Texas, and Northeast. Melissa is now implementing high priority actions identified in the NH Wildlife Action Plan for several species of reptiles, amphibians, freshwater mussels and tiger beetles. Melissa serves as a NHFG representative on multiple regional work groups convened for conservation and recovery of numerous species and manages the environmental review program at New Hampshire Fish and Game within the Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program.

Harding, Charlotte, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLSP).

Charlotte is the Stewardship Specialist for the State of New Hampshire's Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLSP). Her responsibilities include the stewardship and monitoring of 200+ state-held conservation easements, and oversight of the 250+ CLSP conservation properties for the 78 municipalities involved with the program. Charlotte moved to New Hampshire in 2012 to attend Plymouth State University where she received her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology. Her background includes two years as a Preserve Stewardship Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire and several seasons with NH Audubon as a Rusty Blackbird Field Technician. She currently lives in Manchester and enjoys playing disc golf on most weekends.

Harvey, John; Amherst Conservation Commission

John Harvey joined the Amherst Conservation Commission in 1987, has served as its chairman for most of the time since and is now its Treasurer. During his leadership town conservation lands expanded to encompass 16% of the town total acreage and the LUCT remuneration from 50% to 100%. More importantly, he shifted the primary land management objective from community enjoyment to improving wildlife habitat and has taken a strong hand in the current habitat planning/execution efforts. John is a retired Air Force commissioned officer and a survivor of two IT industries. He and his wife Suk enjoy the company of their two grown children and two grandchildren.

Houghton, Sandi; New Hampshire Fish & Game

Sandi is the Wildlife Diversity Biologist in the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program at New Hampshire Fish and Game. Sandi's work at NH Fish & Game focuses on implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan, including working on wildlife connectivity and bat conservation. Previously, Sandi worked as a Wetland Specialist at the NH Department of Environmental Services. She has also conducted a variety of wildlife studies for the US Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Sandi has a BA in Biology from Colby College and a MS in Natural Resources (Wildlife) from UNH where her thesis work focused on amphibians and vernal pool habitats.

Hunt, Pam; NH Audubon

Pam has been interested in birds since the tender age of 12, when an uncle took her to Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge in NJ. She went on to earn a B.S. in biology from Cornell University, M.A. in zoology from the University of Montana, and a Ph.D. from Dartmouth College in 1995. Pam came to NH Audubon in 2000 after five years as adjunct faculty at Colby-Sawyer College in New London. In her current position as Avian Conservation Biologist, she works closely with NH Fish and Game to coordinate and prioritize bird research and monitoring in the state, and also authored NH's "State of the Birds" report. Specific areas of interest include habitat use by early successional birds (particularly whip-poor-wills), conservation of aerial insectivores (e.g., swifts and swallows), and the effects of events outside the breeding season on long-distance migrants. Pam also coordinated the "NH Dragonfly Survey," a five-year project that mapped distributions of these insects throughout the state, and remains active in the dragonfly field.

Keirstead, Don; Natural Resources Conservation Service, NH

Don is the State Resource Conservationist and State Soil Scientist for the USDA NRCS. - Don has worked with NH-NRCS for twenty years throughout NH and currently serves as the State Resource Conservationist and State Soil Scientist where he directs a team of 6 natural resource specialists. Over his career he has worked to develop conservation strategies and initiatives in agriculture, water quality, forestry and wildlife. He has received the Abraham Lincoln Honor Award for his efforts with the Working Lands for Wildlife Program, The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts President's Award (2015) for partnership activities and capacity building, and the USDA- Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service Two Chief's Partnership Award (2012), for conservation implementation around the White Mountain National Forest. He has a B.S. in Soil Science and an M.S. Natural Resources from the University of New Hampshire.

Kelly, Matt; UNH Cooperative Extension

Matt is a Natural Resource Field Specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension in Cheshire County. As county forester, Matt works with local forest owners, consulting foresters, agency partners, and local conservation groups to provide technical assistance and educational programming. Prior to joining the UNH Extension, Matt served on the faculty at Michigan Tech University where he taught courses and conducted research on various forestry-related topics. Matt earned his MS and PhD degrees in forest resources management from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Littleton, Jeffrey N.; Conservation Ecologist, Moosewood Ecological

Jeffrey Littleton is very enthusiastic about exploring our natural world. He is the Principal Ecologist and Founder of Moosewood Ecological LLC, having 30 years of experience in ecological studies and environmental education. He specializes in conservation planning, land management, ecological inventories, and habitat restoration on multiple scales. He accomplishes this through working with 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. Jeffrey serves as adjunct faculty at Antioch University where he provides course instruction on community ecology, inventory techniques for natural communities, and interpreting past land use histories.

Lamond, Steven; Conservation Ecologist, Moosewood Ecological

Steven grew up along Massachusetts' South Shore where he developed a deep curiosity for all things wild. After receiving a B.S. from Johnson State College in Environmental Science, Steven moved to the Monadnock Region to pursue an M.S. in Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England. Here, his passion for birds and community science intensified, leading to active participation in regional and national bird conservation projects. Steven now works as an ecologist and project manager for Moosewood Ecological while teaching part-time as an affiliate professor at Antioch University. Never without binoculars or a camera close at hand, Steven enjoys taking any opportunity to document New England's biodiversity.

Murphy, Kristen; Natural Resource Planner, Exeter NH

Kristen obtained her Master's of Science in Biology from the University of Nevada where she studied the impact of climate change on the federally listed Mojave Desert tortoise. After over a decade of research in the desert with the Department of Interior, she returned to her NH roots. She has worked as the Natural Resource Planner for the Town of Exeter for the past 13 years, providing staff support to the Exeter Conservation Commission. Kristen serves as an alternate on the Dover Conservation Commission, is vice-chair of the Dover Open Lands Committee, and is a member of the NHACC Board of Directors.

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.

Steckler, Pete; The Nature Conservancy

Peter is the GIS and Conservation Project Manager at the New Hampshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) where he has worked for the past thirteen years. He has worked on

conservation science, planning, and implementation efforts related to wildlife connectivity since 2009, first in northern New Hampshire through the Staying Connected Initiative, and later with the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership in southwestern New Hampshire, the Connect The Coast project in southeastern New Hampshire, and TNC's regional Resilient and Connected Network. Peter has a background in environmental science from the University of Vermont and is a certified wetland scientist in NH.

Thelen, Brett Amy; (she/her) Harris Center for Conservation Education.

Brett is the Science Director for the Harris Center and coordinates a variety of community science projects—including the celebrated Salamander Crossing Brigades—in the Monadnock Region since 2007. She received her M.S. in Environmental Studies: Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England in 2007. Prior to her graduate work, she conducted all manner of ecological field research at Cape Cod National Seashore and received her B.A. in Literary & Cultural Studies from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA.

Vargas Torres, Sheila, The Nature Conservancy

Sheila is the Government & Community Relations Manager for the Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire. She works on advancing TNC NH's state government affairs program - representing TNC in the New Hampshire statehouse and helping to develop and maintain relationships with lawmakers, state agencies and partners to advance TNC's state-based public policy and conservation goals. She also coordinate and manages TNC NH's community engagement program with the goals of building relationships with new audiences, enhancing chapter visibility, building conservation awareness and connecting people to nature.

Sheila has a decade of experience in issue advocacy, state level policy and political campaigns both in New Hampshire and Texas, experience in media relations as well as strategic coalition building. Sheila has a B.A. from Franklin Pierce University in journalism with a minor in philosophy and attended Pittsfield High School in Pittsfield, New Hampshire. She is originally from Aibonito Puerto Rico where she visits often and currently resides in Manchester, New Hampshire with her partner Matthew and her dog Milo.

Wise, Lisa; UNH Extension

Lisa joined UNH Cooperative Extension and NH Sea Grant as the Climate Adaptation Program Manager in 2017. In the coastal watershed, she works on projects with the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (a collaboration of over 30 organizations) and conducts programming with coastal communities on climate change impacts and strategies for adaptation. Lisa also is a member of the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup, a collaborative group working on climate-related outreach and education in the upper valley region of NH and VT. She earned her B.S. in environmental conservation studies and M.S. in coastal ecosystem management, both from the University of New Hampshire.