



# New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970  
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**51st Annual Meeting of the  
New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions  
November 6, 2021 | Zoom**

## **Session A - 10:10- 11:20 AM**

# 1A

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT: How Town-owned Lands Can Contribute to Climate Solutions**

Matt Kelly, UNH Cheshire County Extension Forester  
Nicole St. Clair Knobloch, principal at Olifant

Town-owned lands are valued resources for communities – they protect water, provide recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat, and contribute to local and state-wide economies. Increasingly, there is interest in learning how town and community forests can contribute to climate solutions. In this session, Matt Kelly, UNH Cheshire County Extension Forest will discuss carbon sequestration and storage basics, and how New Hampshire's forests serve as a carbon sink by storing carbon in forest soils, standing trees, and various forest products. Nicole St. Clair Knobloch, principal at Olifant and a leader in conservation solutions, will share how this background and these basic concepts are being applied to meet climate solutions, as well as other ecological and economic goals in the northeast.

# 2A

### **INTRO TO iNATURALIST**

Steven Lamonde, Moosewood Ecological, LLC

In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn the basics of iNaturalist, one of the world's leading community science projects for documenting Earth's biodiversity. From the moss on that boulder out in the woods to the spider in your pantry, iNaturalist helps us identify species, contribute to science and conservation, and foster a deeper connection with nature. For those who want to follow along with the iNaturalist demonstration, please download and install the iNaturalist app on your smartphone or iPad ahead of time. Don't have a smart device? No problem! Have your camera handy.

# 3A

## **ONE TOWN'S APPROACH TO MANAGING GRASSLAND and RELATED HABITAT**

John Harvey, former Chair of the Amherst Conservation Commission and current wildlife habitat manager  
Rob Clemens, Chair of the Amherst Conservation Commission and retired environmental scientist

The Town of Amherst's Conservation Commission has recognized the importance of non-forested habitats in its conservation planning and has taken particular steps to identify and manage its grassland, meadow, hayfield and shrubland properties. This program will describe some of these conservation initiatives, and provide specific examples of efforts undertaken to enhance grassland habitat on a recently purchased 60 acre former golf course.

# 4A

## **NH WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**

Katie Callahan, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator at the NH Fish and Game Department  
Sandi Houghton, Wildlife Diversity Biologist in the Nongame and Endangered Species Program at the NH Fish and Game Department

Wildlife corridors allow wildlife to move between areas of core habitats and are critical for the conservation of wildlife in New Hampshire. The *NH Wildlife Corridors* model is a GIS-based mapping model that predicts the potential locations of these linkages. The analysis extends TNC's Connect-the-Coast project to map the entire state. Sixteen focal species are included to provide an umbrella for connectivity analysis. Habitat generalists, habitat specialists, area sensitive, and barrier sensitive species capture the range of variation in dispersal behavior. This model can identify both key areas for land protection efforts and strategic locations for restoring connectivity in currently fragmented landscapes.

# 5A

## **REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH NRCS**

Don Keirstead, State Resource Conservationists, USDA, NRCS  
Matt Thorne, Executive Director at MRWC

This session will describe the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and how the program will use the recent award of 7.6 million dollars to protect and restore key source water areas for public drinking water. This effort highlights working with underserved communities, securing easements on private land and restoring headwater streams and riparian areas. The focus of the program is to prioritize vulnerable surface water withdrawal sites while restoring critical habitat for declining species. Participants will learn how easements and best management practices benefit water resources within the watersheds.

# 6A

## **TECHNOLOGY AND ITS IMPACT ON STEWARDSHIP:**

### **Conservation Land Monitoring using Gaia GPS**

Charlotte Harding, Stewardship Specialist,  
Stewardship Specialist NH's Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLSP)

This workshop will focus on utilizing Gaia GPS technology in the field to efficiently and accurately monitor conservation properties. Gaia is a free application that anyone with a smartphone can use to track your route and document observations while in the field. This workshop will be an entry-level guide on how to download the app, upload property boundaries, track and save your route and waypoints, and export data for future use.

Learning to use new technology can be daunting. By the end of this workshop you will have the tools and confidence to navigate areas of conservation lands that you have never been able to before.