



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 | (603) 224-7867 | www.nhacc.org

**51st Annual Meeting of the
New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions
November 6, 2021 | Zoom**

Session B - 11:30 AM- 12:40 PM

1B

WARMER, WACKIER WEATHER: Protecting NH's Wildlife in a Changing Climate

Haley Andrezzi, Wildlife Outreach Manager
Lisa Wise, Climate Adaptation Program Manager, UNH Extension

Have you been noticing more extreme weather, warmer temperatures, and more unpredictable seasons in your community? Wondering how these changes in climate might impact wildlife? Join us to learn about the latest projections for climate change here in NH and examples of how wildlife species are being affected. You'll learn about ideas for actions we can take to help wildlife in the face of warmer temperatures, more extreme precipitation, shifting seasons and habitats, and other changes.

2B

USING CITIZEN SCIENCE TO GROUND-TRUTH YOUR NRI Jeffrey N. Littleton, Conservation Ecologist Moosewood Ecological LLC

You can't protect it all, so how do we decide what to prioritize and how do we involve citizens in the process? 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 also touch on prioritizing conservation focus areas, while discussing the various ways citizens can contribute to the NRI. Citizen science is a wonderful way to involve residents through the use of iNaturalist and eBird, as well as other important activities that can greatly benefit Conservation Commissions throughout an NRI project.

3B

SAND & GRAVEL PITS: AN UNNATURALLY NATURAL LANDSCAPE

Melissa Doperalski, New Hampshire Fish and Game Certified Wildlife Biologist

The discussion will focus on conservation considerations for sand and gravel pits as rare wildlife habitat. Sand and gravel mines are numerous and widespread throughout New Hampshire. Often overlooked and left unreclaimed, or quickly turned over into industrial development; these landscapes are rarely as barren as they appear to be and often provide important and critical habitat for a variety of species. This session will discuss the future land use considerations for these sites and will include how to identify critical areas for management and conservation for target species, types of management and conservation options, recreation considerations, and the benefits to conserving these areas in your community. We will touch on regulatory considerations and common problems associated with these sites.

4B

ENHANCING WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY AT ROAD CROSSINGS

Catherine (Katie) Callahan, Katie Callahan, GIS Coordinator at NH F&G
Brett Amy Thelen, Science Director, Harris Center for Conservation Education
Pete Steckler, TNC Conservation Project Manager/Acting Director of Conservation
Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner, Town of Exeter and NHACC Board

Join us for a focus on establishing New Hampshire-specific examples of enhancing wildlife connectivity at road crossings. Culvert replacements, using wildlife cameras, restoration through site modifications, roadside land protection, and Big Night temporary road closures for amphibian crossing will be addressed and discussed. You'll travel your community's roads with a new perspective on how wildlife navigate our transportation systems, and how you can help them!

5B

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S BIRDS

Pam Hunt, Avian Conservation Biologist, NH Audubon

In the last 50 years, scientists estimate that North America has lost roughly 3 billion birds, meaning that there are only three quarters as many birds around as there used to be. New Hampshire Audubon has been tracking bird populations for almost as long, and in our "State of the Birds" report we present a summary of how birds are doing here in the Granite State. Almost 300 species occur regularly here, and this report outlines general population trends, major threats facing birds and their habitats, and some of the conservation strategies that might help them recover. The bad news is that birds are declining here as well. The good news is that there are things we can do about it.

6B

DIVERSITY AND ACCESSIBILITY in the MANCHESTER CEDAR SWAMP

Shelia Vargas, Government and Community Relations, The Nature Conservancy

For some, standard trails do not offer a sufficiently level surface, gentle slope, or secure footing. Others may feel unsafe or uncomfortable with being in the woods or navigating traditional trails. The reality is: not everyone can equally access our natural public spaces. It is why The Nature Conservancy worked with two trail building firms to construct a universally accessible trail at its Ossipee Pine Barrens Preserve and another trail at its Manchester Cedar Swamp Preserve in the fall of 2021. This session will focus on the benefits of providing universal access, lessons learned from the Ossipee project, an overview of accessible trail specifications and community engagement considerations for planning a trail.