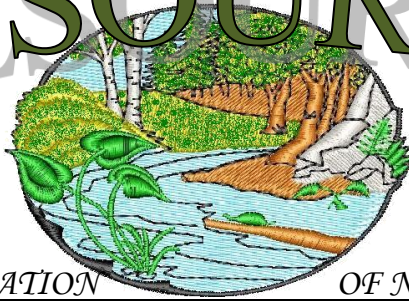


RESOURCE

Volume 15 No.1



THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION

OF NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENTISTS

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Cotton Grass In The Bog, by Bill Kuriger

President's Message – January 2015

By Bill Kuriger

Happy New Year! After a successful 2014 I want to thank the NHANRS Board of Directors for all of their efforts during the last year. The New Year will bring the challenges of putting together a new Board and again meeting the needs of our members. Thanks also go out to all of our members, and other people interested in NHANRS who attended our workshops and meetings. Please let us know anytime how we can serve you better in 2015 and beyond.

As we look forward to the [NHANRS Annual Conference and Meeting](#) on **Friday, January 30, 2015, 8am - 4pm, at the Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH**, please consider the many ways you can get involved in your organization. The election of a new Board of Directors will take place during the conference. We are looking for new volunteer members for the Board, as a number of positions are open. This is a wonderful way to help NHANRS and also contribute to supporting and improving the natural resource scientist community in New Hampshire. You can make a difference. Contact Chris Albert (calbert@jonesandbeach.com), chairman of the nominating committee ASAP.

This year the NHANRS Annual Conference will include presentations on topics ranging from soils to geology to regulatory issues from leaders in their fields. You will receive ethics credit, 5 contact hours (NH Joint Board) and 2 credit hours for NH Permitted Designer/Installers awarded by attending the annual conference.

Potential regulatory changes affecting wetland and soil scientists in New Hampshire and New England will be discussed during the annual conference. The opportunity to be heard and voice your opinion is an important reason to attend. NHANRS, through the Board of Directors, our Legislative Committee, and our lobbyist, is a voice for our members in both promoting environmental protection, and fostering careers that also depend on the Declaration of Independence's promise of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and New Hampshire's



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own “Live Free or Die”. The proper balance for our clients, NHANRS members and the citizens of New Hampshire for environmental protection and the freedom to use land is not impossible, nor should it be discriminatively expensive. But that balance requires hard work, common sense, and vigilance. It is our duty to do the best we can for our members and the citizens of New Hampshire.

In order to encourage students who want to pursue careers in the natural resource sciences, the Annual Conference will be holding an undergraduate/graduate student **POSTER CONTEST** again this year, with a prize of \$300 for first place. So far there seems to be lots of interest. See the [Call for Posters](#) at the annual conference advertisements on our web site for more information.

Are you interested in being a **Sponsor** of this event or a **Vendor** at the conference? You can get your company’s name in front of all the attendees at this year’s conference and help support NHANRS. We need your help! See the [Sponsor Form](#) and/or [Vendor Form](#) for the details.

We hope to see you at the NHANRS Annual Conference and Meeting and throughout the year at our workshops, quarterly meetings, and in the field. The economy is improving, early in 2015 a new legislature and senate will assemble in Concord, and new developments in wetland and soil science, forestry and wildlife biology will occur. NHANRS will be there representing your interests. Help make a difference in the quality of life in New Hampshire.

Bill Kuriger



Simplified Transplanted Wetland Replication Area in Massachusetts, near Rindge, NH, Created in October 1989, and Photographed in November 2014.



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Northern Long-Eared Bats joined us for the Christmas Quarterly

By Sarah Allen

The December quarterly meeting was well attended and very engaged with Jonathan Reichard, our evening speaker from the US FWS. Jon is the National Assistant Coordinator for white-nose syndrome (WNS), and is based in their Hadley, MA office. He gave us a review of WNS, the history of the spread of this fungal disease and what relatively little is known about its biology. He also described its effects on bats, and the on-going research towards understanding the long-term implications and possible human interventions.

In the 8 years since its discovery, WNS has devastated multiple species of hibernating bats in eastern North America. It has now spread 25 states and 5 provinces, and it has led to the northern long-eared bat being proposed for federal protection under the Endangered



Species Act. While

WNS continues to be the primary threat to this bat species throughout its range, healthy and safe habitats are essential to bats surviving the disease. The US FWS is still evaluating management guidelines for this species, and recognizes that the interim guidance, taken from Indiana bat guidance, is not fully applicable. A listing decision is expected in April. If listed, Jon offered to give us a follow-up briefing on the resulting management guidelines and their implications.

Hope To See You At The Annual Conference!

January 30, 2015

Grappone Center, Concord, NH

The **2015 NHANRS Annual Conference** is rapidly approaching and is poised to cover a number of topics near and dear to our natural resource professions. The first session of the morning starts off with Scott Bailey (US Forest Service and Plymouth State University) discussing high elevation streams and wetlands, and hydrologic characteristics that distinguish the two. We will also hear from Jim Turrene (USDA Soil Scientist) about the status



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of hydric soil categories, especially problem soils, at the national and regional levels. The second half of the morning will be devoted to regulatory issues: Gene Forbes will introduce himself and describe his goals as the (relatively) new DES Water Division Director; Collis Adams (DES Wetlands Program Administrator) will give us the current status of the ongoing wetland rule-making revisions; and rounding out the morning is Elizabeth Muzzey, director of the Division of Historic Resources and the State Historic Preservation Officer, describing an analysis of historic structures at risk due to climate change and DHR's efforts to protect them.

After a fabulous lunch and business meeting (including voting in the new Board of Directors), the afternoon session will look at ecology and infrastructure issues. The first speaker is Tim Dexter from Mass DOT presenting the state's new GIS-based environmental screening tool for interagency use. Alison Bowden (TNC) will follow with a talk on the incidental benefits of adequate wildlife stream crossings and the observed reduction in flood damage to those structures. And lastly will be Lori Sommer (DES Mitigation Specialist) and Mark Hemmerlein (NHDOT) describing their joint collaboration on culvert replacements to maximize environmental benefits.

Ethics credits (1 hour) will be available as a result of the efforts of NHANRS President Bill Kuriger. Throughout the meeting and particularly towards the end of lunch, Bill will describe the work to date for the update of NHANRS's draft code of ethics. Our goal is to finalize them this year and present them to the membership for a vote.

An additional point of interest will be the student posters, plus at least one supplemental poster from the NRCS. This is a great opportunity for students to meet and interact with professionals in their field of interest, and for NHANRS members to see the direction of new research. Abstracts are still being accepted, and there are cash prizes for the top 3 posters.

As with past conferences, we will have vendors and the raffle to keep things interesting. We are still seeking sponsors for the conference – this is a great opportunity to get exposure for your company and to support NHANRS. Please see the website below for sponsorship information.

We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, please visit our webpage <http://nhanrs.org/nhanrs-events/>



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The Society of Wetland Scientists 2015 Annual Meeting
Providence, Rhode Island
"Changing Climate. Changing Wetlands"
May 31, 2015 - June 04, 2015
Rhode Island Convention Center

Join your colleagues, world-leading wetland scientists, researchers, practitioners, policymakers and academics at the SWS Annual Meeting. This year's theme will examine the role that wetlands play in the global carbon cycle, how they are affected by our changing climate and how they can provide adaptation services.

Wetland experts will share innovative research trends and developments, while the four day expo will showcase the tools you need to ensure success. Join a **FIELD TRIP** to explore local wetlands, pack your business cards and get ready to network! For more information, visit the [SWS Annual Meeting website](#).

REGISTRATION for the meeting is now open. **ACCOMODATIONS** have been arranged at the Omni Hotel, which is conveniently connected to the Rhode Island Convention Center. Book online or call 800-843-6664 to place your reservation. Be sure to book by Wednesday, April 29 and mention you're with SWS to receive the discounted rate of \$159 per night.

Help make the SWS 2015 Annual Meeting a success by **SPONSORING** at one of five levels! Also, consider supporting The SWS New England Chapter by donating and participating in the **SILENT AUCTION**. We are raising funds to make the SWS conference and regional meeting more affordable for students in wetland sciences and to fund student research. [Download the Silent Auction Donation form](#) to make a donation!

Upcoming Workshop: Towards a Better Understanding of Wildlife Corridors in NH
March 27, 2015 9 am - 3 pm
Indoor Session: 9 am - 12 pm Lebanon City Hall Conference Room
Outdoor Session: 12:30 - 3 pm Route 120, Mt. Support Road, Poverty Lane

This workshop is designed to introduce participants to the basic concepts of wildlife corridors and the various models that have been employed to locate and evaluate wildlife corridors in New Hampshire. Using the state's Wildlife Action Plan as a backdrop, both indoor presentations and outdoor field investigations will discuss and explore factors that affect travel corridors for selected species of wildlife. Indoor sessions will provide a synopsis



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of data-based models on a GIS platform, with a focus on the NH Land Connectivity Model developed by NH Fish & Game and NH Audubon.

The NH Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) provides the first comprehensive, state-wide analysis of wildlife habitat. This analysis has identified the highest quality landscape patches of 19 terrestrial habitat types at state and ecoregional scales. Maps from the WAP are available on GRANIT and are already informing conservation planning and land use decisions in many levels of government as well as in conservation NGOs. However, identification and protection of landscape linkages between key habitat blocks is equally important to the long-term sustainability of New Hampshire's wildlife populations.

In developing the WAP, NH Fish and Game (NHFG) biologists, with input from NH Audubon (NHA) biologists, created a basic, GIS-based, landscape permeability model to predict broad-scale wildlife connectivity zones across the state. However, further development was required before this model would be suitable for planning applications. Planners from all levels (e.g. municipalities, Regional Planning Commissions, NH Dept. of Transportation, NH Dept. of Environmental Services) expressed a desire to incorporate wildlife connectivity into their considerations. This analysis can identify both key areas for land protection efforts and strategic locations for restoring connectivity in currently fragmented landscapes.

Outdoor field investigations will test an adaptation of the NH Connectivity Model in Lebanon, where a comprehensive natural resources inventory was completed in 2008-2009. Since that time the Lebanon Planning Department has been focusing on recognizing and protecting the City's green infrastructure. A critical step in this process has been the refinement of the local land cover data in order to use the statewide connectivity model on a local scale. This has allowed for new inputs to the model that accommodates short-movement species within a more highly fragmented landscape. The goal of the field exercise is to examine three potential wildlife crossing locations that have been identified using the local model to determine use, resistance factors, and possible mitigation alternatives to enhance green infrastructure value in the City.

Presenters:

Vanessa Jones of NH Audubon was one of the principal architects of the NH Connectivity Model and is a part of NH Fish & Game WAP Advisory Team.

Mark Goodwin is Lebanon's Senior GIS Planner and has been primarily responsible for the land cover mapping update and connectivity model adaptation for Lebanon.

Dr. Rick Van de Poll is a CWS who completed the initial NRI for Lebanon and has assisted in both the corridor analysis and adaptation of the connectivity model for Lebanon.



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RESOURCE SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

Mail all advertising inquiries, articles, suggestions, or letters of opinion to NHANRS: P.O. Box 110, Concord, NH 03302 or webmanager@nhanrs.org. Photos and illustrations are encouraged.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENTISTS MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the responsible use of natural resources and the natural resource science professions in New Hampshire, as well as to represent the diverse private, public, and educational interests in our membership.

The means by which we accomplish this are:

- Communicating with our members regarding issues that affect our professions
- Representing our members' interests with local, state and federal legislators and policy makers
- Supporting prudent civil/urban planning processes
- Providing continuing education for our members and the general public
- Enhancing the public's appreciation of the role that natural resources and natural resource professionals play in everyday life

Visit the [NHANRS Workshops/Events web page](#) for a complete listing of NHANRS events and events by other organizations.

Our web site often has listings for workshops from groups including MAPPS (of Maine), AMWS (of Mass), NH Timberland Owners Association, Belknap & Merrimack County Conservation Districts, and more. New workshops and events are added monthly.

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