

Saving Special Places 2010

Session 2 Workshops

11:00am – 12:30pm (90 minutes)

2A: Conservation Easement Deeds- Basic Content and Format

Tom Howe will give a guided tour of his organization's recently updated model conservation easement deed, which is the starting point for each easement the Forest Society drafts. You'll learn about key items you can expect to see in almost any easement deed, vs. more discretionary provisions reflecting the particular interests and capacities of the easement holder. You'll also learn how much flexibility you have for tailoring certain provisions to fit the situation at hand. You'll receive a hardcopy of the Forest Society's template document (with digital copy available later), and will have an opportunity to ask an expert easement crafter/drafter about any part of this key conservation tool. This workshop is designed for landowners or conservation groups considering granting or acquiring easements, respectively, but who have had little experience with the details of an easement deed.

Presenters:

Tom Howe, *Society for the Protection of NH Forests*, <http://www.forestsociety.org/>

2B: Forest and Wildlife Habitat Stewardship in the Public Eye

The stewardship of wildlife habitat on public lands can be challenging but it also offers many opportunities to better educate the general public about importance of good land stewardship. In this session we will highlight a couple of habitat projects completed on public lands. We will discuss the process setting stewardship goals and objectives, how to fund habitat projects, getting the work done on the ground, and educating your fellow citizens on the value of wildlife habitat.

Presenters:

Tim Fleury, *UNH Cooperative Extension*, <http://extension.unh.edu>

Andy Powell, *Coverts Cooperator*

2C: Pace, Quality, Permanence: Resources for Land Trust Excellence

Whether you have a quick question for our land conservation experts or need to dig deeper, the suite of tools available for implementing *Land Trust Standards & Practices* will help your organization reach its conservation goals. Through an interactive session, participants will learn how to access The Learning Center online as well as *Pathways to Accreditation*, specially designed to walk land trusts through the process of preparing for accreditation while providing resources you can use along the way. This workshop also explores the feasibility of defense and enforcement insurance as a proactive response to potential violations and frivolous law suits over conservation easements. We will discuss current challenges, review the business terms for the proposed insurance program, and hear what led a local land trust to commit to participate in the program.

Presenters:

Kevin Case, *Land Trust Alliance*, <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about-us>

Roger Larochelle, *Squam lakes Conservation Society*, www.squamlakes.com

2D: Efficient and Effective Fundraising for Conservation

This workshop will focus on how to determine the most efficient and effective methods for fundraising for conservation projects or operations support based on organizational resources, capacity, fundraising goals, deadlines and other factors. It will cover the assessment of foundation, corporate, government funding sources and membership development. This is an interactive workshop that will

use examples from grassroots and state wide conservation organizations and will encourage participants to present their organization's fundraising situations and questions.

Presenter:

Gail Coffey, *The Nature Conservancy*, <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/newhampshire/>

2E: Wetlands Reserve Program to Restore and Protect Degraded Wetlands

The NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program to restore and protect wetlands on private property. It is an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to enhance, protect, or restore wetlands to the original hydrology, functions and values, native vegetation, and natural topography through easements and/or restoration agreements. Presentation will include land & landowner eligibility, application process, easement values, acquisition timeline, restoration and restoration timeline.

Presenter:

Dan Wright, *Natural Resources Conservation Service*, <http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/>

2F: Invasive Plants and Insects: Identification & Environmental Impacts

Invasive plants and insects can cause significant disruptions to ecosystem function immediately following the infestation and well into the future. These species can alter species composition of natural communities, degrade habitat quality for wildlife, and cause the local or regional extirpation of some keystone species. Early detection of outbreaks and infestations is critical. The ability to properly identify invasive species, as well as spot the signs of infestation and identify at risk communities is needed to prevent or minimize impacts. We will review the identification of a group of species that currently pose a significant threat to the ecosystems of New Hampshire, the short and long term impacts, available strategies for management including techniques to control infestations and outbreaks and managing the system to prevent or mitigate impacts.

Presenters:

Chris Mattrick, *White Mountain National Forest*, http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain

Stan Swier, *UNH Cooperative Extension*, <http://extension.unh.edu>

2G: Advanced Transaction Trouble Shooting Round Table

Three experts with many years of experience will entertain your questions about conservation land transactions and negotiations. This popular workshop is for people who are actively engaged in negotiating conservation easements and land acquisitions and who want to "pick the brains" of experts who have been involved in projects ranging from the simple to the extraordinarily complex.

Presenters:

Tom Masland, *Ransmeier & Spellman, P.C.*, <http://www.ranspell.com>

Paul Doscher, *Society for the Protection of NH Forests*, <http://www.forestssociety.org/>

Duane Hyde, *The Nature Conservancy*, <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/newhampshire/>

2H: Managing Illegal Trails and Trail Use on Conservation Land

Unauthorized recreational activities on conservation lands are a perennial challenge for conservation managers in New Hampshire. These activities present time-consuming and complicated issues to address, and can degrade conservation values and created conflicts with other user groups and neighbors to the conservation area. This session will review some common prohibited recreational activities occurring on conservation lands in the State, including illegal trail building and ATV use. Case studies will be presented to illustrate illegal activities that have occurred, the variety of problems they created, and the various management approaches taken to resolve the issues. In addition, some

proposed “best management practices” for dealing with unauthorized recreational uses will be discussed. Participants will be encouraged to participate with questions and sharing their experience working on similar issues.

Presenter:

Jeff Lougee, *The Nature Conservancy*, <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/newhampshire/>

2I: Importance of Floodplains & Riparian Corridors to Land Conservation

Floodplain forests represent some of the rarest wetland types in the northeast, particularly as their rich soils have often caused them to be turned into farmlands. Together with riparian wetlands, these habitats support countless wildlife and plant species, while also providing natural flood storage during storms. For some species, these areas are critical stopovers during migration, and for others the mosaic of habitat patches provide year-round homes. In this session we will give a brief overview of the ecology of these important habitats and how their conservation provides benefits for both wildlife and human health and safety.

Presenters:

Emily Brunkhurst, *NH Fish & Game*, <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us>

Doug Bechtel, *The Nature Conservancy*, <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/newhampshire/>

2J: Land Trust Boards: The Changing Landscape

Anyone who’s served on a land trust board for some years knows that the landscape of board governance has changed. Stricter nonprofit regulations, new IRS rules, accreditation indicator practices, required policies and procedures—it can be very difficult for a land trust board, particularly if it has no staff to help, to keep up with all the changes and keep building a strong foundation for an organization that needs to last as long as the lands it protects. This workshop will cover selected topics that all land trusts need to understand: board development (orientation, training, evaluation, and succession); managing conflicts of interest; avoiding private benefit and private inurement; and handling transactions when the land trust has reservations about public benefit and tax issues. We will also have time for individual questions about other issues your board is currently wrestling with.

Presenter:

Henrietta Jordan, *Trailmarker Associates*, <http://www.trailmarker.org/>

2K: Lobbying, Publicity and Advocacy for Land Conservation

Open space and preservation mean different things to different people. This often means that the information you provide and how you provide it can miss its mark. Using case studies and experience this session will describe the lobbying and town meeting process in NH, how to prepare for an open space project and what works and what doesn't in communicating your projects to citizens and elected officials.

Presenters:

Roger Stephenson, *Stephenson Strategic Communications*, r-stephenson@comcast.net

Jim O'Brien, *Conservation New Hampshire*, www.voteconservation.org