

New Hampshire Living Legacy Project News

Conserving the Biological Diversity of the Granite State

April 2, 2003

The New Hampshire Living Legacy Project is a public-private partnership among the Fish and Game Department, Division of Forests and Lands, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society of NH, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Department of Environmental Services, UNH Cooperative Extension, local land trusts and communities.

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It's RAARP Time!

The Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program (RAARP) is ready to receive your reports of herp sightings. Reports on frogs, salamanders, snakes, and turtles from throughout the state are important and valuable, especially those from the North Country where existing data is sparse. Of particular interest are the sightings of Blanding's turtle, spotted turtle, wood turtle, eastern hognose snake, mink frog, northern leopard frog, black racer, smooth green snake, and ringneck snake. If you find a marbled salamander, please try to take a photo of it, record the location, and contact NH Fish and Game Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program at 271-2461 as soon as possible.

A packet of reporting slips, RAARP guidelines and species identification key, and additional information will be sent in the mail to regular RAARPs soon. If you are interested in joining the effort contact Carla Dudley at NH Fish and Game to receive the packet. She can be reached at cdudley@wildlife.state.nh.us or 603-271-2462. The RAARP forms can also be downloaded and printed from the website:

http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/nongame_and_endangered_wildlife.htm

Invasives Update

- **Watch Out For the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)**
HWA is a small exotic insect pest that attacks healthy hemlocks. It originated in China and Japan, was first discovered in the U.S. in the 1920's, spread to New England about 17 years ago and into New Hampshire (Portsmouth, Peterborough, Bedford, Epsom, Chester) in the

last few years. HWA reaches new areas on infested nursery stock and perhaps is also carried by animals and wind. Three methods are used in NH to control the infestations: removal and destruction of infested trees, chemical pesticides, and predaceous beetles. An important step in preventing further spread of HWA is restricting the movement of nursery stock and hemlock logs. **To contain the spread, the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food and the NH Division of Forests and Lands are requiring that all hemlock nursery stock, hemlock logs and pulpwood with bark, hemlock lumber with bark, hemlock chips, and uncomposted shipments of hemlock be inspected before they are allowed to be transported out of Rockingham County into any other county in NH.**

For copies of fact sheets on the HWA contact the UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry Information Center at 1-800-444-8978.

For information and guidance on the Rockingham County Quarantine contact one of the following:

Jennifer Bofinger, Forests and Lands 271-7858
Kyle Lombard, Forests and Lands 271-7858
Matt Tarr, UNH Cooperative Extension 679-5616

- **New England Invasive Plant Summit – Call for Papers**
September 19-20, 2003
Framingham, MA
To submit an abstract or for registration information visit
<http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane>
Organized by the University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and the New England Wildflower Society.
- **Fire and Invasive Species**
Visit the following web resources for information on fire and invasive species:
 - Using fire to control invasive plants: What's new and what works in the Northeast, a Proceedings – <http://ceinfo.unh.edu/forestry/documents/WPUFCI03.pdf>
 - Fire management options to control woody invasive plants in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic U.S. -- <http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/durham/details>
 - Joint Fire Science Program – <http://jfsp.nifc.gov>

Important Bird Areas

The New Hampshire Important Bird Area (IBA) Program was officially launched with the first meeting of the IBA Technical Committee. The IBA Program is a partnership among UNH Cooperative Extension, Audubon Society of NH, Fish and Game Department, and the state's avian researchers, habitat managers, landowners, and birders. The goal is to identify and conserve areas that are critical to one or more bird species for breeding, feeding, wintering or migration and to avert population declines of common and uncommon birds.

The IBA Technical Committee is drafting and reviewing nominations for a dozen places in the state that are well documented as places important to birds. Within the next few months we anticipate the announcement of the first recognized IBAs in New Hampshire.

To qualify as an IBA, an area must meet one or more scientific criteria. Potential IBAs include areas that support threatened or endangered bird species, bird species of high conservation priority, significant concentrations of birds, or representative, rare, threatened, or unique habitats. The New Hampshire IBA program has developed a Preliminary Nomination Form that people can submit to recommend an area for review and possible identification as an IBA. A copy of the NH IBA criteria and a preliminary nomination form are available at the UNH Cooperative Extension website: <http://ceinfo.unh.edu> (go to “Forestry and Wildlife Resources”, then “Bird Areas”).

Piscataquog Watershed Project

Funding for a conservation planning project with the Piscataquog Watershed Association (PWA) in collaboration with the Living Legacy Project has re-surfaced. These funds will be used to develop a watershed conservation plan that identifies ecologically significant areas and provides guidance on their protection and stewardship. To kickoff the project, the PWA is hosting two activities:

April 12 6:30-9:00 PM Vernal Pool Workshop in New Boston

May 13 7-9 PM Nightjar Survey Training in Dunbarton with the Audubon Society of NH

There is no fee. Pre-registration is required by calling 603-487-3331.

Workshops: Spring-Summer 2003

Appalachian Mountain Club’s Getting to Know Series at Pinkham Notch.

For more information and to register contact AMC at 603-466-2727. Cost \$36/\$40.

April 25 **Getting to Know: The Coyote**

May 16 **Getting to Know: Fire in the Ecosystem**

June 20 **Getting to Know: Wildlife, Plants, and Landform Diversity**

July 11 **Getting to Know: The Eastern Wild Turkey**

GPS for GIS, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension (UNHCE)

For more information and to register contact UNHCE at 603-862-1029. Cost \$150.

June 24 or 26 – Durham

Sept 10 or 11 – Laconia

Using a Handheld GPS, UNH Cooperative Extension

For more information and to register contact UNHCE at 603-862-1029. Cost \$95.

May 6 or 9 – Laconia

June 3 or 5 – Durham

Sept. 16 or 17 – N. Haverhill

Introduction to ArcView 3.2, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

For more information and to register contact UNHCE at 603-862-1029. Cost \$200.

April 26 and May 3 – Manchester

May 7 and May 8 – Laconia

Aug. 19 and Aug. 20 – Durham

Land Conservation Options, UNH Cooperative Extension

For more information and to register contact UNHCE, Rockingham County at 603-679-5616.
Workshops are 7-9 pm. Pre-registration is required.

April 29 -- Auburn
May 7 – Sandown
May 8 – Stratham
May 13 – Raymond
May 14 – Belmont
May 20 – Dover
May 21 -- Kensington

Wildlife Habitat in the Piscassic and Lamprey River Watersheds

Sponsored by NH Fish and Game, UNH Cooperative Extension, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

For more information call 603-271-2605; Admission is Free

April 22 – Newmarket Town Hall

April 30 – Epping Town Hall

Families Caring for Forests: A Project of Women in the Woods

A 3-day workshop series: May 8 and 15 (evenings) and May 17 (9am-3 pm)

Massabesic Audubon Center, Auburn, NH

For more information and registration call 603-668-2045.

Events

Discover Wild New Hampshire Day

April 26, 2003 10am – 3pm

NH Fish and Game Headquarters

2 Hazen Drive, Concord

Admission is Free

International Migratory Bird Day

May 10, 2003

Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge

Jefferson, NH

More details to come