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For release on June 1, 2013 (e-mailed May 20, 2013) Contact: Larry Chase
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Conservation Commission to launch ‘Taking Action for Wildlife’ program

The Andover Conservation Commission (ACC), in collaboration with several other state and local organizations, will launch a summer-long “Taking Action for Wildlife” program with two public events in June, and continuing with additional activities in July, August and September.

The purpose of the program, according to Mary Anne Broshek, ACC chair, is to help local residents and landowners to better recognize, protect and enhance critical habitats supporting local wildlife, particularly rare and endangered species.

The kickoff program, on Wednesday, June 19, beginning at 7:00 p.m., will feature a presentation by Kittie Wilson, a volunteer for The Loon Preservation Committee, on “Little Loon Grows Up!,” featuring her photographs of loon families on Pleasant Lake in New London. Open to the public at no charge, the presentation will take place in the East Andover Grange Hall at the corner of Franklin Highway (Route 11) and Chase Hill Road. Co-sponsor of the event is the Highland Lake Protective Association.

Later in June, a community-wide photo-sharing exhibit will be mounted in the Village Library, consisting of images of local wildlife taken by local residents. (See sidebar for additional information.)

Next month, the first in a series of guided walks in areas of Andover that are most supportive of wildlife will take place on Thursday, July 11, with a morning program in the Bradley Lake area led by Dave Anderson, education director and naturalist at the New Hampshire Forest Society. Look for details in the July *Beacon*.

Also, on Wednesday afternoon, July 31, an East Andover exploration of dragonflies and their habitat will be led by the husband-and-wife team of Carrie and Andy Deegan representing the New Hampshire Forest Society (Carrie) and the Ausbon Sargent Preservation Trust (Andy). Again, look for details in the July *Beacon*.

Continuing in August and September will be additional guided walks in Andover locations to be announced. And on Thursday evening, August 29, Andover wildlife photographer Rick “Mooseman” Libbey will offer a public presentation of his work at a place and time to be determined. Details will appear in the August *Beacon*. (See a cover photo and other examples of Libbey’s work in the Spring 2013 edition of *Kearsarge* magazine.)

The ACC’s “Taking Action for Wildlife” project has been guided the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. You can learn more about the state program and view the Andover wildlife maps at http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife_plan.htm.

For additional information, contact ACC chair Mary Anne Broshek at mabandsadie@gmail.com, or 648.2539.

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Sidebar:

Got bears in your backyard? Critters in your cornfield? Birds in your bushes? Moose in your meadow?

Share wildlife images you've captured locally in a community-wide photo exhibit to be mounted in the Andover Public Library beginning around the summer solstice (June 20). All varieties of wildlife welcome – from bugs to bears and beyond. Just send your digital photo files (in high resolution, please) to lbchase@aol.com, and we'll take care of the printing and mounting. The exhibit is a part of the Andover Conservation Commission's summer-long "Taking Action for Wildlife" program, designed to boost local awareness of, and support for maintaining, local wildlife habitat.

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For the Beacon, October issue
Contact: Larry Chase, lbchase@aol.com

Taking Action for Wildlife series concludes with session on enhancing habitat

For the sixth and final event in its “Taking Action for Wildlife” series, the Andover Conservation Commission, along with two co-sponsors, will offer a “Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Walk for Landowners” on Saturday, November 2, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Free and open to the public, the guided walk will take place at Tucker Mountain Tree Farm, 224 Tucker Mountain Road, in East Andover, on property owned by Eric and Heide Johnson. It will be led by Dave Pilla, forester and wildlife biologist for Proctor Academy, and Tim Fleury, UNH Cooperative Extension forester.

The goal of the event, according to Mary Anne Broshek, Conservation Commission chair, is to help local landowners learn more about important local wildlife habitats and what they can do to enhance these habitats. Along with the Conservation Commission, other co-sponsors are the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and the N.H. Timberland Owners Association.

According to Fleury, the walk will take place regardless of weather conditions. It will be about a mile or two in length, over level or gently sloping woodlands with some uneven footing. Accommodations for those who need assistance will be available.

Tucker Mountain Tree Farm can be reached from Route 11 in East Andover by turning onto Maple Street at the wooden bridge that spans the railroad right-of-way across the road from the Andover Congregational Church. After traveling north for about a quarter-mile, turn right onto Tucker Mountain Road. The farm is exactly one mile on the right after the turn. A maple-syrup sign is at the head of the driveway.

For further information about the walk, contact Fleury at 603-796-2151.

Other events in the Conservation Commission’s “Taking Action” series have included an illustrated talk on common loons, held in the East Andover Grange Hall; a water-and-woodlands walk at Bradley Lake; a dragonfly hunt on Valley Road; a Bog Pond wetlands walk and talk; and an illustrated talk on wildlife photography in Proctor Academy’s Stone Chapel.

To date, well over a hundred local residents have attended one or more of these events, according to Broshek. Those who gave the Conservation Commission their names and e-mail addresses will continue to receive information about future wildlife-related programs. Other local residents interested in receiving similar information may send their e-mail addresses to the Conservation Commission via lbchase@aol.com.

In addition to the participants in the Nov. 2 event, the Conservation Commission thanks the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the project: *the Andover Beacon*; Cable Channel TV-8; Kittie and John Wilson of the Pleasant Lake Protective Association; Dave Anderson and Carrie Deegan of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests; Andy Deegan of the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust; the Highland Lake Association; Emma Carcagno and Amanda Stone of UNH Cooperative Extension; Blackwater Junction restaurant and its owner Greg Hamel; Andover photographer Rick “MooseMan” Libbey; Deb Brower of Bluewater Farm Lakeside Lodge and Cottages; Proctor Academy; and Lorraine Cline.

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