

## Engaging People & Volunteering



Haley Andreozzi, Wildlife Outreach Coordinator  
Malin Clyde, Community Volunteer Development Specialist



## Talking with other landowners about stewardship



# Writing about natural resources & conservation




**IN OUR Backyard: OTTERS**

*In our backyard, a periodic look at the wildlife and habitats that make our collective backyard "us" and around the town of Hampton Falls.*

I often like to go out into the woods early in the morning after it rains. There is something peaceful about being the first person to walk through freshly fallen snow. It is also a great time to see the tracks of the wild neighbors that share our back yard.

After a recent storm, I made an interesting discovery along with the numerous grey squirrel tracks, the deep rodent and bird tracks, and a solitary woodchuck track. I saw some tracks I didn't recognize. I followed them back to their origin, a dirt bank overlooking Otter.

Once I had walked river otters are active year round in the marshes and streams of Hampton Falls. They are an incredibly playful creature, and I was able to see tracking the pair of otter through the woods. If I had been a chance to track them

through the snow, every few weeks you will see that the footprints are replaced by a shallow trough in the snow, on the side along on that better like a sled. In warmer months, they were a joy to watch as they show fish, sometimes going underwater for seemingly impossibly long stretches.

I got to know a family of otter this spring (although I'm pretty sure they wouldn't recognize me). A mother and two young were frequent visitors to the stream of the Taylor River near my house. Watching the young ones explore their world - grow up - through the water but not so gracefully on land - was amazing.

The easiest way I've found to identify an otter is by watching its tails. Otters are easily distinguished from beavers and muskrats by their much more slender style of swimming. Out of the water, they are recognizable by their relatively large size (relative to roughly 2 to 4 foot long and "round shaped" body. The otter's mouth is the second family, the stick, is also an excellent indicator that it's a weasel.

According to UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Outreach Coordinator Emily Anderson, otters need suitable wetland habitat - streams, rivers, ponds or lakes - with adjacent bank

located), to be stored and used in case of a fire. The people along the route were to be allowed to tap into the water line if they chose. The State of NH got into the act and installed the town find a new water supply. A circle of wells was drilled in a pasture on the north bank of the river and a water tank was built on the other side of the river next to Prospect cemetery. The lane to the wells was located off Prescott Road, opposite the John Hoar house. A rough road was made from the end of the lane to the riverbank, in order to haul in the pipe, lumber, bricks, pump and other supplies. When the new wells became operational, Mr. Archibald, who lived in the house at the end of the lane, was hired to check the pump and wells every day. The town plowed the lane as far as the house, but you had to walk down to the river. When Mr. Archibald died, Mel Becker, a one-legged man took over the job. He decided it was too far to walk through the snow with his crutches, so he went in by the water tank on the other side of the river. Now he had the problem of crossing the river to access the pump house. He was a welder and mechanic, so he constructed a cable car to get him across the river. My father, Jack Thurston, maintained the pump house in 1945 and 1946. As a child I would go with him, and spent my time crossing the river, back and forth in the cable car. Kind of brave for a seven year old girl! As time went on, the wells started giving out and a new source of water was needed. Water was found near the junction of Martin Road and Fremont Road early in 1947. A well and pump house were installed on the south side of the road. A pipeline was installed down Railroad Avenue to Main Street. Twenty-five years later, new wells were drilled on the opposite side of the road and piped to the pump house. Epping has quite a history of obtaining water for the residents of our town.

*This research material came from the Dan Sorenson collection at the Epping Historical Society. We are forever grateful to Dan and Buster Sorenson for all of their many years of collecting Epping history.*

We are open Monday mornings from 8:00 to 12:00, or when the flag is flying! Call for an appointment if this is not convenient for you. Call: 679-2944 or e-mail: [pryanorton@hammat.com](mailto:pryanorton@hammat.com).

*Submitted by Amy Price, owner*

**Nature Talks**

Your Conservation Commission is actively committed to Epping trails. That includes managing those we have, as well as building new ones. Sarah Brennan has taken the lead for posting existing



**Hampton Falls**  
A HISTORY  
BY AMY PRICE



**The Civil War Roundtable of NH**

*NH grows a...*

*Submitted by Sandy Goodspeed, guest contributor*

[www.SpeakingEpping.org](http://www.SpeakingEpping.org)

Page 5 of 22

Spee

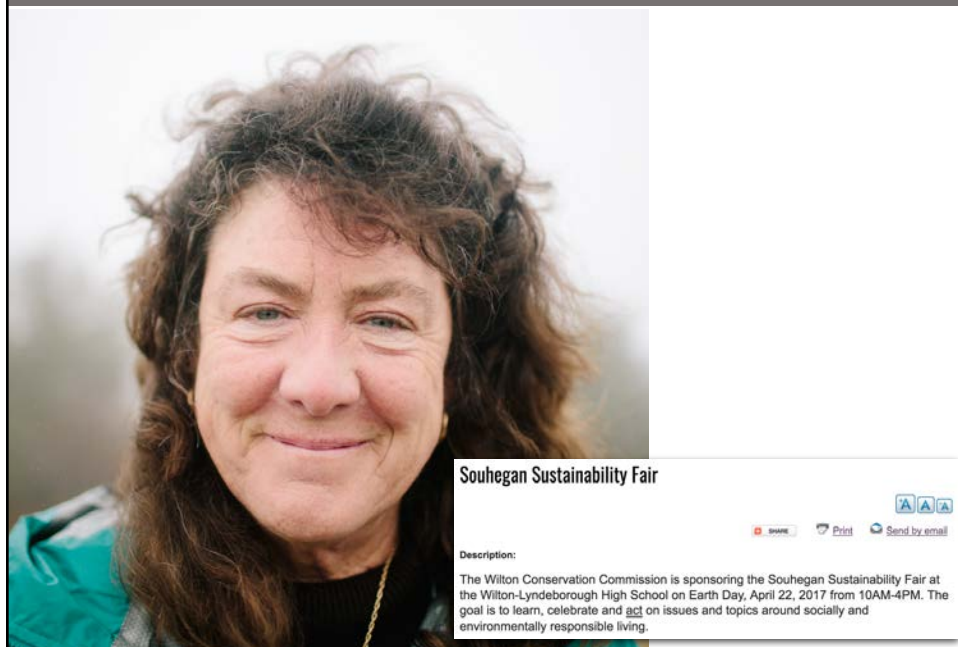
# Leading or hosting field tours



## Delivering public presentations



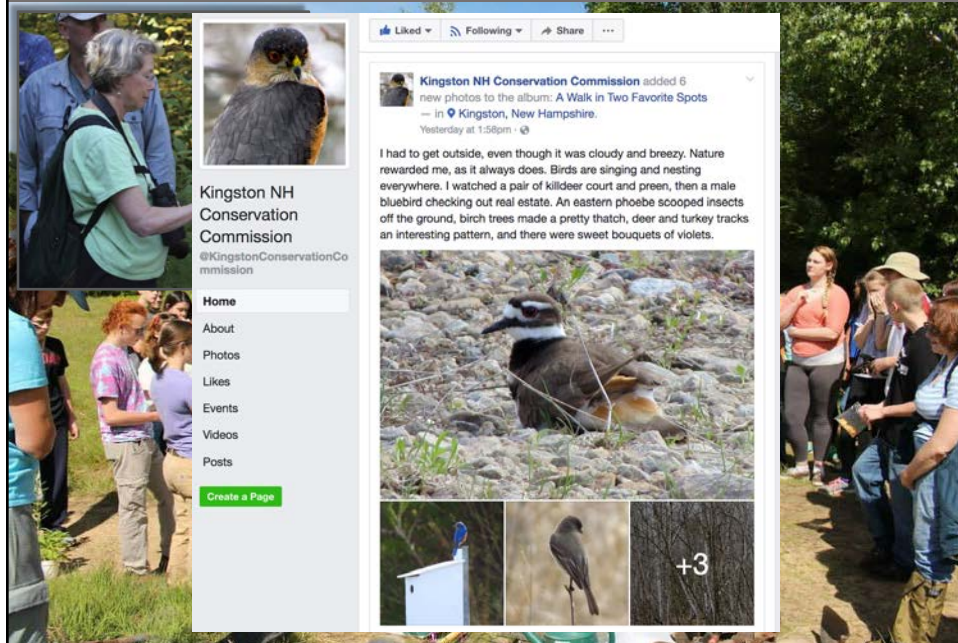
## Sharing resources & materials with others



## Working at events & staffing booths



## Serving on a conservation commission



## Serving on a conservation commission



## Helping manage community conservation lands



Helping manage community conservation lands



Helping manage community conservation lands



**Mobilize Volunteers:  
The Stewardship Network:  
New England**

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Stewardship Network. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Events', 'Training', 'Citizen Science', and 'Stories'. Below this is a large banner image of a forest with the text 'We mobilize volunteers to care for and study our lands and waters.' and two buttons: 'Join the Network' and 'Explore Volunteer Opportunities'. To the right of the banner is a featured story titled 'Hiking Trails and Mud Season: Caring for Trails When They Need It Most'. Below the banner are two columns: 'Volunteer Events' listing various training and workday events, and 'Announcements' featuring articles like 'Restore Yourself and the Earth' and 'Moose Photo Survey!'. The website has a clean, green and blue color scheme.

**Shared Resources through the Stewardship Network**

**Communications**

**Tools**

**Volunteer Training**

**Data**

**Weekly Bulletin**

**Stewardship Tool Library**

**Stewardship Training Guides**

**The Compass (quarterly news for partners)**

This section highlights shared resources. It includes a screenshot of the 'Communications' page with a 'Weekly Bulletin' and 'Upcoming Events' section. It also features images of a 'Stewardship Tool Library' with various tools, a 'Stewardship Training Guide' titled 'Trail Maintenance for Volunteers', and 'The Compass' quarterly newsletter. The layout is organized with clear labels for each resource.

## Managing your own land for wildlife habitat



## Working to conserve land - yours...





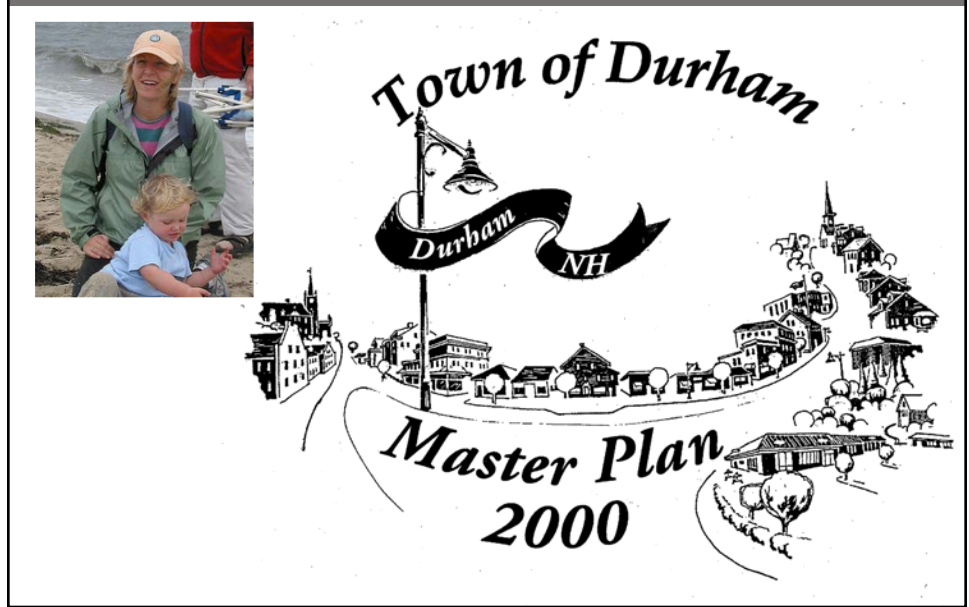
## Working to conserve land - or someone else's



## Serving on a land trust or conservation group board



Helping a community master plan or natural resource inventory



Attending forestry and wildlife workshops & trainings

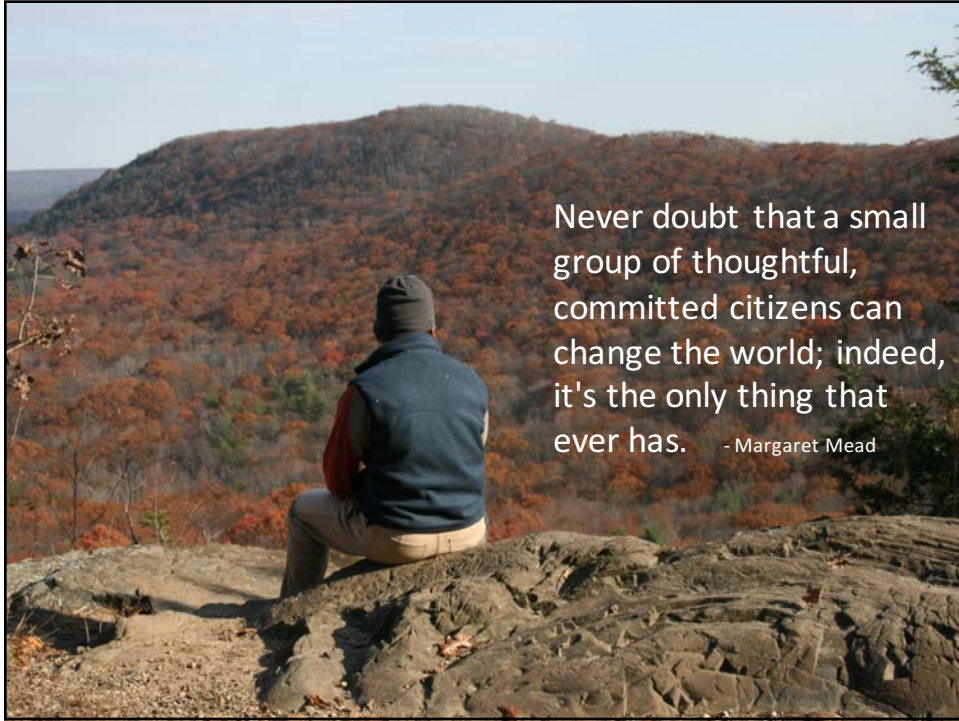


## Volunteering for a citizen science program



## Volunteering for a citizen science program





Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead