



Chocorua Lake Conservancy

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER



Lanterns hang from the Narrows Bridge as the 2019 Parade of Lights assembles on the lake. / Juno Lamb

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

What Stewardship Means to Us

DEAR CLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

This past summer, the CLC board changed the longstanding motto under our blue silhouette logo. We decided that “Protecting the Basin Since 1968” no longer fully captures who the CLC is and what we do.

I am guessing most of you probably didn't even notice the CLC motto was different until you started reading this newsletter. But I think it might be informative to explain why the CLC board chose to make this change.

“Protecting the Basin” has always been one of the pillars of the CLC's mission. In 1970, the CLC founders somehow persuaded 53 landowners to sign covenants restricting their property rights in perpetuity, without any compensation, ensuring no houses would ever be visible around the lake, no commercial signs or billboards would ever be built, and residential development would be controlled by limiting landowners to one house per eight acres.

Today, about 3,000 acres across over 100 properties are protected forever. All lakefront properties around Chocorua Lake and almost all the properties along Route 16 are protected, despite their obvious potential for commercial development.

Over the past fifty years, the CLC has protected sixteen other properties in the Chocorua Lake Basin, totaling almost 1,000 acres, by negotiating a donation or a purchase and converting the property to conservation land. Conservation lands owned and managed by the CLC include the heavily-visited lake access areas at the three-acre “Grove” at the southern end of Chocorua Lake, the seventeen-acre “Island” on the east side of Chocorua Lake along Old Route 16, and the small swimming area reserved for Tamworth residents north of the Island off Route 16.

As a result, about 85% of the Chocorua Lake Basin is now successfully conserved, and hardly any critical properties remain to be protected. Like most mature land trusts, the

CLC is beginning the transition from “protection mode” to “stewardship mode,” in which most of our work is focused on serving as stewards for land already protected.

In addition to managing conservation land, the CLC also stewards other critical resources in the Chocorua Lake Basin. The CLC is responsible for the maintenance of the historic wood railings on the scenic Narrows Bridge, and has funded the construction of new railings four times. In 1972, the CLC took over financial responsibility for the Chocorua Lake Patrol, a tradition started in 1924 by summer residents to prevent fires and keep public access areas free of trash. Today, Patrol Officer Troy Emerson visits the Grove and Island twice a day, seven days a week, from May to October. In 1973, the CLC assumed ownership and responsibility for the Chocorua Lake Dam, the concrete dam below the Little Lake that keeps the lake’s water level high enough that boats can easily pass under the Narrows Bridge.

After much discussion, the CLC board selected “Lake & Water Stewards Since 1968” as a new motto that more fully captures the CLC’s current priorities and ongoing work.

What is a “Steward”? A steward is someone who assumes responsibility for protecting and managing something considered worth caring for and preserving. A significant part of the CLC’s staff and volunteer manpower and our annual budget is devoted to managing our 1,000 acres of conservation lands and public lake access areas. Lynne Flaccus, our Stewardship Director who joined the CLC in 2016 as our first full-time employee, with wonderful support from members of our Lake & Property Management Committee, is responsible for planning and executing land maintenance projects on CLC conservation lands and coordinating the volunteers necessary to accomplish each project.

Over the past three years, Lynne and CLC volunteers have served in a variety of “steward” roles by implementing a series of erosion control, wildlife habitat, trail maintenance, and forestry

projects on CLC conservation lands.

During 2017, the CLC served as “land stewards” through a forestry project in the Clark Preserve to open areas of the forest to allow sunlight to reach the forest floor and stimulate young, diverse and abundant growth. The same year, the CLC served as “lake access stewards,” purchasing wood chips that volunteers spread across the Grove and Island areas where foot traffic is heavy to prevent soil compaction, which impacts the health of the majestic trees so familiar along the lake.

In early 2018, the CLC served as “trail stewards” by managing wood road restoration in the Clark Preserve, grading and seeding to reduce erosion, create wildlife food sources, and strengthen the routes for human recreation. A few months later, CLC staff and volunteers served as “wildlife stewards” by planting 200 native fruiting shrubs at the Browne Memorial Woods and Moose Meadows Preserve.

In late 2018, the CLC served as “fish stewards” through a project to improve brook trout habitat on Allen Brook in the Scott Reserve north of the lake, placing fallen trees in strategic spots to slow the water flow and create the deep pools and gravel deposits that native brook trout need to spawn and survive. This past summer, prior to the work on several thousand additional feet of the Allen Brook, the CLC participated in trout surveys to determine how much or how little wood should be added.

We are appreciative of the support many people—over 500 households last year—demonstrate for the CLC’s work through financial contributions and volunteering their time. We are privileged that over seventy landowners in the Chocorua Lake Basin have trusted the CLC over the past fifty years to serve as a steward of the Chocorua Lake Basin by signing a covenant or conservation easement, or by gifting or selling their property to the CLC. Thank you for sharing this work of stewardship with us.

ALEX MOOT

Board President (2019-20)

amoot@chocorualakeconservancy.org

MANY THANKS TO DAVE FARLEY

Dave Farley leaves the CLC Board with 16 years of combined board service behind him. He served from 1996–2005 and 2010–2014 on the CLA Board, and from 2016–2019 on the CLC board. He’s served as Co-Chair of the Lake & Property Management Committee, with John Watkins, since 2014, and will continue to do so. CLC board member Sheldon Perry notes, “While I have only served on the board for a generous year, Dave has impressed me with his diligence and attention to detail. He seems to be everywhere at any moment of time. If one is to lead by example, which he does, the LPMC committee has in Dave a model for a high standard of competence and action. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with him.” Board member Bill Mayer adds, “We have been blessed with many years of Dave’s practical and wise counsel, and stewardship of the Chocorua Lake Basin. Many thanks to him for all of his service and continued devotion to the CLC.” Thank you to Dave from all of us at the CLC!

“Peg Wheeler has lent her considerable legal expertise for many years of service to the place she loves, and the Chocorua community and her fellow board members are all the better for it. What a wonderful way to cap a most excellent career!”

—CLC Board Member Bill Mayer

Read more about Peg’s retirement on [p. 4](#).

Results of Community Survey Are In

BY ALEX MOOT
Board President

In June, the CLC conducted an online community survey to solicit input from our donors, volunteers, local community members, and other friends of the Chocorua Lake Basin. This survey was the first step of a strategic planning process and will greatly help the board evaluate our priorities as we look ahead to the next fifty years.

Over ten days, 278 people took the time to complete the survey! We greatly appreciate so many people helping us to better understand what you value about our work and where you would like to see us focusing our efforts.

We were thrilled by the **high response rate** and **broad geographic distribution** of respondents:

- 104 respondents who live in Chocorua and nearby towns
- 34 respondents from other New Hampshire towns
- 62 respondents from Massachusetts
- 75 respondents from eighteen other states

We were also thrilled to receive input from **many new voices**:

- 42 respondents who'd never donated to the CLC
- 106 respondents who had never attended a CLC event
- 151 respondents who had never volunteered with the CLC

Almost 85% of the 104 respondents who live in Chocorua and nearby towns visit Chocorua Lake at least once a month, and half visit at least once a week, but only a third of these nearby residents are "Very Familiar" or "Incredibly Familiar" with the CLC.

Nearby residents, summer residents, and occasional visitors all had similar responses to what they believe should be the CLC's priorities:

- **Tier 1** (99% ranked as "Incredibly Important" or "Very Important")
 - Protecting the Chocorua Lake Basin from development
 - Protecting the water quality of Chocorua Lake

- **Tier 2** (84% to 88% ranked as "Incredibly Important" or "Very Important")
 - Providing clean, attractive public access to Chocorua Lake and nearby trails
 - Improving wildlife habitat and removing invasive plants
- **Tier 3** (73% to 76% ranked as "Incredibly Important" or "Very Important")
 - Providing local landowners with resources about land conservation/management
 - Maintaining the historic wooden railings on the Narrows Bridge
- **Tier 4** (52% to 58% ranked as "Incredibly Important" or "Very Important")
 - Outdoor explorations and educational events
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Community-building events

What's the most important thing the CLC has done recently? Most respondents (38) felt that protecting the View Lot was the CLC's most important recent accomplishment. The next three most common answers (21 to 23 respondents each) were "Increased community outreach," "Repairing the Narrows Bridge railings," and hiring Lynne Flaccus as Stewardship Director and/or Juno Lamb as Programming & Outreach Director.

What's the most important thing for the CLC to do next? Most respondents (57) answered with a variation of "Continue doing what you're doing" or "Keep up the good work." The second most common answer (33 respondents) was a desire for the CLC to continue its expanded community outreach, including educational events and volunteer opportunities.

One respondent had particularly **thoughtful advice**: "Take a 50 year perspective. What is the core value that we want to actively continue? A beautiful relaxing healing unspoiled shared space? How do we involve &



In partnership with the Yeoman's Fund for the Arts, the CLC brought artist Gowri Savoor to town in August to teach community members of all ages to build several styles of lanterns. The scores of new lanterns that were made glimmered across the lake during the Parade of Lights, and occasioned the first ever lantern flotilla on Squam Lake! / *Kate Strayer-Benton*

educate young people today so that they can pass that on when they're grandparents? How do we help them feel connected to the place and the Basin community? How do we make sure it will still be a wonderful place for Basin landowners, Chocorua & Tamworth residents, and visitors from all over the world?"

Lastly, we were delighted to learn that over 70% of respondents who have donated to the CLC ranked the CLC as "**One of the Most Important**" or in the "Top 25%" of non-profits they support. We are grateful for your generosity, trust, and, most importantly, your commitment to our mission.

On Saturday, July 20th, CLC board members engaged in an all-day session with a facilitator at which we discussed the survey results and how to prioritize a wide variety of necessary tasks and areas of possible focus. We will be allocating time at upcoming board meetings during 2020 to continue this important discussion.

Thank You, Peg Wheeler

BY ALEX MOOT

Board President

Peg Wheeler retired from the CLC board in August after 27 years of dedicated, invaluable service. In 1992, Peg joined the board of the Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation (CLCF), serving as Board Secretary for her first thirteen years. Before she joined the CLCF board, Peg cut her teeth as a trustee of the original Bowditch Trust. In 2005, Peg was nominated Vice President and served in this role until the 2014 merger with the Chocorua Lake Association (CLA) to create the Chocorua Lake Conservancy. She has continued to serve since 2014 as Vice President of the CLC board.

Peg has served for the past five years as Chair of the CLC's Land Conservation Committee (LCC), which is responsible for the stewardship and protection of existing conservation covenants and easements owned by the CLC, and for the identification and acquisition of new easements and other land interests which help the Conservancy achieve its mission. Peg has agreed to serve for an additional year as LCC Co-Chair with Kit Morgan to ensure a smooth transition to Kit's leadership.

During 2015 and 2016, Peg led the effort to obtain the grant funding that enabled the CLC to hire Lynne Flaccus as Stewardship Director—the CLC's first full-time employee in its 48-year history. From 2016 to 2018, Peg served on the Steering Committee of the successful *Timeless Chocorua* capital campaign, which provided the CLC with the financial resources necessary to retain a full-time Stewardship Director and continue to provide convenient, attractive public access to Chocorua Lake and nearby conservation lands for visitors and nearby residents.

This retirement is actually Peg's second (and hopefully final) retirement. A lawyer by training, Peg worked for many years as a Land Protection



Peg Wheeler with the Greenland ice cap (!) in the background. / Courtesy of Peg Wheeler

Specialist and staff attorney for The Trustees of Reservations, the nation's oldest and largest statewide land trust, until retiring in 2013. Previously, she was an attorney in private practice in Lebanon, NH.

Peg lives in South Boston, Mass., and enjoys spending time with family in Chocorua and helping the CLC to protect and preserve this special place for local residents and for visitors from across the nation and around the world.

Over the past five years, Peg has pushed the CLC to transform itself into a professional, modern land trust with the manpower and financial resources necessary to effectively steward its 4,000 acres of protected land in the Chocorua Lake Basin. Peg has been an incredible workhorse for the CLCF and now CLC, and has always made sure things get done the right way.

Like all board members, I will greatly miss Peg, her knowledge and intellect, her wit, her deep understanding of how a land trust should operate, and her incredible dedication to the CLC. Thank you, Peg, for everything you've done over three decades for the Chocorua Lake Basin and the local community.

“ Mom has always been dedicated to the work of Chocorua, both in the family and community sense. It wasn't until I joined the board and began to work closely with her that I truly appreciated the time, dedication, and professionalism that she brought to the CLC (and the CLCF before that). She raises the bar for all with whom she works and for the CLC in general, helping guide the CLC into the modern era of land conservation and stewardship. She is thoughtful, strategic, intelligent and tenacious and has provided a wonderful role model for me and her granddaughters in so many ways. It's been a real joy to work with my mother in this capacity... not an experience that many have the opportunity to do. It will take a bit of getting used to not having her on the board. In fact, when I was thinking about coming to Chocorua for the October board meeting, I had drafted a text to her to coordinate dinner for the night before when it dawned on me that she wouldn't have to be traveling from Boston for the meeting. So, instead, I texted her to enjoy her free weekend!”

—CLC Board Member
Penny Wheeler-Abbott

Lake & Property Management Committee

BY JUNO LAMB

I sat down recently to talk to newly-retired CLC board member Dave Farley, in his garden full of butterflies, about the work of the Lake & Property Management Committee (formerly the Lake Protection Committee and the Property Management Committee). He moved to a house near Chocorua Lake in 1992, and has been active in service to the community ever since. In 2014, after serving for many years on the board of the Chocorua Lake Association, Dave got a call from Peg Wheeler asking him to chair the Property Management Committee. “She twisted my arm,” Dave says. He agreed to join the committee if he could serve as co-chair with John Watkins, who was Chair at the time, and before he knew it he was serving a term on the CLC board as well. He’s managed to retire from that role now, but he’s still co-chairing the LPMC. The work of the committee is important to him, he says, “because I live here. The lake is right nearby. I did a lot of running and I would always run through the Grove and the Island and make observations about what was going on. I like the people, too!”

The overall responsibility of the LPMC is the management of all CLC properties and the ecosystems contained therein: fields, forests, wetlands, the Chocorua River and Chocorua Lake, and the public access areas, particularly the Grove, Island, and the Tamworth Residents Only area along the lake, which get the greatest use and require the most attention. The committee works closely with CLC’s Stewardship Director Lynne Flaccus, who attends every meeting and educates the committee on stewardship. “Lynne is crucial,” Dave says. “I work more closely with her than with anyone else. I bounce things off her.”

It’s hands-on work. In the spring, committee members and volunteers clear out the culverts that carry streams beneath the highway and into the lake, so that the detritus of winter doesn’t end up in the water. Twice a year they spread wood chips on highly-trafficked areas

around the lake, to protect the shoreline from erosion, and when needed they will rebuild the shoreline with rocks. They place logs and boulders in the public access areas to prevent people backing boat trailers into the lake as protection against milfoil and check the lake regularly for milfoil infestation. Committee members also monitor water quality in the lake multiple times a season, dropping a Secci disc into the deepest part of the lake and testing samples for eight water quality parameters as part of the NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program. One of Dave’s recent tasks was clearing saplings out of the swales created in collaboration with the Department of Transportation in the award-winning Berms and Swales Project, undertaken in 2000 in response to chemicals leaching into the lake from highway runoff.

The LPMC manages all CLC properties and ecosystems: fields, forests, wetlands, the Chocorua River and Chocorua Lake, and public access areas.

The LPMC has been busy in recent years. They’ve completed timber harvests on two properties, patch cuts that support the health of the forest and wildlife habitat, and improved trails and landings in the Clark Reserve. These projects let in more light and foster new growth that, as it goes through different stages, serves as habitat for a diversity of wildlife. With the support of a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the committee and volunteers planted scores of fruiting shrubs on several properties, food for birds and mammals alike, and installed birdhouses and duck houses. The committee has worked in partnership with Tin Mountain Conservation Center on stream management, improving habitat for trout and monitoring trout populations to

understand the effects of their work.

Invasive weed control is an important and ongoing effort—they don’t call them invasive for nothing! Regular work is required to keep plants such as Japanese knotweed and bittersweet from spreading rampantly. Committee members have also been hard at work on the Basin View Lot, detailed in a separate article in this newsletter. Looking ahead, the committee will continue to seek grants that support wildlife protection and enhancement.

One concern Dave has for the committee is the average age of its members. The LPMC is seeking younger members and people with particular specialties—backgrounds or interest in forest management, wildlife, or water monitoring, expertise in grant-writing, and anyone handy at wielding a chainsaw! While the commitment is year-round—eight to 10 meetings a year and as many as half a dozen work mornings—the committee would also welcome seasonal committee members who don’t live nearby year-round, and is very grateful for the help of CLC volunteers at Stewardship Days throughout the year.

Dave himself appreciates everything he’s learned living in this rural place and working as a steward of CLC land and his own land. “Working on a piece of property where you pay attention to it, make recommendations, protect it—if anything’s unique about it, we will be knowledgeable.” On the Woodhouse Reserve, he says, “we found a trail that was on nobody’s map. We followed it for half a mile.” He’s created new habitat on his own property, too—a firepond stocked with trout where great blue herons come to visit, and a field of milkweed where monarchs turn from caterpillars into butterflies. “No milkweed, no monarchs,” Dave says. “Don’t cut your field every year.”

Current members of the LPMC include Dwight Baldwin, Dave Farley, Andy Fisher, Sheldon Perry, Bob Seston, and John Watkins. Speak to any of them about joining the committee.



Chocorua Lake and Mount Chocorua in all their autumn glory, glimpsed from the Basin View Lot. / Thomas Schoeller (www.thomasschoeller.photography)

Basin View Lot – Project Update

BY LYNNE FLACCUS & ALEX MOOT

One year ago, the CLC board closed the successful *Timeless Chocorua* capital campaign. Thanks to the generous campaign support of over 350 households, the Tamworth Foundation, the Fields Pond Foundation, the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation, and the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the CLC was able to protect the Basin View Lot on the hill overlooking the Chocorua Lake Basin and start work on the creation of an attractive public access area where visitors will be able to park and enjoy the iconic view.

Over the course of the past year, Lynne Flaccus and members of the CLC's *Lake and Property Management Committee* have been working with the family members who own the Basin View Lot to prepare an ongoing Management Plan for the conservation easement the CLC purchased in

August of 2018, reestablish the historic viewshed of both lake and mountain, and create a defined Visitor Access Area.

RESTORING THE VIEW: Forest Land Improvement (FLI) helped us identify trees needing removal near the lake, following NH DES rules and regulations, removed mature trees from the meadow and meadow edges, and cut trees along the shore. The trees removed were hauled to the top of the hill to become firewood for the family. FLI is scheduled to return during the fall of 2019 to take down a few remaining trees that are blocking views within the viewshed.

VISITOR ACCESS AREA: Agreement between the CLC and the family was reached this past spring on the final layout of the Visitor Access Area. A small gravel parking space will be located at the south end of the Visitor Access Area with cars facing south. The Viewing Area to the north along the stone wall to be re-constructed

will be seeded with grass. The current NH DOT right-of-way on the edge of Route 16 where visitors currently park will be landscaped with berms and vegetation to prevent parking within the right-of-way. DOT permits have been approved and we plan to begin work on the entrance and Viewing Area this fall, with final grading and seeding to occur during the spring after the stone walls are complete. Large granite stones will delineate various portions of the Visitor Access Area, and the viewing area will have granite slabs for seating. A stonemason will be rebuilding stone walls starting late fall of 2019, in the manner of other surrounding walls, to be finished during the spring of 2020.

The Board of Directors looks forward to recognizing the CLC community's generous *Timeless Chocorua* campaign support and the completion of the Basin View Lot project at a celebration and official "opening" next summer.

Become a Steward!

BY LYNNE FLACCUS

Stewardship Director

From my perspective, one of the most fun roles we have for volunteers is as a Trail Steward or Property Steward, helping us to maintain and care for properties under CLC ownership. A volunteer Steward gains knowledge of their assigned property and has an excuse to be out exploring the wonders of some of our unique lands.

By opening CLC-owned properties to the public, the CLC provides recreational opportunities that include cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, hiking, running, birding, hunting and off-trail exploration. Whether access is formalized or not (some properties have trails, while others do not), the CLC has the responsibility to care for the land as stewards in perpetuity, while making sure we adhere to the restrictions originally placed on the land. Some properties are managed for forestry and wildlife, while others, such as some of our wetland properties, remain unmanaged.

A volunteer Steward gains knowledge of their assigned property and has an excuse to be out exploring the wonders of some of our unique lands.

Our Stewards provide an extra set of eyes and ears on the ground, whether they are checking trails or parking areas that need work, a boundary line in need of marking, natural or human changes, or bringing to our attention other issues we should know about. Invasive plants? Interesting plant or wildlife sightings? Forest changes? All these are observations that can go into our natural resources inventory of each property,



Lynne leads a walk. / Alex Moot

and volunteers can help.

Our current Stewards provide us with reports seasonally during the year at their convenience, and conduct a once-per-year monitoring report on boundaries and overall conditions. Using a map and compass, or a phone app of their choice, Stewards get out and explore some really interesting and cool places. Some properties are larger than others, some get more use than others, and some are flat while others are filled with eskers. Not only are our Stewards fun to work with, we appreciate the extra help and enthusiasm.

Interested in joining our Stewardship team? Send an email to Lynne or give a call. We can find a property or trail to fit your interests and time, and are happy to go into the field and show you the ropes. Exercise, wonderful opportunities to spend time exploring the woods and fields around the Chocorua Basin, and the knowledge that you are directly supporting conservation in your neighborhood—these are just some of the benefits of becoming a CLC Steward.

We would love to have more Stewards for these properties:

- **The Clark Reserve** and some of its trails (cool eskers and trails that roam through the Valley of the Boulders!).
- **Tewksbury Lot** is a really cool wetland to explore in late winter when snow cover makes it easy to access, or if you are adventurous and have knee-high boots, in the fall when the cranberries are ripe.
- **The Burt Lot** is bounded by the Chocorua River and Rt. 16 and is a small flat parcel easy for walking along the river and boundaries.
- **The Grove and Island** are our two most public spaces. The Lake and Property Management Committee helps with these parcels, but we would love a few more eyes and extra hands—checking kiosks and signs, shrub stewards to help us keep an eye on our plantings, erosion patrol and more. Our awesome Lake Patrol, Troy Emerson, takes care of trash and interacts with the public from May to October, but it would be wonderful to have extra eyes for the other months.

CLC Stewards Maureen and Jim Diamond

BY MAUREEN DIAMOND

Before we moved to Tamworth two years ago, my husband Jim and I lived in urban settings all of our adult lives. Volunteering with the Chocorua Lake Conservancy has provided a perfect primer on taking care of a more rural property. It has also brought introductions to new friends and an extraordinary front-row seat to the beauties of Chocorua Lake, its flora and fauna, and the community who care for it.

Serving as Trail Stewards for the Charlotte C. Browne Memorial Woods, we've walked the trails from Washington Hill Road down to the Chocorua River and back up at least every three months since June 2018. Along the way, we watch for any trail hazards—downed limbs, prolific saplings in the middle of the trail, hazards of any kind. As possible, we clear the trails as needed. Each visit is summarized in a brief report to the CLC's Stewardship Director, Lynne Flaccus, who follows up on any issues we could not manage during our walk-through.

Pulling out invasive plants, tromping through wetlands, canoeing under the Narrows Bridge, monitoring the trail



Jim & Maureen Diamond | Lynne Flaccus

during the sled-dog events, walking through the woods with birders who recognize every bird call, managing trails, clearing brush near a small dam, all while checking out spectacular views of Mount Chocorua—it's hard to imagine a better introduction to this area and to the love of the Chocorua watershed than we have enjoyed through our work with the CLC. And, to top it off, evening presentations at the Cook Memorial Library allow us to learn even more about local wildlife from Lynne Flaccus and other naturalists.

CLC OFFICE UPDATE

As many of you know, an accidental fire last March in the building housing the CLC office displaced us temporarily. We are so grateful to the Chocorua Community Church for offering us office space to use during this time—do you know they have a Mug Club five days a week, Monday to Friday from 9-11:30? All are welcome to enjoy coffee or tea, baked goods, and companionship. We are hoping to be back in our permanent office space before the next newsletter reaches you, and hope the community will support our landlords, the proprietors of Mari's Treasures, when they reopen their business.

Help protect the Chocorua Lake Basin with a year-end donation:

- \$20 (Student)
- \$25 (Friend)
- \$50 (Individual Membership)
- \$100 (Family Membership)
- \$250 (Narrows Bridge Society)
- \$500 (Little Lake Society)
- \$1,000 (Chocorua Lake Society)
- \$2,500 (Mt Chocorua Society)
- Other Amount (please specify): _____

Please make check payable to "Chocorua Lake Conservancy" and mail it to:
Chocorua Lake Conservancy, PO Box 105
Chocorua, NH 03817

Or donate online today by visiting www.chocorualake.org.

Make a difference today:

Make a Gift of Securities. Please email us at info@chocorualakeconservancy.org for instructions.

Join the CLC's Legacy Society. Create a lasting legacy with a planned estate gift. Email us.

Become a Sustaining Member. Go to our website, click "Support Us," and make a recurring donation.

Once in 100 Years: Help the CMC

BY KEN SMITH

President, Chocorua Mountain Club

In May of this past year, longtime Chocorua Mountain Club President Kate Lanou asked me and my wife Anne Marie to join her at a meeting of many sister trail clubs. The meeting was convened by the White Mountain Trail Collective (WMTC), a new nonprofit organization working to reverse three trends causing severe damage to trails throughout the region:

- Dramatically increased use of trails for hiking, mountain biking, skiing, etc. (human-powered activity)
- Climate change bringing heavier, shorter rain events washing away days of hard trail work in a matter of minutes
- Reduced budgets for trail work among federal, state and volunteer groups

While the trails are under stress, so too are organizations charged with keeping trails safe and well-maintained. The WMTC is working to improve methods of trail stewardship and maintenance in the White Mountain region while preserving the legacy of individual organizations. By mobilizing like-minded partners and sponsors, the WMTC provides much-needed public advocacy and also boots on the ground. The WMTC is already supported by the US Forest Service, NH State Parks, the AMC, REI, EMS, Red Bull, Rek'-Lis Brewing, and the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce. To find out more, please visit www.wmtrailcollective.org.

The first project the WMTC tackled was the Crawford Path, which turns 200 years old this year. 75 'Crew Weeks' (teams of 4-8 trained professionals working FT) and more than 400 volunteers from more than 15 member organizations, including the CMC, worked to restore the trail above and below treeline. A total of \$400,000 has been invested by the WMTC (including

\$200,000 just from REI) on preserving the Crawford Path alone. In 2020 & 2021 the WMTC will spend a projected \$350,000 each year on trails throughout the Mount Washington Valley, with similar levels of professional and volunteer boots on the ground support, and even more support from corporate, local, and individual donors.

The CMC faces the very same challenges facing all similar groups—a smaller, aging membership, increased human use/demand on the trails, and climate change, all stressing our

The WMTC is working to improve methods of trail stewardship and maintenance in the White Mountain region while preserving the legacy of individual organizations.

resources and ability to keep our trails well-maintained. Not long after the May meeting, the CMC submitted a proposal for the WMTC to focus its resources on Chocorua in 2022. The proposal included all trails adopted by the CMC on Chocorua and Paugus, plus trails managed directly by the US Forest Service such as the Champney Falls and Piper Trails, as well as trails managed by abutters including the Chocorua Lake Conservancy (CLC). The proposal requested \$150,000-\$200,000 to support a full year of professional crews and volunteers working on the new icon of New Hampshire, and it's being considered as part of a bigger project area in 2022-23, alongside trail maintainers such as the Forest Service, Squam Lakes Association, Lakes Region Conservation Trust, and local conservation commissions. Now the CMC needs your help.

The CMC leadership is asking all friends, family, and neighbors to help support what will be a once-in-a-100-year effort—we will potentially do more work on trails in the Chocorua area and beyond in 2022 and 2023 than since the formation of the CMC in 1908! We need young limbs to scamper above treeline, experienced trail maintainers to evaluate trails, and everything in between. If you're willing to hike to the summit, pull on a rake to clear drainage, or handle a saw to clear away a blowdown, that is fantastic. If you prefer just to hike conservation lands and help with our data collection effort, we hope you will join us too.

As we look ahead and plan for 2022/23, the CMC will be working closely with the CLC, Town of Tamworth, and other local organizations to maximize the benefits of this effort throughout the community. Please stay tuned for news on events, projects, and fun activities.

For more information, or to get involved before next May, please email chocoruumountainclub@gmail.com.

Save The Date For The Annual CMC Trail Clearing Weekend

MAY 9, 2020

Bring your fully-charged smartphone, plus any tools and safety equipment.

8:00 AM

Meet at Wheeler Field (Chocorua Lake Road, just past Loring Road on the right—look for CMC signs)

6:30 PM

Dinner at the "Big Balch House" on Loring Road

7:30 PM

Annual Meeting of the CMC (All friends of the CMC are welcome)

Where Wet Meets Land: the Perfect Home for the Phantom Crane Fly

BY LYNNE FLACCUS

Stewardship Director

Wetlands may be smelly, muddy, and chaotic-looking in terms of vegetation, but they serve important functions for the lakes and rivers they border and for humans as well. They act as sponges, absorbing and slowly releasing flood waters; filter fine sediments and toxins; mix waters and nutrients; provide nurseries for animals that need the protection of quiet waters at different life stages; provide temporary resting and feeding places for migrating birds; and produce food for both humans and other animals.

A recent exploration of wetlands bounded by CLC Moose Meadows and Bowditch Runnells State Forest along the Scott Road led to the discovery of a variety of plants that make up communities all along the Chocorua River. Shrubs including sweet gale, winterberry and alder, cotton grass, leatherleaf, sphagnum moss and even insectivorous plants—sundew and pitcher plants—can all be found there.

As expected in these diverse plant communities, we also find a variety of insects, birds and animals, permanent residents or transitory creatures. One cool sighting on our recent exploration was a phantom crane fly. Crane flies look a bit like large mosquitoes, except they don't feed as adults, so no need to worry about bites. The phantom crane fly is a delicate fly in the Ptychopteridae family, with very thin black legs, each with white bands. This crane fly is so delicate, one has to look carefully to spot it; sometimes you can just catch it out of the corner of your eye. Though crane flies have wings, they also have specialized legs that help catch the



The elusive Phantom Crane Fly. | Kate Redmond

breeze, and they often float through the air, almost like a milkweed seed. We were lucky to see two adults mating, attached together at the abdomen as they floated through the sun and shadows of the wetland.

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After mating, crane flies lay their eggs in the water (up to 300) and the newly-hatched larvae burrow into the mud. Here they feed on detritus (dead organic “litter”) until they reach maturity and pupate into adults. While in the oxygen-poor mud, they extend a breathing tube to the surface to take oxygen from the water. Larvae hatched in the late summer can overwinter in the mud and hatch as adults in the spring.

With fall here, it's likely that the adults will die off soon, but perhaps with a few warm days you might still see some floating through the vegetation of a wetland near you!

Thank you to our business partners!

Thank you to all of the local businesses who support conservation and public access in the Chocorua Lake Basin. Please let them know you appreciate their care for this land and community.

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Learning With the Next Generation of Stewards

In June the Chocorua Lake Conservancy partnered with Tin Mountain Conservation Center and the K. A. Brett School on a STEAM project (STEM + art) designed to get local kids outdoors and thinking about the natural world. Brett 3rd and 6th graders spent a day at Chocorua Lake working with CLC Stewardship Director Lynne Flaccus, TMCC Teacher/Naturalist Dexter Harding, their science and art teachers, and a bunch of wonderful volunteers. They explored “mucky and sandy netting” at lakeshore, sketched from nature, took soil, water and air measurements, and learned about habitat. Back at school, with support from another group of wonderful volunteers, the two grades painted and wrote a script for a “crankie” to share their learning with the larger community. The process of sharing their learning through art required the students to think deeply about what they’d experienced and learned, and exercise their observational skills, which are critical to science.



PHOTOS BY JUNO LAMB / DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS BY BRETT SCHOOL STUDENTS



Students worked with Dexter and Lynne dipping nets into the edges of the lake to learn about what kinds of creatures can be found there. They found many macroinvertebrates and also, to their great delight, a baby snapping turtle!



The quiet and focus at the sketching and nature journaling station were lovely to witness.



The Chocorua Lake Conservancy is a volunteer-led land trust dedicated to its mission of protecting the natural beauty of the Chocorua Lake Basin and providing public access for present and future visitors.



Autumn! / Brett School kids

Chocorua Lake Conservancy
PO Box 105
Chocorua, NH 03817

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Find us online and become a member at chocorualake.org or visit us on Facebook or Instagram.

The Chocorua Lake Conservancy publishes and distributes an educational newsletter twice a year, in the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. Current and past issues are posted online at chocorualake.org.

Have an idea for a newsletter article? Let us know!

Editor: Juno Lamb

Layout: Vanessa Valdes

Contributors: Brett school students, Maureen Diamond, Lynne Flaccus, Juno Lamb, Bill Mayer, Alex Moot, Sheldon Perry, Kate Redmond, Thomas Schoeller, Ken Smith, Kate Strayer-Benton, Penny Wheeler-Abbott