



Chocorua Lake Conservancy

SPRING/SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

What Chocorua Lake Means to Me



Chocorua Lake. | Ann Borges

BY ANN BORGES

When our New York family moved into “The Old Marshall House” on Gardner Hill Road in 1983, we had no idea how close our home was to the beautiful lake that would give us so much joy. One day we hiked up an old logging trail to the top of Mack Hill, descended the other side, and found ourselves on Fowlers Mill Road leading to the Narrows Bridge and the lakeshore. Later, we would ride our horses on that trail to swim, and once encountered bears en route. We often took our family for picnics and swimming at the sandy beach at the northern end of Chocorua Lake, grateful that the area was kept pristine for the use of town residents.

During many summers I frequently swam early in the mornings at the

Tamworth Residents beach, enjoying the solitude, and often ate breakfast perched on a rock observing ducks with their broods paddling by. I occasionally encountered our friend the late Jed Pike fishing from a canoe. Occasionally I hauled a canoe or a kayak to the lake and enjoyed magnificent views from all locations.

Inspired by a morning swim, I wrote the following, which appeared in the chapbook entitled *Poems from the Antlers Tea Room*:

Lake Encounter

She swims slowly, touching
waterlily tendrils,
Slimy entrails tangle sodden hair.
Rain falls on pocked lake,
Runs down face. She gasps, gulping rain.
Loon floats motionless,
red-eyed, hypnotized.

She breathes softly, embracing
Loon’s proximity.
Her feet flicker in brown water.
They resume a silent rain dance:
Primeval ritual, ancient bird,
modern human,
Linked by sparkling light and heavy rain.
Again Loon dives and surfaces distantly.
She hears a mournful farewell loon cry,
And clammers sadly from the lake.

My most vivid memories of Chocorua Lake center around the annual dog sled races. I recall taking our then two-year-old daughter, who had visited the lake many times the previous summer. She began to cry, between sobs gasping, “I don’t want to walk on the water!” I also recall skiing out to the middle of the lake as the sled dog teams sped by, silhouetted against the mountain. What a magnificent sight! Memories of the sled dog races include being greeted by Nancy and Stan Coville selling commemorative buttons, strolling along the ice towards the enticing aroma of barbecued burgers emanating from the Tamworth Outing Club’s cook hut, and chatting to the mushers as they waited in their trucks with their yelping dogs, anxious to race.

On several occasions, I participated in painting classes organized by the Heritage Foundation, drawing inspiration from the lake’s iconic views. The Mount Washington Valley Arts Association’s Friday Painters Group has also met several times on the lakeshore, producing amazing results.

More recently I became interested in the activities of Chocorua Lake Conservancy. I attended several talks by the CLC’s naturalist Lynne Flaccus, and a couple of walks. I particularly enjoyed Lynne’s presentations on turtles. At last it

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chocorua Lake. | Ann Borges

finally hit me! For decades I had been enjoying programs provided by the CLC, not to mention the lake facilities, and it was about time I became a member. So I did, and I was immediately welcomed into the membership, attended an annual meeting, and enjoyed a barbecue at the home of a member on the lakeshore. I encourage others to stop procrastinating and do the same. You will become a member of a caring community whose purpose is to keep our iconic treasure, Chocorua Lake, and its surroundings in pristine condition for our current enjoyment and in perpetuity for future generations.

Ann McGarity was born and educated in England and came to New York in 1968. She worked as an information/press officer for the British Government until 1981 when she married Don McGarity of Brooklyn. In 1983 their family moved to Tamworth to become homestead farmers, inspired by the Nearings. The couple lived in Silver Lake for several years where they owned and ran The Lakeside General Store. Don died in February 2017. In December 2020, Ann married Joseph Borges and is now known as Ann Borges. Ann has been writing the Tamworth column for the Conway Daily Sun for about twenty years and previously the Madison column.

Help us find great board and committee members!

Do you know someone who would make a good candidate to serve on the CLC's Board of Directors, or on a Board Committee? Think about your friends, neighbors and colleagues in the community, and about the members of your extended family, and share your ideas with me by **Tuesday, July 8**. Self-nominations are permitted, but not encouraged.

We'd like to know why you believe the person is a good candidate for the Board of the CLC. The Nominating Committee will evaluate all suggestions and present a recommended slate to the Board. The Board will present its recommended slate for action by the CLC membership at the Annual Meeting & Social Hour on Saturday, August 7, from 4-6PM,

tentatively planned to be held at Runnells Hall, in Chocorua Village, and via Zoom.

We look forward to your suggestions and thank you for your help!

—**Melissa Baldwin**
Chair of the Governance and
Nominating Committee
mbaldwin@chocorualake.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

We hope to see you this season. Please visit our website at chocorualake.org for up-to-date program information, including additional programs or scheduling changes. We ask that you sign up in advance for all in-person programs, including stewardship days. Thank you!

MAY

Wednesday, May 12, 9–11:30AM
Stewardship Day at Moose Meadows

Saturday, May 15, 7:30AM
Bird Walk with Lynne at CC Browne Woods

Wednesday, May 19, 7PM
Providing Backyard Habitat for Your Wild Neighbors via Zoom, with CLC Stewardship Director Lynne Flaccus

Wednesday, May 26, 9–11:30AM
Stewardship Day at CC Browne Woods

JUNE

Tuesday, June 8, 9-11AM
Stewardship Day at Brown Lot

Wednesday, June 16, 9-11:30AM
Hike with Lynne at the Scott Reserve

Saturday, June 19, 10AM-12:30PM
Wetlands Wander with Lynne at Bowditch Runnells State Forest

Thursday, June 24, 9AM-12PM
Geology Walk with Rick Allmendinger at the Clark Reserve

JULY

Thursday, July 1, 9-11:30AM
Stewardship Day at CC Browne Woods

Saturday, July 10, 7:30-9:30AM
Little Lake Paddle, looking for invasives.

Sunday, July 11, 8:45-10:30AM
Summer Highway Cleanup. Meet at the Grove, Chocorua Lake.

Thursday, July 15, 9AM-12PM
BioBlitz. Help us identify and map species on the Brown Lot.

Tuesday, July 20, 7PM
Insects for Beginners via Zoom, with Linda Graetz



Eastern tiger swallowtail. / Linda Graetz

Saturday, July 24, 10AM-12PM (rain date, Sunday, July 25)

Insects for Beginners field trip with Linda Graetz, CC Browne Woods

Saturday, July 24, 12PM
Member Cookout, Chocorua Park

AUGUST

Saturday, Aug. 7, 9AM-12PM
Geology Walk with Rick Allmendinger, Clark Reserve

Saturday, August 7, 4-6PM
Annual Meeting & Social Hour, Runnells Hall, Chocorua

Wednesday, August 11, 9-11:30AM
Stewardship Day at the Brown Lot

Saturday, Aug 21, 7:30-10AM
Lake Paddle from the Island

Saturday, August 21, 12PM
Member Cookout, Wheeler Field, Chocorua

Date TBA
Volunteer Training & Get-Together, for current and prospective volunteers.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 4, 5:30PM
Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Party, Merrybrook Farm (home of the Orgasmic Organic Blueberries)

Sunday, September 5, 6PM
Annual Picnic & Parade of Lights, the Grove, Chocorua Lake

Stay tuned in September and beyond for stewardship days, mushroom explorations, and opportunities to learn about the history and present experience of the Wabanaki of this region.

Naming & Noticing

Our theme for 2021 is "Naming & Noticing." According to *Children and Nature: Psychological, Sociocultural, and Evolutionary Investigations*, children can identify as many as 1,000 corporate logos and only a handful of plants and animals native to their region. When environmental organizations quiz adults, they find that a majority of adults can identify many corporate brands, while just a small minority can do the same with local flora and fauna.

As geologist Rick Allmendinger points out in his essay in this issue, naming and classifying is essential to science and to our capacity to understand the world around us. It's also friendly! Knowing the names of the plants and creatures in our neighborhood helps us feel a sense of connection and belonging. Hello, robin! Hello, trillium! Hello, spring peeper! Hello, larch with your bright green needles emerging!

Writer Robert Macfarlane was inspired to write *The Lost Words: A Spell Book*, gorgeously illustrated by Jackie Morris, by the removal of common nature words such as "acorn," "bluebell," and "wren" from a widely used children's dictionary—kids weren't using them enough to warrant keeping them. The book is both a celebration of our other-than-human neighbors and a protest song as we lose species every day. "We've got more than fifty percent of species in decline," Macfarlane states on the book's website. "And names, good names, well used can help us see and they help us care. We find it hard to love what we cannot give a name to. And what we do not love we will not save."

Throughout this coming year, we will offer programs and other opportunities to help us learn the names of local flora and fauna so that we can say hello when we see them, and will share examples of myriad ways of noticing. Subscribe to our email newsletter for Naming & Noticing challenges, and see how many plants and creatures you can learn to greet by name between now and the end of the year.

Why Naming Things Matters

BY RICK ALLMENDINGER

The male cardinal perched outside my window seems to stare right at me though I suspect he's more concerned about his reflection than me personally. My office window looks out on the unofficial staging area for birds visiting our feeder. Juncos, cardinals, titmice, chickadees, sparrows, and blue jays are the most common visitors, though an occasional red-bellied woodpecker seems to scare off the rest of them. S/he is a picky eater, using his/her beak—birds should come with their preferred pronouns—to shovel out of the feeder the unwanted seeds to get to the good ones. Yes, I now know that the female has a gray cap, I just looked it up! Clearly, I'm not much of a birder: the few names I do know I constantly forget, all the more embarrassing because I live less than a mile from Cornell's famous Laboratory of Ornithology. Still, I appreciate them and marvel at their abilities.

Perhaps I forget their names because my head is filled with geological terminology as arcane as any found in ornithology. Each subdivision of natural science has its own rich jargon that makes a visitor to their discipline, even other scientists, feel like a complete foreigner. So, why do we give things these complicated names, anyway? It may seem that we engage in classification of our natural world simply because it makes us feel like we understand what we're looking at if we give it a name. But, it goes deeper than that.

Natural scientists classify to find order in our seemingly chaotic world. From order, we can make connections, and from there try to piece together processes. The close observation that is required of classification can result in astounding hypotheses: for example, the finches in the Galapagos that led to Darwin's theory of natural selection. The mutations in the virus that is currently plaguing us are only the most recent validation of the monumental

advance made almost 200 years ago by a young British naturalist attempting to make order of the new world. Nineteenth century naturalists observed everything: Darwin was an equally perceptive geological observer.

In the northeastern United States, careful observers well over a century ago described large rocks and boulders quite unlike the bedrock over which they sit. Where I live in Ithaca, New York, local gravel quarries contain

Natural scientists classify to find order in our seemingly chaotic world. From order, we can make connections, and from there try to piece together processes.

rocks, some weighing several tons, that could only have come from the High Peaks of the Adirondacks, 150 miles away. Once we rule out all of the competing ideas, the only remaining viable hypothesis is that only the action of continental ice caps could have carried them that far. The fact that we could classify the rock type, distinguish it from other rocks, and give it a name ("anorthosite") helped to prove the astonishing hypothesis that the Northeast was once covered with glaciers, even though the nearest one today is more than 1,500 miles away.

Evolution, paleontology, and more recently genomics help us to understand the history of the flora and fauna through the ages. The rock record—whether layers of sediment and fossils that accumulate like pages in a mystery novel or chemical isotopes that record time, temperature, and pressure—is the archive of our planetary existence. Growth rings in fossil corals from the "Devonian" period in upstate New York (noticed by a paleontologist intent on collecting and classifying) proved a long-standing idea of physicists: that the Earth's rotation should be slowing

down due to tidal drag. It turns out that, about the time that the rocks underlying Bickford Heights were solidifying from a melt 400 million years ago, days on Earth were only 22 hours long (because the planet rotated faster) and a year was made up of 400 days.

Perhaps the rotation rate of the earth is a bit esoteric, but naming and classifying can have profound implications for humans: most volcanic eruptions in Hawaii, though visibly spectacular, are relatively benign because "basalts" have low silica content and thus are not very viscous. In contrast, the "rhyolitic" volcanic rocks of Yellowstone are higher in silica and thus very viscous, resulting in infrequent but very violent eruptions. You may know that the eruption of Tambora, Indonesia, in the early nineteenth century produced the year without a summer when it froze and snowed every month of the year in New England. The last eruption of Yellowstone was more than ten times larger than Tambora. Supervolcano, indeed.

Speaking of cold, in late February we first noted the robins in our yard looking disconsolately at the frozen ground with nary a worm in sight. Perhaps if I knew more about birds, I would know whether this year's early arrival is an aberration or, like so many natural oddities these days, a harbinger of global climate change. Names are the starting point, a portal from which to begin our exploration, and understanding, of the natural world.

So, next time someone asks, "What's in a name?" it turns out that there is quite a lot, actually!

CLC Board Member and New Hampshire native Rick Allmendinger has a lifelong relationship with the Chocorua Lake Basin. Professor Emeritus at Cornell University, where he taught courses in structural geology, regional geology, and energy and climate change, Rick is the creator of the Chocorua Map app.



On a page from a family album shared with us recently, a group of visitors to Chocorua Lake gather on the bridge just over 100 years ago, shortly after the Spanish Flu Pandemic, at the beginning of the Roaring '20s. / Anonymous

2020 Annual Report

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear CLC members and friends,

What a year! It's tempting to mention some of the things that didn't happen last year because of the pandemic—events canceled, activities postponed. But as it became clear the pandemic was not a short-term disruption, the Chocorua Lake Conservancy found new ways of fulfilling our dual missions of protecting the natural beauty of the Chocorua Lake Basin and providing public lake access to visitors.

Our committed, resourceful, and hard-working board, committees, staff, and volunteers switched from in-person meetings to virtual ones, and the management of our public

access properties, stewardship of CLC properties, land conservation work, and other work central to our mission continued uninterrupted. Despite having to cancel some in-person activities, Lynne Flaccus and Juno Lamb organized over thirty stewardship events, nature walks, and educational Zoom webinars during 2020 at which CLC members could safely help out, learn, and engage with nature at CLC-maintained properties during the pandemic.

What do you do when you can't go to work, attend school, eat out, go to the movies, travel, or any of the other activities we once took for granted?

You go outside. And that is exactly what many visitors to the Chocorua Lake Basin have been doing over the past year—finding solace, recreation, inspiration, and a sense of connection to something larger than the individual self.

The public lake access areas and trails on other CLC-maintained properties that are helping us weather these challenging times remain beautiful because of the generous financial support of our members and the work of our many dedicated volunteers who help maintain these areas. CLC volunteers have donated hundreds of hours removing invasive species, planting native shrubs,

spreading wood chips, watering new plantings, stewarding certain properties or trails, sharing their expertise, helping with mailings, and many other things.

Other volunteers serve on the CLC board and committees to help to ensure funding, provide education and recreational activities, and assist with keeping the organization functioning. Our volunteers, with our extraordinary staff, are the indomitable forces that keep the Chocorua Lake Conservancy functioning even during these challenging times.

Our donors and volunteers have shown us how much they value the CLC and the resources we provide to nearby residents and occasional visitors by renewing their memberships at record levels. In 2020, the CLC received financial support from over 560 households and local businesses, including over 102 new donors. Almost a third of our donors live year-round in Chocorua, Silver Lake, Albany, Madison, Tamworth, and other nearby towns. We also have incredibly loyal donors—last year, almost 90% of repeat donors renewed their CLC membership and 55% of lapsed members reactivated their membership.

I dedicate this annual report to our volunteers—they are the faces behind our places. As the demands on the CLC have grown in response to the increased usage of our public access areas and climate change impacts, our need for volunteers has continued to grow.

As you make your annual membership donation or plan your next visit to Chocorua Lake, we encourage you to consider becoming even more involved. If you are able, become one of the faces helping in a hands-on way to care for this precious place. To volunteer, please visit www.chocorualake.org/volunteer or contact Lynne Flaccus at lflaccus@chocorualake.org.

Thanks to our donors and volunteers, CLC came through this challenging year stronger than ever. You are the CLC. Thank you!

Alex

Alex Moot
Board President
amoot@chocorualake.org

Did you know you can leave a legacy gift to the Chocorua Lake Conservancy?

Planned giving allows for a gift to be decided on in the present but given in the future—often specified in estate plans such as a will, trust, or charitable foundation.

We hope you will consider including the CLC in your estate planning now so that future generations can forever benefit from your generosity. For example, you could:

- Designate a specific gift as a provision in a will
- Make the CLC a designated beneficiary in a will
- Assign the CLC as a life insurance beneficiary
- Donate appreciated stocks for their full value and avoid having to pay any capital gains tax
- Donate land for conservation

If you are interested in learning more, please reach out directly to Bob Seston, CLC Treasurer, at rseston@chocorualake.org or any CLC Board Members. For more information, please visit www.chocorualake.org/giftplanning. We will be providing CLC members with additional information this fall on how to make planned giving a part of their charitable giving plans.



Steve Weld with his daughter Ruth in the Chocorua woods, c.1993. | Courtesy Ruth Weld

“I have included the CLC in my current estate planning because it is an easy way for me to recognize the important work the CLC has done to protect the lake and support the community so important to me. By specifying a gift to the CLC in my estate planning, I can maximize my giving in a way that also benefits my heirs.”

—STEVE WELD

Steve Weld served on the boards of the CLC and its predecessors for 25 years.

Planning for Increasing Public Use of the Grove

BY DWIGHT BALDWIN

In 2020, recreational areas across the region experienced increased usage as people spent more time outdoors because of the pandemic. The CLC's public lakeshore areas were no exception. With the Town of Tamworth, the CLC took steps last summer to address parking issues at the Island, and signs and plantings were installed to limit parking and access to the shoreline west of the Narrows Bridge.

More work is needed. In partnership with the Town of Tamworth, the CLC's Lake and Property Management Committee (LPMC) is working on longer-term plans for the Grove in order to protect both visitors and the lakeshore from issues associated with the overuse of this iconic scenic site. Steps we are considering include:

- Surveying the entire CLC-owned property to obtain a detailed understanding of current conditions.
- Development and implementation of plans to make the Grove more user-friendly and to disperse visitors

across the property. The addition of several painted crosswalks may be used to encourage pedestrian-traffic flow and to alert ongoing traffic that pedestrians have the "right of way." A "drop-off" zone leading to a new ADA-compliant path from the parking area to the existing kiosk is envisioned.

- Elimination of parallel parking along the south side of Chocorua Lake Road between the kiosk and the large parking area to create a more natural setting.
- Reconfiguring the existing parking area to include specific diagonal parking sites, the creation of a one-way, counter-clockwise flow of traffic around an "island" of trees, and signage to direct people elsewhere when the parking area is full.
- Creation of an accessible, hand-carry site for launching canoes and kayaks into Little Chocorua Lake.
- Writing of funding proposals to generate funds necessary to stabilize the shoreline both in the Grove and

Island where use by visitors has caused shoreline erosion.

- Educating the community about the LPMC's proposed actions and the steps needed to accomplish them.

Clearly there is a lot of exciting work to be done before the above-mentioned goals can be realized. And this proposed work at the lake represents just a small sample of the work the LPMC is engaged in—from the planting of fruit/berry-bearing shrubs for wildlife and the eradication of invasive plants on CLC-owned land to the writing of funding proposals. If you enjoy these kinds of hands-on efforts and creative thinking, your help would be **most welcome indeed!** If you are interested in joining the LPMC, or volunteering with us on specific projects, please contact LMPC Chair Sheldon Perry, sperry@chocorualake.org.

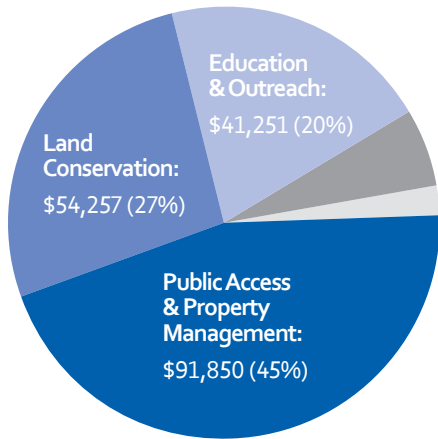
Dwight Baldwin serves on the Lake and Property Management Committee with major responsibility for monitoring water quality in Chocorua Lake throughout the summer months.

Basin View Lot To Open Later This Summer

With the snow gone, spring means work is to be finished on the Basin View Lot on the hill overlooking Chocorua Lake from the south. Final grading of the parking and the viewing areas, a new sign, stone benches, and a gate will be in place by the end of May. Seeding and planting of shrubs is also a part of this final work. Some areas may need to be temporarily blocked off this spring while we let the sun and rains do their part to help with revegetation. We look forward to welcoming visitors to this beautiful viewing area soon.

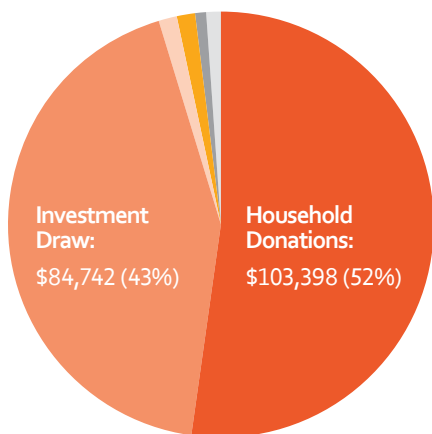


Views of Chocorua 100 years ago from a family album shared with us recently. | Anonymous



EXPENSES: \$203,208

- Public Access & Property Management: \$91,850 (45%)
- Land Conservation: \$54,257 (27%)
- Education & Outreach: \$41,251 (20%)
- Membership & Fundraising: \$11,583 (6%)
- Administration: \$4,267 (2%)



OPERATING INCOME: \$196,987

- Household Donations: \$103,398 (52%)
- Investment Draw: \$84,742 (43%)
- Grants: \$2,816
- Business Partners: \$2,442
- Donations In Kind: \$1,840
- Merchandise Sales: \$1,749

THANK YOU!

Enormous gratitude to the 83 people who generously volunteered their time last year to yank up invasive plants, spread wood chips, water new plantings, steward particular properties or trails, share their expertise, serve on our board and committees, help with mailings, offer educational programs, write articles, draw pictures, and take photographs—and more. Our work is not possible without you, volunteers. Thank you for your care of this place.

We made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list; please notify us of any errors or omissions.

2020 VOLUNTEERS

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Dylan Alden | Lucy Gatchell | Kit Morgan |
| Rick Allmendinger | Geoff Gill | Bob Newton |
| Dwight Baldwin | Karen Gill | Shirley Perry |
| Melissa Baldwin | John Gotgen | Nina Perry |
| Amy Berrier | Sarah Lloyd Hall | Sheldon Perry |
| Wyatt Berrier | Benedicte Hallowell | Michael Rich |
| Kathy Bird | Pen Hallowell | Becky Riley |
| Erica Bodwell | Roger Hallowell | Nancy Roosa |
| Mike Borys | Rory Hallowell | Tara Schroeder |
| Mason Browne | Dexter Harding | Bob Seston |
| Chris Canfield | John Harlan | Nancy Sheridan |
| Laura Cannon | Henry Hodgman | Lydia Shrier |
| Anne Chant | Harriet Hofheinz | Kyle Shute |
| Bob Craycraft | Jim Humphrey | Amy Smagula, |
| Jim Diamond | Christi Humphrey | NHDES |
| Maureen Diamond | Don Johnson | Bonnie Hurd Smith |
| Jean Downey | Alex Kanevsky | Louise Taylor |
| Angela Driscoll | David Kunhardt | Sally Tipton |
| Melissa Emerson | Neely Lanou | Gail Troseth |
| Troy Emerson | Steve Lanou | Matthew Wallace |
| Dave Farley | Bruce Larson | John Watkins |
| Andy Fisher | Bill Mayer | Mary Watkins |
| Chris Flaccus | Jeremy Maziarz | Jack Waylett |
| Kathy Flaccus | Tish McIlwraith | Ruth Weld |
| Kristina Folcik | Jean McKinney | John Wheeler |
| Ann Foley | Eric Milligan | Peg Wheeler |
| Julie Fullerton | Alex Moot | Penny Wheeler-Abbott |
| Alan Fullerton, Jr. | Amey Moot | Annie Lloyd Witte |

If you would like to volunteer for the CLC, please contact Lynne Flaccus at info@chocorualake.org or (603) 323-6252, or fill out the form on the Volunteer page at www.chocorualake.org/volunteer.



Adopt-a-Highway trash pickup volunteers. / Alex Moot

Understanding Covenants

BY LYNNE FLACCUS

Stewardship Director

In the 2016 Chocorua Lake Conservancy fall newsletter I wrote about my first summer as the Stewardship Director, learning about landowners around the Chocorua Basin and their connections to the land. That first summer I was putting together documents and files related to all the properties with covenants or easements, and meeting with landowners with names I had only seen in the files. It was a summer of learning names and visiting people with long, or sometimes shorter, connections to the Chocorua lake area. The stories I heard on these visits were a highlight of that first summer—and they still are.

Many of the covenants and easements have been in place for over 50 years, restricting property uses to residential use only, indicating the number of houses allowed (development density), preventing the dredging of streams, and protecting the lakeshore and water quality by limiting clearings at the lake's shore. In the early years, landowners and volunteer Board members worked together on this “common scheme” method of conservation, voluntarily restricting development, even before the idea of modern conservation easements was fully developed. Signed by the current owners at the time, and the then Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation (now Chocorua Lake Conservancy), these covenants were recorded at the Registry of Deeds as landowners agreed as a community to reduce residential and commercial development to protect the natural and scenic values of the lake basin for the greater public benefit.

Most of the earlier covenants share the same covenant language, but not all are the same. Some allow one dwelling per eight acres, and others allow one dwelling per five acres; or they may include language restricting any future creation of residences or buildings



Summer. /Chocorua Lake Crankie artists

The CLC has a responsibility to the original granting landowners to ensure that the various covenants are honored as time passes, even when ownership changes.

because the parcel itself is already small. Some describe an allowance for home businesses; others allow use only for well houses. These variations can sometimes lead to confusion by landowners considering changes to their property: “Why is my neighbor allowed to do that when I can’t?” The CLC has worked hard to maintain and update files, educate landowners, and follow through

with any questions related to the various properties. In the end, the strength of the covenants lies in the partnership between the CLC and landowners.

From time to time, challenges to or violations of the covenants or easements occur. Most often these violations happen because of misunderstandings or misinterpretations related to the deeds and the language used. In these instances, the CLC looks first to the language in the deed itself for guidance; then to past precedents within the organization and in New Hampshire land trust law; and finally at the standards and best practices of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA—a national land trust organization of which CLC is a member). Our goal is to work with landowners to help them understand the covenants before misunderstandings occur and resolve them before there are costly violations or challenges.

Ultimately the CLC has a legal and ethical responsibility to the original granting landowners to ensure that the various covenants are honored as time passes, even when land ownership changes. When the covenants were recorded in the late 1960s and 1970s,

“conservation easements” as a means to protect land were just coming into being in New Hampshire. Modern conservation easements are more property-specific, identifying the conservation values to be protected with clarity of language and spelling out the restrictions and reserved rights in detail.

Conservation easements, and these covenants, are recorded deeds conveyed in “perpetuity.” They are designed to protect conservation values in the long term and through potentially *many changes* in ownership. The CLC does not have the ability to modify covenants and conservation easements without first obtaining the consent of the NH Attorney General and demonstrating that the changes are necessary for clarification of language or do not result in a decrease in conservation values.

We conduct annual stewardship reviews as recommended by the Land Trust Alliance, following best practices to make sure we are working with landowners to document changes on conserved parcels for which we are responsible. These annual reviews provide the opportunity to meet or talk

In the 50-plus years since covenants were recorded, very few landowners have increased the density of housing or subdivided properties.

with landowners, answer questions, and review any public documents that provide information about the property. New septic system? Wells? Dwellings? New owner? Using a template based on LTA standards, this annual review allows us to document changes, or even no change—and as in science, “no change” is good data, too! When landowners contact us about proposed additions or changes to the property, we can work together to be sure the plans are in compliance with the

covenants or easement.

In the 50-plus years since covenants were recorded, very few landowners have increased the density of housing or subdivided properties. The sprawl of development has been limited in large part by the covenants themselves, but can also be attributed to family traditions and landowners’ connections to the land. We are grateful for the long-term vision of the original landowners/signers, and the participation of new landowners in committing to this common scheme of conservation.

With the coming stewardship season, I am looking forward to meeting with landowners again this summer or fall, to walk boundaries, review the covenants, and answer questions. And of course to hear the stories so many landowners have to share!

You can find more information about conservation easements at www.chocorualake.org/land-conservation, and read Peg Wheeler’s article “FAQs: Land Trusts 101” in the 2016 Fall Newsletter, available at www.chocorualake.org/newsletters.

What is GIS?

BY CALEB MATHIAS

Maps have been around for centuries: guiding expeditions out at sea, utilized for war tactics, marking political boundaries, and simply helping familiarize ourselves to new environments. GIS, an acronym for Geographic Information Systems, is a term that has become increasingly ubiquitous in recent years as the field of study grows in public prominence, but what does it mean exactly?

The roots of GIS are founded upon a rich history of cartography—the scientific art of map making. Cartographers in the United States were

sent far and wide by the US Geological Survey in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, armed with a plane table and telescopic alidade, to record the diverse beauty of this country in the form of topographic maps. Hiking mountains and traversing all imaginable terrain, the nuanced maps they produced are filled with details reflecting the regions we treasure and, in some instances, even serve as an archive of pre-metropolitan landscapes. The field of GIS can be thought of as a natural progression from the foundation these cartographers established, now incorporating knowledge from a wide swath of disciplines and bolstered by the rise of advanced computation.

I have been learning about and working with GIS for a couple years now, but my first encounters with the field inspired not intrigue but confusion. The insularity of language was an initial hurdle to my involvement and turned

me away from actively pursuing its capabilities. Simply put, GIS consists of five components: the hardware used to compute data, the collected data itself, methods to help achieve desired outcomes, software for processing and visualizing information, and, most importantly, people. When I realized GIS was more a term to describe all the components that go into producing maps and data that help us understand the complexities of our world with the help of visual and spatial components, the importance of this field started to rear its head like a hydra of possibilities.

If you were to go online and pull up a news website right now, chances are you will see some information utilizing GIS technology, the most timely example being COVID-19 maps updated daily and obsessively to inform citizens which counties and states have the highest risk. Or perhaps you may come across an article about increased

occurrence of algal blooms, a harmful effect of climate change. Satellite imagery can detect these algal blooms and help scientists make informed decisions on how to manage water resources being negatively impacted. Or perhaps you want to use GIS to turn a hike into a self-guided tour, revealing the landscape's rich secrets hidden in plain sight.

Chocorua Lake Conservancy's very own Rick Allmendinger, a structural

geologist and Professor Emeritus at Cornell University, did just that. He developed the Chocorua Map app to help make trails and details about the New Hampshire environment more accessible utilizing GIS technology. Now you can discover what bedrock lies beneath your hiking boots or the presence of bygone foundations in the Lake Basin—a very close-to-home application of GIS!

Visit www.chocorualake.org to read

Caleb's interview with Rick about this burgeoning field.

About Caleb Mathias: "I recently moved to this area from Tennessee with an academic background in geology, now pursuing graduate school in environmental GIS. Upon moving to New Hampshire, Mount Chocorua and the Lake Basin were the first landmarks to capture my attention and help me connect to the state's natural splendor."

NATURE NOTES

Loons on the Lake

BY LYNNE FLACCUS

Stewardship Director

We have our fingers crossed that a breeding pair of loons will return to nest at Chocorua Lake in 2021. Last year, there were mixed reports of first one loon, then two, then three, and back to only one during the prime breeding and early nesting season. We're not sure what happened, but the presence of three loons on the lake doesn't bode well for a nesting pair; Chocorua Lake is thought to be too small to support two nesting pairs.

Please keep your eyes open for loons this spring. Two loons that have nested at Chocorua in the past were banded in 2016; look for any colored leg bands on both of the legs. Report the colors you see to CLC or the Loon Preservation Committee.

Loons return to freshwater New Hampshire lakes and ponds in April, or whenever ice-out is widespread. Nesting season runs from May to June, with chicks hatching near the end of June or early July. Loon chicks are "precocial"—they hatch covered in down with eyes open, and able to swim and move around within 24-36 hours from hatching. They'll leave the nest and stick close to the adults who will protect them from weather and predators, and feed them as they grow stronger and begin feeding on their own.



A loon in close-up monochrome glory.
Greg Shute

It will be roughly three months before they become independent and can fly.

Both on the nest and when the chicks are young, loons are very susceptible to disturbance. Human behavior around loons and in their territories can affect their nesting success. As you recreate, you can have a huge impact on the success of nesting loons.

Behaviors you should watch for that signal you are invading their "space":

- A loon on their nest with their head low to the water means you are too close and must back off. If they flush from a nest they may accidentally kick the eggs into the water, and time off the nest means the eggs can get chilled or too hot if they are left unprotected in the sun.

- If out on the water and the adults are giving alarm calls, or are skimming the surface and paddling with their wings, it may be you are nearing their chicks and you haven't noticed. Please allow plenty of room so the adults can keep on feeding their young without stress and not be separated from them.

What can you do for loons wherever you are? Learn loon behavior so you know when they feel threatened. Stay back when you are paddling and give loons the space they need to feel safe, care for their young, and continue feeding. Make sure your fishing gear is not lead based—lead poisoning from lead tackle ingestion is the primary cause of mortality in NH loons. If you see an injured loon or are concerned with behavior, contact the Loon Preservation Committee—they can help you decide whether a loon needs help.

Fun fact: Loon legs are set so far back on their bodies that they can't stand and walk on land! That's why they nest so close to the water's edge.

Check out The Loon Preservation Committee at www.loon.org to learn about behaviors to watch for, the threats loons face, and how to identify the different calls you may hear on the lake.

You can read more about loons on Chocorua Lake in an article by Loon Preservation Committee biologist John Cooley in our 2014 Fall Newsletter, available at www.chocorualake.org/newsletters.

The “Why?” Behind Leave No Trace

BY BOB HOLDSWORTH

Last year was a challenging year for area land managers as many outdoor spaces saw an increase in visitors. The Chocorua Lake Conservancy has been working on plans to continue to provide full public access to their natural areas, while at the same time implementing methods to minimize the cumulative effect on the environment of the basin.

We need to remember that problems of overcrowding, litter, and noise are not new to the outdoors. It's been 50 years already since the National Forest Service introduced

Woodsy Owl: “Give a hoot, don't pollute!” So, what is to be done?

While it's true that some impacts may occur because visitors are apathetic, generally if someone cares enough to visit a place, they care enough to protect it. What causes impacts then? Impacts happen when visitors are unaware, uninformed, or misinformed. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics finds that most visitors to our outdoor spaces have not had the opportunity to receive education on minimizing their impact. Since 1994, the Center has partnered with land managers and educators to improve messaging to help set behavioral expectations that connect to values—what people really care about. By telling people the desired solution and linking it to the cumulative impact, people learn the desired solution to protect the places they enjoy. Education is the key.

Here are some of the principles that inform Leave No Trace ethics:



Woodsy Owl. / Rudolph Wendelin, Creative Commons



Chocorua magic. / May Fisher

Trash

- Food waste attracts wildlife and erodes their natural instincts to avoid humans. This has been proven to reduce the health and reproduction of wildlife.
- Items like plastic bags and aluminum cans take 250-500 years to decompose. Plastic never really decomposes; it photodegrades into microplastics that absorb toxins and go on polluting the land, water, and food chain.

Control Your Dog at all Times

- All dogs must be on a leash at all times. This is a safety issue as some adults, children and other dogs are not comfortable around dogs.
- Dogs have the potential to disrupt, stress, harm, and even kill local wildlife.
- Use a plastic bag to pack out your dog's waste. Dog waste seeps into the water table, which may create algal blooms in the lake.
- Cleaning up dog waste is part of being a responsible dog owner. Please set an example for others.

Stay on Designated Trails

- Off-trail travel risks damaging sensitive habitat. Be aware of where you are and site-specific expectations

when you are hiking.

- Avoid stepping on flowers or delicate vegetation. Once damaged they may not grow back.

Respect Other Visitors

- Whether hiking or sitting along the lake, everyone has an equal right to enjoy the area.
- Please respect other visitors to ensure a positive recreation experience for all.
- Natural sounds are a key part of the experience. Consider those who seek serenity by minimizing noise to let nature's sounds prevail.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.

Leave It as You Find It

- Chocorua Lake Conservancy believes all forms of life have value in the ecosystem.
- Treat living plants with respect. Picking or damaging them prevents reproduction and survival. A diversity of plant life also increases enjoyment and a sense of discovery for others.
- Approaching, harassing or feeding wildlife alters their normal behavior and can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans. Once that happens, they can become a danger to you and others. Observe any wildlife from a distance.

Be Part of the Solution!

Doing your part to care for and protect Chocorua Lake helps ensure continued access to this special place for you and others who enjoy it. Engage in volunteer opportunities such as annual clean-ups, ongoing trail maintenance, or invasive species removal projects.

Bob Holdsworth is an NH State Advocate and Master Educator for the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

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

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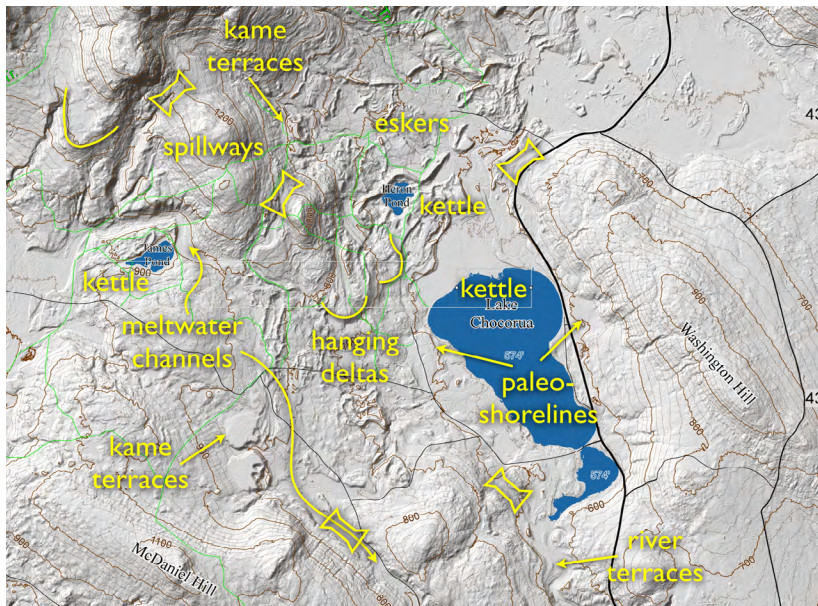
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The Chocorua Lake Conservancy is a volunteer-led land trust dedicated to its mission of protecting the natural beauty of the Chocorua Lake Basin and providing public access for present and future visitors.

Naming & Noticing



Hanging deltas? Kame terraces? Want to learn more about the geology of the Chocorua Lake Basin? Join us for two geology walks this summer. / Annotated LiDAR image courtesy of Rick Allmendinger

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