



Chocorua Lake Conservancy

SPRING/SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



We are grateful for this place, and all those who help care for it. / *Kristina Folcik*

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear CLC members and friends,

Spring is a season of transitions and that is doubly true of the Chocorua Lake Conservancy this year. Soon we will turn our attention to the next chapter of the CLC's journey, but in this letter we want to focus on one of the people who has most helped to turn the CLC into the professional land trust organization that it is today. To quote A. A. Milne: "How lucky I am [we are] to have known someone who makes saying goodbye so difficult." That person, of course, is Lynne Flaccus.

Every one of us in the CLC probably has our own Lynne story. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a number of additional charming and eloquent personal appreciations of Lynne and her impact on the CLC and the region. The number of tasks that Lynne has cheerfully taken on and executed with excellence and skill is simply mind-boggling. While most of us are familiar with her public-facing engagements and clamored

to be included in her walks and paddles, fewer know of the paperwork, record keeping, the legal filings, the pacing of property lines during black fly season, and the GIS (geographic information systems) skills that she has expertly employed on our behalf and which are critical to the success of our mission.

She has represented the CLC with dignity and grace, and even during the rare challenging encounters that were occasionally also part of her stewardship job, all parties felt that they were treated fairly and with respect. Lynne has had to put up with, and stand up to, the occasional obstreperous Board member (or several) and her tact has not gone unappreciated!



Lynne Flaccus exploring the edges of the Chocorua River in winter. / *Juno Lamb*

All this is true, and yet the image that sticks in many of our minds is of Lynne on a nature hike stoking wonder in a five-year-old child about the secrets of vernal pools or happily chatting with an 80-year old-birder about whether that bird call was a wood thrush or a hermit thrush. For Lynne is ultimately a teacher at heart and many of us are richer for the lessons learned.

So, yes, it is difficult to say goodbye and yet we are immensely grateful for all of her contributions

and wish her every success going forward. Fortunately, she still has roots in Tamworth and thus we'll have the chance to see her from time to time. Lynne, you would be more than welcome to lead a hike at any time in the future (no self-serving intentions here!), or just to sit on any one of our porches and enjoy a cup of tea and a view. We will miss your daily presence.

Wishing you all a happy spring,

*The Chocorua Lake Conservancy
Board of Directors*



Rich Comer, John Watkins, and Lynne Flaccus. | Jim Diamond

Thank you, Lynne!



Lynne leading a walk in the Bolles Reserve.
Alex Moot

For the last four years, I have had the good fortune and pleasure of working alongside Lynne Flaccus and getting to learn from her. If I could pick only one thing to admire about Lynne, I would choose her capacities as a teacher. She understands the big picture and how it impacts the small—individual species or particular ecosystems—and is able to communicate her understanding. She is deeply knowledgeable, patient, humble, kind, and generous, always making space for others' experiences, expertise, and questions to be part of the communal learning environment. Her love for the other-than-human world is evident—maybe especially turtles, but not *only* turtles. I associate certain plants and adaptations with Lynne now—I see leathery, curled-in leaves in the winter, and know that the plant is conserving moisture through that cold, dry season—because Lynne taught me. These qualities that are so evident in her teaching are visible across all that she does as she braids the many threads of her work into one elegant strand, balancing the needs of humans with the needs of the land and its many diverse inhabitants. I am lucky to know her.

—Juno Lamb

Stewardship Director Defies the Laws of Physics

Could it be this person hovers above the ground weightless or demonstrates super-human feats of strength? How is it that the words "Stewardship Director" and the "laws of physics" appear within the same sentence?

Clearly, this deserves an explanation. In the case of the Chocorua Lake Conservancy's (CLC) stewardship director, Lynne Flaccus, the answer is simple: She is everywhere at any moment in time, all the time.

I have been Chair of the Lake and Property Management Committee (LPMC) for several years and have witnessed first-hand this act of illusion. Understand that the CLC has many committees with many needs demanding constant attention. All are directed to our sole full-time employee, the Stewardship Director. Lynne has been "command central" on every issue from land trust baselines, conservation covenants and easements, landowner communications, research, conducting education and outreach programs, or simply getting her hands dirty on the properties and public access areas. Need to build a base for a porta potty? Is shoreline erosion becoming a problem? Do our fields need mowing, the shrubs need mulching, and the paths need wood chips? She is always there competently beside you anytime and every time with "I am here to help!"

Lynne is moving to another chapter in her life which we hope and trust will be both exciting and rewarding. We will miss her competence, her grace, and her illusionary powers greatly.

—Sheldon Perry

Whenever we visited Tamworth over the decades, reverence for the mountain and the lake that bear the name Chocorua was almost palpable. This led my husband, Jim, and me to know that we wanted to volunteer with the Chocorua Lake Conservancy after we moved here in 2017. And that, most fortunately, introduced us to Lynne Flaccus.

It has been an adventure of learning. About the wildlife, about the land including the geology of the area, about the water, about the trees, about wetlands, even about the art that the mountain has inspired. Of course, Lynne is always generous with information about the task at hand during volunteer work sessions, and also welcomes questions about our own small acreage. She shows great patience with me, as I need to review how to identify the same challenging plants each time she and I meet!

Surely I've been out with Lynne in every season; and I've seen her engage all ages and all knowledge levels with her rich understanding and with respect for all. It has been an adventure of continuing love and respect for the land and the water. And for that I am most grateful to Lynne!

—Maureen Diamond

I have worked with Lynne at the Chocorua and Tamworth Days and love the way she works with children, piquing their interest particularly in the smaller and lesser known members of the local "wildlife." She knows that getting young people interested in preserving the ecology of the Chocorua basin, as part of the visual surface beauty, is vital to the long term effectiveness of the CLC. She also informs and entertains all ages! I have enjoyed getting to know her and wish her well in the future.

—Jean McKinney

The stars were aligned when CLC was fortunate enough to hire Lynne Flaccus as our first-ever year-round employee and Stewardship Director. In addition to a great depth of experience in both environmental education and conservation stewardship, Lynne brought with her several generations of family connection with the Tamworth community. Her father Ed Flaccus served from 1978 to 1986 as a Trustee of the Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation, one of the predecessor organizations to today's CLC, and several branches of the family have long enjoyed their land in Tamworth.

Lynne's first task was to reach out to owners of over a hundred properties on which CLC holds covenants or conservation easements to introduce them to the newly merged organization, and to let them know how the CLC would go about fulfilling its responsibilities as holder of these interests. She performed this task with great tact and delicacy, laying the groundwork for CLC's outreach to the broader Chocorua and Tamworth community.

Lynne's "Walks and Talks," publicized to the community by Juno Lamb, expanded and deepened CLC's roots in the Chocorua Basin and beyond. This work was the foundation for the growth of CLC's membership base and ultimately for

the successful capital campaign which underwrote the permanent protection of the iconic View Lot on Route 16.

Lynne has been a real treasure, a major contributor to the development of CLC into the respected, community-based conservation organization that it is today. But, in addition to her professional contributions, her personal friendship and leadership example are qualities that I will always remember and treasure!

—Peg Wheeler

As the lone survivor from the original CLCF Board of Trustees (naturally chosen, as the one female, to be Secretary), I lived to welcome our first full-time (and female) employee, the awesome Lynne Flaccus. This represented a nice return of the native, a daughter of an adored Tamworth tennis player who later served on the Board for many years.

I've had the pleasure to be able to offer a special service to Lynne (when my weakening memory allowed...) as a "Historic Resource." This involved helping her to decipher some of my various sticky notes attached to important documents, answering questions about particular ambiguities in past events, offering suggestions for finding new homes for

some fat files going back to the earliest discussions about the early years of the CLA and CLCF, and personal background on some of the present CLC players.

I appreciate Lynne's impressive knowledge of the natural world and her quiet attempts to teach embarrassingly ignorant me just a few points about trees and birds and vernal pools et al.

Lynne always showed a stern sense of fairness and recognition of the necessary confidentiality in dealing with landowners. In the face of this, I admit to occasionally trying in vain to glean a few nuggets of information about some event or discussion.

After recognizing all the contributions Lynne has made to the growth and success of the CLC, the offer of some private time with Lynne remains paramount for me. "Let's check on the Balch bathhouses" or "Let's go for a paddle" or "OK if I show up for lunch on your porch?" (which meant bringing her own Spartan meal), "I hope you know the difference between ground pine and huckleberries..." on a walk. She became a real friend (new ones are hard to find at my age). She has to promise to visit Chocorua to help orient her successor and check in on us native species.

—Neely Lanou



Learn about the Lepidoptera family with Linda Graetz this summer. Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) on goldenrod (*Solidago*). Juno Lamb

We look forward to seeing you in person in the coming seasons.

Please visit chocorualake.org to learn about our many upcoming events. The spring through early autumn calendar includes a variety of stewardship mornings, and opportunities to get outside to learn about birds and wildflowers with Lynne Flaccus, water quality monitoring with Dwight Baldwin, the geology of the region with Rick Allmendinger, ecology for kids and families with Hillary Behr, the Lepidoptera family with Linda Graetz (via Zoom *and* outdoors in person), mushrooms with Eric Milligan, and more.

We have three more programs coming up—in person!—in our series “Wabanaki History, Ecology, and Experiences,” in collaboration with the Cook Memorial Library and supported by a generous grant from The Tamworth Foundation. Join us for “Indigenous Conservation Today” with Denise and Paul Pouliot on July 11, for a discussion of Robin Wall Kimmerer’s book *Braiding Sweetgrass* with scholar Damian Costello on August 23, with support from New Hampshire Humanities, and for “Listening to the Land,” September 16-18, a weekend of poetry workshops for all ages with Cheryl Savageau, with support from the Yeoman’s Fund for the Arts.

We look forward to visiting with you at at our **summer cookouts on July 16 and August 6**, our **Annual Meeting & Social Hour on August 20**, our **Member & Volunteer Appreciation Party on September 3**, and to seeing you out on the lake with boats and lanterns for the annual **Parade of Lights on September 4**.

Seeking Out Rare and Interesting Plants Around Tamworth and Chocorua Lake Basin

BY KEITH GARRETT

As I write this, the snowdrops are flowering in the yard, the greenhouse is ready to go, my greenhouse bog garden is showing signs of life—hints of early spring are appearing around us. Many of my nights over this last winter were spent scouring herbarium records, LIDAR, geological bedrock maps, and forest types in preparation for many weekends of exploration this coming spring and summer. Don't mind the black jeep parked off the side of the road, I am probably crouched down searching for tiny plants in the ditch, avoiding poison ivy and sumac, or maybe I have bushwhacked a few miles into the woods looking for an area like "Knox Oaks," or am thigh deep in one of our many swamps looking for a few of our native orchid species. If there were an award for most deer tick bites in a season, I would be in the running.

As of this writing, there are 1,675 records listed for Tamworth on the Consortium of Northeastern Herbaria (portal.neherbaria.org), consisting of around 750 documented species, two thirds of which are from Frederick Steele. There is something addictive about choosing a plant to find, researching its habitat and distribution, choosing a spot to search for it, and many times even finding it! Some like to hike to summits, but I would rather be trying to figure out how to get farther into a swamp while remaining dry to find a new location for a rare plant, or locating an area mentioned in a 70- to 100-year-old record.

The official state list of endangered plants by town has only 12 species listed for Tamworth. All but two are listed officially as "historical" (not documented in the last 25 years). By finding again three plants listed as "historical," and documenting two more new populations in Tamworth, I have increased that number to five, and have

also added a few other undocumented rare species to our local list.

I wish to introduce to you some of my favorite plants that can either be found in Tamworth, or should be findable if one looks in the right places. My hope is that many of you will slow down when walking your favorite trail, or exploring a wetland edge. Stop, look down, take photos of plants you have not seen before, and try to identify what you are seeing. I have a rule when I am out exploring: If you don't know what it is, don't step on it.

A FEW OF OUR MAY AND JUNE PLANTS

Arethusa Bulbosa—Dragon's Mouth orchid (S1—Endangered)

Stunning flowers, listed as S1 in New Hampshire (Endangered). These can be found along the edges of bogs and fens in many of our wetlands. I have seen it in Tuftonboro, Madison, and Moultonboro. Look for it around the boggy edges of wetlands, generally in full sun. The best time to look is the first two weeks of June, after which it quickly becomes nearly impossible to find. 4-6 inches tall. This should be somewhere in the open swamp north of Scott Road (Moose Meadows).



Corallorhiza trifida—Early coralroot (not a listed species)

One of our most common springtime orchids, these can be found in many wet woodlands and muddy areas around Tamworth and the Chocorua Lake Basin. Appearing in mid to late May, they flower in late May through early June. They can be found in seed until late August (or later).



Usually found in clusters of a few dozen plants. If you spot one, stop, you will see more! Common in the wooded wetlands around Chocorua Lake. 6-12 inches tall.

Adiantum pedatum—Northern Maidenhair Fern or Five-fingered Fern (not a listed species)

While not rare statewide, this is what I use as an "indicator species." I only know of one location for it locally, near Tamworth Village.



This species indicates higher levels of calcium in the soil than is common in our area. The natural community this is generally associated with is Rich Mesic Forest, consisting of Basswood and Sugar Maple trees. When you come across the beautiful fern, stop! It's time to look more closely at the rest of the plants in the area. Growth starts in early May, but plants are harder to spot until late May when the fronds unfurl. Healthy plants can be nearly two feet tall. Notice the plant in the rear of the image above—White Baneberry, *Actaea pachypoda*, another indicator plant of richer soils.

Panax quinquefolius—American Ginseng (S2—Threatened)

An example of a plant that can be found in areas where Maidenhair fern grows. These are easiest to find earlier in the year, right around the end of May, before the wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) completely leafs out. I have seen American Ginseng in one location in Tamworth. The few plants growing there are surrounded by Maidenhair fern and wild columbine. Unfortunately, this area was logged in the last few years, and I am uncertain



All photos by Keith Garrett

if these two species will survive. If you are lucky enough to find this, don't pick them! The roots take decades to grow. Note: In the photo on the previous page, the ginseng is the plant on the right, while the others in the photo are sarsaparilla. On sarsaparilla, the leaves do not all originate from the same node, as they do with ginseng.

***Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*—Yellow Lady's Slipper (S2—Threatened)**

One of my personal favorites! When I find these, I just stop, sit, and relax. Currently quite rare in our area, but historically there were several populations. These can grow in both Rich Mesic Forest and wetlands. Both populations that I have read about were near the edges of Chocorua Lake. I have searched quite a bit for them, and think that I have determined the rough locations where they were, but have yet to find them. Both populations were documented by Frederick Steele in the 1940s. I have seen them in Tuftonboro and Moultonboro, but have not re-discovered them in Tamworth—YET. Growing up to two feet tall, the best time to look for them is the last two weeks of May. They generally flower around the end of the third week of May in more exposed locations. From what I can determine from the records, one population was in a forested locale, and the other was in forested swampland.



***Neottia cordata*—Heart-leaved Twayblade or Lesser Twayblade (S2—Threatened)**

The first time I saw this tiny orchid, I was knee deep in mud in northern New Hampshire. I had picked a spot using satellite and topographic imagery just to look for this species. It was a great feeling to go out looking specifically for a plant and finding it in an undocumented location. There is one small population about a mile or so from Chocorua Lake in Madison that I discovered two years



ago, and one historical record from Hemenway State Forest. I think that it can be found in the wetlands around Chocorua Lake. These can be found as early as the second week of May, but are easiest to recognize in the last two weeks of May before they are overcome by the rest of the wetland vegetation. Usually found in thick sphagnum moss under cinnamon fern, in old, undisturbed forested wetlands. They can grow up to 10 inches tall; however, most that I find are two to three inches in height.

***Cynoglossum virginianum*—wild hound's-tongue or Wild Comfrey (S1—Endangered)**

Flowering at the same time as the yellow lady's slipper, this plant is usually found on rocky and steep hillsides under hardwood forested canopies. I say usually—but this plant has become very rare, and I have only seen it one time. This would be a fantastic find if anyone could locate it again. Tamworth has one historical record (which may also be in Albany) on Scott Road north of Chocorua Lake, on the lower section of the Hammond Trail. These grow to be about two feet in height. I would also check the lake-facing slope of Bickford Heights. Let me know if you find one or think you have seen this plant!



***Ophioglossum pusillum*—adder's tongue fern (S1—Endangered)**

This species may be as difficult to spot as *Neottia cordata*, and is probably much more rare. There was one historical record for Tamworth; interestingly enough the locale is noted as “sphagnum boggy part of meadow near Flaccus's.” This is another plant that can be found in both swamps on mossy hummocks, or in disturbed areas like logging landings. There is one current location in Hemenway State Forest on a relatively new log landing. Plants can be identified as early as mid-



May; however, they get taller as they mature. There is not much they can be confused with. Keep an eye out for this on the edges of the road and in damp areas of large fields.

On your evening walks, slow down and take a closer look at the flora around you. Our area is abundant in hundreds of interesting plants that you likely have not noticed. Here are some excellent resources to get you started.

BOOK

The Nature of New Hampshire by Dan Sperduto and Ben Kimball. This book is an essential guide to understanding the natural communities of New Hampshire.

WEBSITES

State Rare Plants List and Rare Plants by Town: nh.gov/nhdfl/reports/rare-plant-list.htm

Go Botany: gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org. Go Botany is an excellent tool published by the Native Plant Trust that allows you to search via scientific name, or common name, and has simple keys, as well as full keys for identifying every documented plant species in New England. It is based upon *Flora Novae Angliae*, by Arthur Haines.

The Consortium of Northeastern Herbaria: portal.neherbaria.org. Currently, there are 1,675 records for around 750 species of plants in Tamworth listed on the portal. These records contain the collected specimens, the date, the collector information, and generally a rough location indicating where the specimen was collected. Some of the interesting places mentioned on a few local records are “Near Whittier Village,” or “Tamworth Iron Works,” “near Hidden's,” or a current obsession of mine: “swamp between Phenix and Wainwright's.”

About Keith: I grew up in Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro, and relocated to Tamworth after taking a position at Mount Washington Observatory as Director of Technology. I am also a co-founder of New Hampshire Mushroom Company, and consider myself a student of Rick Van de Poll.

The Magic of Mussels— One of Nature’s Water Purifiers

BY LYNNE FLACCUS

Stewardship Director

Wading into the waters of Chocorua Lake, you might have stepped on something hard (perhaps with a soft curse) and discovered you’ve stepped on a freshwater mussel. Perhaps you’ve had the urge afterwards to pick up this mollusk and fling it farther into the lake so as not to repeat the painful step. I hope not.

Rather than flinging it to deeper water, take a moment to think about how far that little (or big!) mussel may have traveled from the deeper winter waters to where you have found it. Or how far with one “foot” it travels in response to rising or lowering water levels and temperatures. Mussels can’t run out of your way! In fact, in their lifetime, they may not move very far at all, and given that some can live for decades, you might consider that you are looking down on their entire home range at your feet.



Lynne Flaccus

In New Hampshire we find 10 species of native freshwater mussels, some more common, some listed as endangered or threatened. In Chocorua Lake you are likely to find the most common mussel in the state, the eastern elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*). These mussels vary in size, shape, and color. They are usually black to brown and they grow up to five inches long, so at a quick glance, you might think they are simply rocks. Most of the time they are partially embedded in the mud or sand, and may be hard to spot, except for the meandering “trail” they may leave behind.

Freshwater mussels embed themselves in the bottom sediments of lakes, ponds, and rivers where they get all of their oxygen and food by filtering

the water. Water is pumped in through one opening, or “siphon,” passed over the gills, and expelled through another siphon. Tiny cilia (hairlike structures) on the gills pass free-floating phytoplankton, bacteria and other organic material into their mouths and stomachs. In fact, mussels are so efficient at filtering water (a single mussel can filter up to 10 gallons per day!) that they have an important role in aquatic ecosystems—groups of mussels cycle nutrients and filter water in a manner that can improve water quality.

Freshwater mussels are some of the most globally threatened species, and scientists consider them another “canary in the coal mine” when it comes to changes in aquatic ecosystems.

As we all know, everything in the natural world is connected to something else—whether visible to humans or not. In the case of mussels, their ability to reproduce depends on fish. Once the eggs of a female have been fertilized, they develop into larvae called glochidia. The tiny larvae, the size of a sand grain, are released by the female and latch onto the gills or skin of fish where they become temporary parasites. Some free-floating glochidia are taken up by the fish as water is filtered through their gills, while some mussels have more elaborate strategies for increasing the chances that their larvae find a host. Lures on the mantles of certain mussels resemble insects, or look like little fish, to attract host fish to try feeding. The fishes’ attempts to feed trigger the release of the larvae from the

female mussel’s body cavity. After the larvae reach maturity on the host fish, they metamorphose into tiny mussels and fall to the bottom where they settle in to live as juvenile mussels.

The eastern elliptio uses several host fish including perch, bass, sunfish and pickerel. All these fish are found in Chocorua Lake and play a role in distributing mussels throughout the water body. Whether using a variety of hosts or only one specific species of fish, mussels depend on a healthy fish population within their habitat. Once the mussels pass through the parasite phase and drop to the bottom, the mussels are long lived, unless eaten by one of the many predators that feed on them.

Like many other animals that depend on clean water for survival, mussels do as well. While they are an important puzzle piece in the aquatic ecosystem, and are champions at filtering water, they are vulnerable to changing water and temperature levels, and to changes in water chemistry and pollution. Freshwater mussels are some of the most globally threatened species, and scientists consider them another “canary in the coal mine” when it comes to changes in aquatic ecosystems.

Next time you go for a swim, or go fishing, please take care where you step and perhaps take a moment to appreciate these unique critters and how they help, in however small a way, to keep the swimming waters of Chocorua Lake healthy for all who spend time on and in it. Do your part to keep the mussels safe.

Want to learn more about mussels? Start at the NH Fish and Game Department to see what you can do to help identify mussel distribution (bit.ly/nhfg-mussels), and check out Natural Resources Conservation Services (bit.ly/nrcs-bio) for more information.

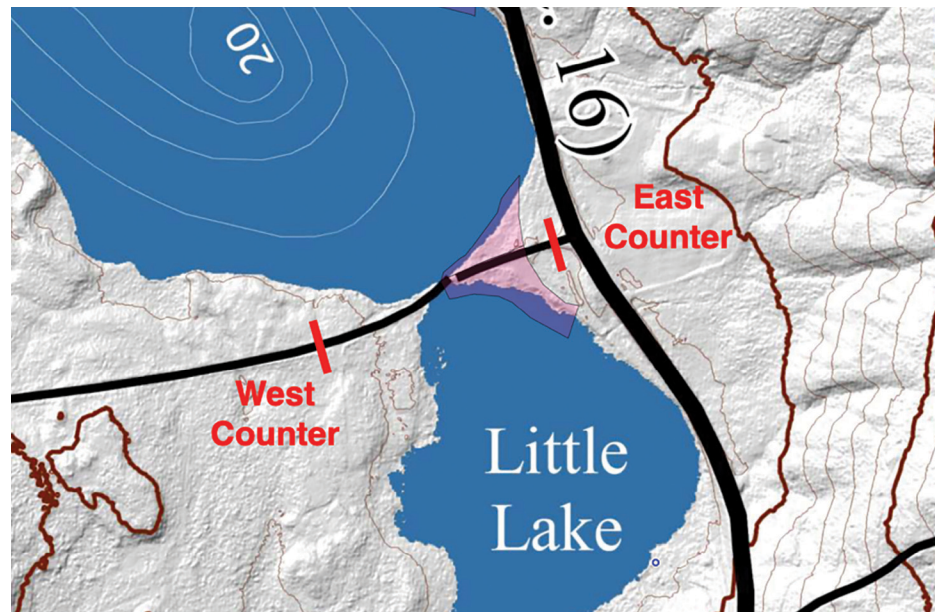
Public Usage of Conserved Lands

BY RICK ALLMENDINGER

If one of the CLC themes of summer of 2021 was Naming & Noticing, it also turned out to be a summer of counting. Because of concerns about overuse of the conserved lands in the Chocorua Lake Basin, we began to count cars visiting the Grove and hikers visiting the The Nature Conservancy's Frank Bolles Nature Reserve. The data presented here is just the start of a long-term effort to measure patterns of public use of CLC and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) lands, so this article constitutes an initial progress report.

The CLC worked with Tamworth Road Agent Richard Roberts and the Lakes Region Planning Commission to design and deploy two traffic counters on Chocorua Lake Road, an eastern one at the entrance to the Grove near the intersection with Route 16 and a western one about 500 feet west of the Narrows Bridge for a week between July 27 and August 3. By subtracting the western counter from the eastern counter, we get a snapshot of summer 2021 usage of the Grove. Here are some of the key findings:

- The maximum number of cars visiting the Grove occurs between 11 and 3PM every day of the week. The highest traffic was on Saturday, July 31 when ~430 cars visited the Grove. On other days of the week, 240-300 cars visited the Grove. Thursday and Monday both had nearly an inch of rainfall but still recorded 200-260 visiting cars.
- Traffic on the counter west of the bridge was consistently about 200 cars per day (some of those maybe the same car coming and going), except on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday when car counts rose to ~250-300. We assume that the rise is primarily due to weekend visits by property owners and renters, as well as some increase in traffic heading to the Liberty Trailhead.
- In the one week of data collected,



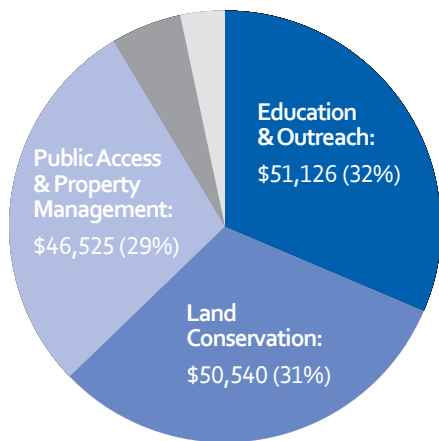
Placement of traffic counters on either side of the Narrows Bridge. | Courtesy of Rick Allmendinger

more than 5,700 cars turned onto, or off of Rt. 16 from/to Chocorua Lake Road. Rt. 16 at that intersection is in a 55-mile-per-hour speed zone and there is no turn lane or merging lane. This situation is a safety concern, one that could be ameliorated either by a turn lane or a reduced speed limit. The counter data and an extended analysis can be found on the CLC website.

Concern about overcrowding extended beyond use of the Grove to the trails north and west of the lake, especially around the fragile Heron Pond area. In response, TNC deployed two trail counters, one on the Middle Trail and one on the Heron Pond Trail, in the Bolles Reserve. Michael Crawford, the TNC steward for the Bolles Reserve, reports that the Middle Trail counter recorded 170 visitors in the four months between July and November, an average of 1.3 people per day. It is probably less than that because a single person, walking out and back, would have been counted twice. As the Middle Trail is part of a frequent morning loop taken by the author of this piece, at least twenty of those counts were him and his wife on their morning walks through the Clark

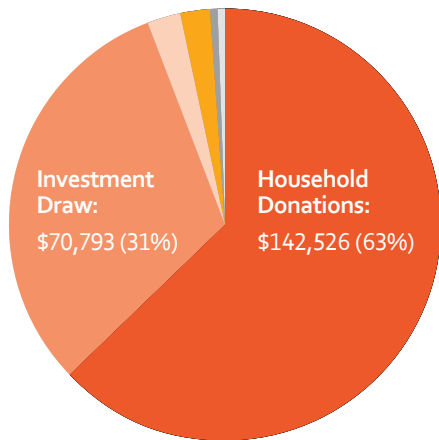
and Bolles preserves! Unfortunately, the Heron Pond Trail counter suffered water damage and the counts were unrecoverable. Overall, though, the existing counts point to low usage of the preserve, although TNC is planning to deploy trail counters again on both trails in the summer of 2022.

The data from summer 2021 highlight the need for extended records of the usage patterns of the precious areas that we steward. The CLC experience in the summer of 2020 is part of a national trend of people rediscovering nature, taking walks and hikes, and enjoying swimming and paddling in beautiful pristine waters. Make no mistake: this is a good thing, especially when coupled with an awareness of how valuable and fragile these places are. By measuring usage patterns, we can begin to quantify actual, rather than anecdotal, use and impact and thus determine when these areas experience too much of a good thing. Good data is a key to developing strategies going forward. The CLC is in active discussions to develop a longer-term traffic measurement strategy. We welcome your feedback.



EXPENSES: \$161,735

- Education & Outreach: \$51,126 (32%)
- Land Conservation: \$50,540 (31%)
- Public Access & Property Management: \$46,525 (29%)
- Membership & Fundraising: \$8,214 (5%)
- Administration: \$5,330 (3%)



OPERATING INCOME: \$226,070

- Household Donations: \$142,526 (63%)
- Investment Draw: \$70,793 (31%)
- Grants: \$5,496
- Business Partners: \$5,053
- Merchandise Sales: \$1,252
- Donations In Kind: \$950

HELP US FIND GREAT BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

The CLC Board of Directors and its committees are made up of people with diverse skills, viewpoints, and interests who share a love of the Chocorua area. Some enjoy outdoor, hands-on stewardship work, some work on projects to protect additional land, and some build relationships with donors and other funding organizations.

Do you know someone who would make a good Board or committee candidate? Think about your family members, friends, neighbors and colleagues in the community, and share your ideas by **June 20** with Melissa Baldwin, Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee, mbaldwin@chocorualake.org.

We'd like to know why you believe the person is a good candidate. The Nominating Committee will evaluate all suggestions and present a recommended slate to the Board, and the Board will present its recommended slate for action by the CLC membership at the **Annual Meeting & Social Hour on Saturday, August 20, from 4-6PM** at Runnells Hall, in Chocorua Village.

We are excited to meet people who want to help guide the CLC through the next seasons!

—Melissa Baldwin

Thank you so much to all of our 2022 Business Partners for your generous support of our mission.

Mount Chocorua Partners

- Good Neighbor Fence
- Gordon Moore Electrical Contractor, Inc.
- Rockhopper Races LLC
- Stoney Brooke Sawyers, LLC

- Mac Hill Electric
- The Farmstand
- The Preserve at Chocorua
- Whippletree Winery
- Winnepesaukee Chocolates
- Yankee Smokehouse

Heron Pond Partners

- Ammonoosuc Survey Co., Inc.
- Costantino Real Estate, LLC
- Gamwell, Caputo, Kelsch & Co., PLLC
- New Hampshire Mushroom Company
- SAFT America, Inc.
- Thirst Productions
- White Mountain Survey & Engineering, Inc.

Business Partners

- Cafe Noche
- Exit Realty Leaders
- Minuteman Press
- Paul L. King Land Surveying
- White Mountain Oil & Propane
- Whiteface Hollow

Mount Paugus Partners

- Conway Daily Sun
- Forest Land Improvement

If you would like to support our work through a donation via your business, please visit chocorualake.org/partners.



A rosy maple moth (*Dryocampa rubicunda*). | Juno Lamb

THANK YOU!

Enormous gratitude to the 110 people who generously volunteered their time last year to spread wood chips to protect the shoreline of Chocorua Lake, water new plantings, contain invasive plants, steward particular properties or trails, share their expertise, serve on our board and committees, help with mailings and events, offer educational programs, write articles, draw pictures, and take photographs—and more. Our work is not possible without you, dear 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.

If you would like to volunteer for the CLC, please contact info@chocorualake.org or fill out the form on the Volunteer page at chocorualake.org/volunteer.

2021 VOLUNTEERS

Mary Ackerman-Hayes	Troy Emerson	Susan Kunhardt	Sheldon Perry
Mark Albee	Andy Fisher	Bruce Larson	Debbie Rich
Rick Allmendinger	May Fisher	Greg Lanou	Ian Rich
Elizabeth Ames	Kristina Folcik	Neely Lanou	Jason Rich
John Ames	Anne Foley	Steve Lanou	Michael Rich
Melissa Baldwin	Alan Fullerton, Jr.	Julie Leger-Fullerton	Susan Rich
Jane Bell	Lucy Gatchell	Pete Lewis	Tim Rich
Amy Berrier	Geoff Gill	Isabelle Margerit	Nancy Roosa
Kathy Bird	Karen Gill	Caleb Mathias	Bob Seston
Amy Bono	Susan Goldhor	Bill Mayer	Lydia Shrier
Ann Borges	Linda Graetz	Mary McAllister	Greg Shute
Mike Borys	Sumac Grant-Johnson	Tish McIlwraith	Norm Sizemore
Mason Browne	Kathy Greenough	Jean McKinney	Jack Starmer
Kaelie Buchanan	Christopher Hadden	John McKinney	Amanda Swinchoski
Chris Canfield	Sarah Lloyd Hall	Betsy Memishian	Louisa Swinchoski
Molly Canfield	Benedicte Hallowell	Wendy Memishian	Louise Taylor
Willa Canfield	Pen Hallowell	Eric Milligan	Sally Tipton
Anne Chant	Roger Hallowell	Kit Morgan	Peaco Todd
Dennis Chesley	Rory Hallowell	Suzanne Balomenos	Gail Troseth
Charles Colten	Don Hayes	Morgan	Mieke van der
Rich Comer	Harriet Hofheinz	Alex Moot	Wansem
Geoff Cunningham	Bob Holdsworth	Amey Moot	Pieter van Loon
Jim Diamond	Peter Houghton	Ellis Moot	Jack Waylett
Maureen Diamond	Christi Humphrey	Clark Moses	Ruth Weld
Jean Downey	Jim Humphrey	Larry Nickerson	Linda Weld
Chris Downing	Sandy Johnson	Sharon Nothnagle	John Wheeler
Betsy Eaton	Susan Johnson	Nick Orlando	Peg Wheeler
Melissa Emerson	David Kunhardt	Nina Perry	Penny Wheeler-Abbott

“*Attention—the most basic form of love... Whenever we wholeheartedly attend to the person we’re with, to the tree in our front yard, or to a squirrel perched on a branch, this living energy becomes an intimate part of who we are.*”

—TARA BRACH



The gorgeous mimicry of the male Luna moth's eyespots (*Actias luna*). | Juno Lamb

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Place & Story

BY LYNNE FLACCUS

Stewardship Director

Everybody loves a good story. Over the course of the last nearly six years, I have heard many wonderful stories from landowners around Chocorua Lake as well as from Tamworth and Chocorua residents and visitors alike. CLC members, landowners, contractors and volunteers I've worked with, and short-term visitors that I have run into on a random day at the lake, have all shared unique stories.

I am grateful to all for the opportunity to have met so many people with different backgrounds and connections to the area—and to learn that whether they are short-term visitors or multigenerational residents, their stories convey amazing passion and show me how attached to this place they feel.

Sometimes the stories have been about wildlife encounters—moose and bear passing through, a snapping turtle following a canoe, a HUGE bobcat, flying squirrels in midday, a deer falling through the ice, gray fox pups under a deck, and even a hitchhiking cormorant on a kayak. Those wildlife encounters make lasting memories for the

observers, and connect them to place.

Trail days, hiking the mountain in the wee hours of the morning for sunrise, jumping in the lake on a below freezing day, spreading mulch at the lake, kayaking the shore, skating on a clear blue-sky winter day, casting a fly to a trout while a loon swims close by, or swimming laps. These recreational activities also help connect people to a place. Though sightings or encounters or activities or meeting someone for the first time at the lake may seem inconsequential, for the storyteller, these events can leave lasting impressions.

I've loved the stories of growing up in the area around Tamworth and Chocorua, on the lake, or on the mountain, and the stories that provide historical background. I have learned a lot from those stories, some filled with traditions started by great-grandparents or aunts and uncles long since passed. I've discovered stories and people who blend into my own family connections, of times past and perhaps memories temporarily forgotten.

Wonderful stories have also come from those who have spent less time around the Basin, but who have already started their own history, making

new connections to place, time and people. I've been appreciative of those who have joined the ranks of CLC as volunteers and found ways to connect to the land and give back with their time. I hope that I've provided them with some stories and opportunities to help them connect.

One memory that has stuck in my mind is a stewardship visit to a property off of Savary Road, now the Browne, Greenough and VerPlanck Forest recently donated to the CLC. It was a beautiful clear day in early spring, with snow still on the ground. I stumbled across the tracks of a bear in the snow, crossing the wetlands and marching onto an "island" of large pines north of the Chocorua River. Obviously newly aroused, the bear wandered as if they were checking on spring's progress—scratching bark, digging in the exposed soil. The day is imprinted in my brain—the sights and smells of spring and the wonder of the bear's wanderings. I'm grateful that the wetlands and that island of trees will be conserved for the bear, and so many other animals and plants; grateful too for the vision of the family who was willing to share their own personal stories and connections to a place by making the property available to all.

To all CLC members—I hope you will take time for experiences outdoors around the Chocorua watershed and find your own sense of place and stories to share!

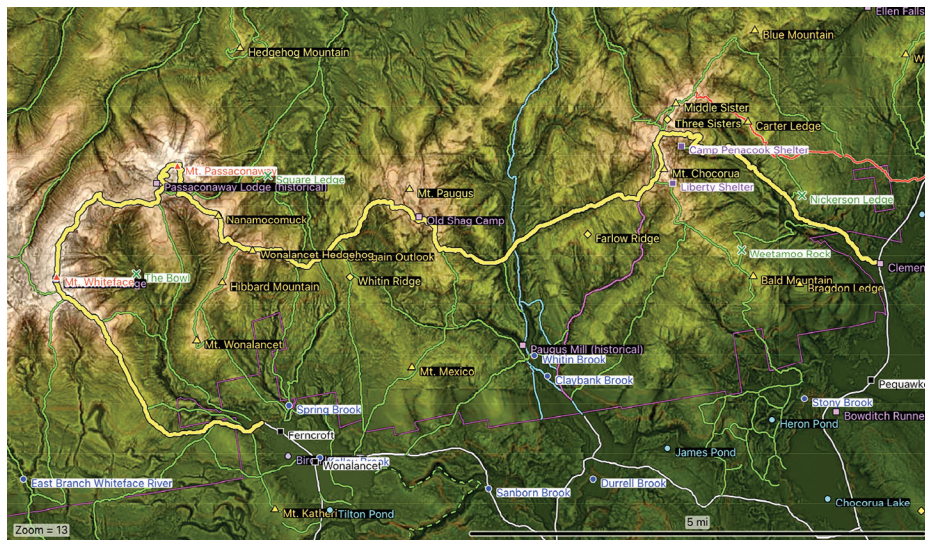
Katherine Loring's Hike, Part Two

BY RICK ALLMENDINGER

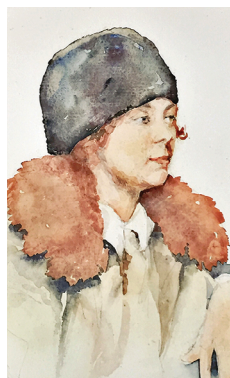
I was fascinated by the description in the CLC Fall 2021 Newsletter of Katherine Loring's hike across the Sandwich Range 100 years ago. What she did was no small feat but perhaps is emblematic of a group of intrepid women hikers in the early twentieth century who could easily out-walk most recreational hikers today. To illustrate her achievement, I reconstructed her route in one of my own hiking apps for the White Mountains that allow me to accurately measure distance and elevation gain/loss. In the image at right, her route is shown by the heavy yellow line; modern trails are in green, magenta, and red, and a few key roads in white. In the base map, the colors grade from dark green at the lowest elevations, through brown, to white at the highest elevations.

The modern equivalent of the route she took is 18.8 miles long with a cumulative uphill elevation gain of a bit more than 9,700 feet! The route was probably a bit longer and with more elevation gain, because it appears that her group went to the top of Paugus (not easy, and not on the modern trail, today). In terms of elevation gain, this is equivalent to climbing Chocorua via the Piper Trail three times in a twelve hour period. In terms of length, it is about two and a half times the round trip distance up and down the Piper Trail.

Although there are "only" two 4,000 footers on this hike, these trails, especially the Brook/Beeline/Old Paugus Trail and the Walden Trail (named after the founder of the famous Chinook Kennels), are seriously steep and rough trails, as are parts of the Lawrence Trail and the top of the Blueberry Ledge Trail. The latter, as well as the top of the Brook Trail on Chocorua, are infamous enough that they appear on the so-called "Terrifying 25" (elective) list for the White Mountains. We do love our hiking lists in the Whites!



Above: The path of Katherine Loring's 1921 hike. | Courtesy of Rick Allmendinger. Below: The intrepid Katherine Loring in 1923, just a couple of years after her long hike. Painting by Charles G. Loring (Katherine's husband). | Courtesy of Chris Hadden



Though not as long as the "Pemi Loop"—30 miles, 11,350 ft. of cumulative uphill, seven 4,000 and two 5,000 footers(!)—that elite speed hikers and trail runners today try to

complete in one day, the average slope of Katherine Loring's hike was actually steeper and her achievement remarkable. My mother used to tell the story of staying at the Chocorua Inn in the 1920s when a male guest staying there climbed Chocorua three times in one day. Undoubtedly, Katherine Loring could have given him a run for his money. No wonder her descendants decided not to repeat her hike but instead toast her at cocktail hour!

Download the White Mtn Hiker app series

To create the map and topo profile (view the latter at chocorualake.org) of Katherine Loring's hike, Rick used one of the apps in his new suite of hiking apps, now joining the Chocorua Map app that he created in 2019. The White Mtn Hiker series includes three free hiking apps for iOS devices (iPhones and iPads): Presi covers from Crawford Notch to the NH-ME Border, and from the northern end of the Presidentials to the south side of the Sandwich Range (Including Chocorua). Pemi covers from Franconia to Crawford Notch and from the north side of the Pemigewasset Wilderness to the south side of the Sandwich Range. Finally, Moosi covers the area west of Franconia Notch from north of Cannon Mt. to South of Stinson Mountain, including all of Mt. Moosilauke and the Kinsman Ridge. Rick says: "I wrote these apps for my own hiking but if they're useful to others, so much the better." The apps prioritize two things of interest to serious hikers: offline access to data about their hike (base maps, topography, trails, and POIs) and privacy. With an internet connection, one can get a weather forecast for any point on the map and see NWS radar plotted right on the hiking base map. A complete description can be found at rickallmendinger.net/wmhapps.

In Memoriam: Richmond Talbot Page MAY 2, 1940 – FEBRUARY 25, 2022

We remember with great affection and abundant gratitude Richmond Talbot Page, known to his friends and family as Toby.

Toby was a dedicated husband and father, a crusader against pollution and climate change, an inspiring professor of economics and environmental studies at Brown University, and a witty and droll storyteller.

In the mid-'80s, Toby and his family—Theo, Rachel, and Sam—bought an old farmhouse in Chocorua. Toby summured there with his family for the next 30 years. He served as president of the Chocorua Lake Association beginning in 1996 at which time he turned his attention to the deteriorating quality of the lake water. He would delight in racing out during a heavy rain storm to collect samples of water flowing into the lake from the hillsides which, when analyzed, showed high amounts of phosphorus. He organized the coming together of six federal, state and local agencies along with the CLA, to initiate



Toby Page. | Courtesy of Theo Page

what became known as the “Berms and Swales Project,” a catchment system for the water and sediment running into the lake. A year

after completion, the water quality in Chocorua Lake showed an 82% reduction in phosphorus. The water quality remains consistently good to this day and the project has gotten nationwide attention.

Toby also served as CLCF Trustee, and had a large impact on both organizations. He was the force behind the launch of the Fund for Chocorua Lake (FCL) which raised nearly \$600,000 during 1999-2000, and enabled the CLA/CLCF to acquire and protect the Brown Lot (150 acres), Moose Meadows (17 acres), the Burt Lot (14 acres), and other smaller properties over the next decade or so. In all, he served on the CLA

and CLCF boards for 17 years (CLA 1987-2000, 2002-2006; CLCF 1995-2000) and as CLA President for five years (and four years as CLA's VP).

After he retired from Brown in 2006, Toby continued his interest in environmental problems. He was at work on an environmental textbook when, sadly, Alzheimer's disease set in. Although unable to keep writing, he continued to meet twice a year with a storytelling group led by Jay O'Callahan that he and his wife had been a part of for over 20 years. He told stories about his years in the Peace Corps, as a professor, and as a dad.

Toby will be remembered for his gentle thoughtfulness, his sharpness of observation, and his musing intelligence. He touched so many people's lives and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. We feel the ripples of his life in the clean, clear waters of Chocorua Lake and the protected lands where wildlife are free to roam.

Help Wanted: Property Stewards

BY LYNNE FLACCUS
Stewardship Director

The CLC is in search of adventurous souls who would be interested in becoming property stewards and monitors. This volunteer job involves getting outside and exploring, albeit with a mission! Stewards visit their adopted property at least once per year, walking all or portions of the property and its boundaries, and send in a report when complete. Very simple, and it can be done on your schedule.

Some properties have trails and require a few extra notes on trail conditions; some large and some small properties can be matched to the interests of adventurous volunteers; and some properties can be shared with a buddy. Every acre of a property doesn't have to be walked every year—but having eyes and ears on the ground in different areas

each year is a huge benefit to the CLC.

The CLC will work with you to identify a property to fit your interests, provide training, maps, a report form, and will accompany you on your first visit. We have a really cool phone app that is easy to use and will automatically download all of your pictures and track where you go. Or if you prefer using a compass and paper map, we can provide those as well.

Here are some properties in need of stewards and the extra eyes and ears:

The Clark Reserve (our largest): it has trails and some boundaries that would need walking. This is a good property for two or more buddies to take on, either separately or together.

The new Browne, Greenough, and VerPlanck Forest off of Savary Road is 75 acres. Boundaries are easy to follow, and it includes a beautiful wetland to explore. Ever seen a phantom crane fly? This may be your chance. If you are interested in seeing how forests change over time, this is a cool opportunity as the previous owner did a timber harvest in 2017.

The Burt Lot is a 17-acre narrow strip along Route 16 in Albany between Route 16 and the Chocorua River. Easy walking on relatively level ground, and you can explore the shores of the river. It looks different here than where it crosses Scott Road.

The Woodhouse Reserve is 14 acres at the northern end of the Lake just beyond the Tamworth Residents Beach. It has an informal trail and follows the shore of the lake. Here you can check the wood duck boxes for us and report on their use. Vernal pools, too!

The Island is one of the heavily used public areas on the lake. We would love to involve a volunteer in walking the informal trail there to keep an eye on use and any need for management. If you come often to swim, paddle board, or kayak, this could be a good one for you.

If stewarding or monitoring one of these properties is of interest, please email Lynne at lfaccus@chocorualake.org or call the office. We'll be offering a training morning or afternoon this spring.

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: Rick Allmendinger, Dwight Baldwin, Melissa Baldwin, Jim Diamond, Maureen Diamond, Lynne Flaccus, Kristina Folcik, Christopher Hadden (images by Charles G. Loring), Juno Lamb, Neely Lanou, Patricia Lavigne via Unsplash, Jean McKinney, Alex Moot, Kit Morgan, Theo Page, Sheldon Perry, Peg Wheeler, and the CLC Board of Directors

Chocorua Lake Conservancy

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603-323-6252



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.



Do you have daylilies that need dividing? Please consider donating some to the CLC before May 19 for a community daylily garden at the Chocorua Lake Basin View Lot. Learn more at bit.ly/CLC-daylilies. | Patricia Lavigne on Unsplash

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Annual Report
- Thank You, Lynne
- Rare & Interesting Plants of the Chocorua Lake Basin & Tamworth
- Nature Notes: The Magic of Mussels—One of Nature's Water Purifiers
- Lake & Trail Usage
- Help Wanted: Property Stewards
- Stewardship Corner: Place & Story
- Katherine Loring's Hike, part two
- In Memoriam: Toby Page
- Paintings, photographs, and more...

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