

Chocorua Lake Conservancy

Spring 2015

Conserving the Basin since 1968



Ice-out on Lake Chocorua on April 19, 2015

Photo: John Watkins

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The Chocorua Lake Conservancy is an all-volunteer, non-profit land conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the scenic and natural resources of the Chocorua Lake Basin and surrounding area for the benefit of all present and future visitors.

Find us online at:

chocorualakeconservancy.org

[facebook.com/
chocorua.lake.conservancy](https://facebook.com/chocorua.lake.conservancy)



Chocorua Lake Water Testing: A History

By Dwight Baldwin

Ongoing interest in the health of Chocorua Lake began in the mid-1970s when UNH students of freshwater biology started coming on field trips to practice water sampling techniques learned in class. These irregular sampling events were limited at first, but in 1981 Chocorua Lake became one of the first lakes to join the Lakes Lay Monitoring program administered by UNH Center for Freshwater Biology.

Through the efforts of a few dedicated Conservancy volunteers, including Art Baldwin, Toby Page and Dwight Baldwin, Chocorua Lake boasts the second longest uninterrupted record of water quality in the State of New Hampshire. Each year, a minimum of ten samples are collected at a given location on the lake and these are tested for eight water-quality parameters.

First Signs of Trouble

By 1995, this database of information proved critically important in highlighting the slow deterioration of water quality in Chocorua Lake. Algal (Chlorophyll *a*) concentrations in the water column were increasing as a consequence of increasing total dissolved phosphorous, and the clarity of water in the lake was being impacted negatively.

Continued on page 2

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Under Toby Page's leadership, and with the help of the Center for Freshwater Biology, a year-long phosphorous analysis was undertaken in 1996-1997 to determine the inflow and outflow of phosphorous in the lake. Over 200 phosphorus samples were analyzed and more than 225 stream-gage or culvert readings were recorded. This study showed that, although the Chocorua River was the greatest contributor of total phosphorous to the lake, the small drainage areas along Route 16 on the eastern shoreline contributed a disproportionately high load (15%).

What To Do?

With a grant from the NHDES, the Chocorua Lake Conservancy and six federal, state and local agencies came together in 2000 to initiate what was termed the "Berms and Swales Project" and is now officially known as the "Chocorua Lake Project." This project included the installation of a system to catch water and sediment running out of these small watersheds on the eastern shore before they enter the lake, and to reduce stream-channel erosion.

Results

The year after the "Chocorua Lake Project" was completed, water quality monitoring showed an impressive 82% reduction in phosphorus entering Chocorua Lake. More impressively, fifteen years of data collected since the berms and swales were installed demonstrate that the troubling water quality indicators have stabilized.

The "Chocorua Lake Project" has been recognized by several awards, including the "Conservation Award of the Year" by the Carroll County Conservation District in 2001 and the "Technical Excellence Award" from the North American Lake Management Society in 2002. In 2003, it became a model demonstration project and "best management practice" for road agents from New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts.

Summary

Thanks to the efforts of many people, Chocorua Lake has an almost 30 year record of water-quality data making it one of the longest such databases in the State of New Hampshire. This record proved invaluable as it was instrumental in recognizing the slow deterioration of water quality that had been going on for many years prior to the late 1990s. This insight mobilized the Conservancy to apply for and receive grants which allowed steps to be taken to ameliorate the problems.

The Loon Preservation Committee wrote in a recent newsletter: *"Like people, loons are looking for clear water, quiet shorelines and good fishing and they have found those qualities on Chocorua Lake"*. This water-quality program has preserved the lake for all who enjoy the quiet peace and beauty of this special place!

Water-Quality Projects

By Dwight Baldwin

Three other water-quality studies/projects have been completed since the installation of the best management practices on the eastern shore.

Measuring the Impact of Logging of the Bowditch-Runnells State Forest

In response to concern about a planned logging project close to the Chocorua River upstream from the lake in the winter of 2000-01, the State of NH conducted a monthly sampling program from May 2000 through July 2001. Results of the study indicated that the logging did not significantly affect the river.

Chocorua Watershed Project Phase II

From May through October of 2003, a study looked at the impact of the wetlands on the quality of river water upstream from the lake. This study indicated that water-quality parameters change in a complex manner from spring to fall and no conclusive results were reached.

Control of Shoreline Erosion in Grove and Island

In 2008 and 2009, funds were obtained from the State of New Hampshire to remediate the severe erosion of the shoreline in the picnic area between the big and little lakes. This work has stabilized the shore thereby reduced sediment and nutrient input to the big lake.



Loon near Narrows Bridge

Photo: Alex Moot

Want to know more?

To see the work of the Chocorua Lake Conservancy in action, stay in tune with the latest Conservancy activities, and support our efforts to preserve the natural beauty of the Chocorua Lake Basin, please visit our web site and Facebook page:

chocorualakeconservancy.org

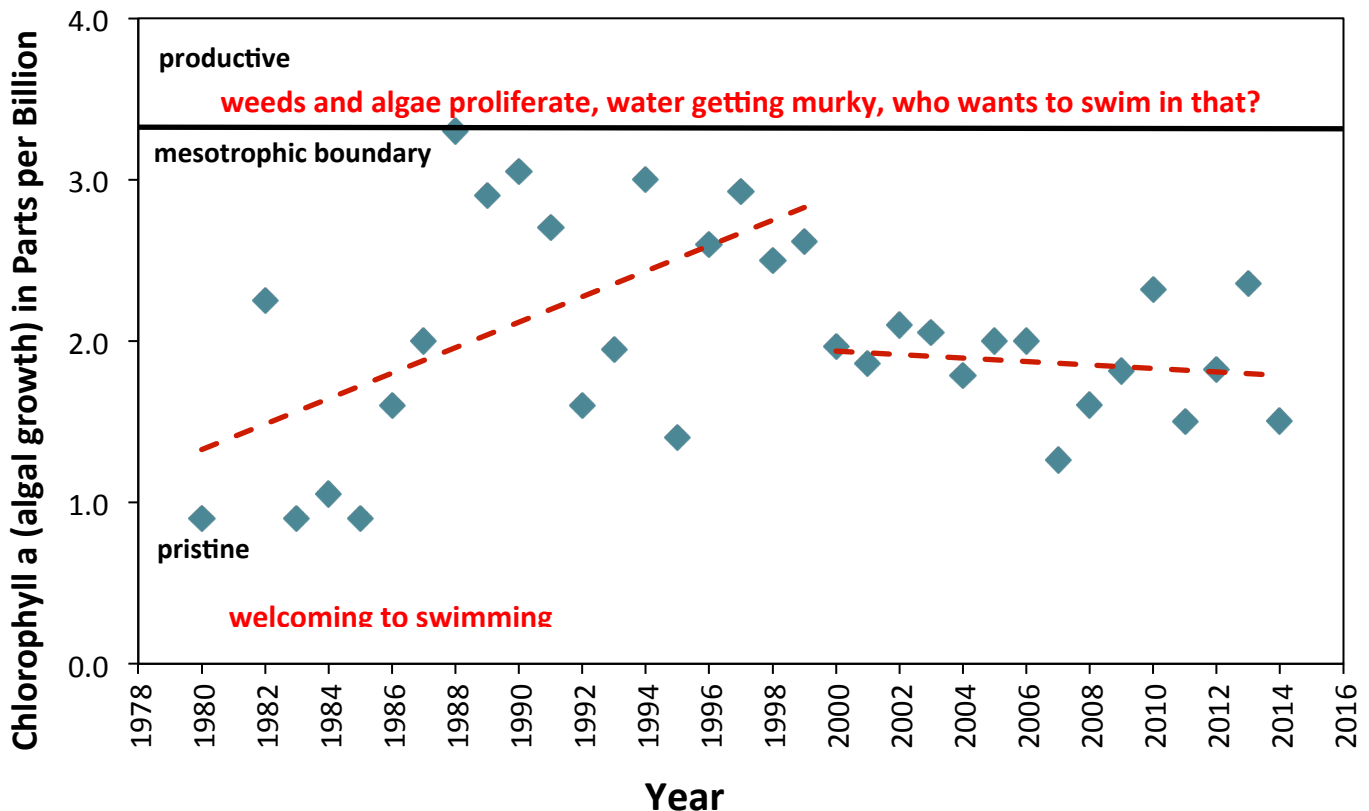
facebook.com/chocorua.lake.conservancy



Wildlife Notes

John Conroy reported that the Loon Center rescued 3 first-year loons from the frozen coast in January and February. Two did not survive, but the third was released after it recuperated at the Center.

Annual Median Chlorophyll *a* - Algal Growth Index



Courtesy of Robert Craycraft, UNH Cooperative Extension



Photo: Sara Lloyd Hall

Want to Help?

The Conservancy is looking for Committee volunteers:

- **Land Conservation Committee** is responsible for the stewardship of properties protected by covenants and easements held by the Conservancy, and for the identification and acquisition of new easements and other land interests which help the Conservancy achieve its mission.
- **Lake Protection Committee** monitors the water quality in both Chocorua Lake and its tributaries and prevents invasive aquatic species from entering the Chocorua Lake.
- **Property Management Committee** manages all Conservancy-owned properties, including all public access areas.
- **Education & Outreach Committee** communicates the Conservancy's mission, goals and programs, and organizes educational workshops and community-building events.
- **Governance & Nominating Committee** is responsible for the general affairs of the Board of Directors and board Committees, for identifying and nominating new Board and Committee members, and for records management.
- **Finance Committee** oversees the fiscal affairs of the Conservancy and the work of the Treasurer.
- **Development & Membership Committee** implements fundraising efforts which promote membership growth and create a diverse revenue stream that ensures the Conservancy has the financial means to carry out its mission in perpetuity.

If you or a friend are interested in joining a CLC Committee, please contact Peg Wheeler at margaretwheeler0@gmail.com

➡ See more online at: <http://wp.me/pxC4v-sm>

Wildlife Notes

Three eagles, two mature and one immature, stationed themselves at the head of the Lake eating any leftovers fishermen threw on the ice, as well as a deer carcass. They ate 20 fish in one afternoon, according to John Watkins. We'll see if they stay around for their breeding and nesting season.

These predators would certainly upset our beloved loons. However, like clockwork, they happily returned soon after the ice was out to investigate and prepare their nest. With no identifying leg bands, it's impossible to be sure, but it is presumed that this is the pair from last year.

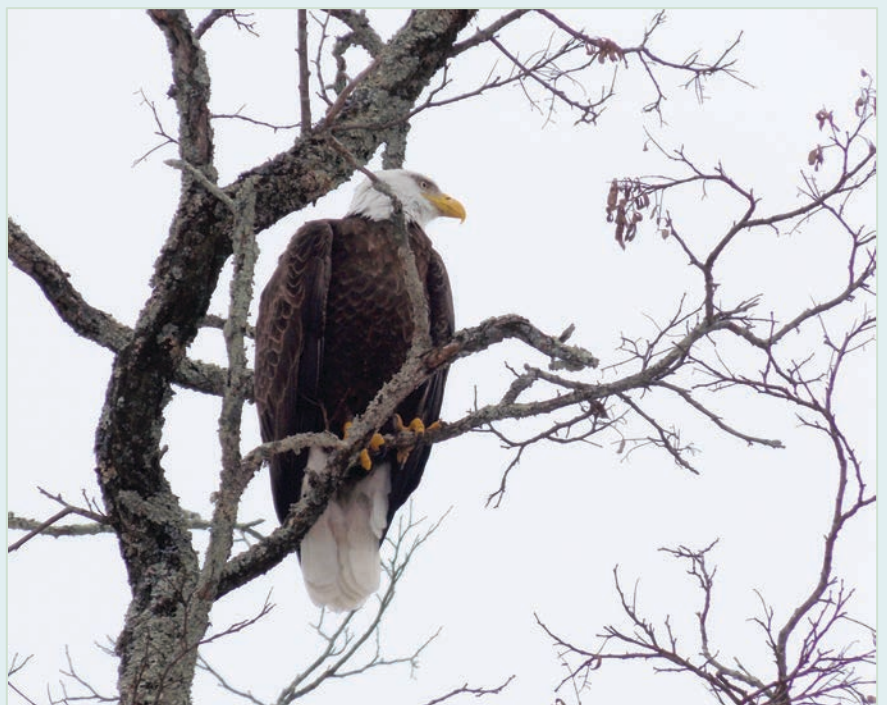


Photo: Ed Parsons

Annual Report

Chocorua Lake Conservancy

2014 Financial Summary

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of our members and other donors for their generous support during 2014 to the Chocorua Lake Conservancy.

During 2014, the Conservancy and its two predecessor organizations received \$70,025 in contributions from 218 members and 30 other donors. The Conservancy also received \$17,848 in grant funding for merger-related costs.

The Conservancy benefited from an impressive 88% membership renewal rate during 2014. We added a record 46 first-time members during 2014, and the number of local year-round members more than doubled.

The Conservancy and its two predecessor organizations spent a total of \$78,834 during 2014 in the following areas:

- **Public Access:**
We spent \$35,121 (45%) maintaining eighteen Conservancy-owned properties and providing public access to Chocorua Lake.
- **Land Conservation:**
We spent \$19,613 (25%) on land conservation projects and stewardship of conservation easements and covenants held by the Conservancy on seventy-four properties in the Chocorua Lake Basin.
- **Education & Outreach:**
We spent \$9,549 (12%) to publish and distribute the Conservancy newsletter, host member events, attend land trust conferences, and maintain our website.
- **Merger:**
We spent \$8,313 (10%) on legal expenses related to the merger.
- **Administration & Finance:**
We spent \$3,655 (5%) on general and other administrative expenses (insurance, legal, accounting, tax preparation).
- **Development & Membership:**
We spent \$2,199 (3%) on fundraising appeal mailings and other fundraising-related activities.

Board of Directors (2014-15)

Alex Moot, President
 Harriet Hofheinz, Vice President
 Margaret Wheeler, Vice President
 Robert Seston, Treasurer
 Penny Wheeler-Abbott, Secretary
 Dwight Baldwin
 Donald Johnson
 Steven Lanou
 Jean McKinney
 Tisha McIlwraith
 John Watkins
 Stephen Weld

We are grateful for the generosity, trust, and most importantly, commitment of our members to our mission. The Conservancy is an all-volunteer organization and only succeeds in our mission to protect the scenic and natural resources of the Chocorua Lake Basin because of our members.

Alex Moot
 President (2014-15)

Chocorua Lake Conservancy

-- 2014 Members & Donors --

Mt Chocorua Society (\$2,500+)

Linda and Stephen Weld Jr.

Anonymous

Anonymous

Narrows Bridge Society (\$250-\$499)

Ann W. Allmendinger

Richard Allmendinger & Teresa Jordan

Diana Bailey

Arthur and Melissa Baldwin

Dwight and Barbara Baldwin

David and Jennifer Buchanan

John and Michelle Cleveland

David and Patricia Farley

Ross and Bonnie Hall

Rebecca Tipton, M.D. & John Hiebert, M.D.

Fritz Hofheinz & Lisa Evangelista

David G. Kanter

Thomas Korson & The Honorable Mary Mullarkey

Gregory Lanou & Tracy Skillin-Lanou

Dene Hofheinz Lee & Thomas Lee

Howard H. Lewis

Peter Lewis & Joanne Kelley

John and Kathleen Mathews

Jean and John McKinney

Donal & Gillian O'Callaghan

Thomas and Joan Peters

Leticia Robbins McIlwraith & Andrew McIlwraith

John and Dawn Roberts

Robert and Carolyn Seston

Robert and Catherine Stone

Amanda Worcester Swinchoski & Michael Swinchoski

Jane Thompson Witzel & Erich Witzel

Nathaniel Tipton & Elizabeth Crane Tipton

Roger T. Twitchell Jr.

Robert and Sandra Watkins

Andrew and Mathilda Wheeler

Margaret Wheeler

Penny Wheeler-Abbott & George Abbott

Penelope Wheeler Pi-Sunyer & Xavier Pi-Sunyer

Claude and Martha Wintner

Edward and Willa Wolcott

Townsend Zwart & Anne Twitchell Zwart

Anonymous

Lake Chocorua Society (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Mark Bowditch

Susan Twitchell Engelmann & Earl Engelmann

Richard and Nancy Fryberger

Robert and Cornelia Lanou

William Mayer

Alex Moot & Nancy Roosa

Ellen G. Moot

John and Mary Watkins

Family Members (\$80-\$249)

David Alexander, M.D. & Christina Tarasczuk

Timothy B. Baldwin

Leah Watkins Beane & Crosby Beane

Edgar Bisson

Nola Boomer

Mason and Joan Browne

Laura Cannon & Sean Kerwin

Margaret Cannon

Winthrop Cannon

Sarah Chamberlin

Charles Lewis

Bruce Bowditch

Russell B. Clark

Ian & Janet Cooke

Douglas E. Coulter

Keith and Patricia Cunningham

James R. Dodge

Jean and Mark Downey

David L. Eastman

Richard J. Ewell

Anne M. Foley

Christopher Foley & Mary Ellis

Christine Cannon Fredericks & Andrew

Fredericks

Sandy Freeto Peterson & Mark Smith

Vivian and William Gast

Wayne and Nancy Ghirardini

Peter and Susan Gill

James Goldman & Alyce Zellers

Richard and Elinor Griffin

Robert and Katharine Griffin

Sarah and Richard Hall

Roger and Benedicte Hallowell

Jeffrey and Miriam Harlan

Michael and Sarah Harlan

Michael and Elizabeth Hauser

William and Eleanor Helm

Lawson Hockman & Jacqueline Wolfe

John and Patricia Hoffman

Sarah Watkins Hromadka

Derek H. Katz

Megan Cunningham & Thomas Kavanaugh

John and Ellen Kumm

Anita Kunhardt

Elizabeth Lanou Chadwick & Herbee Chadwick

J. Rudolphe Lewis

Margo Lewis & John Hochschwender

David Little & Tracey Collins

Barbara Lloyd

Douglas MacLean & Susan Wolf

Calvert Magruder

Michael Magruder

Howard and Nancy Mathews

Virginia Mayer

Betsy Whitman Memishian & Barry Memishian

Little Lake Society (\$500-\$999)

Geoffrey and Karen Gill

Harriet Hofheinz

Stanley and Adria Katz

Steven Lanou & Mieke van der Wansem

Kent and Kay Miller

Amey Moot & Kem Stewart

Stephen and Sarah Tipton

Pam Watkins Sedler & Rick Sedler

Kathryn and Leonard Wheeler Jr.

John and Catherine Mersfelder

Dana Miller

Patrick Miller & Pamela Andruszkiewicz

Peter Miller

Andrew Mockler & Jennifer Marshall

James & Kimberly Moir

Tim Naimi & Chetna Mehrotra

Samuel and Damon Newsom

Margaret Nighswander

Talbot and Theo Page

Andrea Pi-Sunyer & Derek Trelstad

Joanna Pi-Sunyer & Michael Ballo

Olivia Pi-Sunyer & Andrew DeVore

Beatrice Porter

Julie Porter

Robert and Alix Pratt

Kai and Maureen Rasmussen

Michael Rich, M.D. & Lydia Shrier, M.D.

Michael Robbins

Alexander and Margaret Rubel

Marion Lloyd Salois & Dean Salois

Robert Sedgwick & Helen Torelli

Sarah Smith

Ted Smyth & Mary Breasted

Elizabeth Twitchell Snyder

Cynthia Sunderland

David Grasse, Operations Manager

Ann and Bob Teese

Deborah Tipton & Shi-Ling Hsu

James and Margaret Turk

Anne Twitchell

Timothy and Elizabeth Twitchell

Yasu Uedo & Stella O'Leary

Andrea Marie and Robert Vibbert Jr.

Gary and Diane Viera

Philip and Regina Wagner

Alice Waylett

Ted and Celine Wheaton

John Wheeler & Gail Troseth

Laura Wheeler & Jeff Landesman

George and Barbara Whitesides

Hugh and Mary Whitman

Thomas and Suzanne Wintner

Nicholas and Annie Lloyd Witte

John Woodhouse II & Deborah Pearson

Woodhouse

Marilyn Woodhouse

Barbara P. Worcester

Edward Worcester

John Young

Lisa and Lance Zack

Hannah Zwart Hornsby & Michael Hornsby

Gerrit Zwart

Gretchen Zwart & Pam Owens

Anonymous

Bold	Member 5 or More Years in a Row
<i>Italics</i>	First-Time Member
*	Gift Membership Received

Individual Members (\$45-\$79)

Eliza Cannon Baldridge
 Bruce Bowditch
 Christine B. Bowditch
Faith E. Bowditch
 Rachel Bowditch
 David Bowles
Edward C. Browne Jr.
 Forrester A. Clark Jr.
 Robert L. Clark
Rosemarie Deane
 Jonathan Foley
 Richard Foley
Lee Glaws Narwicz
 Andrew Gould
 Malcolm Greenough
Faith S. Hadden
Sheena Harte
 Pamela Helm

Kent Hemingway
Cynthia K. Herman
 Alfred W. Hoadley
 Pamela Howley-Crawbuck
Donald Johnson
 Katherine B. Lanou
 William Lincoln Jr.
 Lawrence C. Little
 Douglas Mathews*
 Ken Mathews*
 Majorie Mitchell
Capt William B. B. Moody
 Linda Nighswander
 Samuel Page
Lynn Paton
 Katharine Phenix
 Elena Procario-Foley
H. Parker Roberts

Barbara A. Rockwell
 Robert Rotberg
 Dene Ryfun-Turner
 Jo Anne Sauriol
John Sedgwick
 Rev. Ronald Staley
 David Sternberg
Katharine Thompson
Ruth Timchak
 Michael Todd
 William Vander Clute
 Edward Vander Clute
 Nancy Walker
 Cynthia Watkins Melendy, Ph.D.
 Joan Willis
*Jeanne Zarrillo**
Anonymous

Student Members (\$20)

*Thomas Lee**

Friends (\$1-\$44)

George and Victoria Arponen
 Nancy Baker
*Daniel and Karie Bartnick**
 Klaus Biemann
 Jean and David Brown
 Christina P. Diebold
 Jon and Carol Dyer
 H. Hollis and Edith Hunnewell
 Ellen Keith

Guido and Jeanne Lippo
 Albert and Ruth Rich
 Helen Robbins
 Birch Shambaugh & Fayth Preyer
Barbara and Frederick Slader Jr.
 Lydia A. Smith
*Christine Vallerand**
Edward VerPlanck
 Micaela Willis

Help protect the Chocorua Lake Basin by renewing your Conservancy membership today:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (Individual Membership) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 (Little Lake Society) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 (Family Membership) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 (Chocorua Lake Society) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 (Narrows Bridge Society) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 (Mt Chocorua Society) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (Friend <u>or</u> Student) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount _____ |

Please make check payable to “Chocorua Lake Conservancy” and mail it to:

Chocorua Lake Conservancy
 PO Box 105
 Chocorua, NH 03817

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

Make a difference today:

- **Make a Gift of Securities** such as stocks. Please email us at info@chocorualakeconservancy.org for instructions.
- **Join the CLC’s Legacy Society!** Create a lasting legacy with a planned estate gift.
- **Become a Sustaining Member!** Go to our website, click “Support Us”, and make a recurring donation.

Merger Implementation

Contributed by Peg Wheeler, Vice President

The Board of Directors, Committee members and other volunteers of the Chocorua Lake Conservancy have been busy since the merger of the Chocorua Lake Association (CLA) and the Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation (CLCF) on August 16, 2014. The Board has met five times, and the various Committees have met a total of 16 times.

Over the past eight months, board members, with the help of consultant Stephen Johnson of Sage Advisors and the law firm of Ransmeier and Spellman, have spent countless hours preparing for and implementing the transfer of CLCF's real estate interests to the Conservancy. The team's first task was to review the titles of all 74 properties in the Chocorua Lake Basin that are subject to covenants and easements held by CLCF, in order to identify accurately the current owners of those properties and find mailing addresses for those owners in town tax records. The process was complicated by the many subdivisions, sales, and family successions which have occurred over the past 46 years. In January 2015, owners were notified by letter of the intended transfer of covenants and easements.

Meanwhile, Ransmeier and Spellman prepared a master deed to implement the transfer, including a description of each property subject to a conservation covenant or easement. At the same time, a second master deed was prepared, transferring to the Conservancy the 18 properties owned by CLCF in fee title. Both master deeds have now been recorded. These tasks would literally not have been possible without the institutional memories of CLCF President John Watkins and former CLCF President Neely Lanou, and the oversight of Treasurer Bob Seston.

Led by Bob Seston, the Board successfully merged the financial interests of the two former organizations. Following Board approval, Bob consolidated accounts, reinvested the Conservancy's long-term assets, and set up a new accounting system.

In December, the Conservancy was awarded an \$88,050 grant from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) for a conservation project currently under negotiation with a landowner in the Chocorua Lake Basin.

Early this year, Bob began work on preparation of the Form 990 tax return, due May 15, 2015. This voluminous return required a great deal of detailed information about the Conservancy's land holdings transferred from CLCF, which created an opportunity to review and update that data.

While all of this was taking place, John Watkins oversaw the drafting of property management plans, including NRCS-sanctioned forest management plans, for the 18 Conservancy-owned properties in the basin.

Board Meetings Digest

Sunday, August 17: The newly elected Board held the first meeting of the Conservancy and elected officers, created a three-year rotation for Board terms, assigned Board members to each of the newly created seven board Committees, and scheduled board meeting dates for 2014 and 2015.

Sunday, October 12: The Board reviewed and approved each Committee's charge and 2015 goals, reviewed a draft 2015 budget, discussed land conservation projects under consideration, brainstormed about the merged organization strengths and weaknesses, and discussed the Conservancy's short- and long-term priorities.

Saturday, December 7: The Board approved a detailed budget for 2015 and continued discussions about several new land conservation projects.

Saturday, March 3: The Board approved a variety of policies, moved forward with a secure cloud-based document storage system, and continued discussions about several land conservation projects.

Sunday, May 3: The Board approved additional policies, an updated Mission Statement, a completed Form 990 tax filing for 2014, and a "Payment In Lieu of Taxes" (PILOT) agreement with the Town of Tamworth.

➡ <http://wp.me/pxC4v-si>

➡ Read this story online at: <http://wp.me/pxC4v-s5>

Calendar of Events

- Sun. July 5th @ 9:00 – 10:30am
CLC's "Adopt a Highway" Route 16 trash pickup (meet in Grove)
- Sun. July 5th @ 12:00 noon – 2pm
CLC Members Cookout at the Page house
(Bolles Road, Chocorua)
- Sat. July 11th @ 10:00am – 2:00pm
"Save the Loons" Fishing Derby. Meet at Narrows Bridge in
Grove. Contact Ryan Buchanan for more info:
jenbuchanan@comcast.net
- Sat. Aug. 8th @ 12:00 noon – 2:00pm
CLC Members Cookout in the Wheeler field
(498 Chocorua Lake Road)
- Sat. Aug. 15 @ 3:00pm
CLC Annual meeting at Runnells Hall, 25 Deer Hill Rd. in
Chocorua Village, followed by beer and wine from 5-6pm
- Sat. Aug. 22, details TBD
Presentation on stone walls by Natt King
- Sat. Sept. 5 - Mon. Sept. 7th
Labor Day Weekend Tennis Tournaments (Men's and Mixed
Doubles)
- Sun. Sep. 6 @ 6:00pm
CLC Potluck & Cocktails (BYOB) & in the Grove, followed by
the Festival of Lights boat parade at dusk
- Sat. Oct. 10 @ 9:00 – 10:30am
CLC's "Adopt a Highway" Route 16 trash pick-up
(meet in Grove)

Goings-on Around the Basin...

Tamworth Conservation Commission Celebrates Land Conservation

John Watkins and Bob Seston, representing the Chocorua Lake Conservancy, attended the celebration on January 17 at The Community School, along with many other representatives from throughout New Hampshire. John gave a brief talk on the origins and past work of the CLA and CLCF, now the Chocorua Lake Conservancy. Among other notations he made was a reference to C.P. Bowditch's donation of the first conservation property in Tamworth that preserved 150 feet of forest on both sides of Rt.16 north of the Lake. This began the Bowditch-Runnells State Forest. Bowditch's future relative, Neely Lanou, as President of the CLCF, added the most recent parcel to the acreage in 2008. The same tall pines that were there then remain today.

➤ <http://wp.me/pxC4v-sp>

Wildlife Notes

The resident porcupine continues to travel between its den under the Smith's front steps to the Hofheinz woodpile; in both places, he leaves his droppings neatly piled outside.

A hungry opossum appeared late in February at Dave Farley's feeder. This solitary and nomadic critter is more suited to the warmer regions of the southern United States, with a strong immunity to snake venom and a coat of awn hair only, like all marsupials. He is not well outfitted for the winter we had this year, and his feet and his tail can become badly frostbitten, causing a lot of pain.

Keep the wildlife sightings going:
hhofheinz38@gmail.com

➤ Read all Wildlife Notes at: <http://wp.me/pxC4v-sr>



Photo: Harriet Hofheinz

A Cold Winter

Contributed by Alex Moot

While Boston was shoveling out from historic snowfalls this past winter, the Chocorua Lake Basin was quietly enduring one of the coldest winters ever recorded.

February 2015 was the second coldest February since records began in 1893, with an average temperature of 6.8°F in Chocorua, almost 13 degrees colder than Chocorua's historic average of 19.4 degrees. The average daily low of -6.2°F was also significantly colder than the historic average low of 7 degrees.

Similarly, Chocorua residents experienced 34 frigid nights during which the temperature fell below 0°F, almost tying the record of 36 days from 1993-94.



Photo: Alan Phenix

Unlike Boston, the past winter was a typical snow winter in Chocorua. By the end of March, about 80 inches of snow had fallen in Chocorua, almost exactly the average (78 inches) for the last thirty years. In comparison, over 120 inches of snow fell on Chocorua during the 2007-08, which was the snowiest winter over the past 40 years since records have been maintained.

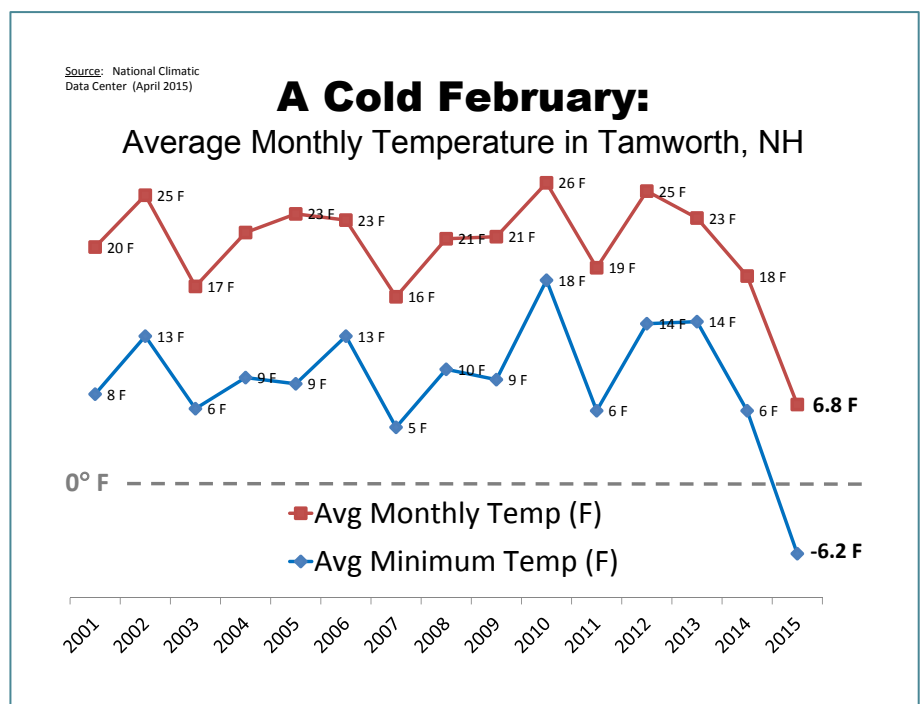
➔ Read the full story online at: <http://wp.me/pxC4v-s9>

Wildlife Notes

It was a tough winter for humans and wildlife alike! How do animals adapt to the deep snow and cold?

Evidence of the deer "yarding up" under hemlocks to avoid the deep snow was abundant, usually on south facing hillsides. This technique of holding steady can go on for days until better conditions prevail.

Rough grouse use a similar technique to bed down in powder snow for the duration of a storm, perhaps for several days, and only when disturbed by another critter do they erupt from the depths of the powder, severely startling the trespasser. Their frozen pellets are left under the snow as evidence.

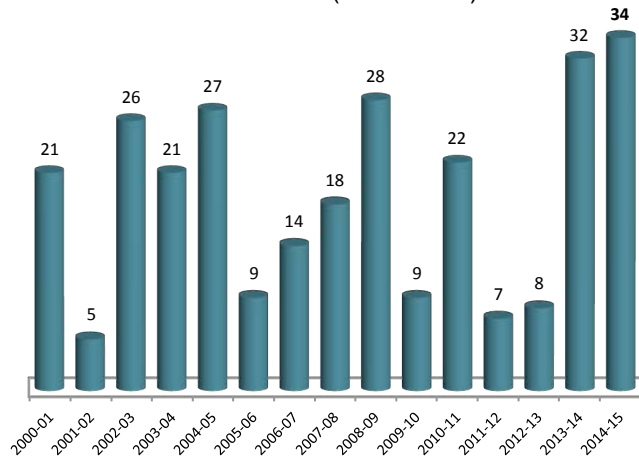


"Sitting in a cozy kitchen watching a mass of snow and ice moving off the barn roof—easily one foot thick and coming off like sheets of icebergs. "

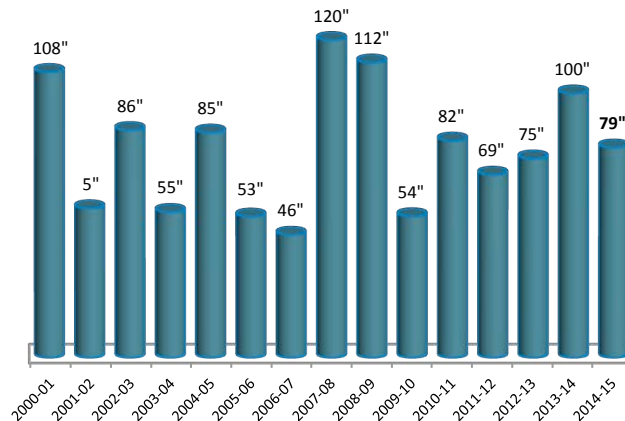
- Pete VanderLaan

Weather data source: National Climatic Data Center (April 2015)

Days Below Zero Tamworth NH (Nov-March)



Total Snowfall Tamworth, NH (Nov-March)



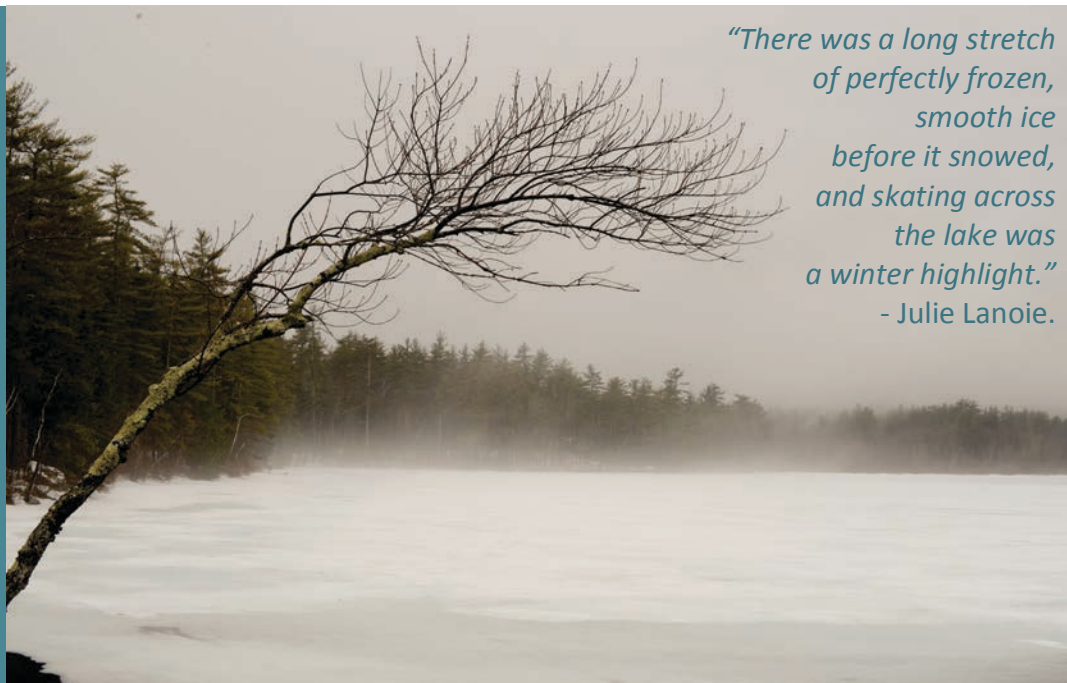
"CONSTANT cold and having to stay in a lot just to keep the wood stove going, zero or below every morning, then wondering if the car or the snowplow would start...and roof shoveling! But my wood stayed dry and the house was never cold. "

- Alan Phenix

"Ice is the enemy. It is strong. It defies my efforts to curb its power ...it simply reforms, reinvents itself on top of my warring attempts, in a slick, slithery manner.

"But then there's the beauty of ice—Jack Frost's intricacies on the windows at dawn, the loud sense of silence when you stand on ice in the middle of the lake under the night sky."

- Marian Posner



"There was a long stretch of perfectly frozen, smooth ice before it snowed, and skating across the lake was a winter highlight."

- Julie Lanoie.

➡ Read more quotes from local residents at: <http://wp.me/pxC4v-sb>

Photo: Alex Moot

Wildlife Notes

Otters can navigate easily across the snow by sliding on their bellies, and their tell tale track-slides have been spotted coming from the Smith's drive, down to Walley Brook, on to the brook behind the Hallowell's house, on to the pond near the Helm's drive, and continuing along the shore to the north end of the lake!

Wildlife Notes

Bird feeders are a godsend to our feathered friends in the winter, and some birds don't survive without them. But the hardy do, as they have for a long time before we were around. John Watkins has seen pileated, hairy, downy and red bellied woodpeckers, as well as the usual nuthatches, chickadees, purple finches, blue jays etc. In addition, more northern species such as the redpoll, crossbill, and tree sparrow are coming to his feeder.

Barred owls on Groundhog Day began their mating rituals with lots of characteristic calls to one another. They seemed unfazed by the weather.



The Chocorua Lake Conservancy is an all-volunteer, non-profit land conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the scenic and natural resources of the Chocorua Lake Basin and surrounding area for the benefit of all present and future visitors.

Chocorua Lake Conservancy
PO Box 105
Chocorua, NH 03817

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED