



Chocorua Lake Conservancy

FALL-WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER



A highlight of CLC's 50th Anniversary celebration was the Chocorua Lake Crankie, a project conceived by Juno Lamb, with inspiration from the Yeoman's Fund for the Arts' Chocorua Memory Booth project, and words by Peggy Johnson. In this detail, Peggy Johnson's painting portrays John Watkins performing a knighting ceremony with a frozen pickerel.

Timeless Chocorua: Campaign Goal Achieved!

The Board of Directors has the great pleasure to announce that thanks to generous support from over 350 households and four foundations, the Chocorua Lake Conservancy has exceeded its \$1.85 million goal for the *Timeless Chocorua* capital campaign.

Thanks to this generous support from the community, the CLC has been able to fully fund all 3 campaign initiatives:

1. Purchase a conservation easement to protect the iconic **Basin View Lot** in perpetuity, forever ensure public access, provide safer parking, and create an attractive site for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view.
 2. Create a **Stewardship Fund** to ensure forever the protection and active management of the almost 4,000 acres of conservation land and other properties under the CLC's care.
 3. Establish a **Chocorua Lake & Land Access Fund** so that the thousands of visitors each year to the Narrows Bridge, Grove, Island, beaches, and trails on CLC's conservation lands will always find these public access areas to be clean and well maintained.
- We're also delighted to report that the *Timeless Chocorua* campaign received contributions from nearly twice as many households, and raised almost three times more money, as our last capital campaign almost twenty years ago, the *Fund for Chocorua Lake*.
- Final Campaign Results:** Since we launched the

Goal Achieved, continued on page 2.

Goal Achieved, continued

campaign in August 2016, the CLC received gifts and pledges from 358 households totaling \$1,718,187, including over 100 first-time donors. Our support was geographically diverse: households in 62 New Hampshire towns and across 31 states contributed, with the majority of campaign gifts coming from residents of New Hampshire (170 households), Massachusetts (84), Pennsylvania (16), New York (12) and California (12). We also received \$136,050 in grant funding from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the Tamworth Foundation, the Fields Pond Foundation, and the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation.

On Saturday, October 20th, with enormous gratitude for the warm and abundant community support for the *Timeless Chocorua* campaign, the CLC's Board of Directors voted to close the campaign to new gifts. In addition to the many households who contributed, dozens of people have generously donated their time over the past two years to help us with campaign solicitations, host campaign house parties, volunteer at campaign events, contribute chapters to the 50th anniversary book chronicling the rich history of the Chocorua Lake Basin, and more — our many thanks for their essential work.

WILDLIFE NOTES

Bears in the Basin

The peak foliage season has ended around the Basin, and local wildlife is preparing for winter, whether by increasing fat and insulation, heading south, or perhaps hibernating and sleeping through the cold.

With the shorter days of fall, and limited food supplies, our local bears are heading off to find some little nook or cranny to survive the cold and snows of winter. Once settled in a "den" they go into a form of torpor – their breathing and heart rate will slow by 50-60%, body temperature may drop by 8 degrees, they won't eat or drink, and they won't urinate or defecate for 5 months or more. That being said, they will rouse pretty quickly if disturbed, as many bear biologists have discovered during their fieldwork!

What makes a good winter "den" or winter space for a bear? A crevice in a rocky outcrop, piles of brush or logging slash, hollow trees (one Maine bear was discovered in a dead tree 15 feet off the ground!), depressions dug into the base of an old stump, an overturned root ball of a tree, or even in a "ground nest" in a dense thicket of vegetation. Someplace that will be dry and warm; a place that provides a microclimate in the colder air around them.

Within that warmer place, females give birth to their cubs. Though they breed in the summer, the embryo doesn't implant and develop until the females have gained their winter fat and head into the den. The cubs are born in January or February. Weighing in at 10-12 oz. they snuggle into the mothers' warm belly and begin feeding on her milk right away. Imagine giving birth and caring for a cub (or several) while in such a drowsy state and with normal bodily functions reduced or non-existent!?

However we might feel about bears raiding our fruit trees, compost, nest boxes, bird feeders and farms you have to admit these large mammals have amazing adaptations! Sometime this winter with the snow and wind howling around the Basin, imagine what it would be like hidden under the insulation of snow with a thick fur coat and layer of fat, "sleeping" the winter away!



PHOTO: BLACK BEAR FOOTPRINTS IN SNOW, LYNNE FLACCUS

HAVE A WILDLIFE NOTE TO SHARE?

Email it to laura_cannon@chocorualakeconservancy.org

For more information about bears, visit these websites. There are also some videos out there of biologists visiting denning bears as part of their studies!

NH Fish and Game : www.wildlife.state.nh.us

ME Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: www.maine.gov/ifw

VT. Fish and Wildlife: www.vtfishandwildlife.com

200 Shrubs for Wildlife

BY LYNNE FLACCUS

Stewardship Director

This was a busy summer for the CLC, with various 50th celebrations, walks and talks and workshops galore!

In the realm of stewardship. Meeting with landowners, walking properties and checking boundaries, working with volunteers on a variety of stewardship projects all reminded me of the special nature of the Basin, and the important role we all have as stewards of the land.

One of our larger summer projects was the implementation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) project to plant fruiting shrubs for wildlife. Two hundred shrubs were planted on four of the CLC owned properties! Phew!

This couldn't have happened of course without the grant written by John Watkins for funding; Dwight Baldwin's help with selecting and ordering the shrubs; and the whole Property Management Committee's help in planning and planting. John Wheeler offered up his backhoe and dug holes while I drove his tractor. Finally, many volunteers helped to put the shrubs in the ground, add mulch, and give the shrubs a good start with plenty of water. Thanks to all!

The goal was to provide a variety of food sources for wildlife. The shrubs we planted all produce flowers for pollinators, and various types of fruit for wildlife, especially birds. We chose a variety of species of different sizes that will produce their fruit at different times of the summer and fall.

All the shrubs we planted are native species. High bush blueberries, highbush cranberries, maple leaf viburnum, sumac, hawthorns, elderberry, and black chokeberry, to name a few, went in at Charlotte C. Browne, The Brown Lot, Moose Meadows, and at the Grove. We mapped out where holes would be dug, considering the different shrubs' needs for soil types and sunlight or shade. The shrubs were planted at the edges of the fields, around rocks, or in islands within the field so in the future we can mow around them easily. The variety of shrubs provides complexity in the structure and composition of plants, creating a mosaic of vegetation in combination with pre-existing plants. In the Grove, the shrubs will help retain soil and guide visitors to the main paths while providing cover and food for migrating birds along the shore edges.

Each property has a steward to keep an eye on our now-dormant shrubs, and next spring we'll look for buds leafing out. We'll make sure other surrounding grasses, shrubs and flowers don't outcompete these new additions. Most won't produce fruit for a few years, but in the meantime we'll be excited to watch how they grow, and see what birds will visit them for

perch sites and cover.

These kinds of projects are my favorite. Of course, any time you can receive grant funding for a project is always a plus! "Landscaping for wildlife" is a fun task, looking at the land and imagining ways to enhance opportunities for a variety of species; cover and food, space and corridors for movement are key aspects of what animals need in their home. These projects introduce volunteers to the idea of wildlife habitat projects they might do on their own land, providing information and perhaps new skills.



A crew of volunteer land stewards planting and chipping at the Charlotte C. Browne lot. / Lynne Flaccus

As stewards of the land we (CLC) own, projects like this give us the opportunity to demonstrate a variety of management practices. Whether the work is active in terms of cutting or planting, or the "leave it alone" model, we aim to share the potential of thoughtful stewardship. I like to think that we can be a resource for landowners searching for ways to manage their own yard or larger parcel to benefit wildlife or waterways. We are all "stewards" of what we own or rent after all; at some point we pass it on to others, whether a backyard in town or 100 acres of woodland, and how we care for it in the meantime can make a difference to what or who follows.

The UNH Cooperative Extension, NRCS, NH Department of Environmental Services, and NH Fish and Game are just a few examples of other groups that can provide information and ideas for landowners. Have a question about our NRCS projects or what you might want to do with your land? Give a call and I'm happy to point you in the direction of other resources!



Lynne Flaccus

Basin View Lot Protected in Perpetuity

BY PEG WHEELER

A new Conservation Easement (CE) protects an important and beloved parcel of land from development in perpetuity. Located on Route 16 south of the Grove, the Basin View Lot is reportedly one of the most photographed scenes in all of New England. At the top of the hill, a historic barn complements a stunning view of the Chocorua Lake, the Narrows Bridge, and Mount Chocorua. This iconic view was chosen for the U.S. Treasury's "America the Beautiful" quarters issued in 2013.

On August 17, 2018, the Chocorua Lake Conservancy purchased the CE, with the assistance of a lead grant from NH LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program), additional grants from the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation, the Fields Pond Foundation, the Tamworth Foundation, and hundreds of donors from the local community, the state of New Hampshire, and across the nation.

For 140 years, the property owners have carefully preserved the vista, the historic barn, and the stone walls, kindly allowing visitors to park and walk on the property, take photographs, and set up their painting easels, especially during the fall foliage season. This comprehensive easement will continue the practices which the family has always followed. The new CE prohibits the construction of any new buildings on the property, provides for the maintenance and restoration of the historic view, and creates a limited area where visitors can safely enjoy the view. The parcel remains the property of private landowners, who will continue to use it as they have in the past, subject to the provisions of the CE. The public will not have access to the Lake shore from the viewing area; signage at the viewing point will direct visitors to the Grove and Island for Lake access, as well as for picnicking and for sanitary facilities.

In partnership with the landowners, CLC's Property Management Committee is gathering information needed for the preparation of a management plan, as required by the CE. The plan will spell out in detail the methods and responsibilities for carrying out the provisions of the CE, and will be reviewed on a regular basis in order to adapt to the needs of the property.



Mount Chocorua and the Lake Basin adorn New Hampshire's America the Beautiful quarter, a view now protected in perpetuity. /U.S. Mint

2018 ANNUAL FUND

We chose earlier this year not to ask CLC members for donations to our Annual Fund to keep the focus on celebrating our 50th anniversary and completing a successful Timeless Chocorua capital campaign.

The Annual fund is critical, though — it's how we pay for most of our normal operating expenses, including the salaries of our Stewardship Director and Lake Patrol Officer. The annual fund also covers the cost of water quality testing, regular maintenance projects in the Grove and Island, renting portable toilets for visitors from Memorial Day through October, maintaining the beautiful cedar railings on the Narrows Bridge, producing and distributing two newsletters a year, hosting educational and community-building events, renting an office, paying for liability insurance, and making a payment in lieu of taxes to the Town of Tamworth.

If you haven't done so already, we hope you will support our 2018 Annual Fund as generously as you are able through a year-end gift to help us cover our regular operating expenses.

Stream Restoration Workshop

BY JOHN WATKINS

The harvest moon and the snow-sprinkled Sandwich Range were reflected in Chocorua Lake when Lynne Flaccus and I headed out at early dawn for the “Wood in Streams” workshop at Tin Mountain Conservation Center on October 25. Grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are funding two stream restoration projects in the Basin aimed at improving brook trout habitat. One project is on Allen Brook through the Scott Reserve, and one on the Watkins property on an unnamed stream that originates in the Clark Reserve and crosses under Chocorua Lake Road into “Walley Brook.” Both of these streams ultimately flow into Chocorua Lake.

The environmental benefits of adding wood to streams include water quality, water depth, and increased fish populations. Cascades, riffles, glides and

pools are formed by water flowing over logs, increasing its oxygen content and providing variety in stream character. Slower-moving water retains inorganic and organic materials in segments of the stream, and deeper pools are beneficial to fish since they persist through the hot summer months and long winters. The wood provides escape cover, anchors gravel bars necessary for trout spawning, and provides habitat and nutrients for invertebrates that fish eat.

The workshop covered baselines for evaluating stream conditions, best site selection for wood addition, development of a detailed risk assessment, and tips for successful wood placement. After a demonstration of the placement and development of logs placed this summer, the group adjourned to the Allen Brook site for some hands-on experience.

These projects to improve trout

habitat and water quality of the Chocorua Lake Basin continue the original conservation goals first expressed by C.P Bowditch and others over 100 years ago. Thanks to Dick Fortin for his leadership on these projects. Stay tuned for ongoing progress!



Trout survey crew, including NH Fish and Game biologists, Tin Mountain staff, and CLC volunteers. /Lynne Flaccus



Published by the Chocorua Lake Conservancy
Soft cover; 216 pages; illustrated; retail: \$25

Timeless Chocorua is a compilation of essays, photographs, and historical images about the geology, history, culture, legends, and natural wonders of the Chocorua Lake Basin. **Timeless Chocorua** is also a **Timeless Holiday Gift!**

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

What a summer and fall! To celebrate our 50th anniversary year, we held 50 events over six months for our members and the local community.

Perhaps you came to our 50th Kickoff Celebration next to Chocorua Lake in late June? Or you attended the opening reception of the “Impressions of the White Mountains” art show at the Tamworth History Center in early August? Or celebrated with us at the *Timeless Chocorua* Donor Appreciation Party at Juniper Lodge over Labor Day weekend?

This year we successfully protected the iconic Basin View Lot and realized our goal of ensuring the financial stability of the CLC in perpetuity, a critical achievement considering that our stewardship obligations for the 130 plus properties we own or protect run in perpetuity. In early October, we exceeded our fundraising goal for the *Timeless Chocorua* campaign and have created two board-designated endowment funds totaling over \$1,500,000. These funds will provide us with the necessary income to continue employing a Stewardship Director and providing convenient, attractive public access for visitors to Chocorua Lake and trails on nearby conservation lands the CLC owns or maintains.

Lynne Flaccus, our Stewardship Director, organized a dozen Stewardship Days this year at which CLC volunteers helped with a variety of projects on CLC conservation lands. Lynne also led a series of woods walks and lakes paddles, a vernal pool exploration, and a winter owl prowl. We hosted a series of educational events with guest speakers, organized joint events with nearby organizations, and held many community-building events to get our newer CLC members connected and involved.

Many of our accomplishments this year are hidden in the woods! Thanks to Lynne’s leadership, we completed a series of wildlife habitat and forest projects on our conservation lands funded through a \$28,716 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This past spring, Forest Land Improvement helped us complete trail maintenance work in the Clark Preserve, grading and seeding trails to reduce erosion, create wildlife food sources, and strengthen the routes for continued human recreation.

This summer, volunteers helped plant 200 native fruiting shrubs (see *Stewardship Corner*, page 3) on CLC properties, providing flowers for pollinators and fruits that birds and other animals. Some are late fruiting shrubs that provide important food for birds fattening for their long migration south, or for those sticking around during the cold winters. In August, our native brook trout got a boost from Dick Fortin and others working to improve their habitat in several Basin waterways (see page 5).

We even got on television this year! On September 18th, the TV show *NH Chronicle* aired a segment titled “Preserving Chocorua” about the CLC and its important role protecting the Chocorua Lake Basin. Fifty years ago, our

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(May to October)

Founders had a vision that this area need not succumb to the kind of rampant and uncontrolled development that has blighted so many beautiful areas in New Hampshire. I know our Founders would have enjoyed the *NH Chronicle* show and would be proud of what the CLC has accomplished over the last fifty years. If you missed it, you can watch the *NH Chronicle* segment on our website.

As we start our next 50 years, we will strive to continue to fulfill the vision of our Founders by maintaining the Chocorua Lake Basin as a place of enjoyment for people, and valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. It is caring for the land and the lake (what we call stewardship) that is at the heart of what CLC does.

When we protect a piece of land, it means we are responsible for it forever. **Our goal is to pass the Chocorua Lake Basin onto future generations in a healthy and natural state. If this goal is important to you, consider getting involved with the work we do and/or making a donation to our Annual Fund.** We're always looking for volunteers to work out on the properties, or with other, behind the scenes skills. Get in touch and let's see if there is a way for you to pitch in!

With gratitude for the many ways our many donors and dedicated volunteers strengthen this organization and allow us to fulfill our mission.

Alex

ALEX MOOT

Board President (2018-19)



ART IN NATURE

In August the CLC collaborated with the Yeoman's Fund for the Arts on a week of experiences in nature, concluding with a workshop with Eco Artist Cynthia Robinson attended by people of all ages in the Grove by Chocorua Lake. Here, a young participant works on a practice mandala before the communal creation of a large mandala of found natural materials. / Juno Lamb

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

John C. Dyrenforth

John and his wife Kathie moved to Chocorua more than forty years ago. Over the decades he taught school in North Conway, restored the Fortier homestead in Chocorua Village, operated the Farmhouse Sugarbush, pressed and sold cider, raised and marketed produce at The Farmstand, and helped Kathie at The Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast. In the community, John has volunteered with Scouting (both sons, David & Tom, are Eagle Scouts), and served on the boards of the Tamworth Scholarship Committee, Runnels Hall Directors, the Chocorua Community Church, and the Remick Country Doctor and Farm Museum.

Sheldon Perry

Raised in Massachusetts through high school, it was Sheldon's parent's passion for skiing at Wildcat Mountain that made New Hampshire his home. Building an addition on the NH home led to carpentry work during the warm season and coaching at Wildcat's ski racing program and academy kept him employed during the cold season. Through time, home building led to cabinetry work as a self-employed small business owner. The reward for working in his shop at home was dinner every night with his wife, Nina, and their two children, Reid and Erica. Sheldon is currently the chairperson of the Tamworth Planning Board and is on the board of the Tamworth Outing Club.

Chocorua Lake Conservancy
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 chocorualakeconservancy.org/news/newsletter.

Editor & Layout: Laura Cannon

Contributors: Lynne Flaccus, Peggy Johnson, Juno Lamb, Alex Moot, John Watkins, Peg Wheeler



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.

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Sleepy Bear by Juno Lamb, detail from the Chocorua Lake Crankie, a project conceived by Juno Lamb, with inspiration from the Yeoman's Fund for the Arts' Chocorua Memory Booth project, and words by Peggy Johnson. Read about bears in the Basin on page 2.