



DIVISION OF  
FORESTS AND LANDS



# DNCR Newsletter

## April 2020

### Commissioner's Corner:

Spring has sprung!

Perhaps your first thought of Spring congers up images of budding tulips, rain (or the need for rain!) and warmer weather. Or processing hundreds of applications for seasonal hires. Or maybe lifting seedlings at the State Forest Nursery is your signal that springtime has arrived.

Yet, there is another definition for the word "Spring" that I would like you to consider.

**Spring:** *"Something's ability to return to its usual shape after it has been pressed."*

I'd say the COVID pandemic certainly pressed us all in ways we were unsure we could sustain months ago...but look where we are now! In a few weeks every Granite Stater who would like to be vaccinated will have had the opportunity. Anyone visiting NH will also be able to get vaccinated.

While we can't say COVID will be gone, we can feel more confident as we transition back to our "usual shape".

I hope you enjoy this edition of our Newsletter and feel proud of your contribution to the countless ways our agency impacts the special places, experiences and traditions Granite Staters hold dear.

P.S. That's a picture of me volunteering at the Speedway to assist with the vaccination effort! A BIG THANKS to the many DNCR staff who dedicated their time and energy on the phones, with data base work, delivering vaccines across the state and volunteering at the Speedway Super Site. New Hampshire is really one big community and your participation in this effort reinforces that tradition.



# Meet New Hampshire's New Trails Bureau Chief



Please welcome the new Chief Supervisor of the NH Bureau of Trails, **Craig Rennie**. He will be joining us effective May 21, 2021. We are excited to have him join our DNCR family as he comes to the NH Trails Bureau with 24 years' experience in natural resource management; holding positions with NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Fish and Game Department and other outdoor conservation organizations.

"First and foremost, I am an avid outdoor recreation enthusiast, both motorized and non-motorized," said Rennie.

"During my tenure at DES, I've had the great privilege to work with many applicants and landowners from around the state, particularly in the North Country," said Rennie. "My work and effort at DES has always been focused on the successful outcome of landowner's application requests, as well as balancing the applicant's needs."

His prior interactions with the Trails Bureau and his experience working for the NH DES has prepared him to promote the Trails Bureau's programs and mission and at the same time protect New Hampshire's natural areas.

"I have worked closely with the Trails Bureau staff for many years to develop trails around the state," said Rennie. "My work at DES brings essential knowledge that will be an asset in promoting the growth, maintenance and improvement of our trail network."

As Chief, he will be responsible for management of the Bureau's 1,000 miles of wheeled off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) trails, over 300 miles of state owned rail-trails, and 7,422 miles of snowmobile trails. In addition, he will also support the multiuse trail system in the state for hiking, cycling, equestrian, and sled dogs.

"The Trails Bureau Chief position is an exciting and unique opportunity to share mutual passions with others from around the state," said Rennie.

Another important mention from Rennie, "I look forward to getting to know and supporting the clubs who put countless hours into the management of these trails and I look forward to building my relationships with the many generous landowners who make our trail system possible."

The Grant-In-Aid Program awarded grooming grants to 100 snowmobile clubs for the period of December 15, 2020, to May 31, 2021.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Fund - The Trails Bureau has received 27 community applications with over a million dollars in grant requests.

# Lilla Bozek of Newmarket is NH's 2021 Poetry Out Loud Champion!

This year's competition was virtual and the Arts Council produced its own full-length video so that the competition can be enjoyed by a wider audience. You can watch it [HERE](#).



From Lilla Bozek, 2021 POL Champion: "It's really such a great communication tool, and I fell in love with poems that really personally resonated with me. So, didn't start off a poem lover, but I am a poem fanatic now."

NH Chronicle covered the 2021 NH Poetry Out Loud competition with a story that kicked off its April 9 broadcast.

You can watch it here: [LINK](#)



## Congratulations Lori Fischer!



**Lori Fisher**, Assistant State Librarian, has been named the recipient of the 2021 Impact Award from the NH School Library Media Association. This award recognizes someone who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of school librarianship in the State of New Hampshire. The recipient fosters the use and importance of the school library media center and advocates for school librarianship as an essential component for all schools. Lori will receive this award at their May 15<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting.

## Creative Campfires Return!

Join New Hampshire artists in conversation with [NH Artist Laureate Amanda Whitworth](#) about how the pandemic has affected their artistic practices and livelihoods-April 30 and May 28 at 11:00 AM via Zoom.

Registration is required. More [HERE](#).



FEBRUARY 26 | MARCH 26 | APRIL 30 | MAY 28  
11:00 AM VIA ZOOM

# Governor Sununu Proclaims Wildfire Awareness Week is April 18<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>



Governor Chris Sununu has proclaimed April 18-24 “Wildfire Awareness Week,” part of an effort to raise the level of public consciousness about the dangers of wildfire and its impact not only on New Hampshire’s forested landscape, but also the potential impact to homes, personal property and the state’s wide variety of recreational opportunities.

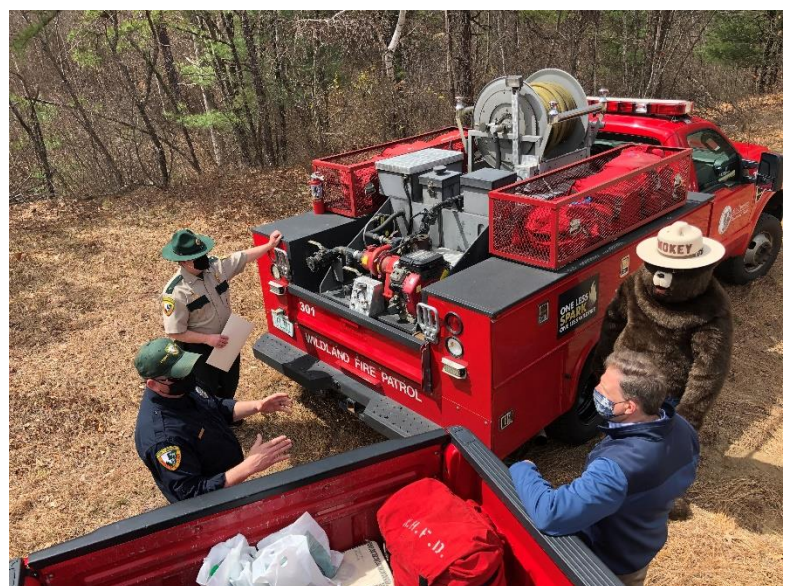
Unlike other parts of the country that experience their annual increase in wildfire activity in the summer and fall, spring is wildfire season in the northeastern

portion of the United States, when dry grasses, leaves and pinecones, along with fallen twigs and branches, serve as potential fuel for a wildfire.

Limited precipitation received within the past week has not significantly improved the ongoing drought conditions in New Hampshire. More than 57 percent of the state is now experiencing moderate drought conditions and the remainder of the state is classified as abnormally dry.

The heightened concern for wildfires will continue until adequate precipitation is received allowing new leaves and green vegetation to emerge.

“As we transition from winter to spring, it’s important that everyone be aware that their change in activities may alter the causes of wildfires, but not the risk,” said **Capt. Douglas Miner** from the N.H. Forest Protection Bureau. “Being vigilant about what we are doing outdoors – whether disposing of ash from a woodstove, having that first cookout of the season or doing something else that involves combustion – and practicing strong wildfire prevention behavior can have an enormous impact on all of us.”



More [HERE](#).

# State Parks & Recreation Staff Prep for a Busy Spring/Summer...and They're Hiring!



\*\*\*More about opportunities to work at a State Park [Here](#).

## GREAT NORTH WOODS



Mollidgewock, Milan Hill, Coleman, and Deer Mountain Campgrounds were closed for the 2020 camping season. These four locations are scheduled to open at 100 percent with reservations in May.

Hundreds of hours were spent this past fall and early winter to remove hazardous trees and we are making progress.

## MOUNT WASHINGTON

Mount Washington State Park staff persevered through tremendous operating challenges in the 2020 season under COVID guidelines and protective restrictions. With a 75% reduction in capacity in the Sherman Adams Visitor Center at the Summit, a new reservation system for visitors was launched and implemented to help with guest management and experience.

Mount Washington State Park is on track to open on time for the 2021 season (mid May).

## HEADING SOUTH...

We kept Monadnock Old Toll Road open all winter with reservations on weekends.

Pawtuckaway, Miller and Bear Brook opened Fri-Sun starting March 12 with limited services for hiking.

Greenfield group shelters opened for camping on March 19. Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway's Campground opened on April 2.

If you plan a visit to Miller State Park be sure to check in on the status of the utility work [HERE](#).



Bear Brook State Park Management Plan has been presented to the public. There is still some time to weigh in! [LINK](#)

## SEACOAST REGION

The seacoast is experiencing higher "off season" visitation than we normally do. Odiorne Point State Park opened Fri-Sun as of March 12, and is staying busy. The reservation system is in place and we have plans to operate at full capacity this summer. The Seacoast Science Center is also open Fri-Sun.

Rye Harbor opened on April 1, earlier than ever with the new parking meters. Last summer's meters were a success as an alternative to staffing the toll booth.

### Join a winning team!

Ocean Rescue staff are planning tryouts to be held on the main beach in Hampton, due to indoor pool restrictions with Covid-19. Tryouts will be held on May 15 and 16, May 22 and 23, May 29, 30 and 31, as well as June 5 and 6.



## The Division of Historic Resources and the NH State Council on the Arts Helping to Make History in Laconia

Jointly presented by **Brandee Loughlin**, Preservation Planning & Development Coordinator at the Division of Historical Resources and **Lisa Burk-McCoy**, Creative Communities and Arts in Health Program Coordinator at the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

One of the wonderful aspects of New Hampshire is that the arts and historic preservation often intersect; the juxtaposition of culturally relevant settings and the arts often deepen the experience of both. Built in 1914, the Colonial Theatre in Laconia is nearing the completion of its \$14.4 million restoration in preparation for a soft opening this May. The project is expected to be a substantial economic mobilizer in Laconia.

The Arts Council assesses the economic value of capital arts projects on two levels: the investment of labor, materials and money into the downtown center to develop the arts facility, and the resulting output of performances and programs. According to data provided by Justin Slattery, Executive Director of Belknap EDC, the project employs 105 construction workers from 35 different contractors/firms who are working to restore the Theatre to its 1930's heyday.

Once opened, the 750-seat Theatre will attract a great number of people from outside of the area – cultural tourists who will eat, drink, shop, and sleep in and around Laconia.



The development of properties adjacent to the Colonial for retail and restaurant use will help to drive peripheral business. The arts sector measures this activity through Arts & Economic Prosperity, a survey conducted every five years in partnership between local communities and Americans for the Arts. Prior surveys tell us that the average visitor to an arts event spends \$31.47pp at nearby establishments (in addition to the cost of their arts event ticket). This is a national figure; we suspect, here in New England, the actual expenditure is much higher.

The City of Laconia stepped forward as one of the project's most significant investors, contributing nearly \$7 million to the renovation. Its investment, and its role as the leaseholder of the Theatre, underscores the City's confidence in the ability of the Colonial to drive economic returns in the form of new development in the downtown (including housing) and the proliferation of new businesses to meet a growing demand for services and experiences.

The Colonial Theater project is also utilizing the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, which encourages preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings through a tax credit of 20% of the qualifying expenditures from a rehabilitation project. This program is overseen in partnership between the National Park Service and the NH DHR, and will garner nearly \$2 million for the Colonial Theatre project. Participation in this program in NH has more than doubled over the last 5 years. Completed projects have resulted in the creation of 817 housing units for the state: 700 brand new, additive housing units plus an additional 117 newly refurbished units. Recent data also estimates that in the last 2 years alone, tax credit programs have generated over 300 construction-related jobs and nearly 50 permanent jobs once the projects were complete. Justin Slattery is well aware of the connection between preservation, arts, and economic development, saying, ***“Investment in cultural arts drives economic activity in communities throughout the state. The Belknap Economic Development Council is thrilled for the Colonial Theatre in Laconia to open this year and help build economic impact and support our business communities in the region.”***

The Colonial Theatre project is a testament to what can happen when our historic spaces and the arts come together. Conservation returns \$8 for every \$1 of investment. The arts return \$9 for every \$1 of public money invested. Together, the two are an unbeatable force, working in tandem to deliver vibrancy and renewed energy in New Hampshire downtowns.

# History Thrives Within Our State Parks Too...

The Bureau of Historic Sites, within the Division of Parks and Recreation, is always working to make improvements for better accessibility and more interpretation for curious visitors.

2020 Projects included: three elevations of the Weeks Estate Summit Lodge were painted after stucco repairs were made several years ago; several windows at the carriage house/garage were also restored; and the auto road was also re-paved by DOT.



Interpretive signs were installed on the east side of Livermore Falls, thanks to some DNCR staff and the Friends of the Pemi!

## SCRAP + State Parks = Archaeology Paradise

The 2021 *NH State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP)* field school is structured in two sessions, each two weeks long; July 12 – July 23 at Pillsbury State Park and July 26 - August 6 at Bear Brook State Park.

The summer field school seems to be quite popular this year with only 6 of 20 spots left for Session 1 and all 20 spots filled for Session 2. *One could say this is a program people really dig!*

Fieldwork and instruction will be directed by **Mark Doperalski** and **David Trubey**, archaeologists with the NH Division of Historical Resources. The field school will conform to standards for archaeology set by the National Park Service.



More information about our State Conservation and Rescue Archeology Program [HERE](#).

## Make Your Own History at Our State Parks This Season...But Make a Reservation First. It's Easy.

For more information about which DayUse State Parks require a reservation go [HERE](#).





# Help Us Spread the Word!

*We are so proud of all the grant opportunities managed throughout the DNCR. Don't miss out!*

## **NH State Council on the Arts FY22 Grant Round is OPEN!**

Categories for Arts Council Fiscal Year 2022 grants include: arts for community engagement, artist entrepreneurial, arts in health, folklife and traditional arts projects, traditional arts apprenticeships, public value partnerships and youth arts projects. More info [HERE](#).

### **Recreational Trails Program grant applications for 2022 are available.**

Grants are available for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails. Eligible projects include maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities, and educational materials for trail related activities and safety. Applicants may be non-profit organizations, private groups or government entities. More info [HERE](#).

### **Grant Round 32 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is now open.**

Various levels of local government including cities, towns, counties, and school districts are eligible to sponsor projects and apply for financial assistance. Awarded grant funds are available on a reimbursement basis, and may be used for the development of facilities and/or acquisition of land for public outdoor recreation use. Project sponsors are required to commit to a minimum 50 percent matching share of total project costs, and maintain funded sites as public outdoor recreation areas in perpetuity. More info [HERE](#).

### **DNCR Opens FY2021 "Moose Plate" Cultural Conservation Grant Round**

DNCR "Moose Plate" grants support the restoration, preservation and / or conservation of publicly owned items significant to New Hampshire's cultural heritage. More info [HERE](#).

## Moose Plate Update

The ubiquitous Moose Plate you see isn't just a fashion statement for your car! Moose Plates are a big help here at the DNCR, with funds going to help maintain State Parks' historic sites, to support our Natural Heritage Bureau, and to provide funding for publicly owned properties

through grant programs administered by the Arts Council, Historical Resources and State Library. Since the first plate was sold in 2001, more than \$25 million dollars have been raised for conservation and heritage programs statewide, with funds also going to NH Fish & Game, DOT, LCHIP and the State Conservation Committee. Learn more at [mooseplate.com](http://mooseplate.com).



DNCR in the News:

HOLLIS BROOKLINE NEWS ONLINE

## FOREST MANAGEMENT UNDERWAY AT SILVER LAKE STATE PARK

By Juliana Rowland

February 13, 2021

Full Story [HERE](#).

*Project Forester Billy Kunelius and Regional Forester Scott Rolfe are overseeing the logging project at Silver Lake State Park.*



## Miller State Park Improvements Begin Construction in April

by Abby Hamilton March 17, 2021

Full Story [Here](#).



## Kensington Family Saddened As Largest Sugar Maple in US Will Soon Come Down

**AJ Dupere** was interviewed for a story about a National Champion "Big Tree" in Kensington – it was a Sugar Maple – that had reached the end of its lifetime (it dated back to right around the Revolutionary War!). There are plans to use its harvested wood for several projects and also hope that cuttings may successfully bring about new generations of maples to enjoy. Full Story [Here](#).





**Name:** Clint Savage  
**Title:** District 1, Supervisor, Bureau of Trails  
**Home Town:** Gorham  
**Years with DNCR:** 33 years

**How did you start your career at Bureau of Trails?** I started as an equipment operator in the North Region in 1988. I became North Region Supervisor in 2007 and have been serving as interim Bureau Chief since November 2021.

**What have you learned as Interim Bureau Chief?** I had no idea the amount of paperwork and bureaucracy that the Concord staff take care of. It has been very interesting to participate in the biennial budget process.

**What was your favorite project to work on?** My favorite project was decking and installing guardrails on the Presidential Rail Trail rail road bridge that spans Route 16. The project was complex and we had to be very careful working above the highway (with no guardrails for us).

**Little known fact about your job...** The District Supervisor has to have a CDL license to move and operate heavy equipment.

**What is the most important skill that you have?** The most important skill I have is people skills... I can listen and discuss issues with people. We can agree to disagree.

**Favorite state reservation & why?** Jericho Mountain State Park! I was part of the acquisition, helped layout and build the trails and campground. The day-to-day operation has been turned over to Park Operations, but I still love to go there.



**Anything else you would like to add?** I have three children and we all like to snowmobile and ATV as a family. I'd also like to thank all the staff for the extra work they have put in since I've been Interim Chief.

## A Big WELCOME to DNCR's Newest Employees:

Darienne Messer, Program Assistant II Parks and Recreation

Ken Lamothe, Maintenance Technician

Jessica Bouchard, Environmental Reviewer/ Ecological Information Specialist Forest and Lands

Craig Rennie, Chief Supervisor of the NH Bureau of Trails.



## Celebrating Years of Service

Ingeborg Seaboyer	35 years
Thomas Mansfield	30 years
Seth Prescott	25 years
Aline Zappia	25 years
Anne Goldberg	25 years
James Weatherbee	25 years
Torene Tango-Lowy	20 years
Charles Shipman	20 years
Margaret Morrison	20 years
Jennifer Weimer	15 years
Irving Fountain	15 years
Laura Black	10 years,
Grant Klene	10 years,
Marilyn Stevenson	10 years

## Happy Retirement

Administrative Assistant, **Suzanne Robidoux** is retiring at the end of the month. Thanks for your 20 years of service to the State!

South Beach Manager **Ken Murby** has retired after 15 years of service to the State, congratulations Ken!



“Which is more important,” asked Big Panda, “the journey or the destination?”

“The company.” said Tiny Dragon.



## What They're Saying...

### **Kudos to the DNCR Team!**

As one of the local stakeholders engaged in a partnership with the State and Eversource regarding Miller State Park, my heartfelt kudos to all those working to preserve and *improve* the experience of this state jewel. The DNCR team has been brilliantly providing a leadership voice in creating a new model of private, public and citizen partnership. South Pack mountain is where I have hiked daily to return my life back to health after heart surgery 25 years ago, where I proposed to my wife 26 years ago, and where I have watched literally *thousands* of sunrises well over two decades. I cannot thank you all enough for your guardianship of what was once described by the head of safety for the PUC as "sacred land". I may not say thank you enough, but I feel it every time I walk the roadway and trails.

David Baum, Ph.D., D.Min. of Peterborough

### **To the Division of Historical Resources staff:**

"Marika is great! She's a pleasure to work with and very efficient. She keeps the review process moving along smoothly." **Marika Labash**, DHR's Review & Compliance Specialist, from the Natural Resources Conservation Service office helps the DHR review nearly one hundred NRCS projects per year. Her role is critical to our office!

### **To the State Library staff:**

My students and I had a wonderful experience at the NH State Library last Friday. Thank you for working with me on a plan that allowed my students and me to be there. **Rebecca** and **Tim** were very helpful. Please send my thanks to them as well. I look forward to bringing more students to the library in the future. -Teacher at Bow High School

"I learn so much from these [library director] calls. In fact, I share what I learn with my staff and my Trustees each time we have a meeting as I always learn new things. Thank you for all you have done to help me feel more confident in my role, and for facilitating these meeting which have led to connections with other librarians I would not have made otherwise!"

### **Poetry Can Be Life changing!**

NH Chronicle: "It's amazing to think that taking part in this program – reciting a poem, memorizing it – can change the course of their lives."

Gordon Lang, English Teacher and POL Coordinator: "It absolutely has. I have kids that are just in totally different fields, careers, schools because of this. They see new opportunities they didn't see before."

# And Now, Your Moment of Zen...

An April sunrise from the top of Mount Washington. Courtesy of Patrick Hummel, Park Manager, Mount Washington State Park.



DNCR's five divisions use social media to keep you informed about our programs, and your opportunities – statewide. Our Social Media Center has a comprehensive list of all of our social media accounts. Visit today and discover which ones are the best resources for you!

All DNCR social media accounts can be found [HERE](#).

