

FALL 2021

Harris Hearsay

News of the Harris Center and Our Work in the Community

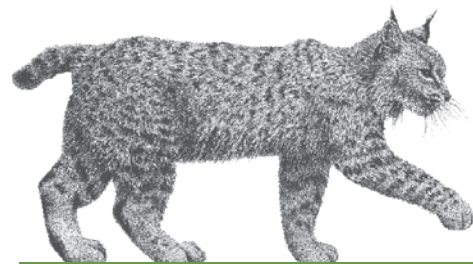
Our Mission A donor-supported nonprofit organization, the Harris Center for Conservation Education is dedicated to promoting understanding and respect for our natural environment through education of all ages, direct protection and exemplary stewardship of the region's natural resources, conservation research, and programs that encourage active participation in the great outdoors.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who has made a donation to our Annual Fund!

We depend on your support to do the work we do. For more information or to donate directly, visit harriscenter.org/donate.

photo © Brett Amy Thelen



VOL. 44, NO.2

In this issue...

The History of Jack's Pond

Tagging Along with
Broad-winged Hawks

Annual Meeting Highlights

A Deep Presence

A Turtle's Eye View

harriscenter.org

You can help ensure a grand future for the Monadnock Region by naming the Harris Center as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan through our planned giving program, Bobcats Forever Legacy Society. Anyone can make a bequest, and no amount is too small. For more information, contact Jeremy Wilson at (603) 525-3394 or wilson@harriscenter.org.

**BOBCATS
FOREVER**
LEGACY SOCIETY
HARRIS CENTER
PLANNED GIVING



◀ **Broad-winged Hawk Tagging** Biologists from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary affix a satellite transmitter to a Broad-winged Hawk in the SuperSanctuary, part of an exciting new research project focused on the migration and wintering ecology of this iconic species. photo © Brett Amy Thelen

Out of the Shadows: The History of Jack's Pond

by Eric Aldrich



photo © Russ Cobb

Nestled at the base of Mount Skatutakee, Jack's Pond is not only a hidden gem, it's a story. It's the story of Jack, and it starts in Africa. One day in the early 1730s, a little boy and his brother were playing near their home. As the story goes, a White man came along in a horse and buggy and offered each of the boys a piece of cake. With the boys distracted by the cake, the man picked up the young brothers and carried them off.

It was the start of a long and painful journey, one that had been experienced by millions of other African people throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. They were separated from family, home, and homeland, and enslaved in a strange country. And like other enslaved people, the young kidnapped boy even lost his original name. On this continent he was thus known by the name assigned by his enslavers: Jack.

Here's where the story goes gray. At some point, Jack became free. Where he lived and how he became free, we don't yet

know. But he ended up in Hancock, living off and on with a fellow named James Due and his family on the old road to Stoddard, possibly as early as the late 1770s. Jack's relationship with James Due and his family was close. James even purchased land in Hancock and gave it to the town for Jack's support. Jack lived in a home once owned by Peter Warren, near a place that was then known as Warren Pond. Now this picturesque little pond is called Jack's Pond.

Jack, who was also known as Jack Ware, died in 1826 and is buried in Hancock's Pine Ridge Cemetery beside members of the Due family. His grave's inscription says: "Jack Ware, an African, died March 2, 1826, aged about 100 years. This monument is erected in commemoration of his virtues by the voluntary contributions of the citizens of Hancock."

Editor's Note: Jack's Pond is part of a 5,000-acre protected area covering the highlands around the Harris Center. You can hike to it from the Harris Center via the Harriskat and Thumbs Down Trails.

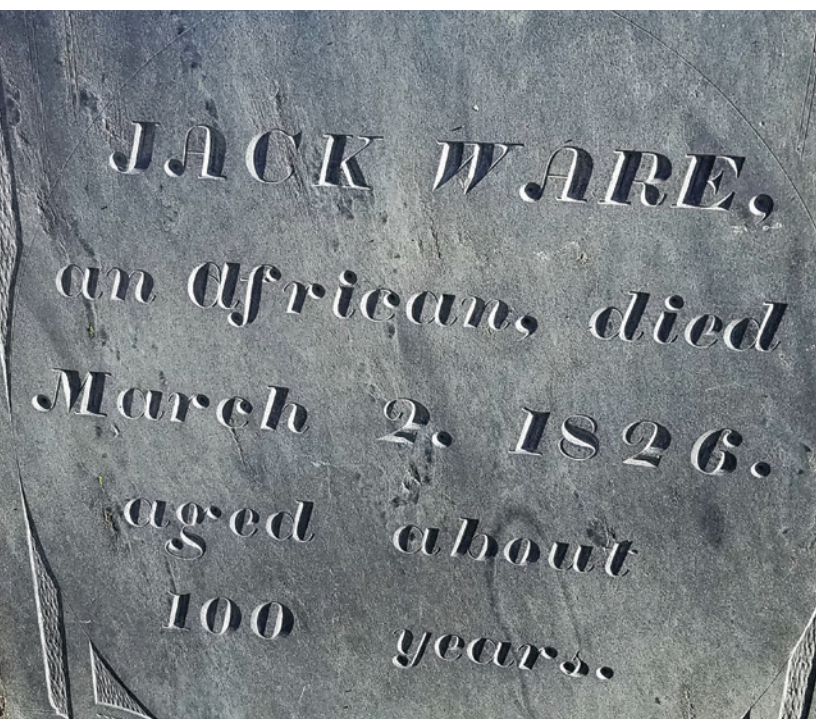


photo © Eric Aldrich

Black history that's been
so long in the shadows is
now coming to light.

The **Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire** has a historic marker at the Forest Society's Welch Family Farm and Forest off Stoddard Road (Route 123) in Hancock recognizing Jack and the Due family — one of a growing number of sites throughout the state where they are helping to raise awareness of the rich legacy of Black history in the Granite State.

Tagging Along with Broad-winged Hawks

by Phil Brown, Hawk Watch Coordinator

This year, the Harris Center partnered with **Hawk Mountain Sanctuary** in Pennsylvania to learn about the migration and wintering ecology of Broad-winged Hawks breeding in the Monadnock Region.

Though much is known about the large-scale autumn spectacle put on by this iconic migratory species — one which dazzles spectators at hawk watch sites across the Appalachian chain, including our own Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory — far less is understood about the wintering ecology of regional populations, including that of New England's breeding birds. But unlike fall migration monitoring, which involves watching raptors soar in the skies overhead, this project's mission was to locate and monitor Broad-winged Hawk nests in deeply forested habitats. In the spring, a team of 15 volunteers, led by myself and Eric Masterson, mobilized to search for Broad-wingeds nesting on or near Harris Center-conserved lands.

Despite the singularity of its focus, nest finding is no easy feat.

Rich Frechette estimated that he spent over 40 hours searching the Harris Center's 128-acre Hiroshi property before successfully locating an active nest. This nest hosted "Harris," the only male bird outfitted with a transmitter during three hot days of trapping in late June led by Hawk Mountain biologists Dr. Laurie Goodrich and Rebecca McCabe.

Ultimately, trapping was successful at four nests, and cellular and satellite transmitters were affixed to three individual hawks, which were nicknamed **Harris**, **Thelma**, and **Monadnock**. Hawk Mountain and the Harris Center hope to learn

where New England birds spend the winter, how they migrate and use stopover habitat, and how this population compares to previously-studied Pennsylvania birds.

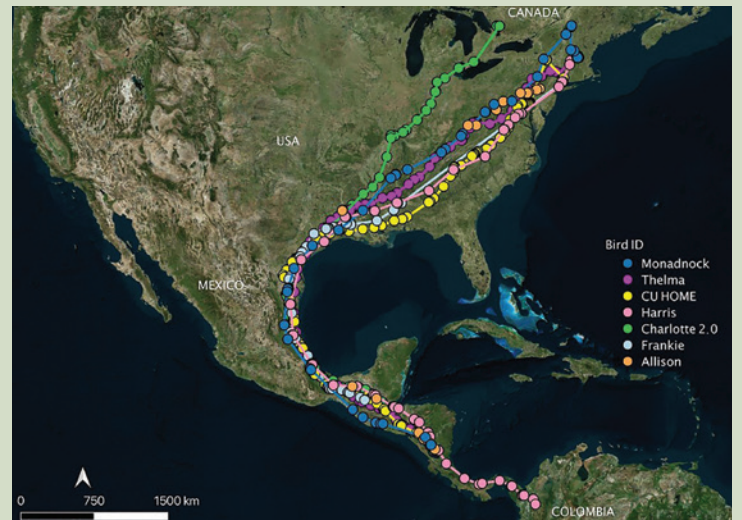
Though it's too early to tell if the transmitters will answer all of these questions, the nest monitoring aspect of the project

has opened the door to further research on a more local scale.

Over the summer, interns from Keene State College measured nest trees and quantified forest and nest data from nine active nests. Preliminary observations indicated that over 75% of the nests succeeded, each fledging one or more chick. Monitoring revealed similarities in nest tree selection, forest type characteristics, proximity to wetlands, and nest construction.



▲ **Nest Monitoring** A Young Broad-winged Hawk on a nest in Hancock. photo © Phil Brown



▲ **Broad-winged Hawk Movement Map** A map showing the migration paths of seven tagged hawks — including Harris, Thelma, and Monadnock, which were tagged at nest sites in the Monadnock Region — as of October 25, 2021. © Hawk Mountain

The Harris Center hopes to partner with Hawk Mountain for a second season of tagging and nest monitoring in 2022.

As of the writing of this article in late October 2021, all three tagged birds are transmitting signals along their migration routes into central and South America. For a link to the most up-to-date maps, visit harriscenter.org/broad-winged-hawk-tracking. ➡



▲ **Back to the Wild** Rich Frechette does the honors of releasing Harris back near his nest after tagging. photo © Phil Brown

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrating Our Extraordinary Partners and Volunteers

by Lisa Murray, Outreach Manager

The Harris Center recognized several extraordinary partners at our 51st Annual Meeting on Friday, October 15, 2021. This was our second online Annual Meeting, with Board members, staff, supporters, and friends smiling at each other from Zoom boxes.



▲ **2021 Educator of the Year**
Harris Center teacher-naturalist Karen Rent (left) with Marlborough kindergarten teacher and Educator of the Year Robin Fairfield (right)

Thank you, Robin, for helping to nurture the next generation of nature lovers."



▲ **Laurie Bryan Partnership Award**
Amy Markus and the Hancock Town Library were honored for their creative collaboration on public programs.

The **2021 Laurie Bryan Partnership Award** — honoring former Harris Center Executive Director Laurie Bryan's achievements in working with community partners — was presented to the **Hancock Town Library**, under the leadership of library director Amy Markus. In presenting the award, Harris Center Community Programs Director Susie Spikol said, "No matter how we collaborate or what we partner on, the Harris Center can count on **Amy Markus** and the staff at the Hancock Town Library to bring passion and energy to each of our shared projects. This award is a reminder of how when we put our minds together, share mutual creativity, and work to

make opportunities of all types available to people of all ages, we are always more successful than if we'd worked alone."

Volunteer Extraordinaire

Awards were presented to two outstanding Harris Center volunteers — Hancock wood carver **Jack McWhorter** and **Tom Delaney** of Peterborough. At the beginning of the pandemic last year, Jack took up an ambitious and artful project that has been delighting hikers ever since: carving creatures out of downed trees along the Harris Center's Harriskat Trail.



▲ **Trail Magic** Jack McWhorter was presented with a Volunteer Extraordinaire Award for his many hours of work creating enchanting trailside wood carvings.
photo © Brett Amy Thelen

Tom has been a familiar face at the Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory in Peterborough since 2007. He and his wife, Janet, have long been core volunteers and are sustaining donors of



▲ **A Welcoming Presence at Pack**
Tom Delaney was given a Volunteer Extraordinaire Award for his longtime contributions at the Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory.

photo © Meade Cadot

this Harris Center project — now in its 17th season. In presenting that award, Hawk Watch Coordinator Phil Brown said, "Tom provides great company and conversation, a warm smile, and great bird-finding abilities. When he isn't busily finding and identifying distant specks over North Pack in his scope, he is warmly greeting visitors, making each visitor to the

Hawk Watch feel welcome — something that helps Pack stand out as a welcoming community space."

Harris Center Executive Director Jeremy Wilson also recognized **Stephen Froling** for 17 years of valued service to the Harris Center, both as a past Board member and as the organization's volunteer corporate counsel for land protection projects. Stephen's considerable land conservation legacy spans thousands of acres.

In addition to these awards, outgoing trustees **Timothy Jordan**, **David Sobel**, and **Carol Young** were thanked for their service, and **Ethan Harper-Lentricchia** and **Steve Lamonde** were welcomed as new trustees. The meeting closed with a showing of "**Nightsongs**," an Emmy-winning video short by the SALT Project, featuring Harris Center staff member Eric Masterson. 🐾

A Deep Presence: 13,000 Years of Native American History

by Robert G. Goodby, PhD

In October of this year, in partnership with the Harris Center and the Historical Society of Cheshire County, I completed a book on my twenty years of archaeological work on Native American sites in the Monadnock Region. *A Deep Presence: 13,000 Years of Native American History* is an outgrowth of talks I have given for the past fifteen years as part of the New Hampshire *Humanities to Go* program, which encourages scholars to present their work to a general audience, helping me move away from the technical language of my training to a more accessible and interesting way of talking about archaeology. In *A Deep Presence*, I combine the roles of scientist and storyteller to present my version of the remarkable history of the Abenaki and their ancestors.

First-person narrative accounts illustrated with 60 high-quality color images describe the discovery and excavation of important sites. The first people to see Mount Monadnock arrived almost 13,000 years ago, sharing the region with caribou and a dwindling number of woolly mammoths. 12,600 years ago on the Ashuelot River in Keene, Paleoindians endured frigid winters, leaving traces of four tents warmed by small fires, fragments of caribou bone, and over 200 stone tools coming from quarries as far as 350 miles away. On a sandy knoll overlooking Nubanusit Brook in Peterborough, Native people made repeated visits, beginning almost 6,000 years ago, to trap beaver and hunt turtles.

The Swanzezy Fish Dam, a large stone dam in the Ashuelot River, was constructed 4,000 years ago and was still used to harvest migratory fish when European settlers arrived in the mid-18th century. At Wantastiquet Mountain in Hinsdale, an eroding riverbank yielded thousands of artifacts and the remains of timber rattlesnakes, hunted for over 4,000 years by the inhabitants of that site.

In the early 20th century, the Abenaki Sadoques family became prominent members of the Keene community, serving in the armed forces and working as basket makers, nurses, and milliners. The story of Native people in the Monadnock Region is an



▲ **Elizabeth Sadoques**
Keene, New Hampshire, 1916

photo courtesy of Joyce Heywood and the HSCC

ongoing one. At the official book launch event in Keene on Indigenous Peoples Day, I was honored when Abenaki people from across New England joined with other members of the community to celebrate the publication of *A Deep Presence*.



▲ **The Art of Basket Making**
Sherry Gould of the Nulhegan Abenaki shares basket making with the next generation.

photo © Bill Gould

Robert (Bob) Goodby is a Professor of Anthropology at Franklin Pierce University. He earned his PhD in anthropology from Brown University and is a past president of the New Hampshire Archeological Society, a former Trustee of the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum, and served on the New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs. He has directed over 300 archaeological studies authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act. His work has appeared in anthropological journals and in anthologies published by the Smithsonian Institution Press and University Press of New England. Bob has presented at the Harris Center on several occasions, and we are delighted to partner with him on this important book.



A Deep Presence

13,000 YEARS of
Native American
History

Robert G. Goodby



A Deep Presence is the first book ever written on the Native American history of the Monadnock Region. Its publication was made possible by support from the Harris Center's 50th Anniversary Fund and the Historical Society of Cheshire County (HSCC). Copies may be purchased at the Museum Shop at HSCC, local bookstores, or ordered through the Harris Center website at harriscenter.org/a-deep-presence.



Petroglyphs
Bellows Falls, Vermont

photo © Gail Golec

Welcome to the World? by John Benjamin, Teacher-Naturalist

