

Annual Report



HARRIS CENTER
FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION

© Brett Amy Thelen

July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Director's Report

I am so pleased to share that it has been another remarkable year for the Harris Center. As the pandemic has transitioned to an endemic, we have transitioned back to in-person events while continuing to offer a diverse array of virtual programs, along with an ever-expanding library of online resources.



© Ben Conant

Our team of Harris Center teacher-naturalists returned to a full year of in-person visits to classrooms throughout the region, inspiring more than 3,000 students to discover the wonders of the natural world right outside their doors. In addition, our popular professional development workshops helped local classroom teachers deepen and expand their nature-based teaching practices.

Once again, our community programs provided an incredible number and diversity of outings, workshops, lectures, courses, and camps for learners of all ages.

Our conservation research program welcomed new staff, worked with hundreds of community science volunteers, celebrated a record year for amphibian crossings, and launched exciting new bird and butterfly monitoring projects.

Over the summer, we mentored and learned from nine wonderful interns, who came to us from four different colleges and universities.

Seven land conservation projects in Antrim, Dublin, Hancock, Harrisville, and Nelson were completed or should be finalized in the coming year. As a result, the Harris Center now manages and monitors more than 25,000 protected acres in a newly expanded SuperSanctuary.

None of these achievements would be possible without our extraordinary volunteers, supporters, and staff, who have built and continue to sustain this remarkable community resource. The Harris Center's mission is simple — promoting understanding and respect for the natural environment — but it has resonated so deeply with so many, allowing this small organization to have a transformative impact on the region and beyond. Thank you for being part of it all!

Jeremy Wilson, Executive Director

Partners and Co-sponsors

We work with many others every year to connect people to the natural world. Our 2021-2022 community partners and event co-sponsors included:

Antioch University New England	Miller State Park
Antrim Conservation Commission	Monadnock Place-based Educators
Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee	Monadnock Sustainability Hub
Avenue A Teen Center	Monarch Larva Monitoring Project
Birdability	Moosewood Ecological LLC
Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire	Nature Groupie
Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center	Nelson Conservation Commission
Beech Hill-Dublin Lake Watershed Association	Nelson Trails Committee
Bennington Conservation Commission	New England Forestry Foundation
Cheshire County Conservation District	NH Association of Conservation Commissions
Chesterfield Conservation Commission	NH Audubon
Chesterfield Public Library	NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
City of Keene	NH Environmental Educators
Connecticut River Conservancy	NH Fish and Game
Distant Hill Gardens & Nature Trail	NH State Parks
The Dublin School	North Branch Nature Center
Francetown Land Trust	Northeast Motus Collaboration
Franklin Pierce University	Northern Woodlands
Friends of the Ashuelot River Park	Norway Pond Commission
Friends of the Chesterfield Public Library	Nova Arts
Hancock Conservation Commission	Peterborough Conservation Commission
Hancock Recreation Camp	Peterborough Recreation Department
Hancock Town Library	Peterborough Town Library
Harrisville Trails	Piscataquog Land Conservancy
Hawk Migration Association of North America	Post and Beam Brewing
Hawk Mountain	Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership
Healthy Home Habitats	RiverMead
Historical Society of Cheshire County	SALT Project
Horatio Colony Nature Preserve	Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Inside-Outside Advisory Group	Southwest Region Planning Commission
Jaffrey Public Library	SPARCnet
Keene Parks and Recreation	Stoneridge Art Studio
Keene Public Library	The Caterpillar Lab
Keene State College	The Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center
Lead with Nature	The Nature Conservancy
Local Girl Scout Troops	The River Center
Loon Preservation Committee	Toadstool Bookshop
Machina ArtBar	Troubadour Coffee
Meadowsend Consulting Company	UNH Cooperative Extension
	US Army Corps of Engineers
	Virtual Learning Academy Charter School
	Writing the Land



▲ **Squirrel Study** Kindergarteners learn about a fascinating (and often-overlooked) mammal during a squirrel lesson with Harris Center teacher-naturalist Jenna Spear. © Ben Conant

Environmental Education in the Schools

Jenna Spear, *School Program Manager and Teacher-Naturalist*

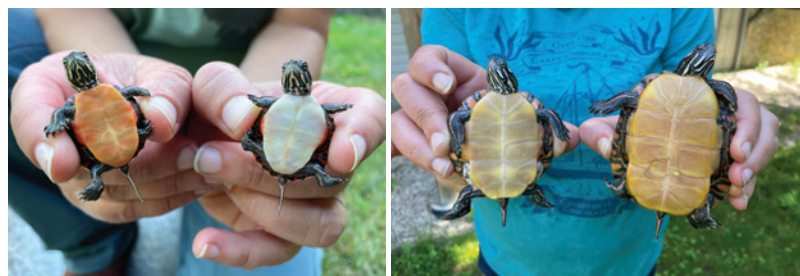
After two years of Covid-related disruptions, students and teachers alike were glad to return to a more normal schedule this year. Our teacher-naturalists were thrilled to see students in person for explorations of the woods, fields, and creeks near each school. Some schools also allowed field trips, so we were able to welcome students to the Harris Center once again.

One of the highlights of the year was a **turtle headstarting project** that we piloted in several local classrooms, with support from the Harris Center's 50th Anniversary Fund. With guidance from our naturalists — and the proper wildlife permits — participating classes “adopted” painted turtle hatchlings, raising them in their classrooms for the school year. This allowed the turtles to get a “headstart” on their growth before being released back to the wild in the spring, making them less vulnerable to predators. In turn, the students were able to learn about turtles in a hands-on, helping way.

Headstarted Painted Turtles: Before & After ▶

Headstarting increases the chances that young turtles will survive in the wild, while also offering an incredible opportunity for hands-on learning.

These pictures show headstarted painted turtles in September 2021 (as hatchlings) and May 2022 (shortly before their return to the wild.)



© Brett Amy Thelen

We also implemented our **new squirrel curriculum** with Keene kindergarten classes. This play-based unit — which was developed alongside several of our partnering teachers — provides an opportunity for students to get to know an often-overlooked animal through outdoor exploration, creative play, and close-up observations.



▲ **Becoming Squirrels**
During a Harris Center visit to James Faulkner Elementary School, students “became” squirrels, searching for cones and acorns in the woods near their school.
© Ben Conant

Educator of the Year

At our Annual Meeting, we honored Marlborough Elementary School kindergarten teacher **Robin Fairchild** with our



2021 Educator of the Year Award for her commitment to providing daily opportunities for her students to get outside. Whether through formal lessons or simple outdoor playtime, Robin is truly nurturing the next generation of nature lovers.

▲ **Exemplary Educators** Harris Center teacher-naturalist Karen Rent (left) with Marlborough Elementary School teacher Robin Fairchild (right).



▲ **Pollinator Studies** Second graders in Keene use microscopes to examine flower parts during a Harris Center lesson on pollination. © Ben Conant



▲ **Refresh, Relax, Reimagine** In August, elementary school teachers from four local school districts came to the Harris Center for a three-day retreat focused on developing and deepening their nature-based teaching practices. © Claudia Dery

Professional Development

Our professional development offerings grew this year with the addition of afterschool workshops on nature observation games. We also offered a three-day “**Refresh, Relax, Reimagine**” **summer retreat** for elementary school teachers, along with a follow-up, year-long study group focused on seasonal opportunities for outdoor teaching. In addition, on one beautiful day in June, we held a reunion at the Harris Center for our partnering classroom teachers to share in each other’s successes in incorporating outdoor learning into their school days. 🐾

The Harris Center for Conservation Education partnered with the following schools in 2021-2022:

Antrim Elementary School
Benjamin Franklin School, Keene
Chesterfield School
ConVal High School, Peterborough
Dublin Community Preschool
Dublin Consolidated School
First Friends Preschool (in four towns)
Francetown Elementary School
Fuller Elementary School, Keene

Gathering Waters Chartered Public School, Keene
Great Brook Middle School, Antrim
Greenfield Elementary School
Hancock Elementary School
Harrisville Children’s Center
Jaffrey Grade School
Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School
Conant High School, Jaffrey

James Faulkner Elementary School, Stoddard
Keene Middle School
Marlborough Elementary School
Nelson Elementary School
Peterborough Elementary School
Pierce Elementary School, Bennington
Rindge Memorial School
Robin’s Nest Nature Preschool, Peterborough
South Meadow Middle School, Peterborough

Symonds Elementary School, Keene
Temple Elementary School
The Learning Vine, Antrim
The Well School, Peterborough
Wells Memorial School, Harrisville
Wheelock Elementary School, Keene

**Thanks for exploring
nature with us
this year!**





▲ **Birding with The Grapevine** In March, we offered a spring birding outing in partnership with The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center in Antrim. Fun was had by all! © Martha Duffy

Community Programs

Susie Spikol, Community Programs Director and Teacher-Naturalist

As life inches its way back to normalcy, the Harris Center has a new, broader approach to our community programming. Online opportunities are now a vital part of our work, balanced with in-person, hands-on, boots-on-the-trail experiences. Our hope is to make falling in love with this place we call home more accessible, with more diverse opportunities than ever before.

Whether we were searching for signs of spring with our **Babies in Backpacks** and **Toddlers in Tow** family hikes or meandering for mushrooms with the **Morel Quandary Mushroom Club**, the Harris Center invited people of all ages and backgrounds to get outside and explore. Our volunteer outing leaders guided people up mountains, across ponds, and along wetlands through all seasons and types of weather. New series like **Birding for All** and **LGBTQ+ hikes** created community and built connections through shared experiences in the outdoors.

Online & Further Afield

Record-breaking numbers of attendees from across the United States (and beyond!) joined us online to learn about Saw-whet Owls, winter fungi, our ever-popular Salamander Crossing Brigades program, and more. Our online events also allowed us to feature diverse voices from across the country, speaking on such topics as sharks of New England, pollinator superheroes, and the adaptable otters of New York City.



▲ **Kids Count** Our new Kids Count for Wildlife series offers children an opportunity to participate in wildlife-focused community science projects, such as this monarch caterpillar survey at a Harris Center-conserved milkweed patch. © Brett Amy Thelen

Collaborations & Partnerships

This year, our community program and conservation research staff worked together to create innovative opportunities for people of all ages to participate in local, state, national, and even global community science initiatives, from **Kids Count caterpillar surveys** to Environmental Studies Institute (ESI) courses on **iNaturalist** and **eBird**.

In addition, many of our programs continue to be co-sponsored with exceptional partners who help amplify our impact. Whether it was local libraries working with us on programs for children and families or regional events like **Pollinator Palooza**, we were inspired and supported — time and again — by our many community partners. ➡



▲ **Wildlife Wonder** From snakes to salamanders, birds to butterflies, Harris Center community programs help people of all ages get to know their wild neighbors. © Martha Duffy



▲ **Bird Camp** It was a thrilling day when local falconer Henry Walters visited our Bird Ecology and Conservation Camp with his Harris's Hawk, Mahood. © Ben Conant

Camp

Jenna Spear, Camp Director and Teacher-Naturalist

In July, the Harris Center woods, fields, and trails came alive as 175 kids joined our skilled teacher-naturalists for three fun-filled weeks of nature-inspired camp — from preschool **Explorers** to elementary **Woodlanders** and middle school **Rovers** and **Voyagers**. Our newest offering, **Bird Ecology and Conservation Camp**, brought a flurry of bird activity, including the discovery of an active Broad-winged Hawk nest a short walk from the Harris Center! Not to be outdone by summer fun, 30 young campers also explored the wintry woods and 12 middle schoolers learned winter survival skills during our **February vacation camps**. One camp parent shared, “We love that [our children] get to spend a week surrounded by adults and other kids who so enthusiastically and obviously ... find wonder in the natural world.”

We love that, too. ➡

▼ **Winter Adventures** Hiking to the Big Boulders is a time-honored camp tradition. © Jaime Hutchinson





▲ **SuperSanctuary Butterfly Survey** In July, a team of butterfly-loving community scientists conducted the first annual SuperSanctuary Butterfly Survey, a partnership between the Harris Center and New Hampshire Fish and Game. © Karen Seaver

Conservation Research

Brett Amy Thelen, Science Director

The Harris Center’s conservation research program spread its wings in 2022, welcoming Phil Brown as the organization’s first-ever Bird Conservation Director and launching a new butterfly monitoring initiative with New Hampshire Fish and Game. Several of our longstanding community science programs also achieved meaningful milestones. Read on for highlights!



► SPARCnet

Students from the Dublin School (pictured), Keene State College, and Antioch New England helped Harris Center staff maintain and monitor our red-backed salamander study plots.

© Brett Amy Thelen

◀ Big Night Magic

The Harris Center once again worked with the City of Keene to close the North Lincoln Street amphibian crossing site to vehicle traffic on “Big Nights,” ensuring the safety of migrating amphibians and providing a safe place for families to experience the magic of the migration.

© Chandra Balakrishna

Community Science

This spring was one for the record books for our **Salamander Crossing Brigades**, as 350 volunteers provided safe passage for a record-breaking 10,720 frogs and salamanders, bringing our project total to nearly 72,000 amphibians since 2007. We also worked with the City of Keene to expand our Big Night detours to a second site — still the only places in New Hampshire where roads have been closed to protect migrating amphibians.



In both spring and fall, Harris Center staff worked with community volunteers and local high school, undergraduate, and graduate students to survey six study plots in the Harris Center woods as part of **SPARCnet**, a landscape-scale research effort aimed at understanding the effects of climate change on red-backed salamanders.

Over the summer, we again partnered with NH Audubon's **Project Nighthawk** to monitor the state-endangered Common Nighthawk in Keene. Sadly, this project also broke a record in 2022, documenting that nighthawks did not nest in Keene for the first time in more than a decade.

New butterfly monitoring initiatives proved more hopeful. In July, local butterfly enthusiasts gathered for the inaugural SuperSanctuary Butterfly Survey through NHFG's **New Hampshire Butterfly Monitoring Network**, recording 839 individual butterflies of 23 species at nine survey sites. Community scientists of all ages also collected monarch caterpillar data for the national **Monarch Larva Monitoring Program** at a Harris Center-conserved milkweed patch.

Research on our Lands

In June, our **Broad-winged Hawk tracking** collaboration with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary took another exciting leap forward, as Hawk Mountain biologists attached lightweight satellite transmitters to two additional Broad-wingeds nesting in the SuperSanctuary. Data from these transmitters will shed new light on the lives of "our" hawks, and help determine habitat conservation priorities along their migration routes to Central and South America.



▲ **Broad-winged Hawk Tagging** This summer, Harris Center Bird Conservation Director Phil Brown worked with Hawk Mountain biologists Dr. Laurie Goodrich and Rebecca McCabe to affix satellite transmitters to two Broad-winged Hawks nesting in the SuperSanctuary. The researchers wore masks when handling the birds to help reduce the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza. © Brett Amy Thelen

The **Motus Wildlife Tracking System** station on our Granite Lake Headwaters property in Stoddard continues to detect radio signals from birds that have been tagged with special radio transmitters, contributing to an international network of cutting-edge migration research. In the fall of 2021, our

Motus station detected five tagged birds, including a Swainson's Thrush that was first banded on Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula.

Over the summer, we completed the ninth successful season of our **conservation internship program** with Keene State College and hosted our first **forestry intern** from the University of New Hampshire. This year's team of hard-working undergraduate interns collected forest inventory data, surveyed and pulled invasive plants, and documented trail conditions for a new accessibility initiative, among many other tasks.



▲ **Undergraduate Interns** (left to right) Veronica Kroha, Mallory Roof, Donovan Lombara, Taylor Jackson, Tate Fairbank, and Jessica Lawton take a lunch break on one of their study subjects during a day of forest inventory. © Karen Seaver

Research in the Region

In the fall of 2021, the Harris Center and NH Audubon completed the 17th consecutive season of hawk migration monitoring at the **Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory** in Miller State Park in Peterborough. Our team tallied 9,605 migrating raptors in 2021 — documenting record-high counts for Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, and Red-shouldered Hawk, as well as evidence of continued declines in Osprey and Northern Goshawk populations.

In the spring, we launched a new research project focused on the **American Kestrel** — a falcon species in decline — starting with monitoring two nest sites in Hancock. In the coming year, we plan to expand this monitoring effort and to restore local nesting habitat for kestrels by installing nest boxes throughout the Monadnock Region, guided by a habitat model created by Antioch University graduate student Will Stollsteimer for this project. We also began to collect baseline data on **Northern Goshawk** nesting territories as part of a pilot effort to monitor local breeding success of this elusive, and declining, species.

Thank You

Heartfelt thanks to all of our project partners and community scientists. Here's to more science in the SuperSanctuary and beyond in 2023! 🐾





▲ **Autumn in the SuperSanctuary** A glorious October morning view from East Pinnacle on the Kulish Ledges Trail, with Spoonwood Pond and Lake Nubanusit in the foreground. ©Will Kindler

Land Conservation

Eric Masterson, *Land Program Manager*

Shortly after the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Harris Center's land protection efforts surpassed the 25,000-acre mark, an impressive average of 500 acres per year since our founding in 1970 — but protection is only one piece of the conservation puzzle.

Once a property has been conserved, monitoring and management are required for ensuring that the land retains its ecological and recreational value. This ongoing stewardship is also an essential part of our work.

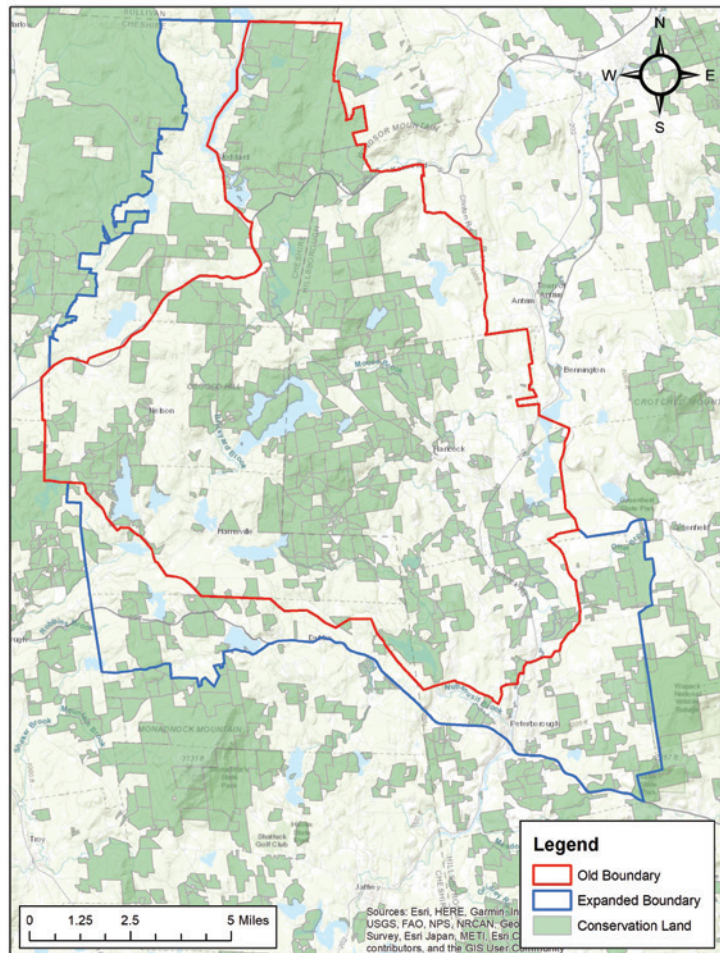
Land Protection

Much of the credit for reaching the 25,000-acre milestone is due to **Stephen Froling**, who served as the Harris Center's volunteer counsel on real estate transactions for many years, and so it seems fitting that Stephen and his wife Tricia would help push us close to this mark by donating an easement on their 6-acre forested backlot off Old Dublin Road in Hancock. With the addition of this lot, most of the land along this scenic country road is now protected from further development.

The Froling easement was the only project that closed in the fiscal calendar covered by this report, with several others delayed by factors beyond our control. However, as Meade Cadot is wont to say, delay can be a conservationist's best friend, allowing inflated market prices to drop and development pressure to abate. In July 2022, we acquired 74 acres along **Willard Pond Brook** in Hancock and Antrim. This beautiful complex of riparian corridor, beaver marsh, and upland forest drains into Moose Brook, and was identified as a conservation priority by the NH Wildlife Action Plan as well as the Town of Hancock's Natural Resource Inventory.

Both the Froling easement and Willard Pond Brook land lie in the heart of the SuperSanctuary, a loosely defined term that guides our land protection efforts and which reflects the high priority the Harris Center places on connectivity. The goal of our land conservation work is to create a connected network of protected land that will forever remain open to wide-ranging species like bear, bobcat, and moose, as well as people.

The **SuperSanctuary boundary** is defined by a line that encompasses all of Hancock, most of Harrisville and Nelson, and parts of Antrim, Dublin, Greenfield, Peterborough, Stoddard, and Windsor. This year, several prospective land protection projects in Dublin and Stoddard lay outside that line, despite connecting to existing parcels of conserved land, so it made sense to make a small adjustment to the SuperSanctuary boundary. The new boundary line expands our working footprint west to the edge of Andorra Forest in Stoddard, south to Monadnock State Park, and southeast to Pack Monadnock, while staying within the aforementioned towns. This will enable us to continue connecting the SuperSanctuary to other large blocks of conserved land in our region. Watch for news of pending projects in the near future.



▲ **Willard Pond Brook** This newly protected land in Hancock and Antrim has been identified as high-priority wildlife habitat by the NH Wildlife Action Plan, and contains considerable frontage along Willard Pond Brook.

© Tate Fairbank

Stewardship

Our portfolio of conserved lands includes land owned and managed by the Harris Center, along with more than 120 conservation easements on privately owned land. Each easement must be monitored annually — a process that includes conversations with landowners, reviewing aerial photography, site inspections, and report writing. In 2021, interns **Alec Kaisand** and **Joe Wiley** monitored most of the Harris Center's conservation easements, with staff and volunteers covering the remainder. No violations were noted. Read more about Alec and Joe at harriscenter.org/interns, and thank you to our easement monitoring volunteers **Peter Beblowski**, **Hunt Dowse**, and **Janet Yardley**.

Trails

The Harris Center is fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our trails in good working order. **Peter Harrison** and **Ric Haskins** form the nucleus of a team that also includes **Dewey Clark**, **Brad Geer**, **Marc Olshan**, **Tom Shevenell**, and **Jack McWhorter**. Jack's fantastical wood carvings will be familiar to anyone who has hiked the Harriskat Trail, and this year he added another character to the growing menagerie of beasts that keeps watch over the trail.

The **Nelson Trails Committee** is a separate group of volunteers who focus on building and maintaining trails in the Town of Nelson, including a trail network that leads through Harris Center-conserved land to the summit of Osgood and Hurd Hills. This team includes **Rick Church**, **Al Stoops**, **Kathy Schillemat**, **Janet Yardley**, and **Dave Birchenough**.

Thank you to all of the trail volunteers for your hard work on behalf of the hiking community! 🐾

◀ **Expanding the SuperSanctuary** The new SuperSanctuary boundary (in blue) will allow the Harris Center to connect our network of protected land to other large blocks of conserved land in the Monadnock Region.



▲ **Birding for All** One new Birding for All outings offer opportunities for people of all abilities and levels of birding experience to enjoy wild birds.
© Meade Cadot

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

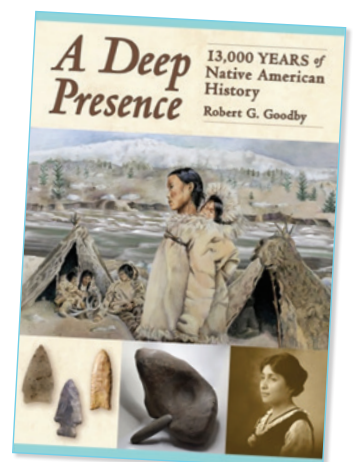
Brett Amy Thelen, on behalf of the Harris Center's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group

The Harris Center is committed to ensuring that our trails, conserved lands, educational programs, and conservation research projects are welcoming spaces for all, regardless of racial or religious background, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic means, or range of physical ability. We are listening, learning, and taking action toward this goal.

Teaching & Learning

A Deep Presence

In the fall of 2021, with support from the Historical Society of Cheshire County (HSCC) and the Harris Center's 50th Anniversary Fund, archaeologist Dr. Robert Goodby published his first book, *A Deep Presence: 13,000 Years of Native American History*. This important volume tells the story of Native Americans in the Monadnock Region, from the remains of the oldest known dwellings in New England to the 4,000-year-old Swanzey Fish Dam still visible in the Ashuelot River.



A fundraising effort led by volunteers Harriet and Stephen DiCicco allowed the Harris Center to purchase 41 copies of the book for distribution to local schools and paid for local teachers to attend an HSCC professional development workshop on incorporating *A Deep Presence* into their teaching. Our own teaching staff also spent the year studying the book, with chapter-by-chapter discussions at each staff meeting.

School & Afterschool Programs

This year, our teaching staff improved our plans for **accommodating students with special needs**, both when visiting schools and during class visits to the Harris Center. Our celebrated LAB GIRLS afterschool program, which helps middle school girls stay connected to science, is now **LAB GIRLS+**, open to any student who identifies as female, regardless of gender assigned at birth.



▲ **LAB GIRLS+** Our **LAB GIRLS+** afterschool program helps middle school girls from many different backgrounds stay connected to **STEAM** through nature. © Ben Conant

Community Programs

We strive to highlight the knowledge, research, and voices of naturalists, scientists, and outdoorspeople of diverse backgrounds in our rich **calendar of events**. This past year, we featured Sherry Gould of the Abenaki Trails Project, squirrel scientist and accessibility advocate Charlotte Devitz, and Freya McGregor of Birdability — a new non-profit organization working to ensure that the birding community is welcoming, inclusive, and safe for people with disabilities. We also partnered with the **Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire** to offer several guided hikes exploring the

Black history of Jack's Pond. In addition, our **educational programs** at area assisted living communities and through the Keene and Dublin Recreation Departments offer opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and economic backgrounds to explore nearby nature.

Building & Grounds

Last fall, thanks to a grant from our 50th Anniversary Fund, **automatic door openers** were installed in the Harris Center entranceway and wheelchair-accessible bathroom, making it possible for people who use wheelchairs or walkers to enter these spaces unassisted. Two brand-new **wheelchairs** were also donated to the Harris Center for public use.

Land & Trails

Our **trail kiosks** now include a statement affirming our lands and trails as welcoming spaces for all. In addition, while none of our trails can be considered fully accessible (yet), a **new trail inventory** effort by Harris Center staff, interns, and volunteers aims to provide detailed information on trail conditions, as a first step toward accessibility improvements. A related effort is underway to build **trailside benches**, offering people of all ages and abilities places to rest and enjoy the great outdoors.

Building Community

Our new **LGBTQ+ community outings** — led by, and for, members of the queer community — provide a welcoming space for connecting with the natural world, and with one another.

Inspired by Birdability, we also launched a new **Birding for All** outing series for people of all abilities,

including those who experience accessibility challenges as a result of a disability or other health concern.

Our internal **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group**, comprised of board, community, and staff members from each of the Harris Center's program areas, meets monthly to move these and other initiatives forward. This will be lifelong work for our organization, but we are committed to seeing it through. ♡





▲ **Butterfly Brunch** In June, we held a special event to thank our supporters, featuring special guests (both human and insect) from The Caterpillar Lab. © Doug Bonin

The Year in Giving

Lisa Murray, *Outreach Manager*

A Harris Center supporter recently asked me if we really needed “smaller” gifts, or if most of our funding came from just a few people. The answer is that we truly need smaller gifts — many!



▲ **Interns Mallory Roof and Veronica Kroha hold promethea caterpillars.** © Karen Seaver

Annual Giving

In the 2021-22 fiscal year (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022), the Harris Center received gifts from **1,089 different supporters**. There is strength in numbers, and we are so fortunate to have such a wide and loyal circle of supporters. Many of you have donated every single year for more than three decades — probably longer, but our computer records don’t go back farther than that!

This year, donations ranged from \$10 to the 91 **Red Oak Leadership Society** supporters who gave \$1,000 or more. In addition, our Business Partners donated from \$500 to \$5,000, and generous foundations and other grant sources supported many initiatives and programs in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$25,000. Together, you make it possible to do so much.

The money from our **annual fundraising appeal** keeps the Harris Center’s doors open, so to speak, covering a good portion of our operating costs, from staff salaries to building upkeep to expenses associated with stewarding our SuperSanctuary of conserved lands. We do our very best to ensure that each dollar given to us helps further our mission of 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. We are able to do all that because of you.

Every gift — and every supporter behind that gift — matters to us. Thank you for honoring our natural world by supporting our efforts. Please stay with us on the journey. There's more work to be done.

Bobcats Forever Legacy Society

We are so thankful for the supporters who ensure that land protection, environmental education, and conservation research will be part of their legacy by naming the Harris Center as a future beneficiary of an estate, trust, or other gift. Unless specified otherwise, these bequests usually go into the Harris Center's investments. The interest generated by these investments is another major source of funding for our yearly operating expenses. This year, the Harris Center received a very generous bequest from **John and Carol Hubbard**, for which we are deeply grateful.



The Harris Center has been given a four-star rating by Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator.

Thank You to Our VOLUNTEERS

Harris Center volunteers help out in so many ways throughout the year, maintaining trails, leading outings, assisting with amphibian crossing efforts, helping with mailings, caring for our pollinator garden and grounds, performing numerous office tasks — and much more. Many of these projects are sporadic in nature, and we appreciate the flexibility of our volunteers to step in when needed. If you would like to become a Harris Center volunteer, please visit harriscenter.org/volunteer.

Business Partnerships

We are grateful to the following Business Partners for their support of our work in fiscal year 2021-2022:



NextEra Energy Foundation, Monadnock Paper Mills, Nature's Green Grocer, NH Trust Financial Advisors, M&T Bank (formerly People's United Bank), Microspec Corporation, Harrisville Designs, South Pack Solar, C & S Wholesale Grocers, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, New Hampshire Ball Bearings, True North Networks, Aloha Healthy Living, W.S. Badger Co., Wendy Klemperer Art, HKS Associates, RBC Wealth Management, and The Timken Company.

Please help us thank these wonderful community partners by giving them your business whenever possible.

A Strong Foundation

The Harris Center receives support from many foundations and grant sources, which have a huge impact on our work. While we can't name every foundation or grant source here, we wish to extend special thanks to the Beech Hill-Dublin Lake Watershed Association, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Bessie Foundations, Bailey Charitable Foundation, Bridgebuilders Foundation, and Putnam Foundation (a donor-advised fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation) for their extraordinary support during our 2021-2022 fiscal year. 🐾

harriscenter.org/donate

harriscenter.org/business-partners

harriscenter.org/bobcats-forever-legacy-society

Volunteers Extraordinaire

Harriet and Stephen DiCicco were honored with our **Volunteers Extraordinaire Award** for 2022.

They took the initiative to create a fundraising effort to purchase copies of Dr. Robert Goodby's book, *A Deep Presence: 13,000 Years of Native American History*, to distribute to Monadnock Region schools, and to then help fund a teachers' workshop on how best to utilize this resource in local classrooms. The DiCiccos also volunteered with the Hancock Elementary School afterschool program, providing our naturalists with much-appreciated assistance.





© Dottie Cullinane

**“We have everything we need in our own neighborhood
to get started falling in love with this world and what it has to offer.”**

— Susie Spikol, *The Animal Adventurer’s Guide*

Harris Center Financial Report

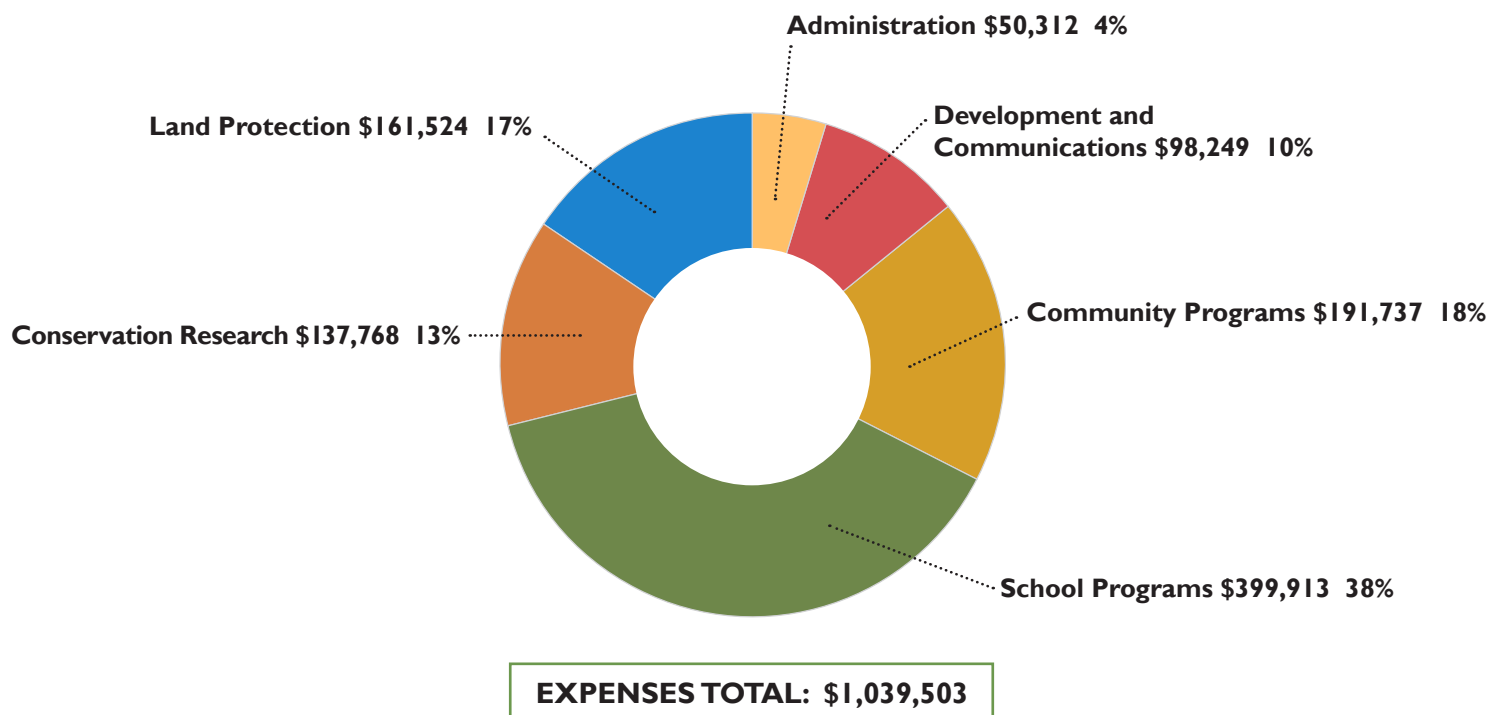
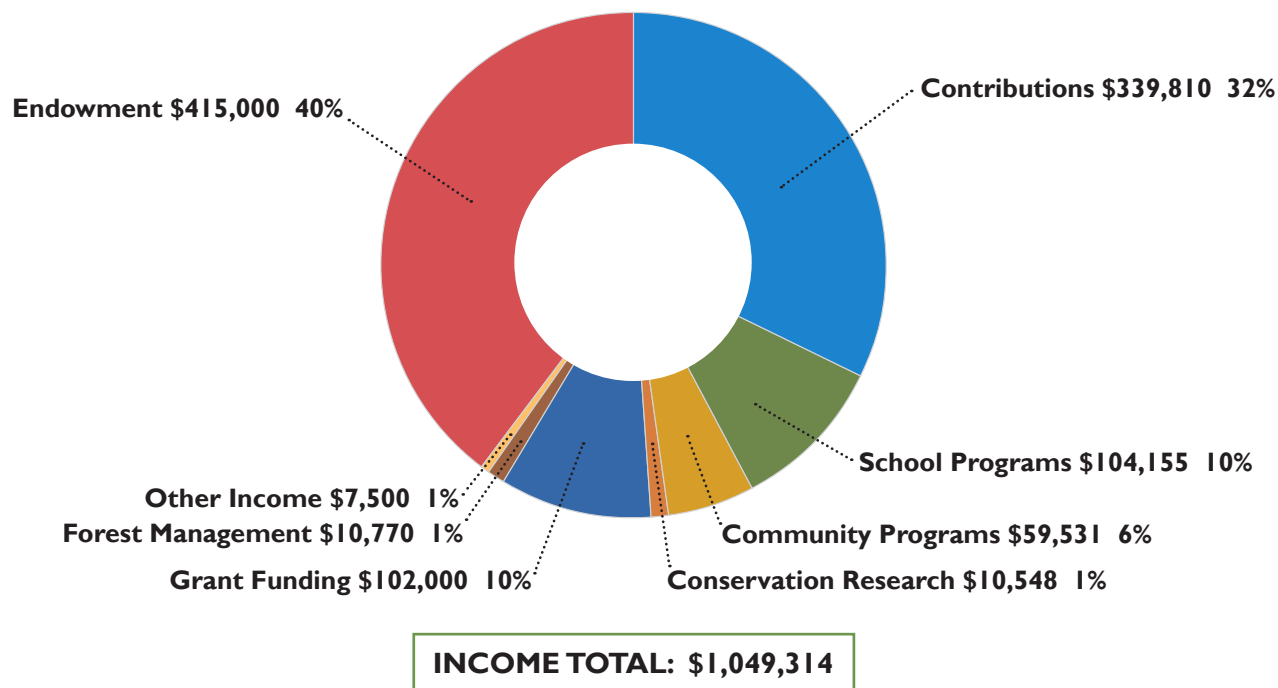
Operating Budget – July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

The financial statements of the Harris Center for Conservation Education are audited by Nathan Wechsler & Company, P.A. Certified Public Accountants, Concord, New Hampshire. The audited financial statements are available for public view at the Harris Center office in Hancock, NH.

The Harris Center for Conservation Education is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



▲ Yellow Warbler
© Tom Momeyer



During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Harris Center received an additional \$800,000 in donations to our 50th Anniversary Fund, land conservation projects, and bequests. We're so grateful for this tremendous support.



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Spoonwood Pond © Phil Brown

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