

Annual Report



HARRIS CENTER
FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION

July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

© Phil Brown

Director's Report

I believe the Harris Center's tremendous success in connecting people to the natural world is due to our unique combination of environmental education, conservation research, and land protection, each of which strengthens and complements the others.

This year, our talented team of **Harris Center teacher-naturalists** visited classrooms throughout the region, bringing thousands of students outside to investigate, understand, and appreciate nature right in their own schoolyards. In addition, our **professional development workshops** helped local classroom teachers deepen and expand their nature-based teaching practices.

Our **community program** staff and volunteers offered a **diversity of outings, workshops, lectures, courses, camps** and other opportunities for learners of all ages to connect with nature — more than 140 programs, in all.

Once again, our **conservation research** staff worked alongside hundreds of **community science volunteers** to cross **migrating salamanders** to safety and to monitor amphibian and butterfly populations. We also launched three **new bird conservation projects**: saw-whet owl banding, kestrel nest box installation and monitoring, and nighthawk migration counts. In addition, our **Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory** celebrated its 18th year of data collection.



© Ben Conant

On the **land protection** front, our land staff have completed or are close to finalizing new land conservation projects in **Antrim, Dublin, Hancock, Harrisville, Nelson, and Stoddard**. The more than **25,000 acres** of lands that we've protected provide wildlife with room to roam, ensure clean water, and offer extraordinary local recreation opportunities.

None of these achievements would be possible without contributions from our dedicated **volunteers, supporters, and staff** — each of whom is an essential part of the Harris Center family. We are so grateful to each person who has helped grow and sustain our important work. I invite you all to join us on the many Harris Center adventures yet to come!

Jeremy Wilson, Executive Director





▲ **Woodland Explorations** In April, Antrim Elementary School 3rd and 4th graders visited the Forest Society's McCabe Forest during a field trip led by Harris Center teacher-naturalist Kara Reynolds. They explored vernal pools, played a salamander migration game, and journaled along the edge of the Contoocook River. © Ben Conant

Environmental Education in the Schools

Jenna Spear, School Program Manager and Teacher-Naturalist

During the 2022-2023 school year, more than 3,000 local students — led by skilled Harris Center naturalists — explored the natural wonder found right outside their classrooms. Curiosity and awe were on full display.

▶ **Beaver Evidence** During an exploration with a Harris Center naturalist, 3rd graders at James Faulkner Elementary School find a tree felled by a beaver just outside their schoolyard. © Jenna Spear

Some highlights of the year included **Jaffrey Grade School** students discovering that the inside of a rotting log contains an entire ecosystem, and **James Faulkner Elementary School 3rd graders** mapping a newly formed beaver wetland behind their school. Meanwhile, **Chesterfield 5th graders** explored the vast array of fungi that live in the nearby woods,



◀ On the Cover

© Ben Conant, Janet Altobello, Francie von Mertens, Eric Masterson, and Martha Duffy



▲ **Fungi Forays** A Chesterfield 5th grader studies a fungi-covered log during a Harris Center lesson on decomposition. © Laura White

learning about the the important role that these organisms play in the forest ecosystem. **Antrim 3rd and 4th graders** capped off their study of local animal species with a trip to McCabe Forest, guided through activity stations by one of our teacher-naturalists, as well as a forester from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

This school year was one of expansion as we launched new collaborations with two Keene-area organizations, the



Child Development Center at Keene State College and the Cheshire Children's Museum.

Additionally, three classrooms at **Westmoreland School** worked with Harris Center teacher-naturalists for the first time, with more to come.

◀ **Connecting Students to Nature** A curious young mind carefully examines a pine cone during a Harris Center lesson at the Westmoreland School.

© Jenna Spear

Educator of the Year

At our Annual Meeting, we honored **Jenn Sutton**, a 3rd grade teacher at the Pierce School in Bennington, with our **Educator of the Year Award**. Jenn is committed to incorporating environmental education into her classroom, instilling wonder and appreciation for nature in her students through bird activities, caring for hatchling turtles, and more.



▲ **An Exemplary Educator** Jenn Sutton prepares to release her class's headstarted hatchling turtles back to the wild. © Jaime Hutchinson

Professional Development

In addition to working directly with students, our teacher-naturalists led professional development workshops for teachers, empowering them to take their classes into the



▲ **Taking Teaching Outdoors** At our professional development workshops, educators work together to build the skills necessary to take their students outdoors. © Ben Conant

schoolyard for scientific exploration. **Teachers from preschool through high school** were guided by Harris Center naturalists through a host of outdoor activities such as nature journaling, bird studies, and biodiversity survey methods.

Attendees came away with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to implement outdoor education in their curriculum. 🐾

The Harris Center for Conservation Education partnered with the following schools in 2022-2023:

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
Westmoreland School
Wheelock Elementary School, Keene

Thanks for exploring nature with us this year!





▲ **Mini Explorers** A family discovers small wonders on the shores of MacDowell Lake during a Harris Center-led program with the River Center.
© Ben Conant

Community Programs

Susie Spikol, Community Programs Director and Teacher-Naturalist

At the Harris Center, our community programs take a lifespan approach, helping people of all ages and from all walks of life connect with and experience the natural world. From our *Babies in Backpacks* hikes for families to our onsite classes and accessible field trip series with residential life care facilities, we strive to provide opportunities for people to fall in love with the natural world at any point in their lives. This year, more than 5,000 people participated in our community programs.

Our programs continue to grow, reaching more people, new communities, and more diverse populations each year. This year, we expanded **Babies in Backpacks** into Cheshire County by partnering with other local organizations, including Distant Hill Gardens in Walpole and the Keene Recreation Department. We also broadened our audience through new partnerships like our **Birding and Coffee** series with the Vet Center in Keene and **LAB GIRLS+** with the UNH STEM Discovery Lab at their Manchester campus.

Whether catching insects with the **At Home in Nature** homeschool series, finding fabulous fungi on our mushroom meanders with the **Morel Quandary Club**, engaging in thoughtful discussion with

► **Taking Notice** Our birding walks often expand into admiration of all types of natural wonders: salamanders and toads, busy chipmunks, fluttering butterflies, and bright fungi like Susie's holding here. © Audrey Dunn



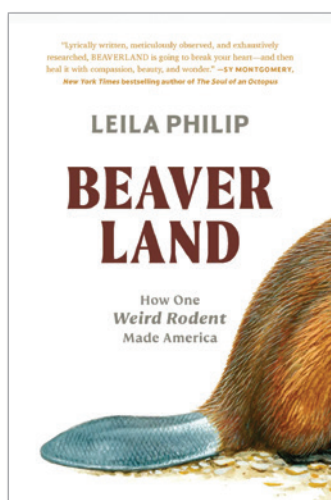
our **Environmental Studies Institute (ESI)** book groups, or hiking local trails with our volunteer outing leaders, the Harris Center continues to invite, include, and inspire people to create community and build connections through shared experiences in the outdoors.



▲ **Winter Wonders** Our “Coffee with the Birds” ESI course was a hit! There were few birds but plenty of snowy adventures and warm conversation over piping hot coffee. © Audrey Dunn

Online

Our online programs helped people from our region and beyond access nature’s wonders without having to leave the comfort of home. From our armchairs, we’ve heard about winter loon rescues, spent time with author Leila Philip discovering how beavers made America, and learned how scat detection dogs assist wildlife researchers, among other enlightening topics.



Partnerships

Many of our programs were co-sponsored with exceptional partners who help amplify our impact. Whether working with conservation commissions or universities, community theaters or local libraries, we were inspired and supported — time and again — by our many community partners. ➡



▲ **Art & Writing on the Wild Side** Young artists show off their mushroom-inspired watercolors during our newest summer camp. © Audrey Dunn

Camp

Jenna Spear, *Camp Director and Teacher-Naturalist*

This June, we kicked off summer camp with our newest offering, **Art & Writing on the Wild Side**.

Thirteen young artists connected with nature through creative expression, learning to watercolor, needle felt, and make musical instruments. A couple weeks later, our building and grounds were abuzz with nearly 200 campers — from preschool **Explorers** to elementary **Woodlanders** and middle school **Rovers** and **Voyagers**. The abundance of summer rain meant that amphibians were all around, and our vernal pool was bursting with life. Campers of all ages found tadpoles, frogs, and salamanders, and explored pond life up-close with microscopes and magnifiers.

Not to be outdone by the summer fun, 30 young adventurers joined us for three days of winter adventures, and 12 middle schoolers learned all about cold weather survival techniques during our **February vacation camps**. One camper shared, “This was the best camp ever, I’ve never made so many best friends!” Here’s to fast friendships and nature-filled fun. ➡



▲ **Snowy Adventures** Our winter campers searched for wildlife tracks, played games in the snow, and explored their favorite trails and secret dens. © Jaime Hutchinson



▲ **Caterpillar Counting** In July, 25 community scientists surveyed for monarch eggs, caterpillars, and butterflies in a Harris Center-conserved milkweed patch in Peterborough. © Brett Amy Thelen

Conservation Research

Brett Amy Thelen, Science Director

The Harris Center's conservation research program spread its wings this year, launching new bird and butterfly projects while growing our tried-and-true monitoring and community science initiatives. Read on for highlights...

Community Science

125 contributors to the new “Harris Center Biodiversity” project on iNaturalist have recorded more than 3,500 observations of nearly 1,000 unique species on SuperSanctuary lands. Visit inaturalist.org/projects/harris-center-biodiversity for species lists, maps, and more — and to add your own sightings.

Last spring, 300 **Salamander Crossing Brigade** volunteers provided safe passage for 6,386 frogs and salamanders, bringing our project total to more than 78,000 amphibians since 2007. We also partnered with the City of Keene to implement Big Night detours at two crossing sites — still the only places in New Hampshire where roads are closed to protect migrating amphibians.



► **Salamander Joy** Our Salamander Crossing Brigade volunteers moved 535 spotted salamanders to safety in the spring of 2023 — and enjoyed every minute. © Brett Amy Thelen

In spring and fall, we worked with community volunteers and local students to survey six study plots in the Harris Center woods as part of **SPARCnet**, a landscape-level 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 survey for nesting nighthawks. Sadly, our volunteers documented that this state-endangered species did not nest in Keene this year.



◀ **Monarch Tagging** Data from monarchs tagged in the **Monadnock Region** contribute to an international network of monarch migration research. © Ben Conant

In more hopeful news, 15 butterfly lovers embarked on the second annual SuperSanctuary Butterfly Count through the **New Hampshire Butterfly Monitoring Network**, recording 725 individual butterflies of

32 species at 12 survey sites in a single day. Community scientists of all ages also collected monarch caterpillar data at a Harris Center-conserved milkweed patch for the national **Monarch Larva Monitoring Program**, and helped study monarch migration by tagging butterflies through **Monarch Watch**.

Research on our Lands

In the tenth year of our **summer internship program** with Keene State College, four undergraduate interns gained valuable hands-on experience while collecting forest inventory data, surveying invasive plants, documenting vernal pools on Harris Center lands, and more.

Through a new partnership with the University of New Hampshire and NH Fish and Game, nine trail cams are now collecting data on Harris Center lands as part of a **statewide mammal monitoring** initiative.

The **Motus Wildlife Tracking System** station on our Granite Lake Headwaters property in Stoddard continues to detect signals from birds that have been affixed with special radio transmitters, contributing to an international network of cutting-edge migration research. Our station has now detected a total of 16 tagged birds, including a Bicknell's Thrush that was first banded in Quebec and a Black-and-White Warbler first tagged in Jamaica.



◀ **Saw-whet Science** Lead bander **Hillary Siener** measures the wing of a saw-whet owl during a night of owl banding. © Brett Amy Thelen

Last fall, we also launched an exciting new **Northern Saw-whet Owl banding project** focused on better understanding the fall migration of this climate-vulnerable species. Together, our team banded 53 saw-whets on SuperSanctuary lands over the course of 25 nights.

Research in the Region

Last fall marked the 18th consecutive season of migration monitoring at the **Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory**, where our team tallied a total of 12,370 migrating raptors — documenting a record-high count for Red-shouldered Hawks and a record-low number of Ospreys.

In other fall migration news, our new **Common Nighthawk migration monitoring** initiative took flight on the shores of Powder Mill Pond in August and September, when Harris Center staff and volunteers counted 5,339 individual nighthawks — contributing to a growing body of scientific knowledge about this enigmatic species.

Our **Broad-winged Hawk tracking** collaboration with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary soared onward, with Harris Center staff and volunteers monitoring six local Broad-winged Hawk nests. Two of “our” hawks are still transmitting data from lightweight satellite transmitters that were affixed last year, shedding new light on their lives and migratory patterns.

We also began to collect **baseline data on Northern (now American) Goshawk** nesting, documenting three breeding territories in the SuperSanctuary as part of a regional effort to monitor this Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Our **American Kestrel project** took a huge leap forward with the construction and installation of 21 nest boxes in high-priority habitat throughout the Monadnock Region. As a result of these efforts, 17 new kestrel chicks have now entered the world!

Finally, we worked with many partners to host the second **Monadnock Region Natural History Conference**, which featured 22 research presentations on topics ranging from Mount Monadnock to forest carbon.

Thank You Heartfelt thanks to all of our project partners and community scientists. Here's to more science in the SuperSanctuary and beyond in 2024! ➡



▲ **Kestrel Conservation** A newly banded kestrel chick, soon to fledge from a Harris Center nest box. © Ben Conant



▲ **Newly Conserved Land in Peterborough** The view west from **Stonybrook Farm**. © Eric Masterson

Land Conservation

Eric Masterson, Land Program Manager

At the end of this fiscal year, the Harris Center's SuperSanctuary of protected lands grew to 25,552 acres, including two new land acquisitions and three new conservation easements.

Newly Protected Land

When word that two extraordinary parcels of land abutting the Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary were for sale, generous friends of the SuperSanctuary stepped into gear to take them off the market while the Harris Center worked to raise the necessary funds. 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. Courtesy of donor support, a grant from the Antrim Conservation Commission, and a \$100,000 grant from the New England Forestry Foundation, we were able to purchase **73 acres of mature forest and beaver swamp bordering Weston Road in Hancock and Willard Pond Road in Antrim** in July 2022.

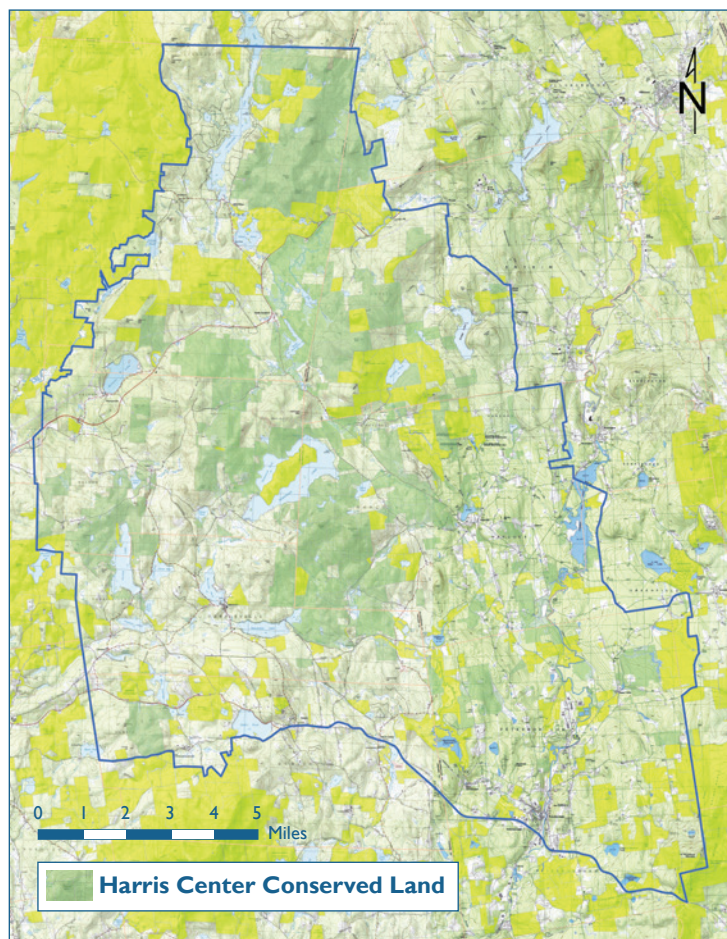
In addition, in March 2023, we purchased **16 acres of land above Old Dublin Road in Hancock** to protect scenic views of Skatutakee Mountain, including from Main Street.

George and Michelle Caughey put **103 acres of land in Antrim** under conservation this past year, the second time they have donated a conservation easement to the Harris Center. Located on Pleasant Street, the forested land abuts the

eastern side of the Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and is very close to the Weston Easement at the end of Depot Road in Hancock.

The Putnam family donated a conservation easement on **586 acres of land in Dublin** to the Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT), then donated the land itself to the same organization. Not wanting to be the enforcement agency on their own land, NEWT asked the Harris Center to accept the conservation easement last year. Our decision was made easier by the fact that we are in negotiations to acquire an easement on 140 abutting acres.

In December, we received a call from Denise Lahey asking if we could accept an easement on **146 acres of land on Sand Hill Road in Peterborough**, but by the end of the tax year, in three weeks time! Denise and Harris Center staff worked furiously to make this happen, and we were able to close with a week to spare. The land boasts stunning views of Mount Monadnock and abuts the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. Furthermore, this project was spurred on by the Harris Center's revised focus on connecting core SuperSanctuary lands to the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge in the south-east and the Andorra Forest in the northwest, strengthening our commitment to creating conservation contiguity.



Stewardship

Our portfolio of conserved lands includes land owned and managed by the Harris Center, along with almost 130 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 2022, interns **Rowan Macy** and **Daniel Medeiros** monitored most of the Harris Center's conservation easements, with staff and volunteers completing the remainder. Most importantly, no violations were noted; in other words, the conservation values articulated in our easements were protected. Rowan and Daniel are both going on to careers in natural resource protection and conservation. You can read more about them at harriscenter.org/interns. Thank you also to our easement monitoring volunteers **Peter Beblowski**, **Hunt Dowse**, and **Janet Yardley**.

Thanks are due once again to 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 includes **Dewey Clark**, **Brad Geer**, **Jack McWhorter**, **Marc Olshan**, and **Tom Shevenell**. This year, Jack also added a Great-Horned Owl to the cast of characters watching over the Harriskat 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 summits of Osgood and Hurd Hills. This team includes **Dave Birchenough**, **Rick Church**, **Kathy Schillemat**, **Al Stoops**, and **Janet Yardley**. Thank you all for your hard work on behalf of the hiking community! ➡

◀ **The Expanded SuperSanctuary** The new SuperSanctuary boundary allows the Harris Center to connect our network of protected land to other large blocks of conserved land in the Monadnock Region.



▲ **The Wood Menagerie**
Our carved animal collection on the Harriskat Trail is growing, thanks to the continued creativity of local woodcarver Jack McWhorter.

© Eric Masterson



▲ **LAB GIRLS+** In partnership with the UNH STEM Discovery Lab, our LAB GIRLS+ afterschool program and summer camp provided access to hands-on, nature-based learning experiences for middle and high school girls in Manchester — free of charge. © Ben Conant

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

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

The Harris Center is committed to ensuring that our trails, 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 physical ability. Here are some of the ways we've worked toward this goal in the past year.

Accessibility

While none of our trails can be considered fully accessible (yet), a generous Harris Center supporter donated a **GRIT all-terrain wheelchair** for use at Harris Center school and camp programs, as well as on our grounds and nearby rail trails. It has already gotten rave reviews.

In addition, our fall Hike-a-Thon raised enough funds to install eight new **trailside benches**, offering people of all ages and abilities places to rest and enjoy the great outdoors. Many thanks to LaValley Building Supply for donating the lumber, and to Dylan Pierpont and the Dublin School woodworking shop for volunteering the equipment, space, and student time to help build the benches!



“[The outing] was excellent and for those in their 90s with walking and balance problems, a real gift and chance to see and hear a few sights and songs only heard in the forest.”

— *Birding for All* participant

Teaching & Learning

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 urban bee advocate Nick Dorian, a talk on belonging and inclusion in the world of outdoor experiences by educator Doug Sutherland, and a film highlighting the work of Mexican park director Maricarmen Garcia Rivas, among other programs.



▲ **Women of the Wild** A special screening of this new film offered a glimpse into the life and work of Maricarmen Garcia Rivas, director of the Puerto Morelos National Reef Park in Mexico. © Molly Ferrill

Thanks to a grant from the Kate Svitek Foundation, we were able to hire two highly qualified educators to provide additional **support for summer campers with special needs**.

In the spring and summer, we partnered with the UNH STEM Discovery Lab to bring our **LAB GIRLS+** afterschool program and summer camp to more than 20 middle and high school students in Manchester, free of charge.

In addition, our **educational programs** at area assisted living communities and through Camp Brantwood and the Keene Recreation Department offered opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and economic backgrounds to explore nearby nature.

“Keep these outings coming, they’re so important at bringing people together when we need it most.”

— LGBTQ+ community hike participant



▲ **Outdoors for All** Louella (center) enjoys a favorite rail trail with a little help from her friends and the Harris Center’s new all-terrain wheelchair. © Adelphia Jere Derby

Cultivating Belonging

Affinity groups welcome those with a shared identity or background — such as race, gender identity, lived experience, sexual orientation, or physical ability — to come together in a safe, supportive environment. This year, our **LGBTQ+ community hikes and paddles**, *Birding for All* outings, **LAB GIRLS+** afterschool program, **Babies in Backpacks** outings, and **programs for veterans** offered welcoming spaces for connecting with the natural world, and with one another.

Our internal **Diversity, Equity & 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. We are committed to listening, learning, and taking action — now and for the future. 🌱



▲ **Turtles All the Way!** In June, 200 supporters visited the Harris Center for a special event featuring a turtle talk by a Squam Lakes Natural Science Center naturalist. Guests had the chance to admire painted and snapping turtles, along with the wood turtle pictured here. © Ben Conant

Thank you to our loyal and generous community of donors — we can't do it without you.

The Year in Giving

Amy Fackelmann, Development Manager

Many of you know that our Outreach Manager Lisa Murray retired at the end of June after nearly five years with the Harris Center. In her time with us, Lisa solidified and grew our annual giving, created our business partnership program, and received grants from many foundations. Thankfully, Lisa hasn't gone far and still remains involved as a supporter and as a member of our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Working Group (which she helped found). Thank you, Lisa — for all you've done and continue to do to advance the important work of the Harris Center.

Getting to Know You

I stepped in as Development Manager at the end of July, and I look forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you! I've worked in philanthropy and giving for nearly 30 years and have found my "work home" at the Harris Center. I live in Hancock, I'm a long-time supporter of the Harris Center, and I've loved exploring the outdoors from a young age.

I encourage you to stop by to introduce yourself the next time you're at the office, or to give me a call and we'll set a time to take a hike. I'd like to learn more about you and your favorite Harris Center trails or which educational programs you can't get enough of!



▲ **Amy Fackelmann** © Audrey Dunn

Business Partnerships

We are deeply grateful to Santander Consumer USA and M&T Bank for their very generous gifts supporting our environmental education programs throughout the Monadnock Region.



We also thank our other **Business Partners** who supported our work in fiscal year 2022-2023:

American House Keene

Harrisville Designs

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

Microspec Corporation

Belletetes

Monadnock Paper Mills

Bellow-Nichols Insurance

Nature's Green Grocer

Clark Mortenson Agency

RBC Wealth Management

C&S Wholesale Grocers

Wholesale Grocers

A Special Thanks To:

- Everyone who gave to our **Annual Fund**. These gifts help us cover our operational costs and support innovative programming.
- All who led the way in our **Red Oak Leadership Society** by giving at the \$1,000 level or above.
- Those of you who have joined our **Bobcats Forever Legacy Society** by naming the Harris Center in your will or leaving us a planned gift.

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



Thank You to All Our Volunteers

Harris Center volunteers help out in so many ways throughout the year by maintaining trails, leading outings, assisting with amphibian crossing efforts, helping around the office — 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.



© Brett Amy Thelen

Honoring Our VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

This year, we presented a Volunteer Extraordinaire Award to **Mark Ellingwood** for his invaluable contributions to our new butterfly survey and kestrel conservation projects. As one of the founders of the SuperSanctuary Butterfly Count, Mark serves as our liaison to the NH Butterfly Monitoring Network and has trained Harris Center staff and community scientists alike in butterfly identification. He was also instrumental in getting our kestrel nest box project off the ground (literally!), transporting and storing nest box materials and equipment in his barn, hosting two volunteer workdays to assemble the boxes, and assisting with installation and monitoring. Mark's leadership, creativity, generosity, and dedication to wildlife are an inspiration.

Pollinator Garden volunteers, **Francie von Mertens, Sara Dowse, Jean Govatos, Mary Seebart, Alison Rossiter, and Michelle Caughey** were also honored with Volunteer Extraordinaire Awards. Together, this devoted group of women care for the plants that provide habitat for a diversity of pollinators: bumblebees, swallowtails, monarchs, moths, hummingbirds, and more.

At a time when our pollinators need it the most, they are both providing a resource for these essential creatures and creating an inspiring example of how others can do the same in their own gardens. We are so grateful for all that they do. 🐝

Partners and Co-Sponsors

We work with many others every year to connect people to the natural world. Our 2022-2023 community partners and event co-sponsors included:

American Kestrel Partnership	Keene State College	Peterborough Conservation Commission
American House	Keene Vet Center	Peterborough Garden Club
Antioch University New England	KSC Film Society	Peterborough Town Library
Antioch University New England's Institute for International Conservation (IIC)	Lead with Nature	Post and Beam Brewing
Antrim Conservation Commission	Loon Preservation Committee	Project OwlNet
Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee	Meadowsend Consulting Company	Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership
Avenue A Teen Center	Miller State Park	RiverMead
Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire	Monadnock Conservancy	SALT Project
Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center	Monadnock Food Co-op	Seaver Farm
Beech Hill-Dublin Lake Watershed Association	Monadnock Ledger-Transcript	Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Bennington Conservation Commission	Monarch Larva Monitoring Project	Southwest Region Planning Commission
Cheshire County Conservation District	Monarch Watch	SPARCnet
Chesterfield Public Library	Moosewood Ecological LLC	Stoneridge Art Studio
City of Keene	National Audubon Society	Sullivan Conservation Commission
Connecticut River Conservancy	Nature Groupie	Swanzy Conservation Commission
Covenant House	Nelson Conservation Commission	The Caterpillar Lab
Distant Hill Gardens & Nature Trail	Nelson Trails Committee	The Dublin School
Dublin Public Library	New England Forestry Foundation	The Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center
Ducks Unlimited	NH Association of Conservation Commissions	The Nature Conservancy
Fitzwilliam Town Library	NH Audubon	The River Center
Franchestown Land Trust	NH Butterfly Monitoring Network	The Thing in the Spring
Franklin Pierce University	NH Chapter of Women's Caucus for Art	Tippin' Rock Farm
Friends of the Ashuelot River Park	NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	Toadstool Bookshop
Friends of the Chesterfield Public Library	NH Environmental Educators	Troubadour Coffee
Hancock Conservation Commission	NH Fish and Game	UNH Cooperative Extension
Hancock Town Library	NH State Parks	UNH Department of Natural Resources and the Environment
Harrisville Trails	NH Timberland Owners Association	UNH STEM Discovery Lab
Hawk Migration Association of North America	NH Transportation and Wildlife Working Group	US Army Corps of Engineers
Hawk Mountain	NH Turtle Rescue	Vermont Institute for Natural Sciences
Historical Society of Cheshire County	NH Water Works Association Young Professionals	Virtual Learning Academy Charter School
Horatio Colony Nature Preserve	North Branch Nature Center	Winchester Conservation Commission
Illuminate Conservation	Northeast Motus Collaboration	Wings of the Dawn Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
Inside-Outside Advisory Group	Northeast Wilderness Trust	Writing the Land
Jaffrey Conservation Commission	Northern Woodlands	
Jaffrey Public Library	Norway Pond Commission	
Keene Parks and Recreation	Nova Arts	
Keene Sentinel	Nubanusit Lake Association	
	Peterborough Community Theater	

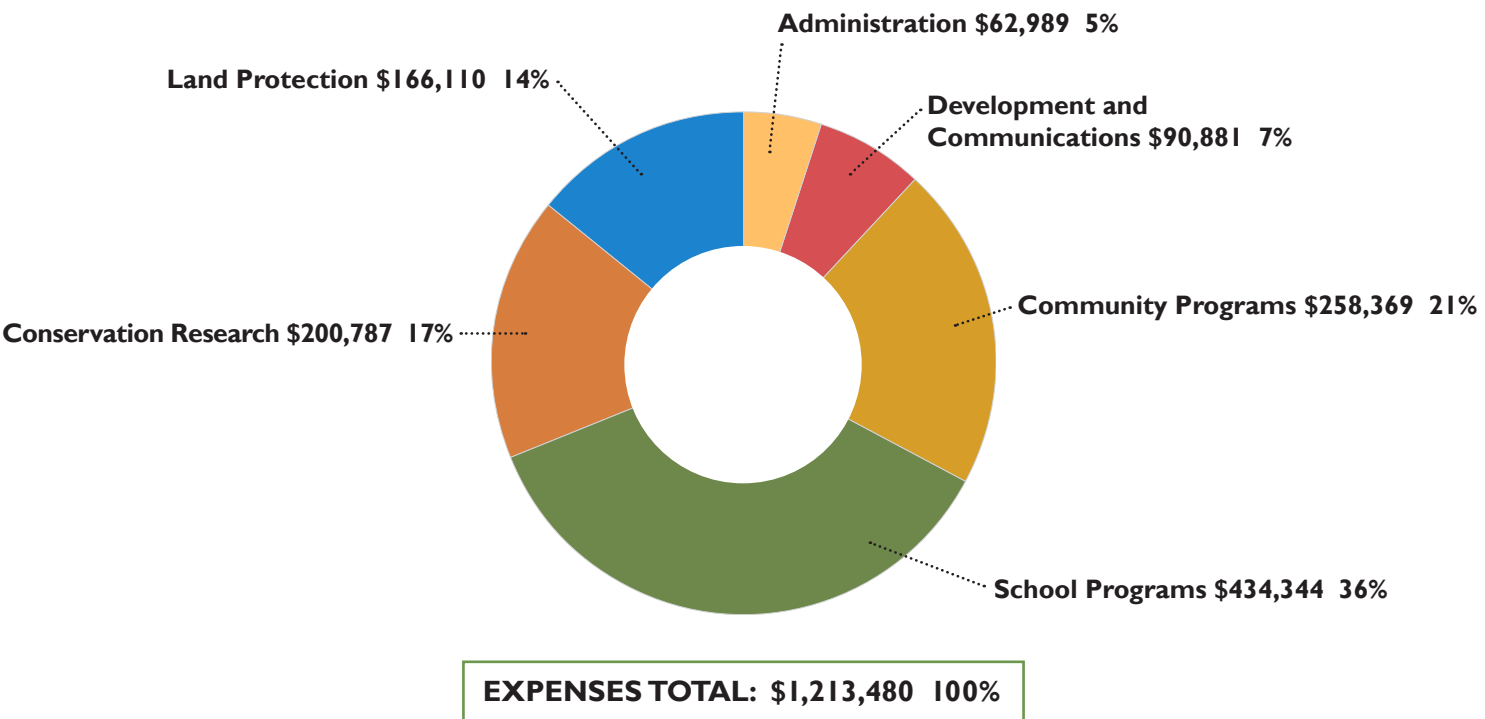
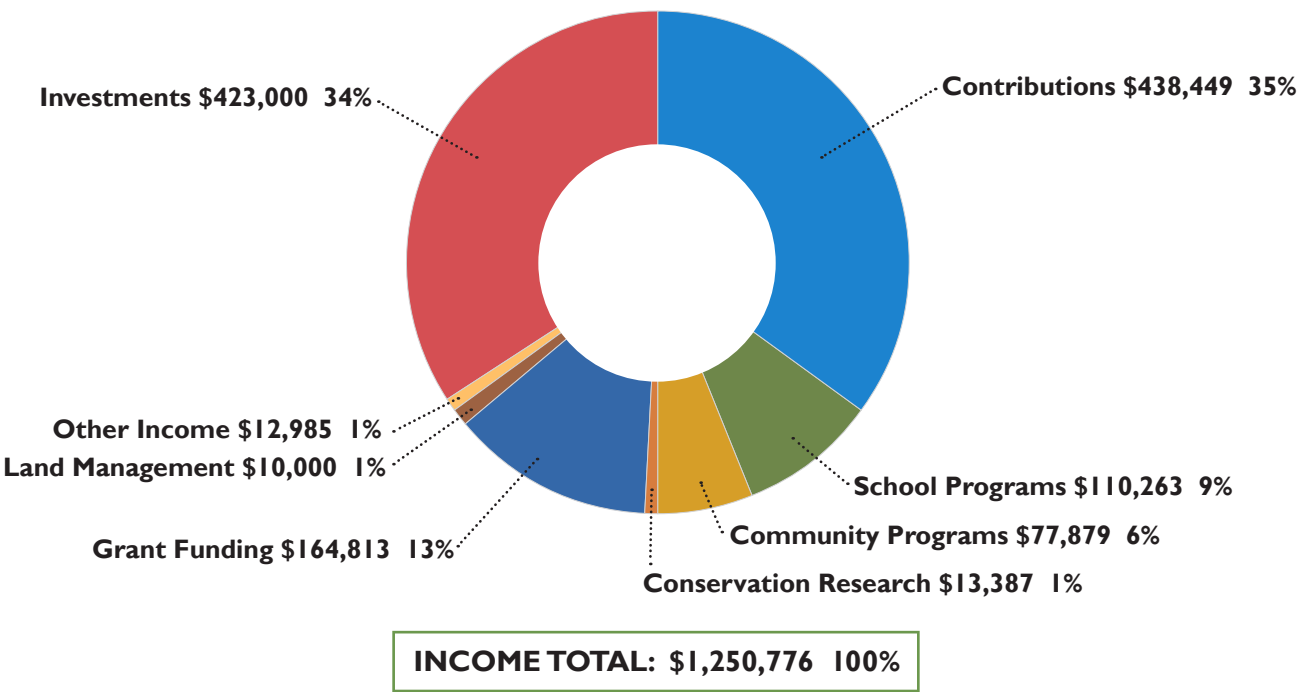
Harris Center Financial Report

Operating Budget – July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

The Harris Center for Conservation Education’s 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.



American Copper
© Mike Thomas



During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Harris Center received an additional \$500,000 in donations to our 50th Fund, land conservation projects, and bequests. We’re so grateful for this tremendous support.



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