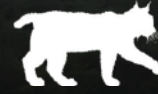


Annual Report



HARRIS CENTER
FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Director's Report

The Harris Center had another amazing year! This success is all thanks to our dedicated staff, extraordinary volunteers, and enduring supporters, who are all working together to build a grand future for the Monadnock Region and beyond.

Throughout the school year, the **Harris Center's teacher-naturalists** visited over 170 classrooms multiple times, offering outdoor education at more than 30 schools across the region, from Keene to Stoddard, and Antrim to Rindge. These programs brought thousands of students outside to investigate, understand, and appreciate nature right in their own schoolyards.

Across all seasons, our **community education staff and volunteers** offered a remarkable diversity of outings, workshops, lectures, courses, movies, camps, and more. These programs — more than 175 in all — helped people of all ages connect to and better understand the natural world.

Harris Center **conservation research staff** worked alongside hundreds of **community science volunteers** to catalog diversity in the SuperSanctuary, move migrating salamanders to safety, and monitor amphibian and butterfly populations. The **Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory** had a successful 19th season. In addition, our Saw-whet Owl banding, kestrel nest box installation and monitoring, and nighthawk migration monitoring projects all expanded last year.

Our **land staff** finalized projects in Peterborough, Harrisville, and Stoddard. Ongoing projects are spread



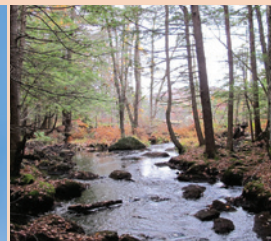
© Ben Conant

throughout our conservation focus area, which includes eight towns total. We've now protected **more than 26,000 acres of land**, which provides wildlife with room to roam, ensures clean water, and offers extraordinary recreation opportunities in the region we call home.

Plans for our new **Open Lodge** and grounds revitalization have advanced, with work scheduled to begin this fall. The Lodge promises to be an adaptable, scalable space for events and programs of all kinds. The improvements to our grounds will make the surrounding landscape more attractive, inviting, enjoyable, and accessible.

We are so grateful to everyone who has helped the Harris Center grow and sustain our work to promote understanding and respect for the natural world. Together, we are making a lasting difference for the environment and for generations to come.

Jeremy Wilson, Executive Director





▲ **Lessons from the Land** These young explorers from Rindge Memorial School discovered the wonders of salamanders, fairy shrimp, and more right outside their school, joining more than 3,000 local students who benefited from the Harris Center’s immersive, place-based education programs.

© Dawn Hoden

Environmental Education in the Schools

Jenna Spear, School Program Manager and Teacher-Naturalist

During the 2023-2024 school year, our team of eight Harris Center teacher-naturalists led more than 3,000 students on outdoor explorations right outside their classrooms. Students discovered local forests, ponds, streams, fields, and skies — with our naturalists guiding them along the way.

◀ **On the cover**

Top: © Eric Swope Bottom: © Ben Conant, Mike Thomas, Brett Amy Thelen, and Tom Momeyer

Highlights of the Year

When Harris Center teacher-naturalist Nikko Gagnon first arrived at Greenfield Elementary School last fall, she noticed that students had no direct access to the state park abutting the school. In a collaboration between the school, Greenfield State Park, and the Harris Center, Nikko worked with park officials to improve a bridge and trail between the park and the school, so students could more easily get to the park. Hooray!



© Jenna Spear

This year, we launched our newest unit, Animal Senses, with **Keene 1st graders**. To learn about the senses wild animals rely upon to survive in nature, students participated in various outdoor activities and games, diving into the worlds of sound, sight, touch, and scent. They also conducted weekly nature journaling activities, aimed at focusing their attention on a particular sense.

Rindge Memorial School 5th graders explored the forest and a vernal pool near their school, discovering spotted salamanders, a Broad-winged Hawk, fairy shrimp, fishfly larvae, and salamander eggs. They wrapped up their lessons by creating food web diagrams, which illustrate how all these organisms are connected.

Educator of the Year

At our Annual Meeting, we honored **Tina Perrault**, a 1st and 2nd grade teacher at **Temple Elementary School** with our **Educator of the Year Award**. Tina received this award for her dedication to place-based, outdoor learning for children. From her work with trail cameras in the school woods to guiding students to create their own nature notebooks, Tina is a gifted educator who fosters her students' curiosity in the natural world.

Professional Development for Classroom Teachers

This was a busy year for our teacher-naturalists in the realm of professional development. The **Learning Vine Preschool in Antrim, Nelson Elementary School, and Jonathan Daniels School in Keene** all participated in year-long afterschool workshops with the Harris Center. Our teacher naturalists met regularly with classroom teachers across the region on their own school grounds to share ideas for place-based lessons that apply directly to their outdoor environments. With our support, the Nelson teachers even developed a "woods recess" plan to allow their students safe, free time in the forest near the school. 🐾



▲ **Educator of the Year** Temple Elementary School teacher **Tina Perrault** (center), with her husband, **Richard**, and **Harris Center teacher-naturalist Janet Altobello** © Audrey Dunn

A Fond Farewell to Janet Altobello

For 35 years, staff member Janet Altobello poured her time, talent, and expertise into expanding the Harris Center's school-based education and professional development programs. Along the way, she mentored hundreds of teachers and sparked a love for the natural world in thousands of students, inspiring wide-eyed wonder for nearby nature in both the young and the young at heart. In 2024, Janet retired, leaving behind a legacy of passion, mentorship, and a deep connection to nature. We are profoundly grateful for her decades of dedication and wish her many joyful adventures, both on and off the trail, in her well-deserved retirement. 🐾



© Ben Conant

The Harris Center for Conservation Education partnered with the following schools in 2023-2024:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Antrim Elementary School | Great Brook Middle School, <i>Antrim</i> | Keene State College Child Development Center | Temple Elementary School |
| Chesterfield School | Greenfield Elementary School | Marlborough Elementary School | The Learning Vine, <i>Antrim</i> |
| ConVal High School, <i>Peterborough</i> | Hancock Elementary School | Nelson Elementary School | The Well School, <i>Peterborough</i> |
| Dublin Community Preschool | Harrisville Children's Center | Peterborough Elementary School | Virtual Learning Academy Charter School |
| Dublin Consolidated School | Jaffrey Grade School | Pierce Elementary School, <i>Bennington</i> | Wells Memorial School, <i>Harrisville</i> |
| First Friends Preschool (<i>Antrim, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough</i>) | Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School | Rindge Memorial School | Westmoreland School |
| Francestown Elementary School | Conant High School, <i>Jaffrey</i> | Robin's Nest Nature Preschool, <i>Peterborough</i> | Wheelock Elementary School, <i>Keene</i> |
| Franklin Elementary School, <i>Keene</i> | James Faulkner Elementary School, <i>Stoddard</i> | South Meadow Middle School, <i>Peterborough</i> | Thanks for exploring nature with us this year! 🐾 |
| Fuller Elementary School, <i>Keene</i> | Keene Middle School | Symonds Elementary School, <i>Keene</i> | |



▲ **Babies in Backpacks & Toddlers in Tow** Free community programs, like this one led by Jazimina Creamer-MacNeil, provide families, seniors, veterans, teens, and other individuals with meaningful outdoor experiences, fostering a lifelong love of nature. © Ben Conant

Community Programs

Susie Spikol, *Community Programs Director and Teacher-Naturalist*

The Harris Center's community programs help 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 care facilities, we strive to provide opportunities for people to fall in love with nature at any stage of their lives. This year, more than 5,000 individuals participated in our community programs.

Our programming continues to grow, reaching more people, new communities, and more diverse populations. This year, we not only offered programs for **independent-living residents at life-care facilities**, but we also developed new opportunities to reach residents in assisted living and memory care. These inventive programs, which use a multi-sensory approach, brought the joy of nature to people with limited access to the outdoors.

Other new initiatives included our partnership with the **Vet Center of Keene**, which helped connect veterans from our region to each other and to the natural world. We also delivered many new family programs in the Jaffrey and Rindge communities thanks to a year-long grant for the Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School District.



© Audrey Dunn

Whether building forts with **homeschoolers**, participating in the Christmas Bird Count with our **Young Birders Club**, learning how to photograph dragonflies in our **Environmental Studies Institute (ESI)** field course for adult learners, or hiking local trails with our volunteer outing leaders, the Harris Center consistently invites and inspires people to create community and build connections through shared outdoor experiences.



© Ben Conant

Online

Our online programs helped people from our region and beyond access nature's wonders without leaving the comfort of home. From our armchairs, we've spent time with Wabanaki storyteller Anne Jennison, learned what it takes to become a wildlife rehabilitator, and, looked at how human health is being impacted by climate change with New Hampshire Healthcare Workers for Climate Action, and more.

Partnerships

Many of our programs were co-sponsored with exceptional partners who help amplify our impact. Whether working with other environmental organizations, universities, local businesses, or regional authors, we were inspired and supported — time and again — by our many community partners. ➔



© Jaime Hutchinson

Camp

Nikko Gagnon, Camp Director & Teacher-Naturalist

This year we kicked off our summer camp season with an adventurous specialty camp, dreamed up by our teacher-naturalists, called **SwampWalkers**.

In this camp, middle school students had the chance to explore local waterways, woods, and all the mucky edges in between. Adventures included fishing with New Hampshire Fish and Game, following streams from start to end, swimming, canoeing, and making journals with a local artist.

Two weeks later, our youngest campers, the **Explorers**, transformed into a different animal each day, learning about black bears, chipmunks, and more. Our **Woodlanders** explored the boulders and woods on the Harris Center property, while our older campers, the **Rovers** and **Voyagers**, ventured further afield to Willard Pond and Lake Nubanusit.

Although winter camp lacked deep snow, our young adventurers learned how to build shelters and stay warm in cold weather. Our middle schoolers even practiced fire-building and toasted s'mores over their first successful blaze! ➔



© Ben Conant



© Brett Amy Thelen

▲ **Interns Afield** In the spring and summer of 2024, student interns contributed to a variety of conservation research initiatives, from monitoring wood duck boxes to conducting forest community inventory. © Ben Conant

Conservation Research

Brett Amy Thelen, Science Director

From birds to butterflies, saplings to salamanders, the Harris Center’s conservation research and community science programs made great strides this year. Here are the highlights...

Community Science

In the spring, 300 Salamander Crossing Brigade volunteers provided safe passage for 7,536 migrating amphibians, bringing our total to more than 85,000 rescues since the project’s inception in 2007. We also once again 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 amphibians on the move.

More than 70 students and community science volunteers helped monitor the Harris Center’s long-term **SPARCnet** study plots, contributing to a landscape-level research effort aimed at understanding the effects of climate change on red-backed salamanders.



© Chloe March

During our third annual SuperSanctuary Butterfly Count with the **New Hampshire Butterfly Monitoring Network**, 19 enthusiastic butterfly lovers recorded 30 species and 945 individual butterflies 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**.

In addition, 167 contributors to our “Biodiversity in the SuperSanctuary” **iNaturalist** project have now recorded more than 5,000 observations of 1,225 unique species on SuperSanctuary lands. Visit www.inaturalist.org/projects/harris-center-biodiversity for species lists, maps, and more — and to add your own sightings.

Research on Our Lands

In the eleventh year of our **summer internship program** with Keene State College, four undergraduate students gained valuable hands-on experience while collecting forest inventory data, establishing an emerald ash borer study plot, monitoring wood duck boxes, and more. In addition, Antioch University New England master’s student Chris Liazos completed two research-focused internships with us, creating detailed forest management plans and developing nest box monitoring protocols, among other essential tasks.

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

The **Motus** 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. An ambitious new study aims to use the Motus network to track the migratory movements of more than 500 Wood Thrushes from 26 states; through a partnership with NH Audubon, six of those birds were tagged with Motus transmitters within the SuperSanctuary in 2024.

In the second season of our **Saw-whet Owl banding** project, our team banded 100 saw-whets on Harris Center lands, enriching our understanding of this climate-vulnerable species.



© Brett Amy Thelen

A Warm Welcome

This year, we were delighted to welcome Antioch University New England graduate student Nate Marchessault as our new staff ecologist.



© Ben Conant

Last but not least, in preparation for an upcoming research effort focused on **American Goshawk conservation**, we initiated acoustic monitoring of four goshawk breeding territories in and near the SuperSanctuary.



Research in the Region

Last fall marked the 19th consecutive season of migration monitoring at the **Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory**, where our team tallied a total of 13,058 migrating raptors and shared the magic of the migration with nearly 6,000 visitors.

In other fall migration news, staff and volunteers with our **Common Nighthawk migration monitoring project** counted 5,123 individual nighthawks from the shores of Powder Mill Pond, adding to a growing body of scientific knowledge about this enigmatic species.

Our **Broad-winged Hawk tracking** collaboration with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary soared on, with Harris Center staff and volunteers monitoring six local Broad-winged Hawk nests. One of these hawks is also still transmitting data from a lightweight satellite transmitter affixed in 2022, providing valuable insight into broad-winged movement ecology.

With the construction and installation of 21 new nest boxes, our **American Kestrel project** doubled in size this year — bringing us up to 45 nest boxes in 19 Monadnock Region towns. We also welcomed 21 new landowners to the project, fostering important conversations about how best to steward the critical grassland habitats that kestrels need to survive.



© Brett Amy Thelen

Thank You

Heartfelt thanks to all of our project partners and community scientists. Here’s to more science in the SuperSanctuary and beyond in 2025! 🐾



▲ **Nature's Canvas** The Harris Center's SuperSanctuary, which includes hundreds of conserved acres surrounding Center Pond in Nelson (pictured), now spans 26,365 acres and continues to grow through new land protection projects and community support. © David Flemming

Land Conservation

Eric Masterson, Land Program Manager

At the close of this fiscal year, the Harris Center's SuperSanctuary of protected land stood at 26,365 acres, including two new land acquisitions and one new conservation easement. More than 600 acres of this growth is due to a change in how we count our conservation acres. This isn't an accounting gimmick, but a recognition that we haven't always acknowledged our leadership role in regional conservation over the past several decades.

To Meade Cadot's great credit, during his 33-year tenure as executive director, he cared more that land was protected than about who ultimately held any particular conservation easement — no surprise to those who know him. However, in the process of safeguarding hundreds of acres that will ultimately be managed by others, we decided to introduce a new category to our accounting methodology. In addition to land protected by fee (direct ownership), conservation easement, or other legal methods, we are now including a "Harris Center facilitated" category for cases where the Harris Center plays an integral role in protecting land but retains no legal interest. This category includes the **Brown conservation easement** on Middle Road in Hancock (the former bison farm), many acres at the **Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary** in Antrim, and other smaller projects, with further additions expected next year.

Newly Protected Land

How often have you opted to take the road less traveled to Peterborough, a.k.a. Middle Road, just to enjoy its scenic beauty? We can thank many people who have helped to preserve its rural character, especially Anna Mary Wallace and her late husband, David, who put their land at the corner

of Middle and Link Roads into conservation more than 20 years ago. When Anna Mary recently decided to divest of another parcel on Middle Road, she again opted to make a lasting mark on the region by donating the majority of the land's value to the Harris Center. With the support of her neighbors and friends of the Harris Center, we successfully raised the funds needed to close on this **46-acre woodlot** at the Hancock/Peterborough town line in October 2023.

As the Wallace family has helped protect land along Middle Road, the Richardson family has left a conservation legacy in east Harrisville. Edith Richardson chose to sell a **10-acre lot with extensive frontage on Hancock Road** to the Harris Center, also for a dramatic bargain price. This small parcel boasts a short but exquisite trail that runs for a quarter-mile along Nubanusit Brook.

Friends of the SuperSanctuary donated a conservation easement that will permanently protect **40 acres of beautiful upland in Stoddard with scenic views of Island Pond**. And if you can see Island Pond, then Island Pond can see you, so they have also safeguarded a portion of the pond's viewshed.

The final new project of the fiscal year involved an amendment to an existing conservation easement. Wait, you can amend a conservation easement? Yes, but only by either increasing conservation restrictions or adding acreage to the easement.



▲ **Rooted in Conservation** A pink lady's slipper on the newly protected Richardson property in Harrisville. © Ben Conant

Plus, every amendment requires approval from the state Attorney General. Denise Lahey reached out to the Harris Center about conserving a **5-acre parcel she had purchased to protect nesting Barred Owls**. Instead of creating a new easement, we added the lot to her adjacent property on Sand Hill Road in Peterborough, which is already under conservation easement with the Harris Center.

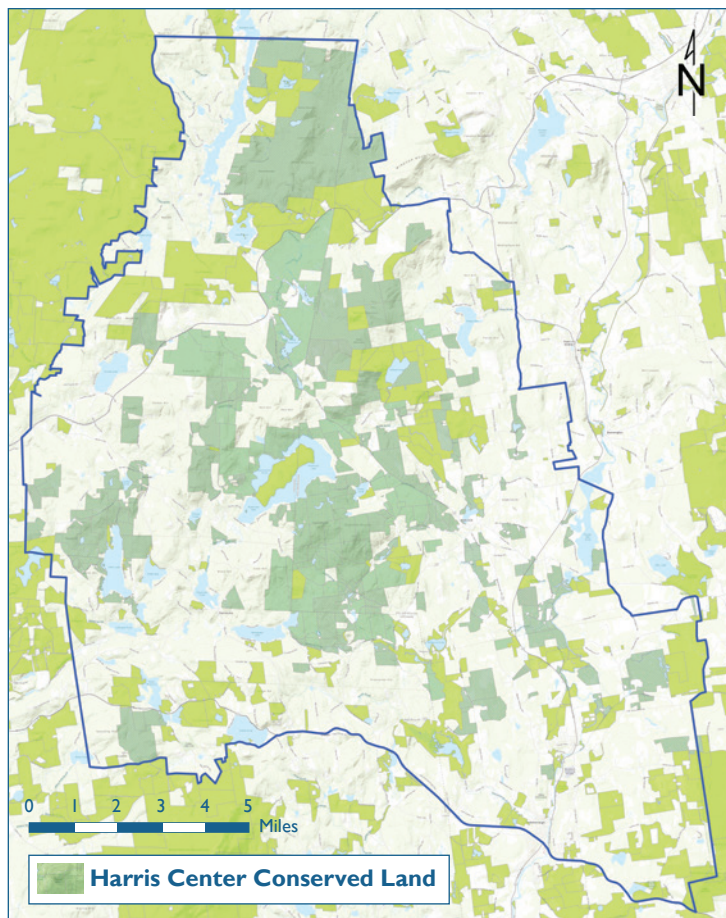
Please join us in thanking Anna Mary Wallace, Edith Richardson, Denise Lahey, and other friends of the SuperSanctuary for their lasting contribution to the scenic nature of the Monadnock Region.

Stewardship

Our portfolio of conserved lands includes land owned and managed by the Harris Center, along with 133 conservation easements that protect 13,536 acres of privately owned land. Each easement must be monitored annually — a process that includes conversations with landowners, reviewing aerial photography, site inspections, and writing reports. Many thanks to **Jill Craig** and **Galen Kilbride**, our conservation easement interns for the 2023-2024 season, and a crew of energetic volunteers, who, along with Harris Center staff, managed to visit every easement to ensure that their conservation restrictions were being upheld.

And in closing, the next time you hike one of the Harris Center's 22 miles of trails, please reflect for a moment on the many volunteer trail stewards who work tirelessly to keep them in good condition, including **Ric Haskins**, **Peter Harrison**, the **Harrisville and Nelson Trails Committees**, and many others. ☺

◀ **The SuperSanctuary** The Harris Center has now protected 26,365 acres in our eight-town land conservation focus area.





▲ **LAB GIRLS+** In partnership with the UNH STEM Discovery Lab, our LAB GIRLS+ program 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 Committee

The Harris Center is committed to ensuring that our trails, lands, educational programs, and conservation research projects are welcoming spaces for all. Here are some of the ways we've worked toward that goal in the past year.

Accessibility

This year, we installed an **accessibility widget on the Harris Center website**, which offers an array of options for making our web content more legible for people with visual impairments, motor impairments, dyslexia, and cognitive disabilities.



In June, we announced our plans to build a **new outdoor gathering space** on the Harris Center grounds — complete with accessible parking, new accessible outdoor restrooms, and accompanying hardscaping upgrades to significantly improve the accessibility of our grounds. Groundbreaking is slated for this fall!

We also completed the installation of eight new **trailside benches**, offering people of all ages and abilities places to rest and enjoy the great outdoors.

Teaching & Learning

We strive to highlight the knowledge, experiences, and voices of naturalists, scientists, and outdoorspeople from diverse backgrounds in our rich **calendar of events**. In the past year, we featured Wabanaki storyteller Anne Jennison, avian ecologist Lauren Pharr, a history hike to Jack's Pond in partnership with the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, and a documentary film about the first women to participate in the Outward Bound wilderness school, among others.



▲ **Jack's Pond History Hike** This hike, offered in partnership with the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, shared the story of Jack, a once-enslaved African who gained his freedom and lived in Hancock. © Ben Conant

Thanks to a grant from an anonymous funder, we were able to hire two highly qualified educators to provide **behavioral support for summer campers** in need of additional assistance.

Our **educational programs** at local assisted living communities, as well as the Jaffrey Public Library, Keene Recreation Department, and UNH Manchester, provided opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and economic backgrounds to explore nature close to home.

To further our own learning, Harris Center staff also took a **group field trip** to the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum, which sparked many thoughtful conversations about how best to honor Abenaki history and culture in our shared work.

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



▲ **Cultivating Community for Veterans** On a guided mushroom walk, veterans from the Keene Vet Center explore local woodlands, building bonds through shared outdoor experiences. © Ben Conant

year, our **LGBTQ+ community hikes and paddles**, **Birding for All** outings, **LAB GIRLS+** afterschool program, and **programs for veterans** offered welcoming spaces for connecting with the natural world, and with one another.



▲ **A Place to Pause** Eight new trailside benches — built and installed by Harris Center staff and volunteers, including the undergraduate interns seen here — provide a resting place for visitors of all ages and abilities, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the serenity of nature. © Brett Amy Thelen

Our internal **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee**, 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 into the future. 🍄



▲ **Raptors Revealed** In June, nearly 100 supporters gathered at the Harris Center for a special event featuring live birds of prey. Mal Muratori, an environmental educator from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, captivated the audience with an American Kestrel, a Broad-winged Hawk, and this Eastern Screech Owl named “Miami.” © Leah Stahmann

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

The Harris Center has an enormous impact for an organization of our size, thanks to our generous community of donors and supporters. You are hunters, hikers, and birders; you paddle, garden, fish, and love being outdoors, no matter the activity. We are deeply grateful to you — you make everything we do possible!

Annual Giving

This past fiscal year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024), we received gifts from 1,044 different donors, which added up to the largest total in our annual appeal history! Whether you give \$10 or \$50,000, every contribution makes a difference, and together your gifts add up. Thanks to you, the Harris Center can offer environmental education in schools pre-K through high school, provide more than 170 programs (mostly free of charge) throughout our community, maintain 22 miles of hiking trails on conserved land, conduct valuable conservation research, and much, much more.



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

WE THANK the *Bobcats Forever Legacy Society* members who have left the **Harris Center** a future gift by naming us as a beneficiary of an estate, trust, or life insurance policy. To learn more, please contact **Jeremy Wilson** at wilson@harriscenter.org or (603) 525-3394.



A Special Thanks To

Our business partners, who support our environmental education programs held at schools throughout the Monadnock Region:

Bellows-Nichols Insurance, Harrisville Designs, Kimball Physics, M&T Bank, Microspec Corporation, Monadnock Paper Mills, Post & Beam Brewing, S.W. Tucker Landscaping, Yankee Publishing

Select foundations and other supporters, who help sustain our operations and various programs:

Anonymous Foundation, Bailey Charitable Foundation, Beech Hill-Dublin Lake Watershed Association, the Bessie Foundations, Bridgebuilders Foundation, Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation, Keene Elm City Rotary Club, New Hampshire Environmental Educators, Osaic Foundation, and REI Cooperative Action Fund

How to Optimize Your Charitable Giving

Below are two tax-wise giving strategies to consider:

- **Donate highly appreciated securities.** You can gift appreciated securities you've held for more than a year to a public charity like the Harris Center. By donating appreciated securities directly to a charity — rather than selling the securities first and then donating the cash — you eliminate capital gains tax on the sale of the stock.
- **Make qualified charitable distributions (QCD) from your IRA.** In 2024, individuals who are 70 1/2 or older and have a traditional IRA can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution of up to \$105,000 to a public charity like the Harris Center. This amount can be used to satisfy some or all of your annual required minimum distribution (RMD). By donating a QCD directly from your IRA, you avoid paying taxes on that distribution, and it won't increase your adjustable gross income.



▲ **Mark Ellingwood** is just one of the many volunteers offering his time and creativity to the Harris Center. In 2023 he received our **Volunteer Extraordinaire Award** for his invaluable contributions to our butterfly survey and kestrel conservation projects. © Ben Conant

Thank You to All Our Volunteers

Harris Center volunteers help us in countless ways throughout the year, maintaining trails, leading outings, assisting with amphibian crossing efforts, counting migrating raptors, helping around the office, and caring for our pollinator gardens and grounds. These dedicated individuals provide incredible support and expertise. We're deeply grateful for their hard work and commitment to the Harris Center.



▲ **Pollinator Garden Volunteers** **Francie Von Mertens, Mary Seebart, Alison Rossiter, Sara Dowse, Jean Govatos, and Michelle Caughey**, were honored with **Volunteer Extraordinaire Awards** in 2023. Their continued care of the plants that support a diversity of pollinators — from bumblebees and hummingbirds to monarchs and moths — not only creates vital habitat for these species, but also inspires others to do the same in their own gardens. © George Caughey

Partners and Co-Sponsors

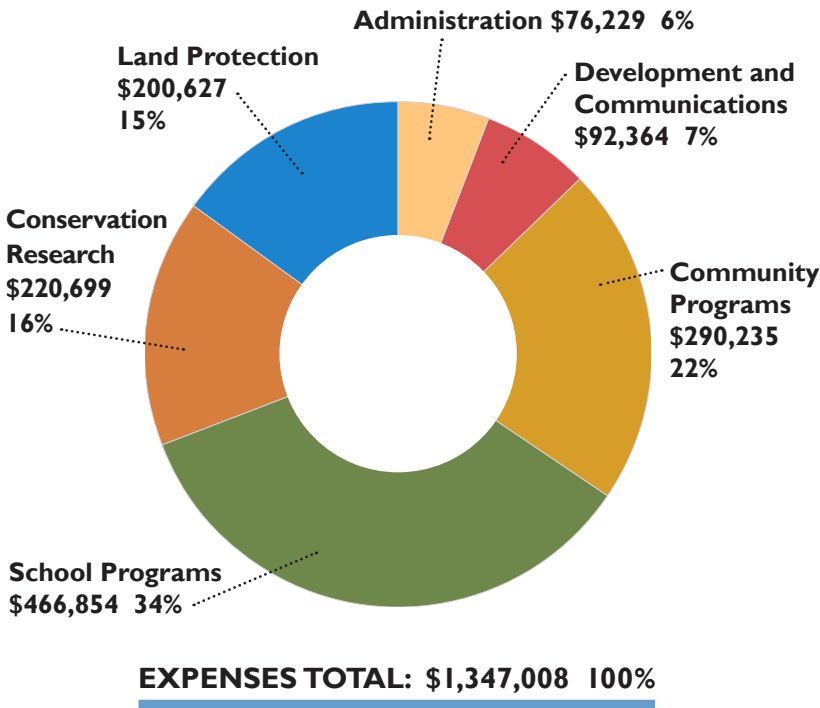
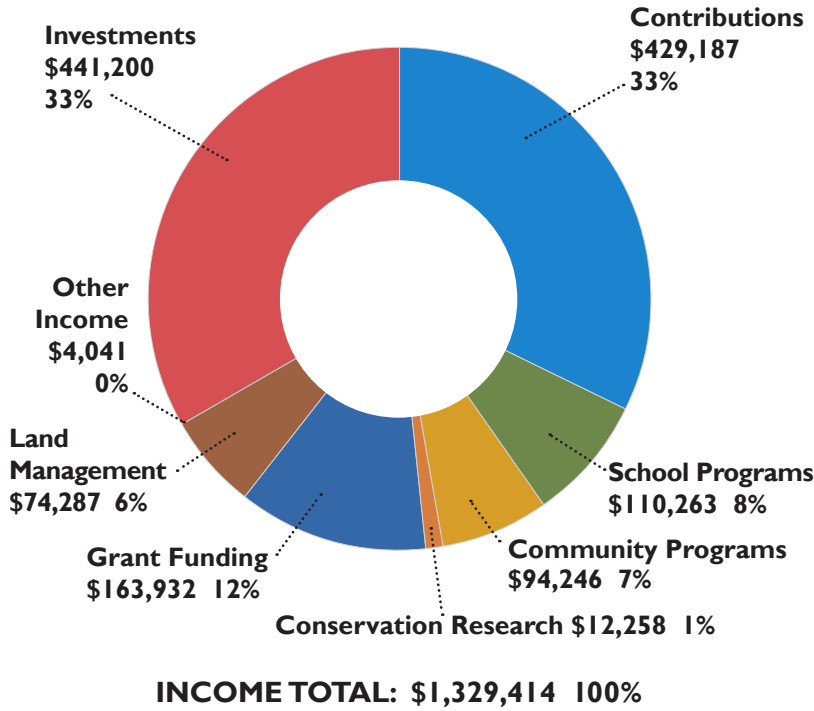
We work with many others every year to connect people to the natural world. Our 2023-2024 community partners and event co-sponsors included:

American House	Lead with Nature	Norway Pond Commission
Amherst Conservation Commission	Loon Preservation Committee	Nova Arts
Antioch Bird Club	Meadowsend Consulting Company	Nubanusit Lake Association
Antioch University New England	Miller State Park	Olivia Rodham Memorial Library
Antrim Conservation Commission	Modestman Brewing	Peterborough Community Theater
Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee	Monadnock Conservancy	Peterborough Conservation Commission
Avenue A Teen Center	Monadnock Falconry	Peterborough Town Library
Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire	Monadnock Ledger-Transcript	Post & Beam Brewing
Beech Hill-Dublin Lake Watershed Association	Monadnock Wanderers	Project OwlNet
Cathedral of the Pines	Monarch Larva Monitoring Project	Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership
Celebrate Stoddard 250	Monarch Watch	RiverMead
Cheshire County Conservation District	Moosewood Ecological LLC	Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
City of Keene	National Audubon Society	Southwest Region Planning Commission
Connecticut River Conservancy	Nature Groupie	SPARCnet
Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch	Nelson Conservation Commission	Stoddard Historical Society
Covenant House	Nelson Trails Committee	Stoneridge Art Studio
Distant Hill Gardens & Nature Trail	New England Forestry Foundation	The Cornucopia Project
Dublin Community Center	NH Audubon	The Dublin School
Ducks Unlimited	NH Butterfly Monitoring Network	The Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center
Fitzwilliam Town Library	NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	The Nature Conservancy
Forest Stewards Guild	NH Energy Education Program	The River Center
Friends of the Wapack	NH Environmental Educators	The Thing in the Spring
Hancock Town Library	NH Fish and Game	Toadstool Bookshop
Harrisville Trails	NH Humanities	Troubardour Coffee
Hawk Migration Association of North America	NH State Parks	UNH Cooperative Extension
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary	NH Transportation and Wildlife Working Group	UNH Department of Natural Resources and the Environment
Historic Harrisville	NH Turtle Rescue	UNH STEM Discovery Lab
Horatio Colony Nature Preserve	NH Water Works Association Young Professionals	US Army Corps of Engineers
Jaffrey Public Library	New Ipswich Library	Virtual Learning Academy Charter School
Jaffrey-Rindge School District	North Branch Nature Center	Winchester Conservation Commission
Keene Parks and Recreation	NorthEast Hawk Watch	Wings of the Dawn Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
Keene Sentinel	Northeast Motus Collaboration	Writing the Land
Keene State College	Northeast Wilderness Trust	
Keene Vet Center	Northern Woodlands	
KSC Film Society		

Harris Center Financial Report

Operating Budget — July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

The Harris Center for Conservation Education's audited financial statements are available for public view at the Harris Center office in Hancock, New Hampshire. The Harris Center for Conservation Education is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Harris Center received an additional \$1.2 million in bequests and donations to our Open Lodge and land conservation projects. We're so grateful for this tremendous support.



© UNH & NH Fish and Game

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Harris Center Staff

- Jeremy Wilson, *Executive Director*
- Janet Altobello, *Professional Learning Facilitator and Teacher-Naturalist*
- Margaret Baker, *Print Communications*
- John Benjamin, *Teacher-Naturalist*
- Phil Brown, *Bird Conservation Director and Land Specialist*
- Meade Cadot, *Naturalist Emeritus*
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