

Keene State College and the Harris Center Year in Review 2025

The Harris Center for Conservation Education

supports undergraduate field study in environmental studies and related disciplines at Keene State College through internships, community science projects, and partnering with students and faculty on capstone research. We also offer learning opportunities for the wider campus community, with a focus on nature, conservation science, and environmental education.

Conservation Internships

In the twelfth season of the Harris Center-Keene State College **conservation internship program**, four motivated students — Maya Carey '26, Keith O'Donnell '27, Parker Root '26, and Grace Todd-Rogers '27 — explored many facets of the Harris Center's diverse conservation, education, and stewardship work during a seven-week paid summer internship experience. Under the guidance of Harris Center staff and KSC faculty mentor Karen Seaver, the internship team surveyed forest plots, documented vernal pools, contributed to a statewide trail cam study, assisted with educational programs, and more.



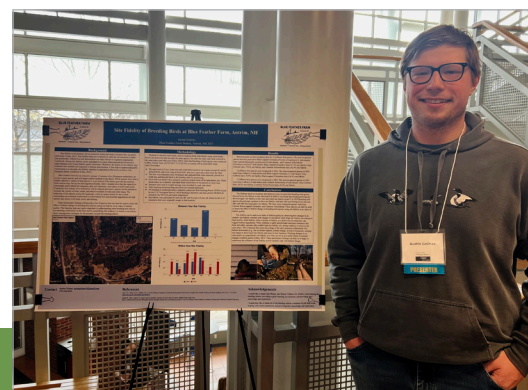
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"[This internship] opened my eyes to new experiences, challenges, and the ins and outs of fieldwork. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience." — MAYA CAREY '26

MONADNOCK REGION Natural History Conference

In November, the Harris Center partnered with KSC, UNH, Antioch University, Franklin Pierce University, the Forest Society, and the Historical Society of Cheshire County to host the third **Monadnock Region Natural History Conference** at KSC. This full day of learning featured **23 talks and 9 posters** on topics ranging from forest management to owl migration — including a presentation by local high school students, who used textile art to tell the story of climate change in the Monadnock Region. Nearly **250 people and 80 organizations** were in attendance. You can find more details, including summaries of each presentation, at tinyurl.com/MonadnockNaturalHistory.

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A full day for scientists, educators, students, backyard naturalists, and everyone who cares about nature! photos © Tom Montroyer

MONADNOCK REGION
Natural History CONFERENCE 2025
Keene State College
November 15

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Community Science

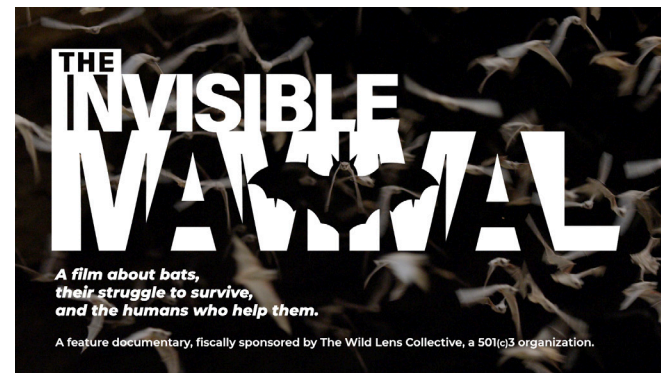
In the spring, dozens of KSC students, faculty, and staff — including three student interns, Lena Goins '26, Chloe March '25 (pictured, right), and Ryan Rotigliano '25 — participated in the Harris Center's **Salamander Crossing Brigades**, a longstanding community science effort focused on reducing amphibian road mortality during the spring amphibian migration. Together with other community volunteers, the KSC crew provided safe passage for nearly 5,000 individual frogs and salamanders over the course of 10 nights at two sites in Keene.



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Discovering Nature On Campus

This year, the Harris Center partnered with the KSC Film Society to offer **two film showings** in the Putnam Theater — a feature-length documentary about bat conservation and a night of short films on the science and spectacle of bird migration. Harris Center naturalist Nikko Gagnon also participated in KSC's on-campus **Earth Day** and **Harvest Fest** celebrations.



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Professional Development for Aspiring Teachers

In November, Harris Center teacher-naturalists Jaime Hutchinson and Jenna Spear led a workshop for 20 aspiring educators in the **Elementary Education Methods II** course. This hands-on learning opportunity introduced KSC students in the teacher prep program to the process of outdoor inquiry with elementary school classes, including making simple scientific observations, developing a research plan, and conducting a plant study on the KSC quad.



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Early Childhood Education

Harris Center naturalist Jazimina Creamer-MacNeil visited KSC's **Child Development Center** for three place-based environmental education lessons, fostering hands-on learning about owls, the magic and mystery of rotting logs, and animals in winter for CDC preschoolers — and for the KSC students who are preparing for careers in early childhood education.

Questions?

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