

BARRY CONSERVATION CAMP

The Conservation Commission plans to send a student to a 1-week session at the Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin, NH during the summer. With the approval of the Board of Selectmen, we have established a camp scholarship fund. The scholarship was established in memory of Deb Levesque, who recently succumbed to cancer. Deb was a dedicated member of the Conservation Commission for many years and we are pleased to honor her in this way.



Deb Levesque

The camp scholarship recipient will be chosen from entries submitted by interested students. We hope to send our first camper in the summer of 2015. Watch for announcements on the CCC website and in the local newspapers.

Barry Conservation Camp has been in existence for more than 70 years. It is located in the White Mountain National Forest and is operated by UNH 4-H in conjunction with New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. Campers learn responsible use of firearms, safe hunting practices, environmental awareness, conservation principles and an appreciation for our beautiful outdoors. To learn more about the camp, visit their website: www.extension.unh.edu, click on "4-H/Youth and Family," then "4-H Camps."

CALENDARS!

The CCC has created 2015 calendars featuring photographs of our natural resources taken in Candia. The calendars were produced with seed money donated by conservation commissioners. All proceeds will go toward the Levesque Scholarship Fund. Calendars may be purchased for \$10 at the town office building, at the library, or from commissioners. As this is our first year, we created a limited number. Be sure to get yours early.

Other donations to support this effort may be sent to the CCC, designated for the Debra Bell Levesque Scholarship Fund.

We would love to include photos of Candia's natural resources taken by residents in future calendars. Send your submissions to the addresses on page 2. Be sure to include the location and name of the photographer.

NEW BOSTON RD CONSERVATION AREA BRIDGE

Another project we are considering this year is replacing the bridge at the New Boston Road Conservation Area. We need a sturdier bridge there to allow people to cross the river, where most of the property lies. It is a very pretty parcel and we want people to enjoy it. This area makes a great destination for an afternoon of picnicking, fishing, or exploring.



New Boston Road Conservation Area Bridge

The bridge has been replaced repeatedly, but tends to wash out in times of high water. In order to build a sturdier one, we need to anchor it more securely and build it higher off the river. We hope to host a day at the Conservation Area next spring in order to build a new pedestrian bridge. Keep an eye out for announcements.

NEW NRI MAPS

We will receive a new set of NRI maps from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways. The project, funded with a grant from Open Space Institute, produced maps updated with recent information from NH's Wildlife Action Plan, a climate change study conducted by The Nature Conservancy and other natural resource data. The new maps will be helpful in identifying important areas to protect. Candia will receive a set because we are a member town of this regional land trust.

NRI MAPS, continued...

Members of the Conservation Commission attended a Roundtable hosted by Bear-Paw in December to learn about the new maps. A representative from Bear-Paw will attend a Conservation Commission meeting to present Candia's set and explain how they can be used early in 2015.

The maps will be hung on the map rack in the Town Office Building. The public and our town boards, are encouraged to consult them when planning changes to town lands.

NEW WILDLIFE CROSSING SIGNS

During the summer of 2013 the CCC posted yellow signs around town bringing drivers' awareness to warm weather wildlife crossings near the town's wetlands. Only two of the signs survived the season.

Because the CCC felt they serve an important function, Commissioner Susan Wilderman and our Recording Secretary Donna DelRosso made new signs to use in 2015. As part of their studies, Susan will have Jesse Remington High School students use Candia's NRI maps to determine areas in town where turtles, frogs, salamanders, and other wildlife species are likely to be crossing the roads, identifying potential sign locations. Your suggestions regarding where to post signs can be sent to the addresses below.



New wildlife crossing signs

As we noted in our 2013 newsletter, spring and late summer are especially busy times for critters to attempt these crossings. If drivers are vigilant near wetlands, streams and ponds, we could decrease the number of amphibian and reptile fatalities. If you help a critter cross the road, always move it in the direction it is heading. It is going that way for a reason!

Thank you Susan and Donna for making the new wildlife crossing signs.

A Note From The Chair...

Your CCC has seven members and several alternates. Aside from our official duties, which include reviewing wetlands permit applications, supervising certain town properties and working with landowners/land trusts on conservation projects, we have many ideas for other projects. Our challenge is that we are short on volunteer time. Some people may be interested in helping on a short-term basis, but not in committing themselves indefinitely. Here are some volunteer opportunities to consider:

- We will be making more Critter Crossing signs for the town's wetland areas on a day in late winter. It will involve painting stencils on signs and attaching signs to posts. We also need "sign stewards" to post them in the spring and store them in the fall.
- Residents could "monitor" town properties for us. This would involve a few hours walking in the woods on a nice day and a verbal or email report back to the CCC.
- We publish a newsletter, which is included in the Boy Scout packet every year. We could use help with formatting, editing and perhaps a donation of printing to save tax dollars.
- Hopefully there will be a bridge-building day next spring. We will need help with construction and donations of materials.
- And of course we welcome folks who would like to become members of the Commission. We're always in the market for new energy and fresh ideas.

If any of these projects interest you, please contact Donna DelRosso at ddelrosso@townofcandia.org or leave a message at the Selectmen's office; 483-8101.

~ *Patsy Kruse Chairperson*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The CCC holds monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday at 7pm in the Town Office Building. The public is welcome to attend. Visit our web site for more information and to confirm meeting times and dates.

E-mail: info@candiaconservationcommission.org

Web: www.candiaconservationcommission.org.

Help us keep track of wildlife you see by filling out sighting reports on our web site.

Remember to vote on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.