



The Chocorua Lake Association

Spring Newsletter 2013

May 2013

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chocorualakeassociation.com

President's Letter

Dear CLA Members and friends,

Plenty of snow this winter! As of this writing, spring has been late in coming. Cold winds persist and snow is still on the ground in Chocorua. Partial ice is out of the lake and the waters await the coming of the loons. Another year passes.

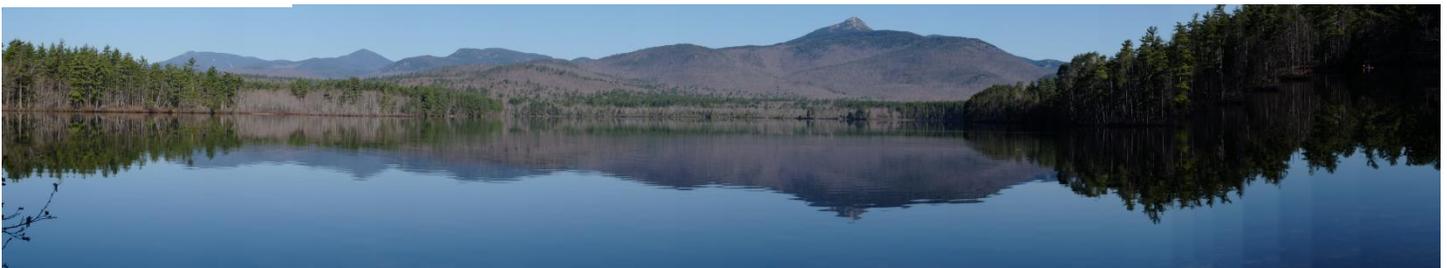
Our community was hit with several sad losses this winter. Jim Bowditch passed away in February after a struggle with lung cancer and COPD. It is a huge loss for us all and our hearts go out to his family. I am so glad that we presented him with our CLA award last summer. I have included his obituary in this newsletter. We also lost two other stalwarts, Fred Kumm and Malcolm Coulter, both of whom passed away this winter. We send fond condolences to their families as well.

Over these past months, some members of the CLA and CLCF Boards have met to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a merger of the two organizations. These meetings are continuing into the spring to ascertain whether this is an appropriate move for us both at this time. There are a number of issues still to be resolved. Stay tuned. Some of us in addition, have attended various land trust conferences: Peg Wheeler went to the MA Land Trust Alliance Conference. Bob Seston and I attended the second year of the NH Land Trust Coalition where we met a lot of our NH land trust colleagues. There were over 150 folks there. And John Watkins, Peg Wheeler and I together continue to be in ongoing communication regarding the CLA and CLCF activities.

The Chocorua community welcomes several new neighbors: Benedicte and Roger Hallowell and their two sons, Penn and Rory, who have bought the Rubel house and the Merlow family who have bought the Stoneman house at the junction of Chocorua Lake Rd. and Philbrick Neighborhood Rd. Please be sure to introduce yourselves, wish them well, and include them in all the various Chocorua activities.

We look forward to this summer's activities (see enclosed CLA calendar of events) and your renewed CLA membership and support. We have included a tear-off page for your membership dues. Remember that your dues contributions are different than they have been in the past. There are now 2 categories of CLA membership, that of Family and that of Individual. For those of you who have automatic bank payment, the dues amount for membership has changed (see insert) so please don't forget to alert your bank of this change. For those of you who get their dues to us by July 4,

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you will receive a newly minted NH quarter with a depiction of Chocorua Mountain taken from Jim Bowditch's field – the iconic picture of the Mountain.

I want to thank Barbara Worcester for gifting me with her proofreading ability in this newsletter and to encourage anyone who might like to assist in this newsletter in the future. Please, don't be shy!

As always, feel free to contact me or any member of the CLA Board with your comments, concerns, and questions. I look forward to seeing you all this summer.

Cordially,

Harriet P. Hofheinz, President

hhofheinz38@gmail.com

2013-2014 CLA Board Members

Harriet Hofheinz (President)	Nancy Fryberger (Vice-President)
Bob Seston (Treasurer)	Penny Wheeler-Abbott (Secretary)
Diana Bailey	Nomie Cannon Fredericks
Tish McIlwraith	David Farley
Steve Lanou	Larry Nickerson
Townsend Zwart	Peter Lewis
	John Roberts

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Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation Update

Four areas have been under active review:

1. Financial. The officers of both organizations have reviewed the record keeping practices, the organizational and financial activities of both organizations for the past 5 years, the resources and expenditures of the Fund for Chocorua Lake (FCL) for the past 10 years, and the recently established stewardship fund. This was done with a CPA accountant experienced in the regulations and best available practices and reporting mechanisms were in place; no deficiencies were noted. A full report and recommendations from the CLCF financial committee will follow after this review.

The annual fund-raising activities for the last fiscal year revealed a rewarding level of participation (nearly 30%) with donations both large and small from the annual CLCF appeal as well as the Grove collection boxes.

2. A joint CLCF/CLA task force was established to review and make recommendations regarding their shared activities and determine where appropriate synergies and responsibilities exist. This task force has met over the past 4 months with the able assistance of Stephen Johnson. The object being to best utilize the remarkable talents and interests found among the residents of the Chocorua basin. This effort is in part a contribution of the two-year strategic

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planning process directed by Patrick Miller and Mr. Chase in 2008-09. A full report for review is anticipated in the next upcoming months.

3. Tamworth wet land ordinance became a ballot question at this year's town meeting with two issues on the ballot: a) to modify the ordinance requiring a 25 foot set back from existing wetlands and, b) to abolish the local ordinance altogether leaving all regulation to the State of NH or the Core of Engineers.

As the representative of the CLCF and CLA, I presented the berms and swales water quality analysis and data posted by Dwight Baldwin on the CLA website to the Tamworth Planning Board and Conservation Commission. This was well received by both and they proceeded not to vote to abolish the wetland ordinances. Nevertheless, both measures passed on the ballot vote making the wetland ordinances in Tamworth no longer in force. I anticipate we will be returning to this discussion in the future. (Please see additional article by Katie Thompson).

4. Forestry Plan Grant: The CLCF received a NRCS grant to support the development and implementation of a forestry and resource plan for the 18 fee-owned lands* comprising nearly 1500 to 2000 acres in the Chocorua basin. CLCF board member, Tim Baldwin provided his considerable expertise with the Granit Software and mapping systems in the preparation of the grant. We are now able to supplement the previous serial photos with satellite data generated maps as well as existing surveys.

Don Johnson, also a CLCF board member, provided his forestry expertise to evaluate forestry past practices as well as to develop new directions for the years to come. All data will be incorporated into the combined CLCF/CLA database under the direction of Steve Lanou.

* "fee-based lands" are the lands the CLCF holds now in perpetuity such as the Grove/Island, Moose Meadows, Brown property etc.

5. A conservation and easement monitoring workshop will take place on May 5th in Weare, NH with the participation of SPNH. Tim Baldwin and others will represent the Chocorua basin and will subsequently, share their observations with the two Boards.

In sum, it has been a rewarding and busy winter. My thanks to all those who contributed to all of this and to those who responded so generously to the annual appeal.

I look forward to the return of summer and ending my weekly commute to Boston.

John B. Watkins, MD, President of the CLCF

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Where have all the bats gone? By Rene Laubach* & H. Hofheinz

In what may well be the only disease to ever target hibernating mammals, white-nose syndrome (WNS) has, in a mere six years, decimated bat populations in eastern North America. For instance, the number of thumb-sized little brown bats—once very common—has plummeted to the point that some states such as Vermont are affording it endangered species status. This is the bat species most common in Chocorua. In fact, no mammalian disease in recorded history has been so thorough and rapid in its spread. Hibernating populations have fallen between 90 percent and nearly 100 percent in affected caves and mines where the over-wintering species spend six months of every year.

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Named for the telltale, fuzzy, white fungal masses on the snouts and wing membranes of hibernating bats, WNS is estimated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to have killed 5.5 to 6.7 million bats since it was first found in February 2006. From Howe Cave near Albany, New York, the fungus has now spread to caves and mines in 19 states and four Canadian provinces. Although researchers are constantly learning more about this disease, which has been compared to medieval Europe's black death and the American chestnut blight of the early 20th century, much still remains to be discovered.

Geomyces destructans, a fungus that thrives at low temperatures and high humidities, is the culprit in this mass die-off, but the exact mechanism by which it kills bats is still somewhat murky. It is believed that the fungus is passed from bat to bat through direct contact or through contact with a surface contaminated with the fungus. Laboratory experimentation has shown that *G. destructans* cannot survive temperatures above 68 degrees. Unfortunately, hibernating bats require temperatures between 40 and 45 degrees in order to slow their metabolic rate and subsist off of the few grams of stored fat fueling their hibernation. *G. destructans*' fungal threads enter the bats' skin through glands and pores, causing tissue destruction. But that by itself is probably not enough to kill the animal outright.

What's perhaps more diabolical is that the fungus inflicts sufficient irritation to rouse the bat from its deep slumber, causing it to fly aimlessly about, thereby burning up the life-sustaining fat reserves it depends upon for survival until spring reemergence. Boston University bat researcher Tomas Kunz believes that hibernation suppresses a bat's immune system, making it vulnerable to the fungus.

Interestingly, the fungus has now been found in Europe as well, but European bats do not succumb to WNS the way that American bats have. It is another case of an invasive exotic organism wreaking havoc upon defenseless natives ill-equipped to deal with an invader. In contrast, European bats, it is assumed, have had years, perhaps millennia, to develop a resistance to it. Which begs the question: how did the fungus that causes WNS make its way to N. America? Scientists surmise that a cave explorer inadvertently transported the fungus to the US on shoes or clothing shortly after visiting a European cave.

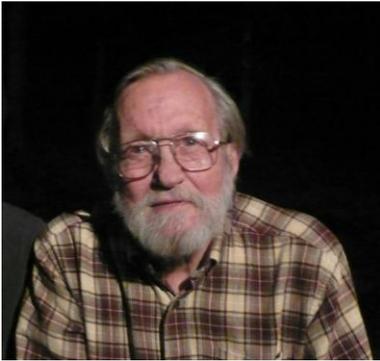
The effect has been catastrophic. The Indiana bat and the gray bat, both already federally endangered before the advent of the disease, are now even more vulnerable to extinction. In all, nine species of bats have been affected, some more than others.

In the East, the disease may well have run its course since vulnerable individuals - the vast proportion of the population - have already died. The survivors may be endowed with as-yet-unknown immunity to white-nose syndrome. Unfortunately, the fact that long-lived cave bats reproduce so slowly - averaging only one young per year - almost certainly means that decades will pass before bat population can assume anything resembling their pre-WNS levels.

And what will the effects of this massive bat die-off be? Bats are credited with saving the nation billions of dollars by curtailing potential crop damage by eating moths that, as larvae, consume a significant portion of our farm crops. And additionally, the millions of mosquitoes they consume. Surely we shall feel that in Chocorua! Unfortunately, it may have taken a true biological calamity like white-nose syndrome in order for us to fully appreciate this formerly much-maligned group of creatures.

*Rene Laubach is the Director of the Berkshire Sanctuaries for Mass Audubon and

a good friend.



In Memory: James (Jim) Bowditch

James Bowditch

Summer Resident of Chocorua

James R. Bowditch (Aug. 27th, 1933 – Feb. 19, 2013) was a brilliant man and an active member of the Adventures for Learning Community in New London, NH as a teacher and organizer. He read a book a day every day of his life. He was an encyclopedia of knowledge.

He had a degree from Stanford University and a Ph.D. from Harvard, specializing in American literature and Japanese culture. He was a Fulbright scholar in Japan. He grew up and lived in the Philippines, Mexico, Salt Lake City, Japan, Ethiopia, Rome and has been retired from his international teaching career in New London for the past 11 years. He spoke Italian fluently. He was a professor at Ripon College, Wisc, the headmaster of the overseas school of Rome and the International School in Torino for seven years, the headmaster at the International Community School in Ethiopia for three years and spent 17 years as a full professor at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy.

One of his great loves was his summer home in Chocorua, where he spent every summer of his life. Last year, he was awarded “Citizen of the Year” by the Chocorua community for his contributions as the President of the Chocorua Lake Association. He was responsible for getting the Chocorua Basin and all the homes there part of the historic national registry.

Through Adventures in Learning in New London, he taught courses on “Moby Dick”, “Tales of Genji”, comparative religion, Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman to name a few. A fond memory of him was he gave visitors to Rome a tour of the Roman Forum and was a walking history book. He knew the story of every stone, archway, and ruin. He wrote 10 books – none of them published (not because they weren’t good). He just wrote them because he loved writing. That was his passion – reading and writing.

He leaves his sister Faith in Virginia, his sons Bruce in Tucson and Mark in Princeton, his daughter Rachel in Phoenix, his former wife and friend Chris in New London, and his four grandchildren Emily, David, Sophie and Jal. He will be dearly missed.

There will be a reception for him this summer in Chocorua. Details to follow this spring.

- Adapted from the *Conway Sun*

The Club Motorsports saga, spring, 2013 by Katie Thompson

In Tamworth's town elections this March, Club Motorsports Inc. staged an all-out campaign to pass two petitioned warrant articles: one that proposed amending the Tamworth Wetlands Conservation Ordinance to remove the requirements for buffer zones and Special Use Permits (its main provisions) and another that proposed to eliminate the Wetlands Ordinance altogether. A disgruntled resident

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initiated the latter, but CMI provided the language for both proposed amendments and worked openly and hard for them.

A large group of conservation-minded residents fought hard to defeat the warrant articles, but the locally-financed volunteer effort couldn't match CMI's deep pockets and professional help, and in the end both articles passed by more than a hundred votes. It was one of the heaviest voter turnouts for a town election in recent years.

As you probably recall, CMI and its plans for a private "driving course" for fast cars and motorcycles came to the attention of the town in April, 2003. Now, ten years later, CMI appears to have removed the last regulatory barrier to constructing its track.

In the process, Tamworth has lost one of its most important land-use ordinances. The TWCO was enacted in 1980, and updated in 1991. It's been a model for ordinances in other towns. Whatever the future of the racetrack, the loss of the TWCO is a real blow to conservation efforts in Tamworth. State regulations are weaker and harder to enforce.

Residents who are concerned about the possible effects of the CMI track will be watching carefully as construction proceeds to make sure the project adheres to all the conditions of its NH DES and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits. People in surrounding towns, like Sandwich and Madison/Silver Lake, will be watching too.

Concerned residents will also be looking for other ways to minimize adverse effects on the town. Noise is a major worry, along with the track's effect on the Bearcamp River, the Ossipee Aquifer and other elements of the local watershed. St. Andrews-in-the-Valley, whose property is directly across Route 25 from the proposed development, could be seriously impacted.

Thank you to all who have helped with this effort, financially and otherwise, over the years.

Thought you'd be interested!

"NH state-threatened Bald Eagle population is in the midst of a very robust recovery. The recently completed 2012 breeding season was a record-setter with increases in almost every eagle breeding statistic that we monitor in collaboration with the Fish and Game Department's Nongame Program. A grand total of 198 young Bald Eagle chicks have fledged from nests in the state since the species began nesting here again at Umbagog Lake a quarter-century ago. Most astonishing, nearly on third of those fledglings have been produced just within the past two breeding seasons!

While seeing an eagle on Chocorua Lake may still come as a surprise to many, when you consider the various segments of the state's 2012 population it becomes clear why such sightings are increasingly common. Just add up NH's 35 territorial pairs (70 individuals) plus their 33 fledged young, and you get a total of 103 birds. Then double that figure (at least!) to account for the state's many transient immature eagles in the one, two, and three-year old cohorts. Adding all this up, it is not a stretch to arrive at an estimate of 225 or more individual Bald Eagles present in the Granite State at the end of summer 2012".

*This edited version was taken from *Afield*, NH Audubon News and Programs, winter, 2012-13.

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Heart of the Mountain: Salute to Frank Bolles by **Howard Mathews**

The words of Frank Bolles, written in 1897 in his book “At The North Of Bearcamp Water” intrigued me from the first time that I read them. In his chapter, The Heart Of The Mountain, he gave the following description of a walk that he took into what he calls the heart of Mt Chocorua.

He said:

“The heart of the mountain is the wild ravine where those two streams mingle in perpetual coolness and shadow. No path leads to it and few are the feet which have found a way to its beauties. There is a peculiar charm to a spot unknown to the many. Its loneliness endears it to the mind and gives its associations a rarer flavor. If besides being unfrequented it is singularly beautiful in itself, it becomes a shrine, a place sacred to one’s best thoughts. To me, the heart of Chocorua is a shrine, all the more valued because of the weariness of flesh required to attain it.”

As I approached my 75th birthday in April, I thought about doing some things that were still on my “To Do” list. Going to the heart of the mountain was very high on my list.

I contacted my two sons, Doug and Ken about doing that hike and they were both very enthusiastic. They both came for father’s day and we went to the heart of the mountain on Wednesday, June 22.

Reading Frank Bolles description of the hike had him leaving his home Crowlands, now Toby and Theo’s home, and “descending into a deep cup shaped basin where a small pond fed by springs is shaded by lofty oaks and birches---“ This would be Heron Pond. He proceeded to where “I crossed another strip of open pasture---where the tinkle-tankle of the cow bells sounded with each bite the cows took of the grass ---and gained the edge of the forest and the foot of the mountain. This would be the Korson’s field.

He then proceeds to the “mountain brook” which would be Stony Brook.

We took the Hammond trail to the second spot where Stony Brook crosses the trail and then headed upstream. After two and a half hours of strenuous hiking, we sat with our maps and our snacks and decided that we would return, rather than continue up. The going was on very steep and slippery slopes and the blow downs of large trees often forced us to climb higher to get around them. The streambed was of many large, slippery rocks and not safe to use as our path. We stuck to the higher sides. Sometimes each of us on opposite sides and calling over, “I have a path here”. We would then descend and cross over to the better path. We had expected an adventure and it was that. Of course, the mosquitos and black flies were our constant companions.

Frank Bolles writes: “To reach the heart of the mountain nearly a mile of brook bed had to be traveled.”

We traveled that and more in two and a half hours so that I know that I have been there. We found the “convergence of two streams” that he refers to and the size of

the streams was very small from what I expected having read his descriptions.

Who knows what it all looked like over a hundred years ago. Frank Bolles described what he felt and saw through his pen.

It is a special place and I am glad that I have gone there.

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Wildlife Notes by Harriet Hofheinz

It has been sparse pickings this winter for unusual critters present in our woods. The usual reported mammals, fishers, deer, turkeys, eagles and hooded and American mergansers, have all been reported. So far no bears, but Alice Waylett reported seeing otters poking their noses up through the ice in the little lake earlier. We haven't spotted otters for a while. Bobcats too, are in evidence. Because they are usually nocturnal animals, they are hard to observe.

John Watkins and the Bearcamp Trackers visited the Bolles Reserve late this winter and tracked grey and red fox, fisher and deer. Also, characteristic browsing dens of deer and moose were in evidence in and around Heron Pond.

The sights and sounds of early spring are ever present. John W. reports that the water of early spring on Heron Pond was a lovely azure blue having absorbed the last of the winter snow. Other signs of oncoming spring, in February, the time of "Imbloc"* as John refers to it, are when the barred owls start their mating conversations and the sap starts rising. And one of the most precious songsters of all, the winter wren, arrives around Easter to sing his heart out

And now in April, a report just in that the loons have landed on the lake and first heard on April 18! Ice was totally out on April 15th – how do the loons know? This mystery alludes us, but they know to come only when the ice is out and that varies from year to year.

Here's to another spring! Keep the reports coming to hhofheinz38@gmail.com.

* "Imbloc" is an ancient Celtic recognition of the 2nd quarter of the year between the equinox and the beginning of spring. So says brother John.

In Memory of Fred Kumm, Malcolm Coulter, Eleanor Homeyer, and Jim Bowditch

The entire CLA community sends condolences to the, Kumm, Coulter, Homeyer, and Bowditch families.

Upcoming Events – Spring and Summer, 2013

CLA Events

May 25th **CLA Board Meeting**, 9:00, Red Gables (Robbins)

June 15/16th **Breeding Thrush Survey**

Contact Harriet Hofheinz, hhofheinz38@gmail.com

July 6th CLA Rt. 16 **Trash pick-up**, 9:00 at Grove

Volunteers needed, contact Nancy Fryberger, fryberger@verizon.net

July 6th, **CLA Community Picnic**, noon at Red Gables (Robbins)

Contact Tish McIlwraith, tishfish@earthlink.net

August 10th **CLA Board meeting**, 9:00, Hofheinz

August 10th **CLA Community Picnic**, noon, Wheeler field

August 24th **CLA Annual Meeting**, 3:00 – 5:00 with wine and cheese gathering afterwards, Runnells Hall

August 31st **Chocorua/Tamworth and beyond Tennis Tournament**

Contact Alex Moot, awmoot@gmail.com

September 1st **Softball game**, 1:00, Wheeler's field

September 1st **Labor Day Grove Picnic**, just before dusk, Grove

October 12th **CLA Rt. 16 Trash pick-up**, 9:00 at Grove

October 12th **CLA Board Meeting**, 11:00 (11:30),

Chocorua Community Announcements

July 27th **Chocorua Day** – crafts, games, raffle, rides, food, book sale and art exhibition.

All summer, **Art Works Gallery**, (Tamworth Artisans), call 603-323-8041 for hours



Get Connected via E-Mail

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other CLA news and announcements via e-mail, please be sure to send your e-mail address, along with any other updates to your address and contact information to Bob Seston, RKSeaton@gmail.com.



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**New: Pay and Donate On-Line at
chocorualakeassociation.com/stewardship**

Chocorua Lake Association Membership Dues 2013

Family Member - \$80.00* \$ _____
Individual Member - \$45.00** \$ _____
Additional Donation \$ _____
Total \$ _____

* Family membership constitutes spouses, partners, and children under 25
** Individual membership constitutes one person

(We greatly value and appreciate the participation and support of all our community. If you are unable to pay the membership fee, please contact CLA President at hhofheinz38@gmail.com or 617-868-0294)

Name(s) Please include all names in family:

Address _____
Town _____
State _____ Phone _____
Zip Code _____ E-Mail _____

Summer Address (if different) _____
Summer Phone _____

Make Checks Payable to: **Chocorua Lake Association**
 Robert Seston, Treasurer
 PO Box 105
 Chocorua, NH 03817

Due by July 4th. Thanks so much!
(please tear off form and mail in with your dues)



Chocorua Lake Association
PO Box 105
Chocorua, NH 03817

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To: