



CREATING SYNERGY THROUGH NETWORKING

NEPA FALL 2024 CONFERENCE BROCHURE

September 11th - 13th
The Margate Lakefront Resort
Laconia, NH

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**"Creating
Synergy
Through
Networking"**



Conference Schedule



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

10:00 - 12:00 REGISTRATION -The Margate Front Desk Area

12:00 - 1:15 SESSION 1 -Host Community Welcome, Laconia Parks & Recreation; Amy Lovisek, Director of Recreation and Facilities

1:30 - 2:45 SESSION 2 -How Hiring a Registered Guide Can Bring New Programs to Your Community; Matt Tobin, Registered Hunting Guide

2:45 - 4:00 VENDOR HALL GRAND OPENING, BALLROOM

4:00 - 4:30 NEPA MEMBERSHIP MEETING, LOCATION TBA

5:00 - 6:00 NEPA VENDOR SOCIAL HOUR, LOCATION TBA

6:30 - 9:00 PRESIDENTS DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY, MARIAH ROOM -Professional Business Attire required

9:00 - 11:00 NEPA GOLD SPONSOR SOCIAL, LOCATION TBA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

8:00 - 9:00 BREAKFAST, BLACKSTONE RESTAURANT

8:30 - 9:00 VISIT WITH VENDORS, BALLROOM

9:00 - 10:15 SESSION 3 -NH Rail Trails: Making Connections; Marianne Borowski, NH Rail Trails Coalition

10:30 - 11:45 SESSION 4 -NH Fish & Game Dept: Beyond the TV Show "North Woods Law"; Mark Beauchesne NHFG

11:45 - 1:15 LUNCH WITH VENDORS, BALLROOM

1:30 - 2:45 SESSION 5 -Increasing Trail Access; Enock Glidden, Outdoor Accessibility Specialist

3:00 - 4:15 SESSION 6 - Unlocking Creativity with Artificial Intelligence: Using Generative AI For Park and Recreation Programming, Efficiency, and Community Engagement; Rebecca Emery Founder of Seacoast AI

4:30 - 5:45 SESSION 7 -Collaborative Approaches to Park Creation: Building an Effective Network to Get You to the Ribbon Cutting; Jodi Valenta

6:30 - 8:00 DINNER SOUTHERN BBQ BUFFET, LOCATION TBA

8:30 - 11:00 PRESIDENTS SOCIAL, BALLROOM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

8:30 - 10:15 Session 8 -Breakfast with the Laconia Historical Society, ballroom

10:15 - 10:30 FINAL WORDS AND WRAP - UP



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



HOST COMMUNITY WELCOME, LACONIA PARKS AND RECREATION - AMY LOVISEK

In Keeping with our theme of “Networking”, our host community will discuss their programs and facilities and how they interact with other agencies and organizations to provide safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities not just for residents but for thousands of tourists and vacationers that descend on this lakefront community each year.



HOW HIRING A REGISTERED GUIDE CAN BRING NEW PROGRAMS TO YOUR COMMUNITY - MATT TOBIN

Matt will discuss what a Registered Guide is, how it is obtained, and the history of Registered Guides. Attendees will understand how hiring a Registered Guide can grow their programs in your town/city. Discussion will also include how to obtain your own Registered Guide License.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



NH RAIL TRAILS: MAKING CONNECTIONS - MARIANNE BOROWSKI

Introduces the NH Rail Trails Coalition and highlights its efforts to connect rail trail organizations and rail trails statewide. Through collaboration with state agencies, NH Rail Trails Coalition works to promote and expand rail trails within NH and across state lines, enhancing outdoor experiences for residents and visitors.



NH FISH & GAME DEPARTMENT: BEYOND THE TV SHOW "NORTH WOODS LAW" - MARK BEAUCHESNE

Networking in a small state for big results. How does a small agency with a multitude of mandates achieve its mission to protect and educate the public regarding the state's fish, wildlife and marine resources and to provide the public with opportunities to use and appreciate these resources.



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



INCREASING TRAIL ACCESS - ENOCK GLIDDEN

What does it look like to create trails and outdoor spaces that are more inviting, inclusive, and supportive of people living with different disabilities? How can we rethink outdoor spaces and how we communicate about them to welcome people who have historically been marginalized in conservation and the outdoors?



UNLOCKING CREATIVITY WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: USING GENERATIVE AI FOR PARK AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING, EFFICIENCY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - REBECCA EMERY

How can we use artificial intelligence (AI) to take our work to the next level? In this session, we'll explore the use of AI to increase productivity and create engaging content. Explore the newest AI capabilities in tools like ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, Adobe Firefly, and Canva for program development, content creation, social media, fundraising and grant writing. We'll also review best practices for the safe and responsible use of AI. If you're looking to level up your AI game and create amazing content for productivity and community engagement, this session is for you.



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO PARK CREATION: BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE NETWORK TO GET YOU THE RIBBON CUTTING - JODI VALENTA

Developing synergy among partners is an essential ingredient for creating parks. This is especially important at the community level and for obtaining grants to support project costs. During this session, the discussion will focus on case studies from TPL's work in Boston and will provide an opportunity for discourse on what strategies promote successful partnerships. The session will further examine the details of developing an effective network on the ground to help you keep projects on track.



BREAKFAST WITH LACONIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - WARREN D. HUSE

The development of what became the town (and later, city) of Laconia, from the 1760s to the present — including Meredith, Gilmanton, and Gilford. He will also touch briefly on the relationship of Laconia to the towns around Lakes Winnisquam and Winnepesaukee.



SPEAKER BIOS

AMY LOVISEK

Amy has worked full time for Laconia Parks & Recreation for 25 years. Before that Amy worked seasonally as an Assistant Director and Amy is now the Director. Amy was born and raised in this city and she loves to show it off.



ENOCK GLIDDEN

Born with spina bifida, Enock Glidden is a Maine-based disabled athlete, adventurer, motivational speaker, and an advocate for others with disabilities. He works at Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation. An accomplished rock climber, he has completed an ascent of the Zodiac route on El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, has a goal to summit Mt. Rainier, and is planning to explore the Grand Canyon in the coming years. Closer to home, Enock has been a vocal advocate for improving the accessibility of Maine's trails. He partnered with the Natural Resources Council of Maine to get the Maine Trails Bond passed by the Legislature, with a strong focus on accessibility for all. "Everyone should have choices. That includes people with disabilities," says Glidden.



SPEAKER BIOS

WARREN D. HUSE

Warren is a Laconia native, a graduate of Dartmouth College, served 21 years on active duty in the Army, most of it as an Infantry officer, and, since 1990 has compiled the weekly "Our Yesterdays" column for The Laconia Citizen and later, The Laconia Daily Sun. He is the author of four books about Laconia and was editor or co-editor for three others.



MARK BEAUCHESNE

Mark started with NH Fish & Game Dept. as the outdoor education coordinator in 1995 and held that post until 2004 when he was promoted to advertising and promotions coordinator within the Department of Public Affairs at Fish and Game. He has been active in the development and sustainment of Berry Camp for youths in the Berlin area and organizing the popular annual Discover WILD NH Day in Concord.



SPEAKER BIOS

MARIANNE BOROWSKI

Marianne, a retired protein biochemist, is now a passionate advocate for rail trails and outdoor recreation. She has extensive experience in biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing, having explored various trails across the US. In her "second career" in the Mount Washington Valley, she teaches skiing, leads biking club rides, and established the Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail. Marianne actively promotes rail trails through the NH Rail Trails Coalition and works on connecting rail trails in neighboring states. She holds leadership roles in various trail and biking organizations, aiming to enhance recreational opportunities and business development in the North Country.



REBECCA EMERY

Rebecca Emery, APR, is a marketing executive with 25+ years of experience in B2B and B2C markets. She founded Seacoast AI to provide AI training and consulting. Rebecca holds an M.B.A., is PR accredited, and serves on PR boards.



SPEAKER BIOS

JODI VALENTA

Jodi leads the Massachusetts office for the Trust for Public Land, overseeing park development and land protection projects. She collaborates with public partners and has a background in promoting outdoor access and conservation. Jodi previously worked in strategic communications, nonprofit outdoor foundations, and advocacy in Washington D.C. Her education includes a B.A. in Political Science from Syracuse University and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida.



MATT TOBIN

Matt grew up in Dexter Maine as an avid outdoorsman. Matt has 40+ years experience in the outdoors. Whether hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, Matt has always been ready. Matt has been a Registered Maine Guide for the last 8 years, and currently resides in NH with his wife, Lisa.



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