

## Ruth V. Fisher Lecture Series 2007

Programs will take place on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of June, July and August at 7:00 p.m. at the Quincy Bog Natural Area Nature Center located on Quincy Bog Road, off Quincy Road, in Rumney, New Hampshire. (*Click link for a [Map to Quincy Bog](#)*) All talks are free and open to the public, and are followed by an informal reception with light refreshments. These lectures are underwritten by the Ruth V. Fisher Memorial Fund. For further information or directions, phone Betty Jo Taffe at (603)786-2553

- **June 13 "Snakes of New Hampshire " by Michael Marchand**

How many snakes have you seen in the Granite State? Although most people have probably encountered the common garter snake around their house, there are actually 11 species of snakes that are native to New Hampshire. Come learn about some of NH's most feared and misunderstood animals and what you can do to help them survive in your backyard. Enjoy a slide presentation, take home a snake card and learn more about the wonderful world of New Hampshire snakes.

**Michael Marchand** is a wildlife biologist for the Nongame & Endangered Species Program at New Hampshire Fish & Game. Over the last several years, Michael has spent much of his time writing, compiling, and coordinating portions of New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan, a large effort that helps identify the state's most significant wildlife resources and conservation priorities for protecting the State's biodiversity. Michael is now involved with implementing high priority actions identified in the NH Wildlife Action Plan, including species recovery for timber rattlesnake, eastern hognose snake, Blanding's turtle, marbled salamander, and other highly imperiled species. Prior to joining NH Fish & Game, Michael studied the effects of fragmentation and development on turtles as part of his graduate work at the University of New Hampshire.

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- **June 27 "Thinking Big in Little Places: The Quabbin to Cardigan Conservation Initiative and the Baker Valley " by Dan Sundquist**

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has organized a collaborative of more than 20 conservation stakeholders in Massachusetts and New Hampshire to foster better integrated, more strategic natural resource conservation planning at super-regional scale. Called the Quabbin to Cardigan (Q2C) conservation initiative, the interest area follows the watershed divide between the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers, and spans more than 3,000 square miles. This lecture will focus on the development of the project using GIS mapping and analysis, leading to recent identification of core conservation focus areas, several of which involve the Baker River watershed and Rumney itself. Join us to learn more about the project and how local communities and land trusts can be involved.

**Dan Sundquist** has served on the staff of the Forest Society for 14 years, the last eight in the research department, now in the capacity of Research Director; prior to that he was Education Director of the Conservation Institute at the Society, and Science Director. Dan also manages the Society's GIS which serves its research, land protection and land management activities. He has conducted research and mapping of critical water supply lands in NH; population growth, land use conversion and resource fragmentation in the state; and the status of the economic land base for forestry. His most recent project work is focused on regional-scale strategic conservation planning. He holds a BLA in Landscape Architecture from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and an MSc in Education from Syracuse University. Before joining the Forest Society, he spent 25 years private practice

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- **July 11 "The Pre-Settlement Forests of Northern New England " by Charles Cogbill**

Over the last several centuries there have been many changes to the New England landscape. European settlers have established and expanded settlements, cleared land for agriculture and harvested many products from the region's forests. Much of our present forest has regrown following abandonment of

farmland, or in areas that were harvested by a variety of methods. There have also been many changes in the physical and chemical environment due to natural causes and impacts of industrial activity. How do the forests we live and work in today differ from those encountered by the first European settlers?

**Charlie Cogbill**, an independent forest ecologist based in Plainfield Vermont, has answered this question by uncovering and combing through a variety of historical archives and contemporary accounts. His presentation will summarize what he has learned about the presettlement forests, including a few details specific to our local area.

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- **July 25 "Invasive Species in New Hampshire " by Doug Cygan**

What is an invasive species and why should we care? This presentation will answer these important questions as well as describe many of the plants and insects that are currently listed as Prohibited in NH and provide an overview of some of the methods used for controlling these species. The current Invasive Species Rules adopted by the State of NH will also be discussed.

**Douglas Cygan** is the Invasive Species Coordinator and Assistant State Entomologist for the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, and serves as the Chair of the NH Invasive Species Committee. He received a B.S and an A.S in Botany and Horticulture with a minor in Conservation Biology from the University of Maine.

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- **August 8 "Beyond Birdfeeders: Landscaping for Wildlife in Your Own Back Yard " by Marilyn Wyzga**

If you plant it, will they come? Make a difference for wildlife in your own backyard using native vegetation, cover structures and water features. This slide presentation and talk will include wildlife habitat concepts, basic design and inventory techniques, and plant suggestions. Participants will receive a variety of handouts and resource material to get you started with a backyard habitat plan.

**Marilyn Wyzga** coordinates Project HOME, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's award-winning schoolyard habitat program. She authored the curriculum guide, *Homes for Wildlife*, and developed the training program that has engaged schools in wildlife habitat practices for the past 16 years. Marilyn serves on the NH Invasive Species Committee and as a committee chair for Wild Ones - Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, a national organization devoted to native plant landscape restoration. She has studied native plants with the New England Wild Flower Society, and applies her design skills to landscape design.

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- **August 22 "Harlequin Ducks and Purple Sandpipers " by Chris West**

Come learn about the winter ecology of Harlequin Ducks and Purple Sandpipers in Acadia National Park.

**Christine West** is a field wildlife biologist in Maine and has worked on a variety of wildlife projects for Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Acadia National Park, Maine Natural History Observatory and US Fish and Wildlife for the past 15 years mostly working with Endangered and Threatened birds. She is originally from Wentworth, NH and a graduate from Plymouth AREA High School. She is currently living on the coast of Maine.