

## 2015 President's Award

*As presented by Michael Barlett at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 12, 2015.*

The President's Award recognizes a strong friend of New Hampshire Audubon whose actions and commitment have significantly furthered the work of the organization. The recipient of the 2015 award is Kelly Dwyer.

Kelly has been with NH Audubon for almost 20 years, at every level of the organization — a volunteer, a Trustee, a committee chair and a staff member.

Kelly first became involved with NH Audubon as a volunteer teacher naturalist leading programs for school groups that visited the McLane Center. When the Massabesic Center was built in 1998, Kelly became even more deeply involved in environmental education and has remained one of the most active, reliable and effective educators that the Massabesic Center (in fact the entire organization) has ever had. Kelly has a passion for educating children, and an unparalleled dedication to helping others see the value in wild things.

In 2008, Kelly was elected to the Board of Trustees where she served for almost seven years as a key member, a strong advocate for the entire, and a very effective liaison between the entire staff and the Board, providing insight to the board about the day to day “grind it out” work of the staff and helping the staff understand the goals of the Board. She understood the importance of rising above past problems, thinking positively, raising the bar and doing the hard work it took to establish NH Audubon's place as a respected member of the non-profit community.

While serving on the Board, Kelly volunteered to chair the Education Committee, spear-heading strategic education planning for the organization, identifying collaborative opportunities to expand NH Audubon's reach, representing NH Audubon at statewide and local conferences and introducing education initiatives to the entire organization.

In April of this year Kelly had to step down from the Board but has remained close to the organization—this time as a staff member charged with bringing a new program into New Hampshire called Eco Schools. This is a program that focuses on bringing the concept of sustainability into schools—sustainability with regard to wetlands, water quality, energy conservation and an array of other “pathways.” Stay tuned for more on that.

Volunteer, trustee, committee chair and staff person, all wrapped up into one—I am proud to present the 2015 President's Award to Kelly Dwyer.



*Kelly Dwyer receiving the 2015 President's Award from NH Audubon President, Michael Bartlett.*

*Photo by Beth McGuinn.*

