

# Belmont's Donna Hepp honored for volunteer service

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Written by Mike Mortensen

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BELMONT — Donna Hepp of Belmont has been honored with a Volunteer Service Award by the statewide nonprofit group Volunteer NH in recognition of her exemplary contributions to volunteerism and to the betterment of life in New Hampshire. Donna has made a critical difference as a volunteer for the Town of Belmont, Belknap County, and New Hampshire. As chair of the Belknap County Conservation District, Belknap Association for Natural Resource Conservation, and Granite State Wheelmen/Seacoast Century Bicycle Event she has provided strong leadership and obtained several grants to fund natural resource based projects. In Belmont she helped create and fund new initiatives for the Belmont Recreational Alternative Trail Team and spearheaded development of a strategic review of Belmont facilities. Her work through BCCD at Gunstock Mount Resort (a.k.a. Belknap Mountain Recreation Area) has funded and facilitated improvements to its resource management of selected woodlands for wildlife species of interest, soil erosion prevention along an upland section of Poorfarm Brook, and broadened service to the disabled through the universally accessible Wetlands Walk project.

Hepp's energy has been effective in recruiting new volunteers, for individual one-time projects, ongoing efforts - as well as new faces for nonprofit organizations. Her public relations savvy has built awareness of the conservation and recreational organizations she volunteers for, and effectively told their stories of success and need. Hepp leads by example, uses extensive positive reinforcement, and continually asks how she can help the other volunteers. "There isn't a day that goes by that I don't feel blessed that Donna has chosen us to volunteer with" said Lisa Morin, BCCD program coordinator.



**Donna Hepp, BCCD Chair, bagged fresh-picked blueberries donated by KREBS Farm, Sanbornton for delivery to a local food pantry. (Courtesy photo)**

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