

Spring / Summer 2019



Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #103

2019 Preview and Plans



Spring at Binney Pond. Photo: Mena Schmid.

Our 2018 Wapack Trail Protection Fund Appeal was our first formal fund raiser in about 10 years. The goal was to begin to replenish our funds after our donation last year of \$25,000 to the Northeast Wilderness Trust Binney Hill project. This successful project resulted in permanent protection of about 1 mile of the Wapack Trail in New Ipswich, and the creation of the Binney Hill Preserve, a 488 acre forever wild preserve. We received over \$7,400 in donations for the year! This is over \$5,000 more than we usually receive in a year. Thank you to everyone who donated! This puts us a long way toward being ready for the next opportunity to secure permanent access to another section of the Wapack Trail. Thank you !!!

We have some great plans in the works for 2019! We'll have some fun and interesting trail work days building bog bridges, moving some big rocks, as well as general trail maintenance. See the Trail Workdays article on page 2 for details. We're also planning something a bit different -

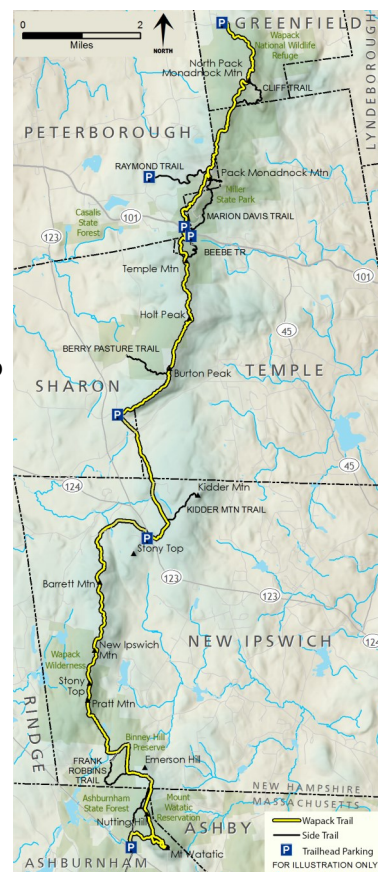
helping Northeast Wilderness Trust with planting native trees along the trail to restore a large former logging landing at the Binney Hill Preserve. This is scheduled for April 27. Go to this page on the Northeast Wilderness Trust website for details and to register:

(newwildernesstrust.org/events/binney-hill-tree-planting).

If you are looking for something to do on National Trails Day, June 1, besides joining our trail work day, you can attend the AMC Trail Fest at Mt. Wachusett Ski Area in Princeton, MA. There will be outdoor events in the morning, food trucks, music, and club displays. We'll have a display table there. Stop by and say hello to Mitch at our table! The event runs from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Details at amcworchester.org.

We're also rolling out our first color brochure this year. You'll find these in our brochure boxes at trail heads. And our webmaster, Jon McInerney, is updating our website this year. Please join us at a workday or other event this year. We hope to see you on the trail!

- Rick Blanchette, President



Trail Map from our new brochure

Friends of the Wapack



The *Voice of the Wapack* is published twice a year by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc. The Friends are nonprofit volunteers dedicated to the

maintenance and preservation of the Wapack Trail System. Financial support is provided by member donations which are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Wapack Trail is a 21-mile skyline footpath from Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham, MA to North Pack in Greenfield, NH. Completed in 1923, it is the oldest interstate hiking trail in the Northeast.

The Friends of the Wapack, Inc. is recognized as a charitable corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the US IRS code.

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Friends of the Wapack

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Once it's gone, It's gone forever

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Trail Work Days 2019



The Friends of the Wapack will have three workdays this year. These workdays serve the purpose of performing maintenance and improving the trail in ways beyond that expected of the trail maintainers.

We have been seeing a

decrease in participation over the past few years and I urge you to consider participating in at least one of our workdays. It is an easy way to give back to the trail without the commitment of a trail adopter.

Saturday May 4 - Miller State Park

The first workday will be Saturday May 4th. We will be at Miller State Park doing stone work on the lower section of the Wapack just above the spot where it crosses the access road. This is a very rocky section and we will be moving rocks around to better improve the tread way. We will be working with the Trailwrights on this project, and the work will provide a useful experience for anyone interested in rock construction. We will be using a Griphoist and other rigging, so heavy gloves and shoes are especially important for this workday. We also plan to do general trail maintenance. We will meet at 8:30 AM at the Miller State Park lower parking lot, Route 101 in Peterborough.

Saturday June 1 - Temple Mountain State Reservation

The second workday will be on National Trails day, June 1st. We will be installing bog bridges on a wet section of the Beebe trail as well as doing general drainage work on the this trail now that it has been in use for a few years. We will meet at 8:30 AM at the Temple Mountain State Reservation parking lot on Route 101 in Peterborough.

Saturday September 21 - Sharon, NH

The final workday will be on Saturday September 21st. We will be working on the section of the trail between the Wildcat community and Nashua Road in Sharon. The primary task will be relocating the trail back to its original location over a stream. The trail was moved to this location a number of years ago due to beaver activity.

(Continued on page 3)

Friends of the Wapack Upcoming Events

All are welcome to attend the following meetings & events
Check our website for updates and additions www.wapack.org

Board Meetings

First Thursday of alternate months unless otherwise noted. (May 2, September 5, November 7). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn in Peterborough, NH, or Ashby Public Library, Ashby MA.. 7:00 PM. Check with a board member to confirm date and location.

Trail Work Days

See the "Trail Work Days 2019" article in this newsletter for details. Contact Mike Przybyla for more information or questions 603-878-3350. Please check our website for updates www.wapack.org.

Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 19

The program for our annual meeting is being planned. Watch for a special mailing in the fall, or check our website for details. www.wapack.org.

Hikes

Saturday, August 24 - Annual Wapack Trail End to End Hike!

Hike the entire trail in one day! Group will meet at 6:00 AM at the trail head on Mountain Road in Greenfield. Please call leader Tom Brumaghim to register and for details (603) 233-7791. *Please note: This is a strenuous hike with over 3800 feet of vertical gain and covers 21.5 miles. It is recommended that participants be in good physical condition and have conditioned themselves by doing frequent hikes leading up to the End to End hike.*

Trail Work Days 2019 (continued)

The beavers have moved on and we can now move the trail back to its original alignment which provides better footing. We will also be doing the usual general maintenance work on this section. We will meet at 8:30 at the NeWest Mall in New Ipswich and car pool over to the work site.

All workdays start at 8:30 AM and usually end around 3:00 or 4:00 PM. Bring appropriate clothing as you will most likely get muddy since we will be doing lots of drainage work this year. Work gloves and work shoes are recommended. Bring a lunch and plenty of water as well.

Hope to see at the workdays this year.

-Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

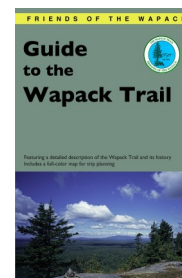
Notices

Hiking the Wapack Trail through Windblown Cross-Country Ski Area

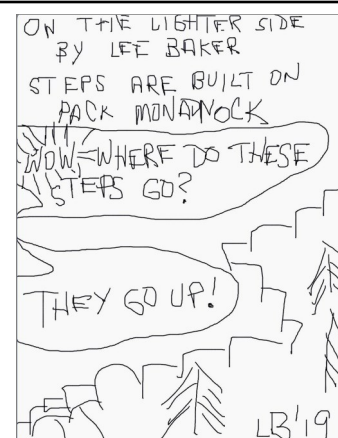
Hiking through Windblown Cross Country ski area is only allowed on the marked route of the Wapack Trail, and no mountain bikes please. Parking is still along the shoulder of Route 123/124 Turnpike Road, between Wapack Road and the Windblown entrance, not on Windblown property.

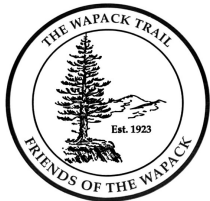
The trail is closed through Windblown during Mud Season—roughly now through early May. Thank you!

General Store



Visit our website wapack.org to order our Guide to the Wapack Trail, a detailed Trail Map, and other items. All sales help fund our mission to maintain and protect the Wapack Trail. Thank you for your support!





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Remembering David Malcolm Jr.



Friends of the Wapack Officers 1993, Left to Right: Roger Myrick, Treasurer; David Malcolm, Secretary; Gordon Ripley, Vice President; John Flanders, President; Jon Thunberg, Past President

as Section Captains. David was very conscientious, steady, and unflappable. He set a high standard on the board and for trail work that I have always tried to follow. Lee Baker recalls that he and David were painting blazes on the Raymond Trail, and in crossing the rocky section near the summit, David spilled his paint on the rocks. It resulted in the largest blaze on the mountain! Though concerned, it didn't put him off his stride. He just continued and finished the work. That was David. Our condolences to Louise and the Malcolm family. "His light still burns bright." Thank you, David!

- Rick Blanchette, President

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of David Malcolm on February 1 this year. David had many interests. He was a computer pioneer, storyteller, actor, Renaissance-instrument musician, hiker, tinkerer, railway and genealogical enthusiast, and fortunately for us, a supporter of the Wapack Trail. David, along with the late Dr. Edward "Pete" Twitchell, were the two people who encouraged me to join the Friends of the Wapack board.

He and his wife Louise joined the Friends in the 1980's and were active in trail maintenance. David joined the board in 1990 and served as Secretary until 1993. He remained active on the board until 1996. For many years after that he and his wife Louise continued to maintain the Raymond Trail