

Fall / Winter 2019



# Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #104

## Sawtelle Addition to the Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve



***The Northeast Wilderness Trust's Sawtelle Addition Project would expand the Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve, while permanently protecting access to a key section of the Wapack Trail, and protect the entire Binney Pond shoreline.***

The Friends of the Wapack is again partnering with Northeast Wilderness Trust to permanently protect a key section of the Wapack Trail, while conserving as forever wild one of the most remote and scenic properties along the Wapack Range. The Sawtelle Addition to the Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve would secure the missing link in the southern section of the Wapack Trail and a critical migration route for wildlife. Also, alongside the State of New Hampshire's Binney Pond Natural Area, preserving this tract would protect the entire Binney Pond shoreline. Northeast Wilderness Trust needs to raise \$110,000. for the purchase and protection of this 47 acre tract.

Your donations to our 2018 Wapack Trail Protection Fund Appeal last year enabled us to pledge \$5,000. to this project. That appeal was to help us get ready for the next trail protection opportunity - and here it is!

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Wapack News

Besides the exciting Sawtelle Addition Project, and the four trail work days we've had this year (see related articles), here are a few highlight of the year so far.

### Tree planting at Binney Hill

On Arbor Day, a group of FOW volunteers joined Northeast Wilderness Trust Stewardship Director, Shelby Perry, for a day of tree planting at the Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve. The Preserve was logged extensively in the past, so we were excited this spring to assist the rewilding process for one

of the hardest hit areas of the forest, which had been used as a log landing. In total, 475 seedlings of a variety of native species were planted.



*Tree planting at Binney Hill Preserve. Photo: Paul Willis.*

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## 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 dedi-

cated 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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## 2019 Trail Workday Reports



better delineation of the trail. We had 14 people show up and we were able to set some steps and clear some rock to provide a safer tread way along this heavily used section of the trail.



portion of the lower Marion Davis Trail to higher ground, thereby avoiding a perennial wet spot. We had half a dozen volunteers and we were able to get the trail relocated and blazed as well as brushing in the old section by noon time.

The fourth and final workday was on **September 21st**. It involved moving a short section of trail back to its original location. This was on the section between Nashua Road in Sharon and the Wildcat

The Friends were busy this year with four workdays.

The first on **May 4th** was at Miller State Park where we joined forces with the Trailwrights to do stonework on the Wapack just above where it crosses the auto road. This section is located along a ledge and needed



The second workday was on **National Trails Day, June 1st**, and we had 10 volunteers. We installed a substantial bog bridge and some water bars on the well-used Beebe Trail. A special thanks goes to Bart Hunter, who brought his Kubota ATV and trailer to haul the lumber and tools up the access road to a point just above the area where the bog bridge was installed.

The third work day was a half-day event in Miller State Park on **June 22** to relocate a



(Continued on page 5)





# The Friends of the Wapack

*invite you to our*

## 2019 Annual Meeting

**Saturday, October 19**

***Sharon Meeting House, Rte. 123, Sharon, NH***

***Featured Guest Speaker: Jon Leibowitz***

***“Why Wilderness”***



Jon Leibowitz is the Executive Director of the Northeast Wilderness Trust, located in Montpelier, VT. He earned a Masters in Environmental Law and Policy and a Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School. Prior to his time at Northeast Wilderness Trust, he was the Executive Director of the Montezuma Land Conservancy in Cortez, Colorado. During his time in Colorado, he protected over 13,000 acres of farms, ranches, and habitat for species such as elk and Gunnison sage-grouse. He lives in Middlesex, VT with his wife and son. He serves on the board of Vermont Parks Forever.

Jon's presentation, titled 'Why Wilderness' will focus on the unique type of conservation employed by Northeast Wilderness Trust - called forever-wild - and the partnership with Friends of the Wapack, which has resulted in the protection of nearly 2,000 acres along the Wapack Trail. Specifically, the presentation will discuss why protecting more

of New England's forests as forever-wild is one of the most effective tools we have to combat the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity collapse. Jon will also provide an update on the Sawtelle Addition campaign, which will add 47 acres to the Binney Hill Preserve, protect the entire shore line of Binney Pond and a key section of the Wapack Trail!

*Please join us for our 2019 Annual Meeting. We hope to see you there! Everyone is welcome!*

**9:00AM Hike (optional)** Join us on a morning hike to the Sawtelle Addition to the Binney Hill Preserve, with views of Binney Pond. Meet at 9:00 AM at the NewWest Mall on Routes 123/124 in New Ipswich, NH. We will car pool from there to Binney Hill Rd. where there is limited parking. For details contact Lee Baker (603) 827-3204 or email Lee at [snowman3137@gmail.com](mailto:snowman3137@gmail.com).

**Noon** Informal “bring-your-own” lunch at Sharon Meeting House. The *Friends* will provide beverages and light desserts. *Bring a dessert to share if you like.*

**1:00PM** Speaker **Jon Leibowitz**, followed by Friends of the Wapack business meeting with highlights from this year and election of officers.

***Yes, there will be  
door prizes!***

### ***Directions to Sharon Meeting House:***

***From the East:*** Rt. 101 to blinking light for Rt. 123 South in Peterborough; left at 123, 3.7 miles to Sharon Meeting House, on left, a bit north and across the road from Sharon Arts Center, and behind the old Sharon brick school house.

***From the West:*** Rt. 101 through traffic light in Peterborough; east to blinking light for Rt. 123 South; right onto Rt. 123 South (Elm Hill Rd.) 3.7 miles to Sharon Meeting House, on left.

***From 202 North:*** Rt. 202 South to Peterborough; left at stop sign onto Rt. 101 East; east to blinking light for Rt. 123 South; proceed as above.

# 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](http://www.wapack.org)

## Board Meetings

First Thursday of alternate months unless otherwise noted. (November 7, Jan 2, Mar 5, May 7). All are welcome. Shieling State 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

*Done for the year. Thanks to everyone who participated!*

Contact Mike Przybyla for more information or questions about workdays 603-878-3350. Thank you!

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, October 19 - 1:00 PM - Town Meeting House, Sharon, NH; Morning Hike at 9:00 AM**

See the Annual Meeting notice in this issue for details. Check our website for updates.

## “Walks on the Wapack” Hikes with FOW and Beaver Brook Association!

These hikes are a joint program by the Beaver Brook Association and Friends of the Wapack. The hikes will be led by BBA educator and naturalist Gail Coffey. Gail is also a Friends of the Wapack trail adopter. Gail has completed the 21-mile thru hike on the Wapack two times and has spent over 30 years hiking all sections of the Wapack Trail. These Sunday morning hikes are a great opportunity to enjoy an autumn morning on the trail.

**Registration is required for these hikes**, and attendance is limited to 20 - 25 participants. Register at the BBA events registration site at [beaverbrook.org](http://beaverbrook.org), or send an email to Gail at: [gcoffeywriter@gmail.com](mailto:gcoffeywriter@gmail.com)

A donation of \$10.00 per hike is suggested to benefit both the Friends of the Wapack and the Beaver Brook Association.

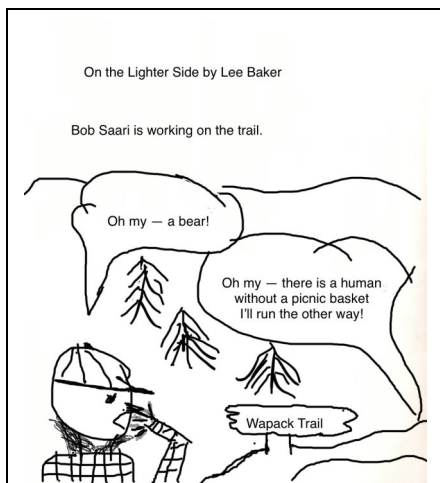
**October 13th - Kidder Mountain - Rain date-October 14th.**

10:00 am - Meet at Temple Mt. State Reservation to carpool to site-limited parking.

Join Gail Coffey on this easy to moderate 3.1 mile round-trip hike along a section of the Wapack Trail and the Kidder Mt. Trail, off Route 123/124 across from Windblown Cross-country Ski area to the summit of Kidder Mountain. The trail passes through a lovely woodlands carpeted with clubmoss and ferns and the summit of Kidder Mt where we will have extensive views to the east and south of fall foliage on the Wapack and surrounding forestland.

**November 10th- TBD.** maybe the new Frank Robbins Trail at the Binney Hill Preserve - Rain date-November 17th. Contact Gail Coffey for updates [gcoffeywriter@gmail.com](mailto:gcoffeywriter@gmail.com) or check our website <https://wapack.org/events/>

**Sign up for email notices of future Friends of the Wapack events at [Wapack.org](http://Wapack.org)!**

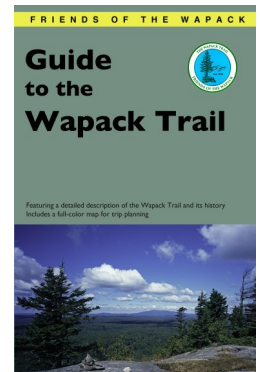


## General Store

Visit our website [wapack.org](http://wapack.org) to order our Guide to the Wapack Trail, Trail Map, our cap, patch or sticker. From our website, you can also visit our new on-line Apparel Store, provided by Northeast Promotion and Apparel, to order shirts and other clothing embroidered with our logo.

All sales help fund our mission to maintain and protect the Wapack Trail.

Thanks for your support!



## Wapack News (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

### “Walks on the Wapack” hike series

For the first time we are joining with the Beaver Brook Association to hold three monthly hikes to explore sections of the Wapack Trail. The first hike was on September 15 on the Beebe and Wapack Trails at Temple Mt. State Reservation. The hike was lead by BBA Naturalist and Educator Gail Coffey. It was a fun hike on a beautiful day. Gail answered many questions about the flora and fauna along the way, and I filled in with historical information about the former ski area and the Wapack Trail. See our events calendar in this issue for details on the upcoming hikes and how to register.

We hope to see you at our annual meeting this year! Please see our Annual Meeting notice in this issue, and consider joining us for what is always an interesting and fun informal gathering. Thank you all for your continued support!

- Rick Blanchette, President



*“Walks on the Wapack” hike group on Temple Mt., Sept. 15*

## Notices

### Winter use of the Wapack Trail through Windblown Cross-Country Ski Area

1. With snow on the ground everyone using the Wapack Trail through Windblown property needs to pay for a trail ticket.
2. Everyone must use skis or snowshoes, no hiking.
3. In winter with a trail ticket you can use the Windblown parking lot during the day, not overnight.
4. Dogs are not permitted.
5. Check the Windblown website to see if they are open or stop into the ski shop between 9 and 5. If not open no trail fee.
6. Snowshoers need to stay out of the ski tracks.
7. People coming from south to north and not leaving a car in the lot can pay on their way out. Thank you!

### Voice of the Wapack newsletter on line

If you would rather read this newsletter on line, please sign up for our email Newsletter at Wapack.org. Rather than receiving the paper newsletter you will receive our e-Newsletter via email with a link to the full version.

***If your email address has changed please send us a note from your new address to [info@wapack.org](mailto:info@wapack.org)***

## Get Involved!

Attend a workday

Adopt a trail section

Report trail conditions

Donate to help us secure permanent protection for the Wapack Trail

*Details at [wapack.org](http://wapack.org)*

## 2019 Trail Workdays (continued)

(Continued from page 2)



*Beebe Trail bog bridge crew*

lowing a stone wall. A less than ideal situation. Since the beavers have left the area we were able move the trail back to its original location. Thanks to all who participated this year!

-Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

property in New Ipswich. The trail follows an old colonial road and due to beaver activity had been moved off of the road and crossed a stream by fol-







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Find us on Facebook

**Annual Meeting  
Notice enclosed!!**

Printed on Recycled Paper



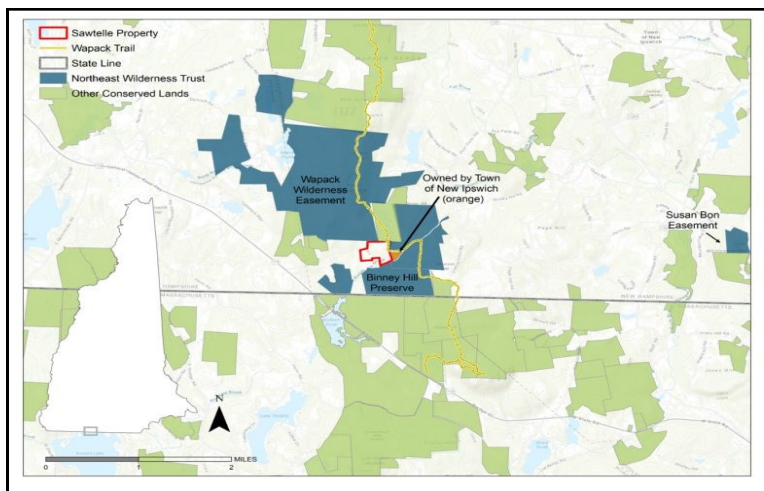
## Sawtelle Addition Project (continued)

This is the third time that we have worked with Northeast Wilderness Trust to protect the trail; first to support the Wapack Wilderness easement on Pratt and New Ipswich Mountains in 2008, and most recently in 2016/17 for the purchase of 488 acres in New Ipswich to create the Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve and protect a mile of the Wapack Trail.

Fund raising has been going on for several months. As of this writing they are 80% there. So please consider a donation to Northeast Wilderness Trust's to successfully complete their campaign to protect this beautiful section of the Wapack Trail, and fully protect Binney Pond as forever wild.

Please visit their website at [newildernesstrust.org](http://newildernesstrust.org), or call them at 802-224-1000, for more information and to learn how to donate to this exciting and important project for the future of the Wapack Trail!

Thank you!



*The Sawtelle Addition helps to fill in the gap between the Wapack Wilderness Easement, the Binney Hill Preserve, and the Binney Pond Natural Area, while protecting a section of the Wapack Trail.*