



It's our 40th Year!



This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Friends of the Wapack. We knew that such an important milestone deserves a logo. We went to our archives and found that our original logo was a triangle with a W that made it look like a mountain peak. So, for this anniversary we're bringing

back our logo from the 1980's, our first decade.

In 1980 sections of the Wapack Trail were deteriorating, and the future of the trail was in doubt. A local group dedicated to the Wapack Trail was needed. Four individuals decided to organize and address these problems to save the trail. They were Lee Baker, David Weir Jr, and New Ipswich Conservation Committee members Mary Jane Grasty and Dan Halsall. Soon, more people got on board and work be-

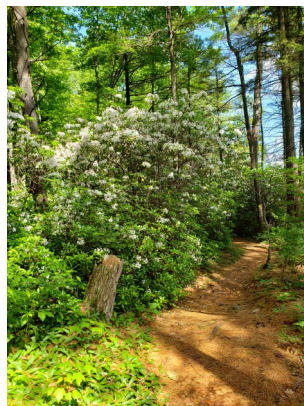
gan to restore the trail. Within two years this core group became known as the Friends of the Wapack. For the past 40 years this all volunteer organization has successfully worked to maintain and permanently protect the Wapack Trail. Our experienced trail crew has maintained the Wapack and side trails to high standards, and all but 5 miles of the Wapack Trail is now protected.

Our event plans for this anniversary year have been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our hope was to have the opportunity to thank everyone who has given their time and talents to our success over the past four decades. Perhaps we'll have that opportunity later this year or next year. In the meantime, we offer our 40-year timeline in this newsletter, which lists many of our accomplishments and significant events since our founding. It includes a special thank you on page four to past and present board members, and to the hundreds of people who have helped to maintain the trail. Thank you all for your help and support through our first 40 years! The work continues! - Rick Blanchette, President

Wapack News

Northeast Wilderness Trust's Sawtelle Addition to the Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve completed

Northeast Wilderness Trust has announced the success of their effort to purchase the Sawtelle Addition property, which protects a beautiful section of the Wapack Trail and the remaining unprotected shoreline of Binney Pond, while adding 47 acres to their successful 2016 project, the Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve in New Ipswich.



Mountain Laurel - Binney Pond

The Friends of the Wapack were an important partner to both projects donating a total of \$30,000. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these efforts which permanently protected over one mile of the Wapack Trail!

Windblown XC Ski Area Closes

Windblown Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing has closed after 48 years of operation. Al Jenks is the owner of Windblown, and a long time friend of the Wapack Trail. In Al's words:

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Friends of the Wapack



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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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Wapack News (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

"It is time to fold the tent, to look ahead to other adventures, to prepare for the rest of this journey, and to say goodbye to this experience."

While the ski area is no more, the shelter rental business will continue under the name "Windblown Camping." The Wapack Trail (yellow triangle blazes) is still open for hiking at Windblown. Use of all other trails

on the property is only for guests of Windblown Camping. Camping at Windblown is popular with end to end hikers, as it is near the mid point of the Wapack Trail. To rent a camp site or shelter, contact Windblown by email at alwindblown@gmail.com, or check their website (windblownxc.com). There is no hiker parking at Windblown. Parking is available along the west shoulder of Turnpike Road, between the Windblown driveway and Wapack Road.

What We've been doing Behind the Scenes

Though we have not been able to schedule events so far this year due to COVID-19, the Friends of the Wapack Board has been meeting via Zoom and working on several projects. We've been working with our new board member and Membership Coordinator, Anne Reed (see page 3), to update and organize our decades old contact spreadsheet lists and enter the data into Salesforce. Getting a handle on our mailing lists will save postage and printing costs and help us stay in contact with those who are most likely interested in receiving our mailings.

Our talented webmaster, Jon McInerney, has been busy updating our website software while improving site navigation and layout, with consulting help from Anne and input from board members and feedback from the public. Watch for these improvements over the summer months.

For several years our order fulfilment for trail guides, maps, and other items have been ably fulfilled by Monadnock Worksource. During the first NH Stay at Home Order they had to shut down their operations. Our Treasurer, Bruce Myrick, took this task over and shipped orders from his home. Monadnock Worksource is now back in operation and they are again shipping your orders. For several years our Ways and Means Chairman, Mitch Call, has been coordinating order fulfilment with Monadnock Worksource. Bruce Myrick will now be performing this task. We thank Mitch for his fine work and dedication to this important work over the past few years, and thanks to Bruce for taking on this task!

And lastly, we've published the Second Edition of our Guide to the Wapack Trail! See the last page in this newsletter for details.

We hope that you are all staying well during this difficult time, and that you are able to get outdoors and enjoy the healthful experience of encountering nature, on the trail. - Rick Blanchette, *President*



Hike group at Mountain Top Shelter, Windblown Camping. Al Jenks is second from right.

Welcome New Board Member Anne Reed!

We are very happy to announce that Anne Reed is the newest member of our Board of Directors. Anne is a recently retired local marketing company owner. She has lived in Rindge for 20 years and is an avid outdoors person.

Anne loves hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, biking and many other outdoor activities. She shares her adventures with her husband Mike and their dogs Augie and Otis.

She and Mike have finished hiking in winter and summer all of the "48 over 4000 footers" in the Whites. They are working their way through the "52 With a View". They hike, snowshoe or walk parts of the Wapack Trail every week. They have always considered the Wapack their go to place for a hike or ski. While Anne and Mike have hiked every part of the Wapack Trail, this summer they are training for their

first end to end hike of the trail. They are also avid tandem bikers. Every summer they plan a 500 mile trip. Last year they were in Quebec. This year they are planning a bike trip in Maine, Fort Kent to Biddeford.

Anne brings many skills to our board from her experience running her marketing consulting company, including Salesforce customer relationship management software, WordPress website development, fund raising, and marketing. She is currently organizing our contact list as our new Membership Coordinator. Welcome Anne!



Anne Reed and her husband Mike on one of their many bikes together

Remembering Alan Burt of the AMC

Before the founding of the Friends of the Wapack, the Appalachian Mountain Club led hikes and performed trail maintenance on the Wapack Trail out of their Massachusetts chapters. We are sad to report that a prominent, dedicated Wapack AMC supporter has recently passed away. Alan Burt of the Boston AMC Chapter led an annual hike on the Wapack Trail for 43 consecutive years, from 1960 to 2003. He was one of the AMC Wapack Trail crew members in the decades before the Friends. I met Alan when he attended our trail work days during my first years as Trails Committee Chairman in the 1990's. We had some great conversations about his experiences on the Wapack and his love of the trail. Each year he would call me before leading his annual Wapack hike to get any updates on trail changes and conditions. I always enjoyed his calls. Alan was a very kind and considerate man. The Wapack Trail has lost a long-time dedicated friend. Our condolences go out to Alan's family, friends, and AMC colleagues.

- Rick Blanchette, President

FOW Donates Fund Interest to Support Financial Relief Effort for NH Communities

Due to the generosity of our supporters, the Friends has money invested. Some of that is with the NH Community Loan Fund (CLF). Interest on that investment is paid annually in April. With this year's check was a letter saying the CLF had established a Borrower's Stabilization Fund, and requesting that we donate the interest during the COVID-19 crisis. The CLF assists small businesses, resident-owned communities and child care facilities and others. Some of the resident-owned communities that benefit are in the Wapack area. For more on the CLF, see their web page www.communityloanfund.org. As there is currently no pressing demand for the Friends financially, at the last meeting, the board unanimously voted to return the interest check of \$480.00 to support CLF's Borrower Stabilization Fund during this challenging time.

- Bruce Myrick, Treasurer

Events on Hold due to COVID-19

Trail Work Days: The Covid-19 pandemic has curtailed our plans this year for trail work days and other events. Check our website Events page at wapack.org for updates, or join our email list at wapack.org to get email updates on our plans and email newsletters. In the mean time, basic trail maintenance continues to be done by our trail adopters.

Annual Meeting: Our 2020 Annual Meeting date would normally be Saturday, October 17. There is the possibility of a virtual on-line event instead of our traditional group meeting. Watch for updates at wapack.org and in our fall newsletter.



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**40th Anniversary
Time-Line Included!**

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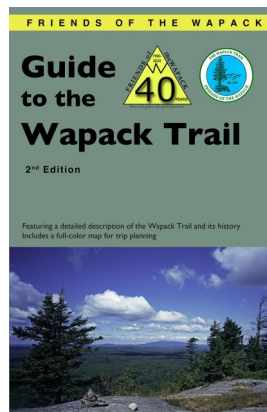
Guide to the Wapack Trail 2nd Edition Published!

There have been many changes along the Wapack since we published our Guide to the Wapack Trail in 2015. So rather than just doing a new printing, a new edition was in order. We put our “Stay at Home Order” time to good use by revising and updating the trail guide.

Changes in the Second Edition include: the addition of the new Frank Robbins Trail in the Side Trails chapter, updates associated with the new Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve and the closing of Windblown XC Ski Area, additions to the History chapter, and other edits and additions. The same pull out map is included as the first edition.

Thanks to Mike Przybyla for his new and updated in-context maps and for help with the text, to Rick Blanchette for new and edited text and lay out, to Anne Reed who provided the printing services, and to the trail guide committee members who provided details and feedback.

The new edition is orderable now at our website Wapack.org, and can be purchased at the Toadstool Bookshops, Evans on the Common in Townsend, MA, and the Mountain Wanderer in Lincoln, NH.



Hiking Responsibly - COVID-19

1. **Stay home if you or a member of your household is sick.**
2. **Stay local**, and choose less crowded locations. If a parking lot is crowded when you arrive, hike somewhere else.
3. **Keep a safe distance.** Maintain six feet distance between you and other hikers.
4. **Keep your dogs on a leash.**
5. **Don't take risks.** Search and rescue efforts put first responders at risk of exposure and can divert medical resources from those who need it most. Know your limits and use an abundance of caution with regard to weather and terrain.
6. **Always follow the Hiker Responsibility Code** (hikesafe.com).
7. **Check the NH State Parks website** (nhstateparks.org/covid-19) for park restrictions and reservation requirements.