



Wapack News Spring / Summer 2022

I'm sure that many of you join me in welcoming the arrival of the Spring and Summer seasons and saying goodbye to this past winter! For the Friends of the Wapack, Spring is a busy time to get the trails in shape after a winter of ice storms, heavy snows and wind events.

We have planned three workdays thus far for 2022. (See Mike's trail work article on the next page.) We had a wonderful turnout for our April 30th workday on the Beebe Trail, with many of our regular trail crew members and several new folks as well, among them were Jean and Will. They regularly hike the Beebe Trail and wanted to help maintain this trail that means so much to them. The best part of my 32 years with the Friends of the Wapack has been meeting the many great people who want to give their time and work to maintain and protect the trails. It is great fun and very

rewarding to work with these folks maintaining the trails.

There has been much trail work done already this Spring. In April I joined Trail Master Mike Przybyla, Section Captain Steve Noonan, and Windblown Camping owner Al Jenks to re-blaze the trail at Windblown and reinstall our trail signs on posts provide by Al. We thank Al for his help and his ongoing support for the trail. We've also done drainage work at the south end of Pratt Mountain and cleared many down trees. Thanks to Mike Przybyla, the Section Captains, and everyone who has cleared the trails this Spring.

This year we are excited to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. See the article below about the Refuge and our current plans to celebrate this important milestone.

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Wapack National Wildlife Refuge 50th Year

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge, the first national wildlife refuge in New Hampshire. This refuge was made possible by the very generous donation of 1,625 acres to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Laurence and Lorna Marshall in 1972. It was established with the purpose of protecting migratory birds.

The refuge includes the 2,278-foot North Pack Monadnock Mountain, the highest mountain on the Wapack Range. The refuge also protects a three mile section of the

Wapack Trail and all of the Cliff Trail, which are maintained by the Friends of the Wapack. Parts of Ted's and Caroline's

Trails are also on the refuge. The summit offers great opportunities to view migratory hawks and great views from the Cliff Trail.

Current plans are to celebrate the 50 years of the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge at our annual meeting in October. Check our events listing at Wapack.org and watch for future mailings for details and updates.



View of Monadnock from Cliff Trail

Events

Annual End to End Hike, August 27

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.*

Annual meeting, October 15

Save the date! We expect that the theme of our annual meeting will be a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. We'll have details in the fall.

Trail Work Days

See details in this issue. Check our website and email notices for possible changes and updates. Wapack.org

Sign up for Email Notices

You can sign up to receive email workday and event notices and newsletters at Wapack.org.

2022 Trail Work Days

The Friends plan to return to a full complement of workdays in 2022. This year we will be concentrating on some of the side trails. Many of which have seen a lot of use in the past two years.

Beebe Trail, April 30

See write up next page.

Raymond Trail, September 24

The second workday will be on September 24th we will be working on the Raymond Trail in Peterborough. We plan on installing a bog bridge just after the start of the trail and will continue to do general maintenance and drainage work. Some of the water bars need rehabilitation.

We will meet at the Cranberry Meadow Pond Trail parking on East Mountain Road. This lot is located just north of the Raymond Trail lot which has very limited parking. Start time 8:30 AM and bring a lunch and water.

Wapack Trail Sharon/New Ipswich, October 22

The last workday will be on October 22 and will be working on the section of the Wapack between Nashua Road in Sharon and Chapman Road in New Ipswich. This is a flat section on or adjacent to an old colonial road. We will be doing general clearing, blazing, and drainage work. With the wet year we have had there is a lot of trail hardening to be done.

We will meet at 8:30 AM at the Newest Mall in New Ipswich and then car pool over. There is limited parking at the work site, and depending on the turnout we will park either on Nashua Road or at the end of Chapman Road. Bring a lunch and water.

For further details, contact Mike Przybyla: mikep218@comcast.net

It is possible that these may change or that we will have additional workdays if something develops. Any announcements will be posted to the Friends website: Wapack.org.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

Wapack News (continued)

Some of you may remember our celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Refuge in 1997. We enjoyed a group hike up North Pack followed by a outdoor picnic at the home of Lorna Marshall. The Friends presented a plaque to Mrs. Marshall to honor her and her late husband Lawrence's gift of the property to create the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge, which protects 3 miles of the Wapack Trail and the Cliff Trail. Twenty five years latter we have made a lot of progress protecting the trail, with five more miles to go for the Wapack. With your support we'll achieve our goal of permanent protection of the entire trail.

I hope that you have a great year and that you can take time to enjoy the amazing Wapack Trail and the nine side trails that we maintain along the Wapack Range.

- Rick Blanchette, President

Beebe Trail work day report



The Friends of the Wapack had the first workday of 2022 on April 30th. We had a great turn out of 14 people which hopefully will continue for the other workdays we have planned this year. If we get more people we'll have to buy more tools.

We had originally planned on doing general maintenance on the Beebe Trail in the Temple Mountain State Reservation. Instead we ended up repairing the damage done by a

truck to the lower section that had occurred recently. This included cutting damaged trees, repairing damage bog bridges, and attempting to drain the wet sections created by the tire ruts.

This work took the better part of the morning, but we were able to repair the trail and through the hard work of all, dig some awesome ditches to help divert the water away from the trail. By the end of the day significant drying of the trail had already occurred.

We then continued up the trail clearing wet spots, brushing in areas where people were going around rocks and wet places, trimming branches and clearing water bars. We had lunch at an open area on the trail just below the summit. After draining and hardening a wet spot near the top, we returned to the parking lot and retrieved the broken pieces of the bog bridges.

Thanks to all who showed up and made the day a success: John Harrington, Tom Brumaghin, Kelly Dodge, Josh Morris, Will Kindler, Jean Scagel, George Kocur, Molly Fince, Neal Faiman and Lynne Pentler, Gail and Gerry Coffey, Rick Blanchette.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master





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Founded in 1980, the Friends of the Wapack are an all volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to the maintenance and permanent projection of the Wapack Trail and certain side trails. The Friends of the Wapack, Inc. is recognized as a charitable corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the US IRS code.

The Wapack Trail is a 21 mile hiking trail that traverses the Wapack Range 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.

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