



Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #113 | Spring/Summer 2024

President's Note

Signs of spring are showing more and more every day now. It will be nice to have it warmer. Last year at this time, Rick was working hard preparing for an eventful year. For the Voice, he didn't have a "President's Note", he just wrote the whole newsletter. Thanks again Rick for all you did last year to make it memorable. This year is looking more like a typical FOW year, with trail work continuing and a few hikes. From reports so far, there has been some winter damage on the trail, with clean up under way. Workdays will be for trail projects.

Behind the scenes, members of the Board have been busy. Our Right-of-Way team continues conversations with some landowners and associated organizations. Adding legal protection for the trail takes time. I've seen this throughout my history with the Friends. Anne has done the



Bruce Myrick on North Pack

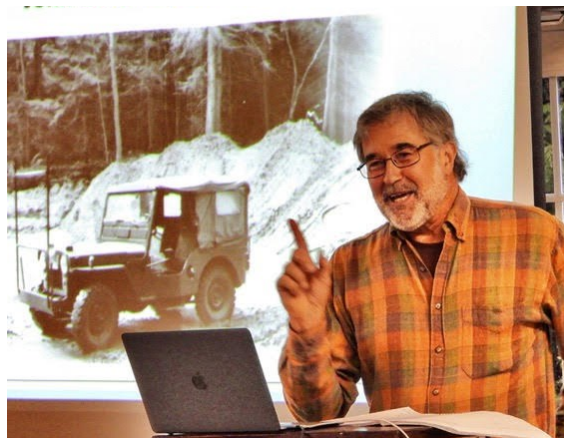
majority of the tasks involved in transitioning the Treasurer portfolio from me to her. I think most everything for that is done now. Jeanette Baker retired as archivist at the end of 2023. For now, I'm taking that on. I've met with Corinne Chronopoulos, the Director at the Peterborough Library about this. We discussed the long-term possibilities for the archives, including digitization. Preservation of the valuable papers and access by researchers are some of the things to consider.

One change Anne initiated is having positional email. You can now reach me directly, or a future FOW president when the time comes, at president@wapack.org. And you may see me on the trail, as I've adopted the Berry Pasture Trail, and will be out there dealing with fast growing trees.

- Bruce Myrick, President

Annual Meeting Topped Off Wapack Trail Centennial Year

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our 2023 annual meeting last October to celebrate the centennial of the Wapack Trail. More than 66 attended, and we filled the hall. Our special presenter was Al Jenks, owner of Windblown Camping and a neighbor and good friend of Wapack Trail co-founder Marion Buck Davis. Al related his personal reminiscences of Marion while seamlessly weaving into the narrative the fascinating and often humorous story of how he came to found and operate the Windblown Cross Country Ski Area. We were honored to have members of the Buck family there who shared their remembrances of Marion. After the meeting we all enjoyed each other's company and the delicious centennial cake! The annual election of officers saw the passing of the position of president from Rick Blanchette to Bruce Myrick. Bruce presented Rick with a book on Thoreau as a gift from the FOW board members for his



Al Jenks, featured speaker at our 2023 annual meeting

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2024 Friends of the Wapack Events

It is possible that events may change or that we will have additional workdays if something develops. Any announcements will be posted to the Friends website: Wapack.org. You may sign up for email events notices for news and workdays at Wapack.org. - Mike Przybyla, Trail Master
For further details on trail work days, contact Mike Przybyla: mikep218@comcast.net

Saturday, May 4. Work Day on the Berry Pasture Trail, Sharon, NH

The first work day will be on Saturday May 4th. We will be clearing the Berry Pasture Trail focussing on the trail through the former Berry Pasture and opening up some views. This area was cut a number of years ago and has grown in. We will be doing minor trail work, but mainly cutting.

We will meet at the Newest Mall in New Ipswich on Turnpike Road, NH Routs 123/124, at 8:30 and head over to the trail-head. Bring lunch and water as well as gloves. We'll provide tools.

Sunday, June 9. Kidder Mountain Trail Children's Nature Hike, New Ipswich, NH

Join naturalist and Friends of the Wapack board member Gail Coffey for a hike to the summit of Kidder Mountain in New Ipswich. This is a family friendly moderate 3 mile hike with elevation gain of 406', appropriate for children ages 10 and up. We are pleased to offer this hike in cooperation with the Harris Center for Conservation Education. Meet at the trail-head parking area on Turnpike Road, Routes 123/124, across from Windblown Camping. Bring water, snacks, appropriate hiking clothing-long sleeve light shirts and lightweight pants, hats and hiking boots. Tick repellent or insect repellent clothing recommended. We will cancel if it is raining. Contact Gail for questions: gcoffeywriter@gmail.com. **Registration is required as we are limiting attendance to 12 individuals total. Register at: www.harriscenter.org/events/list.**

Saturday, August 31. Annual Wapack Trail End-to-End Hike

Hike the entire Wapack 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.*

Saturday, September 21. Work Day on the State Line Trail and Mt. Watatic, Ashburnham, MA

The second workday will be on Saturday September 21st. We will be working on one of the most used sections of the trail, the section on Mount Watatic and the State Line trail which follows an old cart path to the Nutting Ledges. We will be concentrating on drainage work including rebuilding water bars and ditching.

We will meet at the trailhead on Rte 119 in Ashburnham at 8:30. This lot has very limited space so you may have to park along Old Pierce Road across from the trailhead. Do not park Rte 119 as you will be ticketed. Bring lunch, gloves, and work clothes. We will be doing digging so be prepared. We provide tools.

Saturday, October 12. Work day on the Wapack Trail at the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge, Greenfield, NH

The final scheduled workday will be on October 12th. We will be installing water bars just below the summit of North Pack. We will also be doing the usual trail maintenance as we hike in.

Meet at 8:30 at the north end of the trail parking lot at the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge on Mountain Road in Greenfield, NH.

Saturday, October 19. Friends of the Wapack Annual Meeting.

Save the date! Our annual meeting is being planned. Check future emails and newsletters or check our website for updates.

Wapack Trail Centennial Celebration (continued)

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years of service as president. Other officers for 2024 are Rick Blanchette Vice president, Anne Reed Treasurer, and Lee Baker Secretary. Thank you to all who came to our 2023 Annual Meeting and Wapack Trail centennial celebration! As Al said at the close of his presentation, Frank Robbins and Marion Davis together created something precious that has lasted 100 years. Let's make sure that it will be here for another 100 years, and beyond.



Frank Robbins and Marion Davis



Photo from Al's presentation. Center three, left to right, Marion Davis, Bill Currier, Al Jenks



Annual meeting photos. Top left and bottom right: during Al's presentation. Bottom left, the centennial cake!. Center, Bruce presents Rick with a gift from the FOW board.



On the Trail

Though I was enjoying the role of president for the past 10 years, it was becoming clear to me that it was not good for the organization to have one person doing so many things. I was glad to pass one of my hats to Bruce Myrick at our annual meeting last October. Bruce is more than qualified to do a great job as president. He has been an active member since the founding of the FOW in 1980, and has been our treasurer for many years. He knows the ropes and I am sure that the organization will succeed and thrive under his stewardship.

It was my privilege to be president during the celebration of the Centennial of the Wapack Trail, the 50th anniversary of the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge, and the 40th anniversary of the Friends of the Wapack. I am particularly proud of our partnering with Northeast Wilderness Trust to protect over a mile of the trail through their new Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve, and the creation of the Frank Robbins Trail on

that preserve. Key people have been added to the board – Tom Brumaghin and Bob Saari (Trails Committee), Anne Reed brought years of experience in ecommerce to manage our online store and is now our treasurer. Jon McInerney is a wiz at all things internet and is our webmaster. And Gail Coffey brings experience leading nature hikes and events for many organizations and brings many new skills to our board. I believe that the organization is strong and ready to grow.

I will continue as Trails Committee Chairman, a role that I have held and enjoyed since 1990! My responsibilities include managing our trail adopter program, while our Trail Master Mike Przybyla focuses on planning and leading work days and trail maintenance training. Mike makes my job much easier! I will also continue as newsletter editor and this year as Vice President. I hope to see you on the trail!

- Rick Blanchette, Trails Committee Chairman



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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.

The Voice of the Wapack print edition is published twice a year by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.
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Sunset over the Wapack Range from High Mowing, Wilton. - Gail Coffey



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