



Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #115 | Spring/Summer 2025

President's Note

With the snow mostly gone around our house, and a few signs of new growth, it seems like Spring. However, the warmth of the nearby wood stove reminds me that we are not quite done with cold weather. For those that were able, hiking on the Wapack was enjoyable this winter. Mike reports that so far, the trail is in good shape. There has not been much ice; that can be particularly damaging. In late February I joined Matt Hillman from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and some of his staff at the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge on a climb up North Pack. Thanks to others who had preceded us on snowshoes, it was a relatively easy hike with microspikes. The contours of the snow can be less challenging than rocks, roots and steep inclines. New trail signs were added in October, and they all seem to be in good condition. Through the winter there has been activity off the trail by members of the Friends board of directors. Donations and sales continue to keep us financially viable. This does take time and effort. Please see the separate article about assistance needed for this. Work on improved right-of-way and legal protections for the Wapack Trail continues. As with past efforts, these are slow processes, but the Right of Way committee is hopeful for results this year.



View from Cliff Trail, Wapack National Wildlife Refuge

As the public representative of the Friends, and considering our goal of education about the trail, I've started an outreach effort. This started with a talk to the Grand Monadnock Rotary in January, including a PowerPoint presentation. With that initial success, I have ideas of improvements to the presentation. If other area organizations are interested, please contact me. Since becoming President, I've started getting some gen-

eral emails from other groups, such as the Granite Outdoor Alliance, a statewide organization. This has me thinking about a network of like minded organizations and how we relate. As "members" of the Friends I hope readers of the Voice include the FOW in their network to expand awareness of the trail and the Friends.

Through the winter, George Kocur did a great job of digitizing much of the FOW archives at the Peterborough Library. We want to thank him for his time and thoughts on efficient scanning. Now I will be working with the library staff on the next steps for having the archives not take up as much physical space, and be accessible. At over 100 years old, the trail has great history, and we intend to record what is happening in the present, as well as memories from the past.

- **Bruce Myrick, President**

The Wapack Trail is moving!

This Spring we will be re-routing a section of the Wapack Trail in New Ipswich. The new route will head north from the parking area across from the Windblown Camping driveway / Wapack Trail on NH Route 123/124 Turnpike Road. It will connect to the existing trail at a point before the trail crosses under the power lines. This will eliminate the trail following the busy highway and passing through a property owners yard. We'll have more news on this new trail section later this year!

2025 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 event notices for news and workdays on our website. - Mike Przybyla, Trail Master
For further details on trail work days, contact Mike Przybyla: mikep218@comcast.net

Saturday, May 3. Wapack Trail re-route, New Ipswich, NH

We will be doing a re-route of the trail from the parking lot across from Windblown to Old Peterboro Road. This route is currently used to get to Kidder Mtn. and will be the new route of the trail as the property has changed owners. We will be doing drainage work, blazing, and trimming. 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 trailhead. Bring lunch and water as well as gloves. We'll provide tools.

Sunday, June 1. North Pack Hike, Greenfield, NH

Join Gail and Gerry Coffey for a hike on the Wapack Trail to the summit of North Pack Monadnock, the highest mountain along the Wapack Range. The trail winds through the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge and offers views to the north and east along open ledges. This is a moderate pace 3.2 mile round trip hike to the summit with an elevation gain of 937 feet and a few rocky areas to hike over. The summit offers nice views of Mt. Monadnock. Wear hiking boots and layers for temperature changes. Bring water, snack and hiking poles recommended. Cookies will be served at the summit!

We'll meet at 10:00 AM at the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge parking lot on Mountain Road, in Greenfield NH Return approximately at noon. Contact Gail to register and for questions: gcoffeywriter@gmail.com. *Registration is required so Gail can contact you if we need to cancel due to the weather.*

Saturday, August 23. 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 20. Work Day on Marion Davis Trail, Peterborough, NH

The second workday will be on Saturday September 20th. We will be doing a re-route of a short section of the Marion Davis Trail just below the summit of Pack Monadnock. This section currently climbs a steep cliff and we will be re-routing around it. This section is on Nature Conservancy land. In addition to the re-route we will be moving some rocks and blocking off areas where hikers are going off the trail.

We will meet at 8:30 at the Miller State Park parking lot and then drive to the summit. Bring lunch, gloves, and work clothes.

Saturday, October 11. Work Day, location TBD -

Watch for updates on our website. You can sign up for trail maintenance emails at Wapack.org.

Saturday, October 18. 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.

Are you familiar with Salesforce Software?

The Friends of the Wapack board of directors would like to expand the group of Salesforce software users on the board, or on the "Ways and Means" committee. Mostly it is used to track sales and donations. If you are familiar with the interface and willing to put in time to assist, please contact me, Bruce Myrick email: president@wapack.org

Skiing the Wapack in the 1970s

The 70s were a prime time to ski the trail. While perhaps it was not as nice as the 30s, when the range was clear, it was a decade with a lot of snow, and with three cross country ski areas that provided easy access to the higher terrain.

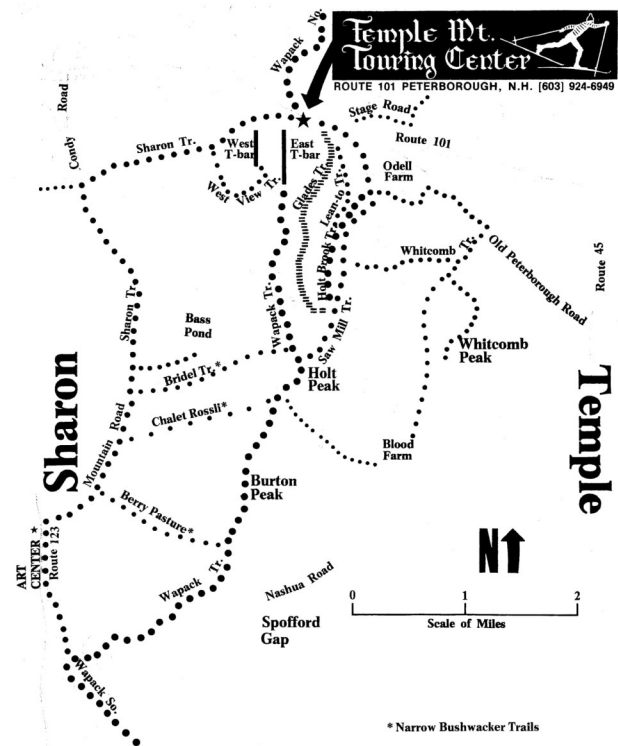
Our favorite trip was to start at the Temple Mountain ski area, where we paid \$1 in the early 70s, which went up to \$3 as time went on, for a single ride up the west T-bar. From there, it was easy to access the Wapack Trail at the summit and to ski south. There were only a couple of difficult spots. One was the steep bit south of Holt Peak, typically done by dragging poles and usually with a fall about halfway down. The hardest part was the final quarter mile down to the road in Sharon, a combination of turns, snowplows and, yes, falls. (Remember that this was all on wood skis with three pin bindings and thin leather boots.) We then walked along Temple Road west to Mountain Road, where we put our skis back on and skied north almost to route 101. Just before that road, there was a trail that took us back to the Temple Mountain parking lot. Temple had, for a few years, a network of cross country trails, mostly near the top of the ski lifts, as best I can remember. We skied those a couple of times as well. They were snowmobile groomed.

A second trip was to start at Windblown and ski up to the Wapack Trail near the shelter at the top of the Open Slope on Barrett Mountain. From there, it was easy skiing across Barrett Mountain. The descent to the Barrett-New Ipswich col was straightforward; it was a steep grunt out of the col south for a few hundred feet, and then a gradual climb to the summit of New Ipswich. The descent down to the New Ipswich-Pratt col was a bit steep but quite open, so you could traverse back and forth. The climb up to Pratt was mostly ok; we would go as far as the outlook over Binney Pond. We'd ski back to Windblown the same way we had come. The views were very open, more than today, in part because of few and shorter trees, and in part because there were several feet of snow on the ground that got you up higher than on summer hikes. We skied the trails at Windblown too, of course, starting in 1974 (I think), when the area first opened.

The third trip was to start at the Watatic Mountain ski area, which had some cross country ski trails in the 70s and early 80s. Some of those trails are still walkable today; they are old woods roads. We'd ski up one of them to the Wapack Trail, and then go south over Nutting Hill and to the Watatic summit—not too hard. Once in a while we'd ski the Midstate down to route 119. We'd then turn around and ski north to the Binney Hill Road and to Binney Pond. You could generally ski on the pond, which was frozen solid and had a nice covering of snow. One time we skied a few hundred feet up the steep stretch north of the pond, with a desperate descent. We've never skied the rest of the steep part to the Binney Pond overlook. The Watatic trip was the easiest skiing of the three options, which is why, since we were in our 20s, we skied it the least frequently.

A final favorite ski trip, not on the Wapack, was to go up Winn Mountain in Lyndeborough. Back in the 70s, you could park near the top of Joslin Road and ski up a set of woods roads and open fields to the summit. It was a great place to bring beginning skiers, since there was nothing too hard. We learned of Winn Mountain from a strange cross country ski guidebook. It was small format; the paper was almost newsprint quality. The guidebook was discarded during a periodic housecleaning years ago, though I wish I had kept it, since that ski (and hiking) route is closed today.

- George Kocur



With the renewed interest in ski touring in the 1970's, Temple Mt. Ski Area developed a 15 mile network of touring trails, which included a five mile section of the Wapack Trail.



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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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Wapack and Back Trail Race



The Trail Animals Running Club's (TARC) annual Wapack and Back trail race will be on May 10th this year. TARC is a great supporter of the Friends of the Wapack. We appreciate their on going generosity and assistance along the trail. They also worked with us to design our popular Wapack end-to-end patch.

The race includes three options—a 21.5 mile race (south to north) a 43 mile race (south to north then south again) and an incredible 50 mile race (same as the 43 mile race, then turning north again ending at Binney Hill Road in New Ipswich). They would be happy to have folks cheer them on along the trail or at the north end finish line. They hold many races throughout New England each year. You can learn more at trailanimals.com/tarcwapackandback.



Monadnock and Gap Mts. from New Ipswich Mt. - Mena Schmid



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