



Fall 2004 / Winter 2005



Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #74

On the Trail

It would evidently be a noble walk from Watatic to Goffstown perchance, over the Peterboro mountains, along the very backbone of this part of New Hampshire - the most novel and interesting walk that I can think of in these parts." Henry David Thoreau, 1860.

Hello Friends! It has been some time since our last newsletter, so I would like to use this installment of my On the Trail article to provide the following updates and comments

Annual Meeting, October 16



This year marks the Sesquicentennial (150th An-

niversary, I had to look it up too!) of the publication of Henry David Thoreau's masterpiece, Walden. The Thoreau Society has planned several events around the world to celebrate this milestone. One of these "Walden 2004" events is the address to be delivered at our Annual Meeting.

Since I am both a Thoreau enthusiast and friend of the Wapack, I have long seen a connection between Thoreau and the Monadnock Region, including the Wapack Range. From comments in his journal, to reflections in books, poems and lyceum addresses, Thoreau expressed his interest and admiration for our region.

Our featured speaker at this

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Kidder Mountain, over the years

I met my husband Bruce Buck when he returned home from the Navy in 1954 and I had just graduated from Fitchburg High School. Bruce is Marion Davis's nephew (the Marion Davis Trail's Marion) and as they have always been an 'outdoors' kind of family, one

of our first 'dates' was a hike up Kidder Mt. For me, a 'city girl', it **WAS** a 'hike', but I know for most of you 'real hikers', it is just a 'walk in the park'. Once up on the top of Kidder, I fell in love with the view (you can see the Boston skyline on a good day),

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Courtesy on the trail

- Foot travel welcome.
- Leave NO trace.
- Be quiet near houses.
- Stay on blazed trails.
- Respect trailside property.
- Park cars so others can pass.

Trail Workdays

2003 Workdays

(Our 2004 Workdays will be reviewed in the next issue of the Voice.)

2003 was another successful year for the Friends and our workdays. Three workdays were held in addition to New Hampshire Trails Day. The workdays continue to be important to the maintenance of the Trail and in bringing new members into the Friends. Thanks go out to all who participated.

Workday Number 1

The first workday was on April 26th and involved general maintenance and drainage work on the section of the trail between the parking lot at Miller State Park and the summit of Pack Mo-

nadnock. The day was pretty much ideal for the drainage work as it was raining, a rain that increased as the day wore on, but at least it wasn't snowing. A total of seven hearty souls participated including Rick and Ed Blanchette, Ollie and Jane Mutch, Tom Brumaghim, Tom Jenks, and myself.

We started at the summit and worked down as most of the problem areas were located near the summit. Since we were at this point protected from the southeast wind by the mountain, the weather was not that bad. We were able to clean out and repair a fair number of water bars and ditches. By noon we had reached a particularly wet section in a hollow around half way

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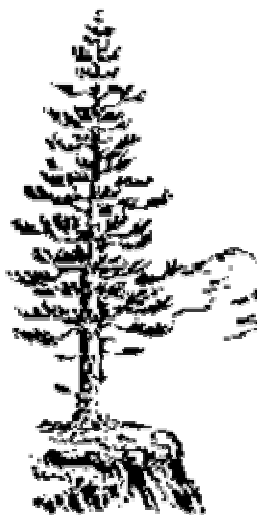
Friends of the Wapack

The *Voice of the Wapack* is published twice a year by the Friends of the Wapack. The Friends are nonprofit volunteers dedicated to the maintenance and preservation of the Wapack Trail System. Financial support's provided by member donations which are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Affiliated Club Member of the American Hiking Society and the New England Trail Conference. 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.

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Trail Workdays

(Continued from page 2)

down the mountain. We were able to install enough stepping stones to make the going for hikers a lot drier. At this point the rain and wind began to pick up and everyone was quite wet, muddy, and hungry. We had accomplished a fair amount and decided to call it a day.

New Hampshire Trails Day

New Hampshire Trails Day (NHTD) was held on July 19th. This was one of the best NHTD's I've been on. The weather was just about perfect for mid-July, not too hot and most importantly, not humid. We had a good turnout with a number of new faces. These included Ed and Rick Blanchette, Lauren Morse and her father Jonathan, Gregory Gauthier, Brendan McClure, Tom Brumaghim, and Tim Stockman.

This year's project was the cutting of a new trail on the Nature Conservancy's Joanne Bass Bross Preserve adjacent to Miller State Park. The new trail, named the Spruce Knoll Trail, runs from the summit of Pack Monadnock eastward to a knoll located on a shoulder of the mountain. This trail was laid out by Rick Blanchette and myself with input from the Nature Conservancy. The trail is a short (1/4 mile) out and back trail with a loop around the knoll at the end of the trail. For a relatively short trail, it traverses some interesting terrain habitats. It crosses a number of small ledge outcrops in a predominantly Oak forest typical of a south-southeast facing slope. At the point the loop starts there is an old boundary marker at the Peterborough-Temple townline with a "T" and "P" chiseled into it. At this point the trail makes a small loop around a small knoll covered with Spruce and numerous rock outcroppings. There are indications that there was at one time another trail at this location as evident from the

stubs of cut branches in some of the spruces.

At the end of the day, we all headed over to Crotched Mountain to join other NHTD participants for a slide show and supper generously provided by Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center.

Workday Number 2

The second workday was held on September 27th and involved the clearing of the thick undergrowth that has grown up along the trail from Temple Mountain south to Holt Peak. Portions of the section were logged a few years back and that, in addition to the ice storm we had, has opened up the tree canopy enough to allow various noxious weeds to grow up. While we normally don't use power tools, we succumbed to modern convenience and used a brush saw to cut most of the weeds and there were a lot of them. Interestingly, while this is one of the least traveled sections of the trail, we saw two groups go through. Thanks to Glenn Lloyd and Tom Brumaghim.



Tom and Mike yuck it up while building the Spruce Knoll Trail on New Hampshire Trails Day, 2003.

Workday Number 3

The final workday of 2003 was held on October 25th. We installed two water bars and did some view clearing along the Sharon Ledges. Curiously, last year's final workday was postponed due to snow and for this year's we had three inches of snow on the ground. The water bars were installed on an eroding section of trail just above the Berry Pasture trail. Two bars were constructed and we were lucky in that we were able to find enough rocks to use. The only problem was that the stones would turn into snowballs as we rolled them downhill to the work site. Both water bars turned out good, with the upper one being one of our better ones from a technical standpoint. Thanks to Ed and Rick Blanchette and Tom Brumaghim.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

Kidder Mountain, over the years

(Continued from page 1)

the blueberries, the Cedar Waxwings that usually show up when we are there (plus a few uninvited ants). We have been 'climbing' Kidder ever since. We would park in Aunt Marion's yard, by her mobile home which was also the Wapack Trail information station. She would see us off, and always invite us in when we returned to share iced tea and blueberry muffins or bread made with blueberries *she had picked herself along the trail*. I really don't think we have missed a year in the 46 years we have been married. Even when we lived out of the area, if we came back to visit in the summer, a climb up



Joanne (Rowell) Buck 1954—Kidder Mountain

'Kidder' was a sure bet. Our children climbed with us over the years and picked blueberries, as have our six grandchildren in the more recent years. Any friend or relative that comes to visit in the summer gets to climb 'our' mountain (*not* Mo-nadnock) with a picnic lunch and a blueberry pail.

We have already been up this spring, but, sorry to say, didn't see any Lady Slippers, as we usually do, but we will go up again, as soon as time allows and the berries are ready for picking. But, we sure miss the visits with Aunt Marion, the iced tea and those 'special' blueberry treats.

- Joanne Buck



Bruce and Joanne Buck 2003—Kidder Mountain



On the Trail

(Continued from page 1)

year's annual meeting is Bradley P. Dean. He will speak on Thoreau's visits to the Monadnock region and discuss Thoreau's thoughts and observations on what we now call the Wapack Range. He has edited Thoreau's two late natural history manuscripts, *Faith in a Seed* and *Wild Fruits*. He is the editor of the *Thoreau Society Bulletin*. Bradley Dean's edition of the Thoreau / Harrison Blake correspondence, *Letters to a Spiritual Seeker*, was published this summer. Watch for a special mailing for more information on our Annual Meeting. You can also check our on-line calendar at our website www.wapack.org.

Newsletter

It has been over a year since the last Voice of the Wapack was published. This is due to several circumstances, not the least of which was that

our president required eye surgery which unexpectedly prevented his facilitation of some of our organizations functions, including the newsletter. We are glad to say that Jeff is recovering very well, and he will be at our annual meeting. We wish to thank Liz Freeman for her work as editor of the Voice of the Wapack over the past few years. Thank you Liz for your professional and dedicated work! With this issue, our new editor is Renee Blanchette. We plan to publish the Voice of the Wapack twice a year going forward.

Welcome new members!

There have been many new members since the last newsletter. Welcome all! You should know that you may attend any of our Board of Directors meetings (see calendar). We can always use some help with trail maintenance, trail adoption, rights of way committee, membership, ways and means, and board of directors. We also need a new histo-

rian. There are other opportunities to participate. Just contact a board member. Many people do not realize that the archives of the Friends of the Wapack are kept at the Peterborough Library. The archives include newspaper clippings and documents going back to the founding of the trail in 1923 and before, the guest books from the old Wapack Lodge, and documents relating to the Friends of the Wapack. It's a great way to learn about the Trail and our organization. The archive is maintained by Jeannette Baker. Just ask a librar-

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View from Kidder Mountain, New Ipswich, NH—Photo by Mena Schmid

Learn about Kidder Mt. and view more photos on this page at our website:

<http://www.wapack.org/kidder.html>

On the Trail

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ian to see the Friends of the Wapack archives.

Thoughts on Preservation

I would like to close with these thoughts. Similar to our mission as the Friends of the Wapack, the Thoreau Society has recently taken on the mission to serve as the Friends of Walden Pond. As such, they are one of many groups who are working to protect "Thoreau Country". The Walden Woods project may be the most famous of these efforts. Through the work and generosity of many people and the cooperation of many organizations several acres of "Thoreau Country" land have been protected in and around Concord, Mass. When Thoreau took his daily walks in Concord, his tendency was to walk to the west, and to look west from the hills of Concord. His view to the northwest was of "Monadnock and the Peterboro Hills". The Wapack Range is the horizon of "Thoreau Country", and is also in need of protection.

Our joint Thoreau Society / Friends of the Wapack Walden 2004 event is illustrative of our

history of working with other organizations. We have worked with the New England Forestry Foundation, Nature Conservancy, the Campaign for Watatic, Monadnock Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, Friends of Temple Mountain, property owners and many other organizations, including federal, state and local agencies to protect access to the trail while helping these organizations and individuals preserve the land. We

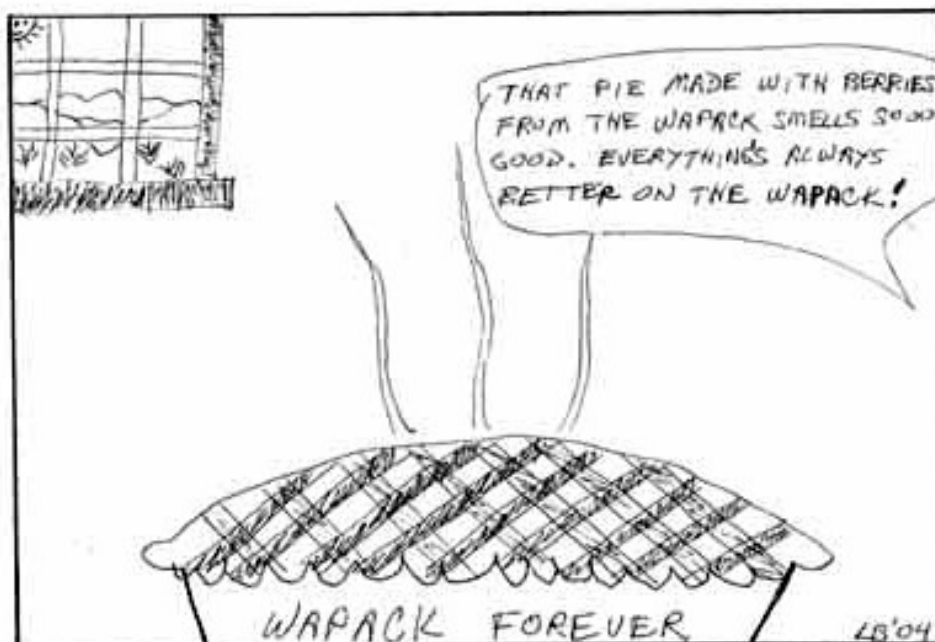
have a strong focus on trail maintenance, and have worked with other trail maintenance groups including the Trailwrights, AMC, Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway Trail Club and the Midstate Trail Committee. We are a small, all volunteer organization. We are focused on the Wapack Trail. It takes many groups and individuals working together to protect a trail corridor that passes through

seven towns and two states, and crosses innumerable property lines. We are proud to be part of this team. It is this cooperation that will help ensure that future generations can enjoy what Thoreau described as a "noble walk" through this part of Thoreau Country - on the trail.

- Rick Blanchette, Trails Committee Chairman

"The Wapack Range is the horizon of 'Thoreau Country', and is also in need of protection."

On the Lighter Side by Lee Baker



Fall 2004 / Winter 2005 Calendar

All are welcome to attend the following meetings & events

September 25 – TRAIL WORK DAY, New Ipswich Mountain. Meet at the NeWest Mall on Route 123/124 in New Ipswich at 8:30 AM. From there we will head over to Ed Blanchette's cabin on Pratt Pond and hike up the Pratt Pond Trail to the Wapack. This is our first workday on this section and we will be doing drainage and general trail work. This is one of the nicest sections of the trail even though it isn't well traveled.

October 16— FOW ANNUAL MEETING, Shieling Forest Conference Center ("The Barn"), Old Street Road, Peterborough, NH. Watch for a special mailing with more details.

Agenda: 9:00 AM: Temple Mountain hike (optional). Call hike leader Lee Baker for more details. (603-525-5262).

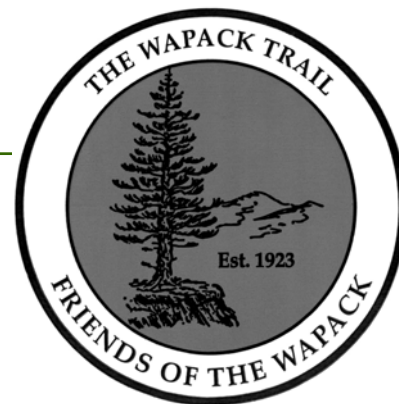
Noon: Informal "bring-your-own" lunch at Shieling. The Friends will provide beverages and light desserts. Bring a dessert to share if you like!

1:00 PM: Talk by our featured speaker, Bradley P. Dean, followed by Business Meeting and election of officers.

October 23—TRAIL WORK DAY, Pack Monadnock. We will be putting in waterbars on the north side of Pack. Meet at the Miller State Park parking lot off of Route 101 at 8:30AM. Note that there is a good chance that this work day will change to do a trail relocation on Temple Mountain through the old ski area. If so we will meet on the other side of Route 101 in the ski area parking lot. Contact Mike Przybyla for an update. (603) 878-3350.

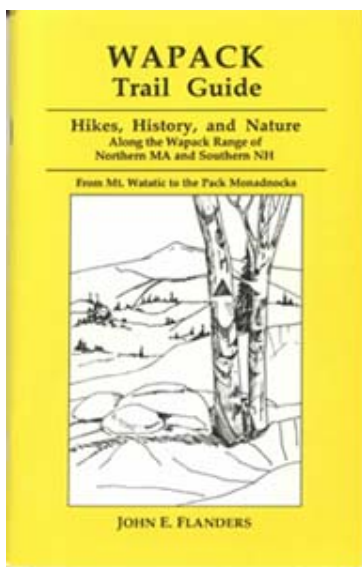
November 4, January 6, March 3 (1st Thursday of alternate months) - BOARD MEETING—7:00 PM. All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn, Peterborough, NH.

March 1—EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Issue #75. Send your letter, article, photo or artwork to Renee Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, or email to renee@blanchette.mv.com. All submissions welcome. We reserve the right to edit for content and length.



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FOW General Store



Send me ___ Trail Guide & map pkg.(s) @ \$11.00 ea.

Send me ___ Friends patch(es) @ \$4.00 ea.

Prices include postage and handling.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

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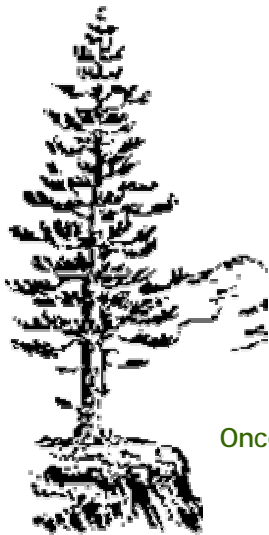
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We're on the web!

<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever

Welcome New Friends

Timothy Algeo, Ashby MA
Larry Anderson, Little Compton RI
Frank Barrus, New Ipswich NH
Jane Brox, Brunswick ME
Jane Calvin, Westford MA
Carolyn Chilcote, Lowell, MA
Joy A. Chiurri, Leominster MA
John Harrington, Nashua NH
Verne Hebard, Auburn, MA
David R. Hopper, Groton MA
Dwight Horan, Ashby MA
Mark Kline, Sudbury MA
Cathy Kristofferson, Littleton MA
Mark and Linda Lapham Ashby MA
Rob and Sue Leger, Rindge NH

Matthew Leonard, Ashby MA
Kevin and Pat Little, New Ipswich NH
Charles Lowder, Lowell MA
Nicholas J. Loy, Amherst NH
Brian and Kathy Manfre, Peterborough NH
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Kevin T. Miller, Townsend MA
Michael J. Moore, Canaan VT
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