



Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #75

On the Trail

The great thing about trail work is the people you meet. In the past 15+ years I've been working on the Wapack Trail, I have gotten to know hundreds of people from this and other trail organizations whom I would not know otherwise. They are all wonderful people who value the outdoors.

Some people have come to one work day, and no more. Others keep coming for several years, then move on. And others become part of the core trail crew, or adopt a trail section. New trail workers are always



Taking a break on Burton Peak at the end of a trail work day, 1996 —L to R: Chet Bowles, Lee Baker, Ed Blanchette, John Flanders, Rick Blanchette

needed and welcome.

But we do more than trail maintenance. The Friends of the Wapack are dedicated to protecting and preserving the Wapack Trail—that means working in cooperation with property owners and conservation organizations to insure that the trail continues to provide a wilderness experience in our own backyard for future generations.

In the Fall 1997 issue of this newsletter, then FOW president and Wapack Trail Guide author John Flanders wrote: "The Wapack Range is the largest remaining high-altitude natural area in southern New Hampshire. Development pressure is again strong. Now is the time for all conservationist to turn their attention to the Wapack Range." The development pressure is stronger than ever today. It takes many individuals and organizations, working together, to

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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.*

On the Trail

(Continued from page 1)

protect a trail system. The Friends of the Wapack are dedicated to this task.

If you check the list of board members and committee chairs below, you will see several names repeating. This shows we need new people. If you have an interest in any of these functions, or maybe you want to bring something new to the organization, or represent your town on the board, please contact a board member.

Thanks to all for your interest and support for this remarkable trail system. For my part, I'm looking forward to spring and another year of work on the trail.

- Rick Blanchette, Trails Committee Chair



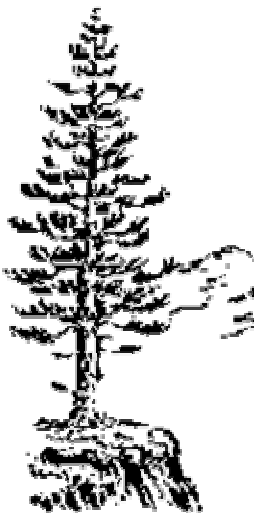
Mt. Monadnock from New Ipswich Mountain.

Photo courtesy of Mena Schmid

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 is 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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Friends of the Wapack Trail Workdays

For 2005 we have a number of interesting workdays scheduled. The workdays play a key part in making the Wapack Trail what it is. They are designed to supplement the work of the trail captains and to accomplish tasks beyond what is expected of the trail captains. For those of you who may not have the time to volunteer to be a trail captain, they provide an opportunity to give something back to the trail. I urge you to show up for one of the workdays and see how much fun it is. You'll probably get dirty and sweaty, but I can assure you that you'll feel a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day.

All workdays are on Saturday and start at 8:30 AM and typically wind down around 3:00 or 4:00 in the afternoon. Bring lunch, water, work clothes, and enthusiasm. We supply the tools and encouragement.

Saturday April 30: Temple Mountain Relocation Part II. Last fall we did a relocation at the summit of Temple Mountain. This spring we'll be



Tom and Mike having fun while building the Spruce Knoll Trail on Pack Monadnock, New Hampshire Trails Day, 2003.

working at the foot of the mountain relocating a section of trail to drier ground. Park at the old Temple Mountain ski area parking lot on Route 101 in Peterborough.

Saturday September 24: Kidder Mountain Trail. It's been quite awhile since we had a workday on this side trail. Logging activity has altered the drainage and we plan on having the Trailwrights helping us install some water bars and other appurtenances. We'll meet at the NeWest Mall parking lot on Routes 123/124 in New Ipswich before heading over to the trailhead.

Saturday October 22: Pack Monadnock. This workday was originally scheduled for last fall but was postponed due to the need to relocate the trail at the summit of Temple Mountain. We'll be doing general trail maintenance including water bar work along the trail between the summit and the Cliff Trail. Meet at 8:30 in the parking lot at Miller State Park.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master



Wapack Trail Crew, 1940's

Left to right, back row: Unknown, Marion Buck, Frank Robbins, Bernice Rackliff, Walter Buck Jr., Ralph Rackliff.

Middle Row: Russell Robbins, Martha Rackliff.

Front Row: Rena Flewelling, Constance Buck.

Note: Marion Buck (later Marion Davis) and Frank Robbins made the Wapack Trail in 1923.

Photo courtesy of Constance (Buck) Hall.

Friends of the Wapack 2005 Calendar

All are welcome to attend the following meetings & events
Check our website for updates or additions www.wapack.org

Board Meetings— First Thursday of alternate months. (March 3, May 5, September 1, November 3, no meeting in July). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn, Peterborough, NH. 7:00 PM.

Saturday, April 30 – TRAIL WORK DAY, Temple Mountain Trail Relocation Part II.

See “Trail Workdays” article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

Saturday, June 25 – HIKE, Kidder Mountain.

We will hike from Nashua Road in Sharon to Kidder Mountain. This is a moderately strenuous 5 mile hike roundtrip. Bring a lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 AM at the intersection of Nashua Road and Temple Road. Leader—Lee Baker (603) 525-5262

Saturday, September 10 – HIKE, Wapack End to End!

Hike the entire trail in one day! Group will meet at 6:00 AM in Greenfield. Please call leader Tom Brumaghim to register and for details (603) 924-9012.

Saturday, September 24 – TRAIL WORK DAY, Kidder Mountain Trail, New Ipswich.

See “Trail Workdays” article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

Saturday, October 15— FRIENDS OF THE WAPACK ANNUAL MEETING

Shieling Forest Conference Center (“The Barn”), Old Street Road, Peterborough, NH.

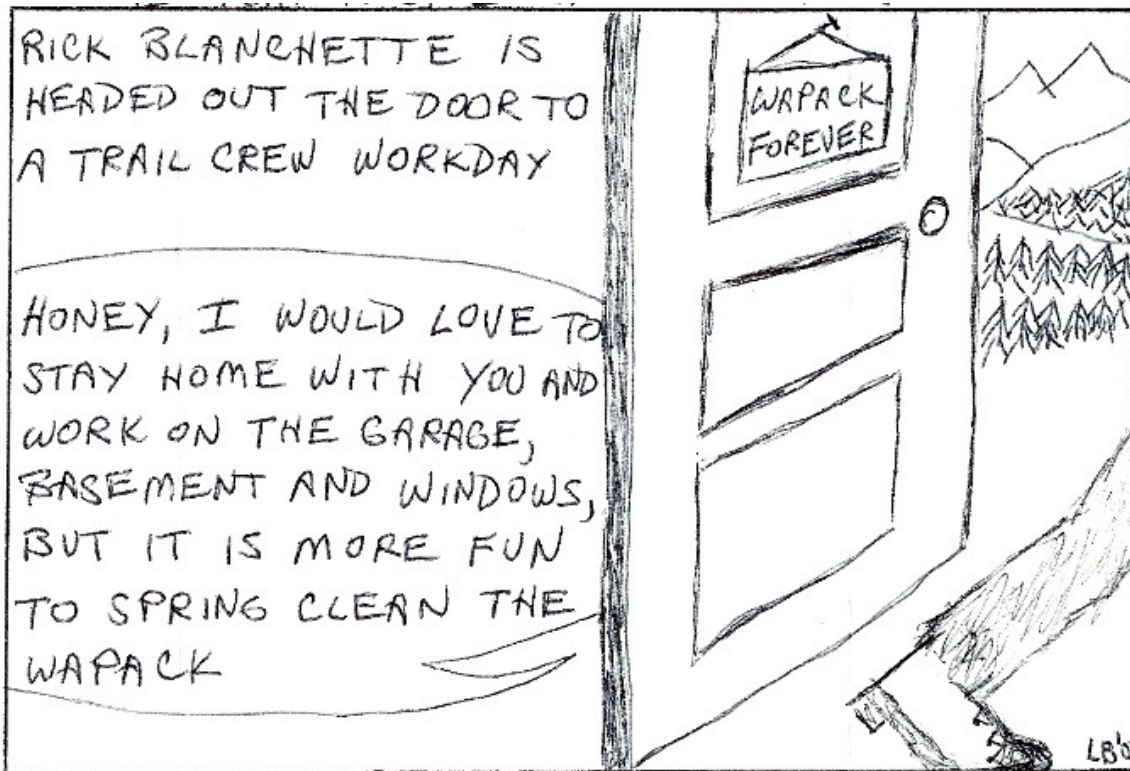
Details for our annual meeting, including guest speakers and morning hike, are being planned. Watch for the next issue of our newsletter or check our website for details.

Saturday, October 22—TRAIL WORK DAY, Pack Monadnock.

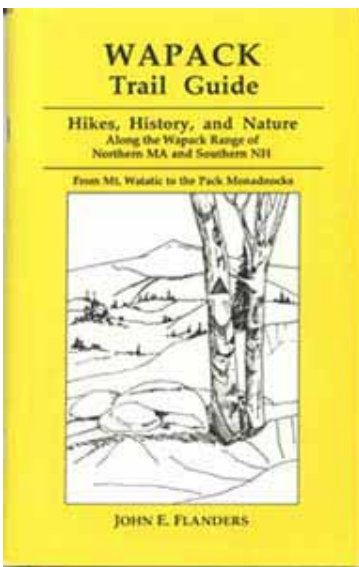
See “Trail Workdays” article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla. (603) 878-3350.

September 1—EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Voice of the Wapack Issue #76. 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.

On the Lighter Side by Lee Baker



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 \$ _____

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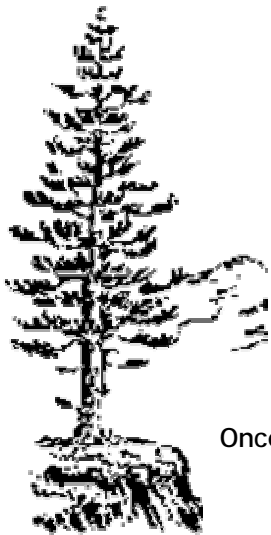
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We're on the web!

<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever

Welcome New Friends

Ralph Jones, Waltham, MA
Ben Allison, Alstead, NH
Mary Ellen Bushnell, Peterborough, NH
Sharon DiPasquale, Fitchburg MA
Donald Lemay, Ashburnham, MA
Robert Pugh, Bedford, MA
Lisa May Swatko, Wilton, NH
Mark Dinardo, Woburn, MA
Elizabeth Updike, Maynard, MA
Catherine Edmonds, Merrimack, NH

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