



# Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #77

## From the President

We are coming to the end of a very atypical winter, with very little snow, only a few very cold days, and some horrendous winds. The winds, of course, have impacted how well the Wapack has survived the winter, but expectations are favorable. On this bright and warm Sunday afternoon, many are already hiking the trail, and we look forward to a banner summer.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the pleasure of representing the Friends of the Wapack at a Trails Expo, held in Milford, NH, which was very well attended. While we had the opportunity to talk with a number of people who were unfamil-

iar with the Wapack or who had only heard of it, we also spoke with many to whom the Wapack was an old and favored venue. Almost without exception, those familiar with the trail expressed concern and sincere interest in its future. Many of these concerns centered on three tracts of land whose future is currently in flux.

Near the northern end, the trail traverses the prior Temple Mountain Ski Area. This area, which includes many acres beyond the old ski area, was purchased a couple of years ago by a local couple much dedicated to conservation. They are currently talking with the State of New Hampshire with an

aim to expand Miller State Park with the Temple Mt. property, and they have repeatedly indicated that special consideration will be given to the trail.

In the center

(Continued on page 2)

### Inside this issue:

<i>From the President (Cont.)</i>	2
<i>FOW Trail Workdays</i>	3
<i>Calendar of events</i>	4
<i>On the Lighter Side by Lee Baker</i>	5
<i>Friends General Store</i>	5
<i>Welcome New Members</i>	6

### 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.*



View of Pack Monadnock / Miller State Park from Temple Mt. Photo courtesy of Mena Schmid.

## From the President

(Continued from page 1)

section of the trail, more than a mile of the trail crosses lands of the Hampshire Country School, who are actively seeking ways to place conservation easements on the school's 1,400 acre Wapack Wilderness, which will protect approximately one mile of the trail and the wonderful vistas in the area. The property includes Pratt Mountain and Stony Top.

Further south on the trail near Binney Pond, the trail crosses lands on which the owners have proposed an extensive development, but they have recognized the value of the Wapack Trail and have had discussions with the Friends. These discussions may lead to the relocation of a section of the trail so that it does not cross the



Pratt Mountain in Winter. Photo courtesy of George Carmichael.

middle of their proposed development, but rather to one side, which could then be placed in permanent trail easement. The Trail Master and other members have scouted this proposed relocation, and feel that it would be an improvement, providing better ground conditions and better views.

The future for the preservation of the trail looks bright. However, even if all these events took place, there are still areas where the trail crosses private property, and it become increasingly important that we "step lightly." Your help in maintaining the trail by careful stewardship is essential. Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you on the Wapack. - Mitch Call, President

## 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.

Copyright © 2006 Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Friends of the Wapack

P.O. Box 115

West Peterborough, NH 03468

Website: <http://www.wapack.org>



### Board Members

#### Officers:

Mitch Call, <i>President</i>	(603) 924-7544
Jeff MacGillivray, <i>Vice President</i>	(603) 878-4251
Wendy Christensen, <i>Secretary</i>	(603) 878-1000
Bruce Myrick, <i>Treasurer</i>	(603) 352-8616

#### Standing Committee Chairs:

Lee Baker, Trips	(603) 525-5262
Rick Blanchette, Trails	(603) 878-1464
Mitch Call, Ways & Means	(603) 924-7544
Renee Blanchette, Newsletter	(603) 878-1464
Jeff MacGillivray, Management / Right-of-Way	(603) 878-4251

#### Directors:

Joanne Buck	(603) 532-7386
Dave Buren	(603) 924-3967
Dwight Horan	(603) 878-3779
Ollie Mutch	(978) 386-5318
Mike Przybyla	(603) 878-3350

#### Newsletter Distribution, Membership Coordinator, & Map/Guide Sales:

Wendy Christensen	(603) 878-1000
<b>Trail Master:</b> Mike Przybyla	(603) 878-3350
<b>Web Master:</b> Rick Blanchette	(603) 878-1464

## Friends of the Wapack Trail Workdays

For 2006 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 that 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 at least 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 29: Raymond Trail, East Mountain Road, Peterborough, NH. We'll be doing general trail maintenance including cleaning water bars, clearing brush, and repainting blazes. De-

pending on its condition this may include replacing a small bridge. Meet at the trailhead on East Mountain Road.

Saturday September 23: Mount Watatic, Route 119, Ashburnham, MA. We'll be having a joint workday with the Mid-State Trail group covering the section of the Wapack that the Mid-State Trail is coincident with as well as the various side-trails. This will include basic trail maintenance with emphasis on better defining the trail on Watatic. Meet at the parking lot on Route 119 in Ashburnham.

Saturday October 28: Pratt Mountain. This workday will concentrate on the section of trail from the spring at the north end of Binney Pond and the summit of Pratt Mountain. This is one of the steepest sections of the trail and as the forest under story has thinned, the trail has become more difficult to follow. We will be attempting to better delineate the trail and do general trail maintenance.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

---

For more information on conservation efforts mentioned in this newsletter



View from Pratt Mountain, Mt. Monadnock in the distance. Photo courtesy of Mena Schmid.

For more information on the Wapack Wilderness project on the Hampshire Country School property which includes much of Pratt Mt. and one mile of the Wapack Trail, contact the Northeast Wilderness Trust at: 617-742-0628 or [info@newildernesstrust.org](mailto:info@newildernesstrust.org)

For information on the effort to add the former Temple Mt. Ski Area property to Miller State Park, contact the Monadnock Conservancy at: 603-357-0600 or [info@monadnockconservancy.org](mailto:info@monadnockconservancy.org)

# Friends of the Wapack 2006 Calendar

All are welcome to attend the following meetings & events

Check our website for updates or additions [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org)

**Board Meetings**— First Thursday of alternate months. (**March 1, May 4, September 7, November 2, no meeting in July**). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn, Peterborough, NH. 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, April 29– TRAIL WORK DAY, Raymond Trail, Pack Monadnock.**

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

**Saturday, July 29 – HIKE, North of Mt. Watatic.**

We will meet at the Wapack trailhead on Route 119 at 9:00AM. The hike will go over Mt. Watatic and head through an area slated for development. We will turn around at Binney Hill Road. The trip is six miles round trip with a 1600' elevation gain. For more information call Lee Baker (603) 525-5262.

**Saturday, September 9 – 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 23 – TRAIL WORK DAY, Mt. Watatic.**

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

**Saturday, October 21— 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.

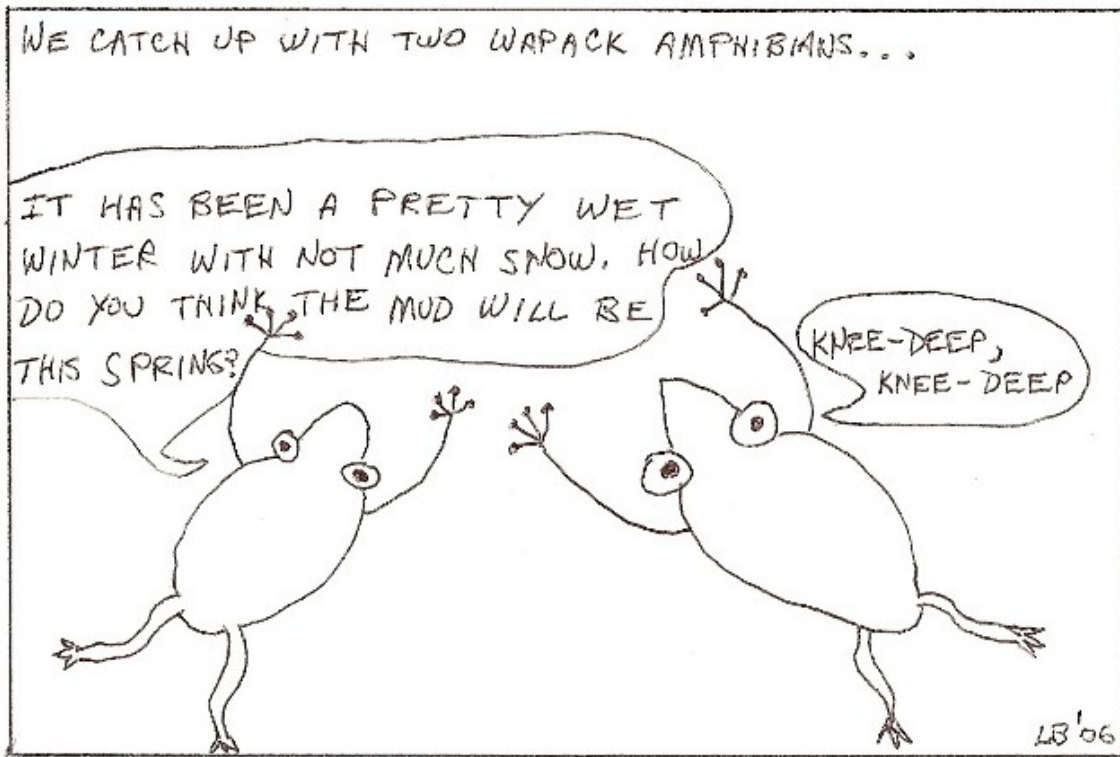
**Saturday, October 28—TRAIL WORK DAY, Pratt Mountain.**

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

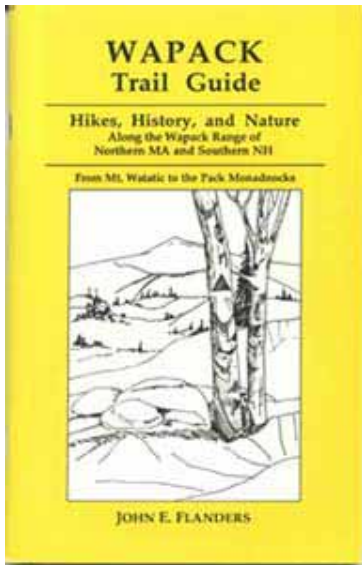
**September 1**—EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Voice of the Wapack Issue #78. Send your letter, article, photo or artwork to Renee Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, or email to [weaver1@adelphia.net](mailto:weaver1@adelphia.net). All submissions welcome. We reserve the right to edit for content 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.

Send me \_\_\_ Friends sticker(s) @ \$1.00 ea.

*Prices include postage and handling.*

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



Friends of the Wapack  
 Patch / Sticker

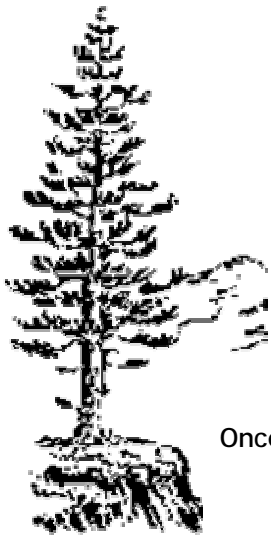
**Make check to: Friends of the Wapack • P.O. Box 115 • W. Peterborough, NH 03468**

Friends of the Wapack  
P.O. Box 115  
West Peterborough, NH 03468  
Email: [info@wapack.org](mailto:info@wapack.org)

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PETERBOROUGH NH  
PERMIT NO. 202

We're on the web!

<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,  
It's Gone  
Forever

---

## Welcome New Friends

Neil Faiman, Wilton, NH  
Lawrence Mack, Westford, MA  
Sarah S. Thompson, Winchester, MA  
Cheryl McMahon, Nashua, NH  
Christopher Kyprianos, Gardner, MA  
Michael Stahler and Christine Tulis,  
White River Jct., VT  
David D Van Strien, Peterborough, NH  
Emily Burr and Rich Kleinschmidt, Man-  
chester, NH

**Thank you to MV Communications!**  
**Their generosity has made our**  
**website possible. Visit them at**  
**[www.mv.com](http://www.mv.com)**



Printed on Recycled Paper

