

Fall / Winter 2007



Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #80

From the President

My remarks in the Spring 2007 edition of the VOICE suggested that this summer would be a very special one for the Wapack Trail, and the many activities that the Friends have been engaged in have proved me right. Most of these major projects will have long range impact on the Trail and will contribute to its long term preservation.

Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. This 1,625-acre refuge is the north terminus of the Trail, and was donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1972 to remain a permanent wildlife refuge. At the time of the donation, special mention was made of the Wapack Trail within the deed of transfer, and since the inception of the Friends, we have been maintaining the trail. This has been done with the approval of the Service but on an ad hoc basis. After a series of meetings this year and as a part of the Service's fifteen year Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the area, a draft of a formal MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Friends and the Service has been circulated to the Friends Board for comment, and we expect that an agreement will be finalized

and signed later this fall. This will assure our continued responsibility for the use and maintenance of this trail section of approximately three miles.

Temple Mountain Project. Dick Ober, Executive Director of the Monadnock Conservancy, announced at their annual meeting last month that this project has been successfully completed, and the property will be formally turned over to the State at a meeting of the Governor's Executive Council this October. The property will be managed by the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) as a State Reservation, and open for light recreational purposes, including hiking, cross country skiing and snow shoeing. The Friends made a significant contribution to the funding, pledging \$12,500 from our treasury, and receiving a matching grant from the AMC, together with more than \$8,530.00 donated by members in response to a letter mailed to all Friends of the Wapack members at the end of July. The pledge of the Friends to maintain the trail was also a very significant factor in the

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

<i>From the President (Cont.)</i>	2
<i>New Views</i>	3
<i>Calendar of events</i>	4
<i>Friends General Store</i>	4
<i>Trail Work Days</i>	5
<i>On the Lighter Side by Lee Baker</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.*

From the President

(Continued from page 1)

state's approval of the project.

Wapack Wilderness. There has been outstanding support for the Northeast Wilderness Trust's endeavor to acquire the conservation easement on the 1,400 acres owned by the Hampshire Country School in Rindge and New Ipswich, which contains nearly two miles of the trail. At last report, nearly \$1.2 million of the required \$1.4 million has been pledged, and the NWT expects to reach their goal of completing the fundraising activities this fall. A highlight of our annual meeting this year will be a presentation of the history and current status of the school's property, previously known as 'Cheshire Place'.



New view from the trail. Photo by Dan Reed.

And while we have been busy working on securing permanent protections for sections of the trail, there has been continued work to maintain and improve the trail. Timbering operations in the Lincoln Davis Forest in Sharon forced the closure of the Berry Pasture Trail for a major part of the summer, but the work is complete and the trail reopened. The timber harvest resulted in opening up some spectacular views of Mount Monadnock. Additional work has been done on Temple Mountain summit to reopen views that had become overgrown. See the related article in this issue.

All in all, 2007 'has been a very good year'.

- 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.

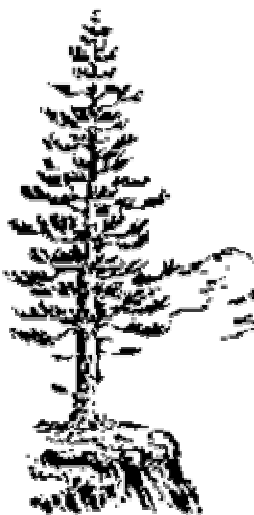
Copyright © 2007 Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

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
Sherisa Sterling, <i>Vice President</i>	(978) 827-3272
Wendy Christensen, <i>Secretary</i>	(603) 878-1000
Bruce Myrick, <i>Treasurer</i>	(603) 352-8616

Standing Committee Chairs:

Lee Baker, <i>Trips</i>	(603) 525-5262
Rick Blanchette, <i>Trails</i>	(603) 878-1464
Mitch Call, <i>Ways & Means</i>	(603) 924-7544
Renee Blanchette, <i>Newsletter</i>	(603) 878-1464
Mike Przybyla, <i>Management / Right-of-Way</i>	(603) 878-3350

Directors:

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

Archivist:	Jeannette Baker	(603) 525-5262
-------------------	-----------------	----------------

Newsletter Distribution, Membership Coordinator, Map/Guide Sales:

	Wendy Christensen	(603) 878-1000
--	-------------------	----------------

Recording Secretary:

	Joanne Buck	(603) 532-7386
--	-------------	----------------

Trail Master:	Mike Przybyla	(603) 878-3350
----------------------	---------------	----------------

Web Master:	Rick Blanchette	(603) 878-1464
--------------------	-----------------	----------------

New Views from Temple Mountain in Sharon

Hikers can now enjoy new expansive views from the Burton Peak area on the Temple Mountain ridge and along the Berry Pasture Trail. The views were created by the recently completed timber harvest conducted by the New England Forestry Foundation on their Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest property on Temple Mountain in Sharon. The forester for this project was Dan Reed of New England Forestry Consultants, Inc.

The sustainable green certified timber harvest selectively cut 83 acres on the western side of Burton Peak in Sharon, re-cleared 22 acres of the former Berry Pasture commercial blueberry fields, and created views for hikers to enjoy from the top of Burton Peak. The goals of the harvest were to improve the quality and productivity of the timber, create diverse wildlife habitat, and enhance views along the Wapack and Berry Pasture Trails. The land will not be developed.

A little history—Timber management began in 1945 when Lincoln Davis donated 640 acres to the New England Forestry Foundation. The purpose of the forest was to demonstrate the benefits of good forest management. The forest included a considerable blueberry pasture, which has its own interesting history. The Blueberry Pasture was first managed as a commercial blueberry operation by W. W. Smith, a UNH professor from Laconia, from 1947 to 1957. He paid NEFF \$0.50 per crate. In 1949, 340 crates of blueberries were harvested. A crate held 24 or 32 quarts. Next the operation was managed by William H.

M. Glazier from Peterborough from 1958 to 1959. In 1959 210 crates were harvested. From 1959 to 1965 the managers were Sulo Kalapakka and William H. M. Glazier. In 1965 only 15 crates were harvested, the last year of commercial harvest. Some of the pasture was planted in red pine and the remainder regenerated naturally to white pine and hardwood. Because of the wide spacing of the trees mixed with blueberries and the pro-

ductive soils the timber quality of the trees that grew was generally poor.

One of the goals of the clear-cut was to remove these trees that because of defect will not grow into good quality saw timber. Completely clearing the site allows full sunlight to reach the ground which will stimulate rapid re-growth of trees from seed germination and hardwood sprouts.



View from Burton Peak along the Wapack Trail. Photo by Dan Reed

I really appreciate the care and consideration for the trails that Dan Reed and NEFF demonstrated throughout the planning and execution of the timber harvest. They went through considerable extra time and expense to avoid impact to the trail. They made a new skidder trail rather than using the more convenient existing trail. For part of the cut they skidded the wood uphill before taking it downhill to avoid crossing the trail in more than one place. They chipped and hauled out the slash. They took extra effort to cut in hard to reach places with the goal of opening new views along the trail. Watch for the new blue blazed loop trail along the west side of the Wapack Trail at Burton Peak and enjoy the views!

- Rick Blanchette, Trails Committee Chairman

Friends of the Wapack Fall 2007 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. (**November 1, January 3, March 6, May 1, no meeting in July**). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn, Peterborough, NH. 7:00 PM.

Saturday, September 22 - TRAIL WORK DAY, Wapack Trail, Temple Mountain.

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

Saturday, October 20 - FRIENDS OF THE WAPACK ANNUAL MEETING

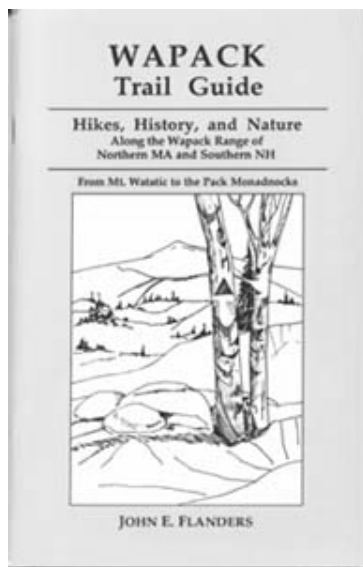
Details for our annual meeting, including guest speakers and morning hike, are being planned. Watch for a special mailing to all members, or check our website for details.

Saturday, October 27 - TRAIL WORK DAY, Miller State Park/Temple Mountain .

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

March 1 - EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Voice of the Wapack Issue #81. Send your letter, article, photo or artwork to Renee Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, or email to weaver11@mac.com. All submissions welcome. We reserve the right to edit for content and length.

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.

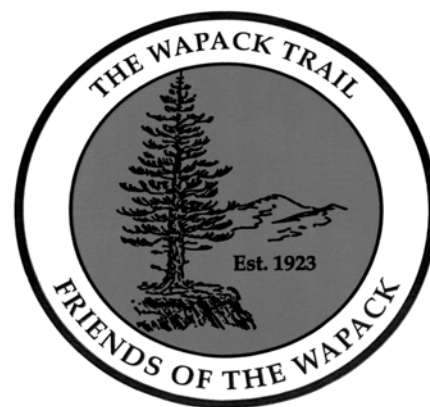
Amount enclosed \$ _____

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

Upcoming Friends of the Wapack Trail Workdays

Upcoming Trail Workdays:

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 September 22: Temple Mountain. This is a change from the previously announced workday. Due to the heavy spring rains, a section of the Wapack on the north side of Holt Peak has had some serious erosion. We'd like to remedy this problem before it gets worse. We'll meet at 8:30 at the old Temple Mtn. Ski area parking lot on Route 101 across the highway from

Miller State Park and hike in from there. We'll be putting in some water bars to halt the erosion and do some regrading of the trail.

Saturday October 27: Miller State Park/Temple Mountain. Meet at the Miller State Park lot on Route 101. We will be doing general maintenance on the Marion Davis Trail and possibly some work on Temple Mountain depending on time.

These workdays are subject to change so check www.wapack.org for any last minute changes. See you on the trail.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

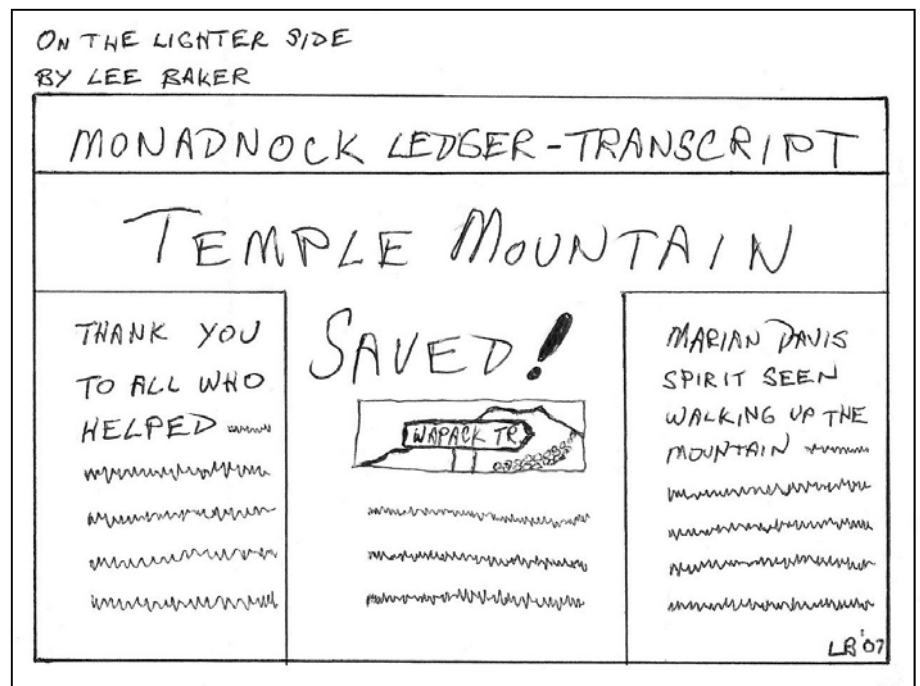
Report on the April 28 Wapack Trail Workday on North Pack

The first workday of 2007 was on the northern most section of the trail, from the trail-head to the summit of North Pack. The original plan was to do some general maintenance on the lower sections and work up the trail to just below the summit where there was some significant erosion. Due to all the spring rain, we ended up working on the wet sections on the lower portion of the trail. This included two sections that we have worked on in the past. Most of our time was spent on the wet section just below the first rock scramble where we were able to harden the trail using the few flat stones we were able to find. Our work here has been worthwhile as it appears hikers are in fact using the hardened section. This work took us most of the morning. After lunch we headed up to the eroded section below the summit only to find that the ground was still frozen solid mak-

ing installation of a water bar impossible.

We had a really good turn out including a number of new faces who will hopefully return. Thanks go to Norm Sheppard, Kevin Alix, Neil and Lynne Faiman, David Brooks, Glen Lloyd, and Rick.

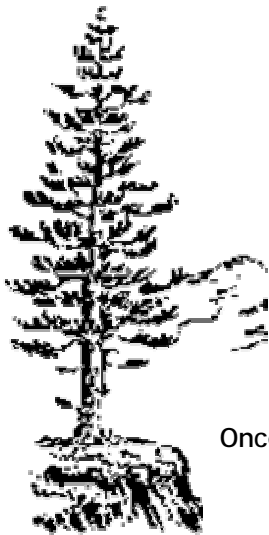
- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master



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

We're on the web!

<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever

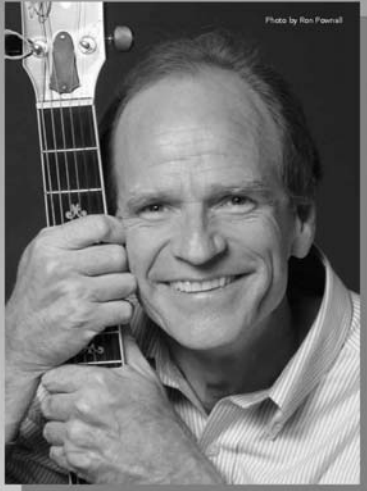
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PETERBOROUGH NH
PERMIT NO. 202

Welcome New Friends

Richard V. Taylor, Harrisville NH
Di Salvo Family, Derry NH
Mark Haskell, Rindge NH
Sam Feinsilver, Princeton MA
William Paradis, Nashua NH
Paul Stilson, Newton NH
Ronald and Margaret Kusner, Harvard MA
Kathleen H. Fitzgerald, Boston, MA
Tara Boswell, Westborough MA
Gwen Jones, Peterborough NH

Thank you to MV Communications!
Their generosity has made our website
possible. Visit them at www.mv.com

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007




Benefit Concert
Friday
8 - 10 pm

Tickets \$25
General Admission
Reserved Seating
Available

Call
978-827-6427
or visit us on the web

**Oakmont Regional
High School**
Oakmont Drive
Ashburnham, MA



**Livingston
TAYLOR**

Ashburnham Conservation Trust • PO Box 354 Ashburnham Ma 01430
WWW.ASHBURNHAMCONSERVATIONTRUST.ORG

Printed on Recycled Paper

