



Spring / Summer 2008



Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #81

From the President

At the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Wapack, October 16, 1993, President John Flanders introduced Tom Cabot as “the pinnacle of the 70th anniversary (of the Wapack Trail) and its greatest contributor.” Mr. Cabot was a Harvard graduate and co-founder of the Harvard Mountain Club, pioneer in skiing, later president of Cabot Corporation, past president of the AMC, conservationist, active member of NEFF (New England Forestry Foundation) and SPNHF (Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests) and resident of Boston and Sharon NH. In the early 70’s, prior to the founding of the Friends, he set aside funds through the AMC to “preserve and maintain” the Wapack Trail. The section of the trail that runs along the Sharon Ledges at the south end of Temple Mountain was designated the “Cabot Skyline” in his honor.

This past year, some of the proceeds from these funds were utilized to support two important Wapack Trail preservation projects: the Temple Highlands acquisition by the State, which established the Temple Mountain State Reservation, and the Wapack Wilderness, a conservation easement encompassing 1400 acres

in New Ipswich and Rindge, acquired by the Northeast Wilderness Trust from the Hampshire Country School. Combined, these two projects permanently protect more than two and one-half miles of the trail. In both cases, AMC provided monies from the Cabot Funds which were matched by funds from the Friend’s treasury, resulting in joint contributions of \$25,000 for each project.

Further, an agreement between the AMC and the Friends that stipulated that these monies would be utilized only for the “preservation and maintenance” of the Wapack Trail, enabled the AMC to turn over to us the balance of funds remaining in the Cabot Endowment, and the FOW Directors have agreed that these funds would be placed in a restricted account, known as the Cabot Fund, that any and all revenues generated by the fund would be retained in the fund account, and would only be drawn upon for trail protection and/or maintenance, according to the original purpose for which Mr. Cabot established the endowment.

The summer and fall of 2007 would have been a great season just

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

<i>From the President (Cont.)</i>	2
<i>Eagle Scout Project</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	4
<i>Trail Work Days</i>	5
<i>On the Trail</i>	6
<i>Friends General Store</i>	7
<i>On the Lighter Side by Lee Baker</i>	7
<i>Welcome New Members</i>	8

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)

for the protections granted the trail from these two projects, but two additional significant projects were generated; the completion of a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which formalized an understanding of the continuation of the Wapack Trail through the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge on the north slope of North Pack with the Friends responsibilities to maintain the trail, and the improvement of the parking area on Temple Road in Sharon known as the Homer J. Belletete Parking Area, which involved some minor clearing, 50 cubic yards of gravel, increased parking for cars and the construction of a map kiosk and guard rails by Jon McInerney, a Boy Scout from New Ipswich as his Eagle Scout Project. Another significant project was the timber harvest conducted by the New England Forestry Foundation in the Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest on the west

side of Temple Mountain over which the Berry Pasture Trail crosses. Under the supervision of forester Dan Reed, particular care was taken to preserve the trail and diminish the impact of the cutting, which has resulted in the reestablishment of some wonderful views and the potential return of many of the blueberry fields.

These projects, combined with the continued efforts of the trail adopters and the volunteers who spent many hours maintaining and improving the trail have provided us with a wonderful legacy from which to move forward in 2008. It is your support and enthusiasm for the trail that enables this special legacy to strengthen and grow.

- 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. The Wapack Trail is a 21-mile skyline foot-path 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.

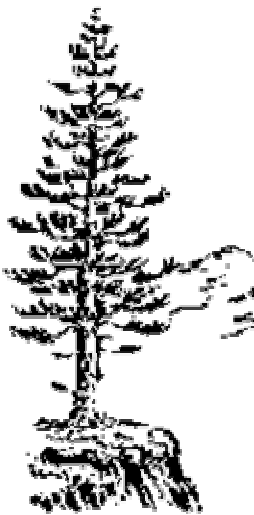
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Friends of the Wapack

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Eagle Scout project report

I met with Sharon town officials, and local merchants for material donations. I also met with the Forester Dan Reed from the New England Forestry Foundation. The process and the paperwork seemed to take forever. I realized I might be running out of good weather. Thankfully my project was approved and I began the work in late September.



The next part of the project was to work on the Temple Road Trail-head improvements. Rick had expressed a need for some type of kiosk for trail-head information. Rick and I agreed that some benches near the kiosk might be a nice addition too. There was also a deep drainage ditch that was dangerous for both vehicles and people

in the parking area. I had to figure out a way to build a guard-rail but still allow the town to be able to clean out the culvert in the Fall. I designed a Kiosk large enough to accommodate the Wapack Trail maps and still leave enough space for the posting of additional notices. The kiosk roof and frame were built by scouts at my house one Saturday. All we needed to do was transport them to the site and install them. A local gravel company supplied me with several yards of bank run gravel to help level and drain the site. Over the course of two successive weekends we were able to install the guard-rail, benches and kiosk.

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In all nearly 250 hours went into the entire project, and \$600 dollars worth of donated materials. Troop 42 in New Ipswich benefited from the experience by teaching the scouts about giving back to their community. I wanted to thank Friends of the Wapack for providing the perfect opportunity to use my leadership and planning skills. I hope everyone is able to enjoy the trail as much as I do. - Jon McInerney

Editors note: The Friends of the Wapack wish to thank Jon, New Ipswich Boy Scout Troop 42, and the team that Jon put together to help complete his Eagle Scout project. The kiosk, benches, and guard rails are a great improvement to our trail parking area in Sharon. We are all looking forward to monitoring the bird houses for the return of bluebirds to the newly cleared acreage along the Berry Pasture Trail. Thank you Jon!



Bluebird house installation crew l to r: Sarah McInerney, Scott Rothwell, Josh Korsman, Derek Rust, Eric Rothwell, Andy Leger, Andy Kouropoulos, Billy Montgomery, Weylin Howard and Jon McInerney.

Friends of the Wapack 2008 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. (May 1, September 4, November 6, no meeting in July). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn, Peterborough, NH. 7:00 PM.

Saturday, April 26 – TRAIL WORK DAY, Cabot Skyline, Temple Mt., Sharon NH

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

Saturday, May 3 – HIKE, Wapack Wilderness/ Hampshire Country School property.

The hike will be lead by New Ipswich Conservation Commissioner Bob Boynton, and ecologists Joe Trudeau and Rick Van de Poll and will follow a new, "Three Ponds" route on the newly-protected Wapack Wilderness property owned by Hampshire Country School. Pack a lunch. Return by 2. Co-sponsored by Northeast Wilderness Trust, Harris Center for Conservation Education, and the New Ipswich Conservation Commission. Depart from Sharon Arts Center, on Route 123 in Sharon, at 9 am. Contact Bob Boynton for more info (603-878-3220).

Friday, July 11 – SENIOR HIKE, Berry Pasture Trail, Sharon NH

Hike the Berry Pasture Trail to Burton Peak. Enjoy great views on this three mile hike with 800 ft. elevation gain. Group will meet at 10:00 AM at the trail head on Mt. Road in Sharon. Please call hike leaders Lee Baker (603) 525-5262 or Ben Haubrich (603) 547-2075 for details.

Friday, September 5 – SENIOR HIKE, Raymond Trail, Peterborough, NH

Hike the Raymond Trail to the hawk watch area on Pack Monadnock. Enjoy great views on this three mile hike with 1000 ft. elevation gain. Group will meet at 10:00 AM at the Raymond Trail trail head in on East Mountain Rd. Please call hike leaders Lee Baker (603) 525-5262 or Ben Haubrich (603) 547-2075 for details

Saturday, September 6 – HIKE, Wapack Trail End to End!

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

Saturday, September 27 – TRAIL WORK DAY, North Pack, Greenfield, NH.

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

Saturday, October 18— FRIENDS OF THE WAPACK ANNUAL MEETING

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 25—TRAIL WORK DAY, Pratt Mountain, New Ipswich, NH.

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 #82. Send your letter, article, photo or artwork to Renee Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, or email to weaver11@mac.com. We reserve the right to edit for content and length.

Friends of the Wapack Trail Workdays for 2008

Once again three workdays are planned. All start at 8:30 AM. Bring your own lunch and water. We'll supply the tools. The locations may change if there are more pressing needs elsewhere along the trail. Any changes will be posted on the website.

The first will be on Saturday April 26th on the Sharon Ledges / Cabot Skyline section of trail. We'll meet at 8:30 AM at the trail head parking area on Temple Road in Sharon. Work planned includes view clearing, general trail maintenance, and if we have time initial work on some stone steps part way up Burton Peak.

The second workday will be on Saturday September 27th. This is a continuation of the April 2007



Pratt Pond from Pratt Mt. March 9 2008. Photo by Mike Przybyla.

workday on North Pack where drainage work near the summit was unable to be completed due to the frozen ground. Hopefully, we won't see that in September! In addition to drainage work, we plan on doing a minor reroute of the trail around an eroding trail section just below the summit of North Pack. We'll meet at the usual time at the trail head on Old Mountain Road in Greenfield.

The final workday will be on Saturday October 25th. We'll be doing some general maintenance and trail delineation on the trail section between Binney Pond and the summit of Pratt Mountain. We'll meet at 8:30 at the NeWest Mall in New Ipswich before we head over to the trail head.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

Report on Fall 2007 Trail Workdays

September 2007 Workday: This was a change from the originally planned workday as the rains of last spring had seriously eroded a section of the trail going up the north side of Holt Peak. Initial investigation when doing the end-to-end hike two weeks earlier had indicated that rock for the planned water bars might be scarce. This concern was for not, as we had some of the easiest digging and an ample supply of rock. We were able to complete to new water bars on the steepest section and did additional drainage work.

October 2007 Workday: The last workday of 2007 was on the Marion Davis trail in Miller State Park. When Rick and I arrived at the

parking lot there was a light rain falling and cool temperatures with a heavier rain forecast. After waiting for people to show up we were about to bag it, when Neil and Lynne Faiman showed up. Not wanting to disappoint them, we decided that a little rain would allow us to see any drainage problems. That was exactly what happened as a number of water bars we had installed a few years earlier had silted in. We were able to clear them out and do other drainage work along the trail. At the end of the workday the Faiman's agreed to adopt the Marion Davis Trail – welcome and thanks to Neil and Lynne as the newest Friends of the Wapack trail adopters!

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

On the Trail

It has certainly been an interesting winter, with near record snow fall along with alternating snow and ice storms. I expect there has been some impact to the trail with the added weight of ice and snow increasing the possibility of trees and limbs falling on the trail. I encourage the trail adopters to get out on their sections early this spring to inventory their trail sections and report conditions to Mike and I with your Spring trail inventory report.

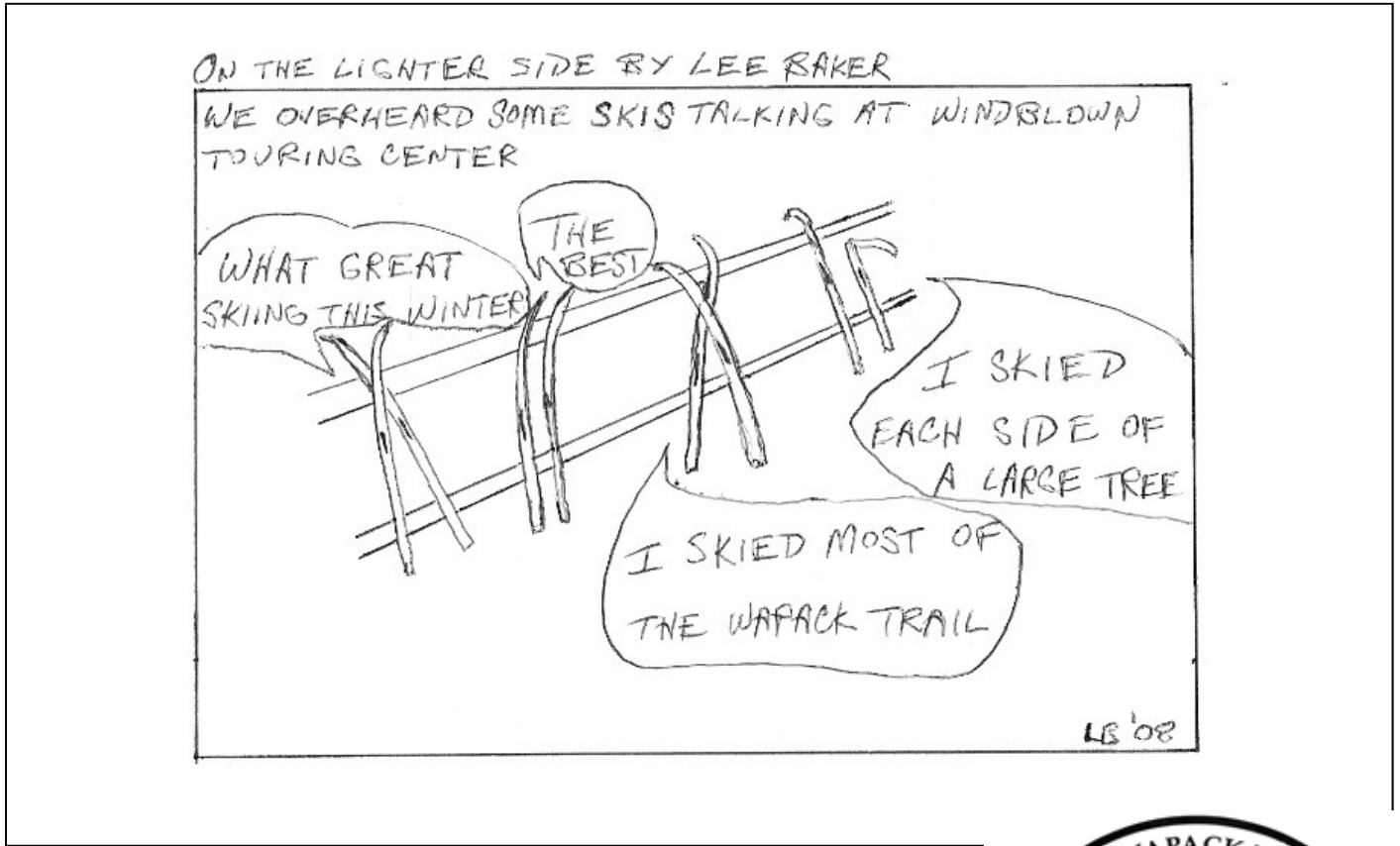
Though the ice and snow can be damaging, the incredible beauty of ice covered trees glistening in the sun after an ice storm is breathtaking.

The photos on this page were taken by Mena Schmid after an ice storm on February 16 in the new Temple Mountain State Reservation. I hope you enjoy the photos. I'm looking forward to seeing you this year on the trail.

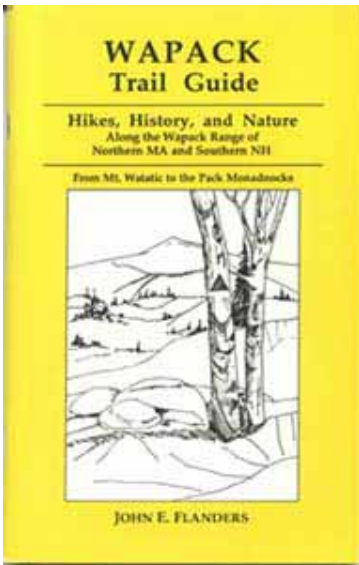
*- Rick Blanchette,
Trails Committee Chairman*



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 _____



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Patch / Sticker

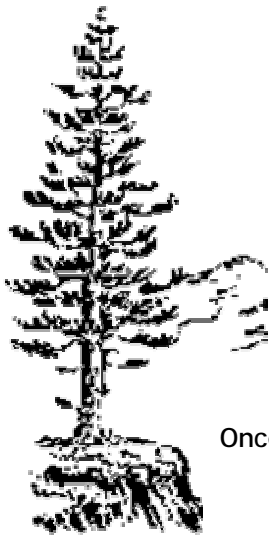
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We're on the web!

<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever

Welcome New Friends

Lolly Hogan, Sharon NH
Marianne O'Connor, Nashua NH
Peter Weber, Peterborough NH
Suzanne Graham, Peterborough NH
Meg Kearney, New Ipswich, NH
Mike Fleming, New Ipswich, NH
Patrick Casebere, Greenfield NH
Mr. Bogdan Dumitrescu, Chelmsford MA
John and Cathi Steiger, Lyndeborough NH
Leonard Walstad, Amherst NH
Laura Goldner, Bedford NH
Ron Bosse, Milford NH

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

Eastern Mountain Sports Club Days

Friday April 18 and Saturday April 19, 2008

*Members of outdoor clubs will receive a 20% discount on
everything in the Store!*

Show your Friends of the Wapack Membership Card or this
newsletter at checkout to receive your discount.

Look for our Friends of the Wapack display table in the
Peterborough, NH EMS Store during Club Days!

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