



Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #82

From the President

After an unusually wet summer which deterred some of our hikers, we are looking forward to a pleasant fall and some beautiful conditions to enjoy the Wapack. The summer rains have made the landscape extra lush, which suggests that we will have a spectacular foliage season. The trail adopters and work crews have done an excellent job of maintaining and improving the trail, all ready for you to enjoy the brilliant fall colors.

One of the highlights of the summer was the dedication of the Temple Mountain State Reservation at a ceremony held at the foot of the mountain and hosted by the Monadnock Conservancy on Thursday, August 14th. A large turnout heard from many of the persons involved in the multi-year project, including Representative Ann-Marie Irwin, Senator Bragdon, Executive Councilor Debra Pignatelli and representatives from the staffs of Senator Judd Greg and John Sununu and Representative Paul Hodes. Dick Ober, former Executive Director of the Monadnock Conservancy and a driving force behind the project, spoke of how Temple Mountain is



one of the most beloved and prominent features of the region and stressed how a handful of concerned residents, especially John and Connie Kieley, created the momentum, that resulted in the permanent protection of this important holding, which not only protects the Wapack Trail, but helps preserve the views and the natural habitats so vital to the continued popularity of the trail. The reservation was official dedicated by Governor Lynch, who cut the ribbon to open the Reservation,

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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.*

From the President

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very ably assisted by Chase Teeson, 6 months old, the grandson of John and Connie Kieley.

The Temple Mountain State Reservation stands as the southern terminus of the Temple-to-Crotched Conservation Corridor, as envisioned by Dick Ober, with much more information on this endeavor publicized this summer, as the Monadnock Conservancy has announced ten conservation easements completed and an additional thirteen pending within the corridor. When their efforts are reviewed in the context of



View North from the "headwall" on the former Temple Mt. Ski Area's Currier ski trail, Temple Mt. State Reservation

the much larger Cardigan-to-Quabbin Corridor, envisioned by a number of conservation organizations, it becomes very apparent the significant role that the Wapack Trail plays. While the proposed corridor extends well beyond both the northern and southern ends of the Wapack, the trail acts as the backbone of the project. The success of the C2Q (Cardigan-to-Quabbin) Corridor will have a very significant impact on the future popularity and function of

the trail and individually, we should whole heartedly support it.

- 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 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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In Memoriam - Bill Currier, 1918 - 2008

The Friends of the Wapack lost a great friend when Bill Currier passed away on July 28, 2008. Bill was a frequent speaker at our annual meetings and anniversary celebrations. Bill would share his many personal and often humorous remembrances of the early days of Wapack Trail, the Wapack Lodge, the history of skiing on the Wapack Range, fighting forest fires, and remembrances of Wapack Trail founders Marion Davis and Frank Robbins. Bill had extensive knowledge of the New England ski industry and regional ski areas, and could tell a great story about pretty much any topic of local interest. Bill began skiing



Bill Currier and friends enjoying a restored ski lift chair from the former Temple Mt. Ski Area in July, 2006. L-R, Dan Blanchette, Rick Blanchette, Ollie Mutch, Bill Currier, Ed Blanchette.

in 1924. He was the first ski instructor and ski patroller at the former Temple Mountain Ski area. He met his future wife, June, while teaching skiing there in 1945. The Currier ski trail at Temple Mountain was named in his honor. He installed, maintained and inspected ski lifts for many years. For several years he ran a ski shop in New Ipswich. He loved Tuckerman's Ravine on Mount Wash-

ington, where he skied the steep gullies and chutes many times between 1939 and 1993.

Bill was a great and generous soul, and a loyal friend. He will be greatly missed.

- Rick Blanchette, Trails Committee Chairman

Eagle Scout Project

For the second time in as many years the Friends of the Wapack have had the honor to sponsor an Eagle Scout project on the Wapack Trail. This year's project was the effort of Freddy Wheeler, a member of the Townsend, Massachusetts Boy Scout Troop. Freddy's project was to build and install bog bridges and stepping stones along a stretch of the Wapack Trail on North Pack in Greenfield.

This project will be a



Freddy Wheeler stands on some of the bog bridges he built and installed on the Wapack Trail for his Eagle Scout project.

convenience to hikers. But more importantly, it will narrow the path by providing a good route through this seasonally wet area, and allow ferns and other plants to grow back in up to the trail.

A great thanks from the Friends to Freddy, the Townsend Boy Scout Troop, and the team that Freddy assembled to complete his project!

- Rick Blanchette, Trails Committee Chairman

Friends of the Wapack Fall 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. (**November 6, January 8, March 5, May 7, no meeting in July**). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn, Peterborough, NH. 7:00 PM.

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, Town Meeting House, Sharon, NH

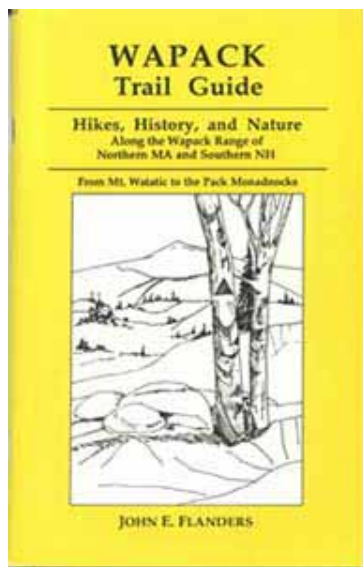
Details for our annual meeting, including guest speakers and morning hike, are being planned. Watch for a special mailing to all members, or check our website, www.wapack.org, for details.

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 #83. 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 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 \$ _____

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Upcoming Friends of the Wapack Trail Workdays for Fall 2008

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.

The second workday of 2008 will be on Saturday September 27th. This is a continuation of the April 2007 workday on North Pack where drainage work near the summit was unable to be completed do to the frozen ground. Hopefully, we won't see that in September! In addition to drainage work, we plan on doing a 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.

These workdays are subject to change so check www.wapack.org for any last minute changes or call me at 603-878-3350 for details. See you on the trail.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

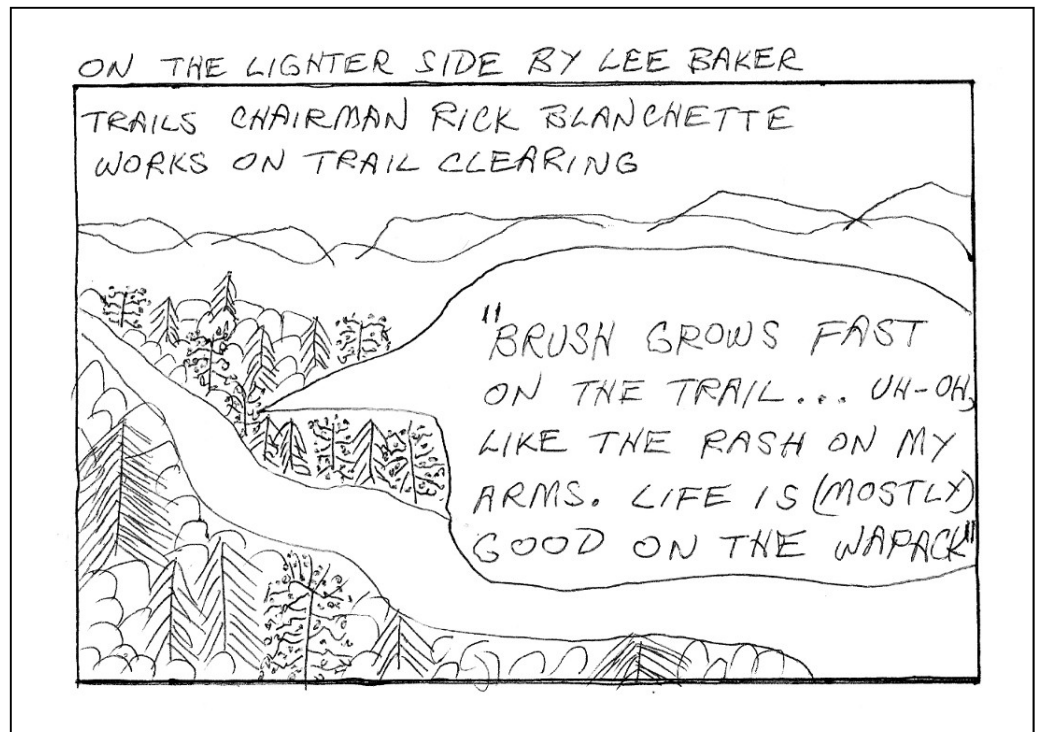
Report on the April 26 Wapack Trail Workday on Temple Mountain

The first workday of 2008 had an excellent turnout in ideal weather. We had a dozen people working on the Temple Ledges section of the Wapack Trail. The primary objective was view maintenance and drainage work. We were able to open up the four major views along this section including the stone wall view which is the first one you reach when climbing up from the trailhead. We also hardened a wet area just before the Blueberry Pasture trail with some flat rock quarried from nearby ledge. We ate lunch at the new views on Burton Peak and proceeded to the final view north of Burton.

We were able to accomplish a lot and thanks go to all who showed up: Gwen Jones, Bob Saari, Tom Brumaghim, Glenn

Lloyd, Mark Dinardo, George Willard, Norm Sheppard, Steve Brrecchia, John Tully, Sandy Neargaard, and Rick Blanchette.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

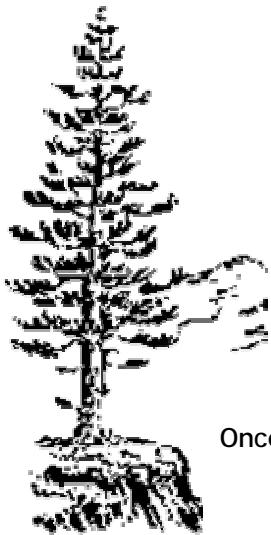


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Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever

Welcome New Friends

Graham Taylor, Newburyport MA
Paul Lemaire, Amherst NH
William R. Day, Needham MA
H. Nigel Wright, Rindge NH
Aleksey G. Kovalyev, Chestnut Hill MA
David DiSalvo, Lowell MA
Joslin Kimball Frank, Keene NH
Sarah Heaney, Merrimack NH
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