



Fall / Winter 2009

Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #84

Ice Storm Clean Up

Two days after the Ice Storm of 2008, I hiked up to the section of the Wapack I maintain to survey the extent of the damage. Needless to say things looked bleak. The extent of the damage was overwhelming and my first thought was that if the whole trail is like this it will never get cleaned up.

Through the hard work of many volunteers we were able to have the trail and the majority of the side trails open by the first week in May, just in time for a Trail Race and the opening of Miller State Park. Shortly there after all side trails were open. If somebody had told me back in December that the trail would be open so soon, I would not have believed them given the extend of the damage.

By April the snow had cleared and we were set for a marathon effort every weekend in April. The worst hit area of the trail was in

New Ipswich and especially the section from Barrett Mountain to the Sharon Ledges. The response for our plea for volunteers was enormous, and we were able to have two to three work crews each weekend in April. Each crew typically consisted of a chainsaw operator and five to



Wapack Trail Ice Storm Clean Up Volunteers, Third Weekend. Thanks to all who helped to clear the trails!!

eight persons cleaning up after the cutting. The first week end had us clearing the section between Wind-blown and Nashua Road along with the Kidder Mountain Trail, the lower

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

<i>Ice Storm Clean Up (Cont.)</i>	2
<i>Photos - Volunteer Clean Up Crew</i>	3
<i>Trail Race</i>	4
<i>On the Lighter Side by Lee Baker</i>	4
<i>Friends General Store</i>	5
<i>Fall Calendar</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.

Ice Storm Clean Up (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

sections of which were especially hard hit. The second weekend we continued the clean up from Wildcat to Nashua Road with the second crew clearing the section in Windblown to Kidder Mountain. We also "rescued" some hikers who appeared part way up Kidder looking for the Route 119 parking lot! We were able to transport them back to the lot on Route 119.

The third weekend had three crews working the Temple Mountain and New Ipswich Mountain ridges. Rick's section from the north end of Binney Pond to Pratt Mountain was particularly hard hit and it was cleared in one day. Similarly, the section from Barrett to New Ipswich Mountain had a surprising amount of damage given that most the of ridge sections were not

hit that hard.

The final weekend had a smaller crew touching up in Miller State Park and in the saddle between Pack and North Pack as well as the lower section of the Cliff Trail.

We cannot thank enough the many people who volunteered as well as the trail captains who went the extra mile to clear their sections, many clearing their sections during the winter. The responses that we have had from trail users have all expressed amazement at the condition of the trail and the speed at which it was cleared.

We hope to formally thank those involved in the trail clearing efforts at the Annual Meeting. If you helped out please plan to attend to be recognized for an outstanding effort! Thank you!!

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

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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ICE STORM, 2008



Volunteer Cleanup Crew



Thanks to those pictured here and the great many more volunteers who helped to clear the trails!!

Wapack Trail Annual End to End Hike and Race Across the Border Report

Annual End to End Hike - September 5, 2009

September 5 was a slightly warm quite sunny Saturday for the end-to-end hike on the Wapack trail. There were thirteen of us on the hike: ten humans and three dogs from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. And we all made it all the way. It was an easy hike (definitely for me) as we stopped a few times for snacks provided by Tom Brumaghim as well as for lunch and to look at the views. We completed it in less than twelve hours. On Sunday the 6th I volunteered at the start/finish area for the annual 17.5 mile Wapack Trail Race across the border sponsored by the Squannacook River Runners.

Wapack Trail Race - September 6, 2009

Race day was marked by sunny skies, very low humidity, temperature in the 60s, dry trail conditions, and nice cooling breezes along the course - all-around perfect conditions for running and taking in the views from atop the peaks of Barrett, New Ipswich, Pratt, and Watatic Mountains. A record 87 finishers enjoyed as beautiful a day as one could ever hope for. The trails were in great shape due to the extraordinary efforts of the Friends of the Wapack who cleaned up the extensive damage that occurred during the devastating ice storm of December 2008.

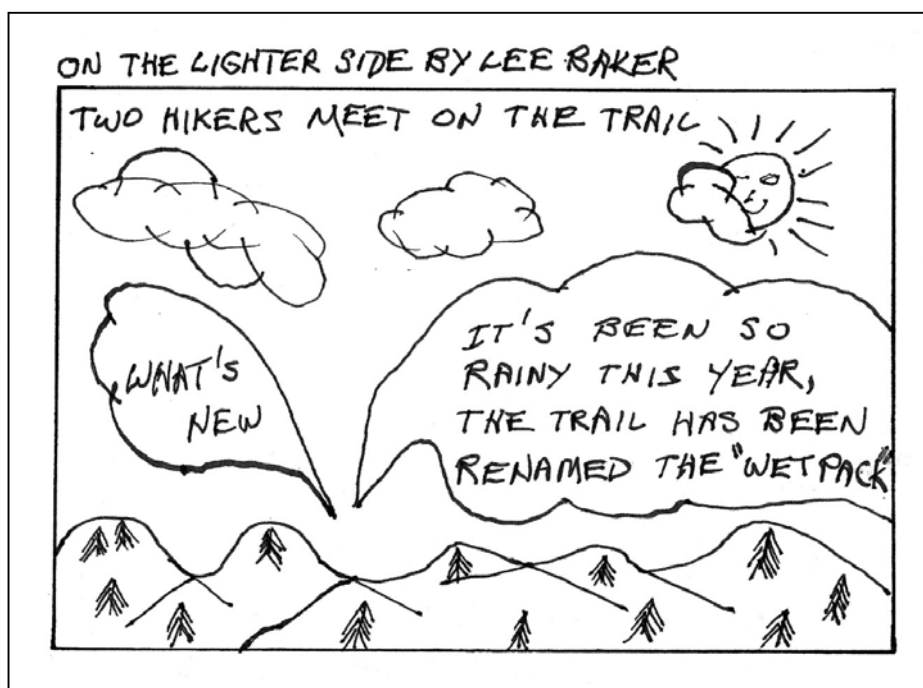
Taking first place in a time of 2:24:10 was 27-year old Brandon Newbould of Dover, NH, a new-comer to trail running. His inexperience with trail running and his lack of familiarity with the Wapack Trail course didn't stop him from clocking the fifth fastest time ever recorded in the race since it began in 1992, and coming in only 2:54 off the course record set by Dave Herr, 44, of Canaan, VT in 2002. The 30-39 age group was led

by Brian Rusiecki, 30, who finished fourth in 2:35:21. Veteran trail runner and ultra runner Peter Gargarin, 65, of Sunderland, MA, led the 60-69 age group with a strong 21st place in 3:24:10.

On the women's side, Amy Lane, 30, of Westfield, MA, in her first Wapack, finished a strong effort in 3:23:45. Grace Jensen was first in the 40-49 age group in 3:52:47, narrowly edging out Tammy Godin of North Grafton, MA who finished in 3:52:53. In the 50-59 age group, Jeanne Christie, of Windham, ME, was first in 4:15:31.

Special note needs to be made of the performance of Rob Higley, 55, of Amherst, MA who finished fourth overall, in 2:43:20! A special note was also made last year when Rob finished in 2:50:36 and so now we have clear evidence that his biological clock is running backwards. Rob was the first 50-59 year old in the Boston Marathon of 2004 with a time of 2:49:16 and he continues to put out outstanding performances.

- Sherisa Sterling, Vice President



Friends of the Wapack Fall 2009 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 5, January 7, March 4, May 6, no meeting in July**). All are welcome. Meetings are held at either Shieling Forest Barn, Peterborough, NH. or the Ashby MA Public Library at 7:00 PM. Check our website or contact a board member for location.

Saturday, October 17— FRIENDS OF THE WAPACK ANNUAL MEETING, Town Meeting House, Sharon, NH

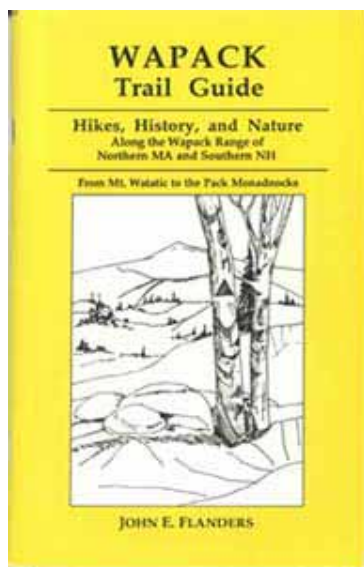
See enclosed letter for details on our annual meeting and morning hike, or check our website, www.wapack.org, for details.

Trail Work Days - As we go to press, there are no scheduled Fall trail work days. For questions on trail work contact Trail Master Mike Przybyla at 603-878-3350.

March 1—EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Voice of the Wapack Issue #85. 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.

Backpack Wanted - Bob Saari, one of our trail adopters who was very active in our ice storm clean up effort, is looking for an external frame backpack - the kind you could find readily in the 1980s and earlier but are rare today. If you have one to spare in good condition please contact Bob at 603-424-7453 or email nhhikerbob@yahoo.com. Thanks!

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 \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Phone _____



Friends of the Wapack
Patch / Sticker

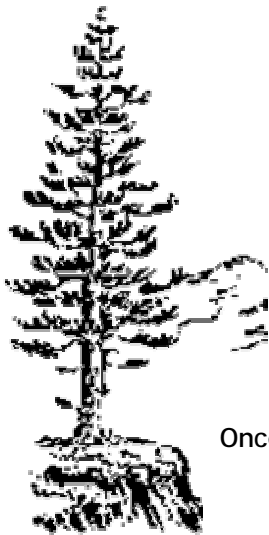
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Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever

Welcome New Friends

Frank and Mary Macklin, Shirley MA
Dayna Mongelli, Fitchburg MA
William J. Lee, Ogunquit ME
Ethan Dickey, Hancock NH
Lynn Ehler and Douglas Sullivan, New Ipswich NH
Kim Ballou, Peterborough NH
Jason Marth, Leominster MA
Nancy Kemmis, Jaffrey NH
Debra & Richard Page, Bennington NH
Andrew Finlayson, Wilton NH
Chet Luginbuhl, Ellington CT
Justin & Hannah Herzles, Portsmouth NH
Rich Ouellette, Peterborough NH
Jenny Briggs, Hancock NH
Greg Somero, New Ipswich NH
Jason Brown, Otter River MA
Annmarie Fournier, Peterborough NH
Linda Borell, Jaffrey NH
Denise Zimmer, Antrim NH
Rachel Wheeler, Peterborough NH
Katie Merz, Brooklyn NY

Tyler Ward, New Ipswich NH
Tim & Rebekah Krawiecki, Jaffrey NH
E. Adams, Candia NH
Clint Young, Temple NH
Allen Hollander, Peterborough NH
Rich Day, Hillsboro NH
Keith Jaramillo, Fitchburg MA
Helen-Ann Ireland, Wilton NH
John McEachern, Roslindale MA
Elise Kuder, Sullivan NH
Rebecca Hamm, Milford NH
John Hills, New Ipswich NH
Greg Trott, Ashburhnam MA
Rebecca McGuire, Keene NH
David Boudreau, Brookline, NH

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