



Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #85

From the President

Recently I have been musing over the events of the past fourteen years that I have been associated with the Friends, and reviewing the many big and little happenings that have culminated in the progress that the Friends have made towards their stated mission of maintaining and improving the trail and protecting it for future generations to enjoy.

Of the major protection events, four stand out: the Temple Mountain State Reservation, the Wapack Wilderness

Conservation Easement, Mount Watatic Conservation holdings and the permanent protection of the Cabot Skyline under a Municipal Trails Act easement. In each of these, the Friends played a significant role, but in each case, others were critical in the success. The Temple Mountain State Reservation and the Cabot

Skyline easement were keystones in protection of the northern third of the trail, as well as side trails. The Mount Watatic efforts protect the southern terminus, and the Wapack Wilderness protects more than a



Mt. Monadnock from Pratt Mountain, New Ipswich. January, 2010. Photo by Mena Schmid

mile in the southern section. There are still tasks ahead to insure a permanent and complete trail right-of-way, and we should dedicate our efforts towards this goal.

The ice storm of December, 2008 did significant damage to many parts of the trail, and yet, within a

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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.*

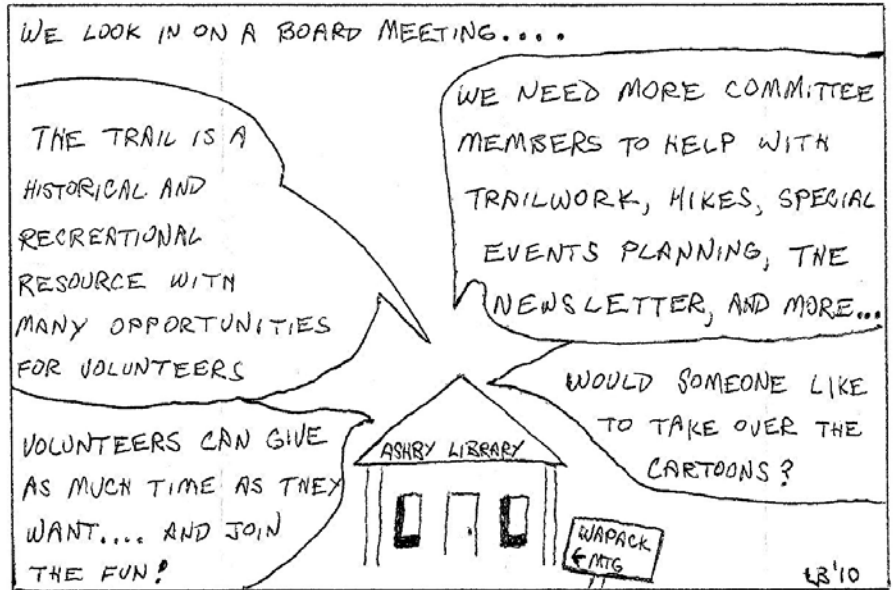
From the President

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few weeks, the trail had been completely surveyed, trees and branches that clogged the trail or presented hazardous conditions were removed and the trail open. This one incident demonstrated how important the continued support of the large group of very dedicated volunteers – from the members who serve as officers and members of the board, to section stewards, to those who come out faithfully for work days on the trail, no matter the weather and the tasks. All of us who love the Wapack must recognize and appreciate their dedication.

- Mitch Call, President

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE BY LEE BAKER



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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Trail Work Days 2010

Trail maintenance goes back to its normal schedule this year after last years bit of weather inconvenience (the Great Ice Storm and aftermath!).

Saturday May 1, 2010 – Mt. Watatic

The first workday will be at Mt Watatic. We'll meet at the Route 119 parking lot at 8:30 AM. We'll be doing general trail work on this heavily used portion of the trail. We plan on installing some water bars on the section between Mt. Watatic and Nutting ledges as well as improving blazing at the summit. There will also be some minor chainsaw work to remove some downed trees.

Saturday September 25, 2010 – Barrett Mountain

The second workday will be the installation of water bars on the south side of Barrett

Mountain. We'll meet at the Windblown Ski area in New Ipswich at 8:30. This location is a long hike in so we'll be concentrating on this particular project and less on general trail maintenance.

Saturday October 23, 2010 – Temple Mountain

For the final workday we will be cutting a new trail to connect the parking lot at the new Temple Mountain State Reservation to the Wapack Trail. This is tentative and may change depending on trail conditions and feedback from the State of New Hampshire. Meet at the Temple Mt. State Reservation parking lot, Rt. 101 Peterborough, at 8:30AM.



Join the Wapack Trail Crew!!

Shown, some of the 2009 Wapack Trail Ice Storm Clean Up Volunteers. Thanks again to all who helped to clear the trails!!

These workdays are a good opportunity to contribute in a direct way to the maintenance of the trail, learn some trail maintenance techniques, and have a good time. Hope to see you there. - Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

Notices

Trail Closure at Turnpike Road - The Wapack Trail is currently closed at the trail head on the south side of Turnpike Road in New Ipswich at Wapack Road. We will post trail status updates as they become available on our website at www.wapack.org,

Board members & trail adopters wanted - Interested in participating on the Friends of the Wapack Board of Directors? If so please contact Mitch Call at (603) 924-7544. For trail adoption please contact Rick Blanchette at (603) 878-1464. Join others like you who love the Wapack Trail by volunteering your time as an FOW board member or trail section adopter. Thank you!

Voice of the Wapack newsletter on line - If you would rather read this newsletter on line, send an email to info@wapack.org and let us know. Rather than receiving the paper newsletter you will get an email notification when newsletters are posted on our website www.wapack.org.

Friends of the Wapack 2010 Calendar

All are welcome to attend the following meetings & events
Check our website for updates and additions www.wapack.org

Board Meetings— First Thursday of alternate months. (**May 6, no meeting in July, September 2, November 4**). All are welcome. Ashby Public Library, Ashby, MA. or Shieling Forest Barn, Peterborough, NH. 7:00 PM. Check with a board member for location.

Saturday, May 1 - Trail Workday - Mount Watatic

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

Saturday, August 28 – 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) 878-6167.

Saturday, September 25 - Trail Workday - Barrett Mountain

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

Saturday, October 16— 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 23 - Trail Workday - Temple Mountain

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

September 1—EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Voice of the Wapack Issue #86. Send your letter, article, photo or artwork to Rick Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, or email to rickblanchette@yahoo.com. We reserve the right to edit for content and length.

Mud Season Notice

We often get email questions this time of year about trail conditions. Many wonder if the trail is muddy or dry. At this writing on March 22, not only is most of the trail muddy, we still have some snow and ice, particularly on the North facing slopes. The weather during February and March was extremely wet with lots of rain and snow. Binney Pond is higher than it has been in memory. The soil is soft and saturated. Hiking on a muddy trail loosens the soil and promotes erosion. Please consider staying off the trail for the next few weeks until the trail dries out. Thank you!

- Rick Blanchette, Trails Committee Chairman

New!! Friends of the Wapack Cap!



Show your support for the Friends of the Wapack and the Wapack Trail by wearing our new Friends of the Wapack cap!

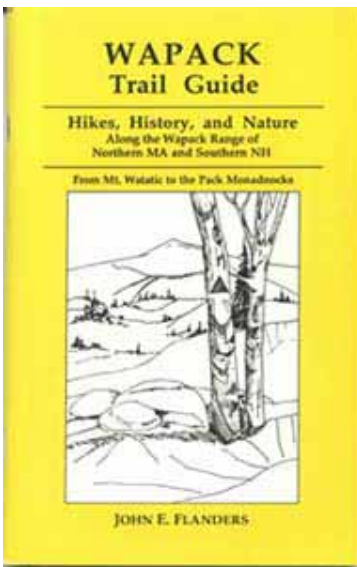
Our new cap sports the Friends' logo on the front of the cap and "The Wapack Trail Est. 1923" at the back in fine embroidery. This is a high quality Adams Headwear hat featuring their "Cool-Crown" mesh lining to keep you cool in hot weather and minimize staining. The adjustment strap is leather with a metal buckle. The cap is khaki with a green bill and green embroidery. Help support our efforts to maintain and protect the Wapack Trail



by purchasing and wearing our new club cap!

Order with the form shown below or on line at www.wapack.org!

Friends of the Wapack General Store



Send me ___ Friends cap(s) @ \$17.50 ea.

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

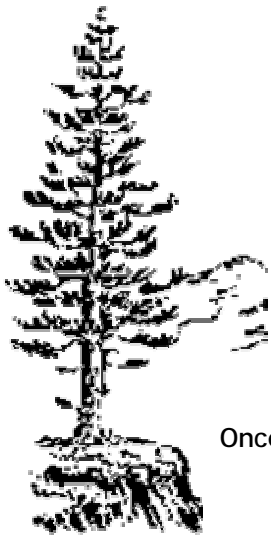
Make check to: Friends of the Wapack • P.O. Box 115 • W. Peterborough, NH 03468

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

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We're on the web!

<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever

Welcome New Friends

Tish McHugh, Harriman NY
Joanne C. Leamy, New Ipswich NH
Phil C. Schneider, Wayland MA
John N. Tulley, Jr, Littleton MA
Bill Newbold, Antrim NH
Laura Bridge, Sharon NH
Karl Lewis, Kensington CT
Linn and Bill Clark, Pepperell MA

EMS Club Days April 23 & 24! - As a member of the Friends of the Wapack you are eligible for special discounts at EMS during their Club Days. Simply present your membership card or this newsletter as proof of membership to receive your discount at an EMS store during EMS Club Days! Check with your local EMS store or www.ems.com for details.



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