



Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #86

From the President

The following article was in the AMC New Hampshire Chapter's summer newsletter, and while it is probably familiar to many of our members, it is so relevant to our beloved Wapack Trail that I asked, and received permission to publish it in the Voice.

What Goes into a Trail? By Richie Holstein

We hike, ski, and cycle our trails. We're certainly aware of them in the moment but do we think of what goes into creating and maintaining them? It's easy to guess at the hard work, but there's more than that.

Trails exist to limit human impact on the outdoors and to make travel reasonable. What goes into trail creation – first is definition of a need, then exploration and planning. We try for paths that work with the land to avoid or reduce erosion – those that are less steep or have switchbacks. Route planning means finding good stream crossings and avoiding travel in areas likely to erode or become damaged. We look for more width for ski and bike trails. If there's a view, we want a way to reach it.



Wapack Range in New Ipswich from Kidder Mt. August, 2010. Photo by Mena Schmid

But we mostly improve existing trails or maintain them in good condition. Pre-hiking and planning are critical as we figure what needs to be done, how to do it, the tools and equipment needed, and how many people can be involved. What will stop erosion here? How can we provide better footing? What will encourage people to stay on the trail? What will leave this trail more natural? Winter trails need imagination; just think of an elevated trail and lowered branches!

Finally, we watch people use a trail. Do they step or ski or ride where we expect them to? Has our work made the trail better for them?

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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

(Continued from page 1)

Is the result likely to last? Does it protect the area all around?

Join us on a trail day! Have fun, learn what we actually do, and accomplish a task where you can see the good you have done. And the next time you hike that trail, you can point to your work and say, "Some of ME went into that Trail!"

Volunteers are critical to the continuing success of the Wapack Trail. Hopefully, Ritchie's words will convince you to contact Rick Blanchette, the chairman of the Trails Committee, or Mike Przybyla, the Trail Master, and join with them to help maintain the trail.

- 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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Trail Work Days 2010

Saturday, May 1st, was the first workday of 2010 and the first regular workday since the Ice Storm Clean-Up. We had a good turn out, with 12 people showing up to do general trail work on Mt. Wataatic. The trail up to the summit is one of the most heavily used sections of the trail and has gotten considerably wider. Much of the morning was spent brushing in various shortcuts on the route to the summit. With the good turnout, we were able to have a dedicated blazing crew who did a fine job re-blazing the trail. Once at the summit, two marker posts were installed and some brush cleared to make the trail north of the summit

more visible. After lunch we split into two groups, with each assigned a water bar to install. Once these were complete, we finished up the day with some minor drainage and brush clearing. Thanks goes out to all who attended.

Two more workdays are scheduled this year. One on September 25th and the second on October 23rd. Check our calendar in this newsletter for details, and our website for updates. Hope to see you there.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

Notices

Trail Parking at Turnpike Road in New Ipswich - We're happy that everyone is enjoying the Wapack Trail re-route through the Windblown Cross-Country Ski Area in New Ipswich. But PLEASE do not park on the Windblown property. We are extremely grateful to the Jenks family for allowing the relocation of the Trail through their property, and we all want to respect their wishes. Continue to park along the south side of Turnpike Road (Rte 123/124) between Wapack Road and the Windblown driveway, well off the roadway. The new trail route goes up the Windblown driveway and continues along the western border of the Windblown property. Please stay on the marked Wapack Trail route. There are many intersecting ski trails, so please look for the YELLOW TRIANGLES and DIRECTIONAL SIGNS at each intersection to stay on the Wapack Trail. We really appreciate your cooperation. Enjoy the Wapack Trail! A map of the trail relocation is available on our website www.wapack.org.

A reminder about Winter use of the Wapack Trail through Windblown Cross-Country Ski Area

1. With snow on the ground everyone using the Wapack Trail through Windblown property needs to pay for a trail ticket.
2. Everyone must use skis or snowshoes, no hiking.
3. In winter with a trail ticket you can use the Windblown parking lot during the day, not overnight.
4. Dogs are not permitted.
5. Check the Windblown website to see if they are open or stop into the ski shop between 9 and 5. If not open no trail fee.
6. Snowshoers need to stay out of the ski tracks.
7. People coming from south to north and not leaving a car in our lot can pay on their way out.

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. (**November 4, January 6, March 3, May 5**). 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, September 25 - Trail Workday - Barrett Mountain

We will be installing 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. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

Saturday, October 16— FRIENDS OF THE WAPACK ANNUAL MEETING, Town Meeting House, Sharon, NH

Our guest speaker Bruce Myrick will present pictures and stories from his September 2010 trip to Nepal. The adventurous trip includes trekking to the “forbidden kingdom” of Mustang, visits to Lo Mothang, and Katmandu. The morning hike will be the new trail route through Windblown Cross-Country Ski area. Watch for a special mailing to all members with details, or check our website, www.wapack.org.

Saturday, October 23 - Trail Workday - 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. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

March 1—EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Voice of the Wapack Issue #87. Send your letter, article, photo or artwork to Rick Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, or email to rick-blanchette@yahoo.com. We reserve the right to edit for content and length.

20 Years on the Trail

This November marks the start of my twentieth year as Trails Committee Chairman for the Friends of the Wapack. I took over this position from the late Dr. Edward “Pete” Twitchell. I count Pete as one of the great people I have met in my life. The day he turned over the responsibility for the trail to me, he handed me the few tools the Friends had then, and the metal measuring wheel. He impressed upon me the importance of the position, and I hope I have kept that spirit with me through the years.

For the first 10 years I was responsible for trail maintenance, organizing and planning work

days, interfacing with property owners, and overseeing the trail adopters. In 2000 I split my responsibilities with our Trail Master, Mike Przybyla. Mike has done an amazing job planning and organizing our trail work days and keeping the trail in great shape. If not for Mike I would have burned out long ago!

The best part has been the people I have met on the board and working on the trail. It has been great getting to know the many folks who have participated in our workdays or adopted a trail section, the many property owners, and con-

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tacts for state and federal lands. You know who you are - thank you!

There have been many challenges, including the ice storm of 1998 and the great ice storm of 2008, and this year a closure of a section of the trail in New Ipswich. We are very thankful to the Jenks family that we were able to relocate the trail through Windblown!

Thanks to the efforts of the Friends and others, much of the trail is protected. But this year's trail closure reminds us that the continuity of the trail can still be broken. In 1860 while



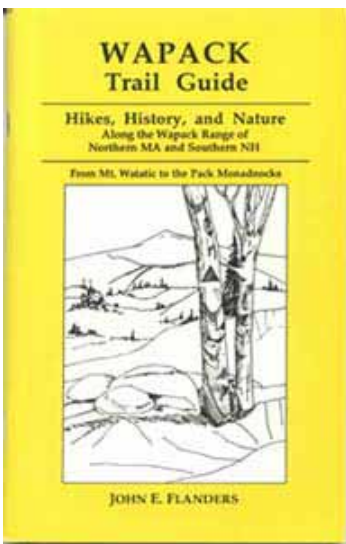
1996 Trail Crew, L to R Chet Bowles, Lee Baker, Ed Blanchette, John Flanders, Rick Blanchette

on Mount Monadnock and looking toward what would one day be called the Wapack Range, Henry David Thoreau observed "It would evidently be a noble walk from Watatic to Goffstown perchance, over the Peterboro mountains, along the very backbone of this part of New Hampshire - the most novel and interesting walk that I can think of in these parts." It is up to us to insure that future generations will be able to take this noble walk, and enjoy our beautiful region on the trail.

- Rick Blanchette, Trails Committee Chairman

Friends of the Wapack General Store

You can now order these items on our website with Paypal at www.wapack.org !



- 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 _____



Friends of the Wapack Patch / Sticker



Phone _____

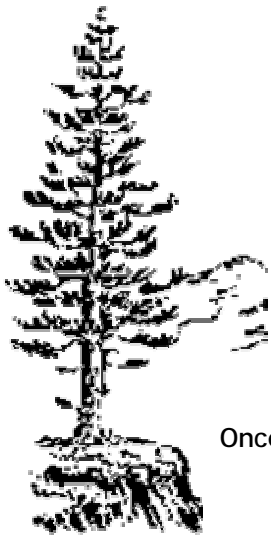
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We're on the web!

<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever

Welcome New Friends

Tish McHugh, Harriman NY
Carl Wagner III, Peterborough NH
Callie Cornell, Jaffrey NH
Jenna Mooney, Fitchburg MA
Venise Ward, Winchendon MA
Sara Gadwah Greenville NH
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Kent Holtshouser, Milford NH
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Nance Hall, Peterborough NH
Robert Gamble, Jamaica Plain MA

EMS Club Days October 1 & 2!

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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