

Spring / Summer 2011



# Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #87

## From the President

Recently, the Board of Directors of the Friends had the unhappy task of accepting the resignation from the Board of Joanne Buck. I have spent a little time going back through my records, which included copies of minutes of our meetings and copies of earlier Voices, which go back to 1993. I was trying to get a sense of the many contributions that Joanne has made to the Wapack. In 1993, Joanne was serving as the Chairman of the Marketing Committee (later renamed the Ways & Means Committee), this was soon after the Wapack Trail Guide was introduced. To have that important post demonstrated the very high esteem that the board placed on her. Joanne continued to serve as chair until 1998, and has remained on the board as a Director-at-Large until last month. Her knowledge of the area, her enthusi-

asm for our mission, and her incisive understanding of our activities made her a strong contributor to the successful progress of the Friends. Her contributions to our discussions will



*Lunch break at the Currier Outlook during our Fall 2010 trail work day at the Temple Mt. State Reservation*

be sorely missed, but we all wish her continued health and happiness as she continues her many other activities.

At a special Board of Director's Meeting in February, the board met with Bob Boynton, the Chairman of the New Ipswich Conserva-

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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)

tion Commission to talk about their impending purchase of 180 acres along the Wapack Ridge, including the summit of New Ipswich Mountain, at 1,881 feet, the highest point in the town. This acquisition includes a significant portion of the Wapack Trail, and would eventually be linked to the 1,400 acre Wapack Wilderness, a forever wild area managed by the Northeast Wilderness Trust.

At our Annual Meeting a couple of years ago, Al Jenks, the owner and operator of the Windblown Ski Area told the membership that he planned to retire within a couple of years, and that he had signed a conditional sales agreement with the North East Nordic Council, who indicated that they wished to upgrade the area and make it a recreational and training facility for cross country skiing and biathlon, contingent upon them being able to

raise sufficient funds to purchase the property and make appropriate upgrades. This conditional sales agreement expired, and many members, aware of Al's desire to retire, were very concerned about the future of Windblown. It was announced a few weeks ago, that Al had decided that he would manage the area through the 2011-12 season, and then turn over the operation to his son Andy. The Jenks family have been very good friends to the Wapack, and we sincerely hope to continue this relationship with the coming generations of Windblown operators.

With spring-like weather on the horizon, our Section Captains will be out in force to clean up winter's debris, and to survey for hanging branches, muddy spots and other hazards. As you enjoy the Wapack Trail this spring, assist these hard working friends, and pick/clean up where ever you can. Let Mike and/or Rick know of potential problems, so that they can plan and fix. Enjoy the solitude and the splendor of the Wapack!

- 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 mem-

ber 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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Friends of the Wapack

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### Friends of the Wapack, Inc. Board Members

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Wendy Christensen, <i>Secretary</i>	(603) 878-1000
Bruce Myrick, <i>Treasurer</i>	(603) 352-8616

#### Standing Committee Chairs:

Lee Baker, <i>Trips</i>	(603) 525-5262
Rick Blanchette, <i>Trails</i>	(603) 878-1464
Mitch Call, <i>Ways &amp; Means</i>	(603) 924-7544
Mike Przybyla, <i>Management / Right-of-Way</i>	(603) 878-3350

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**Trail Master:** Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350

**Web Master/Newsletter:** Rick Blanchette (603) 878-1464

## A notice for our Section Captains and a word about trail adoption

Spring is here again, and it's time for our Section Captains to put away the skis and snow shoes, put on those hiking boots, and hit the trail. Spring is the best time to check the condition of an adopted trail section. Water problems, erosion and wet areas, are most visible in the Spring. It is also time to check for winter blow downs. Section Captains, please let me know if you need help with your section.

Mike and I will be planning the October workday soon, so if you have a project in mind for your section, please let me know. Please return your Spring Trail Condition Report form by June 1. The report helps us plan future workdays and shows that you are keeping up your trail section. The snail mail and email versions of the form are available for download from our website [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org). Click on the "Trail Maintenance" button. You'll also find trail maintenance and Spring trail inventory guidelines there to review.

Thanks to all our Section Captains (aka



*Stone steps installation - Temple Mountain State Reservation - Fall work day 2010*

Trail Adopters) for all their work and dedication! They are:(listed by trail section North to South) Dave Buren, Glenn Lloyd, Ollie Mutch and Jan Miller, Bob Saari, Neil Faiman and Lynne Pentler, John Hills, Tom Brumaghim, Scout Master Sean McInerney & the New Ipswich Boy Scouts, Don & Lois Ray, Jen Shultis, Norm Sheppard, Rick Blanchette, Scout Master John Varney & Ashby Boy Scouts, Mike Przybyla, Dwight Horan, Sherisa Sterling.

The Friends maintain the following trails: Wapack, Cliff, Raymond, Spruce Knoll, Marion Davis, Berry Pasture, Kidder Mountain, and State Line.

Interested in adopting a trail section? Send an email to [info@wapack.org](mailto:info@wapack.org), or contact Rick Blanchette at (603) 878-1464. Participating in a work day is a great way to learn about trail maintenance before adopting a section.

*- Rick Blanchette, Trails Committee Chairman*

### A note about hiking the Wapack Trail through Windblown XC ski area

The Wapack Trail is closed through Windblown Cross Country ski area during Mud Season—roughly now through mid April. Hiking is only allowed on the marked route of the Wapack Trail and no mountain bikes please. Parking is still along the west side of the highway, not on Windblown property. Thank you!





# Friends of the Wapack 2011 Calendar

All are welcome to attend the following meetings & events  
Check our website for updates and additions [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org)

**Board Meetings** - First Thursday of alternate months. ( **May 5, no meeting in July, September 1, November 3** ). 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, April 30 - Trail Workday - Temple Mountain, Sharon NH**

The first workday will be along the Sharon Ledges, which is the south end of the Temple Mountain ridge. We'll meet at the Homer Belletete parking lot on Temple Road in Sharon at 8:30 AM. We will be doing general trail work on the section between the trailhead and Holt Peak. Depending on the turn-out we may also start mining some rock for a future rock step project. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

**Saturday, August 27 - 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 24 - Trail Workday - Miller State Park, Peterborough NH**

The second workday will be drainage work and other maintenance on one of the most traveled sections of the trail. We'll meet at the Miller State Park lower parking lot, Route 101 in Peterborough, at 8:30AM. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

**Saturday, October 15 - 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](http://www.wapack.org), for details.

**Saturday, October 22 - Trail Workday - TBD**

We don't have anything definite for this workday at this time. There are a number of possibilities we're investigating. Where and what depends on feedback from our trail adopters, various state agencies and land owners. Check our website for updates [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org). Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

## A Note about Trail Workdays

All workdays 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. These workdays are a good opportunity to contribute in direct way to the maintenance of the trail, learn some trail maintenance techniques, and have a good time. Hope to see you there! Call Mike Przybyla for details 603-878-3350. - Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

## Notices

**Mud Season Notice to Hikers** - 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 27 the trail and woods are still covered with snow and ice in most places due to colder than normal March temperatures, particularly on the North facing slopes. When the spring thaw finally begins the soil will become 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!

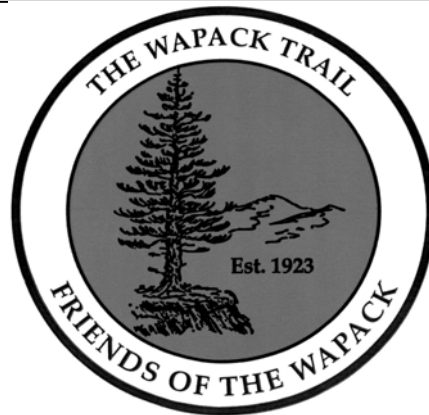
**Board members & trail adopters wanted** - Interested in participating on the Friends of the Wapack Board of Directors? If so please contact Mitch Call at (603) 924-7544. For trail adoption please contact Rick Blanchette at (603) 878-1464. Join others like you who love the Wapack Trail by volunteering 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](mailto: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](http://www.wapack.org).

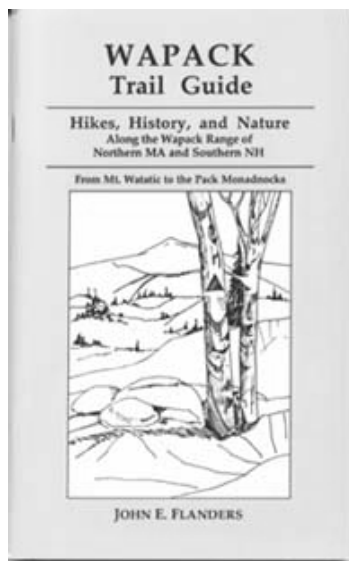
**September 1** - EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Voice of the Wapack Issue #88. Send your letter, article, photo or artwork to Rick Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, or email to [rick-blanchette@yahoo.com](mailto:rick-blanchette@yahoo.com). We reserve the right to edit for content and length.

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## Friends of the Wapack General Store



Friends of the Wapack  
Patch / Sticker



**You can now order these items on our website with Paypal at [www.wapack.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

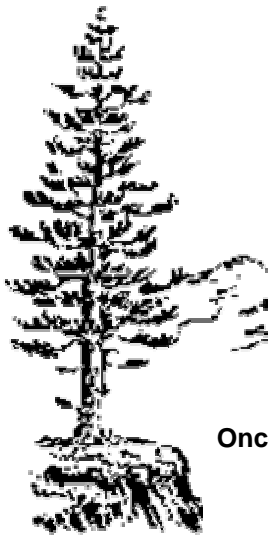
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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



Friends of the Wapack  
P.O. Box 115  
West Peterborough, NH 03468  
Email: [info@wapack.org](mailto:info@wapack.org)

We're on the web!  
<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,  
It's Gone  
Forever

## Welcome New Friends

Danforth and Gina Sullivan  
Chad Andrews, Greenfield, NH

Jim Bingham, Fitzwilliam, NH

Ruth and Stephen Coffman, Bennington, NH

Bruce DuPont, Rindge, NH

David Duval, Franconia, NH

Tim Fitch, Peterborough, NH

Val Gannett, So. Sutton, NH

Daniel Gederre, Winchendon, MA

Andrea Hansen, Jaffrey, NH

Graham Heagy, New Ipswich, NH

Joan Joseph, Hancock, NH

Lindsey Labrecque, Wilton, NH

Chase McNiss, Hudson, NH

Anne Murrock, Sharon, NH

Sean O'Keefe, Wilton, NH

Devin Saveall, Winchendon, MA

Sue Seloanfeld, Henniker, NH

Lucas Seppala, Jaffrey, NH

Hether Shulman, Peterborough, NH

Kyle Williams, Ctr. Tuftonboro, NH



### **EMS Club Days April 8 & 9!** -

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](http://www.ems.com) for details.

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