



Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #88

From the President

We are coming to that time of year again where we prepare for winter: -- plan for the Annual Meeting, get the long-johns out of moth-balls, and so for some of us, at least, gird our loins and prepare to rake leaves and hang storm windows. But as I think about the time since the last Annual Meeting, I



View from Kidder Mt. summit, destination of our Annual Meeting day hike. Photo by Mena Schmid

realize that we have gone through a somewhat abnormal year: -- less snow than normal last winter, with few very cold nights, yet fortunately, no major ice storm. I know about preparing for latter, since after the Ice Storm of December 2008, I promptly purchased a generator; not wanting to go through another major power outage, but I have yet to use it. I have, however, gotten it serviced recently – just in case.

The spring was wet and windy, and the summer hot at times and rainy at others, and not at all

the usual summer that I remember. And then it was all topped by Hurricane Irene. Some thing has changed the weather. I'll leave it to the experts to determine if the climate change we are experiencing is a natural phenomena or something brought on by our use of the planet and its resources.

What does this mean to us? As the animals, vegetation and insects slowly migrate north to remain within their “zone of comfort”, we begin to see some of the challenges

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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)

and some of the advantages of a milder and warmer climate. Some different species of woodland plants, intrusion of different insects, changes in the migration patterns of some bird species, longer season for crops, more extreme weather, and so forth. While these changes will progress slowly, we must learn to understand what impact these will have on our lives and on our environment, and be prepared for the results.



Winter view of Mt. Monadnock from Pratt Mt. summit. Photo by Mena Schmid

This is not a cry of dire warning, but a realization that the “good old days” have gone and we are faced with the “new day” and the “new challenges”. So let us strive to maintain the Wapack Trail for its unique and important values, which provide us with the stress-releasing and spiritual uplift that we so look forward to on 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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Friends of the Wapack

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Website: <http://www.wapack.org>



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Trail Work Days 2011

The April 30th workday on Temple Mountain in Sharon was a big success. We had 14 volunteers, one of our biggest turnouts ever. We were able to split into three groups. Two handling re-blazing and brush cutting and the third drainage work. We were able to install a new water bar on the climb to the ledges and trench and harden a number of other wet spots. The other two crews were able to trim and blaze the full section between the Belletete lot and Holt Peak. Towards the end of the day, we also received a substantial donation from a generous supporter who hiked in to meet us. A first for a workday. Hopefully we'll have similar attendance on the next two workdays.

The next two workdays are on Saturday September 24 and Saturday October 22. The Sep-



Thanks to all who participated in our April 30 workday on Temple Mountain!

tember workday will be at Miller State Park where we'll be doing general maintenance and drainage work. Meet at 8:30 at the Miller State Park parking lot on Route 101 in Peterborough.

The October workday will be on Mt. Watatic. We'll be doing drainage work on the old cart path that goes from

the parking lot on Route 119 to the Nutting Ledges. While not part of the Wapack, it is frequently used as a return route from the summit. We'll also attempt to remedy a wet section on the old State Line Trail and try to drain a large mud hole caused by ORV traffic just north of the Nutting Ledges. We'll meet at the trail parking lot on Route 119 in Ashburnham, MA at 8:30AM.

Hope to see you there.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

Notices

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!

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

Board Meetings - First Thursday of alternate months. (November 3, January 5, March 1). 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 24 - Trail Workday - Miller State Park, Peterborough NH

See 2011 Workdays article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

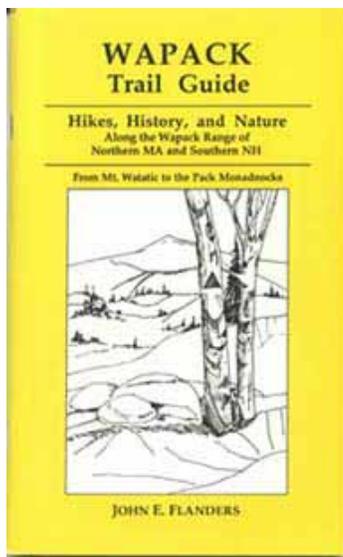
Saturday, October 15 - FRIENDS OF THE WAPACK ANNUAL MEETING, Town Meeting House, Sharon, NH

Our featured speaker is Nancy Sporborg, who with Pat Piper, climbed the 67 mountains in New England of over 4,000 feet, and wrote a book "It's Not About the Hike" of the experience, and the impact this had on their lives. See the special mailing included with this newsletter for details or check our website, www.wapack.org,

Saturday, October 22 - Trail Workday - Mt. Watatic area

See 2011 Workdays article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

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 _____

Phone _____

Friends of the Wapack Patch / Sticker



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

More Notices

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. ***If your email address has changed please send us a note from your new address to info@wapack.org***

March 1, 2012 - EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Voice of the Wapack Issue #89. 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.

Wapack Trail Races

The Wapack Trail has become increasingly popular with trail runners. Highlighting this trend are two important annual Wapack trail races. The first, occurring this year on May 7, is the ***Wapack and Back (a.k.a MorFun) Wapack Trail Race***. There are two races, a 21.5 mile Wapack Trail end to end, and a 50 mile course which involves running the Wapack Trail twice in one day! The Friends appreciate the support this group has provided. The race coordinator is Norm Sheppard, who is also one of our Wapack Section Captains. Complete details about this race are available on their web site wapacktrailrace.com

Another popular race is the ***Wapack Trail Race (18 miles)***, sponsored by the Squannacook River Runners. It was held this year on September 4. The race is from Windblown XC ski area in New Ipswich, to Mt. Watatic, and back.

Taking first place this year with a time of 2:23:50 was 29-year old Brandon Newbould of Nottingham, NH. The other winners were Dave Herr (2:33:49, 40-49 age group), Brian Rusiecki (2:39:53, 30-39 age group), Mark Dearing (3:46:22 50-59 age group), and Jim Campiformio (3:50:31 60-69 age group). Amy Lane of S. Deerfield, MA set a new women's course record at 3:07:09. A complete race report is available on the web at cool-running.com.—Results provided by Sherisa Sterling

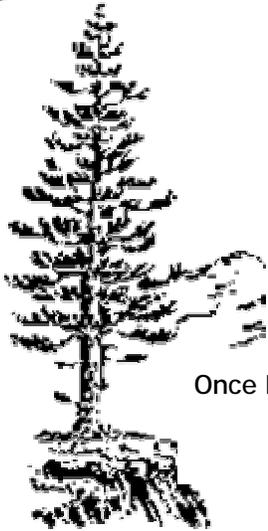


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We're on the web!

<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever

Welcome New Friends

Gary Newell, Gardner MA
Charles Hamilton, Milford NH
Brian Pierce, Concord NH
Lise L. Bigl, Milford NH
Brian Wuoti, Westminster MA
Jennifer Bell, Mason NH
John & Lise Bigl, Milford NH
Mark Blanchard, Milford NH
Jenn Catharine, Milford NH
Charles Hamilton, Milford NH
Brandon Sanford, Nashua NH
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Jean Minnich, W. Swanzey NH
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John Whiting, Contoocook NH
Jeffrey Hansen, Dublin NH
Jim O'Neill, Jaffrey NH
LT Thompson, Hickory NC
Diane McGary, Dracut MA
Gail & Andy Coffey, Hollis NH
Mark Daley, New Ipswich NH

EMS Club Days Sept. 30 & Oct. 1!

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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