

# Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

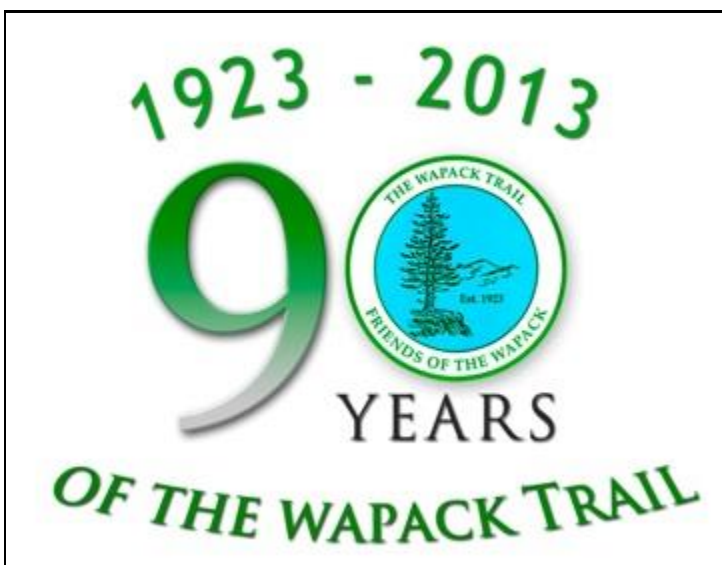
Issue #91

## From the President

This year, 2013, is a banner year for the Wapack Trail – it's celebrating its ninetieth year. The trail continues to be a favorite of many and gaining adherents each season. We believe that the Wapack is the oldest intra-state hiking trail in New England and no one has contradicted us – at least not yet. We

don't plan to allow this auspicious year pass without special acknowledgement. Rick Blanchette, our Trails Chairman, has put together an exciting series of hikes all along the trail. Once a month on a Saturday morning a knowledgeable guide supported by local interpreters will show and talk about the many historical and unique sites along the trail. A complete schedule of these hikes are shown on our calendar within this issue.

A major issue has come before us – Timbertop Wind 1 LLC recently petitioned the New Hampshire SEC



(Site Evaluation Commission) for their oversight to site and operate a Wind Farm, consisting of five large Wind Turbines, on Kidder Mountain. Their proposal calls for three turbines in Temple and two in New Ipswich, and the petitioner cites the difficulty of adhering to the ordinances of both towns for a single project as a reason for the SEC oversight. While the SEC has accepted the petition, they have not ruled on Timbertop's request. The siting of this project adjacent to the trail could have significant impact on the trail, and the Friends of the Wapack Directors are

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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

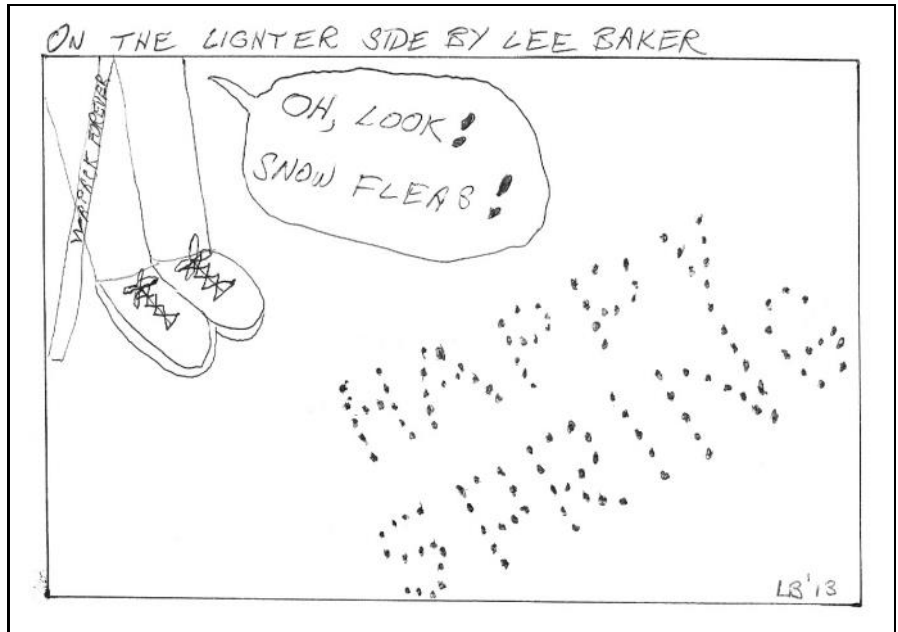
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closely monitoring the application process. To focus on the Friend's mission, the Board has approved a position statement (see page 5), and has put it on our website. We feel that this position statement clearly identifies our responsibilities and boundaries consistent with our overall mission as expressed in our bylaws. However, we would welcome individual comments, which you could either send via email to [info@wapack.org](mailto:info@wapack.org) or to our PO box listed in this newsletter. We would submit your comments to the appropriate authorities when appropriate.

Even with the abundance of snow this winter, the trail suffered relatively little. The Section Captains will be checking their adopted tail sec-

tions this Spring and will be busy cleaning up any winter debris to ready the trail for its 90th year. Strap on the hiking boots, get out and enjoy the Wapack.

- Mitch Call, President



## Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

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

P.O. Box 115

West Peterborough, NH 03468

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



## Friends of the Wapack, Inc. Board Members

### Officers:

Mitch Call, <i>President</i>	(603) 924-7544
Dwight Horan, <i>Vice President</i>	(603) 878-3779
Jennifer Shultis, <i>Secretary</i>	(617) 852-2277
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

### Directors:

Ray Jackson	(978) 597-8813
Ollie Mutch	(978) 386-5318
Jennifer Shultis ( <i>Newsletter Distribution</i> )	(617) 852-2277
Sherisa Sterling ( <i>Trail race clubs liaison</i> )	(978) 827-3272

<b>Archivist:</b>	Jeannette Baker	(603) 525-5262
<b>Trail Master:</b>	Mike Przybyla	(603) 878-3350
<b>Web Master/Newsletter:</b>	Rick Blanchette	(603) 878-1464

## Wapack Trail Work Days 2013

### **Saturday May 11, 2013 – Pack Monadnock to North Pack**

The first workday will involve general maintenance and drainage work along the well used section of trail between the two Packs. There are some drainage issues on the north side of Pack and the entire section needs a good trim. We will also be re-blazing the section. Meet at the Miller State Park lower parking lot at 8:30AM.

### **Saturday September 28, 2013—Barrett Mountain / Windblown**

The second workday will be along the new Wapack Trail section through Windblown. This recent reroute has been in use for a few years now and we will be doing general drainage work on those sections where erosion has started. Meet at 8:30AM at the Windblown parking lot.

### **Saturday October 26, 2013– TBD**

The final workday has not been finalized yet, but we are considering some stone work in Miller State Park where we worked a few years back with the Trailwrights constructing steps. Check [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org) or call me at 603-878-3350 for updates.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master



*Wapack Trail work crew, 1930's. Left to right, back row: Unknown, Marion Buck, Frank Robbins, Bernice Rackliff, Walter Buck Jr. Ralph Rackliff.*

*Middle Row: Russell Robbins, Martha Rackliff.*

*Front Row: Rena Flewelling, Constance Buck.*

*Note: Marion Buck (later Marion Davis) and Frank Robbins created the Wapack Trail in 1923. Photo courtesy of Constance (Buck) Hall. Connie Hall was the Friends of the Wapack Historian for many years.*

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## 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 a 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

# Friends of the Wapack 2013 Calendar

All are welcome to attend the following meetings & events

Check our website for further details, updates and additions [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org)

**Board Meetings** - First Thursday of alternate months. ( **May 2, no meeting in July, September 5, November 7** ). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn, Old Street Rd. Peterborough, NH. November meeting at Ashby Public Library, Ashby, MA. 7:00 PM.

## **Saturday, May 4 - 90th Anniversary Hike 1—Mt. Watatic and environs**

Meet at the Rt. 119 trail head parking lot in Ashburnham MA at 9:00AM. See the 90th Anniversary flyer included with this newsletter and on [wapack.org](http://wapack.org) for details. Contact Dwight Horan (603) 878-3779.

## **Saturday, May 11 - Trail Workday - Pack Monadnock to N. Pack, Peterborough, NH**

See the 2013 Trail Work Days article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

## **Saturday, June 1 - 90th Anniversary Hike 2—History of the Trail and Windblown XC Ski Area**

Meet at the Windblown Cross Country Ski Area lower parking lot on Rt. 123/124 in New Ipswich, NH at 9:00AM. See the 90th Anniversary flyer included with this newsletter and on [wapack.org](http://wapack.org) for details. Contact Rick Blanchette (603) 878-1464.

## **Saturday, August 3 - 90th Anniversary Hike 3—Temple Mt. Ski Area / State Reservation**

Meet at the Temple Mt. State Reservation parking lot on Rt. 101 in Peterborough, NH at 9:00AM. See the 90th Anniversary flyer included with this newsletter and on [wapack.org](http://wapack.org) for details. Contact Rick Blanchette (603) 878-1464.

## **Saturday, August 31 - HIKE - Annual Wapack Trail End to End Hike!**

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 7 - 90th Anniversary Hike 4—Miller State Park / Hawk Watch / Joanne Bass Cross Preserve**

Meet at the Miller State Park lower parking lot on Rt. 101 in Peterborough, NH at 9:00AM. See the 90th Anniversary flyer included with this newsletter and on [wapack.org](http://wapack.org) for details. Contact Rick Blanchette (603) 878-1464.

## **Saturday, September 28 - Trail Workday - Barrett Mt. / Windblown, New Ipswich, NH**

See the 2013 Trail Work Days article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

## **Saturday, October 19 - 90th Anniversary Hike 5—North Pack / Wapack National Wildlife Refuge**

Meet at the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge parking lot on East Mt. Rd. in Greenfield, NH at 8:30AM. See the 90th Anniversary flyer included with this newsletter and on [wapack.org](http://wapack.org) for details. Contact Lee Baker (603) 525-5262.

# 2013 Calendar Continued

*(Continued from page 4)*

## **Saturday, October 19 - 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 26 - Trail Work Day—TBD**

See the 2013 Trail Work Days article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla for more details (603) 878-3350.

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## Friends of the Wapack Statement on Wind Towers

It is the position of the Friends of the Wapack Board of Directors that many things are outside the sphere of our concern, but activity that may impact the physical trail or the experience of trail hikers is our concern. The Friends desire to keep the trail in the ridgeline route it has been on for over 90 years. Along this trail there is much trail history, memories of hikers, and remnants of past human activity, such as stone walls and cellar holes. The trail is over 21 miles with added side trails and connects to the Mid-State trail in Massachusetts; segmentation is not an option.

Wind power is an activity that is becoming more common in the beginning of the 21st century that presents a change of view for hikers and possibly a more direct impact. Communication tower construction is another view impact. Industrial scale wind power towers are large enough that they may provide significant experiential impact along much of the trail. While significant,

the towers alone do not endanger or degrade the experience for all hikers. If the towers are close to the trail, possible danger from falling ice, noise and trail interference, from tower sites, power lines and/or access roads are more of a concern to the Friends.

For many hikers, a major purpose for using the trail is to get away from “civilization”, so encroaching poles and roads are not desirable. Constant noise from wind turbine blades is different from passing airplanes and chainsaws on nearby woodlots. However, we also wish to keep the trail open to all, and concentrate our efforts on maintaining a trail in good condition. It is the purpose of the Friends of the Wapack to maintain and protect the Wapack Trail and certain side trails for future generations, and we will leave larger discussions regarding the positive and negative impacts of wind energy to others.

# Wapack Trail Historic Photos



**Clockwise from top:** Marion Buck (later Marion Davis) and Frank Robbins flagging a new trail. In 1923 they created the Wapack Trail.

An early photo of the Wapack Lodge in New Ipswich. Built by Marion and Frank in 1924, it was a popular destination for hikers and skiers. It was destroyed by fire in 1993. Note the triangular Wapack Lodge sign.

Along the Wapack Trail on Temple Mountain in the 1920's, showing the original white triangle blaze. See how open the ridge was! Can you find this spot today?

Marion Davis at the dedication of the Marion Davis Trail, Sept 21, 1985.

The crew that made the Kidder Mt. Trail. The adults are Frank Robbins (left) and Benton MacKaye. MacKaye was the planner and originator of the Appalachian Trail and co-founder of the Wilderness Society. The boys were students at the Bridgeman School in Shirley, MA, where MacKaye was a teacher.



2-7 f22-1-5x (1/15-17) Looking south from — here (no. and Temple)

Thanks to the Buck family for providing these photos!



## Notices

**Hiking the Wapack Trail through Windblown XC Ski Area** - Hiking through Windblown Cross Country ski area is only allowed on the marked route of the Wapack Trail, and no mountain bikes please. Parking is still along the shoulder of Route 123/124 Turnpike Road, between Wapack Road and the Windblown entrance, not on Windblown property. Thank you!

**Hiking the Wapack Trail during Mud Season** - With mud on the surface and frost still rising below, April mud season is the time when the Wapack Trail is most susceptible to damage from hikers boots. Please consider staying off the wettest areas until the ground thaws and dries out.

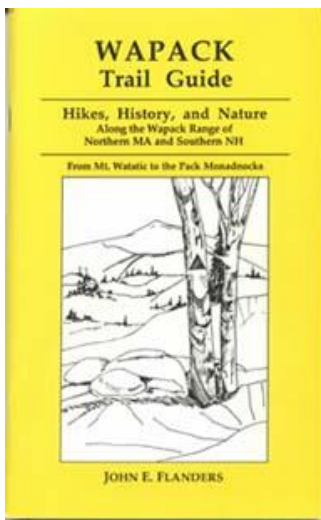
**Board members & trail adopters wanted** - Interested in participating on the Friends of the Wapack Board of Directors? If so please contact Mitch Call at (603) 924-7544. For trail adoption please contact Rick Blanchette at (603) 878-1464. Join others like you who love the Wapack Trail by volunteering 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 #92. Send your letter, article, photo or artwork to Rick Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, or email to [rickblanchette@yahoo.com](mailto:rickblanchette@yahoo.com). We reserve the right to edit for content and length.

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## Friends of the Wapack General Store



**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 \_\_\_ New improved Trail Map @ \$6.00 ea.
- Send me \_\_\_ Friends patch(es) @ \$4.00 ea.
- Send me \_\_\_ Friends sticker(s) @ \$1.00 ea.

*Prices include postage and handling.*

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Friends of the Wapack Patch / Sticker



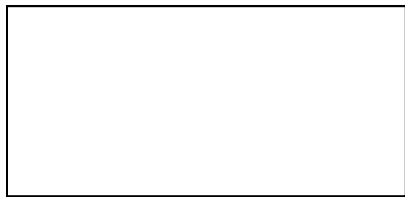
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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



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It's Gone  
Forever



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<http://www.wapack.org>

Email: [info@wapack.org](mailto:info@wapack.org)

Friends of the Wapack  
P.O. Box 115  
West Peterborough, NH 03468

## Welcome New Friends

Ted Zona, Millbury, MA  
Walter Hemming, Brookline NH  
Kathryn Dunn, Wilton NH  
Timothy & Kim Wolfe, East Swanzey NH  
Carole V. Lewis, Bedford NH  
Catherine Moore, Temple NH  
Daveen Barnes, Keene NH  
Tom Delaney, Peterborough NH  
Kathie Standle, Bennington NH  
Tmoasz Jaster, Northbridge MA  
Peter Malloy, Westmoreland NH  
Gayle Looby, Tolland CT  
Joseph Patton, Wilton NH  
Sam Bonacci  
Laura Clayton, Temple NH

Kris Chamberlin  
Juris Alksnitis, Dover MA  
Anthony Savoie, Ashby MA  
Ryan Banfield, Milford NH  
Peter Colpitts, Temple NH  
Christopher Kintz, Rindge NH  
Niko Brown, Sharon NH  
Jim Bride, Dublin NH  
Judy Cochrane, Fitchburg, MA



### **EMS Club Days May 3 & 4!** -

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.

### **Thank you to Lemonade.Net!**

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