

Fall / Winter 2013

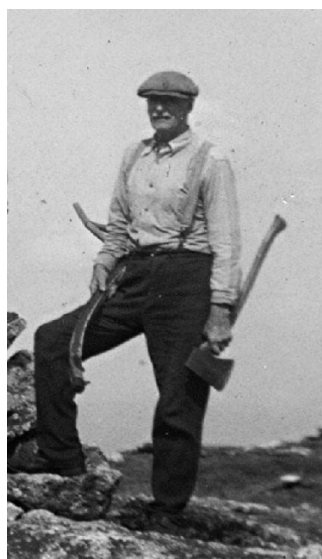
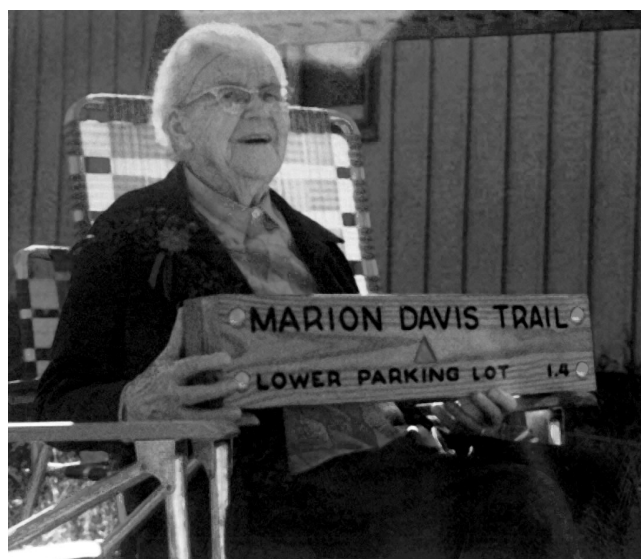


Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #92

From the President



Wapack Trail Founders: Marion (Buck) Davis and Frank Robbins

We are in the autumn of an especially important year in the history of the Wapack Trail. Ninety-one years ago Allen Chamberlain, the author of the "Annals of the Grand Monadnock" and Albert Annett, popular local sportsman, convinced Frank Robbins and Marion Buck to blaze and clear-cut the entire 23 miles of the Wapack Trail. They did this using only hand tools, working on Sundays when other duties were less pressing. Marion coined the name "Wapack" by joining the "Wa" from Mount Watatic, our southern terminus, and "Pack" from North Pack Monadnock, our north-

ern terminus. The trail opened in 1923, preceded by a feature article in the Boston Evening Transcript of November 4, 1922 boasting that the trail would "become a popular route, not alone because of its attractiveness, but its accessibility to population centers." It was proven right, and Marion and Frank went on to build the Wapack Lodge. Initially it accommodated up to twenty-five overnight guests. A second story was added and Marion continued to serve meals to hikers until it closed in 1959. Amongst its many guests was Benton MacKaye, who hiked the

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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.

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**

From the President

(Continued from page 1)

Wapack before planning the Appalachian Trail, which was completed in 1937. The Wapack Lodge was destroyed by a fire on July 29, 1993.

Now ninety years later, the Wapack Trail is considered the oldest intra-state hiking trail in New England, and draws its advocates from all over the northeast. We celebrated its 90th birthday by sponsoring a series of exploration hikes, engaging guides familiar with the local area who talked of trail and local history, and special features on and around the trail. We are now looking forward to the 100th Anniversary.

I have learned as one ages that history becomes more interesting, often coupled with the ponderings of what the future might bring. And I strongly believe that the Wapack Trail will continue to be a source of serenity and beauty for many years to come.

In looking back over some old Board of Directors meetings minutes, I found that I was introduced to the directorate at the May 9, 1996 meeting. Since then I have continued to be involved with the trail, and served as vice-president in 1997, and since then, I have been

either president or vice-president to date. For those eighteen years, the trails have been well maintained by a large group of volunteers, important portions of the trail have been protected – such as the Temple Mountain State Reservation and the Wapack Wilderness, and a couple of parking lots created. Our financial strength has greatly improved, so I feel that it is time to step back and turn over the reins to someone else. All that we have been able to accomplish over these eighteen years has been a cooperative effort of all the officers and directors of the board, and the many, many volunteer members. Many, many thanks for your support. - 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

P.O. Box 115

West Peterborough, NH 03468

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

Friends of the Wapack, Inc. Board Members

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Mitch Call, *President* (603) 924-7544

Dwight Horan, *Vice President* (603) 878-3779

Open Position, *Secretary*

Bruce Myrick, *Treasurer* (603) 352-8616

Standing Committee Chairs:

Lee Baker, *Trips* (603) 525-5262

Rick Blanchette, *Trails* (603) 878-1464

Mitch Call, *Ways & Means* (603) 924-7544

Mike Przybyla, *Management / Right-of-Way* (603) 878-3350

Directors:

Ray Jackson (978) 597-8813

Ollie Mutch (978) 386-5318

Sherisa Sterling (*Trail race clubs liaison*) (978) 827-3272

Archivist: Jeannette Baker (603) 525-5262

Trail Master: Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350

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

Trail Work Days 2013

Report on our May 11 workday:

The Spring 2013 workday was held on May 11th, which was a somewhat wet workday. Even with less than ideal weather seven brave souls showed up. We drove to the summit of Pack Monadnock where we split into two groups. One to clear a blow down on the Raymond Trail ("just below the summit" Glenn Lloyd, the adopter of that trail, said) and the second group to start work on rehabilitating some water bars on the north slope of Pack. The blow down was a bit further and as luck would have it, fell on a steep section of the trail. After clearing that, we rejoined the other crew and started to work on rebuilding a number of water bars.

Luckily, the forecasted rain held off till noon, and we were able to build some pretty substantial water bars. When passing through on the End-to-End hike in September, we saw that they were holding up well and diverting water off the trail. They should last a long while.

By noon the rain began to pick up and the summit became soaked in making the other planned project, clearing some views at the summit, pretty much impossible.

Thanks to all who attended.

Report on our September 28 workday:

A total of four volunteers showed up under pretty much ideal weather conditions. In spite of the small crew we were able to accomplish most of what we wanted to along the re-routed section of the trail through Windblown. All of the work involved drainage improvements to minimize future impacts to the trail. By the end of the day we had installed three stone waterbars, five dips, and some extensive ditching. Thanks go out to Hiel Lindquist, Steve Dyke, Rick Blanchette, and Mike Przybyla.

Upcoming Workday:

Saturday October 26, 2013– Barrett and New Ipswich Mts.

The third workday of the 2013 season will be general maintenance on the Barrett Mountain-New Ipswich Mountain section. We'll be putting in some water bars, repainting blazes, and clearing brush in an area that was logged a few years back and is now growing in. We'll meet at 8:30 AM at Windblown and hike in. Check www.wapack.org for any last minute changes. 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!

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!

Friends of the Wapack 2013 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 7, January 2, March 6, May 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, October 19 - 8:30 AM - 90th Anniversary Hike #5 Wapack National Wildlife Refuge / North Pack Monadnock

See the Annual Meeting flyer included with this newsletter for details or www.wapack.org.

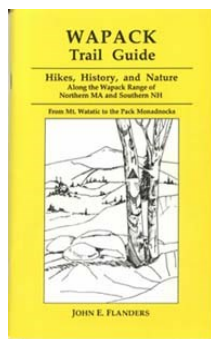
Saturday, October 19 - 1:00 PM - FRIENDS OF THE WAPACK ANNUAL MEETING, Town Meeting House, Sharon, NH

Our featured speaker is Ryan Owens, Executive Director of the Monadnock Conservancy. He will be speaking on the use of conservation easements as a tool in land protection, and about the tremendous positive impact easements have had on the local environment. He will also speak of the different options available for protecting hiking trails. See the Annual Meeting flyer included with this newsletter for details or check our website, www.wapack.org.

Saturday, October 26 - 8:30 AM - Trail Work Day - Barrett and New Ipswich Mountains, New Ipswich, NH

See the 2013 Trail Work Days article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350. Check our website for updates www.wapack.org.

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 ____ 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 \$ _____

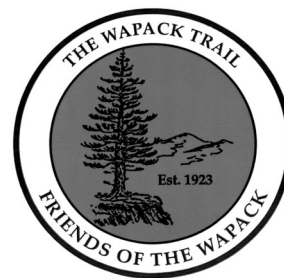
Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

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



Wapack Trail 90th Anniversary Hikes (Photos Hikes 1 through 4)



Clockwise from top: Historian Chris Gagnon at the “Children of the Woods Tavern” site, Mt. Watatic.

Al Jenks at the site of the Wapack Lodge tells the history of the lodge and the trail.

Mike Beebe at Temple Mt. tells the story of the founding of the former ski area.

The Temple Mt. hike group at the Currier Outlook.

Francie Von Mertens speaks at the NH Audubon Hawk Watch, Miller State Park.

Joanne Glode, Nature Conservancy Ecologist, at the Joanne Bass Bross Preserve.

Other presenters at Temple Mt.: John Kieley spoke of effort to protect the land as the Temple Mt. State Reservation, Jim Bride explained the Monadnock Conservancy's role in the effort, and Dan Blanchette spoke about the Temple Mt. Ski Area Quad chairlift.

Thanks to all our presenters!! To see more photos visit Wapack.org.



Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever



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

Email: info@wapack.org

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

Welcome New Friends

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Eliot Kristan | Sam Guay |
| Jean Mann | Ken Pearson |
| Michelle Klint | Garry Sager |
| Marc Patterson | Rob and Judy Koch |
| Anne Marie Ludeman | Peter King |
| Min Huang | Dennis Paquette |
| Arria Sands | Jeff List |
| David Bank | George Lanthier |
| Sam Abbott | Norma J. Reppucci |
| Jay Crowley | Dan Harju |
| Jeremiah Ketda | Margot Iverson |
| Richard F. Reed | Joshua White |
| Mark Obuchowski | Jeremiah Mead |
| David Olson | John Harrington |
| Jack McWheater | Daryl Turek |
| Kristen Ruppel | Joseph Cirus |
| Bob Luhrs | John Poltrack |
| Jennifer Clancy | Jackie Brittain |

Bette Robo
Peter Powell
Walt and Carol Pryor
Linda Greenwood
Bill Clark
Steve Dyhe
June Carrera
Nicole Von Rekowky
Kate Dean
Diana Daniels
Dan Blanchette
Maureen Retro
Glenn Stan
Paul Lucas



Thank you to Lemonade.Net!
**Their generosity has made
our website possible. Visit
them at www.lemonade.net**

EMS Club Days Oct. 4 & 5!

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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