



Spring/ Summer 2014



Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #93

2014—a busy year ahead for the Friends

This is my first newsletter article as President of the Friends of the Wapack. Since I have recently retired, the board of directors has generously offered me this opportunity to fill in my newly acquired free time! I've served on the board as Trails Committee Chairman for the past 23 years, and have seen many changes and successes in that time. So I approach my new responsibilities with some ideas that I hope will move the organization forward in our mission to maintain and protect the Wapack Trail. This organization has always been fortunate to have a very capable person as president, and I hope that my eventual successor will be able to state the same.

I start off by thanking my immediate predecessor, Mitch Call, for his 18 years of service, serving as president twice with an intervening term as Vice President. During that time Mitch was able to obtain the Wapack Trail funds from the AMC which were given by Tom Cabot for maintenance and protection of the Wapack Trail. This enabled us to contribute to the Wapack Wilderness conservation easement and to the creation of the Temple Mt. State Reservation, and to ensure that the Trail and the Friends of the Wapack are included in the easements. It also increased our



At our November 7, 2013 meeting the Board of Directors presented outgoing President Mitch Call (left), with a framed photo of a view from Temple Mt., with a certificate that states:

In grateful appreciation for 18 years of service as President and Vice President of the Friends of the Wapack. Thank you for all you have done for the organization and the Wapack Trail !

Pictured with Mitch is incoming President Rick Blanchette

finances to support future trail protection opportunities. He also drove the upgrade of the trail parking area on Temple Road in Sharon. He built and strengthened our association with regional conservation organizations, such as the Monadnock Conservancy, NEFF, and Northeast Wilderness Trust. As Vice President, he was instrumental in protecting a long portion of the trail on the Temple Mountain ridge under the NH Municipal Trails Act. Recently, he arranged an agreement with Monadnock Work Source to handle distribution of our merchandise, and with

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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, please sign up for our e-Newsletter at Wapack.org. Rather than receiving the paper newsletter you will receive our new e-Newsletter via email with a link to the full color version.

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

Friends of the Wapack 2014 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 unless otherwise noted. (May 1, no meeting in July, September 4, November 6). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn in Peterborough, NH,. 7:00 PM. Check with a board member to confirm date and location.

Trail Work Days

Saturday May 3, 2014—8:30 AM – Miller State Park

Saturday September 27, 2014—8:30 AM – Sharon Ledges

Saturday October 18, 2014 – TBD

See the [2014 Trail Work Days](#) article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350. Check our website for updates www.wapack.org.

Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 25 - 1:00 PM - Town Meeting House, Sharon, NH

Details for our Annual Meeting are being planned. Watch for a special mailing and check our website for updates, www.wapack.org.

Hikes

Saturday, September 6 - 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.

Friends of the Wapack



The *Voice of the Wapack* is published twice a year by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc. 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 foot-path 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.

The Friends of the Wapack, Inc. is recognized as a charitable corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the US IRS code.

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Friends of the Wapack

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

**Once It's Gone,
It's Gone
Forever**

Friends of the Wapack, Inc. Board Members

Officers:

Rick Blanchette, <i>President</i>	(603) 878-1464
Dwight Horan, <i>Vice President</i>	(603) 878-3779
Lee Baker, <i>Secretary</i>	(603) 525-5262
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 & Means</i>	(603) 924-7544
Mike Przybyla, <i>Management / Right-of-Way</i>	(603) 878-3350

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Tom Brumaghim	(603) 878-6167
Ray Jackson	(978) 597-8813
Ollie Mutch	(978) 386-5318
Bob Saari	(603) 424-7453
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Trail Master:	Mike Przybyla	(603) 878-3350
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Web Master/Newsletter:	Rick Blanchette	(603) 878-1464
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Trail Work Days 2014

Upcoming Workdays:

Saturday May 3, 2014 – Miller State Park

For the first workday of 2014, we'll be working yet again at Miller State Park. We'll be splitting into at least two groups depending on the turn out. One group will hike north on the Wapack Trail to remove trees that were damaged during hurricane Sandy and have fallen on to the trail over the winter. The second group will be extending the Spruce Knoll Trail to an overlook just east of its present location. This trail is on the Nature Conservancy's Joanne Bass Bross Preserve. In addition, we'll enhance the "Boston View" at Miller State Park by clearing brush at the start of the Spruce Knoll Trail. Meet at the Miller State Park lower parking lot at 8:30 AM.

Saturday Sept. 27, 2014 – Sharon Ledges

The second workday will be on the Sharon Ledges trail section on the Sharon/Temple town line. We'll be constructing some steps on an eroding section just before the Berry Pasture Trail and doing some general maintenance along this section. This will be a good opportunity for anyone interested in doing stonework. We will most likely be using a griphoist and hi-line to move the rock. We'll meet at 8:30 AM at the Bellettete trail parking area in Sharon at

the corner of Temple and Greenleaf Roads.

Saturday October 18, 2014 – TBD

The last workday has not been finalized yet, but we may be working on Temple Mountain constructing a new trail. Stay tuned.

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. Call Mike Przybyla for details 603-878-3350. Check our website wapack.org, for possible changes and updates. Trail 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.

Report on our October 26, 2013 Workday :

The final workday of 2013 involved clearing a section of the trail on New Ipswich Mountain which had substantially grown in after being logged a few years back. We were able to cut the brush well back from the trail making it easier for that section's adopter to keep in clear. We also did general maintenance including re-blazing, trimming, and clearing out water bars on the section between Barrett Mountain and New Ipswich Mountain. Thanks go to Jeremiah Mead, Bob Saari, Glenn Lloyd, David Brooks and Rick Blanchette.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

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.

The trail is closed through Windblown during Mud

Season—roughly now through mid- April. 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.

Wapack Forever—continuing our commitment to preserve the Wapack Trail

In the past 34 years the Friends of the Wapack have had many successes. Thanks to the efforts of the Friends and other organizations most of the trail has been protected. But there is much more to do. More options for trail protection are needed; conservation organizations and regional initiatives need to be engaged; and relationships with Wapack Range property owners and a myriad of agencies and organizations must be nurtured and maintained so we can effectively protect the trail for everyone who loves the Wapack.

Our “Wapack Forever” initiative addresses these challenges with new trail protection options, a focus on new and strengthened partnerships, and a structure for setting short and long term priorities, all to the goal of fully protecting the trail and enabling better stewardship of already protected sections. Its guiding philosophy is based on the example of Wapack Trail founders, Frank Robbins and Marion Davis, of partnering with property owners, both public and private, to protect the trail.

To this end we will work with interested private property owners to help fund and implement the trail protection option that best meets their current situation and needs. These trail protection options in-

clude: the NH Municipal Trails Act; a Trail Easement held by a regional conservation organization; a Conservation Easement that includes trail access and protection; or a License Agreement. Where the trails are on public lands, we will work to formalize our relationships with the appropriate government agencies with a Memorandum of Agreement, as we have done with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. We will also expand our relationships with conservation and other local organizations, and participate in regional initiatives such as the Quabbin to Crotched Partnership and the Temple to Crotched initiative.

“Wapack Forever” articulates both our Guidelines and Strategic Plan for preserving the Wapack Trail and certain side trails and for protecting access to these trails. The Guidelines will provide the framework and guiding philosophy for this and future Friends of the Wapack Board of Directors to follow to protect the trails, while the Strategic Plan will list our current priorities and our plans to achieve our priorities. When completed they will be posted on our website, Wapack.org. We welcome your feedback and comments.

- *Board of Directors, Friends of the Wapack, Inc.*

Restoring Views at Miller State Park

Last September members of the Friends of the Wapack trail crew joined NH Audubon volunteers to cut brush and select trees to enhance the view for the annual Hawk Watch at Miller State Park. According to Henry Walters who lead the hawk watch: “The Friends of

the Wapack chain-sawyers really



got the year off to a great start--we've never made so much progress with the view.” See photo below left. The final total was 10,672 raptors identified.

In another effort, Chris Kintz, our newest trail adopter, worked with park staff to enhance the view north from the summit parking lot. Thanks Chris! See the before and after photos below. View restoration is one of the projects we are working on with the staff at Miller State Park.



2014— A busy year (Continued)

Savron Graphics for distribution of our newsletter, increasing our efficiency and saving the board many hours. And he kept the organization going for 18 years. Though he will be missed at the helm, we are glad that Mitch will continue on the Board as our Ways and Means Chairman. Thank you Mitch!!

2014 will be a busy year for the Friends with many exciting initiatives. Foremost is our “Wapack Forever” initiative which will articulate our guidelines and strategic plan for preserving and protecting access to the Wapack Trail and certain side trails. See the related article in this newsletter for details. I would like to thank Ryan Owens, Executive Director of the Monadnock Conservancy, for his advice and support for this effort. The Monadnock Conservancy is also interested in working with us on trail easements as a trail protection option.

We are seeking approval from the State of NH Division of Forests and Lands for a new side trail at Temple Mountain State Reservation. This new trail will allow a loop hike through the former ski area. If approved in time, a work day to cut this new trail may take place on June 7, National Trails Day. Please check Wapack.org for updates.

Another exciting project is the restoration of the shelter at the summit of Pack Monadnock in Miller State Park. The shelter was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Time and vandalism has damaged the shelter to where rehabilitation of the wood framed roof is needed. We will use the same materials and construction techniques as the original. We have secured some donations already for this effort. If you would like to contribute send us an email to info@wapack.org for details, or contact Mitch Call.



The CCC Shelter at the summit of Pack Monadnock / Miller State Park. The Friends will be restoring the shelter this year.

We are pursuing additional Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) between the Friends and state and local agencies to provide guidance and a framework for cooperatively maintaining the trails through their lands. An MOA is now in the works with the NH Division of Parks and Recreation for Miller State Park, and we are in discussion with the Watatic Management Committee and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for agreements for Mt. Watatic. These agreements will be in addition to the one we have in place today with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge on North Pack.

To improve communication and outreach to our members and the many people who love the Wapack, we are starting an e-Newsletter and e-Notices using Constant Contact. To sign up, please visit our website Wapack.org. We have also set up a Facebook page and a Facebook Group you may join. So please visit our Facebook page and “Like” us there.

And finally, I am happy to announce two new members of our Board of Directors. Both are long time trail adopters and have worked countless hours on the trail. Tom Brumaghim will manage our presence on Facebook, and Bob Saari is leading the reconstruction of the CCC shelter at Miller State Park.

For 34 years the Friends of the Wapack have worked to maintain and protect the Wapack Trail. Thank you all for your past and ongoing support. We hope to see you in 2014 at one of our events or on the trail.

- Rick Blanchette, President



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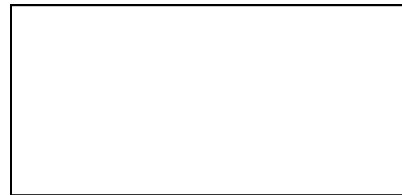
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Sign up for our e-newsletter
and e-notices at: Wapack.org



Find us on Facebook



Welcome New Friends

Charles Sampson
Nancy Cahn
Kelley Farr
Kathie Stande
Hiel Lindquist
Kathleen Budzher
Len Martin

Michelle Urban
Jim Arschlimen
Peter Steckler
Joanne Glode
Erin Steckler
Ryan Owens
Stelita Cronin

Gary Shepard
Mike Michaelson
Patrick Hummel
Corinne Howard
Shelly Vuocola
Cynthia Michaels
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Jay Janell
John Gioldassis
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Thank you to Lemonade.Net! Their generosity has made our website possible. Visit them at www.lemonade.net



Painted Trillium - Mena Schmid

Check our On Line General Store for Wapack Merchandise!

Visit our website Wapack.org to order the Wapack Trail Guide, Trail Map, Friends of the Wapack cap, our patch or sticker. Use PayPal or print the form and order via mail. Thanks for your support!

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