

Fall / Winter 2016



Voice of the Wapack

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Issue #98

President's Letter

This is an exciting year for the Wapack Trail! The Northeast Wilderness Trust Binney Hill Project looks certain to close this year. Our Annual Meeting on October 22 will celebrate this effort and present details about the project, the property, and plans. So please come to the meeting to celebrate with us. Our speaker will be Daryl Burnett, the Executive Director of Northeast Wilderness

*Annual Meeting
to celebrate
Binney Hill*

Trust. (See our Annual Meeting insert in this newsletter for meeting and hike details). In keeping with our goal to protect

the trail, the Friends of the Wapack have pledged \$25,000 from our funds to this effort for trail protection. The Northeast Wilderness Trust and all involved are committed to securing permanent access to the Wapack Trail across this land. Please see the box at right for details and how to donate. Thank you!

In other news, we've been working with state and federal agencies to improve Wapack Trail signage on public lands. Watch for new trail signs around Mt. Watatic, Temple Mt. State Reservation, and the Wapack National Wildlife refuge. Our revamped website is up and running! (See article on back page.) On August 5 we partnered with the Peterborough Town Library on a group hike up North Pack. We arranged for USFWS naturalist and staff to join us for a very interesting and fun hike. And welcome new Section Captains Pat Little and her son James. They have adopted the trail section on the south end of Pratt Mt. to Binney Pond. Thank you all for your support! We hope you will get out and enjoy the fall and winter seasons on the trail!

- Rick Blanchette, President

Binney Hill Project: Fundraising is in the final stretch!!



Northeast Wilderness Trust Binney Hill project update

We're almost there! Of over \$900,000 needed by Northeast Wilderness Trust to purchase and protect the 485 acre Binney Hill Property in New Ipswich, including a mile of the Wapack Trail, there is about \$50,000. to go. With your support, the project could close this year!

Conserving this land will protect connectivity for Wapack Trail hikers and wildlife between conservation lands around Mount Watatic to Binney Pond Natural area and the Wapack Wilderness conservation easement on Pratt Mt. These large Wapack Trail protection opportunities are rare. So please consider contributing to this important effort.

You can donate on line at newwildernesstrust.org. Click on the "Donate" button, and type "Binney Hill" in the designation box for your donation. Thank You!!!

For more information please contact the Northeast Wilderness Trust at 802-224-1000 or www.newwildernesstrust.org.

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 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.

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
P.O. Box 115
West Peterborough, NH 03468
Web: www.wapack.org
Email: info@wapack.org

Once it's gone, It's gone forever

Officers:

Rick Blanchette, *President*, (603)878-1464
Dwight Horan, *V. President*, (603)878-3779
Lee Baker, *Secretary*, (603)525-5262
Bruce Myrick, *Treasurer*, (603)352-8616

Standing Committee Chairs:

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

Directors:

Tom Brumaghim, (603)878-6167
Ray Jackson, (978)597-8813
Ollie Mutch, (978)386-5318
Bob Saari, (603) 913-7265
Sherisa Sterling (978) 827-3272

Archivist: Jeannette Baker

Trail Master: Mike Przybyla

Web Master: Jon McNerney

Trail Work Day Report



kept the black flies at bay.

We concentrated on drainage work and general maintenance on the section of the trail from Binney Hill Road north to Stony Top. We dug a drainage swale to divert water off the trail on the section just before Binney Pond and installed two wooden water bars on the steep climb up Pratt Mountain.



Blanchette, Tom Brumaghim, Steve Dykes, Neil Faiman, Larry Gordon, Lynn Pentler, Bob Saari and Pat Little and her son James.



On Saturday May 7th the Friends of the Wapack had their first workday of 2016. A total of eleven people helped out. We met at the NeWest mall in New Ipswich and car-pooled over to Binney Hill Road. It was a cool and damp day with fog which

May 7 also happened to be the day of the annual Wapack Trail End to End race. So we enjoyed cheering on the runners while gratefully accepting their thanks.

Our thanks go out to all that attended our work day including Paul Batts, Rick

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 on a future work day!

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master

Friends of the Wapack Upcoming Events

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.
(November 3, January 5, March 2, May 4). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn in Peterborough, NH, or Ashby Public Library, Ashby MA.. 7:00 PM. Check with a board member to confirm date and location.

Trail Work Days

Saturday October 15, 2016 - Kidder Mountain

The final workday of 2016 will be held on Saturday October 15th. We will be doing work on the Kidder Mountain trail including hardening some wet spots at the start of the trail and drainage work near the summit. We will meet at 8:30 AM at the NeWest mall on Turnpike Road in New Ipswich before heading over to the trail head near Windblown. As always we'll provide the tools and encouragement. Wear appropriate clothing including work gloves and study shoes. Pack a lunch and bring plenty of water. Thank you!

Contact Mike Przybyla for more information or questions 603-878-3350. Please check our website for updates www.wapack.org.

Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 22 - 1:00 PM - Town Meeting House, Sharon, NH

Celebrating the Binney Hill Project. Guest Speaker Daryl Burtnett, Executive Director, Northeast Wilderness Trust. See the Annual Meeting insert in this newsletter for details, or view it online at www.wapack.org.

Hikes

Saturday, October 22 - 8:30 AM—Annual Meeting morning hike at Binney Hill!

Join us on a morning "history hike" through the soon to be protected Binney Hill property with local historian Chris Gagnon. See the Annual Meeting insert included with this newsletter for details. For further details and to register for the hike contact Lee Baker (603) 525-5262 or email Lee at snowman3137@gmail.com.

Notices

Winter use of the Wapack Trail through Windblown Cross-Country Ski Area

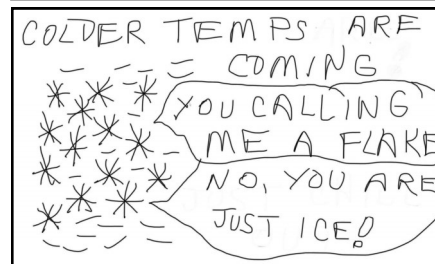
1. With snow on the ground everyone using the Wapack Trail through Windblown property needs to pay for a trail ticket.
2. Everyone must use skis or snowshoes, no hiking.
3. In winter with a trail ticket you can use the Windblown parking lot during the day, not overnight.
4. Dogs are not permitted.
5. 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 the lot can pay on their way out. Thank you!

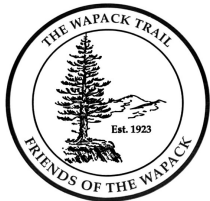
Voice of the Wapack newsletter on line

If you would rather read this newsletter on line, please sign up for our email Newsletter at Wapack.org. Rather than receiving the paper newsletter you will receive our e-Newsletter via email with a link to the full version.

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

On the Lighter Side by Lee Baker





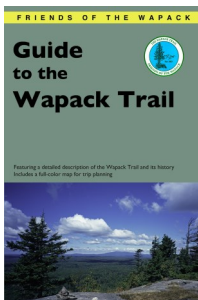
Friends of the Wapack, Inc.
P.O. Box 115
West Peterborough, NH 03468
Info@wapack.org
www.wapack.org



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General Store

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

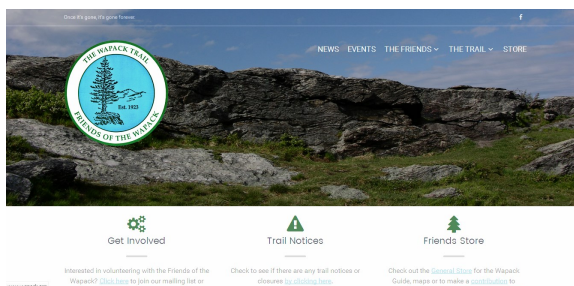


Thank you to Lemonade.Net! Their generosity has made our website possible. Visit them at www.lemonade.net

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New Friends of the Wapack website!



Our new Friends of the Wapack website is now active! It's at the same URL: www.wapack.org

The site has two views - one for browsers and one

for mobile devices, so be sure to check it out on both.

The browser version has a beautiful and functional format with color photos and clear navigation. The mobile view has all the same informational content in an easy to use functional format for small mobile screens.

Thanks to our new Webmaster Jon McInerney for all his work in creating our all new Friends of the Wapack website on Wordpress. Thanks also to the other members of website committee who supported the project: Rick Blanchette, Mitch Call, Bruce Myrick, and Mike Przybyla.

We can be proud of our new online presence - thank you Jon!