

Fall / Winter 2017



Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #100

President's Letter — The Idea of the Wapack Trail

In our Spring newsletter we reported on the Northeast Wilderness Trust's (NWT) successful campaign to protect 488 acres in New Ipswich as the Binney Hill Preserve. We are now working with NWT in the effort to provide permanent legal protection for the mile of the Wapack Trail on the new preserve. We are close to protecting one of the last long unprotected sections of the trail. We'll give an update on this at our annual meeting on October 21 (see the Annual Meeting notice in this newsletter).

The Friends of the Wapack exists for trail maintenance and to protect the continuity of the Wapack Trail. The Wapack Trail is fundamentally an idea that links hills and forests together that would otherwise be seen as separate. You can hike each of the mountains separately, but it is the idea of the long distance trail that elevates the im-

portance of each trail section. This idea has provided impetus for conservation of the range, and for trail protection. The Wapack Range takes its name from the trail, which existed before the range was named. Indeed, the trail brought the public's attention to the idea of the range, and the need to conserve it. Before Marion Davis named the trail, there were the Boundary Mountains, the New Ipswich Mountains, Mt. Watatic, and what Thoreau referred to as the "Peterboro Hills". The trail is not just on the range, it is an integral part of it. And this linkage, the idea of the two, has been part of every successful effort at conservation and trail protection on the Wapack Range.

The idea of the Wapack Trail makes clear that the lower routes between the mountains need protection as much as the trail on the mountain tops.

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Remembering Ollie Mutch

The Wapack Trail and this organization lost a true friend this year with the passing of Ollie Mutch. Ollie was a long time trail worker, Section Captain, a member of our Board of Directors. He was a good friend of my family, and particularly a friend of my Dad with whom they enjoyed numerous hikes and skiing trips. Ollie was also active with the Harris Center, leading the popular first Friday



Ollie Mutch (right), receiving a gift of a Friends jacket at our 2016 annual meeting in honor of his many years of service to the Friends of the Wapack and the trail.

hikes with Lee Baker.

He and Jan Miller always had an adventure planned. They visited the rural areas of Peru, paddled the canals in Ontario, and spent several months on a camping road trip visiting the US national parks. Previously Ollie enjoyed many travel adventures and outdoor experiences with his late wife Jane.

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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

Bob Saari, (603) 913-7265

Sherisa Sterling (978) 827-3272

Archivist: Jeannette Baker

Trail Master: Mike Przybyla

Web Master: Jon McNerney

Trail Workday Reports



The 2017 spring workday was held on **April 29th** on the section of the Wapack in the recently established Binney Hill Preserve. Seven Friends of the Wapack

participated including George Socur, Bob Saari, Rick Blanchette, Paul Willis, Tom Brumaghim, Pat Little, and Mike Przybyla. In addition, Marisa Riggi and Shelby Perry of the Northeast Wilderness Trust were there to discuss trail maintenance going forward and their planned work along the trail.

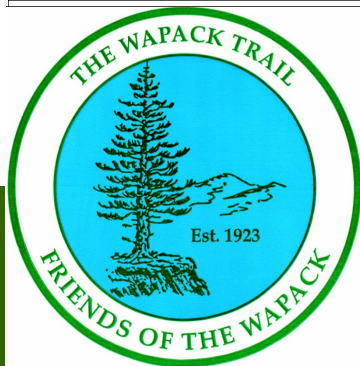
We concentrated on drainage work on the section of the trail between Binney Hill Road and the southern end of the preserve. We installed a large water bar at the base of Emerson Hill and cleaned out a number of other drainage ditches that had been blocked by vehicles. Observations since the workday show that these are all operating successfully do in no small part to the two gates that the NWT installed which has virtually eliminated vehicles in that section.



The **September 23rd** workday concentrated on two small relocations on the Cliff Trail. The first was to move a short section out of a wet area to higher more rocky ground. The second was a re-route around a ledge. For the latter the trail now cuts straight and passes adjacent to the ledge. Additional work was done to clear some brush

on the main trail going up North Pack where vegetation was obscuring the original route causing hikers to make a new trail around it. Thanks go to the Tom Brumaghim, Heil Linquist, Bob Saari, and Ray Jackson.

-Mike Przybyla, Trail Master



The Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

invite you to our

2017 Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 21

Sharon Meeting House, Rte. 123, Sharon, NH

Featured Guest Speaker: Steve Roberge

“The History and Future of New Hampshire’s Forests”



Please join us for our 2017 Annual Meeting and enjoy an informative and entertaining presentation by Steve Roberge on **The History and Future of New Hampshire’s Forests: Fire, hurricanes, beavers and humans have all made their mark on the forests of NH. We’ll take a look at how our forests are shaped over time by natural and human disturbances and travel back in time to discover what European settlers may have encountered when they ventured into the wilderness from the shores of the Atlantic.**

Steve earned a B.S. in Forest Science from UNH and a Masters of Forest Science from Yale University. As the Cheshire County UNH Extension Forester it is his responsibility to educate forestland owners about their important role as stewards of the forest. Steve currently serves on the New Hampshire Forester Licensing Board, a Trustee of the Harris Center for Conservation Education, board member of the NH Maple Producers Association, and is one of the founding board members of the Glass Museum, a non-profit arts and music organization in Peterborough. Steve and his wife Rachelle Beaudoin live in Peterborough with their dog, Theo.

We hope to see you there! Everyone is welcome!

9:00AM Hike (optional). Berry Pasture Trail, Sharon. Join us on a morning hike on the Berry Pasture Trail on the Lincoln-Davis Preserve in Sharon. We’ll hike to the Temple Mountain ridge. Along the way we’ll view a recent timber harvest on the property, and enjoy the great views from the old berry pasture. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Sharon Meeting House, Route 123 in Sharon, NH. For details contact Lee Baker (603) 525-5262 or email Lee at snowman3137@gmail.com.

Noon Informal “bring-your-own” lunch at Sharon Meeting House. The *Friends* will provide beverages and light desserts. *Bring a dessert to share if you like.*

1:00PM Featured Speaker **Steve Roberge**, followed by Friends of the Wapack, Inc., business meeting with highlights from this year and election of officers.

**Yes, there will be
door prizes!**

Directions to Sharon Meeting House:

From the East: Rt. 101 to blinking light for Rt. 123 South in Peterborough; left at 123, 3.7 miles to Sharon Meeting House, on left, a bit north and across the road from Sharon Arts Center, and behind the old Sharon brick school house.

From the West: Rt. 101 through traffic light in Peterborough; east to blinking light for Rt. 123 South; right onto Rt. 123 South (Elm Hill Rd.) 3.7 miles to Sharon Meeting House, on left.

From 202 North: Rt. 202 South to Peterborough; left at stop sign onto Rt. 101 East; east to blinking light for Rt. 123 South; proceed as above.

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 2, Jan 4, Mar 1, May 3). All are welcome. Shieling State 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 28th - Barrett Mountain

This day will focus on clean up and drainage work along the Wapack Trail on Barrett Mountain where a timber harvest has damaged the trail. We will also do some drainage work along the section between Barrett and New Ipswich Mountains. We will meet at the Windblown Cross-Country Ski area lower parking lot on Routes 124/123 in New Ipswich at 8:30 AM. 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 21 - 1:00 PM - Town Meeting House, Sharon, NH

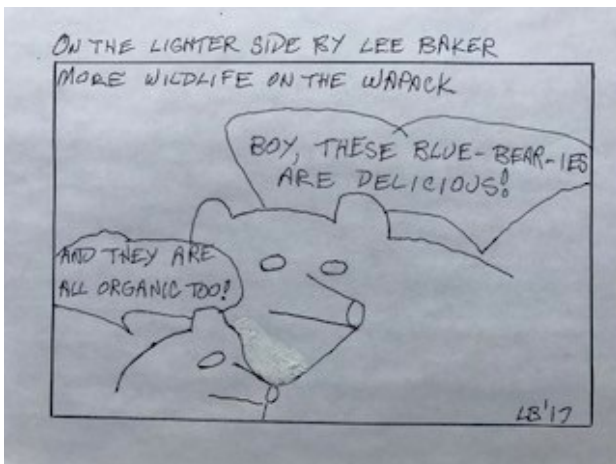
See the Annual Meeting notice in this issue for details. Check our website for updates and details. www.wapack.org.

Hikes

Saturday, October 21 - 9:00 AM Annual Meeting day Morning Hike!

See the Annual Meeting notice in this issue for details.

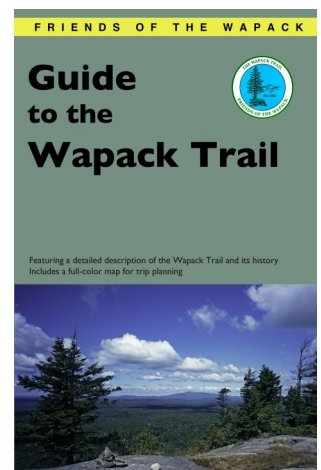
Sign up for email notices of future Friends of the Wapack events at Wapack.org!



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!



2017 Outings

Binney Hill Preserve Guided Hike

On July 29, members of the Friends of the Wapack joined staff from Northeast Wilderness Trust on a guided hike on their new Binney Hill Preserve in New Ipswich.



This was a great opportunity to explore the newest preserve along the Wapack Trail, to view recent improvements and learn about plans for the property from Northeast Wilderness Trust Conservation Assistant Shelby Perry and AmeriCorps member Ira Shadis. Shelby drew on her extensive knowledge to identify flora and fauna on the property, including the hard to find slime-mold! Ira led us along a proposed scenic loop trail through the property. We ended with a climb up Pratt Mountain to the Binney Pond outlook. Thanks to Shelby and Ira for a fun day and interesting exploration of this great new preserve!

Berry Pasture Trail Timber Harvest Tour

On August 4, forester Dan Reed of the New England Forestry Consultants led us on a morning walk through and inspection of a modern timber harvest along the Berry Pasture Trail, on the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) Lincoln-Davis Forest in Sharon. Also participating in the tour was Chris Pryor, Director of Forest Stewardship for NEFF. The timber harvest selectively cut about 52 acres on the western side of Burton Peak on the Temple Mountain Ridge in Sharon. This harvest is below the 83 acres harvested in 2007, which re-cleared 22 acres of the former blueberry fields, and created views. Thanks to Dan and Chris for the fascinating tour!

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

Adopt a trail!

Would you like to adopt a section of the Wapack Trail or a side trail? It's a fun way to give back and spend some time on the trail. Responsibilities include basic trail maintenance such as cutting brush, clearing trenches, and painting blazes. A trail condition report and yearly work report are required. Contact Rick Blanchette or Mike Przybyla for details.

President's Letter (continued)

Thus the importance of the Binney Hill Preserve. One break in the trail would be the end of the idea of this long distance woodland and mountain trail which is loved by so many.

There are still more trail sections that need protection so that the Wapack Trail is not lost. So our work continues. We look forward to partnering again with organizations like Northeast Wilderness Trust and property owners to protect more of the trail. Thank you for supporting the Friends of the Wapack in our ongoing work to protect and maintain the Wapack Trail for our own and future generations. We hope that you'll enjoy the season on the trail. - Rick Blanchette, President



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



Find us on Facebook

**Annual Meeting
Notice enclosed!!**

Printed on Recycled Paper



Remembering Ollie Mutch (continued)

Always ready for new experiences, Ollie took up bee keeping and the accordion in recent years. Jan played the flute, and together they were the “Watatic Notes”. On their travels, he and Jan would stop at nursing homes and perform free concerts to entertain the residents. They also joined the Temple Band.

Ollie was chief of police in Ashby for many years and did much for the town. The town of Ashby honored him this summer with the

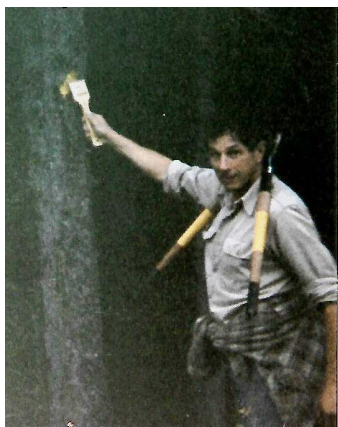
dedication of a bench and a tree on the town common in his memory. After his retirement, he was a popular substitute teacher for many years at Monty Tech.

We’ll all miss Ollie’s humor and stories and anecdotes of his travel adventures. And we’ll miss the music he and Jan performed every year at our annual meetings. I’ll also miss Ollie’s friendship, his optimism, and his sound advice on the board. Ollie showed us how to live a good life, full of interesting experiences, adventures, and friends.

Thank you Ollie!



Ollie and Jan at our 2016 Annual Meeting



Ollie blazing the trail in 1992

- Rick Blanchette, President