



Spring / Summer 2018



# Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #100

## Welcome to the Wapack Trail



This is the 100th issue of the Voice of the Wapack. Looking back at past issues from the 1980's to today, we see a record of the amazing work that has been done in the past 38 years by the many Friends of the Wapack board members, trail adopters and trail crews to maintain and protect the Wapack Trail.

A major mile stone in trail protection was reached last year by the Friends of the Wapack (FOW) and Northeast Wilderness Trust (NWT) by permanently protecting the trail on the Binney Hill Preserve. Please see the insert in this issue for details. The insert also explains our need to rebuild our trail protection fund to be ready for the next opportunity to permanently protect the trail. There are still miles of trail left to protect. It's been many years since we have reached out to our members and supporters for donations. So please read the insert and consider a donation to the Friends of the Wapack this year to help us protect the Wapack Trail for this and future generations.

It's always exciting when we can add a new

trail to the Wapack Trail system. This year we'll be working with NWT to open a new loop trail on the Binney Hill Preserve. See the trail work article for details on the work day to cut the new trail.

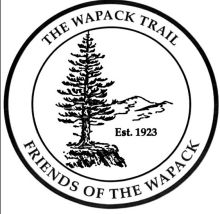
Speaking of trail work, we can use some help! There are many tree branches down on the trail after this winter. Please toss some aside as you hike the trail. If you find a fallen tree on the trail, please let us know and we'll send in a volunteer crew to remove it. We are in need of new trail adopters and trail work day participants. Please contact me, Mike or any board member for details. Our contact info is on page two.

This is also the year of trail signs. FOW has been working with Ashburnham Conservation Trust (ACT) and Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on new trail signs for Mt. Watatic. ACT obtained a grant for the material and signs, which DCR is making. FOW collaborated with the owners of Mt. Watatic Reservation in the wording and placement of the signs and will be assisting DCR with installing the signs this Spring with help from the Ashburnham and Ashby Fire Departments. (Photo page 3). Thanks to Diane Wright for her help with this! We also requested trail signs for Temple Mountain State Reservation from NH State Parks. We have the signs and will be installing them during our May 5 workday. The new signs will help keep hikers from getting off the trail on Watatic, and help direct hikers to the Wapack and Beebe trails at Temple Mountain.

It's shaping up to be another fun and busy year for the Friends of the Wapack. We hope to see you at one of our events this year. Our work goes on so we will all, always be welcome on the Wapack Trail.

- Rick Blanchette, President

## 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

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*Once it's gone, It's gone forever*

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## Trail Work Days 2018

The Friends of the Wapack have four workdays this year, with the possibility of one or two more. These workdays serve the purpose of performing maintenance and improving the trail in ways beyond that expected of the trail adoters. We have been seeing a decrease in participation over the past few years and I urge you to consider participating in at least one of our workdays. It is an easy way to give back to the trail without the commitment of trail adoption.

### Saturday May 5 - Temple Mountain State Reservation

The first workday will be Saturday May 5th at the Temple Mountain Reservation opposite Miller State Park on Route 101. We have a two part day planned. We will start with the installation of new signs made by the State of New Hampshire at the base of the mountain. These will help to direct people onto either the Wapack or the Beebe Trails and provide better direction through the open areas at the base of the mountain. We will continue to the summit to install an additional sign where the Wapack leaves the access road. The second part of the workday will be the rehabilitation of a number of water bars on the north side of Holt Peak. These were installed over ten years ago and need reconstruction. We will meet at 8:30 AM at the Temple Mountain Reservation parking lot on Route 101 in Peterborough.

### Saturday June 2 - Binney Hill Preserve - Building a new Trail!

Come celebrate National Trails Day by building a new trail! We'll be working with Northeast Wilderness Trust to cut a new loop trail on their Binney Hill Preserve in New Ipswich. The trail will connect to the Wapack Trail and will provide a moderately easy hiking trail through this forever wild preserve. We'll meet at the NeWest Mall parking lot on Routes 123/124 in New Ipswich at 8:30 AM and car pool to the site which has limited parking.

### Saturday September 22 - Miller State Park

We will be doing drainage work on the Marion Davis trail in Miller State Park. We will be rehabilitating a number of water bars and other drainage features. We may also attempt to improve drainage on a steep section near the start of the trail. We will meet at 8:30 AM at the Miller State Park parking lot.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# 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](http://www.wapack.org)

## Board Meetings

First Thursday of alternate months unless otherwise noted. (May 3, September 6, November 1). 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

See the "Trail Work Days 2018" article in this newsletter for details. Contact Mike Przybyla for more information or questions 603-878-3350. Please check our website for updates [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org).

## Annual Meeting

### **Saturday, October 20**

The program for our annual meeting is being planned. Watch for a special mailing in the fall, or check our website for details. [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org).

## Hikes

### **Saturday, August 25 - 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 on Mountain Road in Greenfield. Please call leader Tom Brumaghim to register and for details (603) 233-7791. *Please note: This is a strenuous hike with over 3800 feet of vertical gain and covers 21.5 miles. It is recommended that participants be in good physical condition and have conditioned themselves by doing frequent hikes leading up to the End to End hike.*

## Notices

### **Hiking the Wapack Trail through Windblown Cross-Country 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 early May. Thank you!

### **T-Shirts are coming!**

After numerous requests over the past few years, we are exploring adding Friends of the Wapack T-shirts to our on-line store. We're considering several options as we go to press. If we decide to move forward you'll be able to check our Store link at [wapack.org](http://wapack.org) later this year to view the choices and to order! As with all of our merchandise, all proceeds go to trail protection and maintenance.

### **On the Lighter Side by Lee Baker**

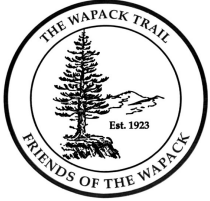
I love our new trail crew t-shirts




Yeah, we look stylish working in MUD!



FOW collaborated with these groups to provide new trail signs on Mt. Watatic. L to R: Mike Bussell (Ashby Fire Dept.); James Cleveland (Ashburnham Fire Dept.); Clare Deucher (ACT) Rick Blanchette (FOW); Mike Przybyla (FOW); Matt Amadon (DCR); Gary Howland (ACT)



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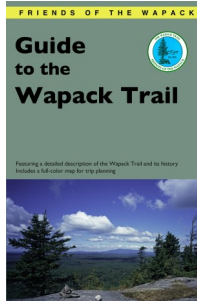
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## General Store

Visit our website [Wapack.org](http://Wapack.org) to order the 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!



## Get Involved!

- Attend a workday
  - Adopt a trail section
  - Report trail conditions
  - Donate to help us secure permanent protection for the Wapack Trail
- Details at [wapack.org](http://wapack.org)*

## 2018 Trail Work Days (continued)

*(Continued from page 2)*

### Saturday October 27 - Miller State Park

The final workday will be on Saturday October 27. Once again we will be at Miller State Park, this time doing stone work on the lower section of the Wapack just above the spot where it crosses the access road. This is very rocky section and we will moving rocks around to improve the tread way. We plan to be working with the Trailwrights on this project which will provide a useful experience for anyone interested the rock construction. We will be using a Griphoist and other rigging, so heavy gloves and shoes are especially important. We will meet at 8:30 AM at the Miller State Park lower parking lot.

All workdays start at 8:30 AM and usually end around 3:00 or 4:00 PM. Bring appropriate clothing as you may get muddy, depending on conditions, since we will be doing lots of drainage work this year. Work gloves and work shoes are recommended. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Check our website, [wapack.org](http://wapack.org), for updates. We hope to see you at the workdays this year. Come join us and enjoy a great day on the trail!

*-Mike Przybyla, Trail Master*