



OUR MISSION

TO CONSERVE THE
NATURAL AND SCENIC
ENVIRONMENT OF THE
PISCATAQUOG RIVER
WATERSHED AND
PROTECT THE PURITY
OF ITS WATERS.

IN THIS ISSUE

THANKS
TO VOLUNTEERS
Page 2

BEETLES
SEND MESSAGE
Page 2

COMMITTEES
NEED VOLUNTEERS
Page 2

BE A DEER
Page 3

KEEPING TRACK
DATES
Page 3

THANK YOU
TO SUPPORTERS
Page 5

WATER
CONSERVATION
Page 5

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Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WAKE-UP CALLS

by Gordon Russell

When the season known as cold comes into our lives, night after night we slip into bed and draw a load of covers up, chin tight. Many of us even disappear out of sight, impatient for our bed's warmth to stop the shivers. In such repose our minds shift into neutral, but our internal workings continue to beat, digest, repair, store, and prepare for the next day. When the alarm clock jangles us back to wakefulness, our mind takes over (perhaps leaving a dream behind) to face yet another precious day.

The large marsh I live on follows a lifestyle analogous to our own, albeit the intervals between its sleep and awake times are a bit longer. This morning, the marsh's alarm clock went off for the first time this year.

"Konk-le-ree, o-ka-leeee!"

A casual observer might say the marsh paid no heed. There was no visible sign of stirring from under its blanket of white. But marsh watchers know of the understanding and infinite patience of the alarm's giver, and the **"Konk-le-ree, o-ka-leeee!"** will sound again come the next sunrise, and the next, the next, and the next if need be.

To awaken a marsh from its winter's snooze is like bringing to life a dictionary full of nouns, together with their corresponding endless list of descriptive adjectives. There are a lot of things to wake up.

Be it known, the beloved, late-winter call of the Red-Winged Blackbird is felt through the marsh ice. It reaches animals that are still eggs, animals that wiggle, have fins, have claws, animals one day destined to sparkle the air with their flight. It reaches plants that are still seeds, plants that wiggle or spin, plants with promises of brilliant blossoms to be brought forth for summer's pleasure.

"Konk-le-ree, o-ka-leeee!" The Red-Wing's alarm is given as a favor to its mother and to all who are wise enough to care about such wonders.

The ever eloquent Gordon Russell lives in New Boston, where he casts a lover's eye upon the seasons and residents of the Great Meadow that glistens below his perch on 30 acres of protected land.



Photo by Joel Slave



spring is for snappers!

Turtles come out of hibernation now and we hope all you photographers will too! Remember,
the PWA Photo Contest deadline is August 1st ...

...so here's wishing you a picturesque spring!

Photo by Cindy Slave





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(603) 547-2321
Pat Nelson
Rosemary Conroy*
Mary Clapp*

Open Space
(603) 487-2636
Kim DiPietro*
Graham Pendlebury
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(603) 487-2696
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Peter deRoeth*

Purple Loosestrife Awareness (PLAC)
(603) 487-5114
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Hannah Proctor*

Keeping Track Coordinator
Allison Thomson*

* member volunteer

THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

In addition to the Board of Directors and volunteers listed in the sidebar on this page, the PWA relies on members, not only for their generous financial support, but also for their time and talent. Your help is what keeps the PWA going.

Stewardship Easement Monitors

Len Allen, Meredith Allen, Jami Boyle, Jon Brooks, Jed Callen, Craig Dickstein, Ed DiPietro, Kim DiPietro, Lisa Ferro, Carol Hess, Bob Lindgren, Linda Lindgren, Ken Lombard, Lyn Lombard, Randy Parker, Graham Pendlebury, Gordon Russell, Cindy Stave, Joel Stave, Allison Thomson, Margaret Watkins, Lois Wicklow

Purple Loosestrife Awareness Committee (PLAC)

Lyn Lombard, Ken Lombard, Hannah Proctor, Allison Thomson

Keeping Track

Lisa Brooks, Brenda DelloRusso, Ed DiPietro, Kim DiPietro, Floyd Guyette, Mary Koon, Ken Lombard, Lyn Lombard, Kim Moulton, Pat Myers, Gail Parker, Harry Parker, Randy Parker, Graham Pendlebury, Brian Rohde, Karen Roy, Gordon Russell, Mary-Carol Schaffrath, Cindy Stave, Joel Stave, Allison Thomson, Margaret Watkins, Cyndie-Joan Wilson

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Special Projects

Lisa Brooks

Water Quality Testing

Cheryl Christner, Randy Parker, Gordon Russell

Adopt-A-Salmon

Mit Boyle, Linda Lindgren, Gordon Russell, Lois Wicklow

Office Set-up and Maintenance

Cheryl Christner, Pat Nelson, Randy Parker, Joel Stave, Allison Thomson, Tim White

Web Page (a coming attraction...)

Lisa Ferro, Pat Nelson

Beetles to Send a Message

Bolstered by the success of using *Galerucella* spp. beetles to control purple loosestrife in test areas over the last three years, the PWA's Purple Loosestrife Creativity Committee (PLCC) has decided to use the beetles to send a message to the world by using them in a tightly controlled fashion. Starting this year, purple loosestrife will be allowed to run rampant in one long corridor along the river. The goal will be to choke out all native species so that there will be a truly solid swath of purple vegetation. This should not take long to do because a single purple loosestrife plant can release up to two and a half million seeds per year if not controlled!

Next, the beetles will be released in very tightly controlled areas to destroy selected plants. "Why?" you may ask. A spokesperson explained, "Our goal is to have the beetles cut out letters that will spell out the message '**Save Our River**'. This message will be seen by thousands of people every day as they fly out of Manchester airport. We acknowledge that the initial uncontrolled growth of loosestrife will inevitably kill off the food supply and nesting areas for native wildlife that depend on native plants for survival, but we feel the sacrifice is worth it to send this important message to the larger community."

*Thanks to this month's guest writer, **Aprille Phules**, for her contribution of this article.*

Open Space Committee Has Open Spaces

The Open Space Committee is looking for volunteers from Deering, Frankestown, Goffstown, Greenfield, Henniker, Lyndeborough, and Weare to help implement the PWA's land conservation goals. Committee members will talk with local landowners who may be interested in protecting their land. The Committee also is responsible for developing land protection policy recommendations for the Board, advising the Board on property specific issues, and overseeing management of PWA lands. For more information, contact Margaret Watkins at 774-7120 or margwatkins@juno.com.

New Development Committee Forming

Board member John McCausland of Weare will chair the PWA's new Development Committee. The Development Committee was created as part of a multi-year plan to strengthen the PWA's financial base. The plan focuses on building the membership and Annual Fund giving, developing corporate and business sponsorships, offering memorial and tribute gift opportunities, proposing new strategies to fund special projects, and increasing publicity in watershed communities.

John is looking for two or three individuals interested in serving on this committee, especially those with experience in fundraising and organizational membership programs. If you are interested, please call John at 529-4740 or email him at holyx@gsinet.net.

Won't You Please Be a ~~Dear~~ Deer?

It is said that change, to which we all are subject, is the only constant.

The PWA's organizational life is no exception. In recent months the Board and a committee of Board and PWA members have been reviewing how the PWA can more effectively attract new members and develop sustained income sources. With help from Carolyn Benthien of Benthien Associates, we have drafted a three-year development plan.

One piece of the plan is an annual spring membership campaign to generate new memberships. The PWA has among the most loyal and responsive members imaginable. Our renewal rate is high, and many members have been involved with the PWA for years. But our members are few and represent only a fraction of the watershed's growing population. While we welcome new members at any time of year, we will target residents of one or more towns each spring. This year we are focusing on Deering and Goffstown.

You will see some other changes in our membership program. For the first time, we are offering optional premiums for memberships above the family level. In addition, every member receives the following benefits:

- 6 issues of *Watershed News*
- PWA decal
- 10% discount on items sold in the PWA office
- Member recognition in *Watershed News*
- And best of all, the satisfaction of knowing you support the preservation of open space and wildlife habitat in the Piscataquog River watershed.



This newsletter lists contributors to our 2001 Annual Fund. Each fall we will solicit special contributions, which represent a gift over and above your annual membership in the PWA. While all members may not respond to the annual appeal, the funds it generates are vitally important to the PWA's health, and we hope member response will continue to grow.

If you have questions about these changes or your membership status, please contact Laurie Terwilliger at the PWA office 487-3331.



Photo by Cindy Slave

June Keeping Track Dates

Novices are welcome!

Sunday, June 2 (New Boston) Call Graham at 487-2636

Sunday, June 9 (Dunbarton) Call Margaret at 774-7120

Dates are subject to change. Call leaders to confirm.



PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL.

If it has a red line, your membership is due for renewal. Won't you please renew right away? And tell a friend about PWA! We depend on your support!

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student/Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Wood Turtle (Gift option: PWA fanny pack) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Salmon (Gift option: "Vernal Pools" book) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250+ Deer (Gift option: Handmade walking stick) |

Check here if you want the optional gift premium listed for higher levels. ☐

DOES YOUR COMPANY HAVE A MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM? PWA QUALIFIES FOR MATCHING GIFTS!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Email address (optional): _____

SPREAD THE WORD! GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Email address (optional): _____

Remember to check the other side of this form. Then return it with your payment to:

Piscataquog Watershed Association • 5A Mill Street • New Boston, NH 03070

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED HELP IN PROTECTING THE WATERSHED!



2001 marked the PWA's second annual appeal soliciting tax-deductible contributions, beyond membership dues, from members and friends. We have nearly reached our goal of \$6000 and have received more than double the amount raised in last year's appeal. The Annual Fund helps support annual operations and programs, and it's not too late to send a contribution to put us over the top. This page lists all Annual Fund gifts received since December 1, along with special contributions made in 2001. We are grateful for this support. *Thank you!*

Photo by Joel Slave

Annual Fund

Benefactors of the Watershed

Peter & Elisabeth De Roethlis
The French Foundation
George & Elizabeth Watkins
Margaret Watkins

Patrons of the Watershed

Compaq Computer Corporation*
Jed Callen & Carol Hess
Pat Nelson
Jeremy & Carolynne Shinn

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J. Willcox & Natale Brown
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Ellen Dokton
Dr. John E. Japp
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Dwight & Heather Lovejoy
Marty Milkovic & Elizabeth Bauer
Ellen Musinsky & Diane Padilla
Heidi & John Palmer
James & Jane Raymond
Christie Thomas
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Friends of the Watershed

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Martha McGinley
Karen & Michael Roy
Bill Scimone
Jess & Palma Smith
Constance & Harold Varnum
Candace & David Woodbury
Carolyn Woodbury

Other Contributions

Compaq Computer Corporation*
John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.*
IBM*
Gordon Russell
Barry Wicklow

Easement Monitoring Fund

Kathryn Kachavos

Bequests

Dr. Richard H. Daggy

Gifts-in-Kind

Benthien Associates,
Carolyn & Randy Benthien
Good Neighbor Café,
Manny & Kirsten Almeida
Jed Callen
David & Laurette Carroll
Joanne Luneau
Jack Noon
Bill Scimone
Cindy Stave

Foundation Support

Anonymous
The Corporate Fund
Sweet Water Trust
William P. Wharton Trust

Organization Support

Land Trust Alliance,
Northeast Program
New Hampshire Department
of Environmental Services
Society for the Protection
of New Hampshire Forests

*Corporate matching gifts

PWA Feedback Form

Let us hear from you – anytime! Please share your news and ideas with PWA.
You can write to us at the address on the reverse or email us at contactpwa@yahoo.com.

- ☐ I'd like to join a Keeping Track team.
☐ I'd like to help the Purple Loosestrife Awareness Committee (PLAC).
☐ Please send PWA brochures for my neighbors and friends. How many do you need? ____
☐ I want to support the PWA in other ways (for example, lead a walk, blaze a trail, write an article, provide publicity, write a grant, do research, raise funds, volunteer to aid school programs, host a local information meeting, etc.).

PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR INTERESTS:

I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT:

- ☐ Ways to protect my land. ☐ Remembering the PWA in my will.
☐ Making a major contribution to the PWA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. YOU ARE THE PWA!

Water, Water Everywhere... But Not a Drop to Drink!

Compiled by Pat Nelson

While water may still be flowing under the bridge, many residents have been without running water for months, and more wells could run dry when spring growth absorbs more groundwater. Without a solid month of April showers, there is little hope of ending this drought before gardening season begins.

The NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) emphasizes that *all* households must conserve water, no matter what their water source. Some of the water-saving measures listed below seem small, but if every household reduced consumption by 15 percent, NH could save about 11.2 million gallons of water every day!

Household Use

- Run dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads. Avoid using extra cycles. Let dishes soak before handwashing.
 - Take short showers instead of baths.
 - Unless you have a low flow toilet (1.5 gallons or less), place a rock-filled plastic container (not bricks) in your toilet tank.
 - Peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under the tap.
 - Do not use garbage disposals. Try composting!
 - Turn off water while washing hands and dishes, brushing teeth, shaving. (Or, even better, grow a beard!)
 - Install water-saving devices on faucets and showerheads.
 - Fix leaking toilets and faucets. A leaky toilet can waste hundreds of gallons a day.
 - Flush only when necessary.
 - Extend timing between backwash cycles on home water filters.
 - Make a statement. Drive a dirty car!
- Lawns:
 - Leave grass clippings on your lawn as a water-conserving mulch. Set mower blades at the highest setting; taller grass promotes water retention. Use drought resistant grass when reseeding. Some fescues never need watering and are well adapted to NH weather.
 - Plan your garden:
 - Group together plants with similar water needs.
 - Select water-efficient plants. Native plants are well adapted to the climate and require less water.
 - Place the least drought-tolerant plants closest to a water source, in humus-rich soil, or in dappled shade.
 - Prepare the soil. Healthy soils need less water and chemical amendments.
 - Test soils before planting. Soil type indicates which plants will thrive on your site and which amendments are needed. Contact the UNH Cooperative Extension Service for soil test kits and native plant lists.
 - Turn soil before planting to promote root development and percolation of air and water.
 - Add organic matter (such as peat moss, manure, and compost) to the soil to help retain moisture.
 - Use mulch to minimize evaporation and reduce weeds that compete for water. Don't use peat moss as mulch; it is a good soil amendment, but makes a poor mulch because its high water-absorption pulls water from the soil. Avoid using non-porous plastic, gravel, and sand except in walkways. They can raise temperatures, dry out soil, and cause runoff problems.

In the Yard

The average American family sprays 40 percent of their total water used on their landscape, with very little of it actually being absorbed by plants. A water-wise landscape can reduce this waste by 70 percent!

- Water efficiently:
 - Water, if needed, in early morning when evaporation is low. Never water if you've had an inch of rain in the past week.
 - Use low-flow, drip or trickle emitters.



Board member Pat Myers checks rain buckets for runoff from the roof – with no luck. NH water supplies are suffering the same fate. Pat, like many others, has been without well water since fall.
Photo by Margaret Watkins

Maximizing Runoff

- Direct rainwater from rooftops into a rain barrel (a few drops of baby oil on the water surface discourages mosquito egg deposits) or onto unpaved areas where it can be absorbed into the ground.
- Leave natural, undisturbed wooded areas between developed areas and waterways. They will act like sponges, promoting infiltration to groundwater.
- When developing or redesigning a site, grade land so that water is retained on site and can filter into the soil.

For More Information

Consult the following DES web pages:

Conserving household water use:

www.des.state.nh.us/gw/gw799.htm

Conserving water use in gardening and landscaping:

www.des.state.nh.us/factsheets/ws/ws-26-4.htm

www.des.state.nh.us/gw/gw999.htm



5A Mill Street
New Boston, NH 03070
pwa@pwa.mv.com

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**SPECIAL EVENT REMINDER:
THE VOICE OF THE**

Turtle-

Yes, the voice of the turtle is heard in our land!

Now you can hear it too! In this presentation by local wetlands biologist, Dr. Barry Wicklow, and St. Anselm students, you will see photos and hear recordings of wood turtle vocalizations made in the lab. These recordings are the first known scientific evidence of turtle vocalizations. Come witness history in the making!

Goffstown: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 5 Main Street
April 11 at 7:00 PM (Thursday)
*Co-sponsored by the PWA and the
Goffstown Conservation Commission*

Francestown: Town Hall, center of town at Rtes. 136 & 47
April 25 at 7:00 PM (Thursday)
*Co-sponsored by the PWA,
Francestown Land Conservation, Inc.,
and the Francestown Conservation Commission*



PWA Memberships Since February 2002

Laurie & Daniel Beaulieu	Weare	Martha McGinley	New Boston
Dr. Alfred Bertagnoll	Manchester	Walter & Bonita Morse	Hillsboro
Jon Brooks & Jami Boyle	New Boston	Randy & Gail Parker	New Boston
Montague & Meeta Brown	Weare	Pearle Preston	Goffstown
Marjorie Burgess	New Boston	Robert & Lydia Reeve	Weare
Jennifer Byington	Francestown	Mary & John Reeves	New Boston
Jed Callen & Carol Hess	New Boston	John Rennie	Weare
David & Susan Connard	Francestown	George & Holly Sanderson*	Deering
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Patricia Grosso	New Boston	Joel & Cindy Stave	New Boston
Tom Hanley	Goffstown	Barbara Uhl Stewart**	New Boston
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* denotes extra contribution

** denotes contribution of \$100 or more