



OUR MISSION

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

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Volume 14, No. 5
September / October
2002



Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Introducing the 2002 Annual Meeting Speaker:

Make Way for Ducklings, and Turtles, and Moose...

by Pat Nelson

Brewster Bartlett, a ninth grade science teacher at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, shares many of the same goals as the PWA. He hopes to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving wildlife corridors and reducing the impact humans have on wildlife habitat.

For the last nine years, Bartlett has been collecting data about animals whose lives quite literally collide with humans. Noting his students' natural fascination with dead animals along the roadside, he encouraged them to start a database to track which animals were found where.

With the help of seed money from the National Science Foundation, this local school project evolved into a nationally sponsored program (the RoadKill Project) that has been written up in numerous publications — most recently the Wall Street Journal, which featured a story on how the growth of the suburbs has had a deadly impact on wildlife. Locally, NH Fish & Game has made a 6-minute video about the RoadKill Project that will start to air on Channel 11 on October 3.

If you think animals are mostly killed on high speed highways, think again. Bartlett says that most road-kills are the result of too many cars going too fast on narrow and winding roads. In NH, most roadkills occur on roads posted with speeds below 35mph.

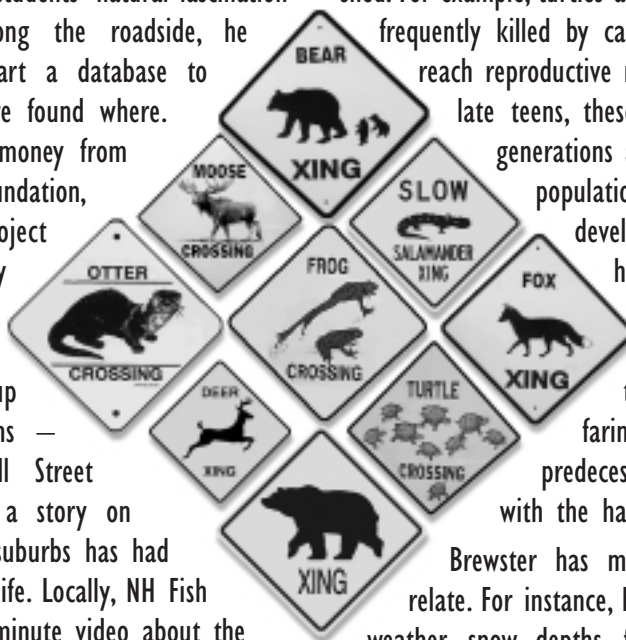
During the 2002-2003 school year, Dr. Splatt, as Bartlett is affectionately known to students, will be working with schools along Route 4, which crosses the

state from east to west, to collect information about wildlife at risk along that road. The NH Department of Transportation (DOT) wants to evaluate the data students collect to determine where they might include underpasses for wildlife when they improve this road. Techniques that lower animal mortality also reduce human deaths and insurance costs.

Bartlett's findings are also significant for our watershed. For example, turtles are one of the animals most frequently killed by cars. Because turtles do not reach reproductive maturity until their mid to late teens, these early deaths put future generations at great risk. Indeed, turtle populations have decreased as development increases. With the high pace of modern life — and cars — pitted against the slow-moving turtle, today's turtle is not faring as well as his mythical predecessor in the legendary race with the hare.

Brewster has many fascinating stories to relate. For instance, how do factors such as the weather, snow depths, full moon, mating season, food supply, daylight saving time, and extreme temperature changes affect animal behavior? We can all learn from Bartlett's observations — especially when driving watershed roads.

Bartlett has a fascinating collection of pelts, skulls, and other paraphernalia (including a kangaroo tail!) that people have given to him. He'll bring some items along for Show & Tell so that we can learn more about these animals from the inside out.





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Bank Investment Pays Off

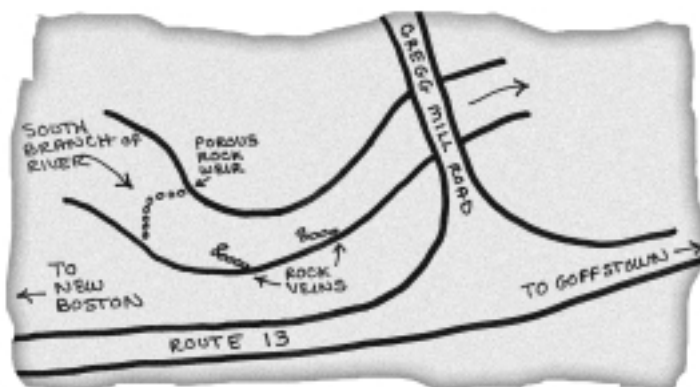
(WE HOPE!)

Story and photos by Margaret Watkins, Project Manager

Time will tell whether the Streambank Restoration Project on town land near the Gregg Mill bridge in New Boston produces the benefits we expect – but meanwhile, fish are enjoying the new, deepwater habitat, and shoreline trees are buffered from river flows.

Project principals and volunteers beat two weeks of the August heatwave by working in the river. Jim MacCartney of Trout Unlimited (TU) directed the installation of two rock veins and a porous rock weir. As described in the July/August *Watershed News*, the project was designed by Dr. Barry Wicklow and his Environmental Science students at St. Anselm College to redirect flow away from the bank and to create deep pool habitat in the river. Rock donated by Ernie Thibeault was substituted for the original planned log veins and root wads to minimize damage to already threatened trees on the banks. Volunteers contributed more than 200 hours to the project, many of them spent in developing baseline information prior to the installation. Barry directed the baseline studies, which looked at fish and mussel populations, macroinvertebrates, pebble size, flow velocities, and channel cross sections. Studies will be repeated in the future to assess changes. An upstream control site was also established to monitor change.

Randy Byam, who works for Ernie Thibeault, and Lee Murray with the Town of New Boston contributed both time and equipment to move tons of rock to the site from the Thibeault sand and gravel pit on Route 13. We are particularly grateful to Randy, whose flexibility and willingness to support the project helped keep it on track. It was mesmerizing to watch George Whipple coax big rocks into place with the mammoth excavator he transformed into a gentle giant. George also built the berm along Route 13, which was designed by the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) to redirect surface water away from the site to a place upstream where it can infiltrate the ground or river without damage.



Barry Wicklow and TU volunteer Maria Merry collect and identify macroinvertebrates to record in the baseline documentation.



Scott Decker from NH Fish & Game prepares to record the length, weight, and type of all fish caught (and released) by the project team in the vicinity of the project site.



Barry Wicklow and TU volunteers Sam Chapman and Jim Norton set up a silt fence to protect a small bed of endangered fresh water mussels.

The Streambank Restoration Project was funded by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) under the federal Clean Water Act, section 319. Barry Wicklow will direct follow-up assessments that will be integrated into the Environmental Science curriculum at St. Anselm College.

Thank you -

to all who have contributed to this project, including:

NH DES: Andrea Donlon, Steve Landry, Jeff Marcoux

NH DOT: Ernie Jeffreys, Jeff Roseboom

NH Fish & Game: Scott Decker

PWA: Don McGinley for his help in getting local chapter TU volunteers, Gail & Randy Parker, Alex Pendlebury, Graham Pendlebury

St. Anselm College: Barry Wicklow, Kristin MacDonald, & Environmental Science students

Thibault Sand & Gravel: Randy Byam

Town of New Boston: Lee Murray

Trout Unlimited: Jim MacCartney & volunteers Jerry Bernier, Sam Chapman, Nick Lashua, Jim Lynch, Maria Merry, Jim Norton

Other Contributors: Dunbarton Fire Department, Steve Golden, Lisa & Matt Parker, Bo Strong, George Whipple



Jim MacCartney, TU river restoration specialist, works with excavator operator George Whipple to place huge header rocks in the porous weir.



Volunteers Sam Chapman (foreground), Jim Norton, and Alex Pendlebury take a much deserved break on one of the two new rock veins that jut into the river. At high water, all the rocks will be submerged and will redirect flow away from the bank.

**PISCATAQUOG RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRLAC)
IS SPONSORING A**

River Clean-Up

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9:00 to Noon

WHERE: Selected sections along the river in Goffstown and Manchester
Bags, gloves, and trash hauling will be provided. All **YOU** need to do is show up!

TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT:

Dick Ludders at 529-7933 or Ludds@attbi.com

Ron Johnson at 624-6565 x302 or rjohnson@ci.manchester.nh.us



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!

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

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

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

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

INTRODUCING THE PWA WEBSITE & ITS CREATOR

by Pat Nelson

Over the last many months, PWA volunteer Lisa Ferro has been working behind the scenes to create a PWA website. While we will continue to add content, you are now invited to visit the PWA online at www.pwa-nh.org.

Lisa learned of our interest in having a PWA website during a conversation with Laurie Terwilliger at the 2001 Annual Meeting. Even though she had never designed a website before, Lisa works with computers and figured, "Hey, I can do that!" (We treasure that "Can do" attitude in our volunteers!) With input from Laurie, PWA brochures and newsletters, photos from Gordon Russell and other sources, graphics from Joel Stave, feedback and input from Pat Nelson and Len Allen, and lots of hard work, Lisa has created a website that is designed to grow.

Lisa moved to New Boston four years ago and lives a few hundred yards from the South Branch of the Piscataquog River. Because of her love for hiking on trails near her home, her interest was piqued by a PWA announcement in the New Boston Bulletin that an easement monitoring training would be offered for people who "like to walk in the woods." Since taking the training in 2000, Lisa has been on the team that monitors the Martha's Brook property.



Creator of the PWA Website, Lisa Ferro.



Lisa grew up riding horses in northern Virginia and has always loved the outdoors. She got her first taste of New England when she earned her MA and PhD in Linguistics at the University of Connecticut. She then worked for awhile in Hollis, NH, before taking a job in upper New York state. But, she missed New Hampshire, and returned in a year

to find a house and a job as an artificial intelligence engineer. She'd never heard of New Boston until she moved there – and now we hope she is here to stay!

www.pwa-nh.org

What do you want to see on the PWA website?

We envision the website as an active online community. Send us your ideas and contributions (e.g., wildlife sightings, photos (digital or not), articles).

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!

New Water Quality Monitors Get High Marks!

by Laurie Terwilliger with photos by Randy Parker

When it comes to quality, our new water quality monitoring team can't be beat! Eleven enthusiastic volunteers – ten of them new PWA members! – attended a training in New Boston on August 10.

The PWA has been testing the Piscataquog River to assess the quality of its waters since 1991. The August training was led by John Magee, a recent member who provided the spark and energy to expand the monitoring program by increasing both the number of sites tested and the frequency of testing.

The training included an indoor session where volunteers learned what each piece of equipment does and how it works. The outdoor session was held in the river where everyone could practice using the equipment. Gordon Russell also showed how to collect macroinvertebrates.

Since the training, monitors have tested 17 sites along the main stem and the three branches of the Piscataquog River. Volunteer Agnes Shellmer merits a special accolade for enduring a very long sampling day. Gordon Russell had this praise, "A lot was asked of this volunteer and she did extremely well."

During the next few months, John Magee and Laurie Terwilliger will be busy soliciting funds to buy our own water quality testing equipment so that we can begin taking monthly samples. If you know of funding sources for this project, please let us know.

Thank you to our new water quality monitors: Andy Cadorette, Reta Chaffee, Floyd Guyette, Carol Hall, Addie Ann Lambarth, Tom Lee, Maggie and Gary Minkiewicz, David Moffat, Karen Roy, Agnes Shellmer, and Eric Thum. **Thanks also** to John Magee and Gordon Russell for their expertise and assistance with the training. **Special thanks** to Randy and Gail Parker for the use of their property for the hands-on, feet-in, river testing.



Top: Karen Roy practices using the equipment while John Magee and Floyd Guyette look on.



Left: Gordon Russell shows volunteers how to collect macroinvertebrates.

The Future is in Good Hands by Pat Nelson



The PWA was fortunate to benefit from the contributions of summer intern, Sarah Uhl, a ConVal high school senior who lives next to the Piscataquog River in Frankestown. Sarah has a double major in environmental studies and biology, with a minor in economics or political science. Says Sarah, "I wanted to volunteer to learn about what's being done to help protect my local watershed and take part in the process.

I also wanted to learn more about the ecology of my watershed. I picked the PWA because of its close proximity and its eagerness to have a new volunteer."

In just a short time, Sarah accomplished a lot:

- **Wrote a fact sheet about watersheds that the PWA will use for public education.**

- **Called local conservation commissions to find out what kind of data they have collected on the natural resources of the watershed. This data will be used in the PWA's Living Legacy project.**
- **Researched and updated database information about properties abutting the river, wetlands, and other water bodies in the watershed.**

Sarah notes, "I learned about the inner workings of grassroots efforts to protect the environment. Although the process is slow, the results are evident in a peek at a map of New Boston that highlights protected lands that exist thanks to the efforts of the PWA."

Laurie Terwilliger, who worked alongside Sarah in the PWA office, adds, "Sarah was a joy to work with and very helpful. She is mature beyond her years and knows what she wants and how to go after it. There is no doubt that she will succeed in whatever she chooses to do."

We at PWA hope she chooses to expend more of her talents right here in the watershed! **Thank you, Sarah!**



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New Boston, NH 03070
pwa@pwa.mv.com
www.pwa-nh.org

RED STRIPE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL?

It's time to renew your membership!
Please use the form on page 3.



Come meet the "doctor" with a great roadside manner
at the

2002 PWA Annual Meeting!

Saturday, October 19, 2002

Deering Community Church, Rte. 149, Deering, NH

Our annual meeting will feature a display of the Photo Contest entries and
a gourmet spaghetti dinner, followed by our guest presenter (see cover story).

Watch for details in a separate flyer.

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Andre, Jr. & Mary Ellen Compagna*	New Boston	Andrew Visniewski	Deering
Ed, Deb & Erin Gilligan	New Boston	Arthur & Roberta Walmsley *	Deering
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Peter Kaplan & Katharine Hanson	Hillsborough		
Gerald & Christine King*	Weare		
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Richard & Linda Murphy	Goffstown		
John Pavoll	Mont Vernon		
Meg & Gene Piana	Goffstown		
Thomas & Patricia Pine	New Boston		
Virginia Rogers	State College, PA		

* denotes extra contribution

** denotes contribution of \$100 or more

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We offer on-the-job
training, so join us!

Keeping Track Autumn Dates

WEARE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Call Gordon at 487-2994

NEW BOSTON
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Call Graham at 487-2636

WEARE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Call Gordon at 487-2994

DUNBARTON
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
Call Margaret at 774-7120

Dates are subject to change.
Call leaders to confirm.