



OUR MISSION

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

IN THIS ISSUE

ANNUAL MEETING
VOTES

Page 2

PHOTO CONTEST
WINNERS

Page 2

YEAR IN REVIEW

Page 3

KEEPING TRACK
TRAINING

Page 4

MESSAGE FROM OUR
NEW PRESIDENT

Page 5

GRANTS MATCH
NEW DONATIONS

Page 5

Volume 14, No. 6
November / December
2002



Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A GEM IN DEERING

by Margaret Watkins

In October the PWA acquired a conservation easement protecting 76.5 acres of prime conservation land in Deering.

Speaking for his family, William Wasserman observed, "This easement represents part of a long-term commitment to environmental values on the part of my family. We didn't want to see the property subdivided and wanted to see the integrity of the wetland ecosystem maintained."

Lisa Brooks, a PWA volunteer who lives next to this property, observes, "This property constitutes a critical part of one of the best examples I have seen of a working northern New England ecosystem. It supports a substantial coyote family (who tend to sing pretty loudly during the late summer and fall) and an active

beaver pond, and contains a fine mix of habitat capable of supporting a multitude of inhabitants."

In addition to the coyote, the beaver, and the Wassermans (who have a house on the property), bear, moose, deer, mink, wild turkeys, grouse, snowshoe hare, and woodcock also claim the land as home. Their presence reflects not only the quality of the habitat on this property, but also the undeveloped nature of the surrounding lands, including one abutting 137-acre tract under easement to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF).

Lisa describes the marsh and beaver pond as "a hotbed of activity." There were five muskrat huts on the ice last

winter, two sites where turtles laid eggs, and raccoon tracks. "Several game trails run along the woods' edge parallel to the pond. In this area I located a porcupine den, with evidence of gnawing on a pine tree right near the den and a fox trail that passed by it."

A hotbed today, the pond has been around for a long time. Although the beaver influence water levels, ledge controls the outlet for what Gordon Russell believes is the oldest wetland in the Piscataquog's 220-square mile watershed. The Wasserman easement protects approximately 1,300' of shoreline on this ancient pond.

The North Branch flows through the property for approximately 1,900'. The easement creates a natural area along both sides of the river, to be left essentially undisturbed, off limits to logging.

The Wassermans sold the easement at half its fair market value. The William P. Wharton Trust, the Deering Conservation Commission, and two anonymous sources contributed the \$35,000 necessary to make this project happen. We are grateful to Rhoda, Bill, and Steve Wasserman for their commitment to conserving the land and to the funding sources that made its protection possible.

It is August. Bright flashes of red cardinal flowers proclaim brook! – beaver pond! – river! In the fields reverting to forest, the sun beats down. In the forested ravine through which the North Branch of the Piscataquog River flows, the temperatures are cool and refreshing.



Photo by Brian Hotz of SPNHF



Photo by Margaret Watkins



PWA OFFICE
(603) 487-3331
Administrative Director
Laurie Terwilliger

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Jed Callen
(603) 487-3823

Vice President
Pat Myers

Treasurer
Cheryl Christner

Secretary
Randy Parker

PWA Counsel
Jed Callen

Directors
John McCausland
Pat Nelson
Graham Pendlebury
Margaret Watkins

Directors Emeriti
Gordon Russell
Robert Todd

Newsletter Editor
Pat Nelson

COMMITTEES

Outreach
Pat Nelson
Len Allen•
Sarah Chaffee•
Rosemary Conroy•
Lisa Ferro•

Open Space
Graham Pendlebury
Kim DiPietro•
Gordon Russell•
Margaret Watkins
Jed Callen

Development
John McCausland
Len Allen•
Kathleen Ruddy Fey•
Margaret Watkins

Finance
Cheryl Christner
Margaret Watkins
Jed Callen
Peter deRoeth•

Purple Loosestrife Awareness (PLAC)
(603) 487-5114
Lyn Lombard•
Hannah Proctor•

Keeping Track Coordinator
Allison Thomson•
• member volunteer

PWA's 2002 Annual Meeting

About 80 people attended the 2002 annual meeting. The first order of business was to elect a new slate, which passed on a unanimous vote. New officers are:

President: Jed Callen

Vice President: Pat Myers Secretary: Randy Parker

In addition to reports from the treasurer and committee chairs, the meeting included several significant votes. The membership voted to raise Individual and Family dues by \$5 per year to \$20 and \$30 respectively. This is the first increase in recent memory and is needed to support our greater operating expenses with staff and office. Members also approved term limits. Board members will now be able to serve a maximum of two 3-year terms before they are required to take off at least a year. This strategy will serve two purposes:

1. Encourage other members to take an active role in PWA leadership. (Fresh ideas renew and invigorate any organization!)
2. Prevent burnout of Board members who feel they cannot resign if there is no one to step into their shoes.

If you want to learn more about the role of Board members, call Jed at 487-3823.

After the business meeting, the hungry hordes lined up for another gourmet spaghetti dinner prepared by volunteers under the direction of Cheryl Christner and Graham Pendlebury. A tasty addition was a hubbard squash with a design carved into its shell by Jon Brooks. The meal ended with a tantalizing smorgasbord of desserts brought by members.

After dinner, our guest speaker, Brewster Bartlett (a.k.a. Dr. Splatt) introduced us to URPs (Unidentified Roadside Pizza) and other expired roadside distractions that his students have been cataloging for the last 10 years. He also brought along a number of pelts and skulls and other mammalian paraphernalia.

Thanks to all who helped set-up, clean-up, and cook that fabulous dinner and make all those luscious desserts! Space does not permit listing all who helped make this event a success, but you know who you are — and so do we!

Thank You!

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS UNVEILED



Winners attending the PWA annual meeting were (left to right) Gail Parker, Beatrice Trum Hunter, Cat Pragoff, Jerry King

A centerpiece of the annual meeting was a display of entries from the PWA's first ever photo contest. Judges Cheryl Christner, Rosemary Conroy, and Gordon Russell took their job very seriously in making their selections.

Best in Show went to Sandra Grosfelt Peschke of Peterborough for her magnificent closeup of a great blue heron alighting in a marsh in Weare.

Other winners, by category, were:

Nature/Scenic

1st: Mary Lindstrom ~ Francestown

2nd: Jerry King ~ Weare

3rd: Beatrice Trum Hunter ~ Deering

Honorable Mention: Gail Parker ~ New Boston

People Enjoying the Watershed

1st: Cat Pragoff ~ Deering

2nd: Diana Sterling ~ Goffstown

All winners received a free 1-year membership. As space permits, we will feature photos in the newsletter and on the PWA website. A selection of photos will also tour local libraries next year, starting with New Boston and Francestown in January and February. Watch for a display in your town.

PWA is grateful to **Northeast Utilities System**, parent company of Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), for a grant to cover expenses related to the photo contest and the traveling photo display that will tour watershed libraries (space permitting) throughout the year. Thanks to Sarah Chaffee for her assistance in mounting the photos and captions, to Pat Nelson for coordinating the contest and setting up the display, to Joel & Cindy Stave for scanning and preparing the photos for publication, and to Lisa Ferro for posting the photos on our website.

PWA thanks these sponsors of the
2002 Annual Meeting:

Weare Animal Hospital
&
Henniker Veterinary Hospital

We appreciate their support and welcome business sponsorship of other events. Call Laurie at 487-3331 to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

The Year in Review

by Margaret Watkins, Outgoing President

This past year has been a year of growth. We hired Laurie Terwilliger as our first Administrative Director, opened an office in New Boston, recruited members to serve on revitalized committees, created a Development Committee, and engaged in several conservation initiatives while sustaining existing programs.

Laurie has enthusiastically assumed a number of responsibilities: working with volunteers, managing the office, working with the media, writing grant proposals, and coordinating membership drives.

The PWA has also grown by 40 percent – from 197 loyal members to 285! We are twice blessed to also receive matching funds for new memberships (see story on page 5).

Member contributions have helped sustain our work (see summary at right), as have contributions from the William P. Wharton Trust, the Deering Conservation Commission, the Land Trust Alliance, The Corporate Fund, the NH State Conservation License Plates fund, Northeast Utilities, the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, Bedford Wal-Mart, Normandeau Associates, the Weare Animal Hospital, and Henniker Veterinary Hospital.

As always, our volunteers have been essential to accomplishing the PWA's goals. It has been great to work with Laurie and the Board and the other PWA volunteers, members, and landowners whom I got to know during my three years as president. I look forward to the year ahead under Jed's able leadership!



Jed Callen presents Margaret Watkins with a book in honor of her three years of service as PWA president. Photo: Randy Parker

A Summary of Highlights for 2002

- The PWA protected 162 additional acres of land in the watershed.
- Volunteers monitored more than 1,000 acres of easement land.
- Volunteers monitored water quality at 13 sites and logged temperatures throughout the hot, dry summer.
- The Purple Loosestrife Awareness Committee continued releasing and monitoring *Galerucella* sp. beetles for loosestrife control.
- Five Keeping Track transects were maintained, and Susan Morse of Keeping Track, Inc. gave a training for new trackers.
- The PWA and St. Anselm College, in cooperation with Trout Unlimited and others, completed an innovative streambank restoration project.
- The PWA held its first photo contest and launched a website.
- Volunteers and staff presented educational programs for students and adults, including two *Voice of the Turtle* programs and the *Adopt-A-Salmon* curriculum in two schools.
- In cooperation with the NH Living Legacy Project, we launched the Piscataquog Watershed Conservation Project to identify ecologically rich areas.
- The Board completed a 4-year Development Plan, created with assistance from Benthien Associates, and has been working to implement it and other organizational goals.

~ See a message from our new President on page 5 ~



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"/> \$30 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Wood Turtle (Gift option: PWA fanny pack) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 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!

Tracking Trainees Treated to a Special Day

September 15 was the much-anticipated, daylong orientation hike with **Keeping Track, Inc.** founder Susan Morse of Jericho, Vermont. Despite a dire prediction for heavy rain, only two of the 13 registered people were deterred. Luckily, five hours passed with but one brief period of light drizzle. Five hours were spent learning the ways of river otter, mink, and raccoon, the vocalizations and communication games played by amorous moose, the multiple stories readable in footprints left in pliable muck.

Our watershed is home to a rich population of wildlife – wildlife needing connected spaces in which to live, in which to raise their offspring. The purpose of Keeping Track activities is to gather data and share it with landowners – all done with land protection in mind.

Allison Thomson, Graham Pendlebury, and Gordon Russell – all certified Keeping Track trackers from the PWA – planned, coordinated, and joined the training exercise, which was attended by the following participants (and hopefully future PWA trackers): *Lisa Brooks, Addie Ann Lambarth, Thomas Lee, Tripp Mikich, Maggie & Susan Minkiewicz, David Moffat, Karen Roy, Agnes Shellmer, and Carolyn & Byron Thresher.*

Following the hike, Susan presented an outstanding slide program that drove home the point that wildlife cannot exist without ample, connected forested habitat. Gordon and Barbara Russell hosted the gathering at their home in New Boston.

For information about Keeping Track or to get involved, call Gordon Russell at 487-2994.

Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped set up and tend the PWA booth at the Hillsborough County Fair: *Jed Callen, Ken Lombard, Lyn Lombard, Pat Myers, Pat Nelson, Randy Parker, Graham Pendlebury, Hannah Proctor, Paul Susca, Laurie Terwilliger, Allison Thomson, and Margaret Watkins.*

Thanks also to the following members who represented the PWA and initiated several activities at a town picnic on the site of the future New Boston library: *Jed Callen, Sara Callen, Katie Kachavos, Ken & Lyn Lombard, Randy & Gail Parker, and Gordon Russell.*



Pat Myers & Joel Stave identify moose barking.

**Think snow,
and join us for some of
the best tracking of the year!**

Sunday, December 1 (New Boston)
Call Graham at 487-2636

Sunday, December 8 (Weare)
Call Gordon at 487-2994

Sunday, December 15 (Weare)
Call Gordon at 487-2994

Saturday, January 4 (New Boston)
Call Graham at 487-2636

Sunday, January 12 (Dunbarton)
Call Margaret at 774-7120

**Dates are subject to change.
Call leaders to confirm.**

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!

A Message from Our New President...

Editor's Note: Jed Callen is no stranger to the PWA. When he moved to New Boston in 1992 to marry Carol Hess, she introduced him to the PWA – and he has served on the Board ever since! Jed and Carol are easement monitors and Jed also serves on the Open Space and Finance committees. After working with the EPA for 14 years on water pollution enforcement, Jed now practices land use and environmental law in Concord and also serves as PWA counsel.

I am honored and slightly intimidated by my election as President of the PWA. Honored, because of the tremendous respect I have for the things this tiny organization has already accomplished and the number of important projects it is currently undertaking. And intimidated, too, by the number of important projects we are doing and the larger list of things we would like to do.

This year is truly a "watershed" year for the PWA. For our first 30 years we functioned on the model of a hyperactive president and a tiny cadre of very active board members doing most of the work. Despite this dangerous organizational model, we pulled it off with phenomenal success. But the costs included some burned out Presidents, an exhausted Board, and a small membership that contributed financially, but perhaps wished to do more and were stymied because the board lacked time to even organize and utilize the energies and talents of willing members.

Over the last year, we have morphed into a larger organization with an office and paid staff. Several committees function largely independently of the Board, and we have broadened our base of active minds, hearts, and hands. To complete the transition to where we want to be, we must count on members to bring their experience, ideas, energies, and vision to the PWA. By the end of this year, we will know if we have hatched the new PWA too soon, or if we have birthed a real grassroots association that will grow and thrive. I am excited and a little scared by the prospect, but I believe we can do it.

What we need for success is you! Please call any board member or the office to volunteer for a project that appeals to you. There is no end of exciting work to be done, and virtually no limit to what we can do with your ideas and your energy. **Let us hear from you!**

"...we must count on members to bring their experience, ideas, energies, and vision to the PWA."

GRANTS DOUBLE NEW & INCREASED GIFTS

By now, you have received PWA's 2002 Annual Fund appeal. As we move toward playing a larger role in the watershed with paid staff, Annual Fund gifts are increasingly important to us.

This year, qualifying gifts can be doubled by one of two challenge grants of \$5,000 each from the Manchester Regional Community Foundation and the John F. and Dorothy H. McCabe Environmental Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation. These grants will match funds from all new sources as well as first-time or increased donations to the Annual Fund. We hope you will give generously to help us earn every penny of this \$10,000!

(psssst – a great gift idea!)

These days, many people are choosing charitable gifts as an alternative to the consumerism that marks American holidays and celebrations. A gift to PWA in honor of a family member or friend makes a statement that goes beyond the dollars – a statement about preserving rather than consuming, about serving the public good rather than personal indulgences.

If you know someone who loves the watershed, consider a gift membership or let them know that their membership will go twice as far if they join now.

Recent charitable gifts to the PWA in celebration of a wedding will be matched for a total of \$200! Such gifts are a gift to all of us who live, work, or play in the watershed. Thank you!





5A Mill Street
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.

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE

PAID

GOFFSTOWN, NH
PERMIT NO.10



YOUR ANNUAL FUND DONATION MAY BE DOUBLED BY A MATCHING GRANT! (See details on page 5.)

Welcome to Our New Members!

DONATIONS FROM ALL NEW SOURCES
WILL BE MATCHED BY A GRANT.

Brewster & Elizabeth Ames	Francestown
Ben G. Barkhouse**	Stamford, CT
Rev. Florent Bilodeau	Manchester
Bill & Polly Brendle	New Boston
Thomas Burke	Deering
David & Janet Chamberlain*	New Boston
Don & Sarah Chapman	New Boston
Matt & Julie Dillon	Goffstown
Hugh Donaghey	New Boston
Ed, Deb & Erin Gilligan	New Boston
Jim Hamilton*	Francestown
Beatrice Trum Hunter	Deering
Frank Leffman	Goffstown
Dick & Ann Ludders	Weare
Sandra Grosfelt Peschke	Peterborough
Meg & Gene Piana	Goffstown
Cat Pragoff	Deering
Christopher & Cindy Rawsley*	Antrim
David & Donna Reeder	New Boston
Dave & Karen Salerno**	New Boston
Agnes Shellmer	Goffstown
David Smith & Family	New Boston
Laura Starr-Houghton	Weare
Arthur Stickney	Deering
Dia Stolnitz	Goffstown
Byron & Carolyn Thresher	New Boston
Burr Tupper	New Boston

Member Renewals Since Last Newsletter

Richard Abbott & Terrie Wallace	New Boston	Louis & Carol Maynard	New Boston
Laurie & Dan Beaulieu	Weare	Irving T. & Elinor M. McDowell**	New Boston
Herbert K. Benedict	Francestown	Gary & Magaret Minkiewicz*	New Boston
Jed Callen & Carol Hess*	New Boston	Shirley H. Mulligan	Manchester
Sara Callen*	Sarasota, FL	Pat Myers & Carolyn Sheehan*	Weare
David & Laurette Carroll	Warner	Graham Pendlebury*	New Boston
Richard Cilley	Francestown	Pearle W. Preston	Goffstown
Mary B. Clapp	Goffstown	Derald & Barbara Radtke	Francestown
Harriet T. Cope	Francestown	Mary & John Reeves	New Boston
Brenda Dello Russo*	Hancock	John & Marge Rennie	Weare
Craig Dickstein	Weare	Karen & Michael Roy	Weare
Virginia Ellis	Parsippany, NJ	Barbara Sholl & Kevin McLarnon	New Boston
Gerald & Dona Fairbairn	New Boston	Lillian Sizemore*	York, ME
Bill Fredericks & Elaine Johnson	Goffstown	David Souter	Washington, DC
Liesel Gilman	Francestown	Joel & Cindy Stave	New Boston
Goffstown Community Garden Club*	Goffstown	Ronald & Julia Tams	New Boston
Don & Patricia Grosso	New Boston	Allison Thomson*	New Boston
Mary Koon & Floyd Guyette	New Boston	Robert Todd	New Boston
Frank & Jean Hanchett	Francestown	Joe Trimbur	New Boston
Warren & Emily Howarth	Francestown	David Trumble & Linda Taylor	Weare
Nancy & Thomas Inui	Indianapolis, IN	Patrick & Jeannine Tucker	Goffstown
John & Norma Japp	Weare		
Patricia & Joseph Kayal	Huntington Station, NY		
Gerald & Christine King	New Boston		
Addie Ann Lambarth	Goffstown		
Kirk & Judy Leon**	Weare		
Paul Livingston	Millbrae, CA		
Dwight & Heather Lovejoy**	New Boston		
Chester Masel	Everett, MA		

**Donation & gift membership in
celebration of the marriage of
Cynthia Crockett & Christopher Rawsley**

Karen Paul
Nancy Snell

* denotes extra contribution

** denotes contribution of \$100 or more