



OUR MISSION

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

IN THIS ISSUE

KEEPING TRACK
BONANZA
Page 2

PWA ADDRESSES
I-93 ISSUES
Page 3

WAL-MART GRANT
Page 3

PHOTOS TOUR
AREA LIBRARIES
Page 4

WHAT'S THE BOARD
BEEN DOING?
Page 5

LCHIP NEEDS
YOUR HELP!
Page 5

Volume 15, No. 1
January / February
2003



Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Our Only Native Trout – the Brook Trout by Gordon Russell

WHERE ARE THEY?

The 1940s and 1950s was a time when this fisherman's fly rod became a magic wand, a caster of memories. Oh, but you know fishermen...

The big ones that didn't get away get larger, and the facts of their catching get embellished. As years slip by, exaggerations become gospel. To check up on my own recollections of hours spent angling for brookies in our Piscataquog River during my younger days, I dusted off my father's old cache of photographs. I couldn't believe my eyes! For years I had failed the fisherman's credo. I hadn't stretched the truth enough!

There, even in their brown-hue condition, those photos shockingly restored truth to my memory: 12-inch to 15-inch native brook trout – several far too deep-of-belly to fit into the old wicker creels shown in each picture. (20 fish or 10 pounds was the limit in those days.) With the old photos cradled in each hand, the river spirit I hold so dearly within flooded me with questions I dared not attempt to answer.

FACT: The native brook trout are almost gone.

The PWA asks: *Is it possible to return the Eastern Brook Trout, in viable numbers, to portions of the Piscataquog River system?*

David Carroll, a valued member of the PWA and the 2002 recipient of the John Burroughs Medal for excellence in nature writing, writes in his magical book, *Trout Reflections*: "From my stand in a screen of alders I look upstream in time to see a splendid brook trout enter a shaft of light from the lowering sun. The perfect trout-form lights up in the water, its countless speckles gleaming. A speckled trout indeed, with flecks of gold, and those scattered spots of fiery red." David also writes: "The brook trout is life and landscape." I know what is in David's heart.



Where waters run black, where river banks are thick with rooty hiding places, where branches of great trees bend over the river and provide coolness, where cobbles and riffles invite nesting, where slow, soft bottoms bring forth insect hatches of fish-building nutrients, where active tributaries bring rich minerals to the river – these are the habitat requirements of brook trout.

FACT: More than 50 percent of the Piscataquog River system provides the basic habitat for brook trout.

These questions then arise:

- *Where are the native brook trout?*
- *Why did they disappear from much of the river?*
- *Can they be brought back?*

The New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, the Manchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the PWA are trying to answer these questions and take action to restore native fish populations. We'll keep you informed, but if you have questions in the meantime, please call Gordon at 487-2994.

Gordon Russell, director emeritus and former PWA president, is an active advocate for the river. In 2002, he generously underwrote the purchase of some new equipment for the PWA's expanded water quality testing program, which will help us monitor fish habitat.



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 Rutty-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

It Doesn't Get Much Better Than This!

Story and photographs by Joel Stave

December 8th in Weare's Melvin Valley was probably the best tracking session I've been on in five years of *Keeping Track* with PWA. Just how good was it? Here's an example: Near the end of the transect, we came across bobcat tracks – usually a cause for much rejoicing. We didn't stop. We didn't make a fuss. We took down the data and kept going. Why? Because it was the *fourth* bobcat trail we'd seen that day!

The day started out in the usual fashion – meeting for breakfast at the Good Neighbor Cafe in New Boston, where the tables in the back overlook the Piscataquog River. While we were eating, someone exclaimed, "Look, otters!" Everyone ran to the windows for a glimpse as two of the critters came swimming upstream. In hindsight, this was our first indication that the day would be an unusual one.

Another very welcome difference on this day was that, in addition to the four of us who usually go on this transect, we had eight new folks joining us. This made us a larger group than recommended by *Keeping Track* protocol, but new trackers are *always* welcome. Very welcome!

Conditions for tracking this day were close to perfect and we were all excited at the prospects.

A few inches of snow had fallen four days before and it had been cold and clear since. We knew anything that had moved through this area would leave good tracks.

The best surprise came quickly once we entered the woods. There in the snow at the foot of a boulder, following a trail of porcupine tracks, were the clear tracks of a large bobcat. We've not previously seen bobcat sign along this transect, so this was particularly exciting. Everyone gathered around to take measurements and photographs. The porcupine track was so good that we could even see the toe and nail prints – a fairly rare occurrence because Porky's tail dragging behind usually scuffs out that kind of fine detail.

This area proved to be a real bonanza. Just uphill from the bobcat/porcupine trail were moose tracks. These led us further up the slope to where we found four moose bed impressions in the snow. Nearby, moose tracks came

right up to a large boulder whose snow cap had been radically disturbed. What was this? After puzzling a bit, we determined that the moose must have used the boulder to scratch its chin. One clue was that Gordon Russell had actually seen a moose do this once. Also nearby was a spot on the snow where a moose had rolled, leaving a good-sized tuft of hair on a stick (*ouch!*).

The day had yet more gifts to offer. We found tracks and scat of many snowshoe hare, an important food source for bobcat and other predators. We also found tracks of coyote, red fox, otter, long-tailed weasel, ruffed grouse, and several fisher. One of the latter was the largest any of us has ever seen – even allowing for the tendency of tracks to enlarge in snow. We could tell it wasn't just a small fisher with really big feet by measuring the stride and straddle, that is, the distance between the tracks front-to-back and side-to-side, respectively.



The best surprise came quickly once we entered the woods. There in the snow at the foot of a boulder, following a trail of porcupine tracks, were the clear tracks of a large bobcat.



Top: Pat Myers & Allison Thomson recording animal tracks and record data for the *Keeping Track* database.

Bottom: Measuring bobcat tracks.

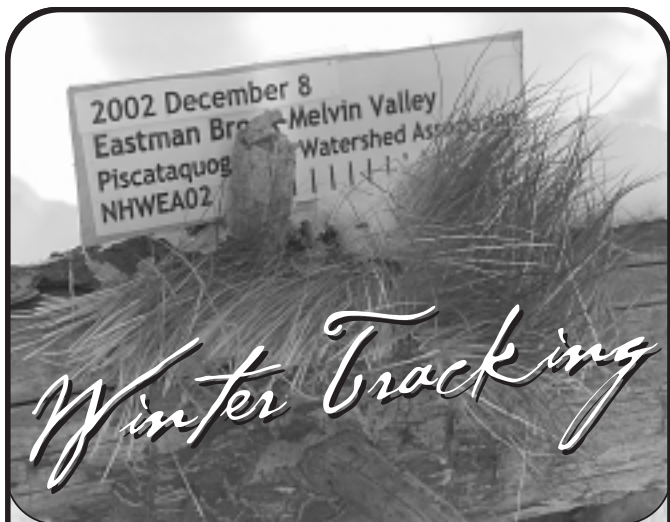
Finally, propelling what was already an extraordinary day even further into the record books, we found three more sets of bobcat tracks. These were clearly from a different sized animal than the first set. This poses the question: Will we find little bobcat prints here next year?

A find-by-find description of this day cannot begin to capture the thrill of the experience, of looking at an area and seeing a story played out – whether it's moose having a good

scratch after waking up, or a predator veering off to follow the trail of potential prey. It's an experience made all the more special by knowing that *Keeping Track* documentation of our wild neighbors can also contribute to protecting the habitat on which they depend. And they are not the *only* ones who are nurtured by these wild places!

Joel Stave has been a member of the PWA's Keeping Track team since its inception and training in 1996-1997. When not tracking job opportunities in his currently endangered field of computer engineering, he has also been of invaluable assistance with technical matters in the PWA office.

*Help nurture the wild places
– new trackers are always welcome!*



A good-sized tuft of moose hair found by *Keeping Trackers* on December 8th in Weare's Melvin Valley. Photograph by Joel Stave

The best
tracking months
are here!

All are welcome to join us!

Sunday, February 16 (Weare)
Call Gordon at 487-2994

Saturday, February 22 (New Boston)
Call Graham at 487-2636

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

Sunday, March 16 (Weare)
Call Gordon at 487-2994

Sunday, March 23 (Dunbarton)
Call Margaret at 774-7120

Dates are subject to change.
Call leaders to confirm.

PWA Speaks to I-93 Expansion

The Piscataquog Watershed Association joined several local conservation commissions in recommending that the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) put more money into land conservation as mitigation for negative environmental impacts resulting from DOT's proposal to double the width of I-93 from the Massachusetts border to Manchester. We also argued that this funding should be made available to the so-called "secondary impact towns" – towns that will experience growth as a result of the expansion, but which are not in the I-93 corridor.

Wal-Mart Gives Grant for Water Quality Monitoring

The PWA was awarded a \$500 Environmental Grant from Wal-Mart to partially fund the purchase of water quality testing equipment that is needed to effectively monitor changes in water quality along the 65-mile length of the river.

In 2002 the PWA increased the number of test sites and volunteer monitors, but we need our own equipment. Currently, we must borrow water quality testing kits from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), which has a limited number of kits to be shared by all organizations that do water testing in the state.

The logistics of having to borrow a kit has limited our testing program to a minimum of locations and sampling dates. Our goal is to be able to test many locations along the river once or twice per month to obtain a more accurate picture of the changes in chemical properties of the water throughout the year. We hope that data from the program can also be used to help reestablish native fish in some sections of the river. However, it is unlikely that we can achieve this goal without our own water quality testing equipment.

The PWA hopes to raise money to purchase this equipment through donations from businesses and individuals. To learn more about the Water Quality Monitoring program and how you can become involved, please call Laurie at 487-3331.



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) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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!

PWA Photos Tour Local Libraries

A display featuring entries in the PWA's 2002 photo contest has begun touring local libraries, thanks to a grant from Northeast Utilities, the parent company of Public Service of NH.

All of the entries are on display in New Boston during January. February is Francestown's turn. PWA will be doing a 2003 membership drive in Francestown and Weare, so this is a good opportunity to take your nonmember friends to the library for a colorful introduction.

Displays will vary from town to town, depending on the space available. The schedule for the next few months is:

February Francestown
March Henniker
April Dunbarton
May Weare

You can also see the winning photographs on our website at www.pwa-nh.org.



Photograph by Christopher J. Levin, Piscataquog River, New Boston.

River Temperatures Now Online

Thanks to John Magee and our enhanced water quality testing program, a report citing last summer's river temperatures is now posted on our website at:

www.pwa-nh.org.

We will print a summary in a future newsletter.

Good News about Matching Grants!

Thanks to a number of new memberships and new or increased annual fund donations, the PWA has met the \$5000 matching grant challenge made last spring by the Manchester Regional Community Foundation!

We hope that new business sponsorships and this spring's membership drives in Weare and Francestown will take us over the top to fulfill a second \$5000 challenge grant from the John F. and Dorothy H. McCabe Environmental Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

A heartfelt *THANK YOU* to all who helped us meet this goal!

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!

PWA Board is Never Bored!

by Jed Callen, PWA President

Your Board of Directors has been very busy! At the November board meeting, we learned about board recruitment and fundraising from Lars Botzjorns of Keeping Track, Inc. in Vermont. Lars shared ideas about expanding our board and attracting new board members with the skills and interests we need to continue to grow and thrive. At an extended December meeting, the Board conducted an indepth self-assessment under the guidance of Elizabeth Wroblecka from the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a national organization that has developed standards for land trusts. Several years ago, recognizing the need for more rigor in our land protection procedures, the Board had adopted the LTA's standards and practices. In the process of doing so, we noted some gratifying strengths and some relative weaknesses in our past practices. By participating in this recent guided self-assessment, we were able to identify areas where we remain strong (for example, our clear mission and effective programs), areas where we have improved (expanded membership), and areas where we still need improvement (stewardship of our owned parcels). We have not yet received the LTA's summary report of the December assessment, but we feel very good about where we are, and we gained important clarity about the areas that we need to develop. We will share a summary of the results with you when we receive them.

Another area where we have improved, but need to do more work, is in recruiting and training volunteers. All of our committees and projects need more volunteers, including the following:

- **Outreach** (public events, publicity, education, newsletter)
- **Open Space** (land protection, easement monitoring)
- **Development** (fundraising, planning, membership development)
- **Water Quality** (monitoring)
- **Keeping Track** (wildlife monitoring)
- **Special Projects** (Living Legacy, restoring native fish populations)

If you know someone (including yourself) who has an interest in any of these activities, please call me or any board member with your ideas. We will hold a get-acquainted meeting for those interested in learning more about taking an active role in the PWA.

In January the board discussed the 2003 work plan, which will determine the projected 2003 budget and in turn help shape our 2003 fundraising plan.

It is not easy to run and grow an effective land trust and watershed association. But it is a lot easier with many heads and many hands. Please offer us yours.

Please VOLUNTEER for a PWA committee or special project.

4

Simple Ways

Urgent
LCHIP
Alert!

You Can Help Keep LCHIP Alive

Citizens for New Hampshire Land & Community Heritage, a coalition of 136 environmental, civic, and business organizations created to increase awareness and public spending to conserve land and historic buildings, has been meeting informally with key legislators about LCHIP funding. The common message: LCHIP is a valuable program, but the state is facing a severe budget deficit. LCHIP may receive NO FUNDS or be severely cut.

Governor Benson's biennial budget will be released on February 15th. He and elected representatives of Piscataquog watershed towns need to hear from us that this program is vitally important to our communities.

How you can help:

- 1 Send email to the governor at benson@nh.gov or from this webpage: <http://www.state.nh.us/governor/suggestions.html>
- 2 Write to **Governor Craig Benson, 107 North Main Street, Rm 208-214, Concord, NH 03301-4990.**
- 3 Call the governor's office at **603-271-2121** or **800-852-3456** (from within NH only.)
- 4 Contact your state representatives. Names and contact information is at www.gencourt.state.nh.us/whosmyleg.

Keep your message brief. Talking points:

- LCHIP is a great return on investment. Historically, \$1 granted is matched by \$4.42.
- LCHIP protects New Hampshire's "quality of life" business advantage.
- Tourism, a huge factor in the state's economy, depends on NH's legendary scenery and charming, historic villages.
- Historic preservation yields economic benefits. Every dollar invested in a Main Street program generates an economic multiplier of \$35.
- Protected land helps communities control property taxes. Residential development has proven to be a net tax loser.

YOUR COMMENTS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

~ RALLY ~ Thursday, February 20, from 11am - 1pm

Citizens is planning a rally and legislative lunch in **Concord at the NH Historical Society's Tuck Library, 30 Park Street.**

Their goal: Pack the library to demonstrate widespread LCHIP support. For more information, visit www.specialplaces.org.



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

Help keep the watershed beautiful...

URGENT: Let the governor know that LCHIP funding is critical to New Hampshire's quality of life. (See details on page 5.)

*Urgent
LCHIP
Alert!*



Photograph by Jill J. Salutric, Piscataquog River along Henry Bridge Road in Goffstown.

Welcome to Our New Members!

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

Michael Amaral & Family	Warner
Pam & Eric Lorimer*	Francestown
Maureen Mansfield	New Boston
Ken & Jane Marcks**	New Boston
Lorraine Miller	New Boston
Linda Morse & Family	Dunbarton
Donald & Ruth Normandeau**	Goffstown
Stephen Walker & Family	Deering
George & Betty Watkins	Walpole
Janet White	New Boston

Member Renewals Since Last Newsletter

Susan & David Avery	Francestown	Martha McGinley	New Boston
Brenda Bhatti*	Jaffrey	Pete & Sheri Moloney*	New Boston
Frank Bolton, Jr.	Weare	Robert & Margorie Moreau	New Boston
Charles & Martha Boswell	Francestown	George & Jean Newton	Framingham, MA
Lisa Brooks	Deering	William Orcutt	Manchester
Montague & Meeta Brown	Weare	Ellen Musinsky & Diane Padilla*	Weare
Audrey Caskie	Walpole, MA	Glenn & Charlotte Price	Weare
Rosemary & Christopher Conroy	Goffstown	Hannah Proctor*	Francestown
Frederick Daggett	New Boston	Dr. Priscilla Reinertsen	Dunbarton
Catherine D'Agostino	Goffstown	Harry & Hollis Rogers*	Brookline
Richard & Linda DesRosiers	Goffstown	George Sanderson*	Deering
Paul & Deborra Doscher*	Weare	Joseph & Kelley Spoerl	Goffstown
Janet Falcone*	Goffstown	Tom & Joyce Sullivan	New Boston
Erik & Kathleen Fey	New Boston	Larry & Pia Sunderland*	Deering
George & Karen Fountain	New Boston	J. Marcel & Carol Swiech	New Boston
Emily Hague	Winchester	Patricia Thompson	Lincoln, MA
Tom Hanley	Goffstown	George & Rose Thomson*	Greenfield
Taisto & Sirkka Holm	Francestown	O. Alan & Barbara Thulander**	Francestown
James & June Howe	Cambridge, MA	Joan & Ed Tiffany*	Boston, MA
Debra Ives	New Boston	Alicia Walker	Weare
Peter Kostecki	Francestown	Barry & Lois Wicklow	Francestown
Brenda Lind & Eugene Kelly	New Boston	Carolyn Woodbury	Francestown
Herbert Little	Concord		
David Loranger	Goffstown		

* denotes extra contribution

** denotes contribution of \$100 or more



*Where have all
the brookies
gone...?
...and can we
get them back?*

See cover story.