



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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Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

by Margaret Watkins

Cell towers will never rise from the highest hill in Weare. Alicia Walker and two of her sons, all trustees of the Alicia R. Walker Trust, have donated a conservation easement to the PWA on 114 acres of largely forested upland off Mount Dearborn Road. By putting an easement on their land, they have ensured that no commercial or industrial development will ever occur on the property. The property includes the Mount Dearborn summit, elevation 1211'. Acquired by Alicia and Ray Walker in 1963, the land and 220-year-old house on it were home to the six Walker children, all of whom agreed with their mother about protecting the land.

"Back when the Dearborns owned this property, they used to entertain guests with lavish picnics on the top of Mount Dearborn," recounts Alicia. "When we moved here, my sons cleared the road up the hill that the Dearborns had built for hauling up picnic supplies in horse-drawn wagons. The kids used it for skiing."

The easement property straddles Mount Dearborn Road. Last summer Alicia reclaimed a field across the road from the house, where a Christmas tree plantation and other trees were encroaching on it. The field adds habitat diversity and enhances the extraordinarily scenic vista to the south from Mount Dearborn Road.

Last year, Alicia hired a forester to oversee a timber harvesting operation, which was guided by a Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. Under the terms of the easement, timber harvesting will continue to be allowed, subject to goals similar to those in the Forest Stewardship Plan for protecting wildlife and water quality and promoting sustainable harvesting practices.

Oak, beech, and hemlock are dominant species, providing excellent habitat in terms of food and cover. The property serves as a corridor for wildlife passing through Weare to Franconstown.

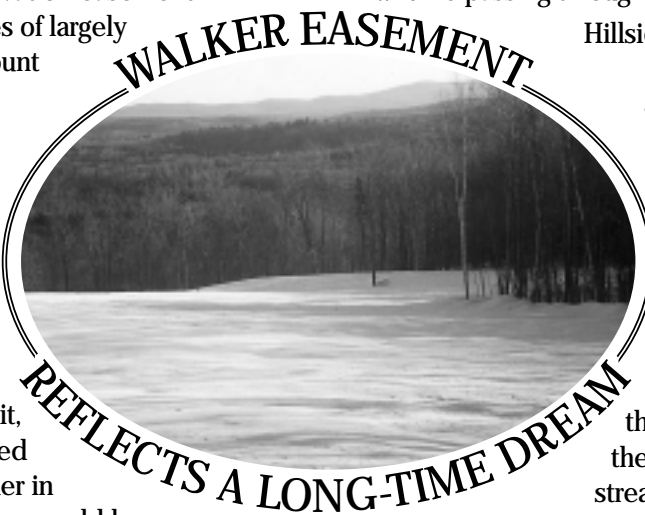
Hillside Brook, a tributary of Peacock Brook, where another PWA conservation effort is currently underway, originates on the property. Although people tend to focus on the lower reaches of many streams and rivers because they are so conspicuous, the diminutive headwater streams typically are highly productive, biologically, and require at

least as much or more protection as downstream reaches. (*As one biologist put it, an alder leaf that falls into a tributary high up in the watershed becomes a bass in the river's mainstem.*)

Alicia's affection for the land runs deep. Reflecting on the easement, Alicia says "It makes me feel very good and very content. I know the land will always be here."

We are grateful to Alicia and her family for their generous gift to future generations of Weare residents, both human and animal. A grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation covered survey costs, for which we are also very appreciative.

Margaret Watkins lives in Dunbarton and, as an active member of the PWA's Open Space Committee, has been instrumental in helping landowners protect many acres of land in the watershed.



UNESCO has named 2003
the International Year
of Fresh Water.



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Land Trust Alliance Board Assessment Results

by Jed Callen

In December 2002, the Board was guided through a rigorous assessment process by a representative from the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a nation-wide association of land trusts, of which PWA is a member, that sets standards and provides assistance to local land trusts such as the PWA. We have received the LTA's report, and the results are both gratifying and helpful. The assessment identified numerous areas in which the PWA excels, such as the clarity of our mission, and most impressively, the efficiency and effectiveness of our land protection efforts. We have truly done so much, so well, with so little throughout our 32-year history.

The two areas in which we identified needs were no surprise because we have already been working to improve upon them. We need to do a better job of recruiting, training, and retaining Board members. We

Your increased involvement...can be the Biggest Improvement of the Year!

preferably from our pool of active volunteers. Ideally, an expanded Board would have representatives from most watershed towns, and would include individuals with skills in fundraising and membership recruitment as well as a passion for the river.

We also want to formalize a number of policies, including those related to financial management, management of our owned lands, and a plan for response to any easement violations. These improvements are important, and achievable. Your increased involvement as a dues paying member, committee volunteer, Board member, or easement donor, can be the biggest improvement of the year!

Jed Z. Callen, president of the PWA, lives in New Boston.

Covert Activities in the Watershed

by Brian Rohde

Although the name is misleading, the UNH Cooperative Extension Coverts Project is not intended to be "secret, clandestine, or furtive." In fact, the more people know about it and participate in it, the better! Pronounced like "cover" with a "t", the word covert means "a thicket that provides shelter for wild animals." Each year the Coverts Project trains volunteers to work to promote wildlife habitat conservation and forest stewardship. The project has two goals:

- ✱ To enhance, restore, and conserve habitat for the rich diversity of wildlife in New Hampshire.
- ✱ To increase the amount of New Hampshire's public and private land managed with a stewardship ethic.

Every year 25 volunteers are selected for a 3 1/2 day training session. When I attended in 1996, along with PWA member and tracker Brenda Bhatti, we spent half of each day inside learning about wildlife and forest management, conservation, and good stewardship. After lunch we went on field trips to study aspects of what we had learned in the morning session. Evenings were filled with engaging discussions about what good stewardship is and how we felt about what we'd seen on the field trip.

All expenses are paid by the UNH Cooperative Extension and several other sponsors. In exchange, participants agree to work in their communities to motivate others to become stewards of the state's wildlife and forest resources. I especially enjoyed meeting the other participants and the team of very well qualified natural resource experts who were our instructors. Lasting friendships were made and I continue to see many of my Coverts classmates at workshops, demonstrations, projects, and reunions.

Coverts is a great program, and I urge anyone interested to contact **Malin Clyde at 603-862-2166 or malin.clyde@unh.edu.**

For more information about the Coverts Project, visit:

<http://ceinfo.unh.edu/forestry/documents/nhcovrts.htm>



PWA member Brian Rohde lives in Peterborough and is active in the PWA's Keeping Track program.

The word
covert means
"a thicket that
provides
shelter for
wild animals."

PWA *Living Legacy* Update

by Margaret Watkins

Announcing Two Spring Workshops*

Like woodchucks and bats, the PWA's Living Legacy project is emerging from hibernation. U.S. Forest Service funds awarded to the project last spring, and then diverted for other purposes, have been redirected to it. These funds will enable Dan Sundquist of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to conduct a landscape analysis of the watershed using the latest computerized natural resources data (including data generated by PWA trackers) and will support efforts to refine the analysis, generate additional information, map ecologically significant areas, and develop a conservation plan for the watershed.

Work on the conservation plan will begin this spring. It will focus on the development of computer-generated, mapped information. The maps will highlight ecologically significant areas of importance to wildlife, plant diversity, ecological integrity, and waterways. Local knowledge, existing information from past studies, and likely additional field work will be used to verify and enhance the mapped information.

In addition to continued Keeping Track wildlife assessments and coordinated efforts with St. Anselm College watershed studies, to date two activities have been planned to help train PWA members to gather new information.

VERNAL POOLS
* **On Saturday, April 12, a Vernal Pool Workshop** will be held from 6:30-9 PM (ideal fairy shrimp spotting time) at St. Anselm College's 100 Acres and adjacent lands in New Boston. Living Legacy Project Coordinator Ellen Snyder, Dr. Barry Wicklow of St. Anselm College, and Laura Deming of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire will help identify "herps" and explain how to report sightings through the state's Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program (RAARP). Participants will be encouraged to scout out vernal pools on their own and report findings to the PWA and RAARP.

NIGHTJARS
* **On Tuesday, May 13, from 7-9 PM, the Audubon Society of NH will hold a Nightjar Survey Training** at the Dunbarton Town Offices to help with bio-inventory efforts. Both the Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk are birds of conservation concern in New Hampshire. Participants will be asked to conduct evening roadside surveys using call playback during the period from mid-May to early July. Each survey route will be 4.5 miles long with 10 stops. Volunteers will need to cover the route at least three times during the survey period.

There is no fee for either program, but please call the PWA office for details and to pre-register so that we can plan accordingly.

With information from these activities in hand, we plan next year to engage landowners in discussions of issues relating to stewardship and management of significant habitats and natural resource features. Each conservation commission and open space committee in the watershed will receive a copy of the conservation plan and maps.

The Living Legacy Project is a public-private partnership coordinated by the UNH Cooperative Extension. Statewide partners include the Division of Forests and Lands, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the Fish & Game Department, The Nature Conservancy, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

LATE SPRING TRACKING



Late Spring tracking reveals an artful composition of moss and moose drops. Photograph by Cindy Stave

NOVICES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO JOIN US!

Saturday, May 31 (New Boston)

Call Graham at 487-2636

Sunday, June 8 (Dunbarton)

Call Margaret at 774-7120

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

New Treasurer Joins PWA Board

No one, not even Cheryl Christner, remembers how long she has ably served the PWA as both Board member and Treasurer – probably close to 15 years. Cheryl has elected to take a well-deserved break, resigning these prominent positions. Cheryl never cooked our books, but those who have attended recent annual meeting dinners know what a great cook she is! The PWA has also benefitted from Cheryl's many artistic talents over the years. (Check out the batiked PWA banner and the stenciled curtains the next time you visit the PWA office.) We will miss her on the Board, but hope she will continue to share her culinary and artistic gifts with us.

In the wake of Cheryl's departure, we are indeed fortunate to have Diane Beland of Weare join the PWA Board as our new Treasurer (contingent on the membership's vote of approval at the 2003 annual meeting). Diane has extensive accounting and bookkeeping experience, and also serves as treasurer for two other not-for-profit organizations. Diane loves the outdoors and looks forward to this opportunity to contribute to the PWA.

THANKS TO OUR MANY SUPPORTERS!

The PWA values the generosity and support of its members and donors. At this time, we especially thank those who contributed to the 2002 Annual Fund and in other ways.

2002 ANNUAL FUND **(Gifts Received as of March 1, 2003)**

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WASSERMAN PROJECT

Anonymous
Deering Conservation Commission

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Sarah Uhl

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Donna F. Chase, D.V.M.

Town & Country Animal Hospital

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603-487-2520

Please let this sponsor
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at 487-3331.



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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 ☐ \$30 Family ☐ \$100 Wood Turtle (Gift option: PWA fanny pack)
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THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED HELP IN PROTECTING THE WATERSHED!

Local LCHIP Grant Awarded

by Margaret Watkins

Congratulations to the Frankestown Conservation Commission for their successful application to the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)! Although the \$287,500 award was less than requested, the Commission is continuing efforts to acquire full fee and easement interests in 1,015 acres in and around Shattuck Pond, an undeveloped 25-acre pond near the Deering/Frankestown line in an incredibly rich wetlands/upland complex. This ambitious project includes three target properties and eight match properties, including an easement on 200 acres of the Crotched Mountain Ski Area.

The Shattuck Pond project was one of 85 proposals received and 42 projects selected for the \$6.8 million in LCHIP grants. This was the fourth competitive grant round. Nearly \$16 million was requested, and many valuable projects went unfunded. To date, LCHIP has funded 110 projects in 88 communities. The \$6.8 million in state funds provided through Round 4 leveraged approximately \$23 million from municipal, private, foundation, and federal sources.

This was LCHIP's last grant round unless the legislature appropriates additional funds. The governor's budget allocated \$8 million for the program over two years – more than it might have, thanks to letters, emails, and calls from citizens and local leaders. The citizens' advocacy group for LCHIP, of which PWA is a member, is asking advocates to urge their legislators to raise the LCHIP appropriation to \$12 million over the next two years. This would match last session's appropriation and provide level funding to what is clearly a very effective and popular program. To find out who your representatives are, go to www.state.nh.us/government and click on House of Representatives or Senate under Legislative Branch; then click on Who's my Legislator.

Your efforts DO make a difference!

Contact your representatives now.

Citizens for NH LCHIP (www.specialplaces.org) is also asking business leaders to sign a letter of support for LCHIP. If you are a business leader, or know prominent leaders in the business community, please contact Citizens at 230-9729. To sustain the grassroots campaign for level funding costs, Citizens welcomes contributions payable to **Citizens c/o SPNHF, PO Box 1566, Concord, NH 03302-1566**.

Action Alert: Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act has been protecting the waters of our nation for 30 years. A recent proposal by the EPA and the Corps of Engineers would weaken the Act and remove protection for wetlands, tributaries, streams, and vernal pools – as much as 20 percent of our remaining U.S. wetlands.

You can send a letter through the American Rivers' Take Action Center to urge the Administration to ensure that all waters remain protected by the Clean Water Act. The deadline for public comments has been extended until April 16.

www.americanrivers.org/takeaction

In addition, a proposed Clean Water Authority Restoration Act would override the new regulations that weaken the existing Act. Please urge your congressmen to support this bill (S.2780 in the Senate and HR 5194 in the House.)

Senator Gregg: 202-224-3324

Senator Sununu: 202-224-2841

Representative Bass: 202-225-5206

Representative Bradley: 202-225-5456

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!

Did You Know . . . the United States placed 12th in a 2003 UNESCO report on drinking water in 122 countries. Frontrunners include Canada, Japan, Russia, France, and South Korea, among others. The research behind the report noted access to freshwater, especially groundwater, the handling of freshwater, and pollution defenses.

Meet a Few New Volunteers!

by Laurie Terwilliger

Wouldn't it be great if every person in the watershed were a member of the PWA?

Jane Marcks thinks so and she is teaming with Gordon Russell to spread the word. Jane recently moved to New Boston from Florida where she worked as a recruiter in the high-tech industry and as state and federal workplace campaign director with the United Way. Jane heard about the PWA while attending a Newcomers party sponsored by the New Boston Library. It didn't take long before Jane signed on as a PWA member and volunteer.

"I decided to become a member because I like the goals and mission of the organization and also the people involved with it," says Jane. "Volunteering was an easy next step. Having been active as a volunteer in Florida, I wanted to become involved with the community of New Boston."

Working with the Development and Outreach Committees, Jane will be contacting members throughout the watershed to **ask about hosting a house party**. A house party is an opportunity for PWA members to invite their nonmember friends and neighbors over to learn about the PWA. Gordon Russell will share his extraordinary slide show and stories about the watershed. If you would like to host one of these informal gatherings or know nonmembers who would like to attend, **call Jane at 487-3840 or Laurie at 487-3331**. Jane will also arrange programs for local service clubs or organizations that are interested in learning more about the PWA.

Also hard at work lately behind the scenes are **Paula Stockinger** and **Laura Starr-Houghton**. Paula has been helping to organize our land protection files, and Laura is compiling information on funding sources.

Welcome and thank you to our new volunteers!

Ferrin Pond Nature Walk on April 26

PWA member Brenda Dello Russo will lead a 2.6-mile walk around Ferrin Pond in Weare. Brenda was one of two PWA interns who mapped the trails and prepared the Ferrin Pond Trail Guide (available at the PWA office) when she was a student at St. Anselm College, so she has intimate knowledge of this special place. Questions? Call Brenda at 525-3565.

Parking is limited at Ferrin Pond. Please meet at the gazebo (bandstand) in the center of Weare on Routes 77/114 at 10:00 AM. The walk should last about two hours, depending on what captures our interest.

Raindate: Saturday, May 17



Each spring the PWA seeks to grow new members by sowing PWA events in different towns in the watershed. Last year the spring membership drive focused on Goffstown and Deering with a bountiful yield of 79 new members – an increase of almost 40 percent. This year, the PWA is preparing ground to grow new members in Fracestown and Weare by hosting several events during April and May.

In Fracestown, Len and Meredith Allen are coordinating a series of house parties in the homes of PWA members. At these events, Gordon Russell will present a slideshow and talk about the watershed and its challenges, and a board member will speak about the PWA's current work. An opportunity for questions and discussion will be followed by an invitation to join the PWA.

House parties are also planned for Weare. In addition, PWA Board member and Development Committee chair ***John McCausland will host a program about the PWA on the Weare cable television channel,*** which is accessible to 1500+ subscribers. The PWA will also have a booth and activities at several town events, including Weare's pre-July 4 patriotic celebration and the Labor Day fair in Fracestown. In both towns, residents who live along the Piscataquog River and its tributaries will receive invitations in the mail to join the PWA.

The membership drive is part of a plan to build the PWA so that it can effectively fulfill its mission to protect the natural and scenic environment of our watershed. ***Please invite your friends and neighbors to "spring" into action and join the PWA!***



5A Mill Street
New Boston, NH 03070
pwa@pwa.nh.com
www.pwa-nh.org

RED STRIPE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL?
It's time to renew your membership!
Please use the form on page 5.

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Photograph by Jerry King



Saturday, April 12 from 6:30-9 PM

Vernal Pools Workshop in New Boston

Saturday, April 26 at 10 AM

Guided walk around Ferrin Pond, Weare

Tuesday, May 13 at 7-9 PM

Nightjar Survey Training, Dunbarton

See pages 3 and 7 for details.

Welcome to Our New Members!

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

Diane & Alan Beland	Weare
Tom Carr	Weare
Robert & Donna Chase	New Boston
Sean, Julianne & Ian Combs	Weare
Country Brokers Real Estate*	Francetown
Diane & Charlie Curran	Francetown
Tim & Amy Doherty**	New Boston
Michael & Michele Ferencsik	Francetown
Diane Fortier & Richard Kaeser	New Boston
Andy Fulton	Weare
Steve & Jan Griffin	Francetown
Michael Manna	Weare
Jim & Sue McCarthy**	Cambridge, MA
Tom & Joyce Sullivan	New Boston

Member Renewals Since Last Newsletter

Elizabeth Aksten	New Boston	Jeremy & Carolynne Shinn	Weare
Gloria Andrews	Chichester	Jess & Palma Smith	Weare
Jon & Jami Brooks*	New Boston	Barbara Uhl Stewart & Thomas Noel**	New Boston
Don Burns	New Boston	Robert & Lorraine Terry	Peterborough
Jesse Butler	Salem, OR	Susan & Bill Tucker	Goffstown
Sarah Chaffee	Manchester	Harold & Constance Varnum	Francetown
Cheryl Christner & Tim White	New Boston	Lauren Warner & Keith Robinson	Deering
Stuart Clark	New Boston	Margaret Watkins*	Dunbarton
Kim & Ed DiPietro	Francetown	Candace & David Woodbury	New Boston
Ellen Dokton	Weare	Phil & Jane Workman*	New Boston
Dorothy Eisenhaure	New Boston		
Mr. & Mrs. William Ford	Hooksett		
Charles & Mary Louise Gould	New Boston		
Ruth Jones	Weare		
Kathryn Kachavos	New Boston		
Thomas & Barbara Lally	Goffstown		
Evelyn Lamson	Goffstown		
Charles Lantz	Troy, NY		
Lois M. & Richard F. Leavitt	Francetown		
Ken & Lyn Lombard*	New Boston		
Leslie Nixon & Lee Nyquist	New Boston		
Roland Pendlebury	Westford, MA		
Jim & Jane Raymond	Goffstown		
Bobby Reeve	Weare		
Carol & William Russell*	Francetown		
Judith Russell**	Goffstown		

* denotes extra contribution

** denotes contribution of \$100 or more



Photograph by Cat Pragoff