



## 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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2003



# Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**Imagine** Now put that property along a quiet close to 200 acres country road in a southern of prime forest land with New Hampshire a stream coursing through town growing at a corner of the property, rate that puts it beaver ponds, and an in the top 10% old road running among all towns in the through it. state. For a developer, that property is a gold mine. For a conservationist, it has the feel of a lost cause –

*unless* you are working with landowners who love the land and want to see it maintained as a forest resource forever.

Nora and John "Tut" Tuthill are just such landowners. They purchased the property in 1968 and have retained ownership over the years, although they do not live in the area. Last year the New Boston Open Space Committee contacted the Tuthills to see whether they might be interested in permanently protecting their land. Both Nora and Tut were interested, as were their four sons. The OSC asked the PWA for assistance, and members of both organizations joined the family for a memorable walk through the property one sunny day last fall. Efforts to protect the land were underway when Tut died unexpectedly in February. Although Nora has myriad things to deal with, she has remained attentive to the details of protecting their land and is determined to see the project through as quickly as possible.

When asked why they were so supportive of protecting the land, Nora replied, "The same old reason everybody does it – *because we believe we should preserve as much land as we can before it gets gobbled up* [by development]."

With considerable assistance from the Tuthill Woodlands Preservation Group, spearheaded by PWA member Tom Pine, the PWA and OSC have raised the bulk of the \$30,000 selling price, which is exactly the amount the Tuthills paid for the property 40 years ago, plus closing costs. We hope to raise additional funds, for a total of \$40,000, to cover a sign at the entrance and a small endowment for management.

## The Tuthill Woodlands Preserve

by Margaret Watkins



Tom Pine crouches in the well-preserved cellar hole.  
Photo by Margaret Watkins

The property is known locally as the Gregg lot. Originally granted by the King of England to Andrew Walker, the property was later acquired by the Gregg family, likely a branch of the Greggs who operated the Gregg mills on the Middle Branch of the Piscataquog River. Today the only trace of those early Greggs on the property is some magnificent stonework outlining where buildings, lanes, and pastures lay. The old road through the property also has beautiful stonework at culvert crossings.

Continued on page 2



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Laurie Terwilliger

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(603) 487-5114  
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Hannah Proctor•

##### **Keeping Track Coordinator**

Allison Thomson•

• member volunteer

## **WANTED LOOSESTRIFE LOOKOUTS**

In late June we received 500 beetles to feed on 50 netted loosestrife pots. They are busy at work creating a new generation of beetles for release at about the time this newsletter reaches you. To recap, each of the 50 pots should have roughly 500 beetles for us to distribute to targeted areas of the watershed. Unfortunately many of last year's beetles didn't survive the very wet spring, so we will also continue releasing in the same areas.

You can help the Purple Loosestrife Awareness Committee (PLAC) by keeping an eye out in your area of the watershed for the purple menace, and reporting its presence to Hannah Proctor (547-2816) or Lyn Lombard (487-5114). **Remember to look for a plant with spiky purple flowers on a square stem (from one to six feet tall) with opposing leaves at each leaf node along the stem.**

When calling us about your sighting, please be as exact about its location as possible. We plan to record every loosestrife location in the watershed using GPS mapping. Also, if you'd like to help release the beetles, please call either Hannah or Lyn as soon as possible.

The PWA website includes information about Purple Loosestrife and the PWA's program to combat it, plus links to related sites that provide tips for identification and summaries of promising results where beetles have been used for control at other locations. [www.pwa-nh.org/purple\\_loosestrife.htm](http://www.pwa-nh.org/purple_loosestrife.htm)

#### **Tuthill Woodlands Preserve, continued**

Many kinds of wildlife live in and pass through the property. One of the PWA's Keeping Track transects crosses the land, and over the past six years, trackers have found signs of bear, moose, deer, coyote, fisher, otter, mink, and weasel. The mixed deciduous and coniferous forest, beaver ponds, stream, and gentle slopes provide wildlife the food, water, and cover they need. This large property also abuts other undeveloped lands, creating ideal conditions for wildlife to pass uninterrupted for long distances.

The PWA intends to keep the land in open space, with protection of wildlife habitat a primary goal. The property has been logged responsibly and will be managed for timber, guided by sustainable forestry practices, wildlife needs, and protection of water quality and other historic and resource values on the property. We anticipate low-impact pedestrian use, including snowshoeing, hiking, and cross-country skiing, horseback riding on designated trails, and hunting by permission. Because traces of past history are so beautifully preserved, we would like to include a small interpretive display at the farmstead. The property will be available for educational field trips and nature study.

**To realize all of these goals will cost money. If you would like to be part of this incredible opportunity that the Tuthills have created, please let us know! Send your tax-deductible contribution to the PWA office with a note that it is for the Tuthill Woodland Partnership for Preservation. If you would like to visit the property, call the PWA office for directions or let us know if you would like a guided tour.**

New England is purple again and the PWA is nearly ready to release its new generation of *Galerucella* sp. beetles on Purple Loosestrife in the watershed. **For those uninitiated about purple loosestrife, it is an invasive weed in our wetlands. It grows very quickly and crowds out the waterways to the elimination of native amphibians, fish, reptiles, and plants.**

## **IT'S BECOME AN ANNUAL RITE OF PASSAGE...**



Gordon Russell helps Greenfield Elementary School students release the salmon fry that they raised in their classroom throughout the spring. Photo by Laurie Terwilliger

Students from Lois Wicklow's class in Greenfield and Kim Heald's class in Franconia took part in the PWA-sponsored Adopt-A-Salmon program. The fry were released into the Piscataquog River in Franconia. The Piscataquog is one of the few rivers in southern New Hampshire that is habitable for salmon fry.

# Ferrin Pond Hike

In late May, Mother Nature finally cooperated and provided nice weather for a PWA-sponsored walk around Ferrin Pond in Weare – the second highest pond (at 948' above sea level) in southern NH. The 278-acre Ferrin Pond Conservation Area is owned and protected by the PWA and the Weare Town Forest.

Eight people joined leader Brenda Dello Russo for the 2.6-mile walk. Features along the trail include a 300- to 400-year-old Black Gum (Tupelo) tree, other trees scarred by lightning or pileated woodpeckers (and others), and evidence of bear, porcupine, beaver, and man. If you missed the hike, you can pick up a Ferrin Pond trail guide at the PWA office and take your own self-guided nature walk.



**Photos clockwise from top left:**

Ferrin Pond / Photo by Pat Nelson  
A moment of reflection / Photo by Pat Nelson  
Hikers pause by a boulder at the south end of the pond. On rock: Gail Parker and Robert Warren. On grass: Ray Taber, Brenda Dello Russo, Ken Burnes, Wallace McCafferty, and Marion Wright (crouching). Photo by Randy Parker

## WEB WATCH

Did you have birds nesting in your yard this year? If so, you were probably astonished at just how fast they grow! The following website features a photo journal of a young robin family: [www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/robin/RobinNestPhotoStudy.html](http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/robin/RobinNestPhotoStudy.html)

Click on the daily pictures to learn interesting facts about birds and their young. One page includes recordings and explanations of six different robin vocalizations.



## 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!**

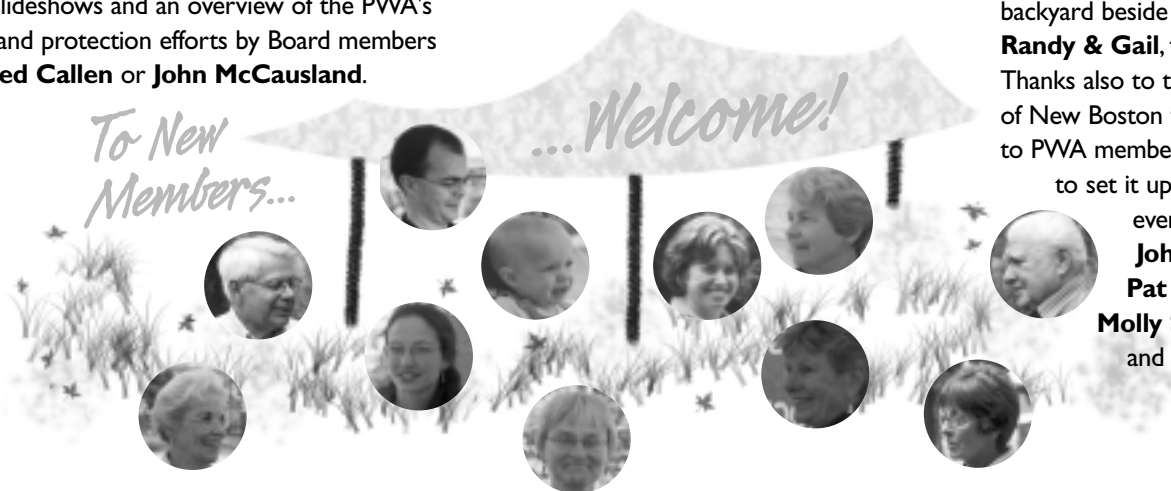
## New Member Activities

Thanks to the efforts of many, and spearheaded by PWA volunteers **Jane Marcks** and **Gordon Russell**, a number of afternoon teas and wine and cheese parties were held in Frankestown and Weare this spring to introduce non-members to the PWA and its mission. Each event featured one of Gordon's renowned slideshows and an overview of the PWA's land protection efforts by Board members **Jed Callen** or **John McCausland**.

We are grateful to Frankestown hosts **Len & Meredith Allen**, **Mit Boyle** and **Debbie Seal**, **Derald & Barbara Radtke**, and **Cynthia & John West**. **Len Allen** did a phenomenal job of organizing these events. Many thanks to **Dick & Anne Ludders**, **John & Anne McCausland**, **Jeremy & Carolynne Shinn**, and **Alicia Walker** for hosting parties in Weare.

Thanks also go to PWA members **Linda Lindgren**, **Mary Lindstrom**, and **Paula Stockinger** for their contributions to making these events a success.

In early June, the PWA sponsored a get-together for new members to introduce them to the Board and PWA programs. **Amy Doherty** and **Randy Parker** designed the invitations and organized the event, which was held in the Parkers' lovely backyard beside the river. Thank you, **Randy & Gail**, for your hospitality! Thanks also to the **Whipple Free Library** of New Boston for the use of their tent and to PWA member **Bill Morrissey** for helping to set it up. Other contributors to this event included **Lyn Lombard**, **John Magee**, **Pat Myers**, **Pat Nelson**, **Hannah Proctor**, **Molly Stark**, **Barbara Thomson**, and **Margaret Watkins**.



## LATE SUMMER & FALL KEEPING TRACK

*The bugs are gone. Fall is in the air. Come for a tromp in the woods and see what clues our forest neighbors have left behind.*

### NOVICES ALWAYS WELCOME!

Sunday, August 31 (Weare)...Call Gordon 487-2994  
 Sunday, September 21 (New Boston)...Call Graham 487-2636  
 Saturday, September 27 (New Boston)...Call Graham 487-2636  
 Sunday, September 28 (Weare)...Call Gordon 487-2994  
 Sunday, October 12 (Dunbarton)...Call Margaret 774-7120

**DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL LEADERS TO CONFIRM.**

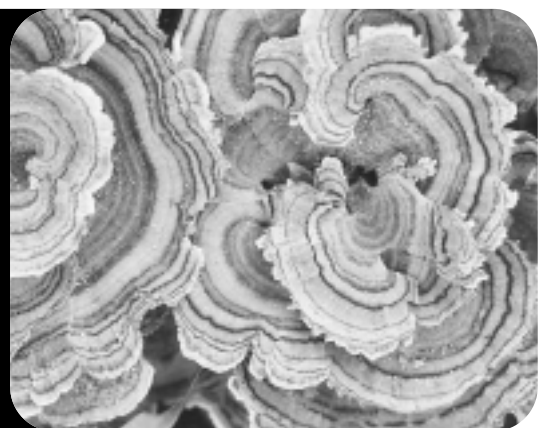


Photo: Turkey tail fungi by Beatrice Trum Hunter

## 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](mailto: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:

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### 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 VANISHING VOICE OF SUMMER

Twenty-four dedicated PWA and Audubon Society of NH (ASNH) volunteers canvassed selected routes throughout the watershed from late May through June listening for whip-poor-wills. Declines in the number of whip-poor-wills in the state were first reported in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The species was listed as one of Conservation Concern in New Hampshire in 1980.

Because this bird is becoming rare, yet is relatively easy to distinguish from other crepuscular songsters, the whip-poor-will was chosen for attention as part of the PWA's Living Legacy Project. Additional surveys will be conducted in the future.

Even if you did not get a chance to participate in the official survey, you can still contribute. If you heard whip-poor-wills in the watershed this spring, please send or email the following information to the PWA for entry into our Living Legacy database:

1. The approximate number of different dates on which you heard the bird(s)
2. Location where each bird was heard or seen (*including street address, town, and nearest intersection or other feature to help identify the location on a map*)
3. General description of habitat from where the calls were coming
4. Your name and a phone number where you can be reached for follow up questions (*if any*)

This year's survey participants met again in late July to share their results (watch for a report in the next newsletter) and learn a bit about dragonflies from ASNH's Pam Hunt, who coordinated the survey. *Did you know that there are more than 150 species of dragonflies and damselflies in New Hampshire?*

"WHIP-POOR-WILL!"  
"WHIP-POOR-WILL!"

## Permanent Outreach Displays

Thanks to a grant of funds raised by the sale of NH State Conservation "moose" license plates, the PWA now has permanent outreach displays available for every town in the watershed. The display, which includes a brochure holder, was designed by PWA member Rosemary Conroy and features beautiful photographs. Displays are already installed at the following locations:

*Good Neighbor Cafe, New Boston*

*Deering Town Hall*

*Francestown Town Offices*

*Goffstown Town Hall*

*Weare Town Hall*

If you know of a good location for a display in your town, please call the PWA office. We also need local volunteers to keep the displays stocked with brochures.



Rosemary Conroy poses next to the PWA outreach display at the Good Neighbor Cafe in New Boston.  
Photo by Randy Parker

## Water Quality Monitoring Program

The PWA plans to expand its Water Quality Monitoring program this year.

If we have enough volunteers, we will start taking monthly samples all year round – as

opposed to one annual sample, as in past years. Several PWA volunteers took a training at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services this spring. Others have participated in informal trainings by the PWA.

***If you would like to get involved, it's not too late!***

Call the PWA office at 603-487-3331.



Eric Lorimer, John Magee, Addie Ann Lambarth, and Agnes Shellmer take a break during their WQM training session.  
Photo by Randy Parker



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  
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**Save the date**  
**PWA 2003 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**

**SPECIAL GUEST**  
**AUTHOR / NATURALIST**  
**TOM TYNING**

**WATCH FOR DETAILS IN**  
**THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!**



### Welcome to Our New Members!

Donald & Cathleen Ball	Goffstown
Mary Jane Berube	Francestown
Michael & Sandra Boyko *	Weare
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Brown	Weare
Maria Contessa	Weare
Jeff Gorton & Sara Cox *	Francestown
Mick & Joyce Myles *	Weare
Andrew & Karen Paul *	Francestown
Mark & Shirley Pitman	Francestown
W. Brooks Jr. & Nancy H. Rice	Francestown
Mike Ryan	Weare
Peter Schuyler	Hockessin, DE
E. Molly Stark *	New Boston
Tim & Diana Taylor *	Guilford, CT
Michael & Marsha Tennis	Arlington, MA
Thomas & Christine Tyrie	Francestown
Joseph Valentine & Paula Hunter **	Francestown
Anne Wirkkala	Weare

### Member Renewals Since Last Newsletter

Katherine Allen	Amherst
Robert Beaudet	Manchester
Paula Bellemore *	New Boston
Peter & Linda Berg **	North Attleboro, MA
J. Willcox & Natale Brown **	Concord
Jennifer Byington	Francestown
Andy Cadorette & Reta Chaffee	Goffstown
David Connard	Francestown
Richard & Linda Des Rosiers	Manchester
Lisa Ferro **	New Boston
Barbara Gannon	Goffstown
Liesel Gilman	Francestown
Craig & Terry Knowles	Weare
Addie Ann Lambarth	Goffstown
Reta MacGregor	Goffstown
John & Donna Magee *	Weare
Thomas & Diane Manson **	New Boston
John & Anne McCausland	Weare

Beth Bauer & Marty Milkovic *	Southbury, CT
Janet & Terence O'Brien	Goffstown
Michael Palmer **	Swampscott, MA
Joel & Cindy Stave	New Boston
William Swan	Francestown
Barbara Thomson *	New Boston
Anne Window	Manchester

\* denotes extra contribution

\*\* denotes contribution of \$100 or more

## JOB OPPORTUNITY



**EGAD!** Laurie is leaving and we must replace her ASAP!

If you or someone you know might be our next part-time administrative assistant, send a resume to the PWA office by **August 18**.

For more information, see the PWA webpage or call Jed at 603-487-3823.

Children enjoying a quiet moment  
along the banks of the Piscataquog River.  
Photo by Diana Sterling

