



Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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 15, No. 5
September/October
2003



Watkins Named PWA Executive Director

The PWA Board of Directors is excited to announce that it has hired former PWA President Margaret Watkins as the land trust's first ever Executive Director!

Margaret will work two days per week, starting October 1, but she got a jump start by working one day per week in September. Margaret served as PWA President from 1999 through 2002, and more than anyone else, is responsible for the PWA's recent growth and increased professionalism. It was under her tenure that the PWA established its first office, hired its first paid staff, instituted the current committee structure, and significantly increased its membership.

Margaret's focus during her first year as ED will be on land protection and helping to build the organization, with continued emphasis on the following goals:

- Increasing our membership – both to engage more people in our mission and to improve our capacity to fulfill it
- Proactively taking steps to protect critical lands in the watershed
- Expanding the Board and committees, in part through better representation from under-represented towns
- Matching volunteers' interests and skills with PWA needs
- Improving the PWA's financial base
- Working with conservation commissions and other conservation groups as critical partners in achieving the PWA's mission of conserving the natural and scenic resources of the watershed and protecting the purity of its waters



Photo by Pat Nelson

(STAY TUNED FOR
GREAT THINGS!)

by Jed Callen

Margaret is a Natural Resources Planner, with a Master's degree in Environmental Management and more than 20 years of professional experience in land conservation and river management. She currently works for the National Park

Service in two community-based conservation programs: the Rivers and Trails Program and the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, based in Concord, NH. Margaret has served for many years on the Dunbarton Conservation Commission, currently as chair of its land protection subcommittee, and has played a key role in seven successful land conservation projects in Dunbarton. As a PWA Board member since 1997, she has spearheaded several of our land protection efforts. This year she was awarded the Tudor Richards Award by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire for her commitment to conservation.

Members of the PWA Board recently interviewed six (of 19) applicants for the part-time position of Administrative Director to replace Laurie Terwilliger, who is leaving this fall after tolerating two years of a too long commute. We are pleased to announce that Paula Bellemore has accepted our offer and will be starting immediately. (More about Paula in the next newsletter.) Paula will maintain the membership and contribution databases, assist with outreach, and work closely with Margaret to supervise volunteers and implement our programs. With Margaret, a proven leader, now able to devote two full days a week to PWA business, bolstered by a professional assistant with all the skills necessary to run our office and programs, the PWA is poised to accomplish more than ever before.

Stay tuned for great things – and if you'd like to help out, give us a call at 487-3331!

Is Your PC a Tax Deduction?

Now that the PWA has two staff members, we need a second computer. If you have one that you are not using, consider donating it to us. All gifts to the PWA are fully tax-deductible. Help us serve you more efficiently!

Thank you!



PWA OFFICE

(603) 487-3331

Executive Director

Margaret Watkins

Administrative Director

Paula Bellemore

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jed Callen

(603) 487-3823

Vice President

Pat Myers

Treasurer

Diane Beland

Secretary

Randy Parker

PWA Counsel

Jed Callen

Directors

John McCausland

Pat Nelson

Graham Pendlebury

Directors Emeriti

Gordon Russell

Robert Todd

Newsletter Editor

Pat Nelson

COMMITTEES

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Rosemary Conroy*

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Open Space

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Kathleen Ruty-Fey*

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Diane Beland

Jed Callen

Peter deRoeth*

Purple Loosestrife Awareness (PLAC)

(603) 487-5114

Lyn Lombard*

Hannah Proctor*

Keeping Track

Coordinator

Allison Thomson*

* member volunteer

Giving Serious Thought to Green

by Gordon Russell, PWA Director Emeritus

Green was here when the Europeans first arrived. Brains turned giddy and felt no restraint at thoughts of conquering those vast forests, of dominating the New World's dangerous wild beasts. Indeed, after only a couple hundred years of axe swinging and saw pulling, the forest along North America's eastern coastal range had been brought to its stumps. The beasts had been shot. The varmints trapped and poisoned. The Green of Trees had mostly disappeared.

*"Who among us understands
what our responsibilities...are to Green - a gift returned?"*

But the New World was a big place. There were more trees and beasts to the west to be conquered. Besides, the soils there did not hold an army of rocks to fight. There were factory jobs to the south for those who did not work the land. Throughout the northeast, families packed up and moved away. The hundreds of miles of stone walls, farming pasture and boundaries, stood unattended. The biting edge of plows was gone. The weight of livestock on pasture land was gone. Neither plows nor hooves had permanently damaged the soils. The ground had retained its ability to cradle and to nurture seed embryos needed to regrow a new forest. Nature's door welcoming the return of Green opened wide.

As Green returned and put stonewalls to sleep, many of the wild animals answered Green's welcome and after an absence of many generations, returned. Moose came and found cover and food. Black bears came and were rewarded with nuts and berries. Coyote came and taught the unwary. Beaver came and provided for the areas' rich biology.

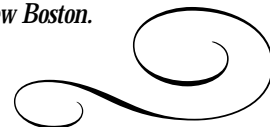
Green gives our air its scents and quality. Green softens our landscape, shades our rural roads, and brings closeness and opportunities for questions along our favorite walking paths. Green is home and food for our wild creatures, one and all.

The return of Green to the northeastern part of North America is unprecedented. Nowhere on Planet Earth has an environment been erased, then returned to its former variety and richness. The question then is: "Who among us understands what our responsibilities, both collective and individual, are to Green - a gift returned?"

In a drawer someplace many of us hold a deed to acres of Green. Question:

Do we have any responsibility, any obligation, to provide wisely as to how our property will be used in the tomorrows to come? More importantly perhaps, if we, the landowners, don't make provisions to save the Green, what will this watershed look like 50 to 100 years from now? If you'd like to simply talk about it, we'd enjoy the opportunity to share what we know. Call the PWA office at 487-3331 or Gordon at 487-2994.

Gordon Russell has assisted many landowners in protecting their special places with conservation easements. He and wife Barbara have placed conservation easements on properties in Weare and New Boston.



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Thanks to Hannah Proctor for her golden touch at the PWA office!

Hannah spent many hours organizing and labeling all the file cabinets as well as creating committee, project, and volunteer checklists and in/out boxes. She also found us some "new" office chairs, thanks to Normandeau Associates in Bedford.



Herps Expert at 2003 Annual Meeting

Our featured guest at this year's annual meeting will be **Tom Tying, a professional field naturalist, photographer, and writer.** Author of *A Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles* for the Stokes Nature Guides series, Tom is an entertaining and informative lecturer.

He will reveal the secret life of local reptiles and amphibians ("herps" for short) that share the watershed with us – species whose habitat the PWA is working to protect through its land protection and Living Legacy programs. Here in New England, once common species are now becoming seriously endangered. Key to learning how to reverse this trend is a better understanding of these species' behavioral needs and habitats. Tom's presentation features photographs of herps in their natural habitats and accounts of numerous fascinating behaviors.

Tom is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at Berkshire Community College and an adjunct faculty at Springfield College and Antioch New England Graduate School. He was a Field Biologist with the Massachusetts Audubon Society for 24 years. Tom leads natural history tours to such places as the Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Venezuela, the Amazon, the Florida Everglades, Newfoundland, and the desert Southwest.

When: **October 18**

Where: **Goffstown Congregational Church, Stark Hall**

Yes, the ever-popular spaghetti dinner will be back – along with desserts prepared by members.

SPECIAL EVENT:

Don't let the dark days of winter send you into hibernation! Join us for the first program in the



IN NEW LIBRARY

David Hardy Memorial Lecture Series, which will feature poet L.R. Berger reading selections from her new book, *The Unexpected Aviary*, published by Deerbrook Editions, and from poems inspired by her years immersed in the work and life of Rachel Carson. This immersion included living and writing in Carson's Maine home, which gave birth to her long cycle of poems, *Notes From Eagle Island*.

L.R. Berger is a New Hampshire poet whose work has been generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, The Pen New England Discovery Prize, The American Academy in Rome, The MacDowell Colony, the Audubon Society of NH, and others.

Teresa Caer, author of *The Paper Wasp*, says of Berger's work: ***"In language that is hauntingly singular in its music and its psychological tenor; Berger has wrested from a difficult, and tenuous, even precarious life, a stubborn, intelligent, and affirming poetry. Her lines, like the birds she writes about, dart out of the shadows with such swiftness and grace we feel startled into perception."***

**Monday, November 10, 7:30 PM
Stephenson Memorial Library
Rte. 136, Greenfield, NH**

Refreshments will be served.

Please come – and bring your friends! As a bonus, you can check out the brand new library addition and see the PWA photo display, which is featured in Greenfield for the month of November.

DAY TRIP

The **Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge** along the southern coast of Maine makes a pleasant day trip. Refuge lands total approximately 4,700 acres in ten geographic units from Kittery to Cape Elizabeth and provide vital food and cover for waterfowl and other migrating birds at a time when inland waters can be frozen. For more information about the refuge and Rachel Carson, visit: **<http://rachelcarson.fws.gov/>**



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!

Dragons in our Midst

by Pat Nelson



On September 1, 2001, at 4 PM, my backyard was filled with hundreds of large dragonflies. It was positively magical! The sun was low enough that it caught their wings and the yard was abuzz with glinting silver sparkles as they hovered over the tall grasses. (I don't mow, so it's a jungle of wildflowers – and weeds!) I do have a small pond and I see dragonflies of one kind or another all summer long, but I had never witnessed anything like this before (or since). Was it possible that zillions of dragonflies had all hatched at once? I put my question to Pam Hunt of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. Here is her fascinating reply:

What you saw was a feeding swarm. These usually involve two groups of dragonflies: darners (primarily) and emeralds. Both these kinds of dragons are large (2.5 to 3+ inches) and are most active in late summer and early fall. They often congregate at hilltops or over clearings to forage in the late afternoon almost to dusk. Why they do this is a mystery, at least to me, although it probably has something to do with preferred prey species being more active at such places and times. As for hatching at once, it's pretty unlikely. Dragons do show mass synchronous emergences, but newly emerged bugs are still soft and not the best fliers in the world. They tend to stay out of sight for a few days while they harden up and mature. Given that many of the large dragons can live for two to four weeks, the congregations like you describe could be composed of individuals of variable ages.

I've only seen one really large swarm, and they are truly a remarkable sight!

Enjoy, Pam Hunt

Biodiversity Project Coordinator
& Important Bird Area Coordinator
Audubon Society of New Hampshire



WIN A NIGHT AT

The Greenfield Inn!

Starting October 1, every member who brings a new membership to the PWA will have their name entered into a raffle for a night for two at the romantic Greenfield Inn. All new members' names will also be entered. Member names will be entered once for every new membership, so the more members



you bring to the PWA, the more chances you have to win. **(Just ask each new member to mention your name when they join.)** The winner will be drawn at the 2004 annual meeting.

Thank you to:

Pat Nelson for donating her prize from the Franconstown Labor Day raffle;

Barbara Thomson for this ingenious idea to grow the membership;

Vic Mangini of the Greenfield Inn for his support of the PWA by accommodating Pat's request to transfer her prize.

Web Watch: How to Talk Moose...

Ever wondered what a moose "says"? Check it out here:

<http://students.cs.byu.edu/~brandon/Virtual%20Zoo/>

While you're at it, you can converse with a bear and numerous other animals. Click on the .WAV files for sounds.

Click on .JPG and .GIF for pictures.

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!



Carroll Show at Massabesic Audubon

"Wetland Images", a show of paintings and drawings by David and Laurette Carroll,

is on display until October 30 at the Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH (follow signs from Exit 1 off NH 101). For info, call (603) 668-2045.

The PWA office has for sale a few David Carroll books, plus magnets and tee shirts with his images. *A percent of the proceeds benefits the PWA.*

NO NEWS IS STILL NEWS

by Pam Hunt and Margaret Watkins

This summer, 20 volunteers surveyed 14 routes in areas of the watershed with likely whip-poor-will habitat. While some volunteers did not see or hear whip-poor-wills, this information is nonetheless useful because absence of this once widespread species is also important to document. Many people throughout the northeast report that they do not hear whip-poor-wills as often as they used to. However, the data on abundance and population trends is sparse, so it is hard to tell how healthy a local or regional population actually is.

"WHIP-POOR-WILL!"

With this in mind, the whip-poor-will survey project was initiated as part of the PWA's Living Legacy Project, with special assistance from the Audubon Society of NH (ASNH). Each route was 4.5 miles long and consisted of 10 stops spaced 0.5 miles apart. Volunteers surveyed each route three times between May 20 and early July, starting a half hour after sunset. At each stop, the observer recorded

all whip-poor-wills detected in a 5-minute period, noted noise levels, and recorded any other nocturnal birds heard.

Along five routes, no whip-poor-wills were recorded. Of the remaining nine, two routes recorded a single bird over the course of the summer. Numbers of birds on the remaining routes ranged from 2 to 8. The average number of whip-poor-wills at occupied routes was 3.8.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY DATA

Route/Town	Amount of WPW habitat *	# Points with WPWs	Max total for route
Black Brook/Tibbetts Hill/Dunbarton	None	3	6
Clough-Riverdale/Weare	Mostly	5	8
Daniel's Lake/Weare	Mostly	1	2
Deering	None	0	0
Francetown	Some	0	0
Goffstown	Some	0	0
Mansion Rd/Dunbarton	None	0	0
New Boston NE	Mostly	2	4
New Boston SW	Mostly	0	0
North Weare	Some	2	3
Paige Hill Road/Goffstown	None	1	4
Perkins-Buxton/Weare	None	1	1
Ray Road/Dunbarton	Some	2	5
Uncanoonuc/Goffstown	Some	1	1

* ASNH identified WPW habitat by remote sensing. It includes dry pine or oak forests, open areas, and gravel pits. "None" = 2 or fewer survey points fall in good habitat; "Some" = 3-6 points; "Mostly" = 7-10 points.

Notably, the data create a pattern that is "almost statistically significant between stops with favorable habitat and detection of the species." This is significant because the habitat was identified entirely by aerial photographs. There are still more sites, even in good habitat, without whip-poor-wills than with them, so the next step may involve some fine-tuning of habitat classification.

Also notably, the vast majority of records and all the points with more than one detection are in the northeastern portion of the watershed. Not all locations where birds were documented in this area are necessarily in good habitat, suggesting that the concentration in the northeast may be due to other factors. One factor may be the core area of good habitat

around Clough State Park and the associated flood control area. Possibly birds in the vicinity are overflow from this source population. Again, more detailed data, potentially including new routes, would help tease apart this pattern.

The survey will be repeated next year and into the future, when routes may be changed to focus efforts in better habitats.

MANY THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE THIS PROJECT SUCH A SUCCESS. AND TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED INFORMATION BASED ON OBSERVATIONS FROM THEIR HOMES!

"WHIP-POOR-WILL!"

"WHIP-POOR-WILL!"

"WHIP-POOR-WILL!"



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

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It's time to renew your membership!
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SPECIAL EVENT IN NEW LIBRARY



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

See details inside...

Welcome to Our New Members!

Susan Weiss Alexant**	Weare
Scott & Laura Arvin	New Boston
Andrew & Kristen Carlson	New Boston
James & Marcia Clarke	Weare
Peter & Karen Cross	Deering
Michael & Helen Dutton	Weare
John & Jill Flanders	Weare
Melinda Gehris*	Weare
Dorothea O'Neill	Weare
Alice & Emily St. Hilaire	Weare
Holly & Mica Stark**	New Boston

Frances & Abigail Arnold	Francetown
Donald & Marjorie Burke	Weare
David & Laurette Carroll	Warner
Dr. Alfred P. Bertagnoll & Cheryl Gintof**	Goffstown
David & Jodi Craig	New Boston
Martha & Alfie Eisenberg**	Francetown
Fred & Marilyn Greenhalge	Dunbarton
Samuel J. Hackler	New Boston
Isabella Britain Hill**	Francetown
Patricia Jennings	New Boston
Susanne Kibler-Hackler	Dunbarton

Member Renewals Since Last Newsletter

Priscilla Kunhardt	Francetown
Tom Lee	Goffstown
Chester Masel	Everett, MA
George Naum	Manchester
Roger Paradis	Manchester
Elizabeth S. Paynter*	Weston, MA
N.B. & Caroline S. Robinson**	Stratham
Pamela & David Ryan & Family	Goffstown
Brett & Kristin St. Clair*	Dunbarton
Patricia Thompson**	Lincoln, MA
Eric & Joanne Thum	New Boston
David Trumble & Linda Taylor	Weare
Jeannine & Patrick Tucker	Goffstown

WIN A NIGHT AT



The Greenfield Inn!

See details inside...

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

Special Contribution
The PWA thanks **Carolyn Benthien**
of Goffstown for her special gift.