



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. 6
November/December
2003



Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Those who attended the annual meeting were greeted at the door by **Paula Bellemore**, the **PWA's new Administrative Director**.

Paula, a New Boston resident and New Hampshire native, brings strong management and professional experience, enthusiasm, and creativity to the PWA. She has worked in sales and accounts management for major hotels and, most recently, served as New Boston's tax collector, revolutionizing the way tax information is managed.

Paula's quick smile and can-do attitude are infectious. After only a short time on the job, Paula is fully engaged in all the PWA's programs and knows many PWA volunteers.

"I leave here energized," says Paula. *"There's a much greater sense of satisfaction in working towards something with lasting value like the work the PWA does."* Paula is usually in the office Monday through Thursday from about 8:30 until 2:00, though her hours may vary. (Margaret is usually in the office on Wednesday and Friday, so we have daily coverage.) Paula's focus is on managing the office, coordinating volunteers, assisting the Development Committee, and otherwise supporting our mission. Already Paula is capitalizing on every opportunity to attract new members. This Halloween the lights were on at the PWA office, and trick-or-treaters not only got treats that Paula scavenged from various sources but also left with membership information! The Board and Executive Director are thrilled to have Paula on board.

Thanks to Jed Callen, John McCausland, Pat Nelson, Graham Pendlebury, and Margaret Watkins for their long hours on the Search Committee. We received 19 applications for the position and interviewed 6 well-qualified individuals.



INTRODUCING
TWO
NEW

BRIGHT LIGHTS

Left: Paula Bellemore, the PWA's new Administrative Director.
Right: Amy Doherty, the PWA's newest board member.

Photo by Pat Nelson

Also attending the annual meeting was **our newest Board member, Amy Doherty**. That day Amy was quite literally speechless (with laryngitis), but her volunteer activities speak volumes. She and her family moved to New Boston within the last year and right away discovered the PWA. Amy was one of the key players in organizing a party for new members in June. A professional hydrologist, she also does water quality monitoring for the PWA. Says Amy, *"PWA is a great way for me to reconnect with my values, what things are important to me. It connects me with my community, and it puts me in touch with my personal interests."* Amy will be working with the PWA's Outreach and Development committees.

ANNUAL FUND PROVIDES VITAL SUPPORT

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you haven't
already, please
send a special
Annual Fund
contribution
today.



You were recently sent an Annual Fund appeal card. This support over and above your membership dues is critical to the PWA's important work throughout the watershed. Your support helps guarantee that the PWA can continue its work to:

- Save important lands
- Educate watershed residents and local officials about protecting our environment
- Advocate for environmental quality and our quality of life

**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**
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Amy Doherty
John McCausland
Pat Nelson**Directors Emeriti**
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Robert Todd**Newsletter Editor**
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Gordon Russell
Barry Wicklow**Development**
John McCausland
Bob Clark
Amy Doherty
Carol Hess
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Diane Beland
Jed Callen
Peter deRoethth**Purple Loosestrife Awareness (PLAC)**
(603) 487-5114Lyn Lombard
Hannah Proctor**Keeping Track Coordinator**
Allison Thomson

Tom Tynning

PUTS ON A GOOD SHOW



"If I'd had Tom Tynning for a teacher, I'd be a herpetologist today." Such was the reaction of at least one member after this year's annual meeting. Tom's lecture, slideshow, and live specimens were rivaled only by the array of member-made desserts for the highlight of the evening.

The meeting began with a unanimous vote of approval for the slate of directors and officers, which reflected a few changes. Graham Pendlebury is leaving the Board, but will remain active on the Open Space Committee. Both Graham and Cheryl Christner (in absentia) were presented with a handmade walking stick in appreciation of their years of service. Amy Doherty was welcomed as a new Director. Executive Director Margaret Watkins presented Laurie Terwilliger, our outgoing Administrative Director, with a print by Laurette Carroll.



Instead of her usual Keeping Track report, Barbara Thomson led us on a lovely "walk" in the woods, complete with the sounds of birds and running water. The touchstones for this journey were the unique centerpieces that members had made out of natural materials from the woods – each with its own treasures.

In contrast, Gordon Russell painted a picture of how the natural order of life can be terribly disrupted when man interferes – but he also proposed a happy ending for one such example. (See story on page 3.)

All the while, the cooks under Graham's direction were putting the finishing touches on dinner, which started promptly after the business meeting. Then members savored coffee and an assortment of sweet treats during Tom's presentation.

We are grateful to the many who made this event a success

– from cooking to cleanup. We could not have done it without you! In addition to those already mentioned, special thanks go to Hannah Proctor for doing more than we can list here, to Cindy and Joel Stave for a festively bedecked and delicious appetizer table, to Hannah, Margaret, and Pat Myers for the centerpieces and setup, and to Jana Hieber who worked tirelessly in the kitchen. Thanks also go to Cora and John Ciampi, Pat Jennings, Randy Parker, Jami Boyle, Jon Brooks, Jed Callen, Amy Doherty, Carol Hess, Sherri Hieber, Jerry King, Pat Nelson, and Alex Pendlebury.

*Photographs by Hannah Proctor*

From top: 1. Jana Hieber takes a break from her kitchen chores to observe a baby snapping turtle. 2. Master chefs Graham Pendlebury and Carol Hess at work. 3. Cindy and Joel Stave put the finishing touches on their appetizer trays. 4. President Jed Callen and Director Randy Parker take a kitchen break.

*Snake and turtle illustrations
by Tommy Beland***PWA MEMBERSHIP:**

a Gift

THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Are you looking for a meaningful holiday gift for a local friend or relative? Why not introduce someone on your gift list to the PWA with a **gift membership** that gives throughout the year. You will receive a card and membership notification to send to the recipient, or you can ask the PWA to notify the recipient directly. Every member who finds a new member and every new member will be entered into the raffle for a night at the Greenfield Inn. The PWA office also has a number of small items for sale:

cards • hats • books • prints • magnets • tee-shirts • fanny packs

THE HARSH SAGA OF Lake Horace Marsh:



Photograph by Barbara Gannon

At the annual meeting, Gordon Russell mesmerized attendees with a chilling tale of the effect of the fall drawdown and spring fill-up of Lake Horace on the nonhuman residents of the adjoining marsh. Gordon also had dramatic photographs that illustrate the plight of these creatures. For those who missed the annual meeting, here is a short summary from Gordon.

Lake Horace Marsh is one of two legislatively designated "prime wetlands" in the town of Weare. It lies along the North Branch of the Piscataquog River, just above Abijah Bridge. When there is water in it, the 181-acre wildlife marsh is a spectacularly beautiful place. **But the beauty hides a story of annual death and destruction.**

IS A HAPPY ENDING IN SIGHT?

Weare Reservoir Dam was built in 1913 to

provide water power to multiple downstream mills. In 1938 floodwaters breached the dam. The Town could not afford to rebuild the dam, so the State agreed to rebuild it, thereby taking ownership and operation of the dam. The State identified two management priorities for the dam: recreation and conservation. While often compatible goals, in the case at hand they are not. **Raising lake levels in the spring and lowering them in the fall to accommodate waterfront dock protection creates a death trap for most aquatic flora and fauna.** Wildlife surveys throughout this marsh reflect drastic reductions from numbers one should expect of waterfowl, amphibians, furbearers, aquatic reptiles, and insects. The fall drawdown almost guarantees major mortality for animals that have prepared for freezing conditions when the water was high. The spring fill-up floods waterfowl nests and creates severe conditions for fish redds and hatched fry.

Over the years the PWA has advocated unsuccessfully for a change in dam operations to better protect the marsh. The Town is currently planning to replace Abijah bridge, at the mouth of the marsh. **In concert with the NH Department of Environmental Services, Ducks Unlimited, NH Fish & Game Department, the Town, and others, the PWA hopes to find an alternative solution by engineering a low dam into the bridge foundation wings.**

A low dam would serve to maintain stable water levels throughout the year, throughout the marsh. Although there are hurdles ahead, we are hopeful this marsh story will have a happy ending.

STAY TUNED...

Winter KEEPING TRACK



If you look closely, there is life even under the ice.

NOVICES ALWAYS WELCOME!

Saturday, Dec. 13 (New Boston)

Call Ken at 487-5114

Sunday, Dec. 14 (Weare)

Call Gordon at 487-2994

Saturday, Jan. 3 (New Boston)

Call Ken at 487-5114

Sunday, Jan. 11 (Dunbarton)

Call Margaret at 774-7120

A Sunday in January (Weare)

Call Gordon at 487-2994

Dates are subject to change – especially in winter.

Call contacts for the latest schedule and make-up dates.



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!

ATTENTION: GOFFSTOWN RESIDENTS

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED **NOW** TO SECURE RAIL TRAILS!

October Cleanup Was Step 1 to Change Trash Into Trails

PWA members Jan Falcone, Dick Ludders, John Magee, John Turcotte, and Patrick and Jeannine Tucker were among more than 30 volunteers who worked to clean up 2 1/2 miles of abandoned railroad corridor from Kelley Falls in Manchester to Lynchville Park in Goffstown on October 4. The event was sponsored by the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC). Volunteers hauled out tons of illegally dumped construction debris, household furniture, and automobile parts.

The Manchester portion of the railroad bed is being converted into a recreational trail for pedestrians and cyclists. The Friends of the Greenway in Goffstown also hope to secure the railbed in their town to develop a trail that will link with the rail trails in Manchester and New Boston. **The deadline to appropriate local funds to provide the required match to acquire the right-of-way from the B&M Railway (Guilford Industries) expires on December 31, 2003.** While progress is being made, Goffstown Selectman Tom Griffin has expressed concern that it will take a great deal of effort to get a purchase in place before that deadline.

To Lend Your Support to This Project Contact:

Selectman Griffin at the Goffstown Town Hall (497-8990) or **John Turcotte** of the PRLAC at jturcotte@nixonpeabody.com. Pictures from the impressive cleanup day are posted on the web at <http://home.comcast.net/~thegreenway/cleanup/>

PWA **HUNKS** FEATURED IN CALENDAR

The weather cooperated on October 11 as PWA members Dick Cilley, Alfie Eisenberg, Frank Hanchett, Peg Lopata, Pat Nelson, Gordon Russell, Paul Susca, and Barry Wicklow

STRIPPED DOWN TO THEIR NOTHINGS

to pose for a calendar being produced by friends of the Francestown library as a fundraiser for a library addition.

The PWA was invited to participate as a local organization that is active in Francestown.

Thanks to all our goodnatured volunteers and to Martha and Alfie Eisenberg for providing a beautiful setting and some all-important props!

We wish we could show you the photo, but you'll just have to

BUY THE CALENDAR

Call the Francestown library at 547-2730 for purchase information.

Now why didn't WE think of this? Maybe next year...



Photograph by Jill J. Salutric

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!

Bear and Other Wildlife Sightings

There have been many wildlife sightings in the last few months. This is surely one of the thrills of living in an area where there is still enough open space to support habitat for the bellwether species that PWA's Keeping Track teams monitor: bear, moose, bobcat, fisher, otter, and mink. All species except bobcat have been found on all Keeping Track transects. On one transect this fall, trackers counted about 30 instances of bear scat!

But Francestown PWA member Sue Avery had the unexpected treat of observing a species that is not commonly seen here. Here is Sue's account of her walk on October 10:

It was a flock of geese approaching – but not Canada geese. Snow geese!

"As I passed a hayfield, I heard a faint squeaking/cheeping sound – kind of like baby birds make. It got stronger and then there were a couple of honks mixed in. It was a flock of geese approaching – but not Canada geese. Snow geese! The squeaking was made by their wings as they flew near me. I'd never seen them in the flesh before, so this was a real treat! There were nine of them, and all had the striking black wing tips on their white wing feathers – except for two who were mostly gray."

Sue has also been lucky enough to see a moose, a pair of fisher, a fox, and wild turkeys near where she lives. And her neighbor saw a bear with two cubs.



She isn't the only one! PWA member Lisa Brooks of Deering saw a young bear run across the road. Lisa and Margaret Watkins, the PWA's new Executive Director, saw more evidence of bear when they were monitoring the Wasserman property in Deering, which the PWA protected with a conservation easement in 2002. Lisa reports on that day:

"The beavers had moved back in after a brief, year-long hiatus. The most striking sign we saw was several fresh piles of bear scat, full of the winterberries that grow at the marsh edge. Near an otter den and a place where the beavers had been gnawing on young trees, we saw a long, rotting log where one of the bears had walked out to reach a winterberry bush, now not so full of fruit. After we crossed the river, and trekked into the hemlock forest that serves as a winter deer yard,

we found more scat, this time clearly the cub's, and full of evidence that it had been digging in the ground for bees. I returned home that day with a good feeling in my belly, knowing that Margaret and I had played a part, however small, in ensuring that at least one mother bear and her cub would have a rich, abundant, and secure place to call home for as long as they wish."

Margaret Watkins also had her own bear encounter this fall near her home in Dunbarton. Here's her story:

"What a startling sight I had this morning while walking my dog. She started barking just as I saw a large black mass cross the far side of the road and head into the woods. The mass stopped, turned, and eyed us. Its face looked just like the picture book face of a bear – little ears, beady eyes, and a snout! It looked about a year old. We stared at each other, the three of us, until another dog began barking. The bear turned and lumbered up the hill. Torey and I turned back, me feeling elated – my first bear sighting in New Hampshire, right on my road! Then I realized the bear was heading toward the center of town and Route 13. 'Come back, bear! There's more open space and protected land back this way!' And I thought about all the bears in our watershed, how they all need land, and how important it is that we act as quickly as we can to protect land – for bears and other wildlife, and for ourselves."

Come back, bear!

There's more open space and protected land back this way!



Happy Solstice!

The 2003 Winter Solstice will occur on
December 22 @ 2:44 AM EST



Photograph by Christopher J. Levin



5A Mill Street
New Boston, NH 03070
(603) 487-3331
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

WHAT WOULD THE WORLD BE WITHOUT SPECIAL PLACES FOR REFLECTION?



HELP THE PWA PROTECT MORE SPECIAL PLACES WITH YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND.

Kancunowett Natural Area, Dunbarton, New Hampshire
Protected by a PWA "Forever Wild" Conservation Easement
Photo by Pat Nelson

Welcome to Our New Members!

Mark Boucher	Manchester
Kimberlee Burkhamer	New Boston
Larry & Brigitte Cook	Dunbarton
Paul & Chris Hague	Weare
John Kanter & Lori Sommer	Hopkinton
Mike Lennon	Lyndeborough
Deborah Nailor	Henniker
Greg Neilley	Fracesttown
David & Amy Nieman**	Goffstown
Barbara Perkins	Goffstown
Jason Sachs **	Goffstown
Steve Smith & Jennifer Turcott	Fracesttown

All new members will be entered into a raffle for a night at the Greenfield Inn.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Joel Stave for "adopting" the office computer for a few days and bringing it up to date with all service updates for the operating system and Microsoft Office components.

Member Renewals Since Last Newsletter

Brewster & Elizabeth Ames	Fracesttown	Susan B. Martin **	New Boston
Brenda L. Bhatti *	Jaffrey	Louis & Carol Maynard	New Boston
Sara Callen *	Sarasota, FL	David Moffat & Carol Hall	Goffstown
Audrey Caskie	Walpole	Robert & Margorie Moreau	New Boston
Janet & Dave Chamberlain	New Boston	Carolyn Sheehan & Pat Ann Myers *	Weare
Richard C. Cilley	Fracesttown	Mr. & Mrs. George Newton	Framingham, MA
Mrs. Mary B.Clapp *	Goffstown	William S. Orcutt *	Manchester
Harriet Cope *	Fracesttown	Sandra Grosfelt Peschke	Peterborough
Karen & George Fountain	New Boston	Pearle Preston *	Goffstown
Elaine Johnson & William Fredericks	Goffstown	Derald & Barbara Radtke	Fracesttown
Joan & Frank Hanchett	Fracesttown	David & Donna Reeder	New Boston
Thomas Hanley	Goffstown	Mary and John Reeves	New Boston
Sirkka & Taisto Holm	Fracesttown	John & Marge Rennie	Weare
George Holt & Family **	Dunbarton	Gordon & Barbara Russell **	New Boston
Warren & Emily Howarth	Fracesttown	Agnes Shellmer	Goffstown
Nancy & Tom Inui *	Indianapolis, IN	Lillian E. Sizemore *	York, ME
Joseph & Patricia Kayal	Huntington Station, NY	Joseph & Kelley Spoerl	Goffstown
Louis B. Lanzillotti	New Boston	Tom & Joyce Sullivan	New Boston
Kirk & Judith Leoni **	Weare	Ronald & Julia M. Tams	New Boston
Herbert Little	Concord	John & Cynthia West	Fracesttown
David Loranger	Goffstown		

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