



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

Early intervention in the planning process, a responsive developer, and supportive town boards have resulted in the protection of 98 acres of wildlife habitat in Weare. More than a year ago Bedford developer James Coughlin presented the Weare Planning Board with plans for a 51-lot subdivision that included access to five lots across Breed Brook. Between that time and the present, the importance of Breed Brook and the surrounding forest as a wildlife corridor persuaded Coughlin to rethink his project. In the process he gave up those five lots and gained considerable respect for his interest in accommodating wildlife and protecting habitat.

"Knowing how significant this area is, with the stream and the beaver pond, and the deer wintering areas, I feel really positive about this project," said Coughlin.

The PWA worked with Coughlin to put a conservation easement on the property to protect it as permanent open space for wildlife and low-impact recreational uses. The property will be owned by the Town of Weare and managed as the Breed Brook Conservation Area by the Weare Conservation Commission. This parcel abuts an additional 52 acres of conservation land known as the Zephaniah Breed Forest, owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Weare Conservation Commission chair Tom Carr's thoughts on the process reflect those of all involved in it. "This is such a great project, where Jim Coughlin, the Planning Board, the Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, and the PWA all came together to create a wonderful legacy of open space for the Town."

Join the PWA and Weare Conservation Commission for a celebration / hike on Saturday, July 17, carpooling from the Weare Town Offices in the center of town at 2 PM.

WORKING PWA, THE TOWN, AND A DEVELOPER TOGETHER SAVE OPEN SPACE IN WEARE

by Margaret Watkins



The beaver pond drains into Breed Brook.
Photo by Pat Nelson



Breed Brook. Photo by Margaret Watkins

NEWS FLASH!

MATCHING GRANT FOR NEW MEMBERS! HELP US DOUBLE THE MEMBERSHIP & DOUBLE NEW DOLLARS!

The PWA was just awarded a grant of \$2700 from the Hess Family Fund of the Manchester Regional Community Foundation. The grant will match all dollars from new members.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Watch your mailbox for materials for the PWA's 2004

EACH ONE REACH ONE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN.

The PWA Board and staff are asking each member to reach out and find one new member. You no doubt have friends, neighbors, or relatives who share your love for

the environment. By telling them about the PWA and asking them to join, you can connect them with a great organization and help double the PWA's membership! This increase will translate into enhanced efforts to protect land and water locally. If each of us does our part to find one new member, the PWA membership base will grow to more than 700 strong! Please, join forces with other PWA members and make a real and lasting impact in our communities.

As a bonus, every member who gets a new member and every new member will be entered into a raffle for a night at the Greenfield Inn!

**PWA OFFICE**

(603) 487-3331

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John Magee

Tom Noel

E. Molly Stark

Invasive Species Committee (ISC)

Lyn Lombard

Hannah Proctor

Keeping Track Coordinator

Barbara Thomson

Water Quality Committee Knee Deep in 2004 Plans

by John Magee

On April 18 the Water Quality Committee conducted a water quality monitoring training for the 2004 season. The training was well attended, including several new volunteers. Volunteers were trained to use the equipment and learned the importance of following the protocols. Thanks to Committee Chair Amy Doherty and Molly Stark, attendees also enjoyed great snacks!

For 2004, we have a total of 18 sites, two of which are new. The two added sites are on the North Branch in South Weare and on the mainstem in Manchester at Bass Island, about 1,000 feet upstream from the confluence with the Merrimack River. At the training, we all agreed on the importance of having each person or team take ownership for one or more sites that they will consistently monitor.

Our goal is to monitor water quality at each site monthly. Currently we have all the sites covered, but we can always use more help to sample more often. If you would like to help with water quality monitoring, please contact Molly Stark at estark@des.state.nh.us. Molly schedules the single water quality test kit owned by the PWA.

John Magee is a fisheries scientist who was instrumental in expanding the PWA water quality testing program in 2002 and is an active member of the PWA's Water Quality Committee.



From left: Amy Doherty, John Magee, Eric Lorimer, Brian Dresser, Jerry King, Lisa Brooks, Sandy Kent, Tom Noel, Molly Stark
(Photo by Randy Parker)



2004 SURVEY

**This May and June
PWA volunteers will again be
out in the twilight to dark hours
listening for whip-poor-wills.**

Thanks to a grant from the Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation, Pam Hunt of NH Audubon and Jeff Normandine, Audubon's GIS mapping staff, will again assist PWA with the survey.

The information is being collected as part of the PWA's expanding efforts to document special habitats in the watershed.

**For more information or to
report hearing a whip-poor-will,
please call 487-3331.**

2004 VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION PARTY

PWA volunteers gathered at the Bellemore home in April to relax and enjoy good company, wonderful food, and a visit from acclaimed author and artist David Carroll. Not wanting to be upstaged by Bill Clinton's surprise visit*, David enthralled the group with his tales of turtles, including two special guests. By analyzing the fascinating marks on two turtles he had found that afternoon, David was able to suggest possible theories about their lives. As always, listening to David reminded us all why our work with the PWA is so important and how our commitment makes a difference.

The PWA wishes to express its appreciation to New Boston business owners Lou & Carol Maynard of the Molly Stark Tavern for the wonderful Raspberry Creme Torte they donated and to Geoff & Cyndie Katz of the Apple Barn for the flat of violas that we sugared and enjoyed with dessert. The plants now grace the front steps of the PWA office!

Plans are already underway for a 2005 Volunteers Party – a "Must Attend" event. To be invited you must be a 2004 PWA volunteer. Who knows what we have planned for next year!

* Want to know the story behind the Bill Clinton visit?
Call or e-mail the office and sign up to be a 2004 volunteer!

INVASIVE * SPECIES PROGRAM BLOSSOMS

by Lyn Lombard and Hannah Proctor

From 1998 through 2003, Purple Loosestrife was the only invasive species that the PWA focused attention on. The threat of Purple Loosestrife has been kept in the spotlight through our educational roadshow, flyers and posters, and our efforts to control it through digging and implementing a biomonitoring program using *Gallerucella* sp. beetles. As one of a growing list of invasive species found in the state, Purple Loosestrife will now "step down" from the spotlight and become just one of many invasives to be addressed in the PWA's expanded invasive species program.

The newly named Invasive Species Committee (ISC) has set new goals that focus on selected invasive plants from the State's soon-to-be-released "Do Not Sell" list. The ISC's goal this year is to educate everyone we can about invasives through educational seminars, bulletins, and local newspaper articles.

ISC will also initiate an inventory of sites in the watershed where invasives have taken hold, for use by both the PWA and the State. To do this, we are looking for at least one PWA member in each watershed town to join the ISC. ISC members will contribute with the following important services:

- * Help document where various invasives are on maps of each town.
- * Serve as a liaison between the PWA office and your town to ensure that educational materials are available in the community.
- * Seek out opportunities to draw small groups together to learn about invasives.
- * Become roadside watchers to spot smaller areas of Purple Loosestrife that can be dug to prevent its spread – a proven method of control for new starter plants and lone plants that "seed in" in meadows, along waterways, and in our backyards. More local monitors will boost our success.

Lyn and Hannah will provide training in the identification and control of invasive species to all ISC town contacts and review what must be done for the documentation process. In addition, the PWA is seeking funding for a Power Point presentation system. We hope to work with the University of New Hampshire to develop an invasive species program that the ISC can use throughout the watershed.

Efforts to control Purple Loosestrife will continue through the biomonitoring program. As long as we receive beetles from the State, we will continue to breed beetles on overwintered plant stock or release them directly into the largest and most critical Purple Loosestrife sites in the watershed.

For more information on our upcoming programs or to volunteer as an invasives contact in your town, call **Lyn Lombard at 487-5114** or **Hannah Proctor at 547-2816**.



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!

Fish Restoration Program:

Our River in Crisis

by Don McGinley

The Merrimack River Anadromous Fish Restoration Program is in crisis due to funding shortfalls. This crisis was confirmed at a recent meeting of the Merrimack Policy Committee composed of representatives from US Fish & Wildlife Service, NH Fish & Game, Massachusetts Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Marine Fisheries, and the US Forest Service.

Future support by the US Fish & Wildlife Service for the Merrimack Restoration effort is threatened. If current budget projections hold, the Nashua Federal Hatchery will close. Closure could bring an end to restoration

efforts to fully repopulate Atlantic salmon, American shad, Lamprey and American eels, and blueback herring to the Merrimack basin, including the Piscataquog watershed. Simply put, no hatchery, no eggs, no fish, no program.

In 1960, the Merrimack was among the ten most polluted rivers in the US. Thanks to the Clean Water Act, it now provides drinking water for more than 300,000 residents. With the cleanup and fish restoration program, the Piscataquog River is one of many stocked annually with about 140,000 salmon fry. Associated with fry stocking is the Adopt-A-Salmon Program that educates children and their families about the Atlantic salmon life cycles.

The state agency directors, led by Lee Perry, Executive Director of NH Fish & Game, are working to form a New England States Coalition to save our anadromous fish. Perry and Wayne MacCallum, Director of MA Fish & Wildlife, have committed to work not only to salvage the program but also to develop an ongoing structure to ensure its future success.

The Merrimack Migratory Fish Alliance (MMFA), a newly formed citizens group, is interacting with our Congressional delegates to raise concerns about the program's status and funding. The PWA Board of Directors has voted to endorse the MMFA effort. Other supporters include the NH Wildlife Federation, NH Trout Unlimited, Mass/RI Trout Unlimited, Merrimack River Watershed Council, Souhegan Watershed Association, NH Association of Conservation Commissions, and the Audubon Society of NH.

Reacting positively to citizen and MMFA requests, Senators Gregg and Sununu with Senators Kennedy and Kerry of Massachusetts have asked the Senate Appropriations Committee to budget funds to continue the restoration program for at least another year. The MMFA will continue to work toward a long-term goal of a federal budget "line item" for the Merrimack River Program until the Merrimack and its tributaries are adequately repopulated with these native fish.

Fish return numbers at the fish lift, Essex dam in Lawrence, Massachusetts

July 12, 2002

Atlantic salmon	56
American shad	54,922
Herring *	526
Lamprey	8,049
Striped bass	1,817

June 29, 2003

Atlantic salmon	120**
American shad	55,500
Herring *	10,607
Lamprey	2,124
Striped bass	1,000

* Herring are forage food
for stripers.

** Final with fall run = 147

Simply put, no hatchery, no eggs, no fish, no program.

What You Can Do: Please let Senators Gregg and Sununu and Congressmen Bass and Bradley know that you support continuation of the Merrimack Anadromous Fish Restoration Program. **For more information, contact MMFA member Don McGinley at donmcg44@aol.com.**

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 pwa@pwa.mv.com.

- ☐ I'd like to join a Keeping Track team.
- ☐ I'd like to help the Invasive Species Committee (ISC).
- ☐ 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!

THE TUTHILL WOODLANDS PRESERVE:

by Emily Hague

Four generations of Greggs have lived up on this ridge, now surrounded by northern hardwood and softwood forests, vernal pools, and wetlands. The land echoes its past uses: stone walls crisscross the 193 acres that once was a homestead, complete with pastures, crop fields, an orchard, a road, two houses, a barn, and several out-buildings. A few trees are still standing that were young when those fields were wide open to cattle or crops, and if you look carefully when walking through the property, you might see one – trees that are sometimes 2 1/2 feet in diameter or more, that one person can't reach around – trees whose strong, low limbs indicate their privileged youth, having no competition in the open fields.

Even though the soil is very stony – and the extensive stone walls did not remove even half the stones on the land – you can see why people chose to live at this site perched atop a ridge overlooking the Middle Branch valley, with plenty of groundwater not far below the surface, and picturesque streams in the valleys between the drumlins (ridges scoured and smoothed by the glaciers).

The first Greggs arrived on the property around the turn of the nineteenth century, and the last Gregg left in the 1880s, after which there is a period in the history of the Tuthill Woodlands Preserve that thus far has evaded town records and deeds. We can only guess that the land lay dormant, returning to forest until parts of it were logged in the 1950s before being sold to the Tuthills in the 1960s. After that, the property was selectively logged and essentially left alone to flourish.

Pines that eagerly sprouted up in the abandoned pastures grew straight and tall, and hardwoods took to the sunny slopes of the drumlins despite all the rocks and the disturbed soil. Forest wildlife returned, taking advantage of all the new growth. Beavers engineered the streams into wonderful habitats for flora and



photo by Pat Nelson

fauna. Now that the Tuthills have graciously entrusted this property to the PWA, the forest will continue to mature, and the wildlife will continue to traverse and use the many habitats on this land. Though the Tuthill Woodlands Preserve once made an excellent homestead for settlers, it is now a forest homestead.

Watching this forest awaken out of winter slumber is enthralling. The

beavers have woken up and fixed the leak in the dam, and the deer have been ravaging last year's acorn supply, now revealed by the lack of snow cover. The moose have been ranging about, nibbling on shrubs and scraping their teeth on the bark of sugar maples to taste the sap. The porcupines, picking up their metabolisms again, have littered the ground under the hemlocks with their half-chewed branches. Marsh marigolds have appeared in the wet lowlands, and lily-of-the-valley has begun to carpet the forest floor. Tadpoles have been swarming in the ponds. To walk through this piece of land is to be rejuvenated by all of this activity. Even more rejuvenating is the thought that this forest is home to a plethora of animals and plants that will not be disturbed again, not here.

As a PWA intern studying this property with Gordon Russell, I have learned much about looking at a property and recreating pieces of its history. As part of my internship, I am laying out a trail system and creating a trail guide. Once completed, guides will be available at the entrance to the property. **Enjoy!**

Emily Hague, a graduate student at Antioch New England, has been cataloging the natural and social history of the Tuthill Woodlands Preserve for the PWA under a grant from the Russell Foundation.

WEB WATCH: The Private Life of Birds

The peregrine falcons are raising chicks again high up on an office tower in downtown Manchester. You can get a bird's eye view of their perch on a live webcam sponsored by NH Audubon. **www.nhaudubon.org**

In contrast, you can also follow the first **24 days in the life of one of our smallest birds, the hummingbird** at **<http://community-2.webtv.net/hotmail.com/verle33/HummingBirdNest/index.html>**

If you were disappointed to find that the barred owls, June and Ward, had not returned to their old haunt, you can **eavesdrop on webcams for other birds** at **<http://www.newyorkwild.org/>**



Screen grabs from the NH Audubon peregrine falcon webcam.



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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



Late Spring/Early Summer Dates

Novices are always welcome!

Sat., June 12 (New Boston) Call Ken at **487-5114**

Sun., June 13 (Dunbarton) Call Margaret at **774-7120**

Sun., July 11 (Weare) Call Gordon at **487-2994**

Sun., July 18 (Weare) Call Gordon at **487-2994**

Dates are subject to change. Call leaders to confirm.

Welcome to Our New Members!

Herb & Rosa Bromberg*	Francestown
David Butler	Bedford
Steve Caggiano**	Tyngsboro, MA
Bruce Dennis	New Boston
Jeff Jackson	Weare
Ray James	Hudson
Matt & Janet Lewis	Francestown
Philip Messier & Kathleen Maguire**	Contoocook
Donna Mombourquette **	New Boston
& James Denesevich	
Patricia & David Smith	New Boston
William Tiffany	Weare

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

Some members have asked for email updates on PWA activities.

If you would like to receive occasional "PWA news" electronically, send email to Paula at **PBellemore@pwa.mv.com**. We promise not to drown you in mail or share your email address outside the PWA.

Member Renewals as of May 1st

Peter & Linda Berg**	N.Attleboro, MA
Jesse Butler	Salem, OR
Sarah Chaffee*	Manchester
Robert & Donna Chase	New Boston
Catherine D'Agostino*	Goffstown
Brenda Dello Russo*	Revere, MA
Edward & Kim DiPietro	New Boston
Ellen Dokton	Weare
Fred & Marilyn Greenhalge*	Dunbarton
Robin & Ben Haubrich	Francestown
Isabella Britain Hill*	Francestown
Beatrice Trum Hunter	Deering
Phil & Carol Ireland	Francestown
Ruth Jones*	Weare
Charles & Joanne Lantz	Saugerties, NY
Bob & Linda Lindgren*	Francestown
Holly MacAdam	York, ME
Pat Nelson	Francestown
Lois Richards	Dunbarton
George & Grita Schneck	Deering
Arthur Stickney	Deering
Barry & Lois Wicklow	Francestown
Anne Window	Manchester

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

Special Gifts from Member Employers

Harvard Pilgrim Health Community Spirit Awards \$500

Nominated by Maureen & Christopher Levin

Public Service of NH Community Service Award \$200

Nominated by David & Michele Petersen

**Does your company
have a community service
grant program?
Does it match
employee contributions
to nonprofit organizations?
Check with your
Human Resources Department
to find out how you can
maximize your gifts
to the PWA.**