



OUR MISSION

TO CONSERVE THE
NATURAL AND SCENIC
ENVIRONMENT OF THE
PISCATAQUOG RIVER
WATERSHED AND
PROTECT THE PURITY
OF ITS WATERS.

IN THIS ISSUE

MONEY MATTERS!
Page 2

LOOSESTRIFE
UPDATE
Page 3

MILFOIL MENACE
Page 3

SCAVENGER HUNT
Page 4

VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES
Page 4

HELP SAVE U.S. LANDS
Page 4

TAKING THE RIVER'S
TEMPERATURE
Page 5

KEEPING TRACK
DATES
Page 5

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Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Because Yesterday is Coming Again:

by Gordon Russell

THE HEADWATERS PROJECT

Over a period of many yesterdays, sometime between 1900 and 1930, the land throughout 'our' watershed gave a great sigh of relief. During most of the yesterdays of the 1800s, the land's trees had fallen to the axe, the animals to the bullet. Then demography shifted gears. The watershed's population moved south and west. The land under the vacated pastures and forest stumps was given back its freedom, seeds were welcomed and grew and reforested the land. A natural house was rebuilt and it beckoned the likes of moose, bobcat, deer, and black bear. 'Our' watershed's natural world had returned.

Today's Opportunity? A second chance to act responsibly toward our natural heritage.

The Big Question? Will we, this time, use tomorrow to meet our obligation and act responsibly on behalf of the land? Today the writing is on the wall, but we are not seeing it. Do the following figures help make the problem clearer?

People on the Land

	1990 U.S.Census	2003 U.S.Census*	2002 People/sq. mile	2002 Housing Units/sq. mile
FRANCETOWN	1217	1553	51.6	21.7
GOFFSTOWN	14,621	17,354	463.0	157.0
GREENFIELD	2231	2260	65.6	25.0
LYNDEBOROUGH	1294	1702	56.4	18.8
NEW BOSTON	3214	4643	106.1	34.1
WEARE	6193	8314	140.4	48.1

* U.S. Census

What this writer sees is yesterday happening all over again. Our most sensitive and connected open spaces needed for wild things are disappearing.

Small Gains Overwhelmed by Large Losses

The PWA concedes a troublesome fact: After 33 years of dedicated work, our combined efforts have not slowed the loss of habitat, have not lessened the disappearance of open fields or of forest fragmentation. When subdivision proposals arrive before the eyes of town planners, the only gains made by our watershed are losses of productive landscape. But those who sense an obligation to care do not give up. *They try an even more ambitious approach.*

Announcing The Headwaters Project I

The three branches of our Piscataquog River are fed by hundreds of tributaries. While there is no true wilderness left in this watershed, there are connected open spaces holding a few of those brooks where 'wild' can find solace and where wildness persists. Keeping wildness in key headwater streams that feed the South Branch is the goal of the first Headwaters Project, which we are calling The Headwaters Project I.

The PWA, together with the Francetown Land Trust (formerly the FLC) and the Francetown, Greenfield, and Lyndeborough conservation commissions, has begun the first phase of The Headwaters Project I. This summer a concerted effort is being made to collect a wide range of biological and habitat data in open spaces that are mostly wild and are located between lands already protected. To connect protected lands is the only viable way to keep a natural system whole. Vital to any success in land protection is the landowner's willingness to allow data collection and his/her understanding of the importance of the initiative. What's at stake is the wholeness of tomorrow's watershed.

The Russell Foundation is supporting four talented researchers in collecting data for the purpose of establishing a volume of information across these lands. The project is coordinated by Gordon Russell, FLT member and

Director Emeritus of PWA, and Barry Wicklow, PWA member and Vice President of FLT. For inquiries, call Gordon at 487-2994 or Barry at 547-9904.



THP researchers, from left: Emily Hague, Rebecca Allmond, Amanda Fisher, and Lisa Brooks Photo by Gordon Russell



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MONEY MATTERS...

by Margaret Watkins, Executive Director

*Much as we would like to spend all our time and energy conserving land and protecting wetlands, rivers, and streams in the Piscataquog watershed, the fact is that the PWA's important work cannot be sustained unless we also meet the **2004 projected operating budget of \$68,270.** Here are some of the ways we hope to reach this goal.*

PWA BUSINESS SPONSORS

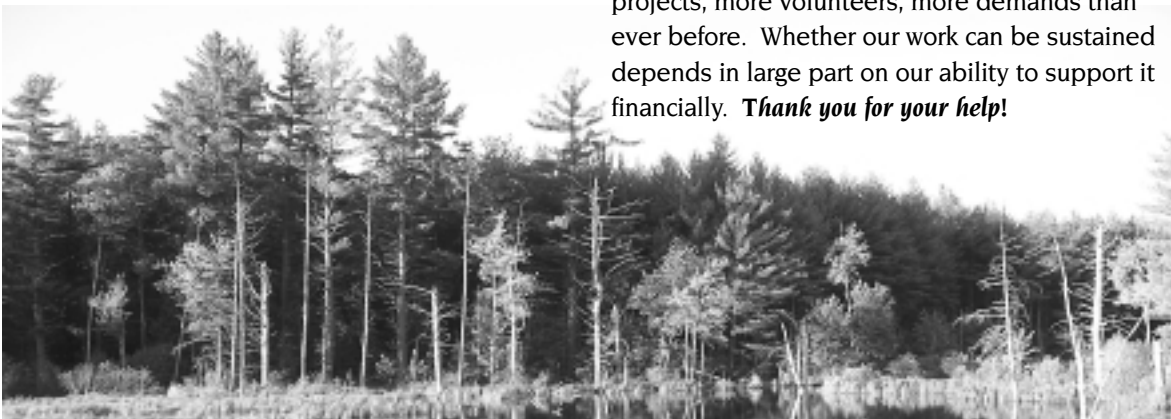
In this newsletter you will see a list of PWA business sponsors. Please patronize and thank these local businesses who support the PWA and its programs. Their commitment, like yours, is essential to the PWA's ability to continue its work.

CREDIT CARD CONTRIBUTIONS

The PWA now offers the option of contributing by credit card, with thanks to the Bank of New Hampshire for loaned equipment. As you'll see on the renewal form, we now offer both Regular and Sustaining memberships. The **Sustaining Membership** allows members to support the PWA with monthly payments of a predetermined amount. We hope these new options will make it easier than ever to support the PWA's programs.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS AND GRANTS

Several members have taken advantage of employer programs that match contributions to the PWA. Many businesses give through their employees, either with matching gifts or small grant programs. Thanks to members, the PWA received two grants this spring, from Harvard Pilgrim Health and PSNH. If you are not sure whether your company has a charitable giving program, please check with your Human Resources Department. The PWA website now cites some, but not all companies with matching gift programs.



GRANTS

The PWA has been awarded three grants – one contingent on a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$2700 for new memberships – through the Manchester Regional Community Foundation (MRCF), a regional division of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The grants are from:

- Hess Family Fund
- Benthien Family Creative Leadership Fund
- Stonebraker Family Fund

If we fulfill the \$2700 match, these MRCF awards will total \$11,800 in support of critical PWA capacity building and organizational development and will contribute to the PWA's operating budget.

The PWA is also grateful for support from:

- The NH Charitable Foundation (\$2000 towards completion of the PWA's Conservation Plan for the Piscataquog River Watershed)
- New England Grassroots Environmental Fund (\$1500 to fund the Invasive Species Committee's expanded work)

EACH ONE REACH ONE

This June you received a packet for the PWA's *Each One Reach One* campaign. If you haven't yet invited someone to join the PWA, please do – and follow up to be sure they've acted! Not only will you be helping the PWA, you will be helping to protect this special place we call "home" by introducing yet another person to conservation information and opportunities to experience conservation at work. A large membership base is like a spring to a river in dry weather – a reliable source.

It is a stimulating time for the PWA, with more projects, more volunteers, more demands than ever before. Whether our work can be sustained depends in large part on our ability to support it financially. **Thank you for your help!**

Ghosts in the Garden Reap Rewards

by Lyn Lombard

You may have heard about the "ghosts" in the gardens of our Invasives Committee members in the last few years. The committee constructed ghostly netted tents to cover pots of purple loosestrife, gave each pot about 10 beetles – and lo and behold! – those beetles reproduced up to 500 beetles per pot. The beetles, in the netted pots, were then taken to several purple loosestrife sites, uncovered, and told to EAT. **And eat they did.** Upon returning to several of these sites, we've seen beetles actively eating, larvae resting, and many holes in many leaves. Plant growth has been stunted or eliminated. At a very large site in New Boston, a pond has returned with a little help from beavers,

but mostly with help from the *Galerucella* sp. beetles. A field nearby is a veritable feast for the beetles that have moved across a parking lot to reach a new source of the purple menace. We're hoping that the beetles will migrate to additional small sites of loosestrife.



Pond birds are back...

Amphibians and mammals now make their homes around the pond again.

The Invasives Committee is expanding its purview beyond purple loosestrife in an effort to raise awareness of the harm done to local habitats by many other non-native invasive species. Keep an eye on your local newspaper and the PWA website to learn more about these plants. You can download the following document for a list of the 32 plant species that are prohibited from sale by the NH Department of Environmental Services: http://agriculture.nh.gov/pdf/topics/list_of_invasive_species.pdf This document also lists other species that will be prohibited by January 1, 2007. We'll keep you updated about other non-native invasive plants and what you can do about them.

A MENACE IN OUR PONDS

Variable milfoil

has been confirmed in two watershed ponds:

Scoby Pond in Francestown and
Gorham Pond in Dunbarton.

To minimize the risk of spreading this noxious weed, **always check your boat before launching.** (Segments as small as one centimeter can take root!)

Remove all weeds from the boat, motor well, propeller, trailer, hitch, bumper, and car, and dispose of them in the trash.

Do not throw vegetation in the water!

For a good photograph of milfoil, go to www.squam lakes.org/sla/milfoil.htm

THIS INVASIVE PLANT DESTROYS HABITAT AND IMPEDES RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Is your membership due for renewal? Please renew right away!

And tell a friend about the PWA! We depend on your support!

Does your company have a Matching Gift Program? The PWA qualifies for matching gifts!

Ask your Human Resources Department about this or other charitable gift programs that might benefit the PWA!

REGULAR MEMBERSHIPS:

- ☐ \$250 Watershed Guardian ☐ \$100 Supporting ☐ \$50 Contributing ☐ \$30 Family ☐ \$20 Individual ☐ \$10 Senior/Student
☐ My check is enclosed. ☐ Bill a regular membership to my credit card.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS: Membership fees are billed to your credit card monthly (minimum \$10 per month).

- ☐ Please bill a sustaining membership donation of \$_____ per month to my credit card.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

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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): _____

ALSO SEE REVERSE SIDE. THEN RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

Piscataquog Watershed Association • 5A Mill Street • New Boston, NH 03070

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED HELP IN PROTECTING THE WATERSHED!

HELP SAVE AMERICAN PLACES

By Labor Day, Americans Saving American Places (ASAP) hopes to have more than one million signatures supporting full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Created by Congress in 1964, the LWCF has been instrumental in saving land and creating outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the country. Eight Piscataquog watershed towns have completed 34 projects with financial support from LWCF. LWCF funding comes largely from Outer Continental shelf (OCS) mineral leasing receipts.

Congress intended some \$450 million a year be earmarked for LWCF state and local projects. Current and proposed funding is well short of that goal. The ASAP petition seeks to increase LWCF funding. *To voice your support, please sign the petition at <http://www.asap2004.org> today.*

SCAVENGER HUNT

FERRIN POND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

Explore the Ferrin Pond Conservation Area.

Learn how to use a map and compass. Find the Great Boulder, Pileated Woodpecker signs, signs of a changing landscape, and more, at this scavenger hunt

CO-SPONSORED BY THE PWA & THE WEARE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Come anytime between 10 AM and 2 PM.

Map & compass skills training offered on the hour.

Dress for off-trail walking. Bring water and snacks.

DIRECTIONS: The Ferrin Pond Conservation Area is on Mountain Road in Weare. From the intersections of Rtes. 114, 77, and 149, take Rte. 149 N (toward Deering). In a few miles, turn left onto Perkins Pond Road. Take the first right onto Mountain Road and follow signs to Ferrin Pond.

Want more information? Go to www.mv.com/ipusers/pwa/scavenger_hunt.html.

Volunteers Needed

We love our volunteers! Please call the office to offer your special talents. Possible projects for volunteers right now include the following:

- Enter Keeping Track data into a database.
- Scan old minutes; create an archive on disk.
- Work on event booths.
- Stock outreach displays in local towns.
- Monitor water quality in Franconstown.
- Watch for invasive species in your town.
- Help with special events.
- Be a "cookie baker" for PWA events.

PLEASE HELP!

IF YOU NEED MORE
MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES,
CALL THE PWA OFFICE AT 487-3331.

We are 1/5th of the way to our goal of 100 new members, and 1/3rd of the way to meeting the \$2700 new members challenge grant. Be one of the PWA members to reach a new member in the Each One Reach One Membership Campaign.

EACH ONE REACH ONE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

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 HELP WITH:

- ☐ Keeping Track ☐ Water Quality Monitoring ☐ Invasive Species Committee ☐ Outreach ☐ Special Projects
- ☐ Please send me _____ PWA brochures for my neighbors and friends.
- ☐ 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!

Watershed Rivers and Streams Run Warm and Cold

by John Magee

A GOAL OF THE PWA IS TO PROTECT HABITAT IN THE WATERSHED FOR NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE. Water temperature is one of the most important factors in the distribution of fish. Warm water is suitable for fish such as fallfish, shiner species, sunfish, and bullhead (pout), while waters that remain cold – even in the middle of summer – are suitable for species such as brook trout and slimy sculpin.

To quantify the temperature conditions of the Piscataquog River and its tributaries, Water Quality volunteers monitored water temperatures at 30 locations in 2002 and 2003 using automated temperature recorders. The PWA owns three of these recorders; one was borrowed from New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, and the rest were borrowed from Normandeau Associates, Inc. in Bedford. Additionally, on June 26-27, 2003, we measured water temperatures at 31 other sites during afternoon hours to obtain an estimate of the maximum daily water temperatures at each site. We are monitoring water temperatures at an additional 17 locations this year.

Next time you see a small "insignificant" brook, remember that nothing is insignificant in the grand ecological web we have inherited.

THE GOOD NEWS: Well, the Piscataquog Watershed is home to a diverse array of aquatic habitats: the three branches of the river and its mainstem, tiny brooks, streams, and many lakes and ponds. We already knew that. What we learned is that warmwater fish species will find much of the Piscataquog Watershed to be a good home; all three branches, the mainstem, and many tributaries are relatively warm in the summer. Coldwater fish are more likely to spend the summer in the many small brooks. In fact, nearly every time we are along these small brooks, we see brook trout quickly darting under the cover of a rock, tree, or vegetation. Some of these small brooks appear to be nearly filled with small brook trout. It is very common

for brook trout, especially mature ones, to seek cool water in the summer, and then return to the larger streams and rivers for the fall, winter, and spring.

THE BAD NEWS: It's very easy to disturb these small, cool brooks. Cutting trees too close to a brook allows the hot summer sun to beat down on the water and raise the water temperature. Absence of fallen leaves and woody debris can eliminate a vital source of nutrients to the brook. Development along a brook can also affect water temperature and clarity if it is associated with erosion from land clearing. Depletion of groundwater for residential and other purposes can literally drain the source that feeds the brook. Clearing debris from a brook may destroy fish resting and feeding sites.

Next time you see a small "insignificant" brook, remember that nothing is insignificant in the grand ecological web we have inherited.

John Magee is a fisheries scientist and active member of the PWA's Water Quality Committee.

Photograph by Cindy Stave

Gordon Russell swings from grapevines during July's Ferrin Pond / Bartlett Brook transect. Photograph by Joel Stave



AUTUMN LEAVES AREN'T THE ONLY COLORFUL THINGS WE SEE ON OUR TRACKING SESSIONS!



FALL TRACKING DATES

Novices are always welcome!

Sat., September 12	(Weare)	Call Gordon at 487-2994
Sun., September 18	(New Boston)	Call Ken at 487-5114
Sun., September 26	(Weare)	Call Gordon at 487-2994
Sun., October 3	(Dunbarton)	Call Margaret at 774-7120

Dates are subject to change. Call leaders to confirm.



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.

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Water Lily by Joel Stave

SAVE THESE DATES!

SCAVENGER HUNT

Saturday, September 18 *(see page 4)*

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE...

PWA ANNUAL MEETING!

Saturday, October 23 *(details to come)*

Business Sponsors

Be sure to support
the following businesses who
join you in supporting the PWA!

Guarantor (\$500 or more)

Envision Waterfalls (New Boston)

Robert B. Todd Land Use Consultants †
(New Boston)

Steward (\$250 - \$499)

GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (Manchester)

MV Communications † (Manchester)

Partner (\$100 - \$249)

David R. Craig, Attorney At Law (New Boston)

Goffstown Hardware † (Goffstown)

Molly Stark Tavern (New Boston)

New Boston Dental Care, LLC (New Boston)

New Boston Hair Design (New Boston)

New Boston Hardware (New Boston)

† Gift in kind

Welcome to Our New Members! (as of July 1st)

Karl Barney	Amherst	Albert & Carol LaChance*	New Boston
Thomas Clapp	New Boston	Daniel Pouliot	Manchester
Brian Dresser	Manchester	Susan K. Sheppard	Goffstown
George & Kristi Fullerton*	Goffstown		
Joan & Dana Haley	New Boston		

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

Member Renewals (as of July 1st)

Robert Beaudet	Manchester	Marty & Elizabeth Milkovic	Coventry, CT
Peter & Linda Berg**	Attleboro Falls, MA	William & Catherine Morrissey*	New Boston
William Boisvert*	Weare	Elizabeth S. Paynter*	Weston, MA
Charles & Martha Boswell*	Francetown	Daniel Peterson	Francetown
Gordon C. Brown	Weare	Mark & Shirley Pitman	Francetown
Mary Ellen & Andre Compagna**	New Boston	Lois Richards	Dunbarton
Richard & Linda DesRosiers	Goffstown	Mark & Holly Stanley	Francetown
Amy & Tim Doherty	New Boston	Joel & Cindy Stave	New Boston
Ellen Dokton	Weare	Paul Susca & Peg Lopata & Family	Francetown
Paul & Deborra Doscher	Weare	Tim Taylor & Diana Cooke*	Guilford
David Erikson*	Weare	Charles Hardy Townes**	Berkeley, CA
Lisa Ferro**	New Boston	Thomas & Christine Tyrie*	Francetown
Andy Fulton	Weare	Stephen Walker & Family	Deering
Barbara Gannon	Goffstown	Anne Window	Manchester
Samuel J. Hackler*	New Boston	Carolyn Woodbury	Francetown
Gail Hersey & Peter Nott	Weare	David & Candace Woodbury	New Boston
Patricia Jennings	New Boston		
Ralph & Maureen Joyce*	Weare		
Addie Ann Lambarth	Goffstown		
Thomas Lee & Family	Goffstown		
Mike Lennon	New Boston		
John & Anne McCausland**	Weare		

Special Gifts to the Technology Fund

Peter & Nancy Clark**

William & Catherine Morrissey**

Randy & Gail Parker**

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