



## 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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2004



# Watershed News

## THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### Never Doubt

### What Committed Citizens Can Do...



**In August, current PWA Board members met with former Board members to socialize and renew old ties** (see photo, p. 4). Heather Parker's RSVP message on the PWA phone made me realize how much has changed. In her message, Heather (now living in Portsmouth) exclaimed, "I can't believe the PWA now has a dedicated phone line!"

Beginning in 1970 with a small group of residents committed to protecting three miles of B&M rail bed along the South Branch of the Piscataquog River, the PWA has grown to a 380-member organization with two paid staff, an office, and more than 70 volunteers who regularly contribute to expanding land conservation, research, monitoring, outreach, and restoration programs.

From its beginnings through 2003, the PWA has protected more than 1,700 acres – 33 conservation easement properties and 10 properties owned outright, including one life estate. This year we have completed one conservation easement and anticipate the conclusion of five additional land conservation projects by year's end – in Weare, Dunbarton, New Boston, and Henniker.

In 2003, PWA Director *Emeritus* Gordon Russell and his wife, Barbara, established the Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation. Supporting watershed research and land conservation, the Foundation significantly enhances the PWA's capacity to pursue watershed conservation goals.

These developments create a stimulating environment. At a recent meeting, the Board echoed sentiments that prior generations of Board members likely have felt: despite many challenges, we are operating in the best of times for the PWA. But there is a worst-of-times

side, too. We are living in a time of unprecedented development and habitat loss, with NH the fastest growing state in the northeast. As fields and forests in watershed towns give way to houses, yards, and roads, it is easy to

feel discouraged. This is where the PWA and similar land conservation organizations make a difference. Development is inevitable, but it does not need to destroy our landscapes and communities. Conservation commissions and enlightened planning boards know this and are seeking ways to promote environmentally

sound development. Some developers are responding, as was the case with Jim Coughlin and the PWA's 98-acre easement on Breed Brook in Weare this year. The PWA's Living Legacy Conservation Plan (to be presented at the Annual Meeting) offers

hope. Our watershed still has the wildlife and water quality indicative of a vibrant natural community. However, the opportunities to keep the ecological fabric intact are fading. We do not have forever – or even, probably, many tomorrows.

The PWA is committed to protecting the watershed's ecological integrity. Each of our easements and all of our programs are dedicated to that end. With help from our valued members and friends, the PWA will continue to build on its 34-year history, becoming ever more effective at serving watershed conservation. As Margaret Mead wrote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

**We are living in a time of  
unprecedented development and  
habitat loss, with New Hampshire  
the fastest growing state  
in the northeast.**

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John Magee

Tom Noel

E. Molly Stark

**Invasive Species Committee (ISC)**

Lyn Lombard

Hannah Proctor

**Keeping Track Coordinator**

Barbara Thomson

# REFLECTIONS

## FROM YOUR BOARD

*In place of our monthly meeting, the Board held a retreat in August to evaluate how we are functioning as a Board and as an organization. At the beginning of the session, facilitator Carol Hess invited each of us to share what it is that inspires us to do this work. Here are some of the responses.*

**P**AT NELSON: What I'd like most to do is absolutely NOTHING – or almost nothing. I'd like to just sit on my deck and listen to the crickets or listen to the silence, or watch the poplar leaves flutter in the breeze or the bats fly overhead at dusk, or wander through the woods and see what new wonder catches my eye, or drive around the beautiful backroads. But then I ask myself, "What if, while I'm doing nothing, this lovely environment doesn't just stay the same? What if it gets developed and I hear traffic instead of crickets, and I see house after new house on those backroads instead of the thrill of a moose or a bear?" So I figure if I'm going to do anything in this world, I should work to protect what keeps me sane, what brings me peace, what is most important to me. I happen right now to live here, in this beautiful place, so this is what I work to protect.

**D**IANE BELAND: My love for a pond in my backyard inspired me to volunteer for the Board. My son Andy built the pond as a school project and it has always fascinated me. Several frogs have moved in and the water plants, ornamental grasses, and

a fountain add to its beauty. It is a serene, peaceful place where I can put aside my worries and just listen to the water splashing on the rocks as well as the birds and other natural sounds that surround me. What a very special gift this pond is! It has been interesting and fun learning more about the watershed and the PWA, and I am very glad to be part of this group of people dedicated to its preservation.

**J**ED CALLEN: I volunteer my time to the PWA for three reasons: First, to do what I can to preserve pieces of our precious natural world for posterity. Second, to do this locally where I can experience our successes. And third, to do it with a group of people whom I love and admire.

*We'll share some more reflections in future newsletters. We'd love to hear from you, too.*

*Why do you live here?  
What do you love about it?  
What if this area changes?  
Why do you support the PWA?*

*Send us your thoughts  
and we'll include them in a  
future newsletter. Even better,  
SHARE YOUR PASSIONS  
with your friends and neighbors and  
invite them to join the PWA's efforts to  
protect this treasure we call home.*

## Tough Job, but Someone's Gotta Do It!

Board members Randy Parker, Jed Callen, Pat Myers, and Amy Doherty tackle the difficult task of judging pies

at the New Members Party in August. The event brought together old and new members to play games, picnic, walk protected riverfront lands from the home of hosts Randy and Gail Parker – and eat pie!

*Photograph by Gail Parker*





## Dances With Bears

by Ken Lombard

Friends and I have been deer hunting in the same woods for 30 years, always knowing that bears were present but rarely seeing one.

This year (2001) would be different!

Walking up a steep slope, the leaves were so dry it was like walking in corn flakes. Ahead I heard unfamiliar noises in the leaves. Since I couldn't move quietly, I tried only to get close enough to identify the animal before it left.

As I approached the area where the sound was coming from, I heard a bear cub growl. It seemed to come from further up the hill than the sounds in the leaves that I was approaching. A little further along and I saw motion – there was a patch of black, and to the right, another one! It was a mother and cub, about 35 yards ahead. The noise I'd heard was Mama bear gently sweeping the leaves away to feed on beechnuts. I watched for several minutes and then saw another cub come into the group. It must have made the growl I'd just heard.

Fascinated, I watched for several more minutes as they fed slowly toward my direction. It was particularly interesting to see how gently Mama bear swept the top layer of leaves aside, leaving the nuts on the ground in front of her. (When I walked up to look at the site, they had swept the leaves into windrows in an area equivalent to several large rooms.)

*It was particularly interesting to see how gently Mama bear swept the top layer of leaves aside, leaving the nuts on the ground in front of her.*

After awhile, I thought I ought to let them know I was there, before they got too close. So I spoke to them, saying, "Lunch is over!" and clapped my hands. Well, that got Mama's attention, but not the cubs'. She looked around and tried to locate me but couldn't. Then she tried to feed some more but was nervous. At some point, she gave a signal that I did not see or hear, and both cubs, who were about 50 feet apart, simultaneously treed, going up only a few feet and waiting. Finally Mama decided that the neighborhood was deteriorating and the family should leave. She headed uphill and the two cubs followed, not showing the least concern. As she left, she stood on her hind legs and had a last look to see what had disrupted her meal. Apparently she still didn't see me.

That year, I saw bears on at least four other occasions. It was a season in the fall woods that will not be forgotten!

**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 made out to PWA 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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:

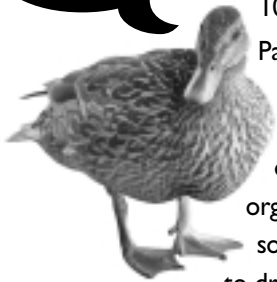
**Piscataquog Watershed Association • 5A Mill Street • New Boston, NH 03070**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED HELP IN PROTECTING THE WATERSHED!**

# Member Awarded for Water Protection Work

PWA member and former Director Paul Susca was one of several NH people presented with an Environmental Merit Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These awards honor those who have shown particular

Way to go, Paul!



ingenuity and commitment in their efforts to preserve the region's environment. This year's competition drew nearly 100 nominations from across New England.

Paul and the other two coordinators of the NH

Drinking Water Source Protection program of the NH Department of Environmental Services received

one of the 10 awards made to NH individuals or organizations. The team has completed hundreds of

source water assessments, identifying potential threats to drinking water. They also launched creative programs to

ensure that drinking water threats do not materialize. Efforts include partnering with nonprofit agencies and drinking water suppliers to protect source waters, drafting model land conservation easements with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, starting land conservation programs to purchase critical land near drinking water sources, and working to create a manual on source water protection for suppliers.

"These individuals, organizations, and businesses deserve our thanks for their extraordinary contributions in protecting the environment," said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator for the EPA's New England Office. "They have shown us that anyone can make a big difference, whether at work, at home, or in their neighborhood."

## C O R R E C T I O N

A notice in the July/August *Watershed News* incorrectly stated that milfoil can root from segments as small as 1 cm. In fact, 2"-3" of stem is needed to take root. Thanks to member Gene Propper for noting this correction.

## Renewing Old Ties



Richard Moore (left) and Randy Parker (right) reconnected at a recent gathering of PWA board members, past and present, whose tenures on the board spanned most of the PWA's 34 years. Richard and Randy negotiated the PWA's first land purchase in 1970. Easement donor and past board member Alicia Walker hosted the group at her lovely historic home.

Photo by Paula Bellemore

## WANTED

Laptop Computer • LCD Projector • Printer

Help us get our message out.

If you're upgrading, consider  
**DONATING YOUR USED EQUIPMENT**  
to the PWA and give yourself a  
**TAX DEDUCTION.**

If you know of sources for free or inexpensive equipment for nonprofits, please call the office at 487-3331.

## 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](mailto:pwa@pwa.mv.com).

### I'D LIKE TO HELP WITH:

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping Track | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Easement Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Species Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising   | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Projects    | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Work                |

☐ 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:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ways to protect my land.                | <input type="checkbox"/> Remembering the PWA in my will. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making a major contribution to the PWA. |  |

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. YOU ARE THE PWA!**

# Trout Unlimited Performs River Assessment

by Gerry Crow



The goal of Trout Unlimited (TU) is to conserve, protect, and restore trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. To further this objective, Jim MacCartney, a TU national staff member from Concord, NH, trained members of the Merrimack River Valley Chapter of TU in how to conduct stream assessments. Jim's job is to support river restoration work in New Hampshire and elsewhere, and his work is funded by TU and the National Park Service. The class, which was conducted on the Piscataquog River in Goffstown, taught members how to objectively measure and evaluate the condition of a given reach of river or stream.

Following the class, participants planned two assessments: one on the Middle Branch of the Piscataquog and one on Sand Brook in Hillsborough. Members had previously participated in volunteer projects on both bodies of water, and both were thought to offer opportunities for a stream restoration project, protection under special fishing regulations, or both.



On August 7 a team of TU members (Alan Lutz, Mike Croteau, John Kostrewski, Jim Norton, and Gerry Crow) performed a Visual Stream Assessment on the Middle Branch near Middle Branch Road in New Boston. The team assessed a stream reach of approximately 315 feet. The assessed area included fast, narrow riffles, long pools, and a channelized run through an abandoned dam site. The assessment report is still being written, but preliminary evaluation shows that although there may be some opportunity for stream restoration, the large open bog about a quarter mile above the stream reach may warm the water too much during the

summer to offer good native brook trout habitat. The final report will be provided to the PWA and will be posted on the Merrimack River Valley TU web site [www.merrimacktu.org](http://www.merrimacktu.org). If you wish to join the Merrimack River Valley TU chapter in future assessments

of the Piscataquog or other area streams, contact Gerry Crow at **880-5190**. TU can provide the assessment forms and background material and you will quickly learn the process by participating in one or two assessments.

*Gerry Crow is President of the Merrimack River Valley Chapter of TU, which draws its 375 members from south-central NH. They meet at 7 PM on second Tuesdays at the Sweeney Post of the American Legion on Maple Street in Manchester. There is no admission fee and guests are always welcome. Refer to [www.merrimacktu.org](http://www.merrimacktu.org) for more information.*



## FALL TRACKING DATES

Novices always welcome!

**Saturday, October 2,**  
New Boston, Call Ken  
at **487-5114**

**Sunday, October 3,**  
Weare, Call Gordon  
at **487-2994**

**Sunday, October 3,**  
Dunbarton, Call Margaret  
at **774-7120**

**Saturday, December 4**  
New Boston, Call Ken  
at **487-5114**

**Sunday, December 5**  
Weare, Call Gordon  
at **487-2994**

**Sunday, December 12**  
Weare, Call Gordon  
at **487-2994**

*Dates are subject  
to change. Call  
leaders to  
confirm.*

RED EFT BY JOEL STAVE



## Thanks to the following members for bringing new members to the PWA this year!

These members, and all new members, will be entered into a raffle for a night at the Greenfield Inn, to be drawn at the Annual Meeting. This list includes only those names that were mentioned on new member forms.

**If your name is not here and you referred someone to us who has joined, please call the office! We want to acknowledge you – and enter you in the raffle!**

Meredeth Allen • Diane Beland • Paula Bellemore • Mark Boucher  
Jed Callen • Mary Clapp • Susan Connard • Chris Conroy  
Amy Doherty • Barbara Gannon • Carol Hess  
Peter Kostecki • Evelyn Lamson • Mike Lennon  
Maureen & Chris Levin • Reta MacGregor  
Diane Manson • Mary Jane Marsden • John McCausland  
David Moffat & Carol Hall • Pat Nelson  
Randy & Gail Parker • Graham Pendlebury  
Gordon Russell • Susan Tucker • Nora Tuthill • Alicia Walker  
Margaret Watkins • Cindy Wilson • Candy & David Woodbury



Photograph by Joel Stave

## State of NH Seeks Your Input!

In March, NH Fish & Game hosted a "wildlife summit" with 100 people from nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and groups such as hunters and anglers, to identify major wildlife issues.

Now NHF&G wants to hear from YOU! Information gathered at the summit was used to develop a survey that you can take at:

[http://cecf1.unh.edu/formbuilder/forms/form46\\_cwcpssurv.htm](http://cecf1.unh.edu/formbuilder/forms/form46_cwcpssurv.htm)

**Survey input will  
help officials develop  
a state Wildlife  
Conservation Plan.**



5A Mill Street  
New Boston, NH 03070  
(603) 487-3331  
pwa@pwa-nh.org  
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



**WHY DID THE SALAMANDER CROSS THE ROAD?**

TO GET TO THE

**PWA ANNUAL MEETING!**

**OCTOBER 23** (See registration information inside.)

### Welcome to Our New Members! (as of September 1<sup>st</sup>)

Gary & Brenda Barss	New Boston
Elva Becker	Goffstown
Michael Boisvert	Goffstown
C.J. Bolton**	Weare
Blanche Boulter	Cumberland, RI
Kanta Connie Bousquet	Goffstown
Winfield Shaw Clark**	New Boston
Catherine Shaw Clark**	New Boston
Robert Dodge**	Tupelo, MS
Hugh & Denyse Fairley**	Dunbarton
Adam Garretson & Stephanie Silverman**	New Boston
Ellen & Curt Goldsberry	Weare
Jane Grant	Concord
Thomas R. & Louise Hanley	Manchester
Melissa Harvey	New Boston
John Juskevics	Weare
Suzanne Lamport	Francestown
Fritz, Hunter & Rebecca Manson**	New Boston
Polly Martel	Goffstown
Dan Martin	Bedford
Verna Martin	Weare
Jack & Brandy Mitroff*	New Boston
Patricia & Richard Moore**	Auburn
Bessie & Donald Myhr	Weare
James & Susanna Newsom	Goffstown
Linda Peters	Dunbarton

Mark Przekurat	Weare
Kevin & Judy Rautenberg	Weare
Gene Robinson & Mark Andrew*	Weare
Jim Scott & Julie Kirklin	New Boston
John Seager & Linda Simonds-Seager**	Hollis
Rod & Alana Stark	Goffstown
Oscar & Elizabeth Straw	Weare
Art & Marjorie Titus	Hamburg, NY
Eric & Monica Towne	Weare
James Travis	New Boston
Margaret Venator	Dunbarton
Erwin & Jean Walker	Goffstown
Donald Wellman*	Weare
Eliza Woodbury & Matt LaPenta	Cambridge, MA
Janie Young & Max Ferro*	Weare

### Member Renewals (as of September 1<sup>st</sup>)

Frances & Abigail Arnold	Francestown
David & Paula Bellemore and Family*	New Boston
Mary Berube	Francestown
Donald & Marion Buck	Hadlyme, CT
Marjorie & Donald Burke	Weare
Audrey Caskie	Walpole, MA
Helen & Mike Dutton and Family	Weare
David Erikson & Karen Broemme*	Weare
Polly Freese	Francestown
Jim Halla & Jeanne Ann Whittington	Dunbarton
Thomas Hanley	Goffstown
George C. Holt and Family*	Dunbarton

John Kanter & Lori Sommer	Hopkinton
Paul Livingston*	Millbrea, CA
Reta M. MacGregor	Goffstown
Chester Masel	Everett, MA
Marianne McDaniel	Francestown
Irving T. & Elinor M. McDowell**	New Boston
George Naum*	Manchester
Janet & Terry O'Brien	Goffstown
Dorothea O'Neil	Weare
Michael S. Palmer**	Swampscott, MA
Roger Paradis	Manchester
H. Randall & Gail Parker	New Boston
Andrew & Karen Paul*	Francestown
Graham Pendlebury	New Boston
Pat Place	Francestown
Pearle Preston*	Goffstown
N.B. & Caroline S. Robinson**	Stratham
Pamela & David Ryan	Goffstown
Peter Schuyler	Weare
Joan & Ed Tiffany	Boston, MA
Joseph Valentine & Paula Hunter**	Francestown
John & Cynthia West	Francestown
David & Candace Woodbury	New Boston

\* denotes extra contribution

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

The PWA wishes to thank  
**Frances & Abigail Arnold** for their gift  
in memory of PWA member  
~ Liesel Gilman ~