



# 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 16, No. 6

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2004



## PWA's Conservation Plan Sets the Stage for Year 35 and Beyond

by Margaret Watkins, Executive Director

Over the past two years the newsletter has referred to the PWA's Living Legacy Project, creating a conservation plan for the watershed. Thanks to Carol Foss, a wildlife biologist and forest ecologist, and the Plan's Steering Committee including PWA members Ken Lombard, Gordon Russell, and Barry Wicklow, and representatives from UNH Cooperative Extension, the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and NH Audubon, the PWA now has a blueprint for land conservation action. And it comes none too soon.

We are all witnessing changes to our communities as a result of growth – new buildings, new roads, yards where there were fields and forests, more traffic, growing demands on schools and community services. This summer the NH Department of Environmental Services released an analysis of growth and its impacts on wildlife habitat and water quality for statewide ranking purposes. They attempted to quantify development pressures using 26 indicators. All watersheds in the same hydrological class as the Piscataquog were identified as “ripe for preservation,” “threatened,” and/or “in need of restoration.” The data indicate that the Piscataquog River watershed is both threatened and in need of restoration.

The PWA's Conservation Plan identifies specific conservation focus areas, based on analyses of geographically digitized information that the state has developed. This information was supplemented with data from a variety of sources, including the PWA's wildlife tracking program, St. Anselm College student and faculty research, a joint PWA/NH Audubon whip-poor-will survey, and information from locally knowledgeable individuals. In the years ahead, the PWA will continue refining the Plan and adding to our knowledge of the focus areas through existing and expanded watershed research programs.

Because of its scope, the Plan depends for its implementation not only on the PWA but also on many collaborators, including watershed municipalities, other land trusts, government agencies, and individual landowners. We have already met with some collaborators and are encouraged by the commonality of priorities and others' interest in our approach. The Plan anticipates the following actions:

- Working with local land use boards, initially focusing on integrating protection of wildlife corridors into planning and zoning
- Education and outreach to landowners and the general public
- Expanded PWA monitoring, inventory, and research programs
- Securing funds for land conservation and these supporting activities
- Proactive land conservation

We are grateful to the U.S. Forest Service, which provided funding for this work through the NH Living Legacy Project, and to the NH Charitable Foundation for their support.

## The PWA's Watershed Conservation Plan has three overarching goals:

- To maintain the integrity of aquatic systems within the watershed
- To maintain the integrity of forest matrix within the watershed
- To maintain native biodiversity within the watershed

## Conservation Plan Goals

## NEWS FLASH!

The PWA Conservation Plan has received the Land Ethic for Tomorrow award from the NH Land Surveyors Association. Thanks to PWA member and Director Emeritus Robert Todd for nominating the Plan.



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# Brennan Brook

## PRICELESS IN ITS GEOGRAPHY

by Gordon Russell

### The forest along this watershed brook stands high with conifers.

There seems to be two levels of sky: one thickly enmeshed by the green crowns of pine and hemlock, the second and higher level, a mottled scene of tumbling clouds, dark and threatening to burst. Such dim light on this late afternoon closes in the forest, while sharpening the edges of this ribbon of liquid laced within it.

Looking down from a high ridge into the narrow valley below, this observer sees Brennan Brook flowing black in the shadowy air. The midstream rocks are also black, albeit in varied shades of that parent color. In stark contrast to those muted tones, congeries of froth, shaped by water

curling behind instream rocks, spin themselves into shapes limited only by the artistic whims of circulating water. (These collections of air-filled bubbles are formed when organic-rich water tumbles into itself behind some rock or midstream log.)

The vagaries of geography have bestowed upon this stream a torturous mix of barriers. These obstructions force Brennan Brook's water to present a unique face, encouraging this viewer to think deeply about its being, about its history, about the role it plays today in the biological richness that abounds within and around its

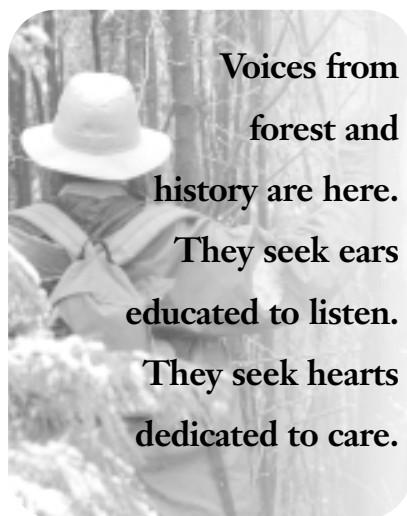
space. Voices from forest and history are here. They seek ears educated to listen. They seek hearts dedicated to care. Once received, the story of this brook will spill forth in many chapters. Epics of past ice with its land-

shaping forces may be followed with long paragraphs acknowledging the goings and comings of living things – things with wings, things without. Things with legs, things without. Living things of endless variety beholden today, tomorrow, to the integrity of this brook.

When forceful freshets fill Brennan's stream, it then exercises its power to reform itself once again by moving and sorting the glacial loads of rocks and stones upstream to places a bit further down. This fluid sculpturing of rock results in the brook's face

being molded into wondrous curves and sweeping arcs. Once those challenges are met, the waters of Brennan Brook enter into a private, sequestered world. There, in a changed geography, it flows out of its unique self, loses its free-flowing character, and simply slips between and beneath the green, swampy thickness of its next being.

*Gordon Russell is a Director Emeritus of the PWA and, with assistance from the Russell Foundation, has been working with four researchers to document the riches of Brennan Brook and its environs.*



Voices from  
forest and

history are here.

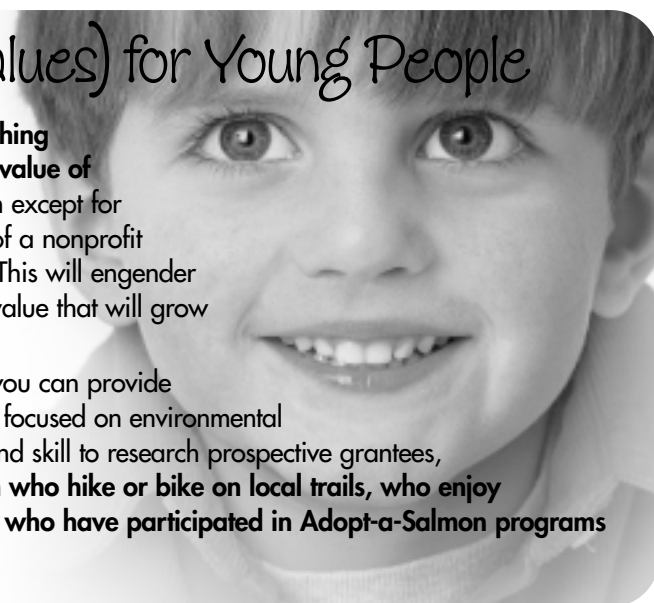
They seek ears  
educated to listen.

They seek hearts  
dedicated to care.

## A Gift of Value (and Values) for Young People

**Here's a great gift idea for children (not something we came up with, but we concur) to instill the value of charitable giving.** Write a check that is filled in except for the recipient. Then let the child fill in the name of a nonprofit to which he or she would like the funds to go. This will engender a sense of ownership and, one hopes, plant a value that will grow with the child into adulthood.

To keep the project from being overwhelming, you can provide a short list of suggested organizations (perhaps focused on environmental groups) and, if the child is of the age, interest, and skill to research prospective grantees, you can also provide links to websites. **Children who hike or bike on local trails, who enjoy swimming, paddling, or fishing in the river, or who have participated in Adopt-a-Salmon programs at school, might like to support the PWA.**



# Every Contribution Counts!

by John McCausland, PWA Vice President and Director of Development

My wife and I moved to Weare seven years ago. We wanted to settle in and eventually retire in a beautiful part of the country, rich in history. We bought a 225-year old house surrounded by woods on land crisscrossed with stone walls and dotted with huge glacial erratics. It sits above Lake Horace, part of the north branch of the Piscataquog, so we soon learned about our watershed and wanted to become active in its preservation. Several people active in environmental affairs pointed us to the PWA as the best chance for hands-on local involvement. And so it has proven to be!

Over the years we have been here, we have watched with dismay as unplanned development has swept across the area. Natural and historical sites alike are imperiled, and some have already been lost.

I find myself wishing that every dollar I have to give were a thousand and every hour I volunteer a thousand more. Serving on the PWA Board, I find that my colleagues feel the same way – with so much to do and so few for the task. I comfort myself with a saying of Mother Teresa, who was asked why she bothered to save a few hundred

dying people from the streets of Calcutta when the world was filled with millions more: *"We are called to be faithful, not successful."*

I am working to put my own land and my neighbors' under easement with the PWA. I am working to support the PWA as it grows and reaches out to its challenges. I am doing what I can do to be faithful.

*Our success depends upon the support of our friends  
– and their friends.*

**Please do YOUR part!** If you have not already contributed, please respond generously to the  
**PWA Annual Fund.**

**We depend on year-end gifts to support the PWA's conservation work.**

**Good news!** Thanks to many first time donors, we have fulfilled a \$1,000 challenge grant from The McNinch Foundation!

*But we are still only half way to our goal – so every gift counts.*

Note that we can accept appreciated stocks and other securities.

**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!**

## What the Heck is an Esker?

1. a small furred mammal closely related to the ermine?
2. a delectable mushroom found only in watersheds like ours?
3. a sinuous ridge of fluvial deposits (typically sand or gravel) resulting from a subglacial meltwater stream?

At the annual meeting, many people were glad when someone asked the speaker to explain what an esker is. Give yourself a pat on the back if you picked #3. In fact, New England, having been glaciated, is rich in eskers. Many of the sandpits in this area are tapping these glacial deposits. Eskers tend to be long, narrow, steep-sided deposits, typically less than 500' wide and 165' to 200' tall.

You can learn more about eskers and see some fine photos at:

[www.panorama-publishing.com/research](http://www.panorama-publishing.com/research)

## MEET DAVID MARSHALL...

Welcome to David Marshall, the PWA Board's newest member!

David lives in Henniker, where he also works as an environmental advocate/attorney for the Clean Air Task Force (CATF). In this



capacity he advocates for reduced air pollution, primarily from power plants and large mobile diesel sources such as trucks, buses, off-road equipment, trains, and ships. Prior to joining CATF, David worked as an advocate at the Conservation Law Foundation. He is a former member of the Dunbarton Conservation Commission, where he helped draft conservation easements and purchase and sale agreements, and

participated in a variety of conservation activities. David served on the State Rivers Management Advisory Committee during the early years of river flow regulation debate and has also served on the New Hampshire Audubon Environmental Policy Committee. For David, *"the PWA represents an opportunity to be involved in a meaningful way in something I really believe is important. Through the PWA I can make a difference in what happens to undeveloped land in my town and throughout the watershed."*

As we welcome David, we bid good bye to retiring Board member Pat Myers, who contributed unique insights and energy during her tenure on the Board. We will miss her ready smile and advice. Happily, Pat plans to remain an active participant on the Open Space Committee, and you no doubt will continue to see her pitching in at PWA events.

## ...MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

### 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-nh.org](mailto:pwa@pwa-nh.org).

#### 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 Control |
| <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!

# 34th Annual Meeting Was Great Fun for All

friends over appetizers before the official business meeting began. A highlight of the meeting was a slide presentation overview of the new PWA Conservation Plan (Living Legacy Program), prepared and presented by Executive Director Margaret Watkins and wildlife biologist Carol Foss. (See page 1 for a summary.)

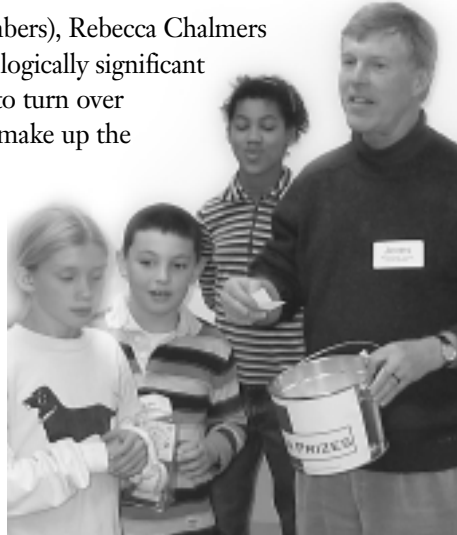
After dinner (and those fabulous desserts provided by members), Rebecca Chalmers presented a fascinating program about salamanders, an ecologically significant resident of the watershed. Even though you might have to turn over 100 rocks or logs before finding one, salamanders in fact make up the largest biomass (living weight) of all vertebrates in the watershed, eating many insects and in turn providing food for many birds and mammals.

The meeting was a success because of the hard work from dozens of volunteers – from set up to clean up, from cooking to KP. The roster of those who signed up ahead to help includes the following:

Jami Boyle, Jon Brooks, Jed Callen, Cheryl Christner, Kathy Conroy, Michele Desmond, Amy Doherty, Tim Doherty, Dona Fairbairn, Floyd Guyette, Carol Hess, Britain Hill, Pat Jennings, Jerry King, Christopher Levin, Maureen Levin, Matt Lewis, Lyn Lombard, Ken Lombard, John McCausland, Bill Morrissey, Cathy Morrissey, Pat Myers, Pat Nelson, Randy Parker, Graham Pendlebury, Hannah Proctor, Gordon Russell, Carolyn Sheehan, Carolyn Shinn, Jerry Shinn, Cindy Stave, Joel Stave, Barbara Thomson, Susan Weiss Alexant, and Janet White.

Many more of you simply pitched in that night, and we very much appreciate your help. A hearty **Thank You to all!** We could not have done it without you.

As the 99 attendees of the 2004 PWA Annual Meeting entered the brand new New Boston Community Church hall, they were welcomed with live music played by member Floyd Guyette and then had a chance to talk with old and new



New PWA Vice President John McCausland gets help from Carla Nyquist, Ben Robinson, and Hillary Susca Lopata in drawing the door prizes at the Annual Meeting. Congratulations go to the winners of a night at the Greenfield Inn, Mary Lizzie & Bob Marville, new members from Manchester, who joined the PWA during the Tuthill Open House snowshoeing event. (Photo by Randy Parker)



## WINTER TRACKING DATES

**Novices always welcome!**

**Sunday, December 12**  
**Lyndeborough**  
**(new transect!)**

**Call Gordon at 487-2994**

**Saturday, January 8**  
**New Boston**  
**Call Ken at 487-5114**

**Sunday, January 9**  
**Dunbarton**  
**Call Margaret at 774-7120**

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



## Gift Idea:

Consider giving PWA gift memberships to neighbors and friends.

These gifts are also a gift to the PWA!

## PWA Members Attend LTA Rally

*by Amy Doherty, PWA Director*

In October, Margaret Watkins and I attended the 17th annual National Land Conservation Conference (Rally) sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) in Providence, Rhode Island. I was awarded a scholarship to attend the Rally through the Center for Land Conservation Assistance, SPNHF. The intensive 4-day Rally included over 150 educational workshops and 21 daylong seminars covering a broad range of conservation issues. While the PWA continues to grow in so many ways, we have the opportunity to grow even more now with the support of our staff. This growth, although incredibly rewarding, presents challenges, and for me, simply the desire to do so much more.

In Rally discussions with those from large and small land trusts across the country, I quickly determined that the PWA has accomplished much relative to our peers, and has set forth the tools and positioned itself to succeed in our mission. What those before us have done and what we do now have a longlasting impact on the landscape we leave for our children and grandchildren. We also have an incredible amount of work to do to maintain the success stories that we have become accustomed to hearing. So I leave you with an inspiring quote from Norman MacGwen: "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

*Amy Doherty chairs the PWA's Water Quality Committee.*

*A hydrogeologist for GZA GeoEnvironmental in Manchester, she lives with her husband and two children in New Boston.*



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### RED STRIPE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL?

It's time to renew your membership!  
Please use the form on page 3.

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GOFFSTOWN, NH  
PERMIT NO.10



## Please Give Generously!

Put your contribution  
to work immediately by  
sending your gift to the  
Annual Fund today!

(See details on page 3.)

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

Catherine Arakelian*	Portsmouth
Judith Badot & Ronald Cheney	Francestown
Elva Becker	Goffstown
Lee Chaffee	Goffstown
Heidi Dawidoff	Francestown
Hugh & Denyse Fairley	Dunbarton
Shawn & Michele Fish	New Boston
Sherwood & Cathie Fogg	Francestown
Lucy & Daniel Gobin	Dunbarton
Robert Jencks	New Boston
Eileen Mahoney & Randall Wynn	New Boston
Judith Morse*	Cambridge, MA
Gloria Normile	Francestown
Stephen & Laura Peach	New Boston
Tami & Michael Pelletier**	Weare
Dave & Karen Salerno**	New Boston
Dorothy & Ronald Smart	Alta Loma, CA
Nora Tuthill	Kensington
John Tuthill	East Acworth
Peter, Sandi & Nat Van Scoyoc	New Boston
Arthur & Roberta Walmsley	Deering

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

Katherine W. Allen	Amherst
Brewster & Elizabeth Ames	Francestown
Mary E. Atwell & Nancy Frankel	Bedford
Rev. Florent Bilodeau	Manchester
Michael & Sandra Boyko**	Weare
Bill & Polly Brendle	New Boston
Andy Cadorette & Reta Chaffee *	Goffstown
Sara Callen*	Sarasota, FL
Tom Carr	Weare
Don & Sarah Chapman	New Boston
Richard C. Cilley	Francestown
Mary B. Clapp	Goffstown
Rosemary & Christopher Conroy	Goffstown
Maria Contessa	Weare
Harriet Cope	Francestown
Peter & Karen Cross**	Deering
Herbert & Verna Elliott	New Boston
Gerry & Dona Fairbairn	New Boston
Bill Fredericks & Elaine Johnson	Goffstown
Don & Patricia Grosso	New Boston
Gerald & Christine King	Weare
Floyd Guyette & Mary Koon	New Boston
Joan & Frank Hanchett	Francestown
Sirkka & Taisto Holm	Francestown
Nancy & Tom Inui*	Indianapolis, IN
Dr. John E. & Norma Japp	Carlisle, MA
Joseph & Patricia Kayal	Huntington Station, NY
Priscilla Kunhardt & Family	Francestown

Thomas & Barbara Lally	Goffstown
Lake Horace Landowner's Corporation*	Weare
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Kevin McLarnon & Barbara Sholl	New Boston
David Moffat & Carol Hall	Goffstown
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George Newton	Framingham, MA
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Sandra Grosfelt Peschke	Peterborough
Pearle Preston*	Goffstown
Mary & John Reeves	New Boston
John & Marge Rennie	Weare
Karen & Michael Roy	Weare
Lawrence & Diane Savage	Francestown
Agnes Shellmer	Goffstown
Lillian E. Sizemore	York, ME
Jess & Palma Smith*	Weare
Kristin & Brett St. Clair*	Dunbarton
Barbara Allison Thomson	New Boston
Robert & Laura Todd	New Boston
Joseph Trimbur	New Boston
Janet White	New Boston

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