



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 17, No. 1

January / February
2005



Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Combating ALIENS in the Watershed

by Lyn Lombard

In recent years, I've overheard comments such as the following:
"Wow, I love seeing that field of purple flowers, but where is the pond that used to be there? We used to see frogs and fish in it, and deer coming to drink."

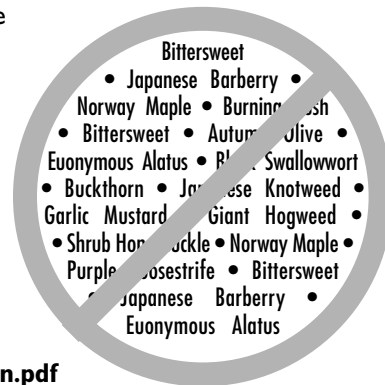
"Our favorite oak by the road is dead, but I like the vine that's growing up it."

"What's that tall bamboo-looking stuff with the white flowers growing along the road? I see more and more of it each year."

We don't have to wait for generations to pass us by; we're seeing our yards, woodlands, and wetlands changing before our eyes. Purple loosestrife is gobbling up our ponds, oriental bittersweet is strangling our trees, the dense cover of Norway maples is shading and killing native plants. On and on, the list of non-native (alien) invasive plants is growing, while the ability of native plants to flourish diminishes every year.

The PWA's Invasive Species Committee (ISC) hopes to reverse much of this damage by making citizens aware of which plants are problematic and what you can do about them. Here are some ways to learn more:

- Call the PWA office to arrange a slideshow presentation about invasive plants for your garden club or community group.
- Look for a monthly invasive plant column called "Invasive Plants Watch" in your local paper. These columns will explain how to recognize 13 targeted non-native plants, why these plants are a problem, what you can do to eradicate them, and suggest native replacement plants. We also hope to post links to these articles and other informative invasives websites on the PWA website.
- Go to the following NH Department of Agriculture website to learn about the criteria used to designate an invasive species in NH:
http://agriculture.nh.gov/pdf/topics/hyperlinks/Webpage_introduction.pdf
You'll find links to the complete list of invasive species here.
- Check the NH state laws regulating the collection, transport, distribution, or propagation of 32 prohibited plant species at <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/agr3800.html>



As of January 1, 2007, three additional plants will be prohibited from sale. Those are, along with all their related varieties, **Norway maple**, **Japanese barberry**, and **Burning Bush**. No one needs to panic if these plants are already in your yard. However, we urge you not to purchase or plant these very invasive species. **Replace them with other colorful native plants such as red maple, red oak, highbush blueberries, silky dogwood, or a variety of viburnum.**

Another effort by the PWA's ISC is to help those of us in the watershed and the state identify where invasives are growing. We'd like to have a corps of volunteer "Lookouts" with access to GPS. These lookouts will be trained to identify invasive plants and set GPS points on their locations for future mapping. Your drive to and from work or the grocery store might be all that more interesting if you are doing "detective" work along the way. Call the office if you are interested.

Meanwhile, all of us can help prevent native plants from being destroyed by familiarizing ourselves with invasives that are killing native plants, refusing to purchase invasives that are still in nurseries, educating others about the benefits of planting native plants, and responsibly eradicating invasives in our yards.

Lyn Lombard and Hannab Proctor have led the effort to combat purple loosestrife and other invasive species in the watershed since 1998 and are co-chairs of the PWA's Invasive Species Committee. If you have questions about invasives, call Lyn at 487-5114 or Hannab at 547-2816.

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(603) 487-3331

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Invasive Species Committee (ISC)

Lyn Lombard

Hannah Proctor

Keeping Track**Coordinator**

Barbara Thomson

Much to be Grateful for!

by Margaret Watkins

Of all the issues of Watershed News, the March-April issue is the one I like to share with prospective Board members, foundations, and others interested in knowing more about the PWA. For one thing, it presents our financial statement. In 2004, thanks particularly to a phenomenal number of generous year-end Annual Fund gifts from members and friends, the PWA closed in a considerably paler shade of red than in the recent past!

This issue also reflects a defining characteristic of the PWA – the invaluable contributions of volunteers. PWA volunteers are active in every facet of the organization, from policy-making and program development to office support and on-the-ground action. This page and the next describe four major PWA programs, and the list on page 5 identifies the volunteers behind these and other projects. Thanks to the efforts of these volunteers and the Board and committee members listed on this page, the PWA is

able to sustain its many activities to protect the watershed.

If you have been involved with the PWA for some time, you may have noticed another thing about PWA

volunteers. They tend to remain volunteers for a long time. I don't know whether that's because the PWA provides a satisfying way to express their commitment to the natural world, because of the camaraderie that develops, because of the learning that takes place, or just because of the good fun engendered in working with like-minded people.

Whatever the magic, I am grateful for it. And it is like magic when someone says, "Sure, I'll do that!" Or when volunteers take on major responsibilities and truly make some projects possible. In 2004, PWA volunteers contributed more than 2,000 hours to the PWA. At \$17.19 per hour (the value attributed for grant purposes to volunteer time), PWA volunteers generated more than \$34,000 in accomplishments last year -- essential funding that we didn't have to raise. These are remarkable numbers from the remarkable people who make up the PWA. We simply couldn't do it without you!

GET INVOLVED! *We have new and ongoing volunteer opportunities to suit almost any interest. Training is provided, so don't be shy!* **BE A PWA VOLUNTEER!**

- **Easement monitoring** (once a year; your schedule)
- **Water quality monitoring** (monthly sampling, 2-4 hours)
- **Bird watching at Lake Horace Marsh** (multiple visits throughout the year; your schedule; ability to identify birds by sight or song is important)
- **Invasive species** (ongoing observation; your schedule)
- **Wildlife tracking** (4 times per year; dates set in advance)
- **Database design and/or data entry** (Keeping Track logs, easement monitoring records, etc.)
- **Compilation of names and addresses** (your schedule during town office hours)

Have you other skills or interests? Trail building? Web design?

Call the PWA office at 487-3331, and perhaps we can put them to use!

Wildlife Tracking (Keeping Track Program)

Barbara Allison Thomson, Gordon Russell 487-2994

2004 Highlights

Our Peacock Brook transect team was thrilled to be “put out of a job” when the Tuthill Woodlands Preserve was established. It felt wonderful at the dedication to walk together with others in the woods we had personally come to know as the home of bobcat, bear, moose, mink, otter, and fisher.

Trackers on the other four transects in Weare, Dunbarton, and New Boston logged many miles, many mammals, and many minutes!

2005 Plans

Gordon has “Russelled” up three new transects in the Rand, Brennan, and Cold Brook areas of our watershed. We ran the transects for the first time in December and were excited to find sign of all of our bellwether species (bobcat, bear, moose, mink, otter, and fisher), plus porcupine, fox, grouse, deer and coyote. It will be great fun to discover more about these new “neighbors”.

Land Protection (Open Space Committee)

Graham Pendlebury 487-2636

2004 Highlights

- Working with the Town of Weare, established Breed Brook Conservation Area, 98 acres.
- Completed conservation easement on 33 acres of field and forest at Windcrest Farm, owned by Paul and Deborra Doscher, Weare.
- Completed conservation easement on 13 acres of field and forest owned by Vera Fogg in Dunbarton.
- Received the Land Ethic for Tomorrow Award from the NH Land Surveyors Association for the Piscataquog Watershed Conservation Plan, which was presented at the Annual Meeting and provides a “greenprint” for conservation action in the watershed.
- Cooperatively with other conservation groups initiated the first Headwaters Project in the Brennan, Cold, and Rand brook watersheds.
- Monitored easement properties with help from PWA Stewardship volunteers.
- Initiated conservation projects in 6 watershed towns.

2005 Plans

- Share Watershed Conservation Plan goals and implementation strategies with conservation organizations to identify mutual interests and ways to collaborate on implementation.
- Seek support from potential funding sources to implement the Watershed Conservation Plan.
- Complete current land conservation projects and initiate new projects that advance watershed conservation goals.
- Install signs at PWA properties.
- Develop trails and trail guides on two PWA properties.
- Expand the easement monitoring program to accommodate new properties.

Water Quality Committee

Amy Doherty 487-5253

2004 Highlights

- Water Quality Committee was formed and held monthly meetings.
- A core of 12 volunteers routinely monitored water quality at 24 sites throughout the watershed.
- Volunteers collected monthly data through summer, including water temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, and specific conductance.
- Volunteers also collected continuous temperature data at 17 sites using a combination of PWA temperature loggers and temperature loggers loaned by Normandeau Associates and NH Fish & Game.
- Volunteers collected three rounds of E.coli samples at 7 sites throughout the watershed. Two problematic areas were identified and PWA is working with NHDES to investigate the sources of E.coli.
- PWA reported 2004 data to State Volunteer River Assessment Program (see <http://www.des.state.nh.us>)

2005 Plans

- Engage new volunteers to help monitor water quality in our watershed.
- Maintain the existing level of volunteer-based water quality monitoring at a minimum of 24 sites.
- Develop a plan and research funding opportunities to conduct a comprehensive baseline study in the watershed including the water quality parameters already being recorded, plus sampling for bacteria (*E.coli*), nutrients, heavy metals, and macroinvertebrates (biomonitoring). Information collected as part of the proposed baseline study would ultimately contribute to the understanding and documentation of the existing water quality conditions in our watershed for the purposes of land protection and stewardship.

THANKS TO OUR MANY SUPPORTERS!

The PWA values the generosity and support of its members and donors. At this time, we especially thank those who contributed to the 2004 Annual Fund and in other ways.

2004 ANNUAL FUND

(Gifts received as of March 1, 2005)

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OF THE WATERSHED (\$1,000 +)

Anonymous (1)
Jed Callen & Carol Hess
Peter & Lisa de Roeth
John & Anne McCausland
Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation

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Jeremy & Carolynne Shinn
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* In Memory of
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STEWARDS (\$250)

MV Communications*
GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

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David R. Craig, Attorney at Law
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Molly Stark Tavern
New Boston Hardware
New Boston Dental Care, PLLC
New Boston Hair Design

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Corporate Matching Gifts
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Harvard Pilgrim Health Community Spirit Award
Manchester Regional Community Foundation:
Anonymous Family Fund
Benthien Family Creative Leadership Fund
Hess Family Fund
McIninch Foundation
New England Grassroots Environmental Fund
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
PSNH - Community Service Award
Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation

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Paul & Deborra Doscher
Vera L. Fogg

THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Our special thanks go to the people listed on this page and in the sidebar on page 2. Your efforts are what make the PWA what it is!

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Gordon Russell
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Jerry Shinn
Cindy Stave
Joel Stave
Barbara Thomson
Susan Weiss

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Max Ferro
Carol Hess
Bill Morrissey
Randy & Gail Parker
Shannon Turcott
Alicia Walker
Janie Young

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!

Budget Page

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.

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!

Meet Our Two Newest Board Members *by John McCausland*

As PWA keeps growing, we are pleased to welcome two new Board members, each with a rich history of experience.

Jeremy Shinn lives along the North Branch of the Piscataquog above the flood control project in Weare. He and his wife Carolynne are avid gardeners and conservation advocates. After graduating from college, Jerry was a dairy farmer in Vermont and then, with two partners, bought the Country Three Corners building supply and hardware store in Weare. He has served on the board of the Concord Music School and been active in other community activities. He is President of WLD, LLC, based in Manchester, which manufactures wire lubricating devices.

Arthur Walmsley lives in Deering, where he and his wife Roberta have spent summers since the 1960s and have made their home since Arthur retired as Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut in 1993. Arthur has served as Town Moderator of Deering and continues to be active in Episcopal Church affairs in New England and nationally. The Walmsleys' property abuts one of the largest tracts of conservation land in the watershed, and they have long had an interest in preserving undeveloped space.

RUSSELL Piscataquog River Watershed FOUNDATION

UPDATE

The Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation launched full steam ahead in keeping with its stated commitment to "accelerate the pace of land conservation in the Piscataquog River watershed to ensure that the watershed remains a vital and connected ecosystem."

We are grateful to the Foundation for funding the following projects in 2004:

- **An internship at Tuthill Woodlands Preserve** to document natural resources and wildlife use
- **Preparation of maps** for The Headwaters I project
- **Internships to document natural resources** in The Headwaters I project area
- **Costs associated with a mailing to landowners** in The Headwaters I area
- **Out-of-pocket costs incurred by landowners** of three properties that the PWA is working to protect
- **Accounting assistance**

This February, Gordon and Barbara Russell announced the hiring of **Carol A. Hall** as the Foundation's Director. Carol is a member of the PWA's Open Space Committee, and both she and her husband, David Moffat, are active in the PWA's Keeping Track and Water Quality Monitoring programs. Carol is also an experienced conservationist whose background in land conservation transactions and dealings with multiple partners provides exactly the skills that the Foundation needs. Add to that Carol's personal interest in the watershed and desire to concentrate her efforts in one geographic area, and one can feel only enthusiasm about her selection.

Carol will work with the PWA and other land trusts, government agencies, and organizations that work to protect critical lands within the watershed. The Foundation intends to leverage more conservation dollars and projects by requiring, typically, a minimum 1:1 match of its grants. As Gordon sees it, **"The Russell Foundation is not a solution, but it does hope to stimulate creative action among the watershed's conservation partners that will, in turn, reach out to all watershed residents who care about the future."** We at the PWA are excited by the opportunities and challenges the Russell Foundation has created.

Local Realtor Supports PWA

PWA member and volunteer land steward **Mike Lennon** has just established yet another relationship with the PWA. As a realtor with ERA The Masiello Group in New Boston, Mike knows first hand "the urgency our community faces to conserve wildlife habitats." Therefore, **he has committed to donate a portion of his commissions to the PWA.** Mike hopes to leverage both money and memberships for the PWA by his example. As he states in a letter to prospective clients:

How can you help? You can sign up for one of the several Volunteer Opportunities. You can make a cash donation, helping to create a lasting legacy of open space and clean water for future generations. Or, let me be your personal agent in buying or selling your home, and I'll make the donation for you!

You can contact Mike at 487-2386, ext. 210, or email him at mlennon@masiello.com.

Thank you, Mike!



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.

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US POSTAGE

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Upcoming Events:

April 23 2nd 2005 Walk in the Woods!
Birdwalk at Deering Sanctuary
with Audubon guide

May 20 Coyotes in Your Neighborhood
A special program for all ages

See flyer inside for details.

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

James Barnett & Shirley Sullivan**	New Boston
Tiffany & Dennis Calcutt*	Francestown
Chris & Louise Danforth	Francestown
Robert & Susan Fehsinger*	New Boston
Amanda Fisher	Goffstown
Lou Lanzillotti*	New Boston
Karen Roach*	Manchester
James & Joyce Smith, & Chris Lippincott	New Boston
Ben & Kate Taylor	Brookline, MA

Member Renewals (as of March 1st)

Michael Amaral & Family	Warner
Scott & Laura Arvin**	New Boston
Diane & Alan Beland**	Weare
Frank Bolton	Weare
Charles & Martha Boswell*	Francestown
Mark Boucher	Manchester
Matilda Boyle	Francestown
Lisa Brooks	Deering
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Kimberlee & Steven Burkhamer	New Boston
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Eugene, Kelly & Brenda Lind	New Boston
Sandy Kent	Deering
Peter Kostecki	Francestown
Priscilla Kunhardt & Family	Francestown

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Margaret Watkins	Dunbarton
Barry & Lois Wicklow*	Francestown
Joshua & Hollis Young**	Charlestown, MA

Gifts in Memory of Elizabeth Rowland Watkins

Mary Atwell & Nancy Frankel Bedford

Special Thank You's To:

ACLU – File cabinet
(Thanks to Randy Parker for delivering it.)

Judy McLane – Office furniture,
complements of her employer
(Thanks to Dona & Gerry Fairbairn
for delivering it.)

Margaret Watkins – Electric teapot

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