



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

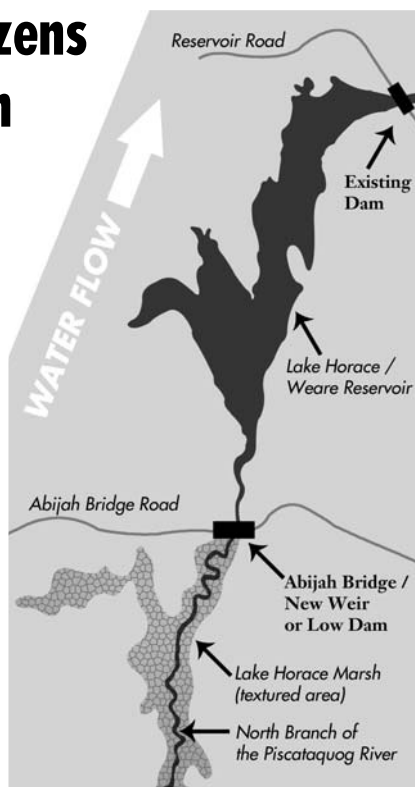
THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Saving the Wild Denizens of Lake Horace Marsh

by Margaret Watkins, PWA Executive Director

The PWA is spearheading a major effort to stabilize water levels in Lake Horace Marsh, one of two locally designated prime wetlands in Weare. With support of the Weare Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and Road Agent, the PWA pursued funding for this \$188,000 project. Contributors include the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), the NH Fish & Game Department (NH F&G), the Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation, the Weare Conservation Commission, and PWA members who were so moved by Gordon Russell's 2003 annual meeting story of this manipulated marsh that they offered financial assistance on the spot. The hours PWA volunteers put into the project will be used as a match for some of the DES funds, which the Governor and Council approved on March 23. The funds will be used to design and install a low dam, or weir, just below the marsh, and to monitor changes in the marsh after its installation. The marsh is part of the North Branch of the Piscataquog River, upstream of Lake Horace. Lake Horace is a man-made 232-acre pond created by a state-owned dam on the river. Each spring around Memorial Day, river flow through the dam is reduced to create a full pond behind it. Then, every fall around Columbus Day, river flow is increased to draw down the pond for ice management around docks.

While the 5-foot fluctuation works for Lake Horace landowners, it wreaks havoc on the birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, and amphibians using the marsh. The abrupt spring and fall changes in water level alternately drown established life or leave it high and dry to die of exposure. Gordon has documented this annual devastation through dramatic photographs. These together with Gordon's notes and experiences were used to make the case for marsh stabilization.



**The abrupt spring and fall
changes in water level
alternately drown
established life or leave
it high and dry to die
of exposure.**

monitoring, establishing permanent transects in the marsh to document changes in vegetation, photo documentation, recording of water levels, and informal wildlife observations.

Volunteers are needed to document activities of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles at the marsh, spring through fall. Training will be provided, but observation skills and basic familiarity with NH wildlife are essential. Each volunteer schedules his or her own time. If this is something you would enjoy doing, please contact Margaret at the PWA office.

Project timing depends partly on the timing of necessary state approvals and partly on the Town's schedule for replacing Abijah Bridge, originally planned for this fall, but delayed, possibly until the fall of 2006.

Previous attempts to work out an alternative, protective water management regimen have all failed. The current plan is the result of multiple discussions with agency staff throughout winter 2003 and spring 2004 about the best approach.

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is chiefly responsible for the weir design and construction. Many thanks to NH F&G fisheries scientist (and PWA volunteer) John Magee, who has taken a lead role working with DU to coordinate design features and fisheries needs. Normandeau Associates will conduct most of the pre- and post-installation monitoring. Monitoring activities include aerial

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Enduring Gifts Of a Season, of a Lifetime

Spotted Salamander by Cindy Stave

Each year I listen with pleasure to the first spring songs of the chickadee and cardinal, the thwack thwack thwack of the pileated woodpecker, rivulets running, peepers peeping, and the woodcock's peent. They connect me with the natural world. Which makes me think, focused as I am on land conservation, *what will this place that I call home be like in 50 years?*

In April, 250 people, including several PWA Board members and volunteers, attended the 4th Annual NH land conservation conference, Saving Special Places. Multiple concurrent workshops provided tools for building conservation organizations, protecting land, and ensuring long-term stewardship – tools for creating a collective conservation legacy of open lands, natural habitat, and clean water in New Hampshire.

This newsletter cites memorial gifts acknowledging the lives of two individuals. Grace (GL) Wheeler was

the first person with whom I worked as a representative of the PWA. Shortly before moving to a long-term care facility in Manchester, GL put her New Boston land into a conservation easement. Whatever else happened, she wanted to know that her land would never be developed, that she would leave an enduring legacy of open space in her community.

Brainerd Taylor was, according to one associate, “a brilliant urban planner and transportation specialist.” He and his

wife traveled and worked extensively in the U.S. and throughout the world. They have spent most of their adult lives in New York City. But it's their summer home in New Boston, overlooking a valley of largely protected land, that has spawned some of the family's best memories. It was this special place that Marilyn Taylor asked Brainerd's wide-ranging network of friends, colleagues, and family to remember in memorial gifts. She designated the PWA as recipient to further our conservation work in the watershed.

Creating a lasting legacy of conserved land requires both landowners who want to protect their land and organizations capable of long-term easement stewardship or outright ownership. Please call or write if you would like to work with the PWA to protect your land or to support the PWA financially through your will or in other ways.



Explore the Woodland Associates Forest In New Boston – Saturday, June 11

Join the PWA on our third *Walk in the Woods!* event, which is co-sponsored with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF). **Dave Anderson**, Education Director for SPNHF, and PWA director emeritus **Bob Todd** will lead us through this 174-acre property with nearly a mile of frontage on the Piscataquog River.

The former pastures of early farms share a recent history of logging and may be of special interest to those considering a timber harvest. A quiet stretch of the river includes the site of a historic dam and large pines – a perfect place for a summer walk.

WHEN**Saturday, June 11****10 AM - 2 PM***(bring lunch or a snack)***RSVP**Appreciated *(but not required)*:**487-3331** or **pwa@pwa-nh.org****DIRECTIONS**

From center of New Boston, head South on Route 13 toward Milford. Immediately turn right onto Old Coach Rd. We'll meet at the first gate on the left, .3 miles from Route 13.

EVENT CANCELLATION POLICY

If the event needs to be cancelled, we will leave an outgoing message on the PWA office phone by 6 PM the day prior.

Brainerd Taylor & Gifts in Memoriam

AECOM Technology Corporation, John M. Dionisio

Peggy & Richard Allison

Aida Eva Arnold & cousins

Association for a Better New York

Ballinger Co.

Audrey Bierman & Mr. John F. Bierman III

Robert S. Birch

Stephen Blank

Duane & Kate Boyle

Janette & Nancy Boyle & Betsy Boyle Ragland

Elsa Cameron & Michael S. Lerner

The City of New York, Department of Environmental Protection, Emily C. Lloyd, Commissioner

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., Frances Resheske, Sr. Vice President, Public Affairs

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The General Contractors Association of New York, Inc.

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Veronica Hackett & her friends at The Clarett Group

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Nicholas McDermott

Max & Maryann McFarlin

MGP Project Managers, Cecil Holtrop, Executive Director

Montezuma Mutual Telephone Company, Mr. Francis Freeborn

Linda Morgan

Barry G. Moss

New York Building Congress

The New York Mets

Foundation, Jeffrey S. Wilpon

Robert W. Nilsson

Bluets by Joel Stave

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!

The 35th Anniversary Celebration continues...

...PWA Picnic & Hike – July 30th!

Long-time PWA member and friend **Janet Nixon** of New Boston has graciously invited all PWA members to enjoy her lovely grounds for picnicking, hiking, bocce, horseshoes, swimming, volleyball, and a general good time. Join us for all or part of the day as we celebrate the PWA's 35th Anniversary. A wide range of activities is planned for the whole day – maybe even beginning with breakfast! – including a choice of hikes or walks before we meet at Janet's. *See the enclosed flyer for full details.* (Rain date July 31)

Last Call!

Photo Contest Entries Due September 1

We want to see *your* photos displayed at this year's 35th Anniversary Annual Meeting! A quote on the Images for Conservation Fund website says,

**"Photography is the most powerful
conservation tool on the planet!"**

So scour your files or get out there and use all your creative powers to help protect land and habitat.

For photo contest guidelines, call the office or check the PWA website. Use entry form on enclosed flyer.



Join us on our **NEW TRANSECTS** to discover who lives there! Novices are *always* welcome. Dates are subject to change. Call leaders to confirm.

SUMMER TRACKING DATES

Saturday, June 11, Great Meadow, New Boston

CALL KEN AT 487-5114

Sunday, July 10, East Road, Greenfield

CALL MARGARET AT 774-7120

Sunday, July 10, Rose Mountain, Greenfield

CALL GORDON AT 487-2994

Sunday, July 17, Scataquog Mountain, Lyndeborough

CALL GORDON AT 487-2994

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If any of the following activities interest you, please call the office. We'll hook you up with other volunteers. Thank you!

- ⊙ Easement monitoring
- ⊙ Coordinating Land Stewardship program
- ⊙ Painting (we need painters and paint to spruce up the office)
- ⊙ Booth sitting at local events
- ⊙ Installing PWA property signs
- ⊙ Data input

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!

Runty's Tale

Since the passing of more yesterdays than are easily counted, the ancient White Oak, its heartwood having rotted long, long ago, has provided ample living space for generations of porcupines. A world of darkness rules inside this great tree, yet the quill-covered inhabitants have fared well in their lightless home and found it ample.

The remnants of old limbs, their wood still solid, provides shelf-like spaces in the hollow depths of this vertical house. It is here that the porcupines can rest, where mothers can give birth. Three years ago on one of those shelves, two squirmy forms saw the dark of day. One was normal size. One was not. While its parts were assembled properly, each was far smaller than it should have been. She didn't measure up to her tree mate. In porcupine land, if you don't grow, you gotta' go.

The world outside is usually far too harsh and dangerous for those in the animal world who face it ill-equipped. For Runty, the world offered little – but little is something, and fate handed her something.

For it happened that a man and woman built a new home in Runty's neck of the woods. Large boulders were removed to make space for the home's foundation and were arranged in a terrace. By chance, Runty happened upon that jumble of rocks, squirmed her way into an opening, and found security in the darkness there. After two days, hunger demanded attention. Signals from her keen nose indicated that a hemlock tree was close by, and hemlock is the favorite entrée on every porcupine's menu. She scaled the tree, using her tail as a fifth leg, slapping its stiff quills into the bark, holding her weight until her toenails found the next hold. Instinct led her to the tenderest and youngest twigs and needles near the ends of long branches. Surprisingly, for such a slow moving, low-slung animal, the acrobatics involved in balancing on skinny, bendy branches present no problem. With the necessities for staying alive at hand, Runty had survived a critical time.

Runty's World: Year 4

Runty has created a spring/summer den in one end of her boulder pile, a fall/winter den on the opposite end. She is porcupiney

in every way, albeit in miniature form. She provides hours of entertainment to the man and woman who built the house. Bananas are irresistible to all porcupines, and she will often find one at the opening to her den. Never does she ignore it.

Runty's world is quirky, often bringing smiles to her observers. She has built a tiny hammock-like platform in the tip-top of a young oak tree. There she spends time whacking the pointy edges of the sticky shape with her tail. 'Round and 'round she turns, exactly as birds shape their nests to fit their bodies. When she's satisfied, she'll tuck her head down between her front legs and drift off into her own dreamland for hours.

For weeks there were occasional nights when the man and woman would hear strange mumblings underneath their bedroom windows. Sounds in the night are often mysterious: an owl? a raccoon? a 'possum perhaps?

What? Nights later a bright moon revealed the answer. Runty, padding her way back to her rocky chambers after a night's foraging, was grunting soft notes, staccato-like hums, easily interpreted as, "My life's good. I've beaten the odds." Onward, Runty.

Gordon Russell and wife Barbara, founders of the Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation, bear a remarkable resemblance to the man and woman in this prickly tale. They live in New Boston, where most of their property is under conservation easement and provides a home to a variety of wildlife.

by Gordon Russell



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THANK YOU!

Thanks to the following special gifts, the PWA can now make mobile presentations to groups and landowners.

Jed Callen / Laptop computer

Joel Stave / Laptop computer

Pat Nelson & Hewlett-Packard Company / Digital projector

The Invasive Species Committee has a program suitable for garden clubs and community groups interested in recognizing and eradicating alien plants and replacing them with suitable alternatives. Call Lyn at 487-5114 to schedule.



5A Mill Street
New Boston, NH 03070
(603) 487-3331
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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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UPCOMING EVENTS, SEE DETAILS INSIDE...

- 35TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC CELEBRATION
- 3RD WALK IN THE WOODS!
- KEEPING TRACK OUTINGS
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- PWA PHOTO CONTEST

Bellwort by Joel Stave

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

Dennis Card & Maureen McCanty**	Dunbarton
Mark & Catherine Correnti**	Francestown
Scotti Jencks	Goffstown
Matthew & Roberta Lavey	Dunbarton
Bob & Laryssa Lewis	Francestown
Jillian McCalvey	New Boston
James & Marilyn Meighan**	Dunbarton
Michael Nolen**	New Boston
Ronald Peimer	Bedford
Terrell P. & Catherine D. Swain*	Dunbarton
Lori A. and Mark Wamser	Dunbarton
James & Sandra White*	Dunbarton

Member Renewals (as of May 1st)

Len & Meredith Allen*	Francestown
Peter & Linda Berg**	Attleboro Falls, MA
Brenda L. Bhatti*	Jaffrey
Herbert & Rosa Bromberg*	Francestown
Jesse Butler	Thunderbolt, GA
Steve Caggiano**	New Boston
Sarah Chaffee*	Bow
Robert & Donna Chase	New Boston
Cheryl Christner & Tim White**	New Boston
Catherine D'Agostino	Goffstown
Michele Desmond & Kathleen Conroy	New Boston
Ellen Dokton**	Weare
Dorothy Eisenhaure	Concord, MA
Lisa Ferro**	New Boston
Richard & Sheena Floreani*	New Boston
Andy Fulton	Weare
Robin & Ben Haubrich	Francestown
Ray & Donna James*	Hudson
Ruth W. Jones	Weare
Craig & Terry Knowles	Weare
Thomas & Barbara Lally	Goffstown
Evelyn Lamson	Goffstown
The Larochelle Family	New Boston
Ken & Lyn Lombard	New Boston
Pam & Eric Lorimer & Family*	Peterborough
Holly MacAdam	York, ME
John & Donna Magee*	Newbury
Robert F. Marville & Mary Lizie	Manchester
Donna Mombourquette & Jim Denesevich**	New Boston
Richard & Patricia Moore**	Auburn
Robert & Margorie Moreau*	New Boston

Pat Nelson	Francestown
Janet Nixon*	New Boston
Lee Nyquist & Leslie Nixon & Family	New Boston
David & Michele Petersen	New Boston
Glenn & Charlotte Price	Weare
Hannah Proctor	Francestown
Keith Robinson & Lauren Warner	Deering
Lawrence & Diane Savage	Francestown
Byron, Carolyn & Abigail Thresher	New Boston
Charles Hard Townes	Berkeley, CA
Dan & Shannon Turcott*	Francestown
John Turcotte & Alison Williams*	Goffstown
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Gift in Memory of GL Wheeler

Richard & Patricia Moore

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Bob Jencks
Mike Lennon

Thank you to Janie Chester Young
for an April Board training.

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

Red Eft by Joel Stave

