



## OUR MISSION

TO CONSERVE THE  
NATURAL AND SCENIC  
ENVIRONMENT OF  
THE PISCATAQUOG  
RIVER WATERSHED  
COMMUNITIES.

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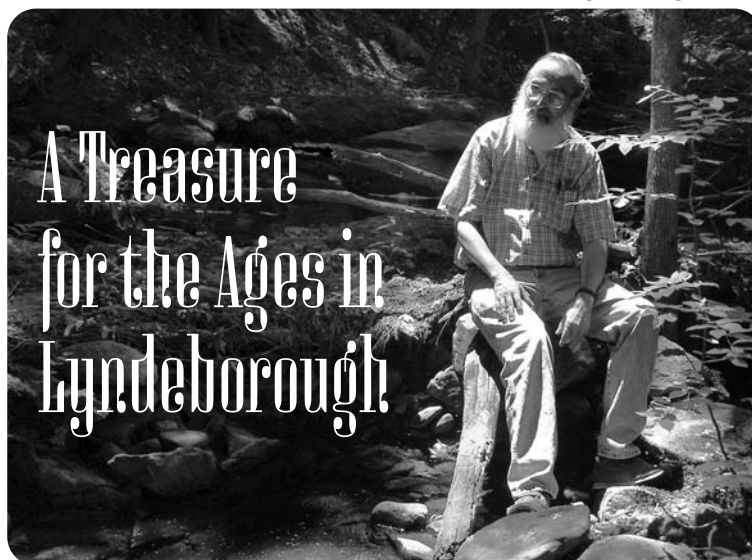
July / August 2005



# Watershed News

## THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### THE HEADWATERS PROJECT I: First Conservation Project Completed!



by Bob Rogers, conservation easement donor

Fortune and fate left me with a 40-odd-acre parcel on Cold Brook, where I chose to build my modest retirement home. The water roars in spring, over rocky rapids and down through an awesome chasm, over Senter's Falls. Later in the year it trickles among mossy islands and fractured boulders, through placid pools, surrounded by towering trees and lush ferns. It is much as it has been for the past thousand years or more, and it has given me both peace and joy for most of my life.

When I'm gone, this property will be sold to settle my estate, and the highest bidder would likely be a developer. Four or five spectacular houselots could be carved out, and four or five families would benefit from the diminished view. Everyone else would lose. Cold Brook would be a watercourse through back yards. It might as well be flowing through a culvert.

Few of us have such an opportunity to leave so grand a legacy. It is within my power to preserve, for however long perpetuity might imply, an unspoiled bit of God's earth, to be appreciated by those even yet unborn. While my name may be long forgotten, the wild and wonderful passage of Cold Brook will endure. We are but stewards of the land we occupy, temporary residents of the tracts we hold title to, and with this privilege comes responsibility. That is a burden I will not refuse. What I have I will not allow to be destroyed. A conservation easement will insure that God's work will not be undone, at least here, at least for the foreseeable future.

*Could anyone do less?*

*Bob Rogers is the first landowner to protect his land since*



One of the many small cascades among the moss-covered rocks and fern dells of Cold Brook.  
Photos by Pat Nelson

*The Headwaters Project I was launched, and his leadership is 'greening' the way for other landowners who have an interest in conserving their lands. An extraordinary partnership of landowners and conservation groups, including the PWA, Frankestown Land Trust, Frankestown Conservation Commission, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Lyndeborough*

*Land Preservation Society, Monadnock Conservancy, Greenfield Conservation Commission, and the Russell Foundation have joined to proactively conserve land surrounding the three Headwaters Project I streams (Cold Brook, Brennan Brook, and Rand Brook). Partners are currently working with some twenty landowners who are interested in conserving their lands in this area. For more information, call the PWA office at 487-3331.*

## PWA OFFICE

(603) 487-3331

### Executive Director

Margaret Watkins

### Director of Operations

Paula Bellemore

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Margaret Watkins

# Three Firsts in PWA Land Protection

In this issue of *Watershed News* you will read about two new conservation easements – the Rogers easement in The Headwaters Project I area in Lyndeborough and the Sunderland easement in the northwestern corner of Henniker (see page 5). These represent PWA “firsts” in three ways. For one, both easements are the PWA’s first in each of these towns.

In addition, **the Rogers easement** is the initial conservation project completed under auspices of The Headwaters Project I, a collaborative effort to target protection efforts in a relatively wild part of the watershed that the PWA’s *Conservation Plan for the Watershed* identified as a focal area for conservation action.

**The Sunderland easement** is the first easement the PWA has accepted outside watershed boundaries. The Board’s decision three years ago to accept easements outside the watershed but within watershed town bounds reflects its desire to work more closely with conservation commissions and open space committees, whose interests are town-wide.

An update of the PWA’s strategic plan for the next three years was initiated in May. With development pressures showing no signs of abatement, a growing interest in land conservation among watershed residents, and watershed-wide information in the *Conservation Plan* on key but as yet unprotected areas with high conservation value, the Board unanimously agreed that the PWA can best accomplish its mission by concentrating more effort on permanent land protection. With some 2000 acres already under easement to or owned by the PWA, this decision is not a new direction but a focusing of resources. As a result, easement stewardship opportunities for volunteers will expand (see article on page 4), and many more acres in Piscataquog watershed communities will be conserved as the PWA is able to reach more landowners and work more consistently with conservation commissions and other conservation groups.

## PWA Hires Full-Time Executive Director

by Jed Callen, PWA President

This is an exciting time for the Watershed as the PWA has been able, due to the synergy of its volunteers and paid staff, to greatly increase its activity in land protection and programs throughout the 11 watershed towns. **In the past four years we have nearly doubled the amount of land protected by the PWA in the first 30 years** to more than 2000 acres, performed more comprehensive water quality monitoring, expanded our invasive species program, and conducted guided walks and educational programs

throughout the watershed. The *Keeping Track* program is providing valuable information about the presence of key, indicator wildlife species in the watershed and habitats in need of protection.

Five years ago the PWA Board adopted a five-year strategic plan, which we have successfully completed. The organization now has an award winning, comprehensive conservation plan that identifies target areas of critical importance for land protection efforts. **As a result of hiring paid staff, we have doubled our membership and quadrupled our annual fund giving.** The PWA currently has 15 land conservation projects in the works that, if successful, will

protect 650 acres. We are actively collaborating with other land trusts and conservation commissions throughout the watershed to increase the amount of land protected.

The Board is currently developing a strategic plan for the next five years. **The Board recognizes that it is essential to escalate our land protection efforts now, while there are still significant undisturbed blocks of land to protect.** Noting the tremendous success of having part-time paid staff for a few years, **the Board recently voted to hire Margaret Watkins as our first full-time executive director.** Margaret has accomplished so much as a part-time director, and we have no doubt that between having her on board full time and Paula’s continued, invaluable support, *the results will be nothing short of amazing!*

# Whip-poor-will

## SURVEYS CONTINUE

by Pam Hunt, NH Audubon

2005 marks the third year that volunteers have surveyed whip-poor-will populations in the Piscataquog River watershed. Much of the data is not in yet, but if past trends are any indication, most of these secretive crepuscular songsters will be found in the northeastern third of the watershed, with concentrations in Weare and Goffstown.

While watershed residents may now view these whip-poor-will surveys as old hat, they are something new for dozens of other observers across New England. 2005 marks an attempt to broaden survey coverage over a larger portion of the whip-poor-will's range, with the ultimate goal of establishing a system to better monitor population trends. This summer volunteers hope to cover more than 40 routes in New Hampshire, with several more in other New England states. When the surveys are received and analyzed, we'll have a better feel for whip-poor-will distribution in New Hampshire, including how the Piscataquog watershed fits into the bigger picture.

*Thanks to PWA volunteers Debra Davis, Tom and Barbara Hathcoat, Pat Myers, David Nieman, Heather Radl, Karen and Mike Roy, Margaret Watkins, and Beth Widmayer for their help with this year's survey!*

## PWA AT Goffstown Old Home Days

Thanks to PWA members

**Donna Mombourquette** and **Barbara Thomson**, the PWA had a booth at Goffstown Old Home Days to raise public awareness about the PWA and attract new members.



Barbara Thomson describes PWA activities to booth visitors.  
Photo: Margaret Watkins

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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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!**

# Easement Stewardship – Is It for You?

by Margaret Watkins, Executive Director

One result of the PWA protecting more land with conservation easements is a growing stewardship load. With every easement, the PWA commits to the landowner that the land will be maintained in perpetuity according to the terms of the easement. Because the PWA works in a relatively small geographic area, because personal relationships between landowners and monitors are important, and because many of our easements are relatively small, annual easement monitoring is accomplished by personal visits (as opposed to aerial fly-overs necessitated by geographic spread and easement size for some land trusts). As with most PWA programs, volunteers play a central role. PWA monitors are assigned, generally in pairs, to one or more easement properties, ideally near their homes. They visit these properties annually, at a time of the monitors' choosing that is also convenient for the landowner. Each monitor or team of monitors is equipped with a survey, easement information, and notes from prior years' visits. Changes in the property from prior years are noted, along with any immediate plans for the property that the landowner anticipates, such as a timber sale or clearing for pasture. Potential issues are reported back to PWA staff.

"Monitoring is necessary – we need those eyes and ears for our easement properties – but it's also fun..."

"Monitoring is necessary – we need those eyes and ears for our easement properties – but it's also fun," says Graham Pendlebury, who coordinates the volunteers.

Pat Myers, an easement monitor from Weare, enjoys monitoring "because it's a chance to explore some of the natural spots in my own town and the watershed. I don't have to go somewhere else to find beautiful, interesting places."

Jon Brooks, both a monitor and easement donor, agrees. "I'm a monitor because of my appreciation of the PWA and open space. It is an incredible opportunity to get to know properties that I might not otherwise visit in such an intimate way. The checklist the PWA requires the monitors to use for each assessment is a concise way to share with the landowners details about their own property that they may not be aware of. My experience (and speaking as one who receives monitoring from others) is that the property owners deeply appreciate this care and attention to their land."



## TRAINING

A training for new monitors and refresher course for monitoring veterans will be offered on Saturday, September 17. If you would like to learn more or become a PWA easement monitor, please call Graham Pendlebury at 487-2636 or the PWA 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-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!



Next time you look at a NH atlas or road map, check out the northwest corner of Henniker. Between routes 114 to the east and 202/9 to the south, you'll see very few roads. For 25 years Larry Sunderland, long-time PWA member and Deering resident, has managed the 307 acres he owns in Henniker for timber and wildlife. His daughter Martha, chair of the Henniker Conservation Commission, lives on the property and co-owns a portion of it.

Some years ago Larry and Pia Sunderland put their island in the Deering Reservoir under a conservation easement to the PWA. Because they wanted to ensure that their Henniker land also would remain undeveloped open space, the Sunderlands have recently placed 170 acres under conservation easement. Larry anticipates putting additional land into conservation when the timing is right.

The conserved land is largely mixed and diverse hardwood and softwood forest. It includes portions of three brooks and a stream-associated wetland, along with some remarkable glacial erratics and an impressive

## Breaking New Ground with an Old Friend

by Margaret Watkins



assemblage identified in the town history as the Balancing Rock. The land abuts Farrar Marsh, a 476-acre Fish & Game wildlife management area in Hillsborough. The combination of these two conserved properties and the essentially undeveloped nature of surrounding lands provides a large block of excellent habitat for interior forest wildlife species.

"I feel so fortunate to be living here with so much wildlife at my doorstep," reflects Martha, "even if the deer or moose occasionally get into my gardens."

A teacher at the Hillsborough-Deering Middle School, Martha helped craft the

easement provisions regarding educational use of the property. She also wanted to ensure through the easement that her neighbor, who teaches horse-back riding, would have access to the land for trail rides. The easement also allows for creation of up to two house lots.

"Knowing of the PWA Board's interest in expanding beyond the watershed bounds into watershed towns, and having worked with the PWA on our island easement, we were happy

to help advance the PWA's interest and at the same time work with a group in whom we have great confidence," commented Larry.

While the PWA's Conservation Plan focuses on the watershed, the PWA would like to help conservation commissions in watershed towns realize townwide conservation goals and work with landowners throughout watershed towns. We are pleased to have stepped beyond our usual boundaries hand-in-hand with one of our long-time supporters.

*Editor's Note: Larry Sunderland was the recipient of NH Audubon's 2005 Tudor Richards Award for his outstanding contributions to conservation. Congratulations, Larry!*

June 2005

walk in the woods!



PWA director emeritus Bob Todd relates some history of the Woodland Associates Forest during PWA's June Walk in the Woods! event in New Boston. Photo: Margaret Watkins

KEEPING TRACK®



Join us in exploring our new  
Headwaters Project I area transects.  
Novices are *always* welcome.

### AUTUMN TRACKING DATES

Saturday, September 17, Great Meadow, New Boston

CALL KEN AT 487-5114

Sunday, September 25, Rose Mountain, Greenfield

CALL GORDON AT 487-2994

Sunday, October 9, Scataquog Mountain, Lyndeborough

CALL GORDON AT 487-2994

Sunday, October 16, East Road, Greenfield

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-nh.org  
www.pwa-nh.org

**Address Service Requested**

### RED STRIPE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL?

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

NON-PROFIT ORG  
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GOFFSTOWN, NH  
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### SAVE THE DATE... SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

*Watch for a flyer with details about this special celebration.*

### PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE...SEPTEMBER 1

*See the website or call 487-3331 for rules and entry forms.*

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

Jamie Bodwell*	Nashua
William & Margaret Dolbow	Goffstown
John & Kirsten Montgomery**	New Boston
Steve & Jackie Tippet	New Boston

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

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

Mary Berube	Francestown
William Boisvert*	Weare
David Butler*	Bedford
Tom & Judith Carr & Family	Weare
Thomas Clapp	New Boston
Bruce Dennis	Greenfield
Brian Dresser	Manchester
Herbert Elliott	New Boston
David Erikson & Karen Broemme*	Weare
Polly Freese	Francestown
Barbara Gannon	Goffstown
Marilyn Greenhalge	Dunbarton
Carol & Phillip Ireland	Francestown
Patricia Jennings	New Boston
Ralph & Maureen Joyce*	Weare
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Linda & Bob Lindgren*	Francestown
Chester Masel	Everett, MA
Bessie & Donald Myhr	Weare
Marty Milkovic & Beth Bauer	Coventry, CT
Janet & Terry O'Brien*	Goffstown
Daniel Pouliot	Manchester
Deanna & Michael Powell	New Boston
Lois Richards	Dunbarton
Peter & Catherine Schuyler	New Boston
Jerry & Diana Sterling	Goffstown
Arthur Stickney	Deering
William C. Swan	Francestown
Thomas & Christine Tyrie*	Francestown
Stephen Walker & Family	Deering

### Business Sponsor

#### Partner (\$100 - \$249)

Envision Waterfalls	New Boston
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### Annual Fund

#### Friends of the Watershed (\$1 - \$99)

Joseph Trimbur
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#### Supporters of the Watershed (\$100 - \$249)

Melinda Gehris & Richard Head
-------------------------------

### Other Gifts

#### Donation in Memory of Brainerd Taylor

Michelle Medaglia, ACC Construction
-------------------------------------

#### Donation in Memory of G.L. Wheeler

The Family of G.L. Wheeler
----------------------------

#### Thank You...

...to David Nieman for a laptop carrying case.
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*A young visitor to the PWA booth at Goffstown Old Home Days uses casts of animal tracks from the watershed to make her own impressions.  
Photo: Margaret Watkins*

