



Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION

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

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PWA's Priceless Assets:

by Margaret Watkins

OUR VOLUNTEERS!

PWA volunteers come from many walks of life and contribute to our work in many ways. Some volunteer on a more or less regular basis, monitoring easements or water quality, walking the woods looking for signs of wildlife, or serving on committees. "It's a privilege to be an easement monitor," says **Barbara Thomson**. "The best part about the job is that you get to see beautiful landscapes where people do not often go. It's like going to a state park and getting to go past the 'for state employees only' signs."

Some people live and breathe their volunteer commitment, like **Lyn Lombard** and **Hannah Proctor**, co-chairs of the Invasive Species Awareness Committee. Some volunteer for one-time occasions such as PWA booths at events in watershed towns.

Others work intensely on short-term projects. **Alex Pendlebury** spent nearly 30 hours this summer painting the PWA office entrance and completing a variety of in-office tasks such as moving furniture, cleaning, and setting up our new volunteers' desk, complete with computer work station! **Mary Leadbeater** has been researching ownership information at town offices. **Donna Mombourquette** is completing a trail guide for a PWA property.

"Volunteering involves giving back and sharing the excitement and obligations and feelings engendered by the river," says longtime riverside resident **Gail Parker**, who organized this year's photo contest (*see p. 4*).

Recipient of the first annual PWA President's Award for Volunteerism, **John Magee** volunteers with the PWA "to help protect this beautiful landscape that will ultimately be inhabited by our children and their children. Without actions now, this land and water will be lost."

Among other things, John monitors water quality and co-chairs the Water Quality Committee.

Are you looking for a new year's resolution that will introduce you to new people, help the environment, and entertain? **Call the PWA office (487-3331) and become a PWA volunteer!**



Hannah Proctor digs and bags loosestrife from the South Branch. Photo by Randy Parker



From left, PWA Executive Director Margaret Watkins, Ken Lombard, Lisa Ferro, and Easement Monitoring Coordinator Graham Pendlebury review easement documents during the September monitors' training. Photo by Randy Parker

PWA OFFICE

(603) 487-3331

Executive Director

Margaret Watkins

Director of Operations

Paula Bellemore

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Barry Wicklow

Development

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Jed Callen

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Mica Stark

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Janie Young

Finance

Randy Parker

Diane Beland

John McCausland

Peter de Roeth

Water Quality

Amy Doherty

Brian Dresser

John Magee

Tom Noel

Invasive Species

Lyn Lombard

Hannah Proctor

Keeping Track

Barbara Thomson



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Margaret Watkins

This October, the Piscataquog River reached capacity, and several Goffstown residents were evacuated from their homes. The rising flood waters called for action. Their aftermath offers a time for reflection.

Floods are a window on the natural world and our relationship to it. When we allow development on flood prone lands, or "floodplains," this relationship can be quite intimate and devastating, as when water claims basements, entire buildings, and lives. When we destroy wetlands, one of nature's most effective flood controls is eliminated. **Floods give clarity to the term "watershed" – which defines all the land that sheds water to receiving wetlands, ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers.** The less the land's capacity to absorb water, whether as a result of development, steep slopes, altered terrain, or simply saturated soils, the more quickly water is shed into what can become raging rivers. When it reaches Goffstown, the Piscataquog River carries runoff from more than 180 square miles of watershed lands as well as any overflow from the Contoocook River that was channeled into the Piscataquog Watershed by the Army Corps' flood control system.

Floods can teach us about the impact of our daily lives on the land. Our homes, lawns, roads, schools, businesses, parking lots, fields, and forests influence the quantity and quality of runoff. Floods remind us that the natural world is not to be taken for granted – nor is the landscape that defines our watershed.

The PWA's work with landowners, other conservation organizations, and communities to conserve wetlands, floodplains, uplands, and open space benefits people, plants, and wildlife, not only in normal years but also in times of severe environmental stress. Your contribution to the PWA's 2005 Annual Fund will help sustain a healthy, resilient watershed. In this season of giving, please be as generous as you can. *Your gift makes a difference.*

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SPECIAL GIFTS!

BUSINESS SPONSORS

Partner (\$100)

Brown Graphix, Goffstown

Steward (\$250)

Crotched Mountain Foundation, Greenfield

UNRESTRICTED GIFT

The French Foundation

HEADWATERS PROJECT 1 GIFT

Pat Nelson

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT

Verizon Foundation

Many employers will match your membership dues and other contributions to the PWA (a registered 501 c3 in NH). Check with your human resource office!

Thank you to The Framers Market in Bedford and Hunter's Angling Supplies in New Boston for displaying Barry Wicklow's caddisfly print. Proceeds from all sales support the Headwaters Project 1.

PWA Holiday Gift Suggestion



Tired of searching for another unique gift for your brother-in-law, cousin, co-worker, babysitter, or Great Aunt Penelope?

Introduce the special people on your holiday list to a special organization – and show your support of open space and clean water by supporting the PWA. Choose a gift membership, or make a donation in that special person's name. Either way, we'll send a lovely card either to you or directly to the recipient.

A Special Offer

For each gift membership or donation, we'll enter you and the recipient into a special raffle!

Four tickets to the Zimmerman House at the Currier Museum of Art have been donated to the PWA just in time for the holidays. The drawing will be held December 30, 2005.

Call the PWA at **603-487-3331** or send email to pwa@pwa-nh.org; checks and credit cards accepted.

Board Changes: Welcomes & Goodbyes

Our three newest board members bring a wealth of talent and strengths to the PWA. **Janie Young** and **Mica Stark** were elected to the Board at the annual meeting. **Len Allen** has joined since then.



New Board members, left to right, Mica Stark, Janie Young, and Len Allen with new PWA President John McCausland, 2nd from right.
Photo by Randy Parker

Janie Young and her husband bought an old house in Weare about 10 years ago. When Janie is not engaged in development work as a staff member at

St. Paul's School, she is often pursuing interests in historic preservation and international travel. Janie has already shared her impressive fundraising experience and expertise as a 2-year veteran of the Development Committee, and we are grateful for her willingness to join the Board.

A Goffstown native, Mica Stark is the Director of Civic Education for the NH Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College. He was a co-founder of Portsmouth Listens and is now on the steering committee for New Boston Speaks! Mica's take on New Hampshire's biggest problem: "To manage the state's explosive growth in a way that preserves and protects our natural resources."

Len Allen, well known to Francestown members, is a former member of the PWA's Outreach and Development committees, from which he resigned to focus his energies as President of the Old Meeting House in Francestown (8/03-8/05). An easement monitor and lead recruitment volunteer during our 2003 membership campaign, Len is, in his words, committed to "preservation of all that is most dear – historic structures and the natural world, its landscape and its inhabitants."

We welcome these new members. We sadly say "goodbye" to **David Marshall**, who is stepping down from the Board to focus his PWA time serving on the Open Space Committee.

Save The Date

Friday
January 27
7:30 PM

**Dollars & Sense
of Saving
Special Places**

Where:
New Boston
Community Church

Co-Sponsored by:
New Boston
Perspectives
and the PWA

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!

PWA PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

by Gail Parker, Photo Contest Coordinator

In 37 entries, the 2005 photo contest participants sought to capture the Piscataquog Watershed at its best – in winter, spring, summer, and fall. Winners were announced at the annual meeting, where all photos were displayed. Thank you to all photographers and to **Iris Framing of Goffstown**, which contributed mat board for the display and framed the winning photo, which was presented to outgoing PWA President Jed Callen at the annual meeting.

WINNERS IN NATURE/SCENIC CATEGORY:

1st place: Randy Parker *The granite piers of an old South Branch bridge surrounded by bright foliage reflected in the river*

2nd place: Jamie Bodwell *A striking black-and-white winter scene in the Town of Dunbarton's Kuncanowet Natural Area, protected by PWA easement*

3rd place: Chris Hague *Two Canada geese wintering on Lake Horace Marsh in Weare*

Honorable Mention: Keith Fournier *A brightly colored reflection of a small island in the Middle Branch*

Honorable Mention: Paul Hague *Fog over Perkins Pond Marsh, Weare, – an almost primeval scene*

WINNERS IN PEOPLE ENJOYING THE WATERSHED CATEGORY:

1st place: Paul Hague *Daughter Emily logging environmental field data in the green woods of Rose Mountain*

2nd & 3rd place: Randy Parker *Two views of Parker Mill dam in the center of New Boston: one from 1978 of teenagers cooling off below the 8-foot-high dam; the second showing Parker grandchildren sitting on the foundation of the dam (destroyed in 1996) dangling their feet in the water.*



Winter scene in the Kuncanowet Natural Area by Jamie Bodwell

Many photographers submitted comments about their special places in the watershed. Here are a few:

I love this marsh – a part of our neighborhood. At night the conversations of the geese drift uphill toward us, assuring us that at least one wild place remains for them. – Chris Hague

With a photo of a water snake trying to swallow a large catfish, Randy Parker noted: The PWA is about preserving nature in all its beautiful and violent aspects.

Donna Rafdal wrote of her favorite North Branch swimming hole: Deep Comfort in a Shallow Pool -- Curly the Wonder Dog walked the shady trail to this river pool for many summers. He died in May. Now I come here to reflect and refresh my soul where he loved to cool his paws. Every day I feel so fortunate to have this river such an integral gift in my life! – Janet White

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:

- Keeping Track Water Quality Monitoring Easement Monitoring Invasive Species Control
 Fundraising Outreach Special Projects 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:

- Ways to protect my land. Remembering the PWA in my will.
 Making a major contribution to the PWA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. YOU ARE THE PWA!

2005 Annual Meeting

Celebrating 35 Years of Growth in LAND CONSERVATION

by Paula Bellemore

On a gorgeous, early fall Saturday, the PWA hosted its 35th anniversary annual meeting. The spacious, bucolic setting of the Deering Center was ideal for a record crowd of more than 110 attendees. With so much activity in the PWA these days, we found it difficult to fit everything into one evening's presentation – but we tried!

Some highlights:

- **Antioch graduate student Emily Hague** presented her findings on the natural features of Rose Mountain in Lyndeborough. Emily's work was funded in part by the PWA and is helping to identify key Headwaters Project 1 conservation areas.
- **2005 conservation easement donors** Paul and Deborra Doscher, Vera Fogg, Bob Rogers, and Larry, Pia, and Martha Sunderland were recognized for their contributions to land protection.
- **We said goodbye** to outgoing Board member Pat Nelson and President Jed Callen and welcomed new Board members Jerry Shinn, Mica Stark, Arthur Walmsley, and Janie Young.
- **New officers were elected**, with congratulations to President John McCausland, Vice President Jerry Shinn, Secretary Amy Doherty, and Treasurer Diane Beland.
- **2005 photo contest winners** were announced (*see page 4*).
- **Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation** trustee Gordon Russell and director Carol Hall highlighted the importance of collaboration in land conservation, specifically discussing the Headwaters Project 1 (HP1), the first major project of its kind within our watershed.
- **We were treated to a viewing of a short video** made by Hilary Weisman Graham of Francess town that celebrates the importance of HP1 and features commentary from its many supporters and easement donors.
- **Noteworthy quantities of spaghetti and desserts** were consumed, and the evening was capped off with a performance by musical folk artists David Surette and Susie Burke.

The PWA Board and staff thank the many volunteers who made the annual meeting a success. In particular, thank you to Joel and Cindy Stave for the outstanding hors d'oeuvres buffet (prepared with help from Jon Choate and Sally Garrett). Thank you to the ever-faithful and always reliable kitchen crew: Cheryl Christner, Carol Hess, Lyn Lombard, Graham Pendlebury, and Hannah Proctor, who delivered another spectacular pasta feast, and to all the wonderful bakers who provided the scrumptious desserts. As one stalwart volunteer stated at the evening's bittersweet end, "The job's not done 'til the job's done." So thank you, clean up crew, for making sure every last crumb was cleared away.



Barry Wicklow, with daughter Mairead, led PWA members on a hike of Dennis and Tiffany Calcutt's land along the South Branch in Francess town. The Calcutts are protecting their land with a PWA easement as part of the Headwaters Project 1.

Photo by Margaret Watkins



John Magee (center) received the President's Award for Volunteerism from Jed Callen (left). Water Quality Committee Co-Chair Amy Doherty (right) cited the many contributions John has made to set up the PWA's year-round, extensive water quality testing program.

Photo by Randy Parker



Susie Burke and David Surette

Photo by Randy Parker



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 (603) 487-3331
 pwa@pwa-nh.org
 www.pwa-nh.org

YELLOW HIGHLIGHT ON YOUR MAILING LABEL?
 It's time to renew your membership!
 Please use the form on page 3.

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Winter Keeping Track Dates

Come explore the Headwaters Project 1 lands with the pros! Novices are always welcome.

Sunday, December 11 / Rose Mountain, Greenfield

Call Gordon at 487-2994

Saturday, January 14 / East Road, Greenfield

Call Margaret at 774-7120

Sunday, January 22 / Scataquog Mountain, Lyndeborough

Call Gordon at 487-2994

Dates are subject to change. Call leaders to confirm.

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

Maureen & Bill Arakelian	New Boston
Nancy Hoffman	Manchester
Elizabeth Johnstone	Weare
Robert & Betsy Whitman	New Boston
Beverly Teach Wiegler*	Goffstown

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

Member Renewals (as of November 1st)

Frances & Abigail Arnold*	Francestown
Susan & David Avery*	Francestown
David & Paula Bellemore	New Boston
Randall & Carolyn Benthien*	Goffstown
Florent Bilodeau	Manchester
Michael & Sandra Boyko**	Weare
Bill & Polly Brendle	New Boston
Gordon C. Brown	Weare
Thomas Burke	Deering
Lee Chaffee	Goffstown
Richard C. Cilley	Francestown
Mary B. Clapp*	Goffstown
Mary Ellen & Andre Compagna**	New Boston
Rosemary & Christopher Conroy*	Weare
Larry & Brigitte Cook *	Dunbarton

Harriet T. Cope*	Francestown
Helen & Mike Dutton & Family*	Weare
Martha & Alfie Eisenberg**	Francestown
Erik Fey & Kathleen Ruty-Fey	New Boston
Nancy Frankel & Mary Atwell	Bedford
Bill Fredericks & Elaine Johnson	Goffstown
Melinda Gehris & Richard Head**	Hillsborough
Ellen & Curt Goldsberry	Weare
Don & Patricia Grosso	New Boston
Floyd Guyette & Mary Koon	New Boston
Paul & Chris Hague	Weare
Jim Halla & Jeanne Ann Whittington	Dunbarton
Scot Heath*	Manchester
George C. Holt & Family	Dunbarton
Joseph & Patricia Kayal	Huntington Station, NY
Susanne Kibler-Hacker	Dunbarton
Albert & Carol LaChance	New Boston
Addie Ann Lambarth	Goffstown
Suzanne Lamport	Francestown
Kirk & Judith Leoni**	Weare
David Loranger	Goffstown
Dwight & Heather Lovejoy**	New Boston
Dick & Ann Ludders**	Weare
Reta MacGregor	Goffstown
Verna Martin	Weare
Irving T. & Elinor M. McDowell**	New Boston
Martha & Don McGinley	New Boston
Robert & Margorie Moreau	New Boston
Judith Morse	Cambridge, MA

Pat Ann Myers & Carolyn Sheehan*	Weare
Greg & Ellen Neilley**	Francestown
James & Susanna Newsom	Contoocook
George Newton	Framingham, MA
William S. Orcutt*	Manchester
Heidi & John Palmer*	New Boston
Roger Paradis	Manchester
Graham Pendlebury	New Boston
Pearle Preston	Goffstown
John & Marge Rennie	Weare
Caroline S. Robinson**	Stratham
Bishop Gene Robinson & Mark Andrew*	Weare
Karen & Michael Roy	Weare
Brett & Kristin St. Clair*	Dunbarton
Beth Salerno & Tod Ramseyer	Weare
Lillian E. Sizemore	York, ME
Joseph & Kelley Spoerl*	Goffstown
Holly & Mica Stark	New Boston
Joel & Cindy Stave	New Boston
Ronald & Julia M. Tams	New Boston
Tim Taylor & Diana Cooke*	Guilford, CT
Barbara A. Thomson*	New Boston
Joseph Trimbur	New Boston
Susan & Bill Tucker*	Goffstown
Joseph Valentine & Paula Hunter**	Francestown
Peter, Sandi & Nat Van Scoyoc	New Boston
Erwin & Jean Walker	Goffstown
Donald Wellman*	Weare
Janie Young & Max Ferro**	Weare