



OUR MISSION

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

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Volume 18, No. 1

January / February
2006



Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PWA to Acquire 59-Acre Property in Deering

by Margaret Watkins

On its journey from the Deering Reservoir to the mainstem of the Piscataquog River, the North Branch passes through one very old, very varied, wetland complex. A natural bedrock dam has controlled the river's flow since glacial times, impounding it on the property. The resulting riverine marsh system is rich and diverse, fed by both the river and multiple streams, with a smorgasbord of aquatic plants and an array of animals to enjoy them.

Thanks to a bargain sale by owners Thomas and Joan Burke and financial support from the Deering Conservation Commission, the Russell Foundation, and an anonymous foundation, this 59-acre property off Old Francestown Road in Deering will persist in its natural condition forever. PWA will own the property, and the Conservation Commission will hold an easement on it.

Ed Cobbett, long-time conservation advocate and Deering Conservation Commission chair, observed, "There's a benefit to keeping land on the tax rolls and permanently protecting it without the Town footing the whole bill. We get more bang for the buck by cooperating with other conservation groups."

The Burkes have owned the land for many years and wanted to know that the marsh and adjacent forested uplands would be maintained as a natural area forever. Selling the land to the PWA and having an easement to the Town was a perfect solution!

The property abuts two already protected parcels, creating a block of some 270 acres. According to Gordon Russell, "The amount of animal sign is striking, and its value as core habitat is unmistakable."



A brook runs along the property's north bound. Photo by Pat Nelson



The extensive marsh provides excellent habitat. Photo by Pat Nelson

Banish the February Blahs



Join guides Rosemary Conroy and Jamie Bodwell

Saturday, February 18, 9 AM

for a nature hike in the Kuncanowet Natural Area, Dunbarton.
(Bring snowshoes if conditions warrant.)

Co-sponsored by the Dunbarton Conservation Commission.

For directions and to pre-register, call 487-3331.

PWA OFFICE

(603) 487-3331

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Invasive Species

Lyn Lombard

Hannah Proctor

Keeping Track

Barbara Thomson

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

by Margaret Watkins

We begin 2006 within sight of reaching our Annual Fund goal, with donations nearly double those of last year. This sustenance for PWA programs would not be possible without the generous support of PWA members and friends. Thank you!

Your support, coupled with grants and gifts to the PWA throughout the year, is producing tangible conservation results. In 2005 the PWA protected 234 acres in Lyndeborough and Henniker.

Our partners in watershed towns – conservation commissions, the Forest Society, NH Audubon, Francestown Land Trust, and Monadnock Conservancy – protected an additional 674 acres.

Together, these acres contribute importantly to a green and vibrant legacy of open space, wildlife habitat, and clean water in our watershed towns.

2006 is off to a good start with PWA's purchase of 59 acres in Deering (see page 1), with another 17 land conservation projects in the works. We are working with several landowners in the Headwaters Project 1 area (covering portions of Greenfield, Lyndeborough, and Francestown) and with landowners in Goffstown, New Boston, Francestown, and Deering. We anticipate undertaking additional land conservation projects in these and other watershed towns over the course of the year. If our hopes for developing an in-house mapping capacity are realized in 2006, you will be able to see a graphic representation of the PWA's 2006 land protection results in 2007.

None of the PWA's land conservation work would be possible without our members' support. Nor would it happen without willing landowners interested in protecting their land, without public support from conservation commissions and watershed residents who vote for conservation bonds and appropriations, or without support from private foundations and colleagues. Collectively, we're making a difference. To learn about ways to protect your land, please call the office at 487-3331. And, it's not too late to contribute to the 2005 Annual Fund. *Please help us reach our goal!*

NEW BOSTON LIBRARY PERSPECTIVES AND THE PWA PRESENT:**Dollars & Sense of Saving Special Places****Friday, January 27, 7:30 PM****New Boston Community Church**

Rte. 13, center of New Boston (across from Dodge's Store)

Join New Boston Open Space Committee chair and long-time PWA volunteer Ken Lombard for this

slide presentation designed to help people understand the economic benefits of open space and the costs of residential development.

- How does growth affect property taxes?
- Does land conservation save towns money in the long run?
- What can individuals do to guide development?

Studies of New Hampshire towns document that:

- Open Space generates more revenue than it requires in services.
- Property taxes are lower in towns with more open space per year-round resident.
- Property taxes are higher in towns with more residents, more commercial and industrial development, and more taxable property.
- Residential properties require more in services than they pay in taxes.
- Commercial / industrial properties have lower direct costs for services than they generate in taxes, but have secondary costs.

Come learn how open space makes a positive contribution to your community.

PWA Is Hiring!

To better support our expanding project and development needs, PWA is hiring a part-time **Administrative Assistant for 5-10 hours per week.**

The successful candidate will be self-directed, possess strong time management, communication, and organizational skills, and enjoy interacting with our members and volunteers. Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel are required, Outlook Express and Microsoft Publisher are helpful. Experience in database management, website maintenance, and/or work experience in the nonprofit sector is a plus. A sense of humor is a must!

General duties will include correspondence, data entry, file management, preparation of mailings, processing of receipts, and administrative support for our ongoing land protection programs. Some driving to watershed towns will be necessary.

If you are interested, send a resume and letter expressing your interest to the PWA by February 15. If you know someone else who might be interested, please pass the word. Personal referrals are our best resource!

Be a PWA Water Quality Monitor!

Attend one of our training sessions:

Saturday, April 8, 9-11 AM

Sunday, April 23, 3-5 PM

Save the date and look for details
in the next newsletter.

Turn Over a New Leaf in 2006:

Become a PWA Volunteer!

With a record number of members, a record number of land projects, and a record number of ongoing PWA programs and activities, we in the PWA office find ourselves stretched a bit thin! *We could really benefit from the help of volunteers!*

While some opportunities involve an ongoing commitment, others can easily be completed in a matter of hours. Please consider the following opportunities to help the PWA protect land and water in your backyard!

- Create a PWA photo archive using existing photos.
- Provide office support: copying, filing, data entry.
- Update online web calendars (from home).
- Help plan special events such as the annual meeting & members' picnic.
- Create an archive of PWA meeting minutes and other records.
- Update the PWA slide show.
- Create an email distribution list.
- Build recreational trails on PWA properties.
- Install trail gates and trail head signs.
- Create lively displays & activities for our outreach booth.
- Set up and staff the PWA display at various watershed locations.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with the PWA, please give us a call at 487-3331 or send in the form on page 4. Be sure to let us know the best way and times to contact you.

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!

DON'T LET ALIENS INVADE YOUR YARD!

Monday, February 27, 7:00 PM
Community Church, Frankestown

SPONSORED BY FRANKESTOWN GARDEN CLUB — ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Come to an information session on alien plant species
and learn how YOU may be unwittingly
importing them into your garden.**

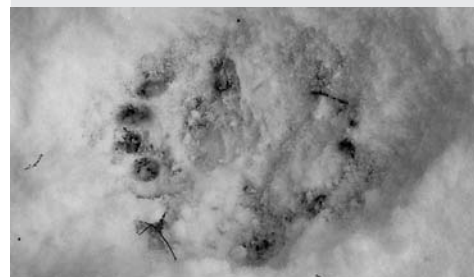
Spring garden catalogues are arriving in the mail on a regular basis now. In an easy chair we select our favorite seeds and plants for our gardens. Little do we realize that lurking under that blanket of snow, under the brush and in the soil, are seeds and roots of the most nasty characters. Very shortly one little seedling will get established, and depending on how it spreads, in a matter of months or a year, many more of these nasty invaders will take over a garden, yard, wetland, roadway, or field. "How did all those plants get there?" we ask. Most of us know how that happens. We learned in school that the favorite foods of birds and animals transport life-giving seeds and that the fur of animals acts as a seed transporter. We know about wind transporting seeds. **But did we ever think about our shoes, our vehicles' tires, snow plows, and transported "fill" as being transporters as well?** What about that pretty bouquet of wildflowers we took to cheer up a friend? All these ways and more contribute to the spread of alien plant species that overrun our wetlands, forests, and yards, and ultimately add to taxpayer dollars to eradicate.

"But how do I recognize these plants and what can I do to control them? Are there similar-looking plants I can use to replace them?" These questions and many more are addressed in the PWA's traveling "road show" covering the most problematic of the invasive plant species in the Piscataquog watershed. The PWA's Top 10 list of invasives is also based on NH's Invasive Species List. Many of us have these plants in our yards and this is where each of us can begin to make a difference. To learn more about alien plant species in your yard, plan to attend the first of our presentations on February 27. You need not be a Garden Club member to attend.

Two field trips are planned for the summer of 2006 at Crotched Mountain Center as a follow-up to our winter and spring presentations. These trips will help you identify invasive plants in the wild and in your town.

For more information, contact Lyn Lombard at 487-5114 or Hannah Proctor at 547-2816.

Late Winter Keeping Track Dates



A plentiful acorn crop and early snow made for good tracking. These bear tracks were seen in the Kuncanowet Natural Area in Dunbarton.
Photo by Jamie Bodwell

Come see who else is out prowling Headwaters Project 1 lands.

Sunday, March 5

Rose Mountain, Greenfield

Call Gordon at 487-2994

Sunday, March 12

Scataquog Mountain, Lyndeborough

Call Gordon at 487-2994

Saturday, March 18

Great Meadow, New Boston

Call Ken at 487-5114

Saturday, January 14

East Road, Greenfield

Call Margaret at 774-7120

Novices are always welcome.

Dates are subject to change.

Call leaders to confirm.

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!

Two Meanings of Ribbons

by Gordon Russell

The walk was what a grandfather and his grandson should be all about. The grandson was six. His world was all a-spin and a-tangle over school and first grade. The teacher was a goddess; this being as it should always be.

I had cut him

His world was exploding like a field of dandelion seeds caught in a gust of wind, and his mind was more absorbent now than it would ever be.

I had cut him a walking stick, and, like my own well-worn companion, I had carved out his initials, D. T. R., into the hand grip. I used mine as a third leg. He used his like the wand of a forest sprite.

Early winter had dribbled a sugary snow the night before, a soft coating that

barely covered the leaves, but made it slippery for older feet. I envied

my grandson's nimble legs, which veritably danced their attached body across even

the slickest of winter's surfaces. But I too had things going for me. I knew the land well. Its acres held a fine forest, a slim brook that never gave in to dryness, a great stone that we both could clamber up and, if we were lucky, find a checkerberry or two ready for mouth-popping. There would be music here, but from throats mostly unseen. I'd been to this place many times. It had given me secrets. Now was the time for this grandfather to share those gifts.

Flying squirrel lives in the Red Oak. A few fingernail scratches from hands, both old and young, applied to the smooth, dead trunk will, hopefully, send a message to the snoozing, furry night-sailers in their den high above. How D.T.R.'s eyes danced when he first glimpsed a black-eyed head; then he stopped breathing altogether when a light gray form leapt into the air and disappeared into the trees. We talked about squirrels.

An owl gave us a wing feather. D.T.R.'s mind raced as he held the colorful shaft between his small fingers. I felt his

imagination fly as he became an owl. We practiced the Barred Owl's cadenced hoots together. Behind a giant rock close by is an ancient field juniper. I invited him to crawl underneath its arching branches and to tell me what he saw. We talked about the hidden

den. We put our fingers in the tracks. We talked about owls and foxes.

There's an old beech tree in these woods, its heartwood long decayed away leaving a wide hollow in the middle of its trunk. We squeezed inside and became embraced by a tree.

Ah, a wonderful place to take a grandson. Things

became very quiet. I assumed the silence meant that wonder had taken over. I believe it did, but briefly. Then the "Whys?" and "What

fors?" spilled out. My answers were always too long, but grandfathers know, somehow, just how important answers are to grandchildren. (Sometimes, though, they miss the point completely.)

D.T.R. hopped and skipped all the way home. I really needed a fourth leg. Bedtime came before he was ready. I was ready before bedtime came, so we went to bed together.

"Dan, what do you remember most about our walk this afternoon?"

"I liked a lot of stuff, but the things I remember most are all those bright, orange ribbons. Didn't you see them, Grampa? They were hanging all over the place. Why are they there? Who put 'em up? Didn't they want them, Grampa? They made the forest all pretty. Grampa. Grampa, are you asleep?"

Gordon Russell is a Director of the Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation, which seeks to help public and private entities protect land from survey tape and save it for squirrels and owls and den dwellers and grandchildren to enjoy in perpetuity.



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New Boston, NH 03070
(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 is a wonderful time to explore wetlands and other frozen places. Kuncanowet Natural Area
photo by Jamie Bodwell

Upcoming Events

January 27 / **Tax Benefits of Saving Open Space**
February 18 / **Walk in the Woods Hike**
February 27 / **Combating Aliens in the Garden**
March / **Keeping Track outings**
April / **Water Quality Monitor trainings**
See details inside.

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

George Dawson	Goffstown
William Gould	New Boston
Jon W. Nute	Canterbury

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

These lists do not include the many Annual Fund gifts received during this time period. All Annual Fund donors are acknowledged in the annual, expanded, April edition of *Watershed News*.

BUSINESS SPONSOR Partner (\$100)

Mt. William Corporation, Weare

Gifts to the Headwaters Project 1

Susan Flint
Emily Hague
Pat Nelson
Katherine & Mario Vanini

Member Renewals (as of January 1st)

Brewster & Elizabeth Ames	Francestown	Marjorie Burgess Murphy	New Boston
Judith Badot & Ronald Cheney	Francestown	Donald & Ruth Normandeau**	Goffstown
Montague & Meeta Brown	Weare	Gloria Normile	Francestown
Jed Callen & Carol Hess*	New Boston	Diane Padilla & Ellen Musinsky**	Weare
Don & Sarah Chapman	New Boston	Roland & Ruth Pendlebury	Westford, MA
Frederick Daggett	New Boston	Barbara Perkins	Goffstown
Catherine D'Agostino	Goffstown	Hannah Proctor	Francestown
Richard & Sheena Floreani*	New Boston	James & Jane Raymond	Goffstown
William G. Ford	Hooksett	Mary & John Reeves	New Boston
Emily Hague	Keene	Karen & Michael Roy	Weare
Joan & Frank Hanchett*	Francestown	Gordon & Barbara Russell**	New Boston
Sirkka & Taisto Holm	Francestown	Judith Russell**	Goffstown
Nancy & Tom Inui*	Indianapolis, IN	Jason Sachs*	Goffstown
Debra & Stephen Ives*	New Boston	George & Holly Sanderson**	Deering
John E. & Norma Japp	Carlisle, MA	John & Linda Seager	Hollis
Gerald & Christine King	Weare	Mike & Patty Shearin**	Dunbarton
Peter Kostecki	Francestown	Agnes Shellmer	Goffstown
J. Marcel LaFlamme & Carol Swiech	New Boston	Jess & Palma Smith	Weare
Evelyn Lamson	Goffstown	Louis & Sandra Springer	Mont Vernon
Lois & Richard Leavitt	Francestown	Holly & Mica Stark*	New Boston
Robert & Lee LeComte	Goffstown	Arthur Stickney	Deering
Mike Lennon*	New Boston	O. Alan & Barbara Thulander**	Francestown
Herbert & Deborah Little	Concord	Joan & Ed Tiffany*	Boston, MA
Ken & Lyn Lombard	New Boston	Arthur & Roberta Walmsley**	Deering
Pam & Eric Lorimer & Family*	Peterborough	George Watkins	Walpole
Lorraine Miller	New Boston	David & Candace Woodbury*	New Boston
Jack & Brandy Mitroff	New Boston	Phil & Jane Workman	New Boston
David Moffat & Carol Hall*	Goffstown	Joshua & Hollis Young	Charlestown, MA