



OUR MISSION

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

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Volume 18, No. 2

March / April
2006



Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCING THE PISCATAQUOG LEGACY SOCIETY

by Janie Young

The PWA Board of Directors announces the creation of The Piscataquog Legacy Society, honoring those individuals who have chosen to support watershed protection for posterity with gifts of land, irrevocable planned gifts, and bequests. The announcement comes at the close of the celebration of PWA's 35th anniversary.

"We believe this is an important time in the life of the Watershed, as well as in the life of the PWA," states PWA President John McCausland, "Many individuals have already made a commitment to support the future health and green vitality of the Watershed. We wanted to create a tradition that would celebrate those commitments and inspire new ones."

Executive Director Margaret Watkins explained that The Piscataquog Legacy Society will be launched with a group of Charter members, consisting of donors who qualify by the close of 2006. The Board hopes to enlist 25 Charter members by December 31. Charter members and all subsequent Society members will be acknowledged and honored at an annual celebration and in PWA publications. Membership is perpetual, reflecting the lasting and substantial nature of these gifts.

Over the next few months, the Directors and staff will notify those donors whose prior gifts of land, trusts, annuities or bequest intentions benefit the PWA and qualify them for Society

membership. PWA members and others wishing to establish a planned gift or bequest intention are encouraged to call Margaret Watkins or speak to a PWA Director. Members who wish to recognize the PWA through a bequest or trust will be asked to provide a copy of the relevant paragraph or codicil, which may or may not include the amount of the gift.

As John McCausland explains, "This knowledge of a planned gift itself is a gift. Knowing what generosity the PWA will receive in the future gives us a critical planning tool. It will help us know what resources PWA will have to draw on in the future, and just how challenging it will

be to take on projects or causes that we believe are central to preserving the Piscataquog Watershed region's character and resources."

The Society members' gifts, when realized, will help sustain the PWA's continued operation as the only local organization conserving land in perpetuity throughout the region, protecting the Watershed's natural resources, and advocating for sound conservation policies and practices. The Piscataquog Watershed region includes the communities of Deering, Dunbarton, Francetown, Henniker, Goffstown, Greenfield, Lyndeborough, Manchester, Mont Vernon, New Boston, and Weare.

Janie Young, a PWA Board member from Weare, is Associate Director of Development at Saint Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire.



LEGACY SOCIETY

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PISCATAQUOG LEGACY SOCIETY,
OR TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE A BEQUEST OR ESTABLISH A GIFT ANNUITY OR
CHARITABLE TRUST, PLEASE CONTACT THE PWA. WE CAN PROVIDE APPROPRIATE
WORDING OR SUGGEST RESOURCES FOR SETTING UP A PLANNED GIFT.

PWA OFFICE

Executive Director

Margaret Watkins

Director of Operations

Paula Bellemore

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John McCausland

Vice President

Jerry Shinn

Treasurer

Diane Beland

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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

issue, the PWA is also looking years ahead – and, we hope, encouraging some of you to do the same.

As PWA evolves as an organization, and we expand our stewardship obligations in conserving more land, the ability to plan far into the future becomes increasingly vital. The commitments made by Charter members of The Piscataquog Legacy Society will be the first assurances to help guide the PWA in its long-term financial planning. The Society is a way to recognize and honor those individuals who have remembered the PWA in a special way through their planned giving. The PWA Board and staff look forward to helping The Piscataquog Legacy Society donors determine how best to accomplish their charitable goals for the PWA and meet their personal needs.

Also in this issue is an article inspired by the many voices of spring and what we might anthropomorphically see as the exuberance with which the wild birds and amphibians around us greet it. Sustaining this corner of the world for just such exuberance and connecting people with the natural world is central to the PWA's mission and infuses our work at the PWA.

This issue of *Watershed News* is the PWA's annual report for 2005. In it we look back over the past year and recognize the PWA's family of supporters and our valued volunteers. With the announcement of The Piscataquog Legacy Society in this



Children and adults alike enjoyed exploring Pine Hill Forest on hikes in March cosponsored by the PWA and Weare Open Space Committee. Andy Fulton, a Weare Conservation Commission member who came on a 4-hour hike, was thrilled. "[This] was truly awesome. The density and diversity of animal tracks through the area was stupendous – not to mention the lay of the land and the extent and makeup of the forest itself!" On March 14 Weare residents resoundingly voted for a bond to purchase this property.

Photo by Chris Conroy

Dollars & Sense of Saving Special Places

Thursday, April 20, 7:00 PM
Stark Room, Goffstown Town Hall

Dijit Taylor from the Center for Land Conservation Assistance will present a program on the economic benefits of open space and how land conservation can save towns money in the long run. She will discuss several New Hampshire studies that investigate the relationship between open space, residential development, and property taxes.

Come learn how open space makes a positive contribution to your community and the tax base.

Act NOW to Save LCHIP!

NH House Bill 1167 seeks to appropriate \$5 million from surplus funds for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). To date this key conservation program has helped protect close to 2,000 acres in Piscataquog watershed communities.

The bill passed the House and will be taken up by the Senate. Please ask your senator to support LCHIP funding in HB 1167. For more information, contact the PWA office or LCHIP lobbyist Charlie Levesque at 588-3272 or visit the website at www.lchip.org.

PWA'S 35TH YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2005 we celebrated PWA's 35th anniversary. Celebrated with walks – now in their second year as the Walk in the Woods! series – with an expanded, day-long members' picnic, with a photo contest to celebrate special places in the watershed, and with musical highlights at the Annual Meeting. It was a year not only of looking back, but also of moving forward.

In May the Board participated in a facilitated retreat where the watershed's needs and PWA's strengths and capacity were discussed. Out of that retreat came a clear commitment to allocate staff time and organizational resources to land protection as the PWA's top priority, particularly as guided by PWA's *Conservation Plan for the Watershed*. In September the PWA hired its first full-time Executive Director to focus on land conservation projects and organizational growth.

2005 LAND PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS

PWA completed the first land conservation project in the Headwaters Project-I area and the first easement outside the watershed but within a watershed town – together protecting some 234 acres. With Headwaters Project-I partners, Hilary Weisman Graham documented the value of conservation easements in a video showcased at the Annual Meeting and used often since. Numerous land conservation projects were initiated, with the Open Space Committee actively advising on a variety of land protection issues.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

As has been our tradition, the PWA continues to address watershed issues relating to water quality protection, invasive species control, and basic watershed research through volunteer projects and collaboration with other organizations.

- **Trained water quality monitors collected monthly water quality data** at 12 sites from May through September for submission to the State. In addition, with State financial support, five sites were tested for *E. coli* bacteria. PWA identified two hotspots and brought them to the State's attention for assessment and amelioration.
- **Outreach activities by the Invasive Species Committee** included publication of the guide, *Identifying and Controlling Non-native Invasive Plants*, monthly press releases about individual alien plants, informational flyers about Japanese knotweed for local road crews, and public presentations. In addition, 500 *Galerucella sp.* beetles were released at two new locations in Greenfield and New Boston for purple loosestrife control.
- **Ongoing wildlife monitoring programs** included PWA's Keeping Track teams and year three of the Whip-poor-will survey coordinated by NH Audubon. Trackers concentrated on three new Headwaters Project-I transects on Rose Mountain, Rand Brook, and Scataquog Mountain while still monitoring activity in the Middle Branch transect. They found all six indicator species – mink, otter, fisher, bear, bobcat, and moose – plus plentiful sign of red and grey fox, coyote, beaver, deer, and porcupine. The habitats along transects vary from upland ridges to riparian wetlands, with both hardwoods and softwoods. Emily Hague's Rose Mountain study, supported in part by the PWA, identified critical plant communities and wetland habitats.

Now launched into our 36th year, the PWA Board, staff, and volunteers are energetically engaged in building PWA programs to accomplish more conservation action throughout the watershed: protecting land, monitoring water quality and wildlife, and promoting an understanding of the watershed's natural resources and the threats to them.

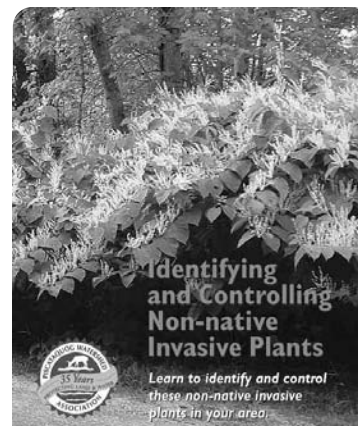


Photo by Randy Parker

PROTECTING LAND, MONITORING
WATER QUALITY AND WILDLIFE,
AND PROMOTING AN UNDER-
STANDING OF THE WATERSHED'S
NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE
THREATS TO THEM.



Photo by Joel Stave

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY SUPPORTERS!

PWA values the generosity and support of its members and donors. At this time, we especially thank those who contributed to the 2005 Annual Fund.

2005 ANNUAL FUND (Gifts received as of April 1, 2006)

\$5,000 +

Jed Callen & Carol Hess
Peter & Elisabeth de Roeth

\$1000 - \$4999

Gordon & Barbara Russell
Lisa Ferro
John & Anne McCausland
Jason Sachs
Jeremy & Carolynne Shinn
George H. Watkins
Joshua & Hollis Young

\$500 - \$999

Terry & Craig Knowles
David Marshall
H. Randall & Gail C. Parker
Robin Sedgwick
Joel & Cindy Stave
Margaret Watkins

\$250 - \$499

R. Leonard Allen & Meredith J. Allen
Diane Beland
Mt. William, Inc.
Rosemary & Christopher Conroy
Robert Dodge
Susan B. Martin
GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
Mr. Ron Breton, Principle, PE
Michael Nolen
Daniel & Ruth Russell
David Souter
Shirley Sullivan & James Barnett
Ben & Kate Taylor
The Rt. Rev. Arthur Walmsley
& Roberta Walmsley

\$100 - \$249

Laura & Scott Arvin
Judy Badot & Ron Cheney
David & Paula Bellemore
Charles & Martha Boswell
Natale L. Brown
Dr. Dennis Card
& Dr. Maureen McCanty
Sarah Chaffee
Cheryl Christner & Tim White
Catherine Clark
Winfield Clark
Rhoda Shaw Clark
Brigitte & Larry Cook
Michele Desmond & Kathy Conroy
Russell & Lori Flint
Melinda Gehris & Richard Head
Jane Grant
Don & Pattie Grosso
Isabella Britain Hill
Ruth & Edgar Jones
Albert & Carol LaChance
Charles Levesque

Linda & Bob Lindgren
Dick & Ann Ludders
Tom & Diane Manson
John & Kirsten Montgomery
William & Catherine Morrissey
Ellen Musinsky & Diane Padilla
Pat Ann Myers & Carolyn Sheehan
Greg & Ellen Neilley
Pat Nelson
Janet Nixon
Donald A. & Ruth Normandeau
Stephen & Laura Peach
Graham Pendlebury
Hannah Proctor
Dave & Karen Salerno
Neil Sclater-Booth
Jim Scott & Julie Kirklin
John & Linda Seager
Eric & Donna Seidel
Mike & Patty Shearin
Ron & Dot Smart
Frances Stave*
Larry & Pia Sunderland
Guy Swenson & Mary Lindstrom
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Townes
James Travis
Nora Tuthill
Alicia Walker
Bill Wasserman
John & Cynthia West
David & Candy Woodbury
Janie Young & Max Ferro

* In honor of Joel & Cindy Stave's work with the PWA

\$1 - \$99

Brewster & Elizabeth Ames
William & Maureen Arakelian
Aida Arnold
Frank (Chuck) Bolton
Kanta Connie Bousquet
Bill Brendle
Herbert & Rosa Bromberg
Jon Brooks & Jami Boyle
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Brown
Montague & Meeta Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Buck
David Butler
Sara Callen
Andrew & Kristen Carlson
Sarah & Don Chapman
Mary B. Clapp
Mrs. Catherine D'Agostino
Heidi Dawidoff
Bruce Dennis
Amy & Tim Doherty
Paul Doscher
Dorothy Eisenhaure
Hugh & Denyse Fairley
Erik Fey & Kathleen Ruty-Fey

Shawn & Michele Fish
Barbara Gannon
Lucy Gobin
Mary Louise Gould
Marilyn Greenhalge
Steve & Jan Griffin
Emily Hague
Paul & Christine Hague
Carol Hall & David Moffat
Ben & Robin Haubrich
Scot Heath
Gail Hersey, Peter & Simon Nott
Sherry Hieber
George C. Holt & Family
James & June Howe
Ms. Elizabeth Hughes
Donna & Ray James
Joseph & Patricia Kayal
Addie Ann Lambarth
Matthew & Roberta Lavey
Robert A. & Lee LeComte
Kirk & Judith Leoni
Ken & Lyn Lombard
Pam & Eric Lorimer & Family
John & Donna Magee
Verna Martin
Patricia & Richard Moore
Judith Morse
Marjorie Burgess Murphy
Bessie Myhr
George S. Naum
Thomas M. Noel & Barbara U. Stewart
Barbara Perkins
Pearle W. Preston
Glenn & Charlotte Price
James & Jane Raymond
Bobby Reeve
Priscilla & Terje Reinertsen
Robert H. Rogers
Karen & Michael Roy
Lawrence & Diane Savage
Peggy Senter
Agnes Shellmer
Mrs. Lillian Sizemore
Mr. & Mrs. Jess Smith
Joseph & Kelley Spoerl
Mica & Holly Stark
Rod & Alana Stark
Oscar & Elizabeth Straw
Tim Taylor & Diana Cooke
Laurie Terwilliger & Family
Mr. William F. Tiffany
Joan & Ed Tiffany
Joseph Trimbur
Bill & Susan Tucker
Margaret Venator
Lauren Warner & Keith Robinson
Janet White
Jeanne Ann Whittington & Jim Halla
Robert & Barbara Woodland
Lisa Yesse

CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONORS

Robert H. Rogers
Larry, Pia & Martha Sunderland

GRANTS

The Cricket Foundation
Fields Pond Foundation
French Foundation
Samuel P. Hunt Foundation
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation
William P. Wharton Trust
UNH Cooperative Extension

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

AIG
Hewlett-Packard Company
Verizon



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Many people contribute their time and talents to the PWA over the course of a year. We hope we have not inadvertently overlooked anyone. Please let us know if we have!

LAND PROTECTION

Len Allen
Abigail Arnold
Jamie Bodwell
Jon Brooks
Jed Callen
Kim DiPietro
Lisa Ferro
Emily Hague
Ben Haubrich
Carol Hess
Addie Ann Lambarth
Mike Lennon
Bob Lindgren
Linda Lindgren
Lyn Lombard
Ken Lombard
David Marshall
Pat Myers
David Nieman
Randy Parker
Graham Pendlebury
Gordon Russell
Jason Sachs
Agnes Shellmer
Joel Stave
Barbara A. Thomson
Margaret Watkins
Susan Weiss
Barry Wicklow

KEEPING TRACK

Brenda Bhati
Lisa Brooks
Elaine Cavanaugh
Catherine Correnti
Mark Correnti
Tom Diguseppe
Kim DiPietro
Ed DiPietro
Carol Hall
Ben Haubrich
Robin Haubrich
Sandy Kent
Julie Kirklin
Lyn Lombard
Ken Lombard
Dave Moffat
Pat Myers
Graham Pendlebury
Hannah Proctor
Brian Rohde
James Robb
Gordon Russell
Aasta Schneider
Mary Carol Scaffrath
Jim Scott
Carolyn Sheehan
Lou Springer
Joel Stave
Barbara A. Thomson
Margaret Watkins
Barry Wicklow
Dr. Bob Willer
Cyndie Wilson

INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS

Michele Desmond
Lyn Lombard
James Orr
Hannah Proctor

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Sue Bonitatibus
Amy Doherty
Tim Doherty
Brian Dresser
Jerry King
Addie Ann Lambarth
John Magee
Tom Noel
Karen Roy
Agnes Shellmer

WHIP-POOR-WILL SURVEY

Debra Davis
Tom Hathcoat
Barbara Hathcoat
Pat Myers
David Nieman
Heather Radl
Karen Roy
Mike Roy
Margaret Watkins
Beth Widmayer

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Catherine Arakelian
Cindy Stave

ANNUAL MEETING

Diane Beland
Jed Callen
Jon Choate
Cheryl Christner
Amy Doherty
Sally Garrett
Floyd Guyette
Chris Conroy
Jana Heiber
Sherri Heiber
Carol Hess
Mary Koon
Lyn Lombard
Ken Lombard
Pat Myers
Pat Nelson
Randy Parker
Alex Pendlebury
Graham Pendlebury
Hannah Proctor
Gordon Russell
Jerry Shinn
Cindy Stave
Joel Stave
Barbara Thomson

OUTREACH & SPECIAL EVENTS

Chris Conroy
Rosemary Conroy
Bailey Hatch
Carol Hess
Donna Mombourquette

Bill Morrissey

Janet Nixon
Pat Nelson
Gail Parker
Randy Parker
Cindy Stave
Joel Stave
Robert Todd, Sr.

GENERAL SUPPORT

Laura Arvin
Sue Bonitatibus
Don Chapman
Mary Clapp
Mary Ellen Compagna
Kathy Conroy
Michele Desmond
Dona Fairbairn
Floyd Guyette
Emily Hague
Carol Hess
Pat Jennings
Julie Katz
Holly Katz
Mary Leadbeater
Bill Morrissey
Alex Pendlebury
Graham Pendlebury
Gail Parker
Randy Parker
Kathleen Rutty-Fey
Joel Stave
Janet White
Lenny White

2005 PHOTO CONTEST

Isabella Britain Hill
Pat Nelson
Gail Parker
Randy Parker
Cindy Stave



John Magee on Scataquog Mountain in Lyndeborough. Photo 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!

PWA Financial Statement for Year 2004

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/05

ASSETS

Checking/Savings	166,246.92
Deposits	213,600.00
Marketable Securities	316,657.61
Conservation Land	291,101.00
Office Equipment, depreciated	872.93

Total Assets **\$988,478.46**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	10,414.91
Unrestricted Assets	237,100.58
Temporarily Restricted Assets	373,092.33
Permanently Restricted Assets	367,870.64

Net Assets **978,063.55**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **988,478.46**



Forest groundcovers. Photo by Cindy Stave

Profit & Loss Statement: 1/1/05 to 12/31/05

INCOME

Contributions	
Membership Dues	15,448.88
Annual Fund	32,363.44
Memorial Gifts	14,885.00
Business Partners	450.00
Deering Project	40,438.00
Easement Stewardship	13,121.64
Headwaters Project-I	46,535.00
Unrestricted	60,467.00*
Grants	
The Cricket Foundation	7,000.00
Fields Pond Foundation	11,000.00
French Foundation	2,000.00
Samuel P. Hunt Foundation	18,000.00
New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services	15,000.00
Russell Foundation	181,438.00
William P. Wharton Trust	10,000.00
UNH Cooperative Extension	4,980.00
Sales	402.30
Annual Meeting	1,519.50

Total Income **474,052.12**

* Includes \$60,000.00 received in settlement of a water quality violation.

EXPENSES

Annual Fund	1,676.99
Annual Meeting	1,420.45
Automobile Mileage	111.29
Bank Fees	134.55
Dues and Memberships	900.00
Education/Training	1,023.00
Insurance	3,752.94
Land Protection	6,058.01
Membership Drive	45.50
Miscellaneous	371.14
Newsletter	2,483.67
Office Expenses	7,030.40
Payroll	59,258.85
Printing	312.64
Professional Fees	2,347.80
Project Obligations	
Conservation Plan	1,230.00
Deering Property	45,876.00
Easement Monitoring	15,625.00
Headwaters Project-I	47,701.81
Lake Horace Marsh	6,470.00
Property Taxes	25.98
Repairs	784.99
Special Projects	
Headwaters Project-I	217,333.19
Lake Horace Marsh	8,530.00
State of NH Annual Report	102.00
Supplies	710.00
Water Quality Testing	402.14

Total Expenses **431,718.34**

Net Ordinary Income **42,333.78**

Interest/Dividend Income **461.07**

Net Income **42,794.85**

Canopy in Pine Hill Forest. Photo by Chris Conroy

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!

WANTED:

Judges for the
2006 Spring Chorus Auditions
at Great Meadow,
New Boston

PEEP!
PEEP!
PEEP!



TWITTER!
TWITTER!

Anyone interested, please read the following:

The 2006 Annual Spring Chorus auditions will begin on or about March 15th. Judges are expected to arrange auditions and assess performances of contestants.

What is expected of judges?

Managing the mid-March (1st group) performers is easy. After that, a bit of patience comes in handy. April and

May tryouts tend to deteriorate quickly to the point where pandemonium may reign. To give applicants the 'flavor' of the judging, a review of the 2005 auditioning session is offered herewith as full disclosure of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity:

"First contestants, please." These contestants arrived dressed in black feathers, sporting jaunty blotches of orange, dabbed with yellow. They arrived on schedule, sang their "Conk-kar-ree," and threw in a "Cack" and a tail flick now and then. They dutifully received the judge's rating and were off in an orderly way.

"Second gang on stage, please." It's hard to describe this bunch. Their voices fit the plaintive category well enough, but judging them on an individual basis was, well, tedious. They arrived on stage in camouflage suits, hundreds at a time, making individual performers hard to single out. Shyness to perform was not a problem because on some given signal, cheeks ballooned, muscles squeezed, and a plethora of peeps popped out. The rules are that the judges must listen intently for individual peeps, and then base the performance of that peeper's peep upon its intensity and carrying power. When hundreds of peepers are peeping, each vying for stardom, some patience is required.

"Third group, please." Before the puffed-cheeks crowd even exited offstage, many others were climbing, swimming, flying, and hopping onto the platform, creating something akin to chaos. Remarkably, last year's judges

continued to stay focused through the din, even during Tree Frog trilling and Canada Geese off-key honking.

To further assist applicants, these words of the head judge were recorded in 2005:

"Barred Owl, could you possibly do your hooting and yodeling not at the same time as Mr. Great Horned Owl executes his "Whoowarr?"

"Listen up you frogs, especially you in the **Bullfrog** chorus: Try to keep your on-again, off-again croaking in shorter spurts. Some of you persist in dragging out your vibrato after your part should stop. Is that clear?"

"Hey you, **Green Frogs:** Limit your voice parts to staccato twangs and plunks. No one is impressed by your occasional, off-tune whistles."

"Pickerel Frogs, hello: Your rusty-hinge notes must be sung between the twang and plunk of the Greens, and just after the Bullfrog bursts stop. Understand?"

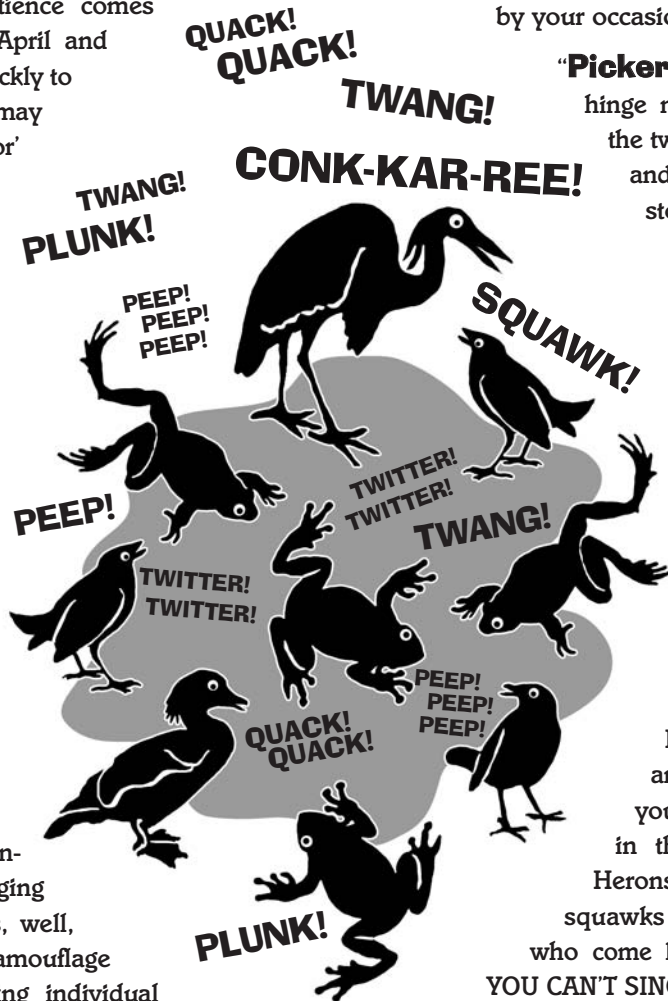
"Grebe, you have to make up your mind. Sometimes you wail a little, and sometimes you insist upon making strange, grunting sounds. You will be judged strictly upon your cow cow notes and how long you can sustain those notes on a single breath. All right?"

"Ducks and Great Blue Herons: Last warning! Ducks, you will never receive an award at these auditions if you persist in quacking off stage in the middle of Grebe's solo. Herons, your honks and quttural squawks are frowned upon by all who come here to audition. Realize it – **YOU CAN'T SING!**"

Final word to prospective judges: The singers at these annual auditions produce the purest sounds that can be heard. Sorting out those voices on Great Meadow's grand stage, despite all, will be unforgettable. To apply, call: **BALD EAGLE** or 2-253-32453.

Oh, about the Great Blue Herons: That was simply a case of one judge losing it briefly. Apologies have been sent.

Author Gordon Russell, PWA director emeritus, is one of several landowners who have protected their land at the Great Meadow with PWA conservation easements so that chorus members will always have a grand theatre in which to perform.





5A Mill Street
New Boston, NH 03070
(603) 487-3331
pwa@pwa-nh.org
www.pwa-nh.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS:



Walk in the Woods! Series for Spring

Bird Identification & Habitat Management

April 15, 9:30 am, New Boston

Spring Bird Walk at NH Audubon's Deering Sanctuary

April 30, 8-10 am

Water Quality Monitor Trainings:

April 8, 9-11 am or April 23, 3-5 pm

CALL 487-3331 TO REGISTER FOR ALL PROGRAMS.

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

James & Debra Davis	New Boston
Margaret Flynn	New York, NY
Phillip Lavallee	New Boston
Susan Sheets & Family	Bridport, VT
Marianne Vis**	Bedford

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

BUSINESS SPONSOR

Partner (\$100)

David R. Craig, Attorney at Law, New Boston

Additional Gifts

Tami Pelletier Real Estate, Weare	\$500.00
Piscataquog Area Trailways	\$150.00

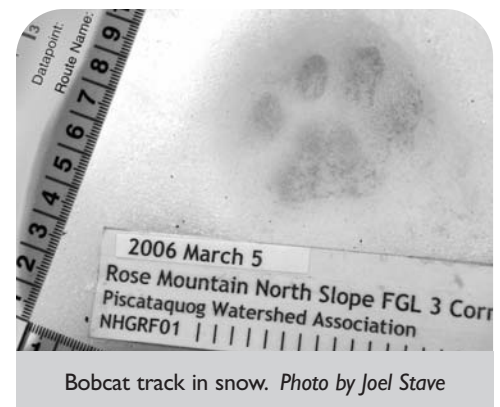
In support of Land Protection

Jerry & Carolyn Shinn

*Gift of a refrigerator & microwave
for PWA offices*

Member Renewals (as of March 1st)

Scott & Laura Arvin**	New Boston	Dave & Karen Salerno**	New Boston
James Barnett & Shirley Sullivan	New Boston	Jeremy & Carolynne Shinn	Weare
Frank (Chuck) Bolton	Weare	Dorothy & Ronald Smart	Alta Loma, CA
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Brown	Weare	David Souter*	Washington, DC
John & Meredith Bunting	New Boston	Robert & Lorraine Terry	Peterborough
Sara Callen*	Sarasota, FL	Patricia A. Thompson**	Lincoln, MA
Dr. Dennis Card & Dr. Maureen McCarty**	Dunbarton	Charles Hard Townes	Berkeley, CA
Andrew & Kristen Carlson & Family	New Boston	Constance & Harold Varnum*	Franeestown
David & Laurette Carroll	Warner	Stephen Walker & Family*	Deering
David Connard	Franeestown	Margaret Watkins	Dunbarton
Raymond Cote	Bow	Janet White	New Boston
Heidi Dawidoff	Franeestown	James & Sandra White*	Dunbarton
Bruce Dennis	Greenfield	Carolyn Woodbury	Antrim
Kim DiPietro	New Boston		
Gerald & Dona Fairbairn	New Boston		
Shawn & Michele Fish	New Boston		
Jim Hamilton	Franeestown		
Isabella Britain Hill	Franeestown		
Ray James*	Hudson		
Ruth & Edgar Jones*	Weare		
Eugene Kelly & Brenda Lind	New Boston		
Charles & Joanne Lantz	Saugerties, NY		
Pam & Eric Lorimer & Family*	Peterborough		
David & Amy Nieman**	Goffstown		
Thomas Noel & Barbara Uhl Stewart**	New Boston		
William S. Orcutt	Manchester		
R.A. & Elizabeth Paynter*	Weston, MA		



Bobcat track in snow. Photo by Joel Stave