



OUR MISSION

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

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Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A Gift to Weare's Future

by Chris Hague

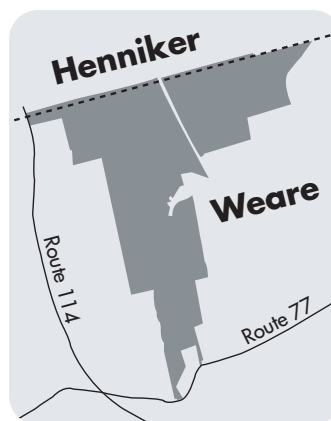
On March 14, 2006, by a vote of 1234 - 456, Weare voters approved the purchase of land extending from Concord Stage Road to the Henniker line. Historical Society President Betty Straw described this 608-acre Pine Hill parcel as "the last big chunk of land that's going to be available." Taxpayers funded a \$700,000 bond toward the \$1,800,000 purchase price.

The project began last October when Weare Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee member Steve Najjar learned that Frank Ferrante sought approval for eight house lots on Pine Hill Road. The two met, and the result was an agreement to offer the majority of the Ferrante parcel for sale as conservation land. What followed is a testimony to the power of cooperation and directed efforts. Margaret Watkins, the PWA's Executive Director, and Carol Hall of the Russell Foundation offered guidance. The Trust for Public Lands negotiated the purchase price.

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee became involved. Dick Ludders from the John Stark Regional High School Board, Paul Doscher from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Weare resident Rosemary Conroy, and Jerry Shinn from the PWA Board lent support along with the NH Fish and Game Department, Goffstown Fish and Game Club, and the Weare Historical Society.

A bequest Mildred Hall had left to the town directed the selectmen to establish a Mildred Hall Bequest Advisory Committee. Historical Society members Betty Straw, Terry Knowles, and Ruth Jones were appointed, and met in January to evaluate possible projects. Purchase of the Pine Hill property "...seemed like a natural fit to us. It had a substantial impact on the town and met a substantial need,"

said Mrs. Straw. The land abuts property once belonging to Mildred's grandfather, Scott Bailey. Arthur Bailey logged the land, leaving trails for easy walking. The committee offered \$800,000 toward the land purchase.



*"the last big
chunk of land
that's going
to be available."*

Goffstown Fish & Game provided \$1,000. Through fees added to hunting licenses, NH Fish & Game contributed \$50,000. An ad hoc group called Friends of the Pine Hill Forest was formed to promote passage of the bond request on the warrant.

Tours of the land revealed a richness of habitats and species. The panoramic view from Rattlesnake Hill is worth the trek, and the marsh is a breeding ground for much wildlife. The PWA will hold and monitor a conservation easement protecting Pine Hill, which never has and never will be

developed. It abuts protected land in Hopkinton, providing a major conservation resource.

A stone monument will bear a brief history of Mildred Hall's bequest on one side. Her parents' names will be on the other side. The land will be known as the Charles and Ethel Eastman Conservation Area, a town forest. When a management plan is ready, watch for an announcement that this place of beauty, serenity, and natural diversity is open to visitors.

Chris Hague is a PWA member who lives in Weare and appreciates the community's natural assets, especially Lake Horace Marsh, which is just downhill from the Hagues' home.

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Director of Operations

Paula Bellemore

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Keeping Track

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Margaret Watkins

This issue of *Watershed News* features two conservation projects that differ from the typical tales of individual landowners who are motivated to protect their land. In both cases, many individuals and organizations banded together to make projects happen.

In Weare, the Open Space Committee (OSC) identified an opportunity to protect one of the largest remaining tracts of open space in town when the landowner, Frank Ferrante, proposed a meeting with them. With support from the Conservation Commission, Weare residents, PWA, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), and others, OSC volunteers orchestrated a \$700,000 bond within nine short weeks.

In Lyndeborough, neighbors seized the opportunity to protect a productive, scenic field by buying it themselves and then selling it to SPNHF, which received a grant for the purchase from the Russell Foundation. The grant was matched by conservation easements donated to the PWA by members of the neighborhood coalition.

Both of these land protection projects attest to the power of collective energy in the face of opportunity and threat. Underlying that energy force is an appreciation of the natural world and its relevance to our lives and well being. PWA's Walk-in-the-Woods! outings are one way the PWA is helping people learn more about the watershed and its wild inhabitants. Whether it's seeing spotted salamander eggs for the first time, hearing a migrating hermit thrush, or simply standing among stately beech trees, the opportunity just to be appreciative in the out of doors stirs a connection with the natural world. As Rachel Carson wrote to a close friend upon completing the final chapter of her seminal book, *Silent Spring*:

"And last night the thoughts of all the birds and other creatures and all the loveliness that is in nature came to me with such a surge of deep happiness, that now I had done what I could – I had been able to complete it – now it had its own life..."

One needn't write *Silent Spring* to pay homage to the natural world, but through our programs and conservation work, PWA hopes to instill a heightened awareness of and concern for the natural world and to inspire action on its behalf.

Welcome, Cindy Roberts!



Cindy Roberts

(Photo by Paula Bellemore)

The PWA's new administrative assistant grew up in Antrim and now lives with her husband and young daughter in New Boston. Cindy brings new computer software skills to PWA and experience from work in sales and customer service. Notes Paula, "Cindy is energetic, capable, and very organized! I can already see great productivity gains, thanks to her extensive office experience."

Cindy's natural enthusiasm comes through when speaking of her new position. "I'm thrilled to have found such a great group to work with and I'm really looking forward to meeting more PWA members and volunteers over the summer."

PWA Staff Attend River Rally 2006

PWA Executive Director Margaret Watkins, Director of Operations Paula Bellemore, and PWA Volunteer and PRLAC representative Janet White were among 550 attendees at River Rally 2006, a 3-day conference held at Bretton Woods in May.

"I left Rally with a strong sense of purpose, feeling very encouraged by the great work we've already done as an organization, and empowered to do more," said Paula. "This was a wonderful opportunity to connect with and learn from groups across the country who face many of the same issues we do."

PWA's attendance was funded by grants from the NH Charitable Foundation, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, and PWA members John and Linda Seager. **Thank you!**

PWA's Executive Director Honored with Conservation Award

Margaret Watkins was awarded the prestigious Sarah Thorne Conservation Award at the annual Saving Special Places conference attended by representatives from a wide variety of conservation groups and interests.

Over the last 20+ years Margaret has been instrumental in preserving more than 3500 acres of land in the Piscataquog region and other areas of the state. In presenting the award, Dijit Taylor, Director of the Center for Land Conservation Assistance at the Forest Society, said, "Margaret Watkins really stood out among this year's excellent candidates for the Sarah Thorne Conservation Award. Through years of effort as both a dedicated local volunteer and a skilled professional, she has had a great impact on many diverse conservation projects."

State Representative Judith Spang of Durham commented, "Listening to the award presentation, I was overwhelmed at the scope and impact Margaret has had on land conservation in New Hampshire over the years. Her passion and dedication to this issue are remarkable."

The Sarah Thorne Conservation Award was created by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) in 2005 to honor Sarah Thorne, who dedicated much of her career to land conservation in New Hampshire.

Margaret was recognized as a quiet and committed conservation leader who embodies the characteristics of the Sarah Thorne Conservation Award. Her work on the local, regional, and statewide levels has made a long-lasting impact on New Hampshire's landscape and has provided a diversity of conservationists with the inspiration and tools they need to conserve land.

PWA President John McCausland summarizes, "Margaret's a tireless worker, very knowledgeable, and utterly devoted to land, wildlife, and water protection. Not only is

she committed to PWA's operations, but she lends support and assistance to other organizations as well."

You can read SPNHF's full press release about Margaret's achievements at www.spnhf.org (see News Room, 4/12/2006).



*Margaret Watkins, on left, is congratulated by Dijit Taylor as she accepts the Sarah Thorne Conservation Award.
(Photo by Jack Savage)*

LCHIP Update

This spring the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) awarded grants to five projects, using up all funds budgeted through June 2007. In May the legislature approved an additional \$500,000 for LCHIP – far short of the amount needed to fund the top 25 ranked projects. These funds will contribute to just three of those projects.

Thanks to all who contacted their senators and representatives about LCHIP funding.

PWA Members Present Group Eco-Art Exhibit:

Ponderings

May 16 – June 30 Conservation Center, Concord, NH

Come see this fresh, fun, and fish-filled look at life on, in, and around a pond! New Hampshire fiber artists Cheryl Christner and Gail Hersey and painters Rosemary Conroy and Karen Salerno (all PWA members) have collaborated on this creative exploration of their favorite local ecosystem. The show includes both 2- and 3-dimensional creations, including traditional and nontraditional techniques, all centered around "the life aquatic." For hours and directions, call **603-224-9945** or visit www.forestsociety.org



Marsh Marigold by Pat Nelson



Spring 2006 Walk in the Woods!

What bird is that?

What's this wildflower?

What animal left this scat?

What do salamander eggs look like?

These are just some of the questions that were answered on several PWA Walk-in-the Woods! events this spring.



Two dozen folks gathered on a beautiful spring morning for a birdwalk co-sponsored with the NH Audubon Society at the Deering Audubon Sanctuary. (Photo by Pat Nelson)



You never know what you might find on a Walk in the Woods! hike. On the April Vernal Pools outing co-sponsored by PWA and the Franconia Conservation Commission, we discovered PWA founding member James O'Mahony and his grandson among the thirty attendees. James was MIA when we rounded up founders for PWA's 30th anniversary in 2000, but has recently returned to the area. Welcome back! (Photo by Paula Bellemore)

Summer Keeping Track Dates



Summer is here! Join us to explore some of the wildest corners of the watershed. Novices are always welcome.

Saturday, June 10
Great Meadow, New Boston
Call Ken at 487-5114

Sunday, July 9
East Road, Greenfield
Call Margaret at 774-7120

Sunday, July 9
Rose Mountain, Greenfield
Call Gordon at 487-2994

Sunday, July 16
Scataquog Mountain, Lyndeborough
Call Gordon at 487-2994

Dates are subject to change. Call leaders to confirm.

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): _____

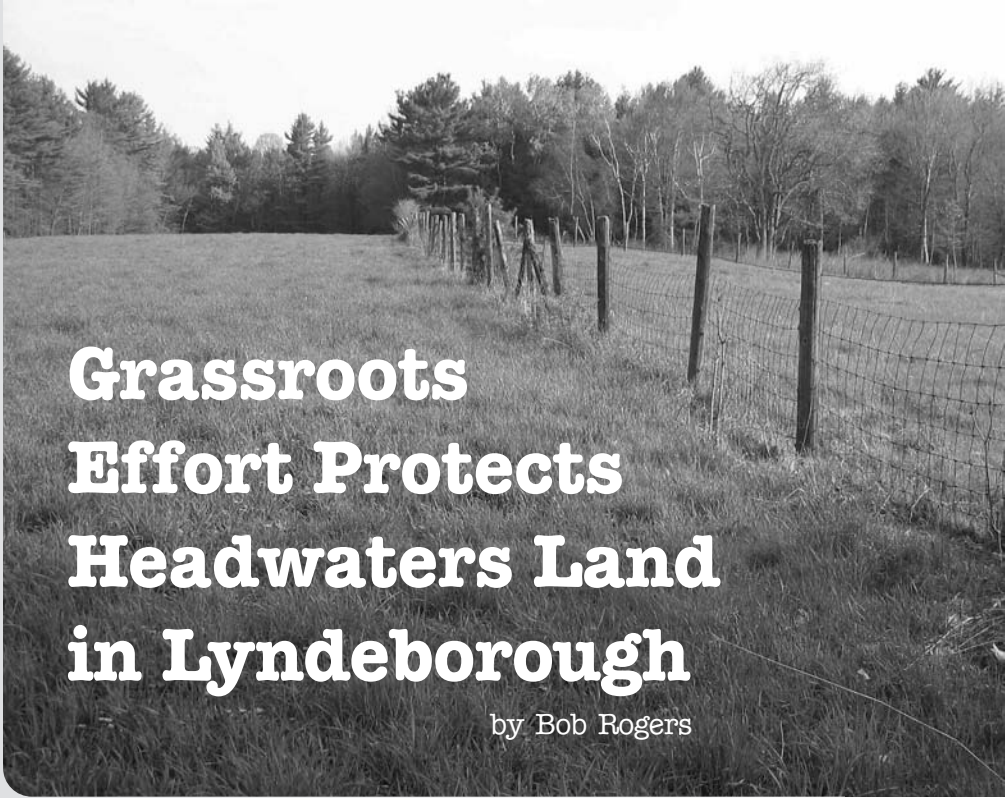
ALSO SEE REVERSE SIDE. THEN RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

Piscataquog Watershed Association • 5A Mill Street • New Boston, NH 03070

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED HELP IN PROTECTING THE WATERSHED!

A pastoral 19-acre tract on Mountain Road in Lyndeborough was the last remnant of the old Spaulding Farm that Cindy Ginn once owned. In the summer of 2004, while in the midst of restoring the Whittemore Homestead next door, Cindy decided the time had come to sell the land. At least half the property was a lush hayfield, the rest pasture and woodland, and the thought that it might be destroyed by several small homes or a couple of starter castles concerned the neighborhood. When Cindy got an offer from a developer, word spread to Samuel Kaymen. Samuel talked with a score of neighbors, and they all agreed that the tract should be preserved in its present state. Samuel had the necessary knowledge and contacts, and within weeks the Lyndeborough Land Preservation Society (LLPS) was formed as a legal entity. The hat was passed, and neighbors and friends – including Cindy Ginn – amassed a loan of \$178,000 to match the developer's offer. The LLPS purchased the property and then set about securing funds to permanently protect it.

The tract abuts the Whittemore Reservation, owned and managed by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF). Although SPNHF was interested in the property, they had no funds currently available to buy it. However, the land is close to properties within the bounds of the Headwaters Project-I. Three landowners in the Cold Brook watershed agreed to put conservation easements on all or part of their properties, and Samuel and Louise Kaymen offered to donate a 15-acre lot to SPNHF. In support of this expanded conservation effort, the Russell Foundation funded the purchase of the LLPS land by SPNHF.



Grassroots Effort Protects Headwaters Land in Lyndeborough

by Bob Rogers

Photo by John Boyle

The closing on the LLPS and Kaymen tracts occurred in March. Both parcels will be permanently protected as part of the Whittemore Reservation. Conservation easements on the other parcels will be held and monitored by the PWA. These easements allow landowners to continue to use their property for agricultural and forestry purposes, but ensure that the land will never be developed. Last year, Bob Rogers gifted an easement on 34 acres, with 3100 feet of frontage along Cold Brook, and negotiations by the PWA are underway for the donation of an abutting parcel just downstream.

The collaboration of many individuals and groups contributed to the success of this project. In addition to funding or technical support from the LLPS, PWA, SPNHF, and the Russell Foundation, the Lyndeborough Conservation Commission contributed funds toward the surveys and other associated costs to ease the burden on landowners.

In the end, everybody wins. All of the LLPS investors got their money back, though many forgave interest on the loan, and a few contributed part of the principal. What began as a desire to protect just 19 acres grew to include far more land. A portion of Cold Brook will now flow unspoiled in perpetuity, an important segment of wildlife corridor has been preserved, and future generations will forever be able to enjoy this unspoiled corner of Lyndeborough.

The LLPS is now refocusing its energies and is working closely with the PWA and other partners to inspire more land conservation in Lyndeborough. Stay tuned!

Bob Rogers, a long-time Lyndeborough resident, was the first landowner to put a PWA easement on a property in the Headwaters Project-I area. Bob has long been active in local conservation, planning, and zoning matters.

Easement Monitors' Training – Saturday, June 10

We rely on PWA volunteers to monitor easement properties. New monitors are invited to attend this annual training. If you are interested, call the office for more information.



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 Summer

Beavers by Moonlight

Saturday, June 10, 7-9 PM

Ferrin Pond, Weare

Saturday, June 24, 9AM-Noon

**FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER,
CHECK THE PWA WEBSITE OR
CALL THE PWA OFFICE.**

RESCHEDULED from June:

Burke Marsh Dedication, Deering

Saturday, July 15, 9AM-Noon

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

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Bruce & Cindy Courtney | Dunbarton |
| Donna Dunn* | Dunbarton |
| Carol Foss | Penacook |
| Ellen Kambol & David Ely | New Boston |
| Jean Heinemann | Weare |
| Vicki Michaels | Hollis |
| Robert Nasinka | Weare |
| Martha & Carl Petersen | Weare |
| Jeff & Donna Poirier | Weare |
| Jay Smerekanicz, P.G.* | New Boston |
| David & Jillian Smith** | New Boston |
| Ellie Weiss & George Carvill | Milford |

* denotes contribution of \$50 - \$99

** denotes contribution of \$100 or more

Member Renewals (as of May 1st)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| R. Leonard & Meredith Allen** | Francestown | John Kanter & Lori Sommer | Hopkinton |
| Michael Amaral & Laurie Terwilliger | Warner | John & Donna Magee** | Newbury |
| Diane & Alan Beland** | Weare | Eileen Mahoney & Randall Wynn | New Boston |
| David & Paula Bellemore | New Boston | David Marshall | Henniker |
| Charles & Martha Boswell** | Francestown | John & Anne McCausland** | Weare |
| Matilda Boyle | Francestown | Pat Nelson* | Francestown |
| David Butler* | Bedford | Janet Nixon* | New Boston |
| Tom & Judith Carr & Family | Weare | Lee Nyquist & Leslie Nixon | New Boston |
| Cheryl Christner & Tim White* | New Boston | Janet & Terry O'Brien | Goffstown |
| Ellen Dokton | Weare | Roger Paradis | Manchester |
| Lucy Gobin* | Dunbarton | Jerry & Diana Sterling | Goffstown |
| Marilyn Greenhalge | Dunbarton | Susan & Bill Tucker | Goffstown |
| Steve & Jan Griffin* | Francestown | Susan Weiss* | Weare |
| Jeff Jackson | Weare | Barry & Lois Wicklow* | Francestown |

THANK YOU!

Kanta Connie Bousquet & Pam Ryan
for helping to paint the PWA office.

**Randy Parker, Bill Morrissey, &
Len Allen** for helping with office repairs
and maintenance.

Ellen Kambol for her assistance in
developing a new office layout.



Graham Pendlebury stands
beside a gate that he
designed and built for the
Tuthill Woodlands Preserve
in New Boston. The gate
is a prototype for other
PWA properties.
(Photo by Margaret Watkins)