



# 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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2006



## Key Property Protected in Headwaters Project-I Area\*

# Rice Family Protects Cold Brook Land

by Margaret Watkins

What began as an inquiry from Gordon Russell to the "Whittaker heirs" in March 2005, and led from there to family members in Illinois, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Arizona, Massachusetts, and Vermont, has culminated in the conservation of Senter Falls on pristine Cold Brook in Lyndeborough. Arthur Rice and his four sisters, children of Alan Britton Rice, and Llyn Rice, son of Edgar Weld Rice, donated the land to the Piscataquog Watershed Association in memory of their fathers, from whom they inherited it.



Cold Brook, Lyndeborough (Photo by Gordon Russell)

The 16-acre property is a dazzling combination of low lying floodplain forest along Cold Brook and Scataquog Mountain Brook and a tumbling waterfall that cascades more than 100 feet. Trees growing on steep slopes made of glacial deposits also characterize this unusually varied parcel near the Cold Brook's confluence with the South Branch. PWA intends to manage the property as a natural area and offer educational walks there.

The property lies on the Lyndeborough/New Boston town line. Abutting it to the west is conservation easement property Bob Rogers protected in 2005. Nearby to the south are nearly 500 acres of previously conserved land. Upstream about 2¼ miles lies the Forest Society's Roger D. Whittemore Reservation, where Cold Brook originates. The entire Cold Brook watershed is relatively undeveloped, and conservation of this parcel helps ensure that the habitat will remain intact and the water in the brook, cold and clean.

There are many "thank yous" behind this project. Thank you to the Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation, which provided funding for back taxes and title work to make this acquisition possible. Thanks also to Jason Sachs, Gordon Russell, Bob Rogers, Graham Pendlebury, Mark Dunn, Elizabeth Dunn, the Town of Lyndeborough, and Bob Todd for helping to work through project details. And finally, special thanks to Alison Edwards, Arthur Rice, Bettina Hackett, Melissa Gervais, Sarah Patt, and Llyn Rice for making the entire project possible.

Depending on family members' schedules, a dedication of The Alan Britton Rice and Edgar Weld Rice Natural Area is being planned for September. Watch for details in a late summer mailing.

\* Headwaters Project-I is a collaborative land conservation project focused on protecting land in the Cold Brook, Rand Brook, and Brennan Brook subwatersheds.

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## **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

by Margaret Watkins

specifically, the WAP provides an impressive amount of information, through species and habitat profiles, on most of the 123 wildlife species ranked by experts as those in greatest need of conservation. It considers wildlife of all kinds - fish, mammals, birds, invertebrates, insects, reptiles, and amphibians - and hence, all kinds of habitats.

The WAP experts also analyzed threats to wildlife. They identified the "most potent" risk as rapid urban development, which is "devastating to the health of many terrestrial, wetland, and aquatic populations and irreversibly fragmenting their habitats." The State's recommended response is to help communities integrate wildlife habitat conservation into decisions about development - both at local land use board levels and through landowner incentives and voluntary land protection.

The WAP recognizes the value of habitat restoration to maintain native biodiversity, and the critical need to obtain, store, and manage information on the status of wildlife.

These issues, and at least some of the strategies recommended to address them, mirror those in the PWA's *Conservation Plan for the Watershed*, which identifies voluntary land protection, inventory, monitoring, and research, land use planning, education, and restoration as the key implementation strategies, along with funding. Many WAP analyses focus at the same subwatershed level that PWA selected, further enhancing the potential for the two plans to work together.

With its wildlife focus, the Headwaters Project-I, a collaborative effort to conserve 1000 acres in Greenfield, Lyndeborough, and Franconia, fits well with WAP goals. The data collected for HP-I contributed to the partnership's recent success in receiving a \$100,000 grant from the F&GD's Landowner Incentive Program, a new funding mechanism to help implement the WAP. What a great testament to partnerships!

PWA looks forward to working with F&GD on WAP outreach and implementation. You can check out the WAP at [www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wildlife\\_plan.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wildlife_plan.htm).



Crotched Mountain (Photo by Pat Nelson)

Explore a fully wheelchair-accessible tree house built 20 feet in the air, Open I - a prototype "green" house that represents the cutting edge of architectural and energy-efficient building practices, and a wood chip plant which, by October, will have CMRC running "off the grid"!

Following the field trips and tour we'll gather for the annual meeting, PWA's traditional member-prepared spaghetti feast and delectable dessert buffet, and guest speaker.

Watch for details in the Sept/Oct *Watershed News*, and **mark your calendar today!**

This spring the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department (F&GD) released the State's first Wildlife Action Plan. The WAP is the most comprehensive assessment ever produced about the status of wildlife statewide and outlines specific steps to conserve wildlife and their habitats. More

**On Saturday, October 21, join Piscataquog Watershed Association members for an afternoon and evening on the edge!**

We'll gather at the southwest edge of the watershed on the spectacular 1400-acre Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center (CMRC) campus in Greenfield for PWA's 36th Annual Meeting and Spaghetti Feast!

The day's events will include afternoon field trips (both long and short), a tour of the campus focusing on how CMRC integrates the natural environment into the lives of CMRC students and staff, and, of course, opportunities to visit with PWA friends both old and new.



# Preserving Goffstown's Rural Character

by Margaret Watkins

**"Parts of this land have been in my family for nearly 100 years,"** explains Eleanor Porritt, who has just completed a conservation easement with the PWA on 146 acres in Goffstown.

"My father and uncle acquired lots as they became available. They grew apples, cherries, and peaches commercially for markets in Boston and New York. They also raised chickens for sale more locally. I grew up on the farm and have strong feelings about the land. I didn't want to see it cut up into house lots when I'm no longer around to keep an eye on it."

Although it is no longer a farm, Eleanor has kept the land productive. The 132 acres of forested land are managed under a plan that emphasizes sustainable harvests, aesthetics, and trails for recreational use. The fields around her house are mown once a year to keep them open. Through her easement, Eleanor has kept open both options for continued forest management and farm use.

The property has approximately 2900 feet of frontage on Route 13. By conserving her land, Eleanor has made a significant contribution to the community and its rural character. The property also contains a variety of natural attributes, including several vernal pools, forested wetlands, a seasonal wetland and brook, and about 800 feet of frontage on one of the Town's designated Prime Wetlands. Two gravel ridge drumlins and portions of a third created during the

last Ice Age run north-south through the property. Bear, turkey, moose, deer, and bobcat all have been documented on it at one time or another, and the fields provide habitat for bobolink and

other ground-nesting birds whose habitats are threatened by repeated mowing during the breeding season.

An active member of the Goffstown Historical Society, Eleanor is familiar with Goffstown's heritage – its early residents, its buildings, its farms and other services, and the infrastructure that has grown up to support what is there today. Within her lifetime, she also has observed a tremendous amount of change in her community. From a population of 5635 in 1950 and a density of 152.6 people per square mile, Goffstown has grown to 17,485 (2003 figures) and a density of 473.3 people per square mile, making it the 14th most populated municipality in the state. Farms once common are now few and far between.

"I've seen a lot of development, and I'm relieved to know this land will always be here, without any houses on it, no matter who owns it," says Eleanor.

PWA members and the general public will have an opportunity to visit this lovely property this fall.

Watch the mail for directions and details on this and other PWA fall events. This walk is co-sponsored by the Goffstown Open Space Committee.



Eleanor Porritt and Mason (Photo by Margaret Watkins)

*"I've seen a lot of development, and I'm relieved to know this land will always be here, without any houses on it, no matter who owns it."*



Feathers from an alleged kill site.  
(Photo Joel Stave)



## Autumn Keeping Track Dates

**Saturday, September 16**  
**Great Meadow, New Boston**  
Call Ken at 487-5114

**Sunday, September 24**  
**Rose Mountain, Greenfield**  
Call Gordon at 487-2994

**Sunday, October 1**  
**East Road, Greenfield**  
Call Margaret at 774-7120

**Sunday, October 8**  
**Scataquog Mountain, Lyndeborough**  
Call Gordon at 487-2994

Congratulations to Francestown on completing  
**THE PROTECTION OF NEARLY 1000 ACRES**  
around pristine Shattuck Pond!

## PWA Awarded Two Grants

PWA recently received two grants for 2006 projects.

**This spring The McNinch Foundation awarded PWA a \$2000 grant in support of our 2006 Membership Drive.** This is the second time The McNinch Foundation has contributed to PWA's program development, and we are grateful for their ongoing commitment to our work in the watershed.

**PWA's Water Quality and Invasive Species Awareness Committees received funding from Northeast Utilities System's Environmental Community Grant Program.**

The Water Quality Monitoring Committee will use a portion of the \$963 grant to purchase much-needed supplies that must be replaced annually and a pH electrode that is typically replaced on a biennial basis. These supplies allow our 16 volunteers to continue monitoring water quality throughout the watershed. The Committee plans to continue its summer *E. coli* sampling program as well.

The Invasive Species Awareness Committee (ISAC) will expand the "Road Show" series in 2006, thanks to NU's support. The purchase of a roadside "sandwich board" will allow better publicity for appearances at meetings of local garden clubs and other civic groups. Grant funds also provide for presentation-size prints of the key invasive plants. In addition to public programs, ISAC is working at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center clearing invasives from trails, creating neighborhood "weed watcher" groups, and continuing its outreach and education series in local papers, focusing on this increasingly critical issue for the protection of native biodiversity.

Both committees rely on grants to continue or expand these programs. Many companies offer grant programs to help fund the work of local nonprofit organizations. **Please check to see if your employer operates an employee directed charitable fund, and if so, please call the PWA office and let us know!**

**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.

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**YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**SPREAD THE WORD! GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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!**



# 2006 Member Outing!

**Sunday, August 27**

Parker's Mill, Mill Street, New Boston

*(Follow signs across from Dodge's Store)*

**Each summer, PWA members gather to welcome new members and celebrate the year's accomplishments. This year's event includes fun for all ages:**

**2:30 PM: Invasive Species**

**Educational Walk**

with ISAC leaders Lyn Lombard and Hannah Proctor. *(approx. 1.5 hours)*

**3:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Have fun!**

Enjoy a game of bocce, horseshoes, croquet, or just grab a quiet spot along the river and catch up with an old friend. The kids will enjoy river wading and other activities – maybe an impromptu 3-legged race, an egg toss, or even a water balloon toss...Who knows!

**4:00 PM: Hike along the Piscataquog.**

*(approx. 30 min. - 1 hour)*

**5:00 PM: Pie Baking Contest.**

Enter your best pie or just enjoy a winning slice!

**RSVP to 487-3331. B.Y.O.C. (chair!)**

**PWA will supply lemonade & fun!**

## ESSAY CONTEST JUDGES ANNOUNCED



This year's Summer Essay Contest is creating a lot of buzz already! To add to the excitement, the highly-qualified panel of judges has been announced:

**Michael Palmer, M.D.**, lives and works on the coast just north of Boston, but his heart lies here in the Piscataquog Region. He is the author of 11 *NY Times* Best Sellers, and his latest book, *The Fifth Vial*, is scheduled for release in January 2007. [www.michaelpalmerbooks.com](http://www.michaelpalmerbooks.com)

**Rosemary Conroy** of Weare left her decade-long career in conservation in late 2001 to focus on her work as an artist. In addition to her art and her work as a freelance writer, Rosemary writes and narrates "Something Wild," a bi-weekly radio spot on New Hampshire Public Radio (NHPR). [www.studiobuteo.com](http://www.studiobuteo.com)

**Cynthia West** of Franconia is Editor-in-Chief of Atlantic Publishing's fine living publications and a well-respected marketing consultant. Her freelance writing has appeared in *Old House Interiors*, *New Hampshire Magazine*, *Vineyard Home & Garden*, and several other regional publications.

The 2006 Summer Essay Contest is open to PWA members and the public and offers a \$100 Grand Prize. Writers are asked to comment, in no more than 300 words, on the meaning of the statement by environmentalist and poet Gary Snyder:

*"Nature is not a place to visit, it is home."*

Entries are due at the PWA office by 5:00 PM on September 1. Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting in October and selected essays may be featured in future issues of *Watershed News*.

For complete contest rules, go to [www.pwa-nh.org](http://www.pwa-nh.org) or contact the PWA office.

## Welcome & Au Revoir



John Boyle (Photo  
by Margaret Watkins)

It is with great pleasure that the PWA welcomes **John Boyle** of Lyndeborough to the Board. As a Lyndeborough resident, John brings a geographic connection to a watershed town from which Board representation has been sorely missing. John is also an active member of the Lyndeborough Land Preservation Society, which was instrumental in protecting 19 acres that came unexpectedly on the market two years ago (see May/June *Watershed News*). He participates in Headwaters Project-1 steering committee meetings and has already signed up to be an easement monitor. John is also interested in bringing his wide-ranging experience to expanding educational and outreach initiatives, building the membership base, and fundraising – *the ideal board member!*

John lives on Mountain Road with his wife Korena, daughter Veronica, son Jack, three Morgan horses, and chickens. He and Korena are restoring an old house when they are not both working at Fidelity Investments. Though a resident of Lyndeborough for only two years, John has already established himself as a conservation advocate.

PWA sadly bids farewell to **Janie Young**, who is stepping down from the Board to pursue an exciting new job in Middlebury, Vermont. Fortunately, Janie will remain an active member of the Development Committee and will continue to share her expertise with the PWA.



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Please use the form on page 5.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

<b>August 27</b>	<b>Members Outing</b>
<b>September 1</b>	<b>Essay Contest Deadline</b>
<b>September TBA</b>	<b>Dedication of Rice Natural Area</b>
<b>Sept./Oct. TBA</b>	<b>Hike on Eleanor Porritt Easement</b>
<b>Sept./Oct.</b>	<b>Keeping Track Excursions</b>
<b>October 21</b>	<b>PWA Annual Meeting</b>

*See details inside.*

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

John & Korena Boyle***	Lyndeborough
Phil & Marge Bryce	Deering
Mike DePetrillo & Kari Lewis*	New Boston
Betsy Hardwick	Francetown
Jason Reimers & Suzie Hackler**	New Boston
Cynthia Roberts	New Boston
Randolph Roody*	Bedford
Wilfred & Phyllis Townsend	Weare
Lowell Von Ruden*	Goffstown
Cynthia Wilson	New Boston

\* Contributing Member (\$50)

\*\* Supporting Member (\$100)

\*\*\* Guardian Member (\$250+)

**BUSINESS SPONSORS**

**Steward (\$250)**

GZA GeoEnvironmental, Manchester  
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New Boston Dental Care, PLLC  
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**Gift to the 2005 Annual Fund**

O. Alan & Barbara Thulander

**Gift in Honor of the Marriage of  
Susie Hackler & Jason Reimers**

Janie Chester Young & Max Ferro

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

Robert Beaudet	Manchester	Diane & Thomas Manson	New Boston
Peter & Linda Berg*	North Attleboro, MA	Chester Masel	Everett, MA
William & Betty Lou Boisvert	Weare	Denise, Harry, & Jillian McCalvey	New Boston
Michael & Sandra Boyko*	Weare	Marty Milkovic & Beth Bauer	Coventry, CT
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Brown	Weare	John & Kirsten Montgomery***	New Boston
Robert & Donna Chase	New Boston	William & Catherine Morrissey*	New Boston
Catherine Shaw Clark*	New Boston	Michael S. Palmer***	Swampscott, MA
Rhoda Shaw Clark*	New Boston	Andrew & Karen Paul*	Francetown
Winfield Clark*	New Boston	Stephen & Laura Peach*	New Boston
Michele Desmond & Kathleen Conroy*	New Boston	David, Michele, Brian & Nick Petersen*	New Boston
Brian Dresser	Manchester	Mark & Shirley Pitman	Francetown
Herbert Elliott	New Boston	Paul, Susan, & Kyle Posluszny	New Boston
David Erikson & Karen Broemme	Weare	Deanna & Michael Powell	New Boston
Hugh & Denyse Fairley	Dunbarton	Pearle Preston*	Goffstown
Lisa Ferro*	New Boston	Glenn & Charlotte Price	Weare
Polly Freese	Francetown	Lois Richards	Dunbarton
Andy & Wendy Fulton	Weare	Karen Roach*	Manchester
Yvonne Gomes	New Boston	Keith Robinson & Lauren Warner	Deering
Mary Louise Gould	New Boston	Alice & Emily St. Hilaire	Weare
Jim Halla & Jeanne Ann Whittington	Dunbarton	Peter & Catherine Schuyler	New Boston
Ellen M. Hill	Rockford, IL	Tim Taylor & Diana Cooke*	Guilford, CT
Nancy & Tom Inui*	Indianapolis, IN	William Tiffany*	Weare
Phil & Carol Ireland	Francetown	David Trumble & Linda Taylor	Weare
Robert Jencks	New Boston	Jeannine & Patrick Tucker	Goffstown
Dave & Sue Jonas*	Francetown	Dan & Shannon Turcott*	Francetown
Craig & Terry Knowles*	Weare	Thomas & Christine Tyrie	Francetown
Addie Ann Lambarth*	Goffstown	Constance & Harold Varnum	Francetown
Roch & Debbie Larochelle*	New Boston	Susan Weiss*	Weare
Matthew & Roberta Lavey	Dunbarton	John & Cynthia West	Francetown
Mary Lindstrom & Guy Swenson*	Francetown	Anne Window	Manchester