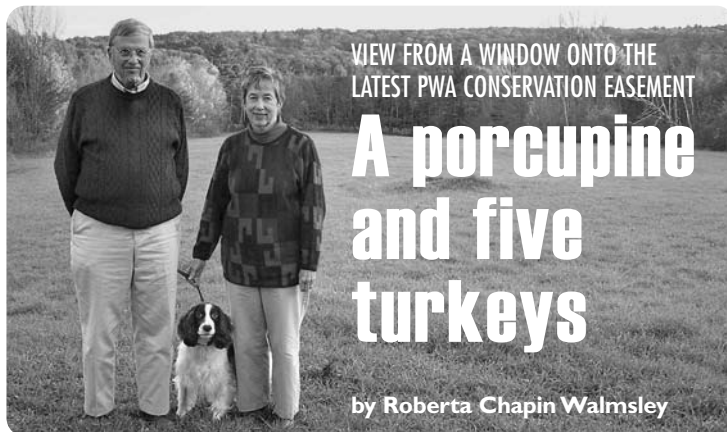


Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Arthur and Roberta Walmsley and Hildegard enjoy the last days of autumn on one of their fields. (Photo: Pat Nelson)

From my desk I look out on a broad expanse of fields. The table at which Arthur and I share three meals a day offers the same vista. It is not the breathtaking view that one might associate with a mountain top. Rather, it offers a quiet, almost soothing window into the changing seasons and the wildlife that inhabit this area. Occasional deer cross the field. A resident porcupine frequently waddles over to feed in our apple tree. Fox appear after the fields have been hayed in late July or August. A variety of birds feed in the field. Grouse strut their stuff near the old barn hole. Right now five turkeys are pecking away at the edge of the field, feeding on whatever turkeys feed on. This past summer we were visited by a cow moose, trailed by her calf, crossing the field about 200 feet below our house. Big!! As I write this, the bright colors of fall have been reduced to a dull rust hue. Soon the snows will come

and with it the tracks of many creatures that we can't normally see from a distance will be revealed. Our fields are not only a joy to us but also a home we share with the local fauna.

We purchased North Farm in 1961. Arthur was ten years into his ministry as an Episcopal priest. We were living with our two young children in a small apartment in Brooklyn. In those days, it was possible for a family living on a modest clergy salary to imagine buying rural property as a vacation home, a replica of what life was like when we were growing up. We found an 1800 farmhouse and 25 acres in Deering for which we paid less than the cost of the new septic system we later had to put in. For the past 46 years, the North Farm on Old County Road has been our family homestead, a constant in our children's lives as they grew up, and since 1993 Arthur's and my retirement home.

How does one give back to the land and to a community of neighbors and friends gratitude for such a place and the way of life it makes possible? How do towns in our region balance their rural and small community character with the inevitable march of housing developments and McMansions? And what, after all, is a balance between our personal and family agendas and the Common Good? One way we have found has been to place a conservation easement on a portion of our property – 14 acres of pasture and woods. That parcel happens to form a niche in the midst of a sizable green belt in our section of town. Today upwards of 25% of the acreage of Deering is protected in some fashion, thanks to the leadership of the town's Conservation Commission and a growing rank of donors. Arthur and I are pleased that through the PWA we can contribute to the maintenance of the eco-system of our remarkably diverse and beautiful watershed.

Visit the brand new PWA website to see a map and listing of all PWA protected properties.



TO CONSERVE

the natural and scenic environment of the Piscataquog River Watershed communities:
Deering ~ Dunbarton ~ Francestown ~ Goffstown ~ Greenfield ~ Henniker
Lyndeborough ~ Manchester ~ Mont Vernon ~ New Boston ~ Weare

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Keeping Track

Barbara Thomson



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Margaret Watkins

New Boston resident **Carol Hess** is serving her second stint on the Board, her first having been some 24 years ago! In the interim Carol has remained an active PWA volunteer, most recently as a member of the Development Committee, Annual Meeting coordinator, and promoter of PWA's 2007 trail guide.

In addition, Carol is a wonderful ideas person, has many contacts throughout the watershed, and brings strong legal and facilitation skills to our work.

Sherry Hieber is a multiyear member of the spaghetti dinner crew at the Annual Meeting. A lawyer in Manchester and resident of Goffstown, Sherry's most recent board experience was with the Goffstown Main Street Program. Her love of nature, as she puts it, "was nurtured by 25 years of living with a spider biologist, my husband Craig, who passed away in 2002." Sherry brings to the Board her legal experience, local knowledge, and a strong commitment to conservation.

Until recently, **Barbara Russell** of New Boston focused her prodigious energy on the publishing world and the publishing company she created, Options Publishing, Inc. Wife of PWA Director *emeritus* Gordon Russell, Barbara's involvement with the PWA spans the PWA's 37-year history. She serves on the boards of Lesley University and Crittenton/Women's Union and on the Board of Advisors of Teacher Created Materials. Barbara brings a strong interest and skills in marketing and outreach to the PWA, together with her business acumen and experience.

These talented women join Board members **Jerry Shinn**, President, of Weare, Vice-President **Mica Stark** of New Boston, Secretary **Amy Doherty** of New Boston, Treasurer **Gail Parker** of New Boston, **Len Allen** of Frankestown, **Diane Beland** of Weare, **John McCausland** of Weare, and **Arthur Walmsley** of Deering.

I am grateful to all these individuals for the time, thought, and energy they regularly devote to the PWA. I especially thank the incoming and outgoing officers and committee chairs, and Amy Doherty, who took vacation time to further hone her skills at the National Land Trust Conference in Denver this fall. The coming year will be an especially important one for PWA as we seek new ways to ensure a sustainable organization and meet growing demands for conservation assistance. With this Board's commitment and experience, PWA is sure to meet the challenges.

PWA members support the PWA in many ways. One critical subset of members who frequently work behind the scenes is PWA's Board of Directors. At this year's annual meeting the membership elected three long-time members to the Board, each bringing to it her unique talents and insights.



From left, Jerry Shinn, President, welcomes new Board members Barbara Russell, Sherry Hieber, and Carol Hess. (Photo: Gail Parker)



Mother Earth (aka PWA member Lisa Ferro) greeted nearly 600 trick or treaters at the PWA office on Hallowe'en, including, from left, PWA members Ian, Alex, and Julia Fish. (Photo: Paula Bellemore)

*A Note from David Carroll
after the Annual Meeting:*

I was pleased and honored to be in the role of keynote speaker at such an important, and enlivening, occasion...to be among so many friends, and folks I do not know, who truly work so hard to rescue natural landscapes for human inspiration and the nurturing of wild ecologies. I thank you all and wish you continued success... and the deep financial support you so well deserve. I am very appreciative of the receptive audience, especially with regard to some of the more difficult aspects of efforts to go beyond conservation to preservation. Here's to wild landscapes and to all of you.

- David

PWA's 2007 Annual Meeting...

That's what many of the 100+ attendees said as they headed home.

This year's events included an art studio tour and several hikes prior to the meeting at Holy Cross Community Center in Weare. The church was transformed into an art gallery with a variety of work by a dozen member artists. Proceeds from the sale of work and donated auction pieces netted more than \$1000 for the PWA – thanks to our contributing artists and generous buyers.

Outgoing PWA President **John McCausland** began the meeting by asking anyone who had ever volunteered for PWA to stand. This simple exercise demonstrated how much PWA is powered by its members – not only by their very important financial support, but in donating their time, energy, and passion.

Two members in particular were honored. **Pat Nelson** received the 2007 President's Award for Volunteerism. **Dr. Barry Wicklow** was presented with the first Gordon A. Russell Award – an award established by PWA in honor of Gordon's longstanding passion and commitment to land protection in the watershed. This annual award will be given to an individual who best represents the enthusiastic leadership qualities that Gordon has long exemplified.

Margaret Watkins gave a slideshow of this year's protected lands, which will likely exceed a record 1000 acres for 2007 and bring the total protected acres to more than 3800. **Arthur Walmsley** related how he and his wife Roberta came to live on and protect their land (see page 1).

The meeting concluded with the election of new officers and Board members (see page 2). Incoming VP **Mica Stark** filled in for the new President, who was unable to attend. Mica, a relative newcomer to the watershed and a new, young father as well, is a passionate

The Best Ever!



Pat Nelson poses next to one of her photos.



The hungry hordes line up for dinner.

voice for the legacy we can all work to create for generations to come.

After the meeting, we enjoyed what John McCausland described as the “real reason” people come to the annual meeting – the fabulous gourmet spaghetti dinner made by a very talented kitchen crew, topped off by an array of fabulous desserts provided by members.

The evening concluded with guest speaker **David Carroll's** slideshow of a year in the life of a wetland.

Special Thank Yous:

To **Carol Hess, Hannah Proctor**, and all the cooks and kitchen helpers who worked so tirelessly behind the scenes. (See a more

complete list on page 4.)

To **Bridget Mohan**, who organized and orchestrated the art show, sale, and auction, and to our contributing member artists:

Jon Brooks
David Carroll
Laurette Carroll
Cheryl Christner
Rosemary Conroy
Gail Hersey
Cyndi Katz
Pat Nelson
Karen Salerno
Alissa White
Barry Wicklow

Thank you also to the following local businesses whose support helped make this event a success:

A&E Custom Coffee Roastery
Butters
Damian's on the River
Dodge's Store
The Framers Market
Good Earth Farm
Middle Branch Farm
Weber Stave Design

Photographs by Pat Jennings



Two artists: Jon Brooks & David Carroll



Barry Wicklow, with daughter Mairead, is congratulated by Gordon Russell.



Margaret Watkins holds up an original watercolor by Karen Salerno. A framed print will be given to each recipient of the Gordon A. Russell Award and the original will hang in the PWA office with the recipients' names.



Paula Bellemore (center) shares a light moment with cooks Sherry and Jana Hieber.



Rosemary Conroy shows her painting “Crow Medicine” to Margaret Watkins.

A Gift with a Difference

by Paula Bellemore

Several years ago my young son was stricken with osteomyelitis and was rushed to the Childrens Hospital at Dartmouth in Lebanon. While he stayed at CHaD my husband and I, when not at his bedside, stayed at David's House, a nearby home that hosts the families of children receiving care at CHaD. We were deeply moved by the care and support that David's House and its volunteer staff offered us, and the respite they provided to these families.

Later that year my family gathered for the traditional chaos of holiday gift giving. Near the end of the evening as things started to quiet down my niece Jennifer and her husband Steve handed me a small envelope. Puzzled, I opened it. Inside was a letter informing me that Jen and Steve had made a donation to David's House in our family's name. The tears flowed.

Clearly Jen and Steve had recognized what was truly important to our family. No matter how many hours they might have spent scouring malls and the internet to find the perfect gift, their support of David's House was far more meaningful.

This year, put the PWA at the top of your list to Santa. By suggesting that friends and family make charitable gifts to PWA or any other nonprofit, rather than purchasing material items this holiday season, we convey what is truly important in our lives.

Donations to the PWA can be made online at www.PWA-NH.org, or by phone or mail. Acknowledgement letters suitable for gift giving will be sent out upon request. *Happy Holidays!*



PUT PWA ON YOUR GIFT LIST!

Remember to send in your gift to the Annual Fund.

You can also donate online:

WWW.PWA-NH.ORG

PWA relies on the Annual Fund for our work all year long.

THANK YOU!

PWA thanks the following members for their support!

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

GOFFSTOWN

John & Louise Porter

NEW BOSTON

Barbara Eiermann

Hetty Startup

Jennifer Wilson*

WEARE

Elizabeth Penafiel

OTHER STATES

Dan King, Chicago, IL

BUSINESS SPONSORS

Steward (\$250)

GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc
Manchester

Partner (\$100)

Innovative Natural Resources, LLC
Antrim

Lake Horace Landowners Corp.

Weare

OTHER GIFTS

Patricia & Donald Grosso

New Boston

Jean & Matthew Heinemann

Weare

Member Renewals (as of November 1st)

DUNBARTON

George Holt

Brett & Kristin St.Clair**

FRANCESTOWN

Susan & David Avery**

Judith Badot & Ronald Cheney**

Mary Berube

Richard Cilley

Harriet Cope

Gloria Normile

GOFFSTOWN

Andy Cadorette & Reta Chaffee**

Mary Clapp

Kristi & George Fullerton

Reta MacGregor

Barbara Perkins

Jason Reimers & Susie Hackler**

Jason Sachs*

LYNDEBOROUGH

John & Korena Boyle***

MANCHESTER

Rev. Florent Bilodeau

NEW BOSTON

Maureen & William Arakelian*

Bill & Polly Brendle*

Tom & Cheryl Clapp

Catherine Shaw Clark**

Rhoda Shaw Clark***

Erik Fey & Kathleen Rutty-Fey

Mary Louise Gould

Patricia Jennings

Geoff Katz**

Don & Martha McGinley

John & Heidi Palmer*

H. Randall & Gail C. Parker

Joseph Trimbur

Peter, Sandy & Nat Van Scoyoc**

David & Candy Woodbury*

WEARE

Bill & Betty Lou Boisvert

David Erickson, Karen Broemme

& Ellen Eberly

Marjorie & Donald Burke

Sandra & Robert Dupuis*

Paul & Chris Hague

John & Maureen Heckman**

Ann & Dick Ludders*

Karen & Michael Roy

Pat Ann Myers & Carolyn Sheehan**

Carole & Murray Wigsten

OTHER NH TOWNS

Mary Atwell & Nancy Frankel, Bedford

Melinda Gehris & Richard Head, Hillsboro**

Susanna & James Newsom, Contoocook*

John Tuthill, Acworth

OTHER STATES

James & Marcia Clarke, Crystal River, FL

Oliver Mutch, Ashby, MA

George & Jean Newton, Framingham, MA

Art & Margie Titus, Hamburg, NY**

* Contributing Member (\$50)

** Supporting Member (\$100)

*** Guardian Member (\$250+)

THANKYOU!

To **Lisa Ferro**, who welcomed goblins and more at PWA on Oct. 31. (See photograph on page 2.)

To **Barbara Thomson, David Nieman, Jason Sachs, Jackie Perra, and Kelly Teevan** for manning the PWA/Friends of Goffstown Open Space booth at Goffstown's Pumpkin Festival.

To the many **Annual Meeting volunteers!**

So many pitched in to help with clean-up at the end that we lost track, so please forgive us if we've inadvertently left you off our list.

You all have our gratitude!

Jed Callen

Cheryl Christner

Rosemary Conroy

Floyd Guyette

Jana Hieber

Sherry Hieber

Carol Hess

Danna Holden

Debbie Jackson

Jeff Jackson

Pat Jennings

Jerry King

Mary Koon

Lyn Lombard

Anne McCausland

John McCausland

Ian McSweeney

Liz McSweeney

Bridget Mohan

Alex Pendlebury

Graham Pendlebury

Gordon Russell

Eliza Proctor

Hannah Proctor

Karen Salerno

Cindy Stave

Joel Stave

Barbara Thomson

Joe Trudeau

Alissa White

Cindy Wilson

Help protect the places you cherish. Renew or make a gift at www.pwa-nh.org.

Introducing Ian McSweeney - Executive Director of the Russell Foundation

The Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation was established in 2005 with a goal to accelerate the pace of land protection in the Piscataquog River Watershed.

Carol Hall served as the Foundation's Director until her husband David's career change shifted their lives to Vancouver, Canada this year. Following an extensive search, the Foundation hired local Weare resident Ian McSweeney as their new director, a role he has

taken to like a fish to water. We asked Ian to share with us a little bit about his background and to elaborate on the role of the Russell Foundation in the region.



Ian McSweeney
(Photo: Elizabeth McSweeney)

Tell us something about yourself.

With a degree in Psychology and Communications from New England College, I entered the National Outdoor Leadership School to obtain a diploma in environmental ethics and leadership. Once I completed these academic goals, I set out to find a career that would combine my interests in people and the environment. Initially working in a public school setting, I created

an outdoor education program and experienced the positive influence that the natural world directly had on these children. My career path progressed into mental health counseling, first in New Hampshire and then in Oregon and Montana. It wasn't long before I realized I needed to get back into closer contact with the outdoor environment. A job in real estate sales in Montana temporarily fulfilled my need, but good fortune brought me Elizabeth, love and marriage, and a return to New Hampshire to a family homestead. Since returning, I have become an active leader on several local and regional boards and have worked within the real estate community to create change that places the primary importance

on protecting the land first – all while still finding some time to work on our 1780's home along a brook in the watershed.

What attracted you to this position with the Russell Foundation?

The Russell Foundation offers a unique opportunity for the watershed's various conservation groups to pool their resources. By everyone working together, the pace of land protection in each of the watershed's eleven towns has clearly accelerated. Through this collaboration, impressive strides were made in conservation during 2005 and 2006 by the Foundation's work with local conservation groups. The opportunity to carry on the work of the Foundation while collaborating with these groups is an exciting opportunity.

What do you see as the role of the Russell Foundation in watershed conservation?

Gordon, a watershed native, and Barbara Russell live in New Boston. They established the Russell Foundation for the primary purpose of protecting critical open spaces for the benefit of both people and wildlife. As the Russell Foundation director, I am charged with working directly with all of the watershed's conservation groups. The Russell Foundation provides a variety of funding methods for individual land protection projects, provides expertise to private landowners as they move toward permanently protecting their land, and provides assistance throughout the conservation community.

What has impressed you most about conservation activities in the watershed during these first couple of months on the job?

While my time as Director of the Russell Foundation is just beginning, the depth of commitment I've already witnessed on the part of people in the watershed's conservation communities has truly inspired me. The Piscataquog Watershed Association, the Franchestown Land Trust, the Monadnock Conservancy, and the various town conservation commissions have impressed me with their dedication to the watershed's future. To have an opportunity to play a role in making the watershed a better place for families and for all natural things is an honor.

Volunteer Training

Do you enjoy walking through woods and fields?

PWA's easement stewardship program is looking for additional volunteers, who will work in teams to monitor an easement property at least once each year. The next training (required for all new volunteers) is scheduled for:

Saturday, January 26, 9 AM - Noon

Call the PWA office for more information.



Keeping Track Winter Schedule

If you've never been wildlife tracking with us, now is a good time! PWA's Keeping Track program is a lot of fun and garners valuable data to help protect critical habitat.

Sunday, December 9 ~ Franchestown

Call Gordon at 487-2994

Sunday, January 6 ~ Franchestown/New Boston

Call Margaret at 774-7120

Dates are subject to change. Call leaders to confirm.



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**WINTER KEEPING TRACK – DECEMBER 9 & JANUARY 6
EASEMENT MONITORING TRAINING – JANUARY 26**

See details inside.



DECEMBER 15: HIKE UP JOE ENGLISH HILL, NEW BOSTON

(NOTE: You must preregister by December 7.)

JANUARY 19: SILENT MOONLIGHT WALK, NEW BOSTON

FEBRUARY 16: WILDLIFE TRACKING WALK, DUNBARTON

See Outings & Events on the website or call the office for details.

November / December 2007 Volume 19, No.6

Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Check out our
great new website!

WWW.PWA-NH.ORG



Please make your gift
to the Annual Fund today.

**We count on
this support all year.
(You can even donate online!)**

(Photo: Pat Nelson)