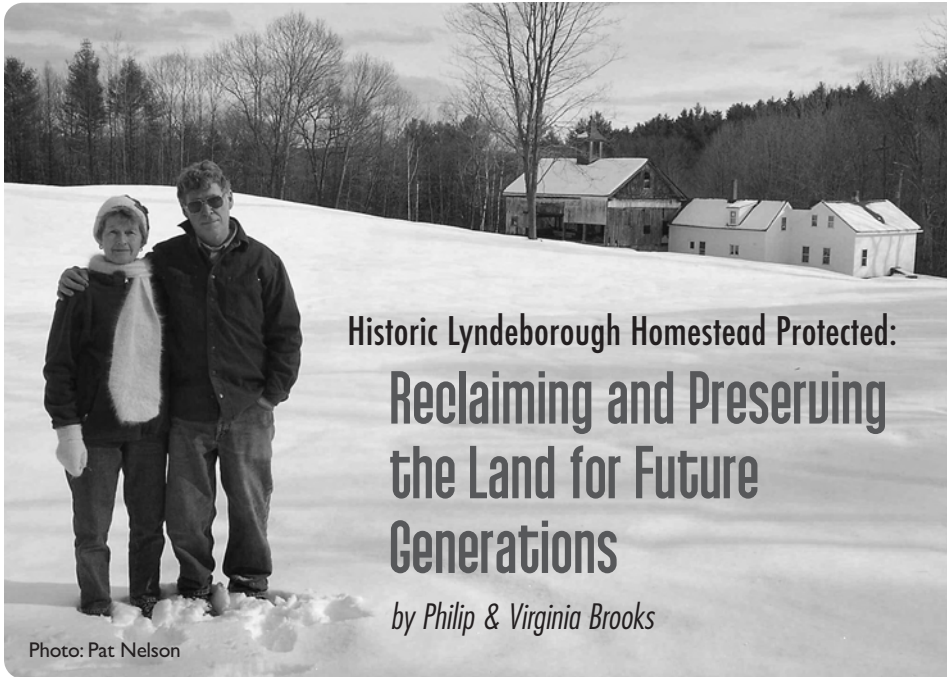


Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Historic Lyndeborough Homestead Protected: Reclaiming and Preserving the Land for Future Generations

by Philip & Virginia Brooks

Photo: Pat Nelson

Annual Fund Update:

We're almost there!

**We need just another \$4000 to
get an extra \$5000 from an
anonymous donor!**

It's not too late to contribute to the Annual Fund. All donors of gifts received by March 1st will be acknowledged in the Annual Report issue of Watershed News.

We try in our individual lives every day to conserve resources in many different ways, and land conservation is a natural extension of our values.

When a 45-acre farm that abuts our homestead came on the market in 2006, we purchased it with the intention of protecting the land from development, renovating the dilapidated buildings, and reselling the property. That set the wheels in motion to put a conservation easement on all of our 80 or so acres under the watch of the PWA.

We have witnessed land between Milford and Nashua go from farms to malls, and while it seems a bit of a stretch right now that Lyndeborough will be paved over in the future, we have taken our step to keep this 80-acre patch undeveloped.

We are enjoying renovating the 1830s house and barn to perfection and have recreated a 5-acre field from a 50-year tangle of trees. Our hope is that a family will want to have a few cows, chickens, or horses, and bring this land back to life as a farm.

Land conservation has been a tradition in the Brooks family, beginning with Martha and Sam Brooks donating about 150 acres on Pine Road in New Boston. It is important to us to have open land for future generations to enjoy as we enjoy it now.

Editor's Note: Starting with our first easement in 1980, PWA is honored to have worked with two generations of the Brooks family, protecting more than 260 acres of open space in New Boston and Lyndeborough. We are grateful to Sam, Martha, and their children for the wonderful legacy of open space they have protected for future generations.



To conserve

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

PWA

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

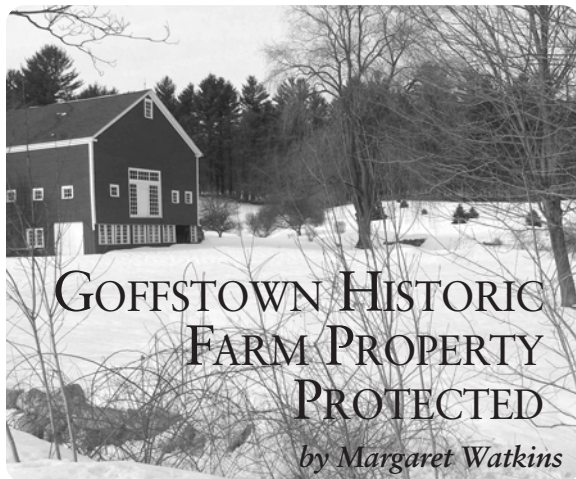
by Margaret Watkins

landowners featured in this *Watershed News* and an easement finalized in December on the Eastman Conservation Area purchased by the Town of Weare in 2006 following a successful bond vote. Six more projects were completed earlier in 2007.

There are many reasons for this growth. Open Space Committees and Conservation Commissions in several watershed towns are initiating contact with the owners of priority conservation lands to learn whether they are interested in conserving their land and, if so, are working with PWA and other land trusts to move that interest to action. The Russell Foundation is working closely with towns and land trusts active in the area to help implement land conservation projects. Several towns have voted tax dollars for conservation projects. Favorable federal tax benefits for easement donations have been in effect for the past two years – and we hope will be extended!

For PWA, this record number reflects our evolution as an organization. Today, land conservation and sustainability are the PWA's top priorities. The two go hand in hand. Unlike short-lived programs, easements are designed to last forever, backed by the resources of organizations built to last. Over the next several years, PWA will intensify our work to ensure a sustainable organization. The membership conversion discussed on page 4 is a step in that direction, creating internal efficiencies and eliminating confusion.

There are many ways you can help build a stronger organization – through membership gifts, the annual fund, special project appeals, contributions to offset office supply and similar costs (see Wish List on page 4), out-of-the-blue “Thank you, PWA, for the work you are doing” gifts, bequests, time volunteered, and time spent encouraging friends and neighbors to join the PWA. With your help, PWA will continue to serve the land, the people, and the wildlife of our region.



In December, Patty Sullivan and Marty Gastrock took the final step in protecting the land around their historic homestead in Goffstown with a PWA conservation easement. Residents and commuters along Goffstown Back Road know this landmark property, with its red barn, 1700s farmhouse, and fields flanked by trees. Locally, the 13-acre property was a top conservation priority for its highly scenic and historic qualities.

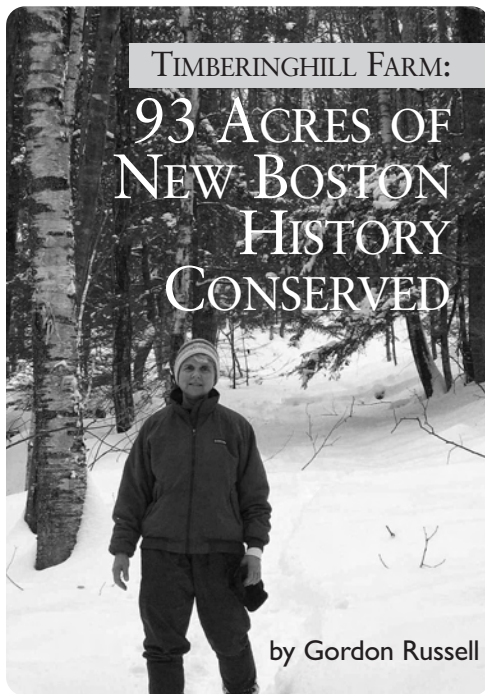
“We really appreciate what Pat and Marty have done – preserving such a scenic property and an important piece of our town’s history,” said David Nieman, chair of the Goffstown Open Space Committee.

Not only is the Captain Karr Homestead one of the oldest homes in Goffstown, it is also on the site of the town’s first town meeting. Marty has compiled extensive records on the property’s history. For him, it was “important that we preserve the integrity of the surrounding property for future generations.”

PWA partnered with the landowners and the Goffstown Conservation Commission and its Open Space Committee on this project.

According to Patty, “Protecting our land is something that Marty and I had been thinking about for awhile. PWA’s interest in holding the easement and the Town’s support for the project made it all come together for us.”

Thanks to a great partnership of landowners, the community, and PWA, this reminder of the town’s rural heritage will be here forever.



Barbara Sholl enjoys a walk on an old hay cart trail. (Photo: Kevin McLarnon)

In 1820 the main road between New Boston and Francestown ran past the then Balch Farm. A decade later, the Langdell clan held the deed to those 100 acres. From their hands and backs flowed dairy products and grains, many being carried by train to Boston markets.

The land was farmed until after WWI. After that the farming culture quickly lost its way in NH and the land became free to get back to what it does best – growing trees. When Barbara Sholl purchased the property in 1982, she had an old farmhouse and forest-covered pastures. One remnant of those bygone farming days did not change: the grand stone walls. Walking those walls that outlined the farm's past, its history began to speak to Barbara. With that sense of belonging came a strong feeling of responsibility, and thoughts pertaining to the land's future.

Today, Timberinghill Farm, so named by Barbara, has been permanently protected. Such a fine property – with rich edges on Great Meadow, with stepped ridges upon which a well-managed tree farm grows. The land is now free to give in a natural way. Wildlife is abundant and has the freedom to move from this protected property to another neighboring protected property.

The PWA holds this easement and enjoyed the process of negotiating the terms of protection and use with Barbara and her husband Kevin McLarnon. Currently, Timberinghill Farm provides forest products for income, honey from bees, pasture for numerous farm animals, a learning environment for school children, and a home for its caring owners.

Nine years ago a small patch of forest in New Boston came into the lives of PWA members and valuable volunteers Joel and Cindy Stave. A home was located overlooking a small beaver marsh. Once time permitted, this forest would change their lives. Within their acreage, great and ancient trees, just by their strong architectural presence, demanded niches in their observers' memories. In deep shadows at the base of a black gum tree, crystalline water meets invisible air for the first time, flowing on in a silver ribbon under checkerberries and other viney things. Wildflowers nod fancy faces in springtime, Mountain Laurel greets summertime, and berries decorate the forest floor well into falltime.

Owls hoot, woodpeckers ring, coyotes yip, herons yap, frogs peep and chug – all in a cappella, all in notes and chords from lives free and vibrant.

These woods were waiting to relate their multiple stories. Joel and Cindy listened and understood their good fortune as well as their responsibility; a conservation easement was created and signed at the close of 2007. Now the ladyslippers can dance, Jack can stand in his pulpit and preach to his ladies, the wild turkeys can scratch whatever, and Mr. Fox can smack his lips just thinking about a blue jay breakfast.

Joel and Cindy put it this way: "When we protected the land, we became part of something bigger – a part of the whole cycle of life."



Summer brings a profusion of Mountain Laurel blooms to the woodland. (Photo: Joel Stave)



Keeping Track Late Winter Schedule

Join us for the best tracking days of the year! Come discover who else prowls these Headwaters Project-1 areas as the days grow longer. Novices are always welcome.

Sunday, March 2 ~ Bullard Hill, Francestown Call Gordon at 487-2994

Sunday, March 9 ~ Whiting Brook, Francestown Call Margaret at 774-7120

Dates are subject to change. Call leaders to confirm.

PWA Converting to Annual Membership System

Over the past several months, PWA's Board of Directors and Staff have been looking closely at our systems and procedures in order to identify areas in which we can increase efficiency and reduce administrative costs. Our membership renewal system has stood out as an area where we can make immediate and significant improvements.

Historically, PWA's memberships have been renewed in the anniversary month of when a member first joined. As the PWA has grown, we have found that managing membership renewals throughout the year tends to fragment staff time that could be better used in dedication to other work to support our mission. Members have also commented that it is difficult to remember when their memberships are due. To address these issues, PWA will be converting to an annual membership system in 2008 – renewing all memberships each year in March.

How will this affect you? Hopefully very little! We've made every effort to minimize the impact of this conversion on our members. Within the next few weeks you will receive a letter explaining the conversion in detail. In most cases, the impact is minimal – perhaps we'll be asking you to renew a month or two early. In all cases, it is important for you to know we are making every effort to stretch each dollar our members contribute to accomplish as much as possible with every gift.

If you have any questions regarding this process, either now or after you receive your letter, please call me at 487-3331 or email me at pbellemore@pwa-nh.org. I will be more than happy to talk with you!

Paula Bellemore, Director of Operations

Welcome to our new members! (as of January 1st)

NEW BOSTON

James & Wilma Dane
April Teshima

WEARE

Janet Barry
Ian & Liz McSweeney*

OTHER NH TOWNS

Steve Howell
North Woodstock
Daryl Johnson*
Amherst
Jan McClure &
Michael Lehman
Concord

OTHER STATES

Scott McCausland**
Chicago, IL

* Contributing Member (\$50)

** Supporting Member (\$100)

*** Guardian Member (\$250+)

Notice something missing?

As part of our transition to an annual membership renewal system (see article above), we will now list all PWA members in the Annual Report instead of listing renewals in each newsletter. Please know that your membership renewal remains vitally important to our continued success! Thank you.

Help protect the places you cherish. Make a gift at www.pwa-nh.org.



A couple dozen people
enjoyed a snowshoe hike
up Joe English Hill in
December.

(Photo: Paula Bellemore)



Spring Bird Walk in Deering Saturday, April 26 8-10AM

Join the PWA and a New Hampshire Audubon guide as we explore Deering Sanctuary looking for migrating songbirds, early spring warblers, hooded mergansers, and great blue herons. This is PWA's 3rd annual spring bird walk at Deering Sanctuary – NH Audubon's second largest sanctuary featuring wonderful trails, old orchards, and Black Fox Pond. Join Us! (Please, no dogs.)

Directions: From Deering, head toward Hillsboro on Rte. 149 and turn right onto Clement Hill Road. In 1-1/2 miles, turn right and follow PWA signs to our meeting point in less than 1/2 a mile.

Questions? Call 487-3331 or email us at pwa@pwa-nh.org.

Walks are held rain or shine. In the unlikely event that a walk is cancelled due to unsafe conditions, an outgoing message will be left at 487-3331.

Mark Your Calendar: Hike up Rose Mountain / Saturday, June 21 9AM-2PM

Watch for details at www.pwa-nh.org or in the next newsletter.

PWA WISH LIST

Copy paper
letter size and legal
White or off-white card stock
for printing postcards
Ink jet cartridges
HP 96 and HP 97
Postage stamps
.63, .41 and .26
Office phone
with 2 lines and hold feature
Floor mats
for under desk chairs
Ongoing office cleaning
and weekly trash pickup
Repair work
on our window shades!
**ALL DONATIONS ARE
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.**

Calling All Volunteers!

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead

PWA is fortunate to have many, many committed volunteers helping to carry out all areas of our work. From easement monitors who walk each easement property at least once a year, ensuring our stewardship obligations are being fulfilled, to our kitchen crew at the annual meeting who prepare and serve 100+ spaghetti dinners, PWA members can be found using their talents in many diverse ways.

What talents do you have to share? PWA is in need of writers, photographers, help with trail maintenance, office support, event planning and execution, and a host of other activities. We could use help from someone with surveying experience, as well as someone with project management skills or people willing to help lead walks. It all begins with a single step. If you think you might have something to offer PWA – big or small, skilled or unskilled, please fill out the volunteer talent survey below and mail it in. (You’ll also find it on our Website at www.pwa-nh.org. Click on Membership & Support, then Volunteer Opportunities.) We’ll keep track of your information, and when the right opportunity comes up, we’ll give you a call. If the project interests you and the timing is right, great! If not, don’t worry, we can call you again another time. Remember, the form doesn’t commit you to anything – it just lets us know you’re out there. Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone 1 (day): _____ Phone 2 (night): _____ Other phone: _____

Email: _____

Preferred method(s) of contact: ☐ Phone 1 ☐ Phone 2 ☐ Other phone ☐ Email

Best times to reach you: _____

Address (street, town, state, zip): _____

What is your availability for volunteer activities?

Do you prefer to volunteer at particular times? (If so, please specify days or hours.) _____

Are you typically available on short notice? _____

Which of the following apply to you? (Check all that apply.)

☐ I like to work outdoors.

☐ I am a creative person.

☐ I like to work indoors.

☐ I like to/am willing to drive (& am licensed).

☐ I am computer literate.

☐ I am a detail-oriented person.

☐ I am a “people” person.

☐ I like variety.

☐ I like to work alone.

☐ I like a routine.

☐ My schedule is predictable.

☐ My schedule is erratic.

☐ I enjoy talking on the phone.

☐ I prefer to be a doer than a leader.

☐ I would prefer to work at PWA offices.

☐ I am a good organizer/manager.

☐ I would prefer to work at home.

☐ I have some physical limitations. Please specify: _____

What are your particular interests/talents? (Check all that apply or add your own!)

☐ Cooking/Entertaining

☐ Writing

☐ Surveying experience

☐ General Fix-it Skills

☐ Marketing/Public Relations

☐ Website maintenance (Dreamweaver)

☐ Natural Resources Management

☐ Photography

☐ Data entry or database management

☐ Event Planning

☐ Office Cleaning

☐ Research

Other: _____



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Keeping Track

March 2 & 9 (subject to change)

Spring Bird Walk in Deering

Saturday, April 26, 8AM-10AM

(See details inside.)

Get Involved!

Please fill out the volunteer form inside
and send it in.

January / February 2008 Volume 20, No. 1

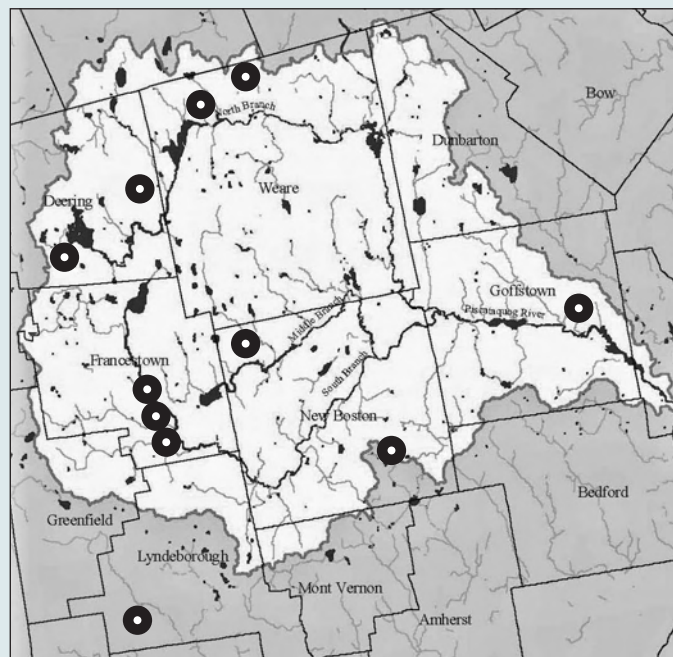
Watershed News

THE PISCATAQUOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Map of PWA Properties Protected in 2007 Total 2007 Acres: 998!



See the PWA website for details on these and all other PWA properties and conservation easements.