



# Voice of the Wapack

Published by the Friends of the Wapack, Inc.

Issue #79

## From the President—Banner Year 2007

It looks like 2007 will be a banner year for the Wapack Trail. Three very important projects are underway to improve or confirm the permanence of major portions of the Trail.

**TEMPLE HIGHLANDS:** House Bill 183-FN, introduced in the New Hampshire General Court by Representative Anne-Marie Irwin, of Peterborough, was successfully passed by the House with a strong majority. This has authorized the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) to acquire the property that was the Temple Mountain Ski Area,

and protect it as a state reservation. DRED's division of Parks and Recreation manages Miller State Park, which abuts this property. The Governor's Capital Budget includes necessary funds, but the legislature must still review the financing, and the NH Senate must also pass a companion bill. It has been felt that the House was the major hurdle, and are very optimistic for finalization, with your continued support. The Friends must thank Representative Irwin, and the Monadnock Conservancy for their strong leadership.

**WAPACK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE:** The 1,625-

acre refuge was donated to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1972, and is the most northern three miles of the Wapack Trail. As mandated by federal law, the Service has commenced a CCP (Comprehensive Conservation Plan) for the area, which is formal report of the



North Pack Summit, Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Mena Schmid.

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### Courtesy on the trail

- Foot travel welcome.
- Leave NO trace.
- Be quiet near houses.
- Stay on blazed trails.
- Respect trailside property.
- Park cars so others can pass.

(Continued on page 2)

# From the President

(Continued from page 1)

area as it exists today, and the management plan for the next fifteen years. The Service has held two public hearings, during which it was evident that the Service wants and expects the Friends to continue to maintain the trail, and have recommended that a formal MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) be formalized between the Service and the Friends. The schedule for the completion of the CCP is by the end of 2007.

**WAPACK WILDERNESS:** As was reported in last falls edition of the VOICE, the Northeast Wilderness Trust (NWT) has secured an option to place a conservation easement on 1,400 acres owned by the Hampshire Country School in Rindge and New Ipswich, which contains almost two miles of the Trail. The NWT reported in February that former New Hampshire

Governor Walter Peterson and his wife Dorothy have agreed to serve as Honorary Chairpersons for the campaign, and that they had raised over \$540,000 in gifts, pledges and grants, which is 38% of the required \$1,400,000. Their goal is to complete the fundraising activities by the end of 2007, with pledges being received through 2009.

Normally, winter for the Friends has been a time of rest, relaxation, and looking forward to being on the Trail come spring and summer. I can assure you that the past few months have been anything but peaceful and quiet for your Board of Directors. But we will enjoy the fruits of our labors when the weather improves and hiking the Trail in not an exercise of survival.

- Mitch Call, President

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## Friends of the Wapack

The *Voice of the Wapack* is published twice a year by the Friends of the Wapack. The Friends are nonprofit volunteers dedicated to the maintenance and preservation of the Wapack Trail System. Financial support is provided by member donations which are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Affiliated Club Member of the American Hiking Society and the New England Trail Conference. The

Wapack Trail is a 21-mile skyline footpath from Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham, MA to North Pack in Greenfield, NH. Completed in 1923, it is the oldest interstate hiking trail in the Northeast.

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Friends of the Wapack

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Website: <http://www.wapack.org>



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| Mitch Call, <i>Ways &amp; Means</i>             | (603) 924-7544 |
| Renee Blanchette, <i>Newsletter</i>             | (603) 878-1464 |
| Mike Przybyla, <i>Management / Right-of-Way</i> | (603) 878-3350 |

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|                      |               |                |
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|----------------------|---------------|----------------|

|                    |                 |                |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Web Master:</b> | Rick Blanchette | (603) 878-1464 |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|

## Friends of the Wapack Trail Workdays

For 2007 we have a number of interesting workdays scheduled. The workdays play a key part in making the Wapack Trail what it is. They are designed to supplement the work of the trail captains and to accomplish tasks beyond that what is expected of the trail captains. For those of you who may not have the time to volunteer to be a trail captain by adopting a trail section, they provide an opportunity to give something back to the trail. I urge you to show up for at least one of the workdays and see how much fun it is. You'll probably get dirty and sweaty, but I can assure you that you'll feel a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day.

All workdays are on Saturday and start at 8:30 AM and typically wind down around 3:00 or 4:00 in the afternoon. Bring lunch, water, work clothes, and enthusiasm. We supply the tools and encouragement.

Saturday April 28 North Pack, Old Mountain Road trailhead, Greenfield, NH. We'll be doing general drainage work on the northernmost section of the Wapack. This will include revisiting a wet spot near the start of the trail and two rapidly eroding sections near the summit of Pack Mo-

nadnock. Plan on lunch at the summit.

Saturday September 22: Route 123/124 north to Nashua Road. We'll meet at the parking area located off of Routes 123/124 near Wind-blown. The primary objective of this workday is to re-route around a beaver dam and remove some downed trees located north of Wildcat. We'll also be doing general maintenance on this, the flattest section of the trail.

Saturday October 27: Miller State Park/Temple Mountain. Meet at the Miller State Park lot on Route 101. We will be doing general maintenance on the Marion Davis Trail and possibly some work on Temple Mountain depending on time.

These workdays are subject to change so check [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org) for any last minute changes. See you on the trail.

- Mike Przybyla, Trail Master



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## Run for the Wapack Wilderness



Northeast Wilderness Trust (NWT) has joined with MORFUN to support the May 12, 2007 MORFUN Wapack Trail Races. Race director Bogie D has planned the event to raise awareness and money for the Wapack Wilderness Conservation Campaign. Participants are encouraged to collect pledges to support the campaign. Both runners and walkers are invited to participate. Pledge forms can be downloaded from the race website at [www.wapacktrailrace.com](http://www.wapacktrailrace.com), or call NWT to request one, and then ask friends and family to pledge an amount per mile that you will run or walk.

For details on the Wapack Wilderness Conservation Campaign, contact the Northeast Wilderness Trust at: 617-742-0628 or email [info@newildernesstrust.org](mailto:info@newildernesstrust.org).

# Friends of the Wapack 2007 Calendar

All are welcome to attend the following meetings & events

Check our website for updates or additions [www.wapack.org](http://www.wapack.org)

**Board Meetings**— First Thursday of alternate months. (May 3, September 6, November 1, no meeting in July). All are welcome. Shieling Forest Barn, Peterborough, NH. 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, April 28- TRAIL WORK DAY, North Pack.**

See "Trail Workdays" article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

**Saturday, August 25 – HIKE, Sharon to Temple Mountain.**

Hike the five mile section of the Wapack Trail from Sharon to the old Temple Mountain Ski Area. Meet at the ski area across from Miller State Park on Route 101 in Peterborough at 9:00AM. Hike is moderately strenuous with a 700' elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. For more information call hike leader Lee Baker (603) 525-5262.

**Saturday, September 8 – HIKE, Wapack End to End!**

Hike the entire trail in one day! Group will meet at 6:00 AM in Greenfield. Please call leader Tom Brumaghim to register and for details (603) 924-9012.

**Saturday, September 22 – TRAIL WORK DAY, Wapack Trail, Route 123/124 north to Nashua Road.**

See "Trail Workdays" article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla (603) 878-3350.

**Saturday, October 20— FRIENDS OF THE WAPACK ANNUAL MEETING**

Shieling Forest Conference Center ("The Barn"), Old Street Road, Peterborough, NH.

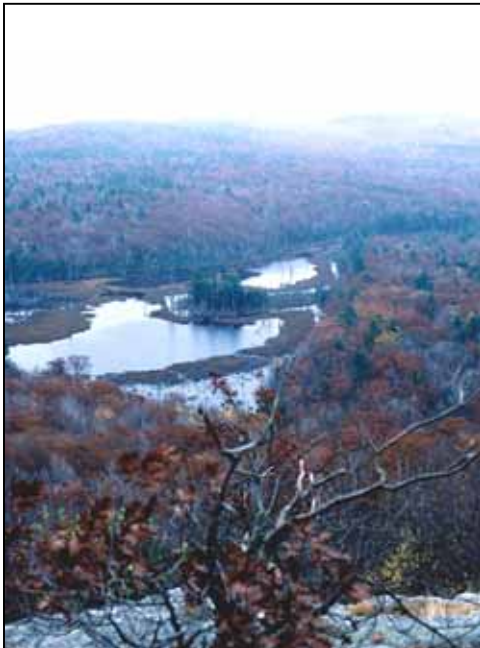
Details for our annual meeting, including guest speakers and morning hike, are being planned. Watch for the next issue of our newsletter or check our website for details.

**Saturday, October 27—TRAIL WORK DAY, Miller State Park/Temple Mountain.**

See "Trail Workdays" article in this issue for details. Contact Mike Przybyla. (603) 878-3350.

**September 1**—EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Voice of the Wapack Issue #80. Send your letter, article, photo or artwork to Renee Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, or email to [renee@blanchette.mv.com](mailto:renee@blanchette.mv.com). All submissions welcome. We reserve the right to edit for content and length.

# A Special Invitation from the Northeast Wilderness Trust



*Binney Pond from Pratt Mountain as it looked in 1984. Photo by Jon Thunberg*

**The Northeast Wilderness Trust invites Friends of the Wapack** to join the Northeast Wilderness board and staff for

## **Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres**

and a **compelling presentation** by NWT board member, author and wilderness champion,

**Tom Butler**

on his forthcoming book

## ***Wildlands Philanthropy: An American Tradition***

April 20, 2007

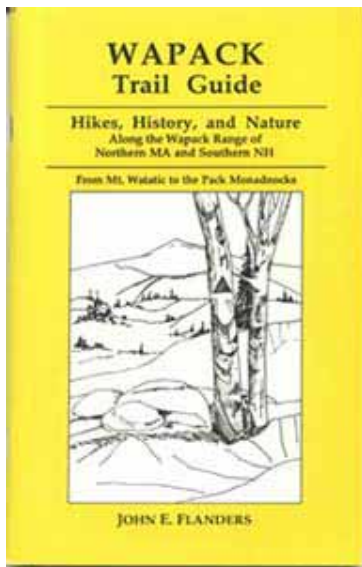
5:00 – 7:00 in the evening

New Hampshire Audubon's McLane Center, Concord, New Hampshire

Please RSVP to the Wilderness Trust by April 13, 2007

Contact the Northeast Wilderness Trust at: 617-742-0628 or email [info@newildernesstrust.org](mailto:info@newildernesstrust.org).

## FOW General Store



Send me \_\_\_ Trail Guide & map pkg.(s) @ \$11.00 ea.

Send me \_\_\_ Friends patch(es) @ \$4.00 ea.

Send me \_\_\_ Friends sticker(s) @ \$1.00 ea.

*Prices include postage and handling.*

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



Friends of the Wapack  
Patch / Sticker

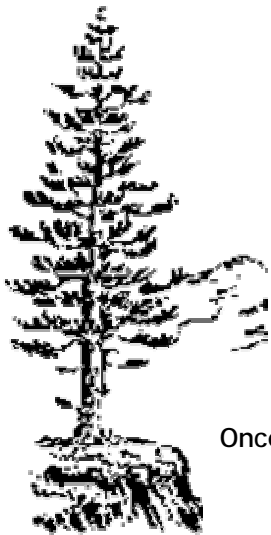
**Make check to: Friends of the Wapack • P.O. Box 115 • W. Peterborough, NH 03468**

Friends of the Wapack  
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Email: [info@wapack.org](mailto:info@wapack.org)

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We're on the web!

<http://www.wapack.org>



Once It's Gone,  
It's Gone  
Forever

## Welcome New Friends

Scott A. Chandler, Ashburnham MA  
Shiloh Porter-Elliot, Peterborough NH  
Catherine R. Laramie, Ashburnham MA  
William E. Slauson, Brookline NH  
Barbara Boothby, Townsend MA  
Bob Saari, Merrimack NH  
Norm Sheppard, New Ipswich NH  
Hanspeter Weber, Keene NH  
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Julia Duhaime, Temple NH  
Donald Abodeely, Ashburnham MA  
Steven DiSalvo, Chelmsford MA  
John Clouser, Pepperell MA  
Paul Gabriel, Merrimack NH  
Kurt and Terry Berna, Lyndeborough NH  
William C. Buoro, South Seaville NJ

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE BY LEE BAKER



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