



Update

F.O.P. Newsletter, Fall 2004, V. 18, No. 3

Annual Meeting November 16, 2004

See page 6 for details

From the President

Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness I report the untimely death of Rob Florence, Jr. He started working in the Park this summer and was a willing and hard worker. Much was accomplished in his short time here.

May 24, 2004 was a great day for Pisgah State Park, The Timber Framers Guild and Preservation Timber Alliance Inc. arrived at the Blood Farm in Westmoreland to begin the disassembly of the post and beam barn (transferred to the Friends of Pisgah by Cheshire County). Approximately fifteen volunteers were present to work through the week. By the end of the week the timbers were tagged and most were loaded on a 40 foot flatbed. The trailer and rafters were later taken to Bill Mitchell's farm by E & B Beaman Enterprise for storage until July. In July all would be assembled on the ground and necessary repairs or replacements completed.

The July session was made up of some of the original workers and a few new people. Three new thirty-eight feet cross beams were hand hewed from logs along with many new girts and braces. At the end of the week these again were loaded on the trailer. Four logs were taken to Gary Beaman's Sawmill to be cut and the rafters and girts were taken to the Visitor Center by Clint Joslyn Trucking. On September 24th E & B Beaman Enterprise moved the loaded trailer to the Visitor Center.

In the meantime a 38 x 60 x 10 foot foundation was put in place. Time was short and the footings for the posts were not in place. American Construction came early to help accomplish this, as we had hired them to install the main floor. At this time things were a little behind. Rain slowed things on Tuesday the 28th. Wednesday the crossbeams were being installed and the post and beam people were installing the sills and mortising the crossbeams. Thursday the floor was completed. Friday, October 1st the bents were assembled and were installed by the end of the day. Electrical power was installed several weeks ago and came in handy as many power tools were being used.

On Sunday, October 3rd, seven of the Timber Framers installed the lower section of rafters along with both end rafters. Three rafters were hand hewed for replacement of broken ones. The upper rafters are being installed now (end of October) and we have a contractor installing the roof and siding boards. When this is completed we have contracted to have a standing seam roof installed. Our hope is to have the building buttoned up in November. Come and see our progress.

Doug Edwards has done a lot of landscaping and brought in many yards of sand and gravel. The lower driveway was graveled along with back filling and creating an upper parking lot.

In a separate area, we are looking for someone interested in trails to work with John Herrick (Trails Chairman, 256-6301); also, someone to head up the Annual Picnic. Please call 336-5462.

Remember the Annual Meeting is Tuesday, November 16th at the Millstream Community Center in Hinsdale at 7:00 p.m.

Bill Roberts

From the Park Manager

General Information

This summer we gained a lot in the Park in just a few months' time through the Trails Bureau's help in funding, supervision, and use of some great equipment. Along with the help of both dedicated employees and volunteers, we accomplished many projects we have not been able to do in the past.

Staff Notes

This summer I was very fortunate to work with two very dedicated and reliable employees. On Columbus Day weekend, Christine Landry who worked the weekends finished her portion of the season. Thankfully, Diane Steeves has come aboard to finish the rest of the season in her place.

I regret to have to share the news that Robert Florence, who worked with me every day throughout the week, died accidentally on October 3rd. He left a great impression here at the park with his many hours of hard work. We sorely miss him.

Park Roads and Trails

A new, 14-foot wide, bridge was constructed on Reservoir Road, replacing the old narrow one. All the main roads were kept graded, and ditches were re-established along roadsides where we have had washouts. Throughout, roads were mowed and brushed back, and many culverts were reset or replaced. We were also constantly clearing tree blow downs, brushing back the trails, and trying to keep the roads and trails passable from all the beaver activity.

Barn Raising Proceeding

As noted in Bill Robert's message, the old barn being erected on Old Chesterfield Rd across from the Visitor Center is coming along. We are looking forward to having the barn available for our various activities in the future. If you have time, drive up to the Visitor Center (just about 3.5 miles up the Old Chesterfield Rd from the center of Winchester) and view the results of this project. (You can't miss the barn!) The timber framers who erected the frame at the Park were allowed to use the Visitor Center for lodging, etc. while they worked here. This access enabled the crews to maximize their work activity and, we think, contributed to a more rapid accomplishment of the project's goals.

Midweek Work Crew

Our very dedicated mid-week volunteer crew of Gil Cameron, Jerry Goslant, John Larson, and new member Kim Nilsen, decided they wanted to meet to work every Wednesday, instead of every other Wednesday, this year. We only canceled twice – once due to the rain, and the other due to an unforeseen circumstance.

Other Volunteer Assistance

The New Hampshire Horse Council, organized by Gayle Beaudoin, sponsored a trail work day this spring clearing brush along Reservoir Road. She is planning another this fall. In August, I had a chance to meet and work with eight volunteers from Monadnock Community Connections School who did trail work a couple of days along Nash Trail and South Woods Trail. I greatly appreciate all the hard work and support from groups like these and look forward to working with them again in the future.

A special note of thanks to Cliff Struthers who has, throughout the summer and, even now, volunteered many hours of specialized work around the park.

Other Activities in the Park

On July 9th – 11th, the Granite State Carriage Association held their annual horse and buggy ride in the Park. The Association had a special use permit for the Park and for area Rail Trail lines connecting from their campsite at the Cascade Ranch in Winchester off the Old Westport Rd. On Sunday morning I was able to go down to talk with them. Special thanks to Claudia Libis for the smooth running of this operation.

On September 19th, both the Pisgah Marathon Trail Running Race and Miracles in Motion Horse Ride were conducted in the Park. Both groups had special permits and all went well. On September 21st, I met with Laurie Callahan who is an aquatic biologist. We canoed around Pisgah Reservoir looking for invasive aquatic plants such as milfoil, bladderwort and water chestnut non-native species. Laurie also had been around Fullam Pond exploring and she stated that they have found lots of non-native invasive plants in the Connecticut and Ashuelot Rivers. She was checking areas that feed these rivers. So far no invasive plants have been found in the Park. Biologists have found that these plant species are spread not only by boat rudders but also are spread to remote areas by birds.

Norma Reppucci

Education and the Park

Education – Summer/Early Fall 2004

One of the prime advantages of Pisgah State Park to southwest New Hampshire is its proximity to a number of area towns. The Park is visited by school groups during the school year and schools in Winchester have traditionally provided volunteer assistance to the Staff of Pisgah Park. Other school activities take place during the summer. As noted (see my Park Manager's report on the preceding page), we had volunteers from the Monadnock Community Connections School helping us in the Park this summer.

In addition, summer outdoor education programs continued in area towns and Pisgah was a focus for some of this effort. For example, the ELM Community Center Summer Recreation Program in Winchester used the Park throughout the summer. Diane Steeves lead the students on several hikes in the Park.

At a later date (in September) students from the Tower Program at the Meadows School in Brattleboro, VT came (in the rain) to do a short wildlife hike down the Doolittle Trail. The Park was very fortunate to have Arthur Whipple, our area trapper, come in that morning with furs and pelts from animals he has trapped. He shared a lot of interesting information about these animals which the students really enjoyed. They also got to meet and listen to Inge Seaboya, our forester, who was working with John Brown and Co. cutting the fields at the Doolittle orchards and John Hill Rd orchard. Inge talked to the students about the habitat work that has been and is being done here at Pisgah. She also shared information about her job, other projects on which she has worked and how it all benefits not only the wildlife but also us.

Norma Reppucci

FOP Contribution to Education

The benefits to the communities around Pisgah by having the multifaceted resources of the Park available to them are obvious. Pisgah is more than trails; it is nature in action, literally a living outdoor museum. FOP constructed the Visitor Center for the focal point of Park management operations and occasional use as a location for school and other groups to meet to share educational experiences. It is expected and hoped that even more use of the Park will be made when the barn is erected and can provide a location (at least in summer) for larger groups to gather as well as provide a place for artifacts of the Park and its environs to be displayed.

In addition to the physical structures raised or being raised by the FOP, future educational experiences can draw on the Master Plan being developed with the assistance of FOP. The Natural Resources Inventory currently being funded by FOP as a precursor to the Master Plan activity should provide educators with knowledge to use in their outdoor and nature/science oriented curricula in the future. FOP is pleased to be able to provide the facilities and background knowledge for better and wider use of the Park as an educational and outdoor experience.

Matt Donachie

From the Treasurer

The leaves have changed color and are starting to completely cover our driveways and lawns, but there is no snow here yet. It is also too early in the year for a "formal" year-end recap. Suffice it to say for now that we are definitely operating in the black. I'll give you the year-end numbers after year-end.

For a few, it is still not too late to get your 2004 membership up to date. For the majority of those of you who are up to date, the books are open to begin (pre)paying 2005 membership. Since we run on a calendar year, your current memberships will technically expire at the end of December. Normally, any new or renewal memberships paid after our annual picnic in September are applied to the following year. These memberships and any accompanying donations are used to cover the administrative costs of our organization – newsletters, meetings, office supplies, NH fees, annual picnic, and Visitor Center maintenance.

Elsewhere, you will find a revised new/renewal membership form. The big change is going from "interests" to "willing to serve on committee for." This change will help us find people who are actually willing to help us help one another and all users of the Park – whether it be maintaining (vs. using) trails; organizing (vs. attending) the annual picnic; writing (vs. reading) newsletter articles; or whatever.

Thus, as is true with anything worthwhile, we are seeking not only your moral support, but also your financial support, and if possible your physical support in whatever way(s) possible.

Thanks.

John Larson



Start of Barn Teardown. Note Roof Already Removed



Boards and Siding Removal Underway



Hewing a Beam



Pouring the Foundation at Pisgah

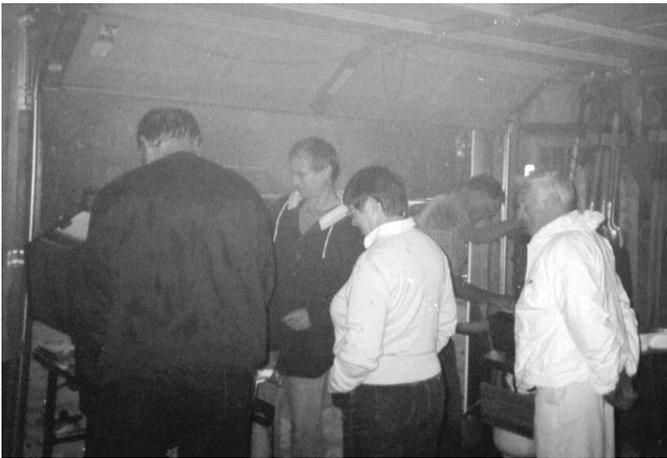


Almost Finished Beam



The Frame Almost All in Place on the New Foundation

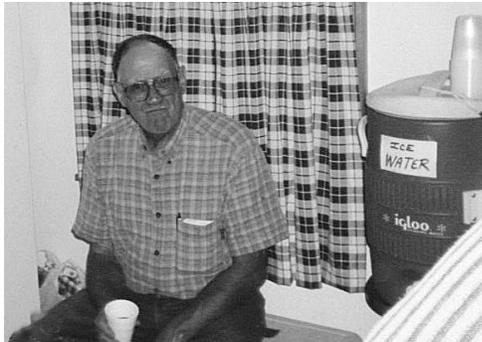
(Left column and top 2 photos this column courtesy of Bill Roberts. Bottom photo this column courtesy of Norma Reppucci)



Marty Eaton & Bill Mitchell Watching the Cooking
(L to R – George Smith, John Herrick and, in the background,
Bill Roberts). Note the Smoke Filled Garage!



Rod Daugherty Toasting the Picnic



Satisfied Bill Roberts Guards the Ice Water



Midweek Workday Volunteers
L to R: Gil Cameron, Jerry Goslant, John Larson

Right: It Was a Buggy Work Day in Pisgah Park!

(All photos this page courtesy of Norma Reppucci)



Wantastiquet – Monadnock Greenway

Perhaps the most significant recent development regarding the Wantastiquet-Monadnock Greenway and Trail involves the acquisition of a Conservation Easement on Plain Rd. in Hinsdale. Keith and Diane Whitworth have generously donated this very strategic easement next to the “Hinsdale Lot”. The northern boundary of this section of the Greenway is now the adjacent brook for about 800 feet, and all of the old county road is included in either the easement or the Hinsdale Lot (important for trail placement). This easement allows us to do three things in the area: First, we now can proceed with the building of a small trailhead parking lot (funded by remaining LCHIP money) where the easement meets Plain Road. A permit has been secured for this construction. Secondly we can pick up the trail work for the (so far very rough) Bear Hill Connector Trail from Moon Ledge on Daniels Mt. to the summit of Bear Hill. Lastly, while we have the equipment there we can close off the Hinsdale Lot to ATV’s and also secure the Cappezzi Lot (where we have a trail agreement) for foot traffic only.

Tom Duston

Friends of Pisgah Annual Meeting

**November 16, 2004
Mill Stream Community Center, Hinsdale
7:00 PM**

Agenda

President's Report (Bill Roberts)

News from the Park (Norma Reppucci)

Committee Reports

Report of the Nominating Committee (Jim Savory)

Officers

President	William Roberts (Hinsdale)
Vice President	Jim Savory (Hinsdale)
Treasurer	John Larson (Chesterfield)
Secretary	Robert Smith (Keene)

Council Members* - To serve a Three Year Term, expiring in November 2006

Tom Sintros (Alstead)
Kathy Thatcher (Chesterfield)
Matt Donachie (Winchester)

All nominees have agreed to serve if elected.

Election of Officers

Nominations from the floor
Close nominations
Cast ballots

Speaker: Laurie G. Callahan , Aquatic Biologist
Topic: Aquatic Plants – Invasive and Native Species

There are several species of invasive aquatic plants present in the southwestern corner of NH that pose a potential problem as they could be inadvertently introduced to ponds of Pisgah. Laurie will present information on native plants found, invasive species that are present in the region, other invasive aquatic plants that are of concern in NH and information on how to recognize those plants.

Laurie has BS and MS degrees and has worked for various organizations concerned with the biology of aquatic plants. Although she now resides in Maine, Laurie resided in Brattleboro for a number of years. She has done contract work in the local area; most recently this included some evaluations in Pisgah Park (see "*From the Park Manager*" on page 2). Laurie has evaluated the West River in Vermont, Lake Sunapee in New Hampshire, and various lakes and ponds in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Refreshments

* The Council has voted to appoint George Smith to serve the remaining term of Council Member Jim Savory should Savory be elected to the position of Vice President

Miscellania

Our hiking program this summer was not as well attended as usual. John Herrick ran a series of hikes for FOP as he has in the past. The June hike was cancelled for lack of interest. On July 10th, the Pisgah Mountain hike was held with one family attending. The August 14th hike to Parker's Perch was attended by only two people while the Harvard Forest hike on September 11 also had two attendees. The mushroom hike with Al David in September had eight people in attendance. We hope to continue our hiking program but are puzzled by the substantially lower attendance this summer than in other years. Feel free to suggest some ideas for hikes in the Park to FOP. You can drop a note to John Herrick (FOP Inc, PO Box 134, Chesterfield, NH 03443) or Norma (in care of the Park). You may call John (256-6301), Norma (at the Park – 239-8153) or me (239-6590) and leave a message.

Bill Roberts had an extra rafter signed by all the timber framers who worked on re-erecting the barn frame and will mount it in the barn. Bill reported that there were many donations of time, materials and services and FOP will recognize these contributions by letter when the barn is completed.

The state is no longer planning to produce state park maps. When the current stock of maps is depleted there will be no new ones available from the state. FOP is looking into the feasibility of having Park maps printed. Possibly the maps will include a membership form. FOP has (in the past) provided a membership form and brief summary of the history of the FOP in boxes at the Park entrances.

FOP is a member of a Roundtable of historical organizations in the southwest NH area. This Roundtable is coordinated by the Historical Society of Cheshire County and meets three times a year. Jan Carpenter and Matt Donachie represent FOP on the Roundtable. Jan attended the latest meeting in mid October and reported that the program on Capital Campaigns and Fund Raising was most interesting and informative. According to Jan "Michelle Stahl, Executive Director of the Peterborough Historical Society discussed the fundamentals of a capital campaign based on her experiences with a major building project at the Peterborough Historical Society. It included talking about the importance of planning; questions that need to be asked about a project; where will the money come from; building a compelling case to gain community support; how to organize volunteers and other community members; the pitfalls and unexpected bounces; building membership to help support the project; and annual fundraising appeals. These guiding principles apply to any fund raising an organization might undertake."

Matt Donachie

Membership Note

Please use the form below and send to the address shown if you wish to join or renew your FOP membership.

The Friends of Pisgah maintain a nominal dues structure with the intent being to encourage as many individuals and families as possible to join. Over half of the single address dues provides for printing and mailing the Update and the Annual Picnic notice, as well as for the fine food you are provided at the picnic. Dues are \$10 to cover all persons at the same address. Group (club) memberships are \$20.

Cut here -----

If you are joining or renewing, please use this form. Your dues support our Park efforts.

Date: _____ Name(s): _____ Address: _____ _____ _____ Phone: _____ (Home) Phone: _____ (Work) E-mail: _____	Category <i>(Check applicable boxes)</i> ◇ New ◇ Renewal ◇ Single Address (\$10.00) ◇ Group (\$20.00) ◇ Donation \$ _____	<u>Willing to Assist On Committee for:</u> ◇ Annual Picnic ◇ Educational Programs ◇ History/Archaeology ◇ Membership ◇ Newsletter Articles ◇ Planning & Strategy ◇ Public Relations & Park Information ◇ Rails to Trails Advisory ◇ Trails/Maintenance ◇ Wantastiquet-Monadnock Greenway ◇ Other _____
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*Questions? Call Bill Roberts (603- 336-5462)
or Matt Donachie (603-239-6590)*

Send form and check to:

**Friends of Pisgah, Inc.
PO Box 134
Chesterfield, NH 03443-0134**

Steps on the Road to a Management Plan for Pisgah State Park

In view of the concerns expressed in the spring of 2004 about the future direction of Pisgah State Park, the Friends of Pisgah Council voted to provide assistance in the development of a Master Plan for the management of the Park. The state approves of the project.

Sound management requires sound information. As a first step toward developing the management plan, Dr. Jon Atwood, Director of Conservation Biology at Antioch New England Graduate School, and Tom Sintros (long-time devotee of Pisgah and a Council member) have begun to prepare a natural resources inventory of the Park. This work will summarize existing information about natural features and collect new data that can guide future discussions of how the Park should be managed. Studies conducted this past summer included surveys of vernal pools in the northern part of Pisgah, point-count surveys of breeding birds, and classification of habitat types along selected trails. GIS (Geographic Information System) data layers were also accumulated, and will form the basis for informing the public and state policy makers about different management alternatives. One outcome of the study will be the preparation of maps showing the relevant information. You'll hear more about this effort in the months to come.

Matt Donachie

Annual Meeting – November 16, 2004

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Pisgah will be held on November 16, 2004 at Millstream Community Center in Hinsdale.
See page 6 for details.

Update is published occasionally during the year by Friends of Pisgah, Inc.

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