



Update

F.O.P. Newsletter, Fall 2009, V. 23, No.32

From the President

Fall Salutations, by the time this reaches you, the leaves will be scattered on the ground, both in the Park and in our yards! It is great mulch for both I think, as I look for a positive spin when we move into the gray season. Also watch out for those acorns when the wind blows! There appears to be a plentiful supply this year which is referred to as a mast year. As I strolled along a trail, I noticed a number of oak "ends" from branches on the ground. I was thinking it was odd that so many were tossed about and it seemed like a strange wind event. What I learned is that squirrels will travel as far towards the end of a branch as they think is safe, chew through the branch and then scurry down to gather the acorns that are now safely on the ground. Pretty resourceful.

Something I have come to notice and love about this time of year is, as the leaves fall to the ground, the greater landscape is revealed. You become very aware of the topography as distant hills, rolling fields and shimmering water bodies become visible. And, soon enough, snow will blanket the ground. Every season has its' unique characteristics that make travel in Pisgah a year-round enjoyment. Just remember, it is hunting season so wear your hunters red or orange. A hat or a vest will do the trick. For more information you can find a link at our web site (www.friendsofpisgah.com) or Google N.H. Fish and Game.

Tom Wessels is scheduled to lead a hike on November 1st, meeting at 1 p.m. at the Kilburn parking lot. If you receive this Update in time, you may wish to join him. The FOP Annual meeting will be held at the Chesterfield Town Hall on November 17th at 7 p.m. and the next Pisgah State Park Steering Committee meeting will be on November 19th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Antioch. The Management Plan is moving into its final stages of compiling information that has been gathered over the last two years. The management document is being structured by the Tech Team for presentation to the Steering Committee to provide feedback for the document which will then be presented to the public for input. It has been a long process but a very valuable one. Data from the past combined with present knowledge, while recognizing the value of incorporating future information, should provide us with a Management Plan that will guide us in responsible oversight of Pisgah for years to come.

The past months have seen a lot of activity in the Park with trail work days, historical presentations, floating on the Reservoir, picnics and trail runs. We are delighted to have a great new message board that was made by Council member Matt Edson installed at the Kilburn trailhead. And our web site is finally up and running, thanks, in large part to Council member John Hudachek. There are many ways to get involved in your support of Pisgah. Don't hesitate to contact us! See you on the trails,

Kathy Thatcher

New Exhibits at the FOP Museum

Additions to our collection have been positioned ever so carefully in the barn to enhance our exhibits. Near the Ice Harvesting tools is a Groton Sleigh donated by Tim Butterworth and family of Chesterfield. The sleigh needs some TLC so please contact us if you know someone who could refurbish it for FOP. Tim also contributed a large bobsled that is uniquely different than the other sledges and bobsleds we have. It is adjustable, so analyzing the construction is fascinating. Gordon Schofield of Hinsdale, rescued a Ross "automated" corn cutter from a barn in Hinsdale. He brought it to the Museum accompanied by a copy of a catalog showing all the 'new and improved' farm tools with this model costing \$16.00!! Please stop in to the museum to see these new pieces. Thank you to Tim and Gordon for their generosity.

Following the Arthur D. Little Research Company 2nd Story Circle that was held on Sunday October 25th at the Hinsdale Historical Society's Annual Meeting, the exhibit about this little known business near Kilburn Pond was 'opened' for public viewing. Skip White, a former employee, has donated photographs of and artifacts from the site that will help to recreate a detailed map and display of the area. Skip's talks and guided hikes are much appreciated.

Laurel Powell, FOP History and Education Chair

Getting Around On Foot, Snowshoe or Cross Country Skis in Pisgah – Part IV

Just a reminder, if you are looking for an interesting fall hike, winter snowshoe hike or XC ski trip, etc., you might check out the Park maps (see our web site and open the Trails section). We have published information on some hiking trails in prior issues of the Update. We provide another short description in this issue.

Davis Hill Trail

On Columbus Day I decided to journey along the Davis Hill Trail for my next addition to FOP trail descriptions. I headed out about noon-time, from the Kilburn Parking lot along Rt. 63 in Hinsdale. The trailhead is on the left just after you turn into the parking lot. The trail is approximately 2 miles and marked by white rectangles. You will begin your travels along a footpath that will join up with a snowmobile trail that comes in from 63, just north of the parking lot. The trail turns right, continuing a gentle uphill climb through the woods. This section of trail is non-motorized until the snow flies and is then shared with the motorized community. Recent trail work was done on the snowmobile sections of the trail, so be mindful of exposed roots. A little way on, you will begin a gentle descent to a snowmobile bridge, before climbing up again, traveling briefly through the Hinsdale Town Forest. You will find yourself moving in and out of hardwood and softwood forest cover, creating a nice variation in your surroundings.

On this particular hike, I spotted some beautiful, pumpkin colored fungi, at the base of a couple of trees. They appear to be shelf fungi, having a leathery surface area, stacked in graduated layers with scalloped edges.[A note of interest: there is a honey mushroom that is the largest living organism in the world, with one in the state of Washington that extends for 1,500 acres and another in Oregon that is over 2,000 acres!] Continuing on, you will pass by the Hinsdale/Winchester town line sign, moving up the trail to where you will find the trail leveling off at a fork in the trail. The Davis Hill Trail will follow the right hand fork, which will be indicated by the white rectangles on the trees. This section of the Davis Hill trail is non-motorized year round. If you follow along on the left hand fork, you will be on the motorized section that actually takes you out of the Park briefly, following more of a ridge and rewarding you with a lovely view to the east of Mount Monadnock, while further along the loop you will be greeted with a stunning view to the west of rolling hills and fields bordered by the Green Mountains. The motorized trail loops back to the Davis Hill trail, where you can either turn right, along the footpath, and make your way back to the beginning of the trailhead or you can turn left, continuing on the motorized trail, eventually coming to a junction where Davis Hill ends and you can continue on Baker Pond Trail or Hubbard Hill Trail. “Vista” signs are being installed on trees at both junctions along the Davis Hill Trail to indicate the motorized loop.

Going back to the first loop turnoff, if you wish to travel on the Davis Hill Trail footpath, you will find a lovely, non-motorized section of trail that winds its way up and down a boulder strewn path through a beech forest, many of its trees were damaged in last year’s ice storm. This is a beautiful section of woods, taking you through numerous plant communities. You will wander through the glossy green of mountain laurel and, in the Fall, soon find yourself surrounded by the burnt orange of hobble bush. Another town line sign will appear along the trail, this time for Chesterfield/Winchester. Looks like you cover three towns on this one trail. You will gradually move back into a hemlock forest where a stream is down and off to your right. You will eventually wander down to the same level as the stream, an area of beautiful mosses and ferns and, sometimes, a wet footpath! Gradually you will rise up to dryer ground and come to the other junction of the motorized trail. You will now be on a shared use trail, heading over a snowmobile bridge as you make your way to the junction where the Davis Hill Trail ends and Hubbard or Baker can carry you further into the park.

Referring to your map, you can follow some wonderful loops for a longer hike, making sure you have enough daylight and you know where you are going! I will often turn around at this point, due to time constraints, and am always delightfully surprised at how a different perspective creates the feeling of being on a different trail. You can also make use of the “vista loop” to add more variety. Do give yourself a little extra time for the side trip.

Davis Hill is also a wonderful snowshoe and cross country trail - just make sure there is enough snow cover before heading out- especially on skis! Remember those boulders on a twisting downhill run! Have fun out there! FYI, a round-trip journey hiking the Davis Hill Trail, at a steady pace, takes between 1 and 2 hours.

Kathy Thatcher

Visitor Center Hours

The Visitor Center is open most Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday Mondays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located at 520 Old Chesterfield Road in Winchester.



Annual Picnic
John Smith, Bill Roberts, John and Marty Summers



Annual Picnic
Frances and Allan Boucher, Gordon Schofield, Mary Johnson



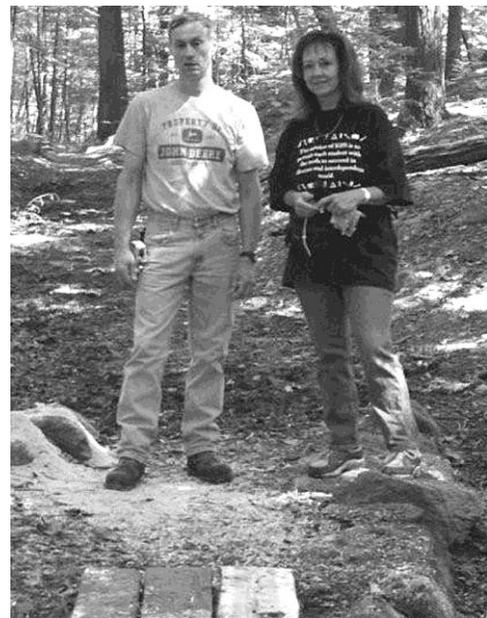
Kayak Group at CT River Oct 11, 2009
John Herrick, Bob & Nancy Miller, Laurel Powell, Wendy Jacobs, Priscilla Williams, Tom Guerny, Mary Durland. Iva Wood, Ginny Knapp & Peter Karparis Participated



Annual Picnic
Park Manager Norma Reppucci, John and Patti Hudachek



Trail Maintenance
John Herrick, Kathy Thatcher, Matt Edson



Trail Maintenance
John Herrick, Ginny Knapp

Friends of Pisgah Annual Meeting

In Collaboration with the Chesterfield Historical Society

**Tuesday November 17, 2009
Town Hall, Chesterfield
7:00 PM**

Agenda

President's Report (Kathy Thatcher)

News from the Park (Norma Reppucci)

Committee Reports

Report of the Nominating Committee (Dave Freitas)

(All nominees have agreed to serve if elected.)

Officers

President	Kathy Thatcher (Chesterfield)
Vice President	Gary Montgomery (Chesterfield)
Treasurer	David Freitas (Hinsdale)
Secretary	Robert Smith (Keene)

Council Members - To serve a Three Year Term, expiring in November 2010

Laura Powell (Hinsdale)
Matt Edson (Hinsdale)
John Summers (Keene)

Election of Officers

Nominations from the floor

Close nominations

Cast ballots

Speaker: Ken Demarais

Topic: A Management Plan for Pisgah State Park

Ken is Administrator, Forest Management Bureau of the New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands. The Division of Forests & Lands is part of the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED).

After receiving an Associate's Degree from the University of New Hampshire, Ken continued on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree at the University where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. At the University, Ken majored in Forest Technology and Forest Science with a minor in Soil Science. Ken has worked for Forests and Lands since 1984. Prior to joining the state government, Ken worked for a major consulting forestry company, various logging contractors and the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service. He is a member of the Northeast Mensurationists Organization.

Managing the state's public lands is becoming ever more difficult as the state's landscape becomes more complex and budget constraints become more severe owing to changes in the economy. The state of NH has been working with a number of groups to develop a Management Plan for Pisgah State Park that will incorporate the interests of the state and its citizens, particularly those of southwest NH. Ken's presentation will help FOP members to understand the decision process and how it is progressing.

Member Dues Need to be Paid Now

Member dues for 2010 are due by the first of the year. Please use the form on the last page and send in your renewal or new application now. Dues paid on or after the Annual Picnic are valid for the following year.

Summer and Winter Trail Maps for the Park

FOP thanks John Smith for the printing of a copious supply of Summer and Winter Trail Maps to replace those not regularly supplied by the state. Bill Roberts made the arrangements and FOP is grateful for the assistance.

Around the Park with the Friends

Annual Picnic – September 19, 2009

It was a crisp, clear, breezy Fall Saturday afternoon for the 22nd, Annual Friends of Pisgah Picnic! Approximately 40 members, old and new, came to the Visitor's Center grounds. It was heartwarming to see the range of ages and interests of those in attendance sharing their food and their stories!

And, speaking of food, a diverse and mouth-watering assortment of salads, soups, and baked goods were consumed that day! In fact, the idea of a *Friends of Pisgah* cookbook was discussed by some of the membership as a way to share our culinary treasures and raise revenue. Look for more information in the near future! We would love to put together such a unique collection!

We send a huge *Thank You* to our Grill Master John Herrick for once again tirelessly manning the grill, providing a continuous supply of perfectly cooked hamburgers and hot dogs!

The Visitor's Center and Barn were popular areas of interest as members and visitors strolled through to view the array of farm tools and artifacts from earlier times and read the information researched and presented by Laurel and others. The barn is truly our local museum and well-worth a visit!

As the afternoon wore on some picnickers left to pursue other Saturday activities; others stayed around and toured the barn and chatted, while still others took advantage of the canoes and kayaks provided by John Summers and spent leisure-time on Fullam Pond. *Thank You John*, for once again giving members and friends the opportunity to enjoy this local, natural resource!

Stonewalls in Pisgah - Story Circle - October 4, 2009

Eighteen people came together at the Visitor Center to share their fascination with stonewalls. David Mann and Cliff Struthers, both surveyors, have encountered stonewalls in the woods as they work. Over the years their observations of the layouts of the walls have resulted in theories that may explain the many miles of stonewalls in New England and their purposes. David, Chairman of the New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association's (NHLSA) History Committee and editor of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors quarterly publication the "Cornerpost", shared his article written on stonewalls.

Bob Riley, another stonewall "expert" joined us. He is a stonewall builder, using the drywall method, and he talked about the history of stonewalls quoting a local expert and builder, Dan Snow and Geologist, Robert Thurston. Bob encouraged Fred Doolittle, whom he designated the REAL EXPERT, to share his life experiences farming on his family's land on Old Chesterfield Road, building stonewalls using brute strength, a stone boat and their oxen to move the array of stones and boulders that magically appeared each spring in their fields and pastures.

Stonewalls that are abundant in Pisgah probably had functional purposes opposed to the decorative stonewalls that we now see being created. Pasture walls, walls to delineate boundaries between properties and retaining walls were the most common ones. As the group wandered through the Jon Hill Historic Site, we saw each type of wall. Much speculation about the walls we walked along made for fascinating discussions and raised a multitude of questions that went unanswered.

Following the Stonewall Program, FOP was contacted by Christina Varnold. She called to ask if she could collaborate with FOP as she works on her masters at Antioch University. Christina recently met with Cliff Struthers, me and Sarah Bockus, an Antioch faculty member who serves on the Pisgah Technical Committee working with the State of New Hampshire on the new Pisgah Management Plan. The Jon Hill Historic Site was chosen for Christina's graduate project. The site will be surveyed and historic data, documents and information about all the families who lived on that piece of land collected. Christina also is writing a grant that, if approved, will provide money for FOP to do similar work on another historic site within the Park.

Christina and her husband are residents of Cornish, NH. She attends Antioch part-time and will graduate in 2010 with a Master of Science degree in Resource Management and Conservation. Christina has been interested in stonewalls since she first saw one in Connecticut in the 1980's when she was a teenager. Christina says she couldn't believe how many crisscrossed the New England landscape and she wanted to know why they existed here. Now, in graduate school, she is able to focus attention on the one thing that captured her imagination as a teenager, stonewalls. She is curious to find out what kind of people settled in Pisgah and farmed land filled with stones and rocks left over from a glacier's retreat. They stayed and built a community on some fairly unforgiving land.

Laurel Powell, FOP History and Education Chair

Ed. Note: I regret that I was traveling and unable to attend the stone wall presentation. I have some comments on stone fences/walls. Those of you who have grown up in New England or New York may be familiar with stone walls, particularly if you are avid hikers. The New England landscape is replete with stone walls though most exist in the now forested lands of New England. Many stone walls were removed in the latter part of the 19th century and early years of the 20th century. Many walls were buried for various reasons, particularly to enable better use of mechanized equipment. Road building resulted in cannibalization of roads; stone walls along road sections of our 1780s farm property have fallen victim to such usage. In addition, stone walls have frequently been sold to private contractors or property owners for disassembly and reconstruction at other locations.

The exact length of all the stone walls in the Northeast is unknown since only one national census was ever made (1872) of fences. The census reported that in New England, certain states had higher percentage of their fences as stone walls than other states. Rhode Island had 78%, Massachusetts 60 % and New Hampshire 51%. (source Thorson, see below). There are books about stone walls from various perspectives. One such book is Stone by Stone by Robert Thorson, Walker & Company, 2002. Another book about stone walls is Sermons in Stone, The Stone walls of New England and New York by Susan Allport, W. W. Norton & Company, 1990. In addition, there is a short eight-page section on fences (including stone walls) in Our Vanishing Landscape by Eric Sloane, Funk & Wagnalls, 1955 (hard copy) - Ballantine Books 1974 (paper). Also, there is a 17 page chapter on stone walls in The Salt Book, Eliot Wigginton, ed., Anchor Books, 1977. The latest AMC Outdoors (magazine of the Appalachian Mountain Club), Nov/Dec 2009, has an excellent short article "Rock of Ages" about stone walls on p. 31. The article gives an estimate of the stone wall mileage in the northeast (250,000 at one time) and discusses a method for measuring the age of stone walls.

Matt Donachie

Spring, Summer and Fall 2009 at the Visitor Center

The Park Visitor Center has been opened for a few months thanks to the generosity of Friends of Pisgah. Monies were once again earmarked for the manning of the Center on weekends. It has been a busy season greeting old friends and meeting new ones. There was an influx of interested people after the showing and distribution of the movie Pisgah, A Place Apart by the Reflections Project. The movie was shown on Cheshire TV as well, so locals who had never been to the Park and others who had not known about its special features came to learn more. The Museum at the Friends' of Pisgah was particularly helpful in expanding some of the historical facets that were mentioned in the movie. FOP, Inc. has been given the opportunity to sell the DVD, Pisgah, A Place Apart at the Visitor Center and at events. Feel free to contact Laurel Powell at 336-7479 or lpowellbks@comcast.net to reserve your copy.

The Friends has recently decided to keep the Visitor Center open on the weekends throughout all the seasons. They also agreed to hire a second person to assist with the work. Brent Huntsinger has agreed to help me out and has spent some time with Norma and me learning the "ropes". Stop in to see us!

Brent has provided the following brief biographical note for your information. "I am attending Antioch New England Graduate School, studying Resource Management and Conservation. I am interested in public lands management with a special love for parks and wilderness management. Since Pisgah State Park is currently undergoing the management plan process it seems like the perfect opportunity to get involved with a place that I love, help the Park and FOP, learn and gain experience in the field in which I hope to have a career. I am currently learning how the process works and look forward to possibly doing one of my required internships with the Friends of Pisgah. I feel that working at the Visitor Center will give me a chance to learn what the public opinion of the Park is and how they want it to be managed in the future. There is no better way to learn about the issues surrounding Pisgah than being at the park."

Laurel Powell

Kayak Outing on the Connecticut River – Sunday, October 11, 2009

Nearly a dozen FOP Members enjoyed a nice outing on the Connecticut River. Participating were: John Herrick, Nancy Miller, Bob Miller, Laurel Powell, Wendy Jacobs, Iva Wood, Priscilla Williams, Tom Guerney, Mary Durland, Ginny Knapp, and Peter Karparris. Originally scheduled for Pisgah Reservoir, scheduling complications dictated a change. Summers Backcountry Sports (John Summers) delivered and picked up the kayaks. We put in at the boat landing at the foot of Sand Hill in Hinsdale, went under the underpass and onto the main River. From there, we crossed to the VT side of the river and paddled for about an hour up to a boat landing where we took a short break and enjoyed some of Wendy's delicious pumpkin bars. Then we headed back to the put in. With the wind's help, we made it back, over swells of a foot high, in half an hour! It was a great outing and a very pleasant day.

Ginny Knapp

Kilburn Loop Hike – Saturday, October 17, 2009

Roger and Ann Sweet, hike leaders for the Harris Center, led a hike along the Kilburn Loop. John Herrick and Kathy Thatcher represented the Friends of Pisgah. Five other folks were in attendance – two of the folks were a couple in their 80s! What a great inspiration! One highlight of the day was a delightful stop for lunch along a small, picturesque pond on the southeast side of the loop. We were greeted by dragonflies as we lounged in the warmth of the sun. This led to a discussion of damselflies and dragonflies. In referring to my Peterson Field Guide on Eastern Forests, the critters visiting us were part of the dragonfly family and known as red skimmers. A distinguishing feature between damsel and dragon is the way in which they hold their wings; the dragonflies are horizontal, while the damsels are held at an upward angle. The damsel also floats about while the dragonfly darts. We had a great mix of knowledge, discussing the flora, fauna and human history of the Park and visiting the A. D. Little site before heading back up the trail at the end of the day. Yet another wonderful day spent wandering through Pisgah!

Kathy Thatcher]

Pisgah Trail Maintenance Summer-Fall 2009

On Saturday, October 10, 2009, Doug Gaudet, Brent Huntsinger, Ed Fletcher, John Herrick, Wendy Jacobs and Tucker, John Hudachek, Bob and Nancy Miller and Huey, Matt Edson and Ginny Knapp and Belle met at the Kilburn Trailhead on a beautiful fall morning. They cleared the Arthur D. Little Research Company building foundation and storage site areas to allow easy hiking and viewing for the Story Circle hike to be held Sunday, October 25, 2009. They also improved the trail on both sides of the site.

Previously on Saturday, September 12, Matt Edson, Kathy Thatcher, John Hudachek, John Herrick and Wendy Jacobs met at the Kilburn Trailhead. where they replaced the old Friends of Pisgah Kilburn Trailhead mailbox with a fancy bulletin board made by Matt Edson. They then cleaned some culverts on the road to Kilburn Pond and cut and replaced logs crossing a swampy, muddy area on the south western side of the Kilburn trail. On the return to the Kilburn Trailhead they cleared a trail diversion around a muddy hole in the trail and opened a view to Kilburn Pond. Although the skies were grey and drizzly it was a great day for a walk in the woods.

Earlier in the summer, on August 8, John Herrick, Ginny Knapp and friend Peter met at the Kilburn Trailhead. They cut and replaced logs crossing a swampy, muddy area on the western side of the Kilburn trail. Then walked up the Davis Hill trail, had lunch on the top at the Vista, walked along Baker Pond and then past the dynamite bunkers of the A. D. Little site and returned to the Kilburn Trailhead. Again it was a very nice day and great walk.

Come join us on our monthly Saturday workday. See our posters around town or check the website for information.

John Herrick, Trails Chair

Keeping Up with FOP

FOP not only has a web site (see President's message on page 1) but we have established an email account for use in keeping members informed of events such as Trail Maintenance activities and Historical Story Circles, Hikes and Workdays affecting Pisgah Park. Please use FriendsOfPisgah@gmail.com and feel free to contact us with your questions, concerns and suggestions.

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

Editor: Matt Donachie (PO Box 11, Winchester, NH 03470) (603/239-6590) (e-mail: matt1932@myfairpoint.net)

Production and Mailing: Martha and Matt Donachie

President Kathy Thatcher (603/363-4482)

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

First Class Mail

Please use the form below and send to the address shown if you wish to join FOP, renew membership or give one as a gift. 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 student/single/family dues provides for printing and mailing the Update and the Annual Picnic notice, as well as for the fine food at the picnic. Dues are as follows: student - \$10, single - \$15, family - \$20, group (club) - \$30. Cut here -----

Date: _____ Name(s): _____ Address: _____ _____ _____ Phone: _____ (Home) Phone: _____ (Work) E-mail: _____ Questions? Call Kathy Thatcher (603-363-4482) or Matt Donachie (603-239-6590) Send form and check to: Friends of Pisgah, Inc. PO Box 134 Chesterfield, NH 03443-0134	<u>Category</u> (Check applicable boxes) <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$10.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Single (\$15.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20.00/address) <input type="checkbox"/> Group (\$30.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____ Name/Address of gift giver _____ _____ _____	<u>Willing to Assist On Committee for:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Picnic <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs <input type="checkbox"/> History/Archaeology <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Articles <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Park Info <input type="checkbox"/> Rails to Trails Advisory <input type="checkbox"/> Trails/Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Wantastiquet-Monadnock Greenway <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
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