



Update

F.O.P. Newsletter, Summer, 2015, V. 29, No. 2

From the President

Hello and Welcome to Spring. I hope this newsletter finds you in Good Spirits and Good Health. I believe we can finally accept that Spring is here with Summer just around the corner.

I sat on my deck the other evening, enjoying the last call of our local birds, relaxing in peaceful and (temporarily) insect-free contemplation of just how fortunate I am and we are to live in such a beautiful, peaceful region, anchored at the center by Pisgah State Park. And speaking of the Pisgah, I would like to share some updates:

Memorandum of Understanding: This is the general document which will define the ways in which the Friends and the State work together to manage Pisgah State Park. This document has seen no movement in the past 6 weeks and remains in the hands of the Attorney General's Office, apparently getting the wording fine-tuned to the State's and our satisfaction. FOP will post any new information on this topic as soon as we have it.

Volunteer Opportunities: We have several Volunteer Opportunities (dates to be determined) coming up this summer:

- 1) **Replace the 3 existing bridges on the upper South Woods Trail** with a single span bridge. We anticipate this project will be completed over a multiple work day schedule tentatively planned for early June
- 2) **Updating Trail Markings:** The state has received 1000 Trail Markers - which will need to be installed on the trails. We would like to set up 3 - 4 crews to complete this large project.

At this time we have no specific dates/times scheduled. However, if you think you may be available and interested in volunteering for any of these, please John Hudachek at FriendsofPisgah@gmail.com. As we have new information come in we will post it on the website and/or contact you directly with specifics. Thank you in advance for your help!!

In closing, I hope many of you are able to get outdoors and into Pisgah for some well-deserved hiking, birding, boating or other outdoor activity. Please keep in mind that your input is always welcome on ways to help the Park. If you have ideas to enhance enjoyment in Pisgah State Park please let us have them by contacting me or other members of the Executive Council.

I look forward to seeing many of you on work expeditions, or possibly on a hike or other summer activities.

Gary Montgomery

Trails

Southern NH Hiking Trails

The Southern New Hampshire Trail Guide (4th Edn.) has been published by the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). This fourth edition describes more than 200 trails and nature areas, from popular routes through Pisgah State Park to the Lakes Region and the seacoast. Readers will find 20 new detailed trail maps within the book. In addition, there is a full-color, GPS-rendered, pull-out paper map, which now covers Mount Monadnock, Mount Cardigan, the Mount Sunapee and Pillsbury state parks, and the Belknap range. Many trails such as the Ann Stokes Loop, Wantastiquet Mt Trail, Daniels Mt Trail and the Wantastiquet – Monadnock Trail, all near Pisgah are covered. Whether you want shorter day hikes or challenging, all-day outings, the *Southern New Hampshire Trail Guide* is a valuable book for every avid hiker who wants out to explore the central and southern regions of the State. Your editor owns several copies of prior editions and is finding the new version to be a good addition to his files.

Matt Donachie

Monadnock Happy Trails Association Work Day - May 16, 2015

The MHTA work day was a big success! Sharon and Phil Thomsen plus Laura and Art Susmann worked with Park Manager Whip Newell and cleared the Snow Brook trail from Old Spofford Rd to Old Chesterfield Rd. The weather was cool but got warmer as the day progressed. We worked 9 am - 2 pm. Bugs weren't too bad in the beginning but became annoying when the temp increased. Spray was a necessity! Several culverts do need to be replaced; Whip added them to his list. We expected more damage after such a nasty winter but were pleasantly surprised that there were no huge trees down. The Trail is ready for use and MHTA is looking forward to June 6 National Trails Day ride!

Laura Susmann

Pisgah Trail Maintenance - May 9, 2015

Abe Howe and son Gabe, Matt Edson and his ATV, John Hudachek and FOP trail chief John Herrick met Pisgah Park Manager Whip Newell at the Horseshoe Trailhead at 10:00am. Although chilly to start it was a perfect working day. Starting at the South Woods trail and continuing up the Habitat trail connecting to Old Chesterfield Road, Lily Pond trail, east end of North Ponds trail, Old Chesterfield Road and what we call the ski trail we removed numerous fallen trees and limbs from the trails. We enjoyed lunch overlooking beautiful Lily Pond.

John Hudachek

Pisgah Trail Maintenance – April 11, 2015

David Weisel, Krister Raasoch with his dogs Art and Harry, Matt Edson, John Hudachek and FOP trail chief John Herrick met Pisgah Park Manager Whip Newell at 10 am on a warm, windy, mostly sunny Saturday at the Kilburn Trailhead in Hinsdale. The business of the day was to spread out over the southern end of the park to look for hemlock trees infested with hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA).

We broke into three groups of two. Whip and David drove down to the Route 119 entrance and hiked up to the Reservoir. Matt and John Herrick drove to the south entrance to the Kilburn loop on Route 63 and hiked back the west side of the Kilburn Loop to Kilburn trailhead. Krister and John Hudachek hiked the Davis Hill, Baker Pond, Pisgah Ridge and Kilburn Road trails. We were all back to our vehicles by 2:15 pm.

Krister, John Hudachek, Matt Edson and John Herrick found no signs of the woolly adelgid. However, David and Whip found many trees infested with HWA on the road up to and around the reservoir.

John Hudachek

From the Park Manager

As summer has arrived the park has been busy. Two vistas have been opened on Beal's Knob, as has one on Hubbard Hill. The Old Chesterfield Road is slated for improvements through cooperation with Forests and Lands, the Trails Bureau and Parks and Recreation. A kiosk and iron ranger will be installed at the Fullam Pond area. The area will be cleaned up and the parking lot will be enlarged and graveled. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Whip Newell, Park Manager

Looking for a Great Way to Show Your Friendship?

Why not provide a gift membership in the Friends of Pisgah to a friend or another person you wish to honor/reward, etc. If your friend is a hiker, birder or generally an outdoors person, Pisgah is the place for her/him especially if she/he lives relatively nearby. In the winter, cross country skiing or easy hiking on trails and roadways with the bugs absent can be very invigorating and interesting. Spring/summer/fall hiking is exhilarating and in summer, a light weight kayak can be lugged up the short hill to Pisgah Reservoir and the start of an all-day exploration. ---- Pisgah has nearly 13,500 acres to explore! A gift membership (only \$10 for a single address) may be just the way to entice her/him to get out into the (almost) wilderness of southwestern New Hampshire. On the last page of this issue of the Update, there is a membership form where you can provide the needed information and return it with your check to FOP.

Keeping Up with FOP

FOP has a web site and 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 our web address www.friendsofpisgah.org and our email, FriendsOfPisgah@gmail.com. Feel free to contact us with your questions, concerns and suggestions.

Winter Reprise - Spring on the "Dort Trail"

It's a tradition in the Duston household to end the Chesterfield ski/snowshoe season by accessing the park through the FOP (aka Dort) property off Route 63. This access was chosen because it is on the north side of the mountain and therefore tends to be shady, and it is not highly used in the winter. These two facts lead to it having the best chance for late season snow cover in the park. The work the Friends did on the road to the new shelter, under the direction of John Herrick with his tractor, reduced the water problem, always an issue for spring snow playing! My wife Paula, friend Lynne Borofsky, and I went out for our last foray of the winter on April 12th. Although we had gone out the week before with Jon and Kathy Thatcher, and taken some shelter pictures, I hadn't taken a picture of the all-important outbuilding at the FOP shelter location on the Dort property so we did so then. (see page 4 for Outhouse photo).

From the Dort shelter, we choose a route directly past the shelter, staying on level ground and not going uphill to Hubbard Hill on the right. We continued in that same general direction and with the sunny day and still good snow cover it was a treat. It is an area few people visit so it becomes a kind of exploratory adventure (Of course we could always follow our tracks back but that's no fun!). After some time we came to an old woods road, unmarked by snowshoes or snowmobiles, and turned right to stay in (or at least toward) the Park. The road was difficult to show on a photo but was very nice and easy to follow; mostly surrounded by small evergreens (see page 4).

Eventually the road swung north and headed downhill. Not wanting to go in either of those directions we took a sharp right, further into the Park. Now things were different as we headed back in the general direction we had come, mostly following a stream up a ravine. Luckily we didn't have to cross the stream as it was substantial and open, and also luckily there was enough flat ground next to the stream so we could mostly avoid the side hill. Looking at the topo map later I think we were in the ravine that leads to the northern (and flatter) shoulder of Hubbard Hill. We never came to the Hubbard Hill Trail so on the way out we must have been going parallel to it and to the northeast. Figuring we wouldn't get lost because we would hit our outbound trail, the Dort Trail, or the Hubbard Hill Trail, we continued with the sun roughly on our left. I got a lot of guide credit, mostly dumb luck, as we came out back at the shelter! Going down the Dort Trail (see page 4) was a little sad knowing the season was over, but we cheered up when we thought of all the great snowshoeing this season at Friedsam and Madame Sherri's, as well as in the Park.

Tom Duston

Some Images from Our Trails Work

You can see more images on our web site (www.friendsofpisgah.com).



*Abe & Gabe Howe, Matt Edson, Whip Newell, John Herrick
Having Lunch at Lily Pond*



Sharon Thomsen Working the Edges of the Snow Brook Trail



Phil Thomsen & Art Susmann on Snow Brook Trail



Mt Monadnock from Trail in Pisgah



Trillium Alongside the Trail



Evergreens Along Old Woods Road



Whip Cutting Tree on South Woods Trail



Paula Duston & Lynne Borofsky at Outhouse



The Dort Trail

Historic Sites in Pisgah



Looking South Up Old Chesterfield Road Toward Visitor Center Location from East End of Doolittle Trail

Deep Within Pisgah

(source unknown; abstracted and modified from an undated newspaper article provided by Rod Doolittle)
Copyright Friends of Pisgah 1997

As early as 1905, the need to protect the Pisgah area was pointed out. There was still virgin timber standing in Winchester, Hinsdale and Chesterfield. There had once been some settlement in the area which had been logged in the 19th century but permanent settlement was eventually given up. Rod Doolittle says his father still farmed on Old Chesterfield Rd in Winchester, just north of the Visitor Center, until about 1973 but most of the settlements such as Nash City and that on Fullam Pond, which once had an 80 pupil Chesterfield school district, were abandoned before the turn of the 20th century. The unusually large and heavy logs from the Pisgah forest were especially suitable for framing buildings and found extensive use in New England mills.

The advent of steel for buildings around the 1870s caused further logging of Pisgah to be terminated, fortunately for those of us who now have access to this enduring wilderness. The Pisgah is composed of many high and low ridges, small streams and swamps. It drains from Mt. Pisgah eastward to Broad Brook and westward to Kilburn Brook. Both streams feed the Ashuelot River. The trees of the Park are maples, birch, red spruce, Norway pine, white pine, hemlock, beech and cherry with small chestnut trees still growing up and dying long before maturity. The original chestnut trees of Pisgah, straight as bean poles, were once much favored for telegraph poles.

**Time to Renew Your FOP Membership for 2015
Use Form on the Address Page – Do It Now!**

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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.

Date: _____ Name(s): _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ (Home) Phone: _____ (Work) E-mail: _____ Questions? Call Gary Montgomery (603-363-8420) or John Hudachek (603-363-8897) 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</u> <u>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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