



Update

F.O.P. Newsletter, Fall 2016, V. 30, No 3

From the President

Greetings. This has been a low rain year but one with lots of FOP activity in the Park. See On the Trail for many details of a busy summer and fall. Along with our annual Picnic, we have been busy in the Park. Moreover, we have, after 5 years of hard work and much discussion with the State, obtained our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED). The MOA is a framework between the State through DRED and the participating party (in this case, the FOP) that defines working relationships and expectations to foster good rapport between both parties to promote the well-being of a State resource. Many thanks to all who worked on this important document. There were many meetings, a lot of calls to arrive at an MOA with which both the FOP and the State of New Hampshire are comfortable.

The FOP also has been honored by the State to receive a Volunteer Service Award at Volunteer New Hampshire's **Spirit of NH Awards Ceremony**. The FOP will be represented at the Awards Ceremony by several Council Members. We look forward to representing FOP on November 1 in Concord At the Capitol Center for the Arts.

We are also pleased to announce a \$500 donation from Josh Dillingham, Race Director for the 2016 Pisgah Mountain Trail Races. Josh said "Thank you for all the work you do on the Trails and in the Park as a whole. Please use these funds for trail or signage improvements on any of the following trails: Reservoir, Southwoods, Nash, Dogwood Swamp, Chestnut, Ski Trail, Pisgah Ridge, Kilburn, Davis or Hubbard." We appreciate the gift and recognition of the part that FOP plays in the maintenance and use of Pisgah Park.

An additional task FOP has been working on is the revision of our Bylaws by which we govern our organization. We have arrived at a final document which will be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting which is being held at the Winchester VFW at 7:00 pm on November 15th. We hope to see a large representation of our membership there to participate in this discussion vote. You should have received a copy of the revised By-Laws in early November. Copies of the By-Laws can be obtained by emailing FOP at FriendsofPisgah@gmail.com. We will also have copies available at the meeting. We hope to see you there

Matt Edson

On the Trail

Pisgah Trails Renaissance

Take a stroll down the South Woods Trail. Fifteen months ago, it was a bit of a challenge, given that all the bridges had deteriorated considerably over the years, the blazing was spotty at best, and the route needed a clipping in some areas. Today, the South Woods Trail is a poster child for the effort that has been underway to refurbish dozens of miles of trail throughout the entire 13,000 acre park.

Over that span of time, Friends of Pisgah volunteers working with Pisgah Park Manager Whip Newell have methodically made improvement after improvement on a whole host of trails and roads, from Beals and Kilburn trailheads southward all the way to the Visitor's Center and NH Route 114. The work that's been accomplished may represent the greatest refurbishing effort ever undertaken in the Park in so brief a time.

Take the northeastern leg of the Kilburn Loop Trail and the connector to Pisgah Ridge Trail for instance. In the course of a single mile trekkers will find the large bridge over Kilburn Pond inlet stream has been replaced, a second small span has been completely overhauled, and materials from that structure has been moved north to form a boardwalk alongside a perennially wet spot. Now, the entire Kilburn Loop Trail has been re-blazed with new white, printed plastic blaze diamonds so there is no mistaking where to go along that five-mile circuit.

On the northwestern leg of Kilburn Loop, a bypass bridge was constructed in the winter months to get around long rotted crib and puncheon planks over wet ground. And although work is finished on the Loop this year, next summer the trail along the west shore of Kilburn Pond will get a major rebuild. The Friends of Pisgah landed more than \$23,000 in New Hampshire Recreational Trails Grant funds to help underwrite what for Pisgah will be the major overhaul of nearly a mile of treadway. (See following article)

Now back to the South Woods Trail. Over the length of that fine pathway, all bridges have been replaced and, in one instance, moved to a different location. The old badly deteriorated spans near the heron rookery marsh were torn up and removed. Rather than build a new set of spans there, a new location was found upstream that proved suitable for a single long structure. That was put in this summer, along with rerouted access trails on both ends.

At the heron rookery marsh edge, a new viewing platform was constructed so visitors can now enjoy a vista of the extensive wetlands that have been a nesting ground for blue herons for decades. Also, like the Kilburn Loop, the South Woods Trail has been re-blazed end to end.

On the Dogwood Swamp Trail, a bridge on the southeast had a corner undercut by rushing water, making the span unsafe. The bridge was jacked up and dozens of rocks rolled into place to solidify that undermined corner and reduce the likelihood of a repeat of the stream bank washout.

On the Chestnut Hill Trail, a determined crew of seven tore up two separate defunct bridges and jammed into place all new structures in the span of six hours, thanks to the fact that John Herrick and Whip Newell had brought in materials a week earlier. Later, John came back with his backhoe and added fill to both ends of each bridge to allow a smooth transition from earth to bridge cross timbers and back to earth.

Not to be forgotten, the Doolittle Trail lost a bridge to high water in the spring. It floated off some twenty feet making the trail a bit of a challenge to thru-hike. But the bridge was disassembled, new stringers hauled into place and the decking recycled. No trouble trekking the Doolittle now.

Over the long southeastern leg of the Pisgah Ridge Trail, the new white and printed blazes are in place all the way to Reservoir Trail. Same goes for Beals Road pathway from the Beals trailhead to the Fullam Pond Trail.

By the time this newsletter reaches Friends of Pisgah members, two additional bridges will have been replaced within the park. A large span on the Reservoir Trail just north of the Baker Pond Trail junction will be torn apart and removed and a new heavy duty bridge installed. Nearby, also near the junction but down at the lowest point in the Baker Pond Trail, a bridge there will be replaced, as well.

The construction work has been extensive, but there has also been consider work done adding new signage and clearing debris and blowdowns. Several races have been held in the park, and the race routes were “swept” to make the going good underfoot.

On the Friends of Pisgah’s Dort property adjacent to the northwest boundary of Pisgah, there is some new temporary signage in place. The lean-to shelter has a sign-in log book inside now. And the composting latrine was cleaned and stocked early in the summer.

Now, it is one thing to hike the trails, it’s another thing to be able to drive into the park along the park roads. The roads, too, have had their share rebuilding. John and Whip have worked diligently on the lane from the park entrance all the way to Fullam Pond parking area and the Chestnut Hill parking area, too. Tons of fill and gravel were added, surfaces built up, drainage improved, and some troublesome rocks removed. Two years ago, one really needed a four-wheel drive vehicle to transit the miles to Fullam without undue difficulty. Now any passenger car can make the journey once again.

The steep access road to the Reservoir has been substantially rebuilt from Reservoir Trail trailhead to the big body of water. More than a score of 10-wheeler loads of fill and gravel were brought into the trailhead and spread at intervals along the route (see separate story).

Over the winter, more new blazing will go up along the trails. Hopefully by this time next year, the majority of the trails will be outfitted with the new blazing and new and refurbished signage. The effort should certainly make Pisgah more user-friendly.

There is more to be done in terms of bridge replacement. Reservoir Trail will need other spans removed and replaced over the coming year and there are two other bridges on Chestnut Hill that could get a looking over.

We’ve been busy. Sure beats sitcom reruns on TV.

Kim Nilsen

Trails Grant Received

Friends of Pisgah received word from NH Department of Resources and Economic Development that we have been approved to receive \$23,700 in funds based on a Recreational Trails Program grant that we prepared in the spring of the year.

We submitted a 40-page proposal for a major restoration of the Kilburn Loop Trail along the entire west side of Kilburn Pond in Pisgah State Park, calling for the building up of the surface of the trail in some areas, adding culverts, cutting a trail bypass in one section, and improving the treadway considerably.

The RTP grants are highly competitive. The RTP grants are highly competitive. We understand that more than \$4 million in grants were submitted but only about \$900,000 would be allotted. We were one of the fortunate trail groups to make the cut.

Guided Hike Event

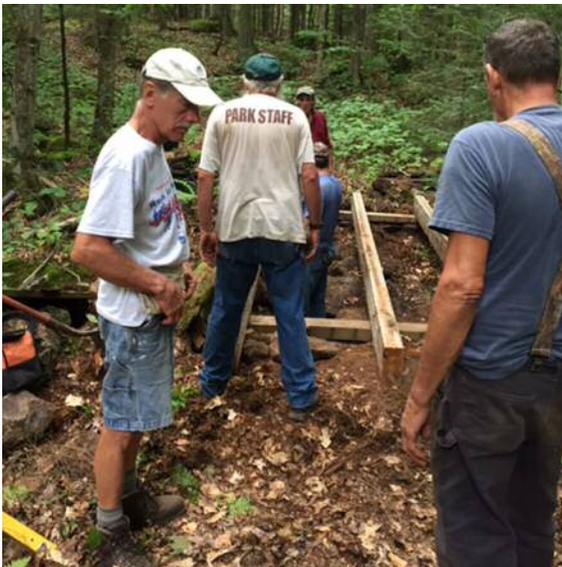
In late September, FOP ran a Guided hike into an old growth forest stand at North Round Pond. The hike was organized and carried out by John Herrick, FOP Trails Chair and was a real success.

Thirteen people attended the six-mile loop hike from the Horseshoe Trailhead parking lot down the Reservoir Trail to North Round Pond Trail and then out by Lily Pond and the Old Chesterfield Road.

On the way out, the hikers met Whip Newell, Park Manager, who was using our new state purchased vehicle, a very substantial model. Whip was placing new signage at trail junctions and trailheads.

Kim Nilsen

Photos from the Trails



John Hudachek and Whip Newell Working on the Trails



Southwoods Bridge Building Crew After New Bridge Completed



Rebuilding Parker Hill Trail Bridges



Rebuilding Parker Hill Trail Bridges



New Viewing Platform on South Woods Trail

South Woods Viewing Platform

To reach the new platform, park at the Horseshoe parking lot. Descend the hill on the wide trail, stay left at the first intersection and left again at the first trail on the left (South Woods Trail). Walk two-fifths of a mile or down to yet another intersection. Pass it (stay straight) and pass the new South Woods bypass path (on right) to the new bridge. Instead of the right turn, stay straight for several football field lengths. You will come to the viewing platform in the same vicinity as the location of the old bridges (since removed) that use to be a part of the South Woods Trail. Take a pair of binoculars with you and stay quiet for ten minutes, and the wild world will begin to show itself across the marsh.

Kim Nilsen

Bridge work photos excluding Viewing Platform and South Woods Trail Bridge Crew courtesy of Jim Schofield

Annual Picnic

The twenty ninth annual Friends of Pisgah picnic was held Saturday, October 1 at the Visitor Center and barn complex. Approximately 25 people enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and beverages provided by the Friends as well as a variety of salads and desserts brought to share. We moved the picnic tables into the barn because of the light drizzle. Patrick Hummel, the Volunteer Coordinator from DRED joined us and after lunch spoke about the importance of volunteers in maintaining state properties. He thanked Friends of Pisgah for our service. After lunch the mums and pumpkins used to decorate the barn were raffled off with the help of the Howe brothers, Gabe and Sam.

Laura Sussmann

FRIENDS OF PISGAH 2016 Annual Meeting Agenda

The Friends of Pisgah will hold its annual meeting at the Winchester VFW on Main Street in Winchester on Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 pm. All members and their guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Meeting call to order. 7:00 p.m.

President Matt Edson's Report: Summary of Improvements within the Park in 2016

Nominations for Officers for a one-year term. Nominations Chair, Kim Nilsen.

President: Matt Edson
Vice President: Kim R. Nilsen
Secretary: Jim Schofield
Treasurer: John Hudachek

Nominations for Council Directors for a three-year term

John Herrick
Matt Donachie
Jon Knickerbocker

Call for additional nominations for all positions.

Call for comments and/or discussion, if any, from the floor. Vote.

Adjourn Business Meeting

Guest Speaker Slide Presentation

Lost in Pisgah for 12,000 Years

Kim R. Nilsen, Vice President FOP

Kim is a well-known outdoorsman in NH. He is the current Friends of Pisgah Vice President and a 2015 Granite State Legacy Award Recipient. Kim will present a tongue-in-cheek slide show at the annual meeting entitled Lost in Pisgah for 12,000 Years.

Nilsen has been a Spofford resident since 1981. He is the founder of the 170-mile Cohos Trail in northernmost New Hampshire and has worked as a volunteer in Pisgah State Park on and off again for parts of two decades. He has designed and built trail infrastructure from the Massachusetts border to Canada. He is the author of several hiking guidebooks, trail databooks, a novel, and collection of short stories.

Consider bringing a friend or two to the meeting. Kim is a very entertaining speaker and all certainly will enjoy his presentation.

Time to Renew Your Membership in FOP

The New Year is coming up. It is time to renew your FOP membership for 2017. See back page for the membership form. We appreciate your financial and other support.

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Editor: Matt Donachie (PO Box 11, Winchester, NH 03470) (603/239-6590) (e-mail: mattd1932@myfairpoint.net)
Production and Mailing: Martha and Matt Donachie **President: Matt Edson (603/336-7796)**
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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 Matt Edson (603-336-7796) 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 _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Check here to receive a newsletter by email – no hard copy	<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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