



Update

F.O.P. Newsletter, Fall 2017, V. 31, No 3

From the President

Mark the calendar folks. On Tuesday, November 14th at 7 pm., the Friends of Pisgah will hold its annual meeting at the Chesterfield Town Hall in the center of Chesterfield village. We will be voting on officers and council members for the coming year and getting a rundown on the extensive work that has been done in the park in 2017.

It has been a beautiful and exceptionally warm fall, and I hope you've been able to spend some time hiking and enjoying the seasonal colors in Pisgah.

Our biggest summer project was trail clearing and the upgrade of trail markers, accomplished by many hours of volunteers working in the park. Because most of the trails are now marked, navigation of the park by visitors will be much easier. I hope that people will hike the Town Forest Trail, which is now completed after many years of effort. Some of the enjoyable features are old growth hemlocks, an old saw mill site and a beautiful view of Baker Pond. It provides a very peaceful walk through hemlock groves, and provides several loop options for hiking.

RTP (Recreational Trail Program) grant funds are now being used to revamp the treadway along the western side of Kilburn Pond. This work means that hiking along the pond will be more accessible, much drier, and encourage people to stay on the trail, causing less impact on the natural landscape.

Friends of Pisgah sponsored two successful and enjoyable events this fall. The first was our annual Picnic, attended by more than 30 members. Along with the traditional cookout, we honored the longtime involvement and service of John Summers by the dedication of a trail on the eastside of Kilburn Pond, which will bear his name. This trail will be completed within the next year. Phil Bryce, New Hampshire Director of Parks and Recreation, and Patrick Hummel, Volunteer Coordinator, both spoke about John's long time involvement and the importance of volunteerism within the park system. Park Manager Whip Newell presented John with a personal hand engraved sign of the trail dedicated in his name.

The second event was the Pisgah Reservoir Kayak and Canoe Outing. With permission from the state, FOP volunteers shuttled canoes, kayaks, gear and explorers to the reservoir. It was a beautiful fall day, and an exceptional time was had by all. We hope to offer this event annually.

Friends of Pisgah is very grateful to its members who participate on work days. There is always a need for more help and we welcome newcomers. We hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on November 14, 2017 at the Chesterfield Town Hall.

Matt Edson

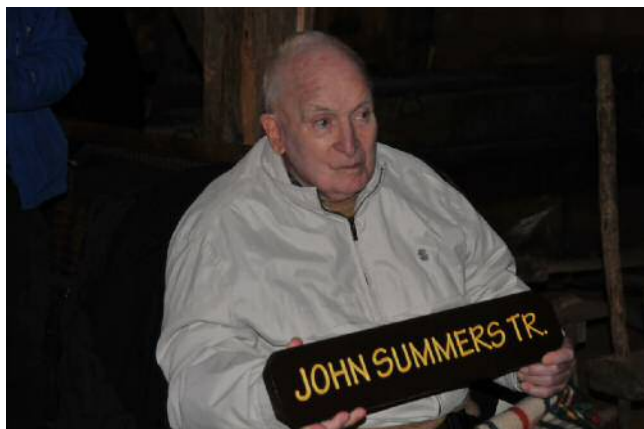
John Summers Trail Presentation

As mentioned in the Presidents message, dozens of Friends of Pisgah members and supporters turned out on a cool Saturday afternoon to attend the Friends of Pisgah Annual Picnic at the Visitors Center in Winchester and to honor an F.O.P. founding member, John Summers, a tireless advocate for Pisgah over five decades,.

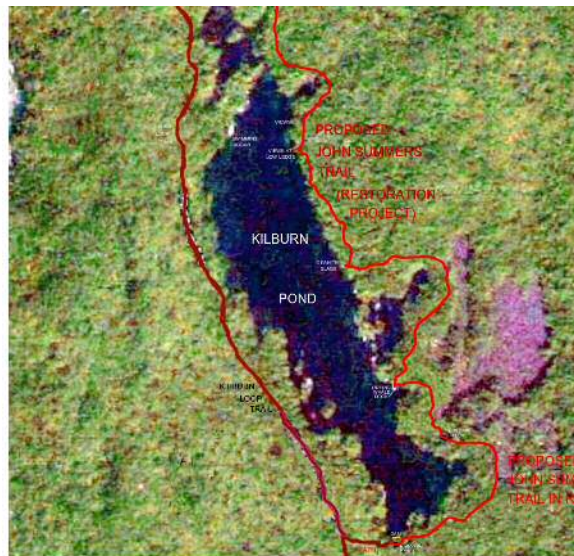
At height of the picnic, F.O.P. President Matthew Edson opened the ceremony by explaining to the gathering crowd who John is, what his unmatched efforts have meant to the Park and the people who love the 13,000 acre eastern wilderness, and why the Friends of Pisgah had decided to honor John by naming a new and soon to be built trail after him near the eastern shores of Kilburn Pond.

As mentioned above on hand for the picnic and the ceremony was New Hampshire Parks and Recreation Director Phil Bryce and New Hampshire Volunteer Coordinator (for the entire state) Patrick Hummel. Mr. Bryce took the floor and explained just how important it is to recognize the contribution of people like John Summers, who have made it possible for the New Hampshire park system to one of the finer such systems in all of the United States.

To complete the ceremony, Pisgah State Park Manager Ralph “Whip” Newell presented a handmade wooden John Summers Trail sign to John, (see photo) and F.O.P. Vice President Kim Nilsen unleashed a short slide show that showed a map of the new trail and a host of images that illustrated for the attendees some of the fine features along the route of the soon-to-be built pathway just east of Kilburn Pond.



John Summers with His Trail Sign (above)



Map of John Summers Trail (right)

The new John Summers Trail (see map) will actually follow a well-trodden “herd path” created by scores of people over the years attempting to reach rock ledges along the east shore of Kilburn Pond. That herd path is readily followed today almost the entire mile-long distance south to the water impoundment dam at the foot of the lake. Nilsen explained that the herd path had actually been carved out by foot falls on a long abandoned trail that use to be in place and was once blazed with horizontal grey blazes, a few of which are still visible, particularly when headed northbound.

The new route reaches numerous granite ledges by the water, huge Whale Rock, several large glacial erratic boulders, backwater shallows, and the pond’s dam. The trail will eventually boast two new bridges, one to cross a wet area below a beaver bog and one to cross the outflow stream some forty feet below the dam. At the conclusion of the presentation, many folks gathered about John for a photo session, with John holding the John Summers Trail sign made just for him.

On the Trails (Solid or Liquid)

New (Old) Town Forest Trail Opened - October 14th, 2017

The old unused foot trail in Pisgah State Park known as the Town Forest Trail has been fully brushed out, signed, and blazed from its southern junction with the Kilburn Loop Trail near Kilburn Pond all the way to the junction with the north end of the Pisgah Ridge Trail not far from Baker Pond and the Baker Pond Trail junction. The newly cleared route reaches the old ordnance testing bunkers near the south end and the abandoned mill site below Baker Pond and the wonderful overlook of the pond. It's a real pleasure to walk this time of year, and the trail creates the potential for two fine loop hikes, one to the east and one to the west, back to Kilburn trailhead parking lot

Dogwood Swamp Trail Cleaned and Blazed

Don't miss the Dogwood Swamp Trail this time of year. Friends of Pisgah volunteers John Herrick and Kim Nilsen, plus Pisgah Manager Whip Newell finished blazing, cleaning up debris, and dropping trees over the last 1.4 miles of the 3.3 mile trail on September 14th. On September 9th a larger work crew completed the first 1.9 miles starting at the Reservoir Road. So, now, the entire trail is in fine shape from Mile 4 on the road into Fullam Pond all the way to the upper parking lot on Reservoir Road.

Kim Nilsen

The Horatio Colony Nature Preserve Hosted a Pisgah Trail Connector Hike

A "Pisgah-Keene Connector Trail Hike" was held in Keene Saturday, September 30, 2017 to explore the wilds between the Horatio Colony Nature Preserve and Pisgah State Park. The hike was through the beautifully preserved California Brook Natural Area and Horatio Colony Nature Preserve. Much of the landscape is State of NH Tier I (highest ranked) wildlife habitat.

The Horatio Colony Nature Preserve is a 645-acre parcel of woodlands and wetlands in Keene and Swanzey, NH owned by the Colony Memorial Trust. It provides the community with more than 5 miles of hiking trails, a historic cabin and foundations, place-based education initiatives, ongoing research activities, and a public program series. The preserve is managed by Antioch University New England.

Kim Nilsen

FOP Pisgah Reservoir Canoe & Kayak Outing

On Saturday, October 7th the Friends of Pisgah sponsored a revived Kayak and Canoe Event on Pisgah Reservoir. More than 30 folks came out for the outing and brought watercraft and life jackets. The event was a greater success than anticipated, and the day proved picture perfect for all. Next year, keep early October open on the calendar for another outing on Pisgah's biggest body of water. Patch up your old Titanic and come on out.

Check out the pictures on our Facebook page.

John Kondos

Photos of Activities



Canoes at Reservoir



Phil Bryce and Pat Hummel Honoring John Summers



New Signage on Trail



Working on the Trails



John Herrick on Town Forest Trail



Canoes at the Reservoir Outing



Whale Rock at Kilburn Pond



Members and Guests Honoring John Summers



The Barbeque at the Picnic



Watching Kim Nilsen's Slide Presentation

Time to Renew Your Membership in FOP

2018 is coming up and it is time to renew your FOP membership for 2018. See back page for the membership form. We appreciate your financial and other support.

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

2017 Annual Meeting Agenda

The Friends of Pisgah will hold its annual meeting at the Town Hall on Rte. 63 in Chesterfield on Tuesday, November 14 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 2017

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 Directors for a three-year term;

Abe Howe
To be announced
To be announced

Call for additional nominations for all positions.

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

Guest Speaker

Steve Roberge

Steve works for the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension as the Cheshire County Extension Forester and NH's statewide Maple Specialist. He earned a B.S. in Forest Science from the University of New Hampshire and a Masters of Forest Science from Yale University. As an Extension Forester it is his responsibility to educate forestland owners about their important role as stewards of the forest. Steve currently serves on the New Hampshire Forester Licensing Board, a Trustee of the Harris Center for Conservation Education, and a board member of the NH Maple Producers Association. Steve lives in Peterborough NH with wife Rachelle Beaudoin and Theo the dog where they harvest maple sap every spring.

Talk: The History and Future of New Hampshire's Forests

Fire, hurricanes, beavers, insects and humans have all made their mark on the forests of NH. We'll take a look at how our forests are shaped over time by natural and human disturbances and travel back in time to discover what European settlers may have encountered when they ventured into the wilderness from the shores of the Atlantic.

Mammals In Pisgah?

The Park contains moose, deer, bear, bobcat, raccoon, opossum, wood chuck, porcupine, fox and coyote, to name the more prominent larger mammals. Smaller mammals include chipmunks, squirrels, voles, fishers, perhaps pine martens, bats and more. Of course, to see all these mammals you will have to be lucky and spend time in the Park. A Park Manager once reported seeing a coyote pack take down a deer. Bear are most apt to be seen on the merge of the Park with private land. Bobcat is seen rarely. One family on the Park boundary reported a fierce fight between a bobcat and raccoon one evening a dozen years ago. I have seen blood and bobcat tracks plus rabbit tracks in our farm field and a bobcat on Old Chesterfield Rd.

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: _____	<u>Category</u> (Check applicable categories)	<u>Willing to Assist On Committee for:</u>
Name(s): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Picnic
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Gift	<input type="checkbox"/> History/Archaeology
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$10.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
Phone: _____ (Home)	<input type="checkbox"/> Single (\$15.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Articles
Phone: _____ (Work)	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20.00/address)	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Strategy
E-mail: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Group (\$30.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising
Questions? Call Matt Edson (603-336-7796)	<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Park Info
or John Hudachek (603-363-8897)	Name/Address of gift giver	<input type="checkbox"/> Rails to Trails Advisory
Send form and check to:	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Trails/Maintenance
Friends of Pisgah, Inc.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wantastiquet-Monadnock
PO Box 134	_____	Greenway
Chesterfield, NH 03443-0134	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here to receive a newsletter by email – no hard copy	