

WONALANCET OUTDOOR CLUB

Newsletter

February 1990

WODC MAP

The WODC map currently in print was drawn in 1951, needs updating, and is a sketch map lacking contours and not to scale. For several years we have been hoping to publish an accurate contour map of our trails. Club member Mike Bromberg is at work on a new WODC map, which includes the entire Sandwich Range Wilderness. Mike has completed the first draft, and is ready to submit it for proof reading. Officers of the Club will meet with Mike to review the map on February 10th. The map will be in three colors, printed on Tyvec -a plastic material which will withstand rough use in the field as well as moisture- and when folded will fit in the hiker's pocket. It is our hope that the map will be ready for distribution during the Spring of 1990, prior to the summer hiking season.

FOREST SERVICE BRIEFS

Motorized Access to Flat Mountain Pond. The long-awaited decision with respect to this issue has not been announced. It now seems likely that a decision will not be made unless there is an amendment to the 1985 **Forest Plan**. WODC, in its first response to the "scoping letter" prepared by the White Mountain National Forest, noted that the process being used to study the issue was in violation of the **Forest Plan**. Without admitting the violation, WMNF broadened its study in order to comply with the **Plan**. Early this Fall (1989) WMNF showed a draft of its decision to George Zink, a draft intended to be revealed to the public soon thereafter. The draft decision provided access to the pond to All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's), small vehicles about the size of snowmobiles with soft tires. Four vehicles would be allowed per day. Although WODC was disappointed in the decision, the plan was a reasonable compromise, and

demonstrated concern for the adverse impacts upon the trail and the adjacent Wilderness. But the compromise decision was unacceptable to the person who had submitted the original proposal! The WMNF decided to rewrite the decision so that 4-wheel drive vehicles, including trucks of up to 4,000 lbs (2 tons) can access the Pond.

The restudy and rewriting of the decision led to the conclusion that the use of trucks on the Guinea Pond and Flat Mountain Pond Trails was in violation of the **Forest Plan** on two counts. As this is being written, WMNF is considering the option of amending the **Forest Plan**. Amending the **Plan** would be costly, would delay a decision for an indefinite period, and might well be opposed by the public which supported the original **Plan**.

DUES NOTICE

Dues for 1989-1990 are now payable. Family membership is \$15.00; Individual membership is \$8.00. Make checks payable to the **WODC** and mail to:

Nat Steele, Treasurer
Wonalancet, NH 03897

Your membership status:

Dues paid for 1989-1990
Dues not paid for 1989-1990

REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING

The 90th Annual Meeting of WODC was called to order on August 20, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wonalancet Chapel. Vice President John Mersfelder assumed the chair in the absence of the President.

Minutes of the 1988 Annual Meeting were read, corrected, and approved.

Dana Steele gave the Trails report: Nat Scrimshaw and his crew worked approximately 8 days, essentially on the Dicey's Mill Trail and the Big Rock Cave Trail. The Lawrence Trail needs relocating in places; water erosion has gullied the trail severely. The Forest Service will evaluate and help finance the project.

THE LAWRENCE TRAIL NEEDS AN ADOPTER

George Zink gave the Forest Service Liaison report. No decision has been made on handicapped persons' access to Flat Mountain Pond. On the issue of mineral prospecting on the Forest, companies are appealing the Forest Service decision against allowing preliminary prospecting in Wilderness Areas. A Paugus Mill timber cut is planned.

Andy Thompson commented that signs have not been placed at the Wilderness boundaries. George suggested members write or phone the Forest Service and urge them to place boundary signs. Only the Cabin Trail has boundary markings. Ralph Weymouth suggested WODC might offer to put such signs in place. A motion was made to refer this matter to the Executive Committee. Ted Sidley amended the motion to empower the Executive Committee to take whatever action is appropriate and to spend up to \$250.00 for signs. The motion, as amended, was seconded and passed unanimously.

There was no report from Membership Chair, Martha Chandler. Nat Steele reported that membership was down. Dana Steele has sent a letter to camps that use WODC Trails, and to

date four camps have contributed to the Club. Discussion followed concerning setting up new categories of membership. Nat Steele suggested a new category of institutional member with dues of \$25 annually. John Chandler was asked to research whether a new, non-voting category of membership could be added without changing the Bylaws. Ted Sidley recommended the Annual Meeting not decide and that it would be better to change the Bylaws. It was suggested we add a category and call it an "Institutional Sponsorship." Ted Sidley suggested the members authorize the creation of three institutional-supported categories, with indicated dues, as follows:

Institutional Donor	\$25.00
Institutional Sponsor	50.00
Institutional Patron	100.00

The executive committee will consider such changes to the Bylaws.

Nat Steele reported the cost of installing a phone near the kiosk was prohibitive. Andy Thompson offered to make a sign to be placed at the kiosk informing hikers of the location of nearby pay phones.

Nat Steele reported there was one trail map left, and he will have 100 copies made.

The Chandlers continue to have T-shirts for sale. Their address is 60 Holman St., Laconia, NH 03246.

The following Club members hiked the original Blueberry Ledge Trail during the past year: Ralph Weymouth, Linda Thompson, Scott Ellis, Gregory Simon, David Bowles, Fred Steele, Dana Steele, Frumie Selchen, Doug MacVicar, Barbara Sidley, Ted Sidley.

Treasurer Nat Steele described his budget proposal. It would be the same as for 1988-1989 with the exception of \$300.00 for trail maintenance and \$250.00 for signing of Wilderness. The proposal was unanimously adopted.

EXPENSE BUDGET 1989-1990

SPNHF Membership	35.00
Wonalancet Corporation.....	20.00
NE Trail Conference.....	10.00
NE Natural Resources Forum.....	10.00
Forest Liaison.....	110.00
Trails Maintenance.....	500.00
Wilderness Signing.....	250.00
Contingency Fund (Exec.Comm.)....	300.00

Total.....	1455.00

George Zink stated that WODC should budget \$1000 to pay the Sandwich Range Conservation Association for major trail construction and maintenance. Nat Steele favors supporting the group, and stated the Club could spend \$1,000 for trails more frequently than every other year. He was concerned that if other projects arose, it could mean spending the Club's principal. Dana Steele did not feel he would need more money for trails this year. Ted Sidley moved that the Executive Committee have up to \$300.00 to spend on such matters, at its discretion. The motion was amended to read "for contingency or miscellaneous expenses." The motion, as amended, was seconded and passed unanimously.

More discussion on the budget followed. Getting trail crews is difficult and some trails, such as the Lawrence Trail, have serious problems. The Club has signed contracts with the Forest Service to maintain the trails, and we must keep the responsibility in our hands for decisions that are made. It is difficult for our people to do this heavy work. Consequently, we must hire people with our money if the trails are to be kept in good condition.

Under new business Ted Sidley brought up three items:

- (1) The membership be empowered to set dues at the annual meeting
- (2) The Constitution and Bylaws be consistent regarding timing of the Annual Meeting.
- (3) The number of members for a quorum at the Annual Meeting be changed to 15% of

membership or 25 members, ever is the lesser.

Absent a nominating committee slate, nominations were received from the floor, but those nominated declined. A motion was made to have the present officers continue, subject to their approval. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Doug MacVicar gave an interesting talk about Louis Taintor, in whose memory a plaque is set into the granite ledge at the summit outlook on Mount Whiteface.

MINERALS EXPLORATION

In early June, 1989, WMNF issued the long-awaited decision on mineral prospecting in the Forest. In essence, the decision was "that consent would generally be given to the issuance of prospecting permits on the Forest". A notable exception: consent would not be given for exploration "wholly or partly within the Sandwich Range Wilderness Area".

The decision is consistent with past Forest Service actions; the Forest Service supports activities which exploit forest resources. Two groups have appealed the decision. One group with an interest in mineral exploration and extraction, has appealed the decision on the basis of its exclusion of exploration within Wilderness. (The Wilderness Act prohibits mineral exploration). The second, consisting of the NH Audubon Society, The Conservation Law Foundation, and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, has appealed on the basis that the mineral mining laws allowing exploration apply only to land which was in Federal ownership prior to being designated National Forest, whereas the WMNF land was private prior to acquisition under the Weekes Act. In addition, they have appealed on the basis that issuing an exploration permit is essentially a permit to mine; The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will be unable to prevent mining if exploration reveals that ore exists on the Forest.

WODC LIBRARY

For many years, Mrs. Bowles has graciously permitted the Club to maintain a small library of books, magazines, maps, and other memorabilia in a locked bookcase in the lobby of the Wonalancet Post Office. Recently, an inventory of the contents has been made. There are many items in the collection which are of interest to members.

Missing from the library are numerous magazines and books which one might think would be there. There are **no copies** of the earliest WODC publication, Guide to Wonalancet and the Sandwich Range of New Hampshire, printed about the year 1900. This book is now quite rare, but would not a copy be treasured by the Club! Also missing is a copy of the second WODC publication, Guide to the Paths and Trails of the Sandwich Range, Tamworth and Sandwich, New Hampshire, published in 1908. Several copies of this publication are known to exist in private libraries within Tamworth and Sandwich.

Missing also are copies of **AMC White Mountain Guide**, copies of "Appalachia", and copies of books pertaining to the White Mountains and/or hiking, published within the last 25 years. The present collection is "dated".

The Club would accept with appreciation copies of books, magazines, maps, etc. which are relevant to the interests of members. They will be given a good "home."

FOREST and CRAG

Over ten years in the writing, **Forest and Crag: A History of Hiking, Trail Blazing, and Adventure in the Northeast Mountains**, written by Laura and Guy Waterman, was published in the Fall of 1989 by the Appalachian Mountain Club. It is a monumental work of 888 pages containing 85 sketches, 4 tables, 170 pages of reference notes, and 29 photographs. Historian Roderick Nash has stated, "In its quality, comprehensiveness, and regional orientation,

Forest and Crag is unprecedented in American letters. It will become a classic in social, intellectual, and environmental history."

Of necessity, the authors have limited the scope of their opus to the recreation history of the Northeast. Therefore, for example, one will find few references to the political struggles which took place in establishing National Forests in the East, or to the passage of the Wilderness Act and the controversies surrounding the designation of Wilderness Areas. After listing "some of the glorious battles fought, and, for the most part, won by conservationists in the postwar Northeast.." they state, "These victories were won at the cost of exhausting efforts by organizations and individuals, some of which have been well chronicled but many of which have gone unsung. Their story will not be told in these pages -- not because it is unimportant but because it is too important to be folded into the prime focus of this history, which is the hiking and camping that took place on the lands the conservationists saved."

Guy and Laura Waterman are ideally suited for the work they have done. They have an intimate knowledge of the mountains, they have been writing on the subject of the out-of-doors for many years, they are avid backpackers, and above all they both write well. This is a book to enjoy at its first reading, and to go back to, time after time.

The book is not inexpensive (paperback at \$24.95), but will be a welcome addition to your books on the back country.

WODC HISTORY

Sally and George Zink are gathering materials for a short history of WODC which they plan to complete in time for the one hundredth anniversary of the beginnings of the Club. One of their objectives is to find a date for that anniversary. Some evidence leads to the year 1892; other evidence places the date six years later. More on this subject in another Newsletter.