

RE-ADOPT SLEEPER TRAIL?

For the past 34 years the Massachusetts based Sub Sig Outing Club has had maintenance responsibilities for the Sleeper Trail, a trail originally cut and cared for by WODC.

This past Fall the Trails Committee contacted Sub Sig, with the hope that they would consider returning responsibility of the trail to WODC. With trail efforts clearly on the upswing, we can now comfortably take on the additional responsibility of the Sleeper Trail.

Our inquiry proved to be timely, as Sub Sig members apparently felt they have somewhat overextended themselves with trail maintenance duties. Many who have hiked the Sleeper Trail recently know that it has more than its share of blow downs and tight, brushy spots. Sub Sig maintains several other trails, scattered throughout WMNF.

Though not heavily used, the Sleeper Trail is a vital link in the trails of the Sandwich Range Wilderness, connecting WODC trails with Forest Service and Waterville Valley Athletic & Improvement Association trails to the north and west. The Trail runs for 2.8 miles from the Downes Brook Trail near Whiteface, past East and West Sleeper, and on to its junction with the Slide Trail near the summit of South Tripyramid. Much of the trail is at or near the 3,000 foot level, and meanders through beautiful woods. A side trail leads to the 3,840 foot summit of East Sleeper, one of the New England Hundred Highest peaks.

Approval of the transfer of responsibility for the trail has been given by the WMNF; approval by the WODC membership will be decided by vote at the 1993 annual meeting. In anticipation of a positive membership response, the Trails Committee has already scheduled a work party, with plans to spend a full weekend brushing, clearing blowdowns, inventorying signs and reblazing the trail. The crew will establish a work camp at the Downes Brook — Sleeper trail junction, and spend

Saturday night there. For those interested in joining us for part or all of this event, be sure to save Saturday and Sunday, June 26 and 27. Join us for a weekend of fun!

Doug Mayer

Lost Pass & Other Delights

On February 14, 1993, a sizeable and enthusiastic group of WODC cross-country skiers assembled to begin a long-awaited journey through Lost Pass. Starting at Bennett Street, we skied up Flat Mountain Pond Trail to Flat Mountain Pond, across the pond, then followed the newly-reopened Old Pond Trail to Lost Pass and then the Old Woodbury Trail, leading us into the Waterville Valley trail system — nearly a 14 mile trip.

George Bates, our fearless trip leader, had spearheaded the work of locating the historic route of the Old Pond Trail — referring to old aerial survey maps for the obscure sections — and clearing it for



Lost Pass outing pauses at Flat Mountain Pond

skiing. We were very impressed with the results. The Sandwich Range Wilderness plan specifies that Old Pond Trail is for winter use only, in order to protect the area from overuse. Old Pond Trail strikes a wonderful balance between accessibility and wildness, and Lost Pass is a satisfyingly remote and unspoiled place.

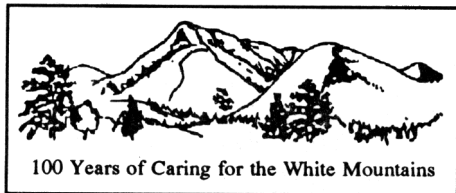
It was a wonderful day. We had worried about whether there would be sufficient snow, but when 12 inches fell

two days before the trip, the worry became a surplus of untracked snow. George Bates solved that problem by TRACKING the trail on the previous day from the Waterville Valley side, and he was happy to find when he got to the Flat Mountain Pond Trail that Fred Levigne had been up there and left him a track. So our way had been well prepared, for which we were grateful, since the snow was the non-stickiest we had ever seen, which made the 1750 foot climb to the Pass even more challenging than it otherwise would have been. We shall always cherish the memory of George Bates's "Jack Rabbit" wax, which helped some of us "get a grip" on the steeper parts of the trail. (The author, an inveterate cheat, used Siberian Husky power to tow her to the top!) After reaching the pass, descending the trail through backcountry powder (with breakable crust lurking beside the track) was a marvelous, though tiring, experience. This contrasted nicely with the groomed trails of Waterville Valley — which backcountry skiers cross at no charge. We finished the day worn out but very satisfied, and feeling that this trip is likely to become an annual event.

The WODC skiing season began on January 30 with a well-attended trip to Great Hill Pond, led by Howard Nordeen. Members of all ages enjoyed skiing the Hemenway roads and trails, and over Great Hill Pond to lunch on one of its islands.

On March 6, John Mersfelder represented WODC on a Moonlight Ski, and had a great time while all others concluded that the trip would be canceled due to weather. Oh ye of little faith! He skied by moonlight, on beautiful snow, over Old Locke Road in Birch Intervale. On March 13, Dick Fortin's animal tracking trip was canceled due to the major snowstorm of the season. We hope Dick can reschedule with us next year. On March 21 — another snowy-looking day — Judith Reardon, Peter Smart, and Pemi represented WODC on the Mount Washington Auto Road. After climbing a rather crusty Old Jackson Road and

(Continued on Page 2)



The Newsletter is published twice each year by the Wonalancet Out Door Club. The mailing address is:

WODC

Newsletter Editor

Wonalancet, NH 03897

(Continued from Page 1)

finding the lower section of the Auto Road a bit icy, an excellent surface was found from that point to the 5½ mile mark at 5200 feet in elevation. The weather was quite mild and not very windy, with snow fog rising and falling in the valleys. We saw only one other skier and the Snowcat descending from the Observatory, with passengers on its roof enjoying the trip as the vehicle cleared the deeply drifted sections of the road. It was a joy to ski in a relaxed way to Old Jackson Road, to surmount the crusty section, and to enjoy skiing Connie's Way to Pinkham Notch Camp. This is another trip that we would love to repeat next year. Cross-country skiing in New England is always unpredictable, and skiing with WODC is always fun!

Judith Reardon

Summer Trail Work

The principal responsibility of the Wonalancet Out Door Club is that of caretaker of more than 50 miles of trails in the Wonalancet region, and the duty of the Trails Committee to guide, plan, and oversee the work, in cooperation with the White Mountain National Forest. To accomplish its ambitious plans for the coming summer, a series of workshops and work days, extending from mid May to early October, is underway.

Members and friends of WODC are welcome, even encouraged to participate. Trail work is not all heavy labor; it's good exercise, an occasion for meeting people, and enjoyable.

For all scheduled events, meet at the Ferncroft kiosk at 8:30 a.m. equipped

with a lunch, clippers, work gloves, and safety glasses. For answers to questions you may have, phone the leader of the specific event. For leaders and their phone numbers see the "Calendar of Trail Workdays" on this page. Phone John Mersfelder at 323-7793 in an emergency.

● The first scheduled trail event is on June 5, which is **National Trails Day**. Of special interest to adopters, this **Dacey's Mill Trail Workshop** will provide opportunities to discuss and become familiar with vital trail maintenance issues. With the new tools purchased this year, we will clean often-overlooked water bars as well as remove blowdowns above Camp Rich. All participants are invited to share in the potluck supper at the John Mersfelders's.

● On the weekend of June 26-27 an overnight trip is planned — two days of

expedition on the Kelley Trail. All volunteers are invited to a free barbecue afterwards, as well as *free camping* at *White Lake State Park*. Invite your friends and family to join us for this annual WODC celebration.

● If you would like to try your hand at building rock stepping stones, join us for a day of work on the remote and beautiful **Square Ledge Trail**. We'll also concentrate on clearing an adopter's most dreaded obstacle, hobble bush.

● Another historic event will take place on August 21, when WODC and CMC (**Chocorua Mountain Club**) join forces to clear blowdowns across **Whitin Brook**, and brush the upper sections of the **Whitin Brook** and **Cabin Trails**.

● It's easy to overlook the finest trail work because it looks so natural. On September 18 we'll explore some of the

CALENDAR OF TRAIL WORKDAYS

(All events start at Ferncroft Kiosk at 8:30 a.m. See Article on this page for further details.)

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Jun. 5 | National Trails Day. Dacey's Mill Trail. Leaders: Chris Conrod, 323 284-6686 and Peter Smart, 323-8666. Potluck Supper at Mersfelders. |
| Jun. 26-27 | Sleeper Trail Weekend. Leader: Doug Mayer 466-5572. |
| Jul. 17 | White Mountain Trails Day. Kelley Trail and Red Path. Leaders: Judy Reardon and Peter Smart 323-8666. Potluck supper at Sidleys. |
| Aug. 6 | Square Ledge Trail. Leader: John Mersfelder 323-7793. |
| Aug. 21 | Whitin Brook (CMC) and Cabin Trail (WODC). Leaders: Doug Mayer 466-5572 and CMC Trail Committee. |
| Sept. 18 | Kelley Trail. Leaders: Judy Reardon and Peter Smart 323-8666. |
| Oct. 8 | Lawrence Trail. Leader: Chris Conrod 323 284-6686. |

high altitude work on the Sleeper Trail, clearing blowdowns, reblazing, placing new signs and brushing the whole trail. Note: a free spaghetti dinner plus Ben & Jerry's ice cream for all participants is promised! Registration with the trip leader will insure that there is enough for everyone.

● On **White Mountain Trails Day**, July 17, there will be a variety of events for all ages and experiences, ranging from easy brushing on the Red Path to a wet and wild stream-clearing

secrets of expert trail construction during a day of step building and sidehill grubbing on the Kelley Trail, perhaps WODC's most attractive trail.

● On October 8, with the foliage season near prime, join in clearing the Lawrence Trail, from the Old Mast Road junction to its remote eastern end at the peak of Paugus.

Peter Smart

WHO IS E.J. RICH?

Edgar Rich will be known to most WODC members; it is he for whom the shelter on Mt. Passaconaway is named. His contributions to the Club and the community of Wonalancet were many and significant. The Rich Memorial Forest, donated to the New England Forestry Foundation in his memory, is an 80 acre forest north of Mt. Katherine. President of WODC in 1911 and from 1914 through 1917, he was responsible for opening and maintaining the Sleeper Trail. Rich was an effective advocate for the establishment of the White Mountain National Forest and the subsequent acquisition of the lands in and surrounding the Bowl. He worked for several years to get accurate maps of the Sandwich Range, culminating in a map by the Appalachian Mountain Club cartographer. His love for the region and the WODC did not end with his death; in his will \$1,500 was left to continue Club work.

Edgar J. Rich, "E.J." to his friends, was born in Milton, Massachusetts, in 1864. He graduated from Harvard College in 1887 with honors in political science, and in 1891 from Harvard Law School. An indication of his early promise as a leader, in his senior year he was elected Chairman of his Class Committee, and at the 250th anniversary celebration of the college he gave the address of the undergraduates. He became an attorney for the Boston and Maine Railroad in 1892, and in 1903 its General Solicitor. From 1916 until his retirement he was associate counsel of the Railway Executives' Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C.

Rich had a profound interest and knowledge of the Civil War, particularly of Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee, and gave lectures on that era. His efforts in securing legislation to establish the Fredericksburg Battlefield Park were successful, and at its dedication he made the presentation address. President Calvin Coolidge also spoke. By the terms of his will, his distinguished collection of Lincoln and Lee memorabilia went to the Library of the Town of Winchester, as well as a trust fund of \$33,000 for adding to and maintaining the collection. He

served the Town of Winchester in several capacities for thirty-seven years.

First mention of Rich in Wonalancet, dates from July 1, 1899. The record occurs in the guest book of the Wonalancet Farm. From that date on he was a regular visitor.

As partial payment for legal work done for Arthur Walden, owner and trainer of "Chinook" and other sled-dogs, Rich was given acreage bordering what is now the Cabin Trail; his summer home, "Treetops," was built there in 1910. "Treetops" is the house on the east side of the trail, about one hundred yards from the trailhead.

Rich's activities on behalf of the Club and the newly established WMNF were significant. The following passage from a Coos County newspaper of July 27, 1914 illustrates his prominence as a leader. The meeting referred to was the Sixth Annual White Mountain Forest Conference held in Gorham, NH.

"An interesting feature not on the program was the arrival of a delegation of sixteen from Wonalancet, headed by Mr. Edgar J. Rich of Boston and Mrs. Walden of Wonalancet, asking for aid in their efforts to save the southern slope of the Sandwich Range. 'We are a cry, a plaintive cry, from Wonalancet,' said Mr. Rich, when introduced; 'we are in danger, and we ask your help. Geographically, Wonalancet embraces the choicest parts of four towns. But Wonalancet is not a geographical expression, it is a spirit, and it owes its existence to a young woman who came here twenty years ago — Miss Katherine Sleeper, now Mrs. Katherine Sleeper Walden.' Mrs. Walden told of the danger discovered last spring, when it was learned that the Publishers Paper [Company] was about to log on Whiteface and place a saw-mill right in the midst of the homes of the people of Wonalancet. She secured an option on the land, and the government had since relieved her of the option and was carrying on negotiations with the company. Mr. Ayers [Forester for the newly organized Society For The Protection Of New Hampshire Forests-Editor] stated that the negotiations involved some 80,000 acres in all, embracing the company's holdings in the

Great Gulf and elsewhere in the vicinity of Mt. Washington, as well as the 5,000 acres on Whiteface, and the Society had done all it could to urge the purchase.

Miss Marjorie Gane of Chicago, one of the Wonalancet party, spoke earnestly of the great harm that would follow the proposed cutting, not only to the cottagers but also to the regions along the streams which drain the valley, for the slope of Whiteface is so steep that the soil would inevitably be washed away, if the mountain was logged.

Mr. Rich, in closing, said the timber owners had been exceedingly fair, having delayed cutting in order to give an opportunity for negotiations with the government. 'It is not as if there was a tremendous area and a great commercial enterprise, but because this area in the Sandwich Mountains is the only tract of land which is unscarred we feel that in the interest of the whole people of the state and nation it ought to be preserved.'

E.J. shared his interests in nature with others, especially children. The following recollection is from a grand nephew,

"E.J. himself was ... a thoughtful, gentle man and one of the original 'environmentalists.' I can remember, as a child of 9 or 10, when he led a group of us up Mt. Katherine and carefully explained to us, 4 or 5 youngsters, what each variety of tree was and why it is so important to protect them. He was not in favor of swinging birches, in spite of the poetry to the contrary."

Most noteworthy of this remarkable man were his qualities of leadership: in his profession, civic responsibilities, intellectual pursuits, and the community in which he vacationed. In the long list of those who have loved Wonalancet and devoted themselves to the WODC, none stands higher than E.J. Rich.

George E. Zink



Trails Committee Report

Although trail work may stop when the snow falls, winter is in fact a very busy time for the Trails Committee. Planning for 1993 actually began last fall when designs and budgets for replacing the decaying Old Mast Road bridge were drafted. The new bridge was completed on May 1st, and marks the beginning of what should be a very exciting season for WODC trails. (See page 5)

In addition to the ongoing project of replacing trail signs, the Trails Committee has begun re-blazing all WODC trails. Our goal is to apply consistent blazing standards: a standard 2"x6" size, use of the same color of paint, blazing at regular intervals, and eliminating excessive blazes. This will make trails easier to follow, particularly near trailheads and junctions where confusion can easily arise. Eliminating unnecessary blazes will improve the visual esthetics of our trails and make them more compatible with wilderness, in which most of our trails lie.

While the majority of WODC trails are on National Forest land, many trails first pass through private property. As we work to preserve these public rights-of-way, we also recognize our responsibility to minimize any inconvenience caused to land owners. Towards this end, the Trails Committee will be placing new signs near the trailheads asking hikers to respect private property rights; similar signs once existed at most trailheads, but have mostly disappeared. Such signs will let the land owner know that we *are* concerned for their rights and privacy. In addition, the signs identify the WODC adopters responsible for the care of the trails. Our hope is that this personal touch will instill a greater sense of respect for the trails, as well as inform people of Club activities.

At the start of an otherwise upbeat season, we are saddened to report that we will not have the benefit of the SRCA (Sandwich Range Conservation Association) trail crew this year. The SRCA usually spends 1-2 weeks a year performing heavy repair and construction projects on WODC trails. Unfortunately, the Pemigewasset District of the Forest Service withdrew its entire funding for the SRCA, making it infeasible to operate.

DUES NOTICE

As reported in the December 1992 *Newsletter*, WODC is now operating on a calendar year basis. Dues for 1993 are payable as of January 1, 1993. Family membership is \$18.00; Individual membership is \$ 10.00. Make checks payable to WODC and mail to:

Wonalancet Out Door Club
Member Services
Wonalancet, NH 03897

Your current dues status is shown on the Membership Form included with this *Newsletter*. Please use that form and the enclosed reply envelope to send your payment. The form may also be used to order WODC maps, T-shirts, and decals.

The Trails Committee has protested the cut in funding, and we hope that the funding, and the SRCA crew, will be back with us in 1994.

To prevent a complete loss of heavy trail work, we are working to line up other trail crews. We are hopeful that the Shock Incarceration Crew will be able to work on our trails, although their limited daily schedule doesn't allow time to hike to distant work sites. However, we have identified a number of projects close to trailheads that would be suitable. We are also investigating other possible trail crews to insure a reasonable amount of work will be done this year.

WODC trail work is recognized by the Forest Service under our role as a "Cooperator". This arrangement provides for discussion and mutual assistance. In an effort to enhance communication with the USFS, the Forest Liaison and Trails Committees have drafted a list of topics which they feel should be discussed. These range from specific maintenance issues such as the wooden steps on the Blueberry Ledge Trail, to broader policy issues such as the budgeting process for funding trail work. We expect a meeting to be scheduled shortly to discuss these topics. We also hope to establish a regular dialogue with the FS to share our concerns about the forest and to coordinate future activities.

Peter Smart

1993 Summer Activities

"What is so rare as a day in June?", and it is an appropriate time for a guided walk to see the shrubs and wildflowers in bloom. To this end, Ed Flaccus will lead us on a **Nature and Wildflower Walk** in the Alice Bemis Thompson Preserve in Sandwich. Ed is a long time member of WODC; in the 1940's he worked with Fred Steele trail clearing. The WODC minutes of 1940 record they worked a combined total of 234 hours. Quite a record!

Ed is a botanist, ecologist, and teacher, who has influenced generations of students, most recently at Bennington College in Vermont, where he taught from 1969 to 1986. Somehow in his busy life, he found time to build a cabin and write a book, "North Country Cabin." Now retired, he divides his time between Tamworth and Hanover, New Hampshire.

The June 12 nature walk will last between 2 and 2½ hours. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Friends Quaker Meeting House parking lot in North Sandwich, where we will car pool and then proceed to the Thompson Preserve. The rain date is Sunday, June 13. For further information, call Howard Nordeen at 323-8710.

The last **Map and Compass** workshop was such a success that there have been many requests for a repeat. This workshop will make former participants more proficient, and will give newcomers an opportunity to take part.

President John Mersfelder, the able WODC helmsman for the past three years, will be our captain and mentor. A former teacher, he will make explorers of us all. His expertise and wit will guarantee a worthwhile and entertaining day.

Participants should bring their lunch and an A Series compass, having a rotating house and a directional arrow. Meet at the Wonalancet Chapel on July 10 at 9:00 a.m. The workshop may last until mid-afternoon. For information call John at 323-7793.

Since 1989 we have been hearing about the **Northern Forest Land Study**, which concerns the future use of 25 million acres of land in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. We are fortunate to have **Dan Smith**, a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club staff, speak on this subject and show slides of the area. The talk will be held on July 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wonalancet Chapel. For further information call Sally Zink, 323-8693.

Dan is a conservationist and ecologist. His position at AMC is as an educator, and his specialty is the **Northern Forest Lands**. Perhaps some WODC members have met Dan earlier, for last year he could be seen or heard at AMC huts where he was responsible for backcountry education. Prior to his connection with AMC, Dan was affiliated with the National Park Service as Director of Projects in the State of Maine in river and trail conservation. He is co-author of the book, "The Ecology of Greenways."

What in the world is dog agility? The time to learn about it is on August 8 at 3:00 p.m. at the Daniels' home in North Sandwich. WODC member **Julie Daniels** will give a demonstration on dog agility.

Julie is foremost in the sport — a leader in the field. She is a competitor, instructor, judge, and author of the book, "Enjoying Dog Agility." She heads agility camps in Vermont, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire, conducts seminars throughout the country, and has developed the first instructor certification course.

Julie asks members to bring a "friendly" dog if they wish. Following the demonstration, Dick will take anyone interested on a walking tour of some of

the Daniels' trails. A potluck supper at 5:30 will conclude the afternoon activities. Please contact Sally Zink, 323-8693, if you wish to bring a dog, want further information, or for details on the potluck supper.

A series of activities is scheduled for August 22 at the Wonalancet Chapel: "WODC Recollections" at 4:00 p.m., a **Potluck Supper** at 5:30 p.m., and the **WODC Annual Meeting** at 7:00 p.m.

Following the Centennial Dinner last fall, there were numerous requests by

Mushrooms of the Northeast," and a producer of a video on mushroom identification. She is well known to mushroom enthusiasts as an exceptional leader of mushroom forays.

Our mushroom walk scheduled last summer was canceled because of dry weather. Let us hope this year weather cooperates, and that the trails are mushrooming with fungi.

Sally Y. Zink

1993 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

(For details see the article "1993 Summer Activities" on page 4)

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| June 12 | 8:30 a.m. at Friends Meeting House, North Sandwich. "Nature and Wildflower Walk" with Ed Flaccus. |
| July 10 | 9:00 a.m. at Wonalancet Chapel. "Map and Compass" with John Mersfelder. |
| July 11 | 7:00 p.m. at Wonalancet Chapel. "The Northern Forests Lands" an illustrated talk by Dan Smith. |
| August 8 | 3:00 p.m. at the Daniels' House, North Sandwich. "Dog Agility Demonstration" with Julie Daniels. Potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. at Daniels. |
| August 22 | 4:00 p.m. at Wonalancet Chapel. "WODC Recollections" with Sally and George Zink and others. |
| " | 5:30 p.m. at Wonalancet Grove. Potluck Supper. |
| " | 7:00 p.m. at Wonalancet Chapel. Annual Meeting. |
| Sept. 19 | 9:30 a.m. at Wonalancet Chapel. "Mushroom Walk" with Jean Hurley. |

members for another opportunity to learn more — as well as to discuss and ask questions — about the one hundred year history of the Club. To satisfy these requests, Sally and George Zink, joined by several "old timers," will present "WODC Recollections." There will be slides and memorabilia, intermingled with the questions and responses.

A **Potluck Supper** will be held in the Grove, followed by the **Annual Meeting**. For further information phone Catherine Mersfelder at 323-7793 or Sally Zink at 323-8693.

On Sunday morning, September 19 at 9:30 a.m., meet at the Wonalancet Chapel to go on a **Mushroom Walk** with Jean Hurley as leader.

Jean is the author of "White Mountain Mushrooms: A Visual Guide to

The Old Mast Road Bridge

On February 15, 1990 a group of WODC skiers descended the Old Mast Road from Paugus Pass. At 11:20 a.m., Nat Steele, skiing rhythmically 20 feet ahead of the pack in a classic diagonal stride, plunged out of view. In the few seconds that it took us to reach the bridge, Nat was already realigning his skis and body parts and, with as much dignity as he could muster, was crawling up from the ice covered rocks through the space between the stringers.

Now, we finally had some solid evidence that the bridge at the beginning of the Old Mast Road needed attention. Thank you, Nat, for sacrificing yourself in the name of science.

The bridge, built for logging, was over 40 years old and had been deteriorating for some time, exacerbated by a truck having fallen through it while trying to haul out a car that had gotten stuck on the other side at a "trysting" spot.

Enough of romance. Suffice it to state that the planks were long gone, the stringers were rotting, and hikers were at risk as they strode, one foot placed in front of the next, across those stringer logs.

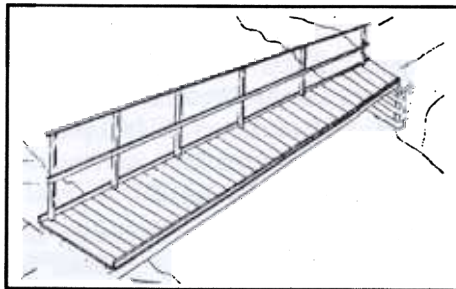
One of the primary missions of WODC is to promote hiker safety. That charge, plus a keen desire by our growing numbers of hard core skiers to have a stable platform on which to shoot across the brook, provided the impetus to seek a solution. Sure, it took 3 years, but it was done right. Read on.

In January of 1993, Peter Smart presented to the Trails Committee a plan, including an engineering drawing, for the reconstruction of a foot bridge on Old Mast road:

"The structure will consist of two 4x8x16' stringers of Pressure Treated Southern Yellow Pine to cover the 13½' span. The stringers would be placed on wood cribbing to be installed in each bank at the center of the existing bridge. The

decking will consist of 2x6 lumber and be four feet wide. A 2x4 curb will be placed along both sides of the bridge to retain snow for skiing."

All this, including labor, for \$330.00.



Old Mast Road Bridge

The next step was to submit the plan to Stearns "Red" Smalley, who owns the property over which the first part of Old Mast Road passes, and to secure his permission for the Trails Committee to do the work. "Red" was warmly responsive and enthusiastic. He gave us a couple suggestions, including that of a rail, and said, "Go to it". After the plan was accepted by the WODC Executive Committee, the Trails Committee sat back and waited for the snows to melt. Because the rebuilding of the bridge would not require working in the stream and the bridge would be the same

configuration as the original, but smaller, a wetlands permit was not required. On April 24, Peter Smart, Judy Reardon, Chris Conrod, Jim Mykland and John Merfselder began cutting away and winching out the old stringers, digging out the bank for the cribbing, and installing the new cribbing consisting of precut railroad ties. By day's end the stringers were in place. On April 30 the rest of the lumber for the bridge was precut by Peter and Chris. On May 1 the decking and hand rail were installed. The first plank had been routed by Chris to commemorate when and by whom the bridge had been built. The cut up old stringers were hauled off and the site was cleaned up. Finally, the new four foot wide bridge was walked on, jumped on, shaken, kicked, and found worthy. The crew members contemplated their work with satisfaction. Seventy eight person hours (Yes, Judy can dig holes, haul rocks and lift timbers with the best) had accomplished the task.

Now, hasten to see this eighth miracle of the modern world, and if you have ideas for naming and dedicating the bridge, please write the Trails Committee.

John Mersfelder



National Trails Day kicks off a busy season of WODC trail events.

(See Page 2 for details)