

## ANNUAL MEETING

Following a potluck supper in the Grove, the Annual Meeting began at 7:40 P.M. on August 20, 1995, at the Wonalancet Chapel. Approximately 40 members attended; Co-President George Zink presided.

Secretary Judith Reardon read the Minutes of the 1994 Annual meeting. Treasurer Dick Daniels summarized the 1994 income and expenses, and gave this year's expenses and income. To date (the fiscal year ends December 31) income is \$6,277 and expenses are \$5,627. He noted that there is time for further income, and expenses will increase since the fall *Newsletter* costs will be incurred during this year.

Treasurer Daniels then introduced the expense budget recommended by the Executive Committee for 1996. Following a brief discussion, members approved the budget.

Dick then read Clarinda Philips' Membership Report. During the year there have been 46 new individual members, 12 new family members, and one organizational member—the Northeastern University Husky Club. Most of the new member application cards originated from the Ferncroft Kiosk, a few from Bennett Street Kiosk, and some given as gifts.

The Trails Report given by Chairman Peter Smart is reprinted elsewhere in this issue. Following the report, George Zink announced that Peter Smart has been selected as "New Hampshire Trails Volunteer of the Year." An article on the award and recipient appears elsewhere in this issue.

Mike Bromberg of the Map Committee reported that over 75 changes have been made to the map itself: trail relocations, new names, corrections, elevation of Rollins Trail, etc. The color scheme has been modified for greater clarity, the new WODC logo is on the map, and the locations of old logging roads and ski routes have been field-checked. Text includes comments on the use of bicycles

(Continued on Page 7)

## VOLUNTEER OF YEAR

In honor of National Trails Day, and in recognition of the important role of volunteers in clearing and maintaining hiking trails in the United States, the Quabaug Corporation has selected the fifty top volunteers for 1994, one from each State. Peter Smart, Trails Chairman of the WODC Club, was selected as "Volunteer of the Year" in the State of New Hampshire.

Peter was cited for his outstanding volunteer work in 1994. He coordinated cooperative work on trails in the Sandwich Range with other organizations including TrailWrights, the Chocorua Mountain Club, Tin Mountain Conservation Center, Wonalancet AMC Cabin, U.S. Forest Service, and the Over-The-Hill Hiking Group. Joint work trips with these groups added to the work of WODC volunteers and trail adopters, yielding 2137 recorded hours on WODC trails in 1994. Peter and other Trails Committee members also helped with construction of the Bearcamp River Trail in Sandwich and Tamworth, and maintenance on several U.S. Forest Service trails including the Downes Brook and Flat Mountain Pond trails in Sandwich, Waterville and Albany.

He served as the acting WODC Trails Chairman in 1992, and was elected Trails Chairman in 1993. During his period in office there has been increased awareness of trails issues among members, and an encouraging growth in the number of

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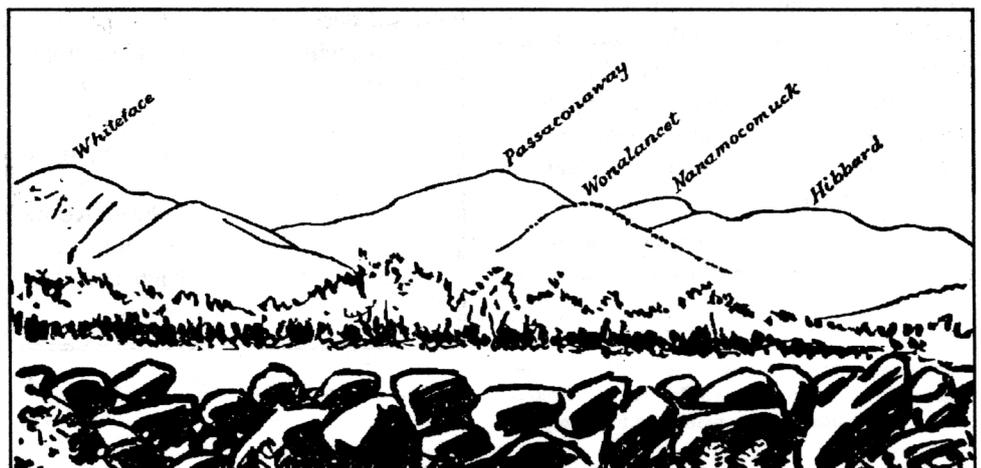
## NANAMOCOMUCK

**Editor's Note:** This article, reprinted from the November 1935 issue of *Appalachia*, makes a strong case for giving a permanent name to one of our mountains. On the WODC map of 1991, its name is put in quotes, since the USGS does not recognize it. How can we affect the adoption of this appropriate Native American name?

**Passaconaway and His Children.** It has always troubled me that the unmistakable summit of the fine ridge by which one approaches Passaconaway on the Walden Trail should bear so undistinguished a name as the "Unnamed Hump." In a region where every ridge and hummock is loved and named, something more imaginative might have been expected. Of late, that imagination has been exercised around Wonalancet and the "Hump" has been called *Nanamocomuck*, the name of Passaconaway's eldest son. This has been so far recognized that the 1934 edition of the Guidebook (p. 379) refers to it as "a shoulder locally known as Nanamuck" (*sic*). Perhaps it is time the name became more official, and more certain of correct spelling, by securing its insertion on the maps.

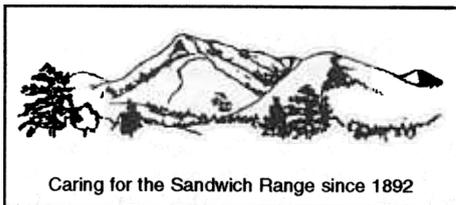
From Albany Intervale there is excuse enough for calling it only a hump or shoulder, for Passaconaway itself dominates the scene. On the South side of the range it is invisible until one gets away over in North Sandwich, well out of climbing distance, for Wonalancet, named for Passaconaway's younger son and successor, shoulders up and fills all the

(Continued on Page 2)



Location of Mt. Nanamocomuck as viewed from Chase Road, North Sandwich

(Continued from Page 1)



Caring for the Sandwich Range since 1892

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

WODC  
Newsletter Editor  
Wonalancet, NH 03897

The Editor encourages members and interested readers to submit material for use in future issues. Articles, poems, drawings, comments, criticisms, suggestions, are welcomed.

(Continued from Page 1)

## NANAMOCOMUCK

foreground. Wonalancet is a bustling little peak, credited with 2800 feet on the map of the Geologic Survey, and seems well-named for the lesser successor of the great sachem of the Pennacooks; Wonalancet the chieftain appears to have been efficient, pacific and generally possessed of all the more exasperating virtues.

Passaconaway, the highest of the Sandwich Range, has the grandeur of a far larger mountain and is well named for the great chief. Between the two, what name could be more appropriate for the high shoulder, 3200 feet according to the Survey, a graceful shape almost hidden by the others, than that of Nanamocomuck, the elder son who did not succeed his father? According to Charles Edward Beals' deductions from the fragmentary early histories, he died young. According to a more romantic local tradition, he was too shy and too hostile to the encroaching settlers to wish for the chieftainship.

Whichever story we accept, this spruce-dark, hidden little summit close to the greater one, can fittingly be called Nanamocomuck.

Ruth Gillette Hardy  
Editorial Board of Appalachia

## VOLUNTEER OF YEAR

members and non-members participating in trail stewardship, as well as the amount of work accomplished.

Smart is a resident of Chocorua. He is the owner-operator of Applied Microcomputer Systems, that produces and distributes computer software for use by civil engineers in designing and constructing storm water systems for towns, cities, and commercial applications.

Quabaug Corporation, donor of the award, is a charter sponsor of National Trails Day. Among its products are the Vibram soles found on footwear manufactured by major companies in the United States and wherever outdoor apparel is produced.

WODC members are pleased that Peter's outstanding trails work is being recognized by others. We are grateful to him for all he has done for the Club: by introducing us to the pleasures of trail work, by his commitment to protecting paths and trails from deterioration, and by his unbounded enthusiasm—that we find catching!

Congratulations, and thank you Peter.

### WODC Officers 1995-1996

President	George Zink
Vice President	Judith Reardon
Secretary	Barbara Sidley
Treasurer	Richard Daniels
Trails Chairman	Peter Smart
Newsletter	Sally Zink
Newsletter	George Zink
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	Susan Bryant-Kimball
	Roger Korpi
	Susan Korpi
	John Mersfelder
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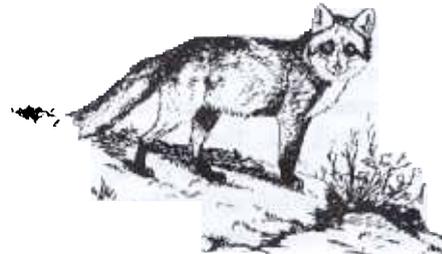
## FALCON SUCCESS

Chris Martin of the New Hampshire Audubon Society has sent us an unpublished report on the Peregrine Falcon breeding status in New Hampshire for 1995. From the report we learn that a pair of falcons was on the Square Ledge site (eyrie) in Albany during the first visit by ornithologists on April 16. This is the same eyrie referred to in the *Newsletter* of December 1992, a year during which broken egg shells were found at the base of the cliff, with no evidence of a successful hatch.

The year 1995 had a different outcome. On April 18 incubation was confirmed, hatch was verified on June 1, and one fully feathered chick was observed on July 6, with fledging imminent. Banding of the young falcon was not attempted. A band was present on the male parent, though the band could not be read; the female was unbanded.

Signs were posted by the Forest Service, both on the overlook at the top of the cliff and at the base, notifying the public of falcons on the site. Square Ledge is used by rock climbers to a limited extent, and in 1992 it was postulated that the breeding might have been terminated due to disturbance by climbers. Climbing schools at Eastern Mountain Sports, International Mountain Equipment, and Ragged Mountain Equipment were alerted to the closure. No violations were noted during the breeding season. Apparently there was good cooperation by all.

The young fledged from this territory is the first on record. Within the State of New Hampshire, a record high total of 15 young falcons made their first flights over the White Mountains. So 1995 was a very good year.



## CAMP RICH

**Editor's Note:** The WODC presently maintains three primitive shelters in the Sandwich Range Wilderness: Camp Rich on Mt. Passaconaway—prior to 1916 known as Passaconaway Lodge; Camp Shehadi on Mt. Whiteface; and Camp Heermance on Mt. Whiteface. Each is unique in its construction, age, and history. All are historic in age (over 50 years old), designed and built by wellknown people and organizations, and constructed during a time of economic, cultural, and social development in the White Mountain region of New Hampshire.

The original Passaconaway Lodge was built in 1891, Shehadi in 1898, and Heermance in 1912.

We plan to print an article on each of these historic shelters in coming issues of the *Newsletter*.

### The First Passaconaway Lodge

The Appalachian Mountain Club's department of Improvements decided to construct, during the summer of 1891, a trail to the peak of Mt. Passaconaway and a permanent shelter somewhere near the top. The responsibility for the endeavor was given to Charles E. Fay, an officer of AMC.

Charles Ernest Fay was an outstanding mountaineer, leader, teacher, and writer. By vocation a professor of modern languages at Tufts College, he served the AMC in various volunteer capacities throughout his active life. In 1876 he chaired the first preliminary meeting of the future AMC, and served as President in 1878, 1881, 1893, and 1905. He edited *Appalachia* for over forty years and wrote numerous articles. Beginning in 1895, he pioneered in exploration of the Canadian Rockies and the Selkirks. His fame extended well beyond the United States; he was an honorary member of the Alpine clubs of London, Italy, and Canada. In writing a short history of the first fifty years of the AMC, a contemporary stated:

His unique record as camper and trapper, as climber and explorer, as editor and executive, places Professor Fay among the foremost figures in the history, the life, and the progress of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

After completion of the Dacey's Mill Trail by Fay and the farmers of Birch Intervale in August, 1891, Fay began to make plans for building a shelter near the peak of Mt. Passaconaway. Fay chose a site for the shelter near the present intersection of the East Loop and Walden Trails. Though not supplied with abundant water, there was a small stream close by and it was a relatively flat spot. Fay estimated the elevation to be that of the peak of Mt. Chocorua, approximately 3,400 feet.

To build the Passaconaway Lodge required two weekends. The builders were few in number: two experienced woodsmen from Tamworth, Fay, and several ladies and children—"...the ladies and children cut hemlock sprays and carefully arranged the floor." Other interesting details of the shelter are:

It measures nine by fourteen feet on the ground, is seven feet high at the open front, and three at the back. Back and ends are built up of unpeeled logs; the east end, however, only as high as the back. The triangular space remaining is partly arranged as a window. What was not needed for this purpose is closed with rustic work; spruce trunks a few inches in diameter were split, the halves cut to the proper lengths, and these nailed on vertically, with bark outward. The rough inner side was then concealed by a tapestry of birch bark. Sprays from the thatch

of spruce boughs droop over the upper edge of this window, and it is framed for those who sit within the lodge, as a matchless picture, the superb form of Chocorua. Due east, it is at its best at sunset.

Figure 1, the original Passaconaway Lodge, is from an old glass photographic plate currently in the AMC Library. It is the shelter described in the above paragraph.

From the small number of workers and the short time required for construction, it is apparent that the logs were of small diameter and were hauled but a short distance. The lodge had no wooden floor; the bare ground was covered with balsam branches. As for the roof, it was thatched with spruce boughs. By current standards it was a primitive shelter—useful for a few years, at best.

### Rebuilding and Relocation

In less than six years after construction, the lodge needed major repairs. A brief note in *Appalachia* from July of 1897 reports, "The Passaconaway path has been cleared out and the camp rebuilt." No details of the rebuilding are known, and that rebuilding was short lived, for just two years later during the summer of 1899, the original Passaconaway Lodge was in such a state of dilapidation that it was necessary to rebuild. Since the original site was made unattractive by overcutting of firewood and numerous windfalls, and in addition the water supply was uncertain, the lodge was relocated on a new spot about 1/2 mile further west where there was an excellent water supply. The site selected is where Camp Rich now stands.

The new Passaconaway Lodge was an open shelter, 9' by 13'. Charles Fay was again the chief architect and construction supervisor, while Fred J. Bickford of Tamworth was the chief builder. Little information exists concerning the new shelter; the account in *Appalachia* is sketchy. Nowhere is it stated that the original shelter was "moved." One wonders whether any logs from



Figure 1. Original Passaconaway Lodge, 1891

the 1891 shelter were part of the 1899 shelter. "Rebuilding" in this instance probably means the 1899 shelter was built entirely from materials not part of the original structure.

The life of a primitive wooden shelter built one hundred years ago, or earlier, was brief. Shelters were built of native logs untreated with preservative, and lacked log floors. Foundation logs (sills) rested directly on the ground or on loose boulders. The roof timbers were either thatched with boughs, bark, wood slabs, or at best covered with a single layer of tarpaper. Such shelters would not meet current U.S. Forest Service building standards. AMC's and WODC's pride in the over one hundred years of stewardship of Passaconaway Lodge is akin to that of the young man who cherishes his great grandfather's axe, the one that has had five new handles and three new heads.

Photographs believed to be of the 1897 shelter, show a substantial structure of sawn logs about 8" in diameter. It appears to be well built. The central front opening is 7-8' wide with short front walls on each side.

#### Passaconaway Lodge into New Hands

In December of 1916, a number of New England organizations with a commitment to trail development and maintenance met in Boston to discuss their mutual interests, and to form a New England Trail Conference (NETC). Among the 30 or so charter members were the Appalachian Mt. Club, Wonalancet Out Door Club, Chocorua Mountain Club, and the Waterville Athletic and Improvement Association.

When it became clear that the newly formed NETC was developing trail networks, the Councillors of AMC did what they had long desired, transfer some of its holdings to well organized local clubs, among them, WODC. Holdings transferred to WODC were the Passaconaway Loop, Passaconaway Lodge, and the Bennett Street Trail. Since that transfer WODC has been sole caretaker of the Passaconaway Lodge.



Figure 2. Camp Rich, 1993

#### Early Repairs and Rebuilding

Within 7 years of the date of transfer to WODC, a guest of the Ferncroft Inn offered to pay the entire cost of a new shelter on Mt. Passaconaway. Though there is no indication of a pressing need for restoration, apparently the offer was too good to refuse. At the WODC annual meeting in September, 1925, it was reported that "a new camp has been built on Passaconaway. Those who helped in building the new camp were Mr. McKey, Mr. (Walter) Walker, Mr. Edward Walker, Mr. Billy Child, and Mr. Loder." Photographs from that period show a Passaconaway Lodge which resembles the present Camp Rich. See Figure 2.

#### Camp Rich

In July of 1948, friends, neighbors, and WODC members were saddened to hear that Edgar J. Rich of Winchester, MA, and Wonalancet, NH, had died. He was devoted to the Club and the community. He had served in several WODC offices including the presidency. (See "Who Is E. J. Rich?" in the June, 1993, issue of the *WODC Newsletter*.)

At the August 1948 Annual Meeting it was moved that "the Passaconaway Shelter be renamed the Edgar J. Rich Shelter." It

was so voted unanimously. From that moment forward, for almost fifty years, it has been known as Camp Rich.

#### Later Restorations

Each year Camp Rich is inspected by WODC crews, and some minor work done; only occasionally is a report of such regular maintenance reported to the general membership. Every ten to twenty-five years, major reconstruction is done. Recent big years were 1953 and 1977.

At the Annual Meeting in 1953 the Trails Committee reported:

The biggest undertaking of the season was the rebuilding of Camp Rich on Passaconaway. The old roof was in good condition, but the logs on the side walls were rotten. The District Forest Ranger from Conway designated red spruce trees that could be used, and these were cut and peeled early in June. Later in the season the reconstruction of the shelter was undertaken by a crew of three. The old roof was raised about a foot above the sides, and allowed to rest on a temporary support of logs. After the walls had been rebuilt, the support was removed, and the roof lowered into place. Barring some unfortunate event, such as a large tree falling on it, the shelter should last for another twenty five years.

The trail crew consisted of William Hoag, who worked for only one day

on Camp Rich, Alexander Lincoln, Jr., and Frederick Steele.

Beginning in October of 1976, a series of work projects took place at Camp Rich, and continued through 1979. Under the guidance of Trails Chairman Ted Sidley, new sills, reroofing, and "chinking" between logs was accomplished during one summer. The following year a new floor was laid,

(Camps Rich and Heermance)... have been improved with the addition of plank floors. The shelters are now much more inviting, since people do not have to sleep on the sometimes wet, always uneven, ground, and use of the shelters has increased this year.

#### Use of the Camp

We have no year by year records of the number of people who have used Camp Rich. One record from the 1950's states, "It was interesting to note in the visitors' book left in the camp on Passaconaway that nearly 40 persons had spent the night there during 1951." Another statement from the late 1970's indicates that "use of the shelters has increased this year." To judge by current reports from hikers, during the height of the season until well into October, there are many nights when the number of campers exceeds the capacity of the shelter.

#### What of the Future?

The future of Camp Rich is uncertain. In 1987 during the preparation of the *Sandwich Range Wilderness Management Plan*, the Forest Supervisor declared that it is the policy of WMNF to remove all shelters from Wilderness areas. Largely as a result of this decision, WODC has been performing minimal maintenance of its shelters, including Camp Rich. Within recent months, there is some indication that the US Forest Service is reconsidering its traditional policy on shelters in Wilderness. It is my belief that the future of the WODC shelters rests primarily in the will of WODC members. If you want to preserve these historic shelters enough to work for their restoration and protection, I believe it can be done. Otherwise, they will continue to decay and will ultimately be removed.

Let your thoughts be known to Club officers.

George E. Zink

## 1995 TRAIL REPORT

This has been a good year for the WODC trail network, with over 2,900 person-hours spent on maintenance, preservation, and restoration. This may be the first year that our efforts have exceeded the ongoing wear and tear that results from harsh New England weather and over 6,000 hikers per year.

At the heart of this record season are the thirteen scheduled trips completed by our volunteer trail crew, including three multiday trips. In addition to a handful of regulars, our crew consists of a rotating mix of adopters, club members, and other trail enthusiasts. This year a dozen AmeriCorps members, during their off time, joined our volunteers. Your efforts turned an ambitious schedule into a successful one. We thank you.

We also owe much to the AmeriCorps program itself. Under the guidance of the **Sandwich Range Conservation Association (SRCA)**, AmeriCorps crews spent approximately 1,000 hours stabilizing sections of the Blueberry Ledge Trail, Blueberry Ledge Cutoff, and Dickey's Mill Trail. By installing rock steps, water bars, and soil retainers, their efforts go a long way toward stemming the effects of water and boot traffic.

SRCA and AmeriCorps also completed a preliminary inventory of all trails in the Sandwich Range. This inventory includes trail problems, bootleg campsites, and other useful information. Under the guidance of Nat Scrimshaw, this data is being entered into a computer based Geographic Information System. The involvement of the **Community School** and other local citizens is providing a broad base of support for this project.

#### A Sampling of Recent Projects

Despite a modest turnout for **New Hampshire Trails Day**, we cleaned all the water bars on the Dickey's Mill Trail, while a second crew cleaned out the toilet at Camp Rich and did basic

maintenance around the site. Volunteers enjoyed the festive **WODC Annual Barbecue** afterward, hosted by the Sidleys.

Several WODC members joined the AmeriCorps crew during their final week of work on Dickey's Mill Trail. The completion of this WODC project was celebrated with a lavish pizza dinner served by WODC members. The event took place at the AmeriCorps' campsite off the Dickey's Mill Trail, where the Cookes allowed them to camp.

On July 26th and August 8th we worked on the Big Rock Cave Trail with a group from the **Tin Mountain Conservation Center**. Water bar projects were selected primarily to demonstrate erosion control techniques. Thank you to Joel Rhymer and members of the "Peaks and Paddles" program.

On August 5th a small crew built three water bars on the Big Rock Cave Trail. Building on the ditching done by Tin Mtn., we used the grip-hoist to move rocks from nearly 100 feet away and lower them into place. This completed a three year project of stabilizing the lower section of the trail, which follows a depressed old roadbed, and suffers runoff from adjacent logging.



AmeriCorps' Pizza Feast on Dickey's Mill Trail

August 26 was the annual WODC-CMC work day, spent on the Bickford Trail. A large turnout allowed one crew to ditch and grade a wet section, while a second crew placed rock steps in a muddy stretch. Our thanks to the Breasteds for shortening our hike by letting us park in their yard. Thanks also to the Zinks for hosting a barbecue afterward.

In the drizzle of September 9th, a crew of four built a set of rock steps and two rock water bars on the Cabin Trail. Even with such a small crew, we were able to get more work done with the grip-hoist than would have been possible with traditional techniques.

Based on our growing use of the grip-hoist, Trailwrights suggested that we co-host a hoist workshop. The program was held on September 23rd on the Brook Path, where adopters Roger and Susan Korpi had pointed out the need for work on a wet and eroded section. With a turnout of about 24 people, we placed approximately 30 stepping stones, some of which were moved over 200'. Our thanks to landowner Ray Farnham for supporting our efforts, and for providing public access to this beautiful area. We plan to be back next year to complete the project.

After several delays, adopter Chris Conrod finally had the services of a trail crew on his remote Lawrence Trail. A crew ranging from 4 to 7 people placed rock steps, retainers, and water bars along a gullied section between the Overhang and Mt. Paugus. Between October 13th and 15th, a mix of energetic day trippers and four overnights completed the rock work, and even had time to move a precarious section of trail away from the stream bank.

#### Looking Ahead

Despite ongoing cuts in the WMNF trails budget, we have achieved the level of trail maintenance and restoration

needed to keep pace with the ongoing damage. Can we sustain this effort?

The first reason for concern is the cloudy future of the AmeriCorps program. There is some hope it may have



Moving rock stepping stones to the Brook Path using the grip-hoist

a limited program in the White Mountains next year. This would be very valuable, particularly if their efforts can be effectively directed.

Secondly, the WMNF budget for trail restoration and heavy maintenance is being cut by 60%. Only \$50,000 is budgeted for the entire WMNF, and that must cover at a minimum 28 miles of heavy maintenance. In the past, this work has been done primarily by seasonal WMNF employees, but even this may not be feasible within the new budget. As a result, the Forest Service is looking for cooperators such as the WODC to help meet the challenge.

The third challenge is to sustain our core of volunteers. We must support and expand this personal involvement whenever possible. This can be done only through publications such as the WODC Newsletter and through personal contact. Whenever a chance occurs, why not invite a friend to join us?

Finally, we must mobilize our long-standing WODC adopters. While most adopters may view their role as a solitary one, it is increasingly important that their activities be coordinated with those of

others. Trail activities have grown tremendously in the 20 years since the Adopt-A-Trail program began, and without proper coordination the risk of skipped or duplicated work is very high.

This is not only wasteful, but may leave adopters feeling discouraged or unneeded. The role of adopters should be revisited, with an eye toward reaffirming the key role they play in protecting our trails.

#### Closing Comments

In 1995, approximately \$3,400 of WODC funds were spent in support of over 2,900 hours of trail maintenance, or about \$1.15 per hour. We are most grateful to Eastern Mountain Sports for a gift of \$500 toward our support of the SRCA trail crew.

The 1996 trails budget of \$3,875 approved at the WODC Annual Meeting, will help maintain our current level of maintenance and protection of trails.

As always, the Trails Committee invites your questions, comments, and participation in all events. In particular, we invite all those interested to one of the committee meetings scheduled during the winter months. During meetings we will discuss the issues presented above, and work toward a specific calendar of events for 1996. If you would like to attend a meeting, or just ask a question, we invite you to call Peter Smart at (603) 323-8666.

See you on the Trail!

Peter Smart



# McCRILLIS PATH TRIP

**Editor's Note:** The following account describes two field trips organized by the Club this past summer. The sites visited are located in the Sandwich Range Wilderness, within the White Mountain National Forest. Readers are reminded that Forest Service regulations prohibit the disturbance of any archeological sites and materials.

The author uses the term "interval," which is the word used by early settlers to describe the flat land of what we today call an "intervale." The term was pronounced "intervul."

Two hundred years ago the tide of European settlement in New England covered not only the fertile river intervals and low hills, but extended high onto the mountains, at places hard to reach by wagon, and perhaps even harder to till, at least with profit. In Sandwich one of those places was along a road running northeast from McCrillis Interval (Whiteface) to Birch Interval (in the Ferncroft area of Wonalancet). This was a public road, and mostly lay along the foot routes we now call the McCrillis Path and the start of the Blueberry Ledge Trail.

For perhaps fifty years several families survived in these high farms, building houses, clearing land, raising children, animals and crops, and maintaining the road. Did they themselves leave written records? I have seen none, but Marjorie Gane Harkness and Cornelius Weygandt have discovered much about their lives and have speculated more.

By the mid 1800's these settlers seem all to have died or moved away; the detailed and usually reliable Carroll County wall map of 1860 shows none of their houses nor the road. The road's location shows, however, on the endpaper maps of Mrs. Harkness's *The Fishbasket Papers*.

Why did these settlers leave? The harshness and remoteness of the life? The sterility of the soil? They had alternatives. Manchester's great Amoskeag mills were being built, the lands in Iowa and Minnesota were opening up, and even Oregon was beckoning.

In 1995 the WODC inspired several groups to walk the McCrillis Path and see the traces left by these early farmers. This project followed the lead of the Sandwich Historical Society which, years ago,

reported on its own investigations there. This year's first trip, on August 11, was led by Karl Roenke, Cultural Resource Specialist, and Terry LaPointe, Archaeologist, both of the WMNF staff. To judge by the number of people who attended the activity, there is considerable interest in local archaeology.

Under Karl's and Terry's leadership, two house and barn foundations were visited. One farm was known previously, the other was a newly discovered site. At the new site an old well was located. The leaders urged further study of these sites, and searches for others. Participants were well satisfied with the expedition.

On September 16, by Fred Lavigne's invitation, I joined him with Evelyn MacKinnon, and Alex and Beth Brunell to measure and rough map the foundations. From my perspective we had great success.

The day was cool, cloudy, and insect free; perfect working conditions. At each of three sites we measured foundations and noted their relationship to the McCrillis Path and nearby walls. These settings are obscured now from casual view by thick bushes and many trees, but as Beth turned our steel tape readings into marks on her graph paper, pictures emerged of homes, sheds, barns, front yards and barn yards.

Walking along the path we each counted our paces. From these counts a rough route map can be made to show the relation of the farms to permanent features like ledges and little streams, and to the junction with the Tilton Spring Path.

Beth has now drawn preliminary maps of the walls at each site. I hope this start will be followed, with any available help, volunteer or expert. For me a goal is to find the written history of each settler family and combine this with the maps and diagrams we can produce. Some information sources are: White Mountain National Forest, at Laconia; Registries of Deeds and Probate, at Ossipee and Dover;

the N.H. Historical Society; the Sandwich Historical Society; perhaps the office of the Secretary of State. Bob Ambrose, Deputy Secretary of State, is descended from a Whiteface family.

We welcome suggestions and help from other members who are interested.

John P. Chandler

**Ode to a Waterbar**

Curious log upon the ground,  
Embraced by stone and soil,  
What cunning creatures set you down  
And why did they so toil?

Could it be the beaver clan  
Who built you to persuade  
Spring freshets toward their mossy dam  
To flood a forest glade?

But no, this structure is the art  
Of McKinnon, Reardon, Lavigne and Smart,  
Who placed it here so I would stop  
My journey to the mountain top  
And groom this wretched waterbar  
And a hundred more. I know there are.

And then, upon my late descent,  
Bemoaning how my time was spent,  
I ignore my aching, tired feet.  
But the waterbar is there to greet  
My muddy boot sole as I pass  
And set me smartly on my seat.

Chris "Sore-ass" Conrod

(Continued from Page 1)

## ANNUAL MEETING

and 4-wheel drive vehicles on WODC trails. Since some people would like uncreased maps, 10% will not be folded. Mike anticipates that the new map will be available before Christmas.

Barbara Sidley reported on some of the activities held by the Club during the summer. Illustrated talks were given by Jim Boyle on "The Return of the Common Loon" and by Vinton Thompson on "Insects of Wonalancet and Costa Rica," both were well attended. An archeological

field trip led by Karl Roenke, Cultural Resource Specialist with the WMNF, is reported elsewhere in this issue. A children's walk along the Brook Path was organized and run by Susan Korpi. All activities were a delight to participants.

George Zink announced that WODC has been given a trail easement on a portion of the Bickford Trail where it crosses the land of Peg Johnson and Paul Henle. This is the first easement the Club has received; easements are very important to the Club, since all our trails begin on private property. Thanks were expressed to Rachel and Dan Goodkind who gave the easement, to Peg Johnson and Paul Henle who purchased the land covered by the easement, and to Kenneth Cargill, attorney and neighbor, who did all the legal work without pay. It was voted that the Executive Committee select appropriate gifts for these people, such as mounted maps of the Sandwich Range Wilderness Area.

It was moved by the Executive Committee that Mike Bromberg be made a life member of WODC in appreciation of the work he has done on the 1991 and 1995 maps. Mike accepted with thanks. Chris Conrod was thanked for his labors in making signs.

Members were informed of the recent death of Stearns "Red" Smalley; he died two days before the meeting. He has always been supportive of the Club, and was generous in allowing hiking trails and camping on his property, including replacement of the bridge on the Old Mast Road. It was moved that this bridge be named the Smalley Bridge, and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

A Nominating Committee consisting of John Mersfelder and Susan Korpi submitted a list of officers and Executive Committee members for 1996. Their recommendations were approved. A list of the 1996 Club officers is found in a box elsewhere in this issue.

Judith Reardon announced that the Executive Committee has taken the initial step in opening a Trust Fund. The action was sparked by an anonymous Club member who wants to name WODC

the beneficiary of a retirement fund, the income to be used for trail work. A Trust Fund Committee has been appointed consisting of Judith Reardon, Susan Bryant Kimball, and John Chandler.

A Library Committee has been appointed consisting of Sally Zink, Barbara Sidley, and Barbara Nordeen. This committee has been charged with responding to the Trustees of the Cook Memorial Library who have asked whether WODC would like to put its library in the genealogy room at the Cook Memorial Library. The WODC library cabinet is currently housed in the genealogy room.

Prior to adjournment, Hal Graham expressed appreciation for WODC's direction, and presented Peter Smart with a TrailWrights mug.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

On the afternoon of August 20, 1995, WODC hosted a panel discussion on The Future of Trail Maintenance in the White Mountains, held in the Wonalancet Chapel. Representing many active and local clubs in the area were: Carl Gebhardt from the Laconia office of WMNF; Terry Clark, Rick Young, and Eric Swett of the Saco Ranger District, WMNF; Bob Spoerl from the Parks and Recreation division of the NH State Department of Resources and Economic Development; Tom Lentz of AMC; Hal Graham of TrailWrights; Wes Crane and Nat Scrimshaw of the Sandwich Range Conservation Association; Suzanne Weil and Eric Hamilton of AmeriCorps; and Judith Reardon of WODC. Peter Smart was moderator.

The purpose of the discussions was to build awareness of trails maintenance issues facing WMNF, and to encourage cooperative efforts among the many groups that care for trails.

Although the chief purpose of the program was to encourage communication among the organizations on the panel, a sizeable audience attended, many of whom

added their opinions. It was a valuable afternoon for all attendees, many of whom joined in the potluck supper following adjournment.

## LOOK!

Please take a minute to look at your address label. We are trying to update the membership database, and you can help. Is your name spelled correctly? Are we using the title you prefer? Has your address changed with the introduction of enhanced 911 service?

The number following your name tells when our records indicate your membership expires. For example, a 95 following your name tell us that dues are paid through December 1995. There is sometimes confusion, because the Annual Meeting is in August, while the fiscal year ends on December 31. If we have applied your dues to the wrong year inadvertently, please let us know.

Send corrections or suggestions to our new address:

**WODC Membership Services**  
HCR 64 Box 5  
Wonalancet, NH 03897



# WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT COURSE

From September 10-15, 1995, I attended a Wilderness Management Course conducted by the US Forest Service and the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center. This was an interagency program attended by 46 people from the agencies responsible for Wilderness management in the eastern US: the Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. There were also 4 representatives from private groups that have Wilderness involvement: The AMC, WODC, and Outward Bound. The program was held at the AMC's Camp Dodge facility in Pinkham Notch.

To provide some firsthand Wilderness experience, the week began with overnight camping trips. Six groups of eight people were dispatched by canoe, llama, and on foot. These trips also provided a valuable opportunity to get to know other participants, who came from all over the eastern US and were mostly strangers to each other.

Upon returning to Camp Dodge, we shared three intensive days of lectures and workshops concerning Wilderness issues. These included the management of wildlife, ecosystems, cultural resources, fire, air, and water resources. Other programs covered Wilderness management principles, Wilderness education, Wilderness Act case studies, and the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to Wilderness. A field session on minimum tool philosophy provided a break from the classroom routine, and consisted of demonstrations of saw sharpening and water bar construction. To round out the technical aspects of the program, a session on personal values helped us to understand our personal views on Wilderness.

After dinner, the evenings were highlighted by thought-provoking talks, such as the personal experiences of Jim Bradley as a Wilderness Ranger. Butch Marita, the Regional Forester for the Eastern Region, presented his views on the future of Wilderness, which includes the prediction that within the foreseeable

future, mounting Wilderness pressures will force us to limit access to once in a lifetime!

Overall, the week was very helpful in improving my awareness and understanding of Wilderness, and of the federal employees and agencies that are charged with its care. Most of all, I learned that the designation of a Wilderness area is only the first step in its ongoing care and management. Yes, Wilderness must be actively managed, particularly to protect it from the human "users" that often pose the greatest threat to its integrity.

For me, this workshop is just a beginning. It will cause me to re-examine many of my assumptions about Wilderness and to ask more thoughtfully, "Are our actions truly in the best interest of Wilderness?"

Peter Smart

## WINTER ACTIVITIES

The Executive Committee announces two activities for members and guests during the winter of 1996. One is a cross county ski trip, the other a potluck supper followed by a discussion.

✓ On Saturday January 27th, 1996, a potluck supper for members and their guests will take place in Runnells Hall, Chocorua, beginning at 5:00 P.M. For further information or suggestions on what to bring, phone Susan Korpi at 323-8767, or Sally Zink at 323-8693.

Following supper there will be an open discussion of various issues related to management of Wilderness areas, such as:

- How should education vs. enforcement be balanced in Wilderness Protection?
- Is it appropriate to use plastic flagging in trail work and research, or synthetic materials for boundary markers and signs?
- What is the role of trails in Wilderness? What about signs and blazing?

- How can managers be encouraged to protect Wilderness in the face of public opposition?
- How do we help address the imbalance of federal planning vs. federal implementation?
- What is the role of cultural resources (shelters, stone walls, railroad beds, logging camps, trails) in Wilderness?
- What is the appropriateness of maintaining fisheries (such as trout stocking) at Black and Flat Mt. Ponds?
- Wilderness is an area where "natural forces predominate." Is man a "natural force?"

The discussions will be open-ended. No effort will be made to reach agreement; no positions will be taken or recommended. The object is to have an enjoyable evening of discussion on important issues which will face the public during the next year or two when a revised management plan is written for the Sandwich Range Wilderness.

Phone Peter Smart at 323-8666, or George Zink at 323-8693, if you have suggestions or comments relative to the discussion.

✓ On Saturday, February 27th, 1996, a cross-country ski trip is scheduled. The proposed route begins on the Bickford Trail in Wonalancet, to the Paugus Mill site, then up the Whittin Brook Trail as far as interest and energy allow. Return will be by the same route, or by Big Rock or Cabin Trail if the group is feeling more adventurous. Group size is limited to 10 in Wilderness.

Phone Fred Lavigne at 284-6919 if you would like to participate or you want further information.

## AN APPEAL

Editor's note: I find myself in a tricky spot. I've asked members and friends to write articles for this issue. Some did respond, and they were good articles. In an effort to keep the *Newsletter* compact and appealing, I have edited text

vigorously. All to the good, you say. I've cut so much there isn't enough remaining for a 10 page issue, and too much for 8 pages. What to do?

I've ransacked the files and found two documents which will perhaps interest some. One is a letter from a longtime member, Phyllida Willis, written from Hood College in Frederick, MD, in May of 1977. The second is a clipping from the Boston Globe, a dispatch from Wonalancet in October in the 1930's. Hope you enjoy them.

### Climber Makes 50th Ascent of Mt Whiteface

WONALANCET, NH Oct.8. What is probably a modern record for trampers in the White Mountains was established yesterday when Edmund Alden, veteran climber, made his 50th ascent of Mt. Whiteface, which rises above Wonalancet by a three mile trail to an altitude of 4,200 feet.

He expects, before he leaves the White Mountains in time to vote in New York, to make an equal score for Mt Chocorua, which he has climbed 48 times.

Mr. Alden has climbed most of the White Mountains including the higher peaks of the Presidential Range, many times in the nearly 50 years that he has been a summer visitor in this region. He has also been an enthusiastic climber in the Alps and the Rockies, but he loves the mountains of N.H. and often says there is as much beauty and satisfaction to be found in the local climbs as on the more famous mountains of the world.

He is not a climber who goes after records, and has kept no score of any of his mountain trips except for the diary record of his sojourn on his two favorite mountains, Chocorua and Whiteface. He never climbs for time, and selects a day for the clearness of the view that it promises. He spends a five month summer at Wonalancet, and after leaving here often climbs in the mountains of Virginia, on visits to his daughters.

A group of guests at Ferncroft attended a party given by Mrs. E.L. Fisher last evening in honor of Mr Alden's golden anniversary ascent of Whiteface. They recalled the years in which he has been the accepted leader of all the most ambitious tramping parties that put out

from Ferncroft. He is the Wonalancet weather prophet. Almost every day of the summer season begins with numerous queries, after breakfast. "What kind of a day is it going to be for a mountain, Mr. Alden?" Over his pipe the mountaineer considers, cocking a weather-eye toward the sky above Whiteface, and his verdict determines the fate of the day with the Ferncrofters.

A graduate of Amherst College in 1880, Mr. Alden is a member of Phi Beta Kappa scholarship fraternity. Until his retirement, he taught history for many years and was head of the department at Packer College in Brooklyn. He collaborated in the compiling of the *Century Dictionary* and the *History of American Biography*. He is also an authority on the local lore of the White Mountains. He is the mainstay and patriarch of the Wonalancet Out Door Club, and probably knows more mountains by name from a fixed observation point, than any other visitor to the White Mountains. He once named 60 peaks seen from Mt Chocorua. He spend much of the early season in opening trails and suggesting improvements in marking, and clearing the popular paths through the local mountains. Unlike many seasoned trampers, Mr. Alden never disdains the novice at hiking. He loves to win a convert to mountain climbing, and spends hours in planning trips that the less hardy and the children of the party can safely enjoy.

He laments that in his long climbing experience he has never met a bear, but he never expresses skepticism over other trampers' bears.

### To the Officers of the WODC

May 1977

I was delighted to receive the WODC *Newsletter* and learn of the Annual Meeting (1976) decisions to continue current trails maintenance, continue the three Special Use Permits for the shelter sites, and undertake long term efforts to upgrade facilities.

The enclosed check, \$3 dues and \$100 contribution, is a token of my support for the decisions made at the Annual Meeting, and an indication of how much I owe to members and friends of WODC. What I

am about to write may or may not be of interest.

I came first to Wonalancet in the summer of 1934, the summer before I entered college. Mother was working at the Wonalancet Farm, helping Miss Violet Jones, (Walter Jones' sister), operate the Farm for the Waldens. I was "excess" baggage,—free to roam the WODC trails—my first introduction to any hills higher than New York's 1,000 ft Bear Mountain. Those 8 weeks opened a new life for me: active participation in Mt Holyoke Outing Club,—the Cascades, Sierras, Alaska, Switzerland, Tetons,—membership in the AMC, the 4,000 Footer Club, the Appalachian Trail 'project' (of which to date I've seen 1,750 miles, and am nibbling away at the remaining 300), membership in the Ladies' Alpine Club (London, now merged with The Alpine Club), and so forth.

Memories of Wonalancet in 1934: The group of old-timers around the fire in the evening at the Farm—Mr. Walden, Mr. McHenry, Mr. Major, Mr. (Rev) Peaslee. Mr. McHenry, and an artist friend of Mr. Major, who showed me some of the trails. The WODC map on my wall, and trying to see how many of the trails I could hike. It was the early 50's before I ever did the Sleeper Trail from Waterville over to Whiteface! Mrs. Lombard and her kennels of Chinook dogs. Seeing a black bear cross the road at dusk between the Seeley kennels and the bridge over the brook—my first wild bear!

Later memories—starting from the Farm in September '38 with my father the first time I ever climbed Mt Washington, walking up to Blueberry Ledges with Mother when she was in her 80's, almost getting hired to do trail work right after the war in 1946!

And much more.

Sincerely,

Phyllida Willis