

FREDERIC L. STEELE

In mid-May 1999, a longtime and faithful member of the WODC, Frederic L. Steele of Tamworth, passed away. Fred was a Club officer for over two decades, serving as Trails Chairman for fourteen years (1953-1967) and as Vice-President for three.

Fred was born in Tamworth, and began his schooling in a one room schoolhouse on Great Hill. He graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1929, and from Harvard University Cum Laude in 1933. Before serving in the Army Signal Corps during WWII he taught at Ashburnham School in Massachusetts.

For over 35 years he taught science and mathematics at St. Mary's in the Mountains School, now the White Mountain School, in Littleton, NH. Throughout his years he touched the lives of many students, instilling an appreciation of the natural world.

Fred was an accomplished botanist and author of several excellent papers and books: *Trees and Shrubs of Northern New England*; *A Beginners Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of Northern New England*; *At Timberline, A Nature Guide to the Mountains of the Northeast*; and *Early Days in Tamworth*. He was an authority on the alpine flora of Mt. Washington. On at least two occasions Fred led memorable natural history hikes for WODC, one to Heath Pond Bog in Ossipee and another on Mt. Wonolancet during which he pointed out and described the affects of altitude as seen in variations of plant growth and development.

After retirement Fred was active with the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and the Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation. He was an active member of the Sandwich Range Wilderness Committee appointed by the SPNHF, and played a significant role in determining the boundaries of the area subsequently protected by Congress in

1984. Five of the six on the Committee were WODC members.

Recently, rereading Club minutes of the past, I noted that as Trails Chairman Fred served for a longer time than any other member of record. Those were the days when the Chairman was also the principal trails worker. He, aided by his wife and children, wielded the axe, crosscut saw, and clippers; painted the signs and blazes, and wrote out longhand or on the typewriter all correspondence and reports.



Frederic L. Steele

Of course he was well paid! In 1962 Fred received \$151.50 for 101 hours of trail work and supplies. His son Nat worked 78½ hours at 50¢ per hour for \$39.25, and son Ben 68½ hours at 25¢ for a total pay of \$17.25. Membership dues in that year were \$2.00 each.

My earliest memory of Fred was of the trail reports he presented at the Annual Meetings. His sparkling eyes and dry wit were classic. At the 1958 meeting, "There were no accidents this year, but a minor mishap occurred the day we decided to give my young son a taste of trail clearing. (Continued on Page 4)

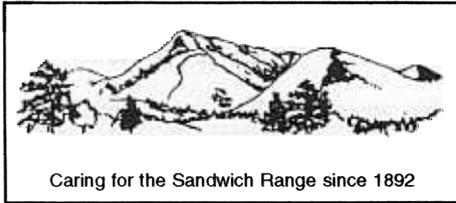
SCA TRAIL CREW

We are off on a new venture! During recent years WODC has hired the Sandwich Range Conservation Association (SRCA) to do major trail work. SRCA was recently dissolved, so we faced the dilemma of finding a new crew. Fortunately, we learned of an organization entitled the **Student Conservation Association** (SCA, easily confused with SRCA) that operates a Resource Assistance Program offering opportunities for people 18 years and older to spend a summer working and learning with an environmental or resource management organization. SCA workers are true volunteers — they receive only a \$50 per week stipend for food, plus free housing and bus fare. The Randolph Mountain Club (RMC) uses SCA volunteers for one of its trail crews, and finds the experience valuable.

Our need is for a crew of at least five able and strong people to work for about eleven weeks during the coming summer — the largest crew we have ever assembled. Through the energetic efforts of our Trails Committee, a crew has been hired — four are volunteers from SCA. The experience we've gained in the process of hiring will simplify preparations for future years, should the Club decide to undertake restoration projects on other trails.

The WODC is responsible for the cost of crew housing, plus \$1600 per volunteer to cover other expenses as outlined above. In addition to being less expensive than hiring traditional employees, this arrangement allows us to provide a valuable learning experience to college age people who are interested in exploring careers in outdoor and environmental fields, while upholding the WODC volunteer heritage.

The crew will be led by **Eric Flood**, who was recommended to us by the RMC. Eric has a BA in Recreation Management, and a strong interest in **Leave No Trace** camping and Wilderness. He worked for the RMC last year, and has done trailwork



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

The WODC Web site address is <http://www.wodc.org>

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SCA TRAIL CREW

for the Androscoggin District of the WMNF. In the winter he teaches skiing at Sunday River in Bethel, Maine. Eric arrived in Wonalancet on May 1 in order to become familiar with the area and the trails. In addition he will help prepare the crew housing, generously made available by Doug McVicar and Frumie Selchen. This excellent location, "Green Shutters" on Ferncroft Road, will be an enticement for the crew members who will be coming from several sections of the country.

The SCA crew will arrive by June 10 with the first week spent in intensive training workshops. Actual work will run from Saturday June 19 through Wednesday August 25. The crew will spend each Saturday through Wednesday camped near the work on Walden Trail. This will allow them to do 4 1/2 to 5 days of work for each hike in to Walden. They will return to clean and sharpen their tools, and have three nights off in Wonalancet.

We've selected applicants who are experienced with lengthy hiking and camping trips, and are involved in activities that keep them physically fit. They have also expressed a strong interest in trail maintenance, backcountry patrol, and/or resource management. We reviewed nearly 40 resumes, all impressive and

intriguing. Those selected are available during our 11 week program, and have strong backgrounds and experience related to our project. We will be welcoming the following crew members:

Zachary Hasse is from West Virginia. He is 19 years old, and has just completed his second year of college at the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in biology and English. He has worked as an emergency room intern, as a carpenter, and with Habitat for Humanity. His outdoor activities include backpacking, climbing, biking, and canoeing. He has First Aid certification.

Olivia Lester is from Utah. She is 18 years old and will begin college at the University of Utah in the fall. She has worked for the city council Public Works Department in Brigham City, and her activities include basketball, track, photography, tutoring, Audubon Society, the Environmental Club, Symphony, Museum of Art, and other groups. She has made several lengthy canoe and backpacking trips, and has led youth groups and helped with first aid classes.

Daesha Ramachandran is from New Jersey. She is 18 years old and will take a

year off before her college studies. Her activities include modern dance, acting, swimming, basketball, lacrosse, ropes course, camp counselling, and as prefect for freshman girls.

Jonathan Segev is from California. He is 19 years old and has finished his first year at the University of California, majoring in computer engineering. He has lived a number of years in Israel, and has worked for a catering company and restaurant. His activities include drama, backpacking, swimming, and working as a camp counsellor.

We encourage all Club members to meet the crew and extend a hearty welcome. We feel certain that home cooked food and entertainment will be much appreciated by them. Their telephone number in Wonalancet is 323-7064, or you can visit them on Walden Trail Saturday through Tuesday of most weeks. Hike up Old Mast Road, then continue along Walden Trail until you find them. Your presence will be much appreciated. You are also invited to join us for the weekly Saturday pack-in to their camp site.

Judith Reardon

Summer Gatherings

- At 7:00 P.M. Saturday July 10, Verna Jungels of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire will present the program **Moose to Mice** at the Daniels' barn in North Sandwich. The barn is located at 431 Chase Road, route 113A.

When most people think of wildlife, they think of mammals, and NH has many fascinating species. Examine their adaptations to varying habitats, food needs, seasonal requirements, and behaviors. An assortment of skulls, bones, pelts, and mounted specimens will be used to compare different mammals and highlight their similarities and differences. This program will be of great interest to children. Be sure to bring them.

- On Sunday August 15 at 7:00 P.M. in the Wonalancet Chapel, Peter Pohl the Carroll County Forester, will present a slide program entitled **NH's Biodiversity**. This program identifies unique ecosystems throughout the State and describes their fragile nature and interrelatedness.

Peter, in his role as County Forester, has provided guidance for 25 years to Dick Daniels in the management of his Tree Farm. Dick will give a brief talk explaining how timber and habitat management have changed the character of his land.

- A potluck supper will be held in the Grove beside the Wonalancet Chapel beginning at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday August 22. All Club members and friends are encouraged to attend. If the past is any indication, there will be good food and drink, pleasant fellowship and conversation. Bring a hearty appetite and a bowl of your favorite recipe, hot or cold. Following the meal, the **Annual Meeting** will be held in the Chapel.

EVA & MILTON SEELEY

There are many names associated with the dogs of Wonalancet, none more important than those of Eva and Milton Seeley. Their influence upon sled dog racing was strong and permanent, largely because of their work improving and standardizing the breeding of Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Malamutes, and Eva's complete devotion to everything she did.

It was Arthur Walden's fame that brought the Seeleys to Wonalancet. They heard of Walden and Chinook for the first time during the winter of 1923 while Eva, frequently called "Short" due to her small size, was organizing a winter carnival in her hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. At that time she read a newspaper account of a winter festival in Gorham, NH at which Arthur Walden showed his team of sled dogs. Short knew people would be interested in having Walden and Chinook at the Worcester event, so she phoned Walden. It took little inducement to persuade him to attend.

Short had her first dog sled ride at the Worcester carnival.

"The trails were on the golf links. At one point, a cat scooted across the trail immediately in front of the dogs, and disappeared into a clump of trees. Chinook and his eight team mates immediately took off after the cat. Walden quickly overthrew the sled. This probably saved me from injury, but Walden did injure severely one hand. I was thrilled by the ride, and I began immediately to make plans to visit Wonalancet."

She visited in Wonalancet later that winter, and had several long dog sled rides. She later stated, "My future in sled dogs began right there."

In 1923 Eva was a young woman of 32 years, a graduate of Sargent College. In May of 1924 she married Milton Seeley; they celebrated their honeymoon at Wonalancet Farm. It was soon apparent that Milton too was fascinated by Walden's dogs.

Early in their married life they discovered Milton had an illness that

required his retirement from an active life as a research chemist. At the urging of Walden, in January 1927 they moved to Wonalancet and lived in a house across the road from Wonalancet Farm. There was work at the Farm for both Short and Milton, for Walden was assembling dogs, drivers and equipment for the First Byrd Antarctic Expedition (BAEI). The Chinook Kennels was then located on the north side of Wonalancet Brook, behind Wonalancet Farm. One hundred dogs participated in the Expedition, only part of those then training at the Kennels.

During the training period a need developed for better rations for working dogs. Milton, a trained and experienced research chemist, studied the dietetic demands of working dogs, and then developed a food to fill the need. In 1929 when the BAEI sled dogs were held in quarantine on an island off the New Zealand coast the dogs were found to be in poor health. Believing an inadequate diet the cause, expedition leaders cabled Milton for his formula. A New Zealand food plant operator lent his ovens, and in two weeks twenty-five tons of Milton's pemmican biscuits were made. During the rest of the expedition the dogs ate pemmican biscuits, supplemented by seal and whale meat.

As soon as Arthur and the dogs left the Intervale for BAEI, the Seeleys' interest turned to the breeding of Alaskan dogs. At that time the Siberian Husky was the only purebred Eskimo dog recognized by the American Kennel Club. The Seeleys first tried breeding dogs similar to those driven by the Malemute people, who occupied the Seward Peninsula and adjacent islands in Bering Strait. They secured a male named Yukon Jad who was raised near Dawson in the Yukon Territory, and a female, Bessie, who had been purchased in Alaska. In 1929 they succeeded in producing four sons of Yukon Jad and Bessie, all with Alaskan Malamute characteristics. These four sons they named Gripp of Yukon, Tugg of Yukon, Kearsarge of Yukon, and Finn of Yukon. Gripp of Yukon in 1935 became the first American Kennel Club Alaskan Malamute Champion, and the first recorded registrant of the Malamute breed. The voice of Finn of Yukon became the "canine broadcaster"



Short driving a team she bred and trained

from Little America in the Antarctic in 1933. All four offspring participated in the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition (BAEII).

Through the efforts of the Seeleys and other breeders, the American Kennel Club officially recognized the Alaskan Malamute as a breed in 1935. In April of that year the Alaskan Malamute Club of America was formed at the Seeley home in Wonalancet; Milton was the first president, and Eva the secretary. Eva and Milton helped revive the New England Sled Dog Club founded by Walden in 1924, and the Siberian Husky Club of America.

The Seeleys purchased Walden's Chinook Kennels in 1933, and moved the kennels to the current site on the south side of State Route 113A. The kennels property consisted of 50 acres on which the Seeleys built a log cabin house and several other log cabin style shelters and pens, and dog sled trails. A large field was cleared to the south of the house where drivers and trainers tented during preparation for subsequent expeditions.

The Chinook Kennels trained and furnished dogs and drivers for several expeditions including the first, second, and third Byrd Antarctic Expeditions, the Army's Search and Rescue Arctic

Division, the Army's North European campaign of World War II, the Finn Ronne Expedition of 1947, and Operation Deep Freeze of the International Geophysical Year in 1955. About 200 dogs were trained in Wonalancet for each.

Milton died in 1945 following a long period of failing health. His death was a loss felt by the whole community and extending beyond dog sled people. He was universally admired and loved. An obituary reads,

"The community will never know how much it owed to him, because of his reticent modesty the very strength of his integrity caused him to be



Short with Kotzebuhe and the Yukon pups

listened to. His mind was on the other fellow's rights, not on his own — on getting an opportunity for some young person, on clearing up a misunderstanding or stopping an injurious rumor, on opening the roads to justice, on making things easier for people."

In addition to work with dogs, from 1933-1945 Milton operated the hydroelectric plant on Wonalancet Brook that provided electricity for homes and barns of the Intervale.

Added to her work breeding and training sled dogs, Short participated in many racing events including the 1933 Winter

Olympics held at Lake Placid. Although not a winner in the latter, she was the only woman driver in the event.

"I drove a team of Malamutes. I knew I wouldn't win because they're not as strong or as fast as Huskies, but I wanted to show how manageable they could be."

Short was inducted into the Musher's Hall of Fame in Knik Alaska, and posthumously given the honorary Number One position at the 1987 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. This is memorialized on a granite block at the roadside historic site on the Chinook Trail in Wonalancet. This site was dedicated in October 1988

Life was difficult for Short during her last decade. She lacked financial resources to hire others to operate the kennels and was physically unable to do the work herself. Her many friends helped as they were able, but Short's independent spirit was a barrier to accepting assistance gracefully. Her house and the Chinook Kennels began to show signs of deterioration. She lost the ability to drive her car, and in 1983 suffered a stroke that resulted in hospitalization. Mounting medical bills resulted in the sale of the kennels.

Eva B. Seeley died on December 28, 1985. She is buried next to Milton in the Jewell Cemetery in the Albany section of Wonalancet Intervale.

George Zink

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FREDERIC L. STEELE

Arriving at the top of Sandwich Dome at one o'clock, we found we had omitted to put a lunch in the pack. There was a good supply of balsam trees, the inner bark of which is said to be an emergency food, but we found it more convenient to appeal to Alec Lincoln for part of his lunch." At the 1962 meeting, "Every year the trails are inspected by the Saco Office of the Forest Service, and every year we get a letter of complaints on various matters, such as sanitation facilities at the camps, the condition of the ladders on Whiteface, etc. The letter this year was longer than usual, so we took Mr. Archibald of the WMNF on an inspection trip up Whiteface and cleared up many of the criticisms, pointing out, for instance, that the Rollins Path which had been declared "too narrow" was wider than the FS trail up Whiteface, and that the lack of a sign at Downs Brook was their omission."

May our memories of Fred long be bright; we'll miss meeting him on the mountains and in town.

George Zink

through the joint efforts of the present Chinook Kennels property owner and the State of New Hampshire.

In later life Short was a frequent judge at dog shows, especially in New England and the northeastern portion of the United States. She was an accredited American Kennel Club judge of the three Arctic sled dog breeds: Malamutes, Siberian Huskies, and Samoyeds.

Eva wrote two books, one for children in 1930 entitled *Chinook and His Family*. The second, *The Complete Alaskan Malamute*, she wrote in 1976 with Maxwell Riddle, an international dog authority.

AMC GUIDE REVIEW

White Mountain Guide: Hiking Trails in the White Mountain National Forest, 26th edition, 1998 (Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club Books, compiled and edited by Gene Daniell and Jon Burroughs, \$21.95).

Since 1907 when it was first published, many members and friends of WODC have considered AMC's White Mountain Guide an essential companion on their hikes. Its maps and narrative guidance cover the 52 miles of WODC maintained trails, all other WMNF trails in both New Hampshire and Maine, some of the major trails outside the National Forest in northern New Hampshire, and the entirety of the Appalachian Trail and its side trails in New Hampshire.

Some of the southern summits and areas in New Hampshire, like Cardigan, Monadnock and the Belknaps, have been removed, and will be covered in a new AMC Guide to Southern and Central New Hampshire, which should be in bookstores by the time you read this review.

AMC's Guide has never been the model of compactness and concision offered by WODC's own trail map and guide, but of course its coverage is much more ambitious. Even for our local trails, the two are usefully complementary.

One's first impression of the new 26th edition of the Guide may be that it is big and expensive. Its 5"x7" format stretches the limits of a practical, packable trail guide.* In the six years between publication of the 25th and 26th editions the price has risen from \$16.95 to \$21.95, a nearly 30% increase. You can get 20% off if you're an AMC member and buy it from them.

Despite these reservations (and a few others requiring more discussion than a short review allows), the new Guide is a worthy purchase. It is a new edition, and several real improvements have been made. The descriptions of more than 500 trails have been wholly updated. The topo maps and the typography of the book itself have been thoroughly redesigned, making the whole significantly more readable. If the new edition is bigger, it's not significantly heavier. The relative

compactness of the previous edition came at some cost in type size and clarity of design, and it was in fact nearly 100 pages longer than the new one.

The new maps included with the Guide are full-color digitized maps plotted with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. In the first printing of the new Guide there was a significant misprint in the text indicating map scale on five of the six maps. The scale text on Maps #2 through #6 should read, "One inch equals 1.5 miles" instead of "One inch equals 3/4 mile." Scale text on Map #1 is correct as printed: "One inch equals 3/4 mile." The scale ratio of Map #1 is different from that used to draw maps 2 through 6, and the Map #1 scale text was inadvertently used on the other maps in that first printing. The scale ratio, scale bar and border scale are correct on all maps.

Embarking on a hike without a reliable map and trail guide is as unwise as taking off with inadequate clothing and water. WODC's one page version is excellent, and tucks easily into a shirt or pants pocket. But if your planned hiking in the Sandwich Range is likely to include non-WODC trails with which you are not thoroughly familiar, the AMC Guide is an important resource.

You can leave at home those maps you won't be using. (Take a waterproof map bag; unlike the WODC map, which is printed on waterproof tyvek, the AMC maps are paper.) If, in your pre-trip planning, you have access to a photocopy machine and you're sure where you want to go, make a copy of those few pages of the Guide describing the trails you intend to hike. Staple them together, fold them into a small waterproof zip-lock bag, and leave the big book at home. If you follow this advice, however, don't change your trail plan mid-trip.

* Although AMC offered an arguable defense of the larger size as a more environmentally sound use of paper, its principal rationale was commercial; larger books are more visible on retailers' bookshelves. The earlier, traditional size was 3-5/8" x 6".

John R. Boettiger

TRAILS REPORT: SPRING 1999

At this writing we are preparing to launch a five person trail crew for a full summer of work on Walden Trail. The objective is to rectify major erosion problems, as mandated by WODC members at the 1997 Annual Meeting. In the Spring of 1998 the WODC was awarded a \$9,800 grant from the National Recreational Trails Fund in support of this work. The grant is matched by a comparable value of volunteer time, tools, and financial support from the Club, bringing the total value of this project to just under \$20,000.

Although the restoration work was expected to be spread over two summers, the ice storm of 1998 caused a change in plans. In addition to the major effort required to clear storm damage from trails, there was a shortage of qualified crew due to extensive cleanup operations throughout the State. When the heavy rains of June required a second wave of emergency trail work, it became clear that Walden restoration would have to be delayed till 1999. Since our NRTA grant expires in the Fall of 1999, it is also necessary that we complete the entire project this season.

After a long winter of preparations, a five person trail crew is about to start eleven weeks of work on Walden Trail. (See separate article on our SCA crew.) While day-to-day work on the trail will be under the direction of crew leader Eric Flood, the Trails Committee has prepared an exciting week of workshops and training to get the crew off to a strong start. These activities also offer an excellent opportunity for all WODC adopters and volunteers to learn some new skills. Programs will include trail safety, wilderness first aid, Leave No Trace practices, camping techniques, basic tool use, and an advanced hoist & rigging workshop.

All activities will be held at the summer crew residence — last house on the left before the Ferncroft Kiosk — and are open to all. We will also welcome the crew and kick off the week with a

fabulous potluck supper at the Mersfelders' on Friday, June 11th.

Since Walden Trail will be our primary focus this year, the Club will be dependent on its trail adopters for keeping trails open and well maintained. As always, please let us know if you need assistance. Trail work is always easier and more fun in a group, so don't hesitate to invite us.

That's not all for 1999. We've scheduled an overnight trip on the Kate Sleeper Trail, a fun day with Trailwrights, plus a special project and potluck supper for NH Trails Day. Please see the adjacent schedule for details.

Finally, visit the WODC web site at www.wodc.org for late-breaking news on all summer events. We also hope to post weekly dispatches and photos from the Walden crew, providing a personal perspective on their summer adventures, plus an opportunity for you to communicate with the crew. It's a great way for members to participate in the summer's activities, particularly if you can't join us on the trail.

Peter Smart

MISSION STATEMENT

While the Executive Committee was discussing financial planning for the Club, we decided it would be helpful to have a mission statement. We debated what should be included in a mission statement and then investigated what historic documents had to say on the topic.

We discovered that Article 2 of the WODC Incorporation document, dated 8/26/1976, is a historic mission statement. The items the present Executive Committee suggested were very similar to those in Article 2. It is gratifying to know that the philosophy of the Club remains reasonably constant.

Article 2 of the Articles of Incorporation is as follows:

"The objects for which the corporation is established are for provision and care of paths, trails and other facilities for persons visiting the White

SUMMER TRAIL SCHEDULE

- | | |
|---|---|
| Fri. 6/11 | 5:30 P.M. Potluck supper welcome with the summer trail crew, at Mersfelders' on Old Mail Road, Tamworth. |
| Sat. 6/12 | 8:15 A.M. Orientation hike for trail crew on Dacey's, Walden, and Old Mast Road. Meet at Ferncroft Kiosk. |
| <i>The following workshops all meet at the Crew House, times given below. The Crew House is the last house on the left before turning right to the Ferncroft Kiosk.</i> | |
| Sun. 6/13 | 9-12 A.M. Trail tools, their use and safety.
1-5 P.M. Advanced trail techniques: Rigging and hoists. |
| Mon. 6/14 | 9-11 A.M. Leave No Trace hiking and camping.
11-1 A.M. Gear preparation for Walden overnight.
2-5 P.M. Wilderness First Aid by a Trainer from SOLO. |
| Tues. 6/15 | 9:00 A.M. Meet at crew house for 1-night Walden overnight. Hike to Walden campsite via Kelley Trail. Discuss campsite selection and setup. |
| Wed. 6/16 | Review work to be done on Walden Trail. Hike out via Old Mast Road. |
| Sat. 6/19 | 8:15 A.M. Pack-in for first full week on Walden Trail. Volunteer help is welcome and appreciated. Meet at crew house or Ferncroft Kiosk. Hike in via Old Mast Road. |
| Wed. 6/23 | Crew hikes out from Walden Trail. Clean and repair gear and tools. |
| Sat. 6/26 | 8:15 A.M. Pack-in for week #2 on Walden Trail. |
| Sat. 7/3 | 8:15 A.M. Pack-in for week #3 on Walden Trail. |
| Sat. 7/10 | 8:15 A.M. Pack-in for week #4 on Walden Trail. |
| Sat. 7/17 | 8:15 A.M. NH Trails Day. Meet at Ferncroft Kiosk. Project to be determined. Potluck supper at 5:30 P.M. Other fun activities to be arranged for this week. |
| Sat. 7/24 | 8:15 A.M. Pack-in for week #5 on Walden Trail. |
| Sat. 7/31 | 8:15 A.M. Pack-in for week #6 on Walden Trail. |
| Sat. 8/7 | 8:15 A.M. Pack-in for week #7 on Walden Trail. |
| Sat. 8/14 | 8:15 A.M. Pack-in for week #8 on Walden Trail. |
| Sat. 8/21 | 8:15 A.M. Pack-in for week #9 on Walden Trail. Final work week for crew. |
| Sun. 8/22 | 5:00 P.M. Potluck supper in Chapel Grove, followed by WODC Annual Meeting. |
| Fri. 9/10-12 | Three day work trip on Kate Sleeper Trail. Phone for details. |
| Sat. 10/2 | 8:15 A.M. Meet at Bennett Street. Build rock steps on Bennett Street Trail with Trailwrights.. |

Mountain National Forest and other mountain and forest lands; regarding these lands, to promote their conservation and the enforcement of the laws regarding their conservation and use, to promote communication between their owners and the public on these issues, and to promote discussion and education on all these matters; and for the social recreation of the corporation's members; no part of the corporation's property shall benefit any member or associate of the cooperation, or any private person, except for reasonable compensation paid to employees or agents."

The above paragraph indicates that the mission of the WODC is care of paths and trails, care of other facilities (e.g. bridges, kiosk) promote conservation of the WMNF and other mountain and forest lands, promote the enforcement of the laws regarding land conservation and use, promote communication between the land owners (e.g. private landowners and WMNF) and the public on issues of conservation, land use, and conservation law enforcement, promote discussion and education on all these matters, and social recreation of the WODC membership.

Dick Daniels

FRIENDS OF THE SANDWICH RANGE

In response to the U. S. Forest Service's proposed Algonquin Timber Sale in historic Sandwich Notch, a local citizens' group formed in 1998 to oppose the sale. Calling themselves the "Friends of the Sandwich Range" (FSR), they enlisted the support of many others in their communities and saw their efforts rewarded when, during the Forest Service's road building moratorium, the Algonquin sale was postponed indefinitely.

The FSR then expanded their goals. They researched, inventoried, and mapped eight distinct desirable extensions to the Sandwich Range Wilderness – the Black Mountain, Jennings Peak, Lost Pass, Scar Ridge, Square Ledge, Mt. Paugus, Wonalancet, and Flat Mountain extensions.

The eight extensions to the Sandwich Range Wilderness would improve its boundary. The current Wilderness area is pinched in, like a wasp's waist, while the ideal shape to protect interior forest habitat would be a circle. In addition, the current Wilderness Area does not yet protect some of the historical and recreational resources valued by local residents. Adding the proposed extension lands would protect these area from logging, motorized recreation, and habitat fragmentation.

FSR also seeks a changed management area designation for Sandwich Notch that would remove it from the timber base and provide increased protection from heavy recreational uses. Designating Sandwich Notch a Historic Area would ensure preservation and enjoyment of historic sites such as cellar holes, barn foundations, mill sites, remnants of a logging railroad, camps, wells, and other remains of a community that at its peak in the mid-1840's comprised more than 40 homes.

In the near term Friends of Sandwich Range intends to participate in all steps of the White Mountain National Forest Management Plan revision process. It seeks to change the management area designations for each of the proposed extensions and for Sandwich Notch. FSR's long-term goal is to extend the boundaries of the Sandwich Range Wilderness.

If you want to know more about FSR and the proposed extensions, or if you want to become involved, contact:

Fred Lavigne or Evelyn MacKinnon
407 Diamond Ledge Rd.
Center Sandwich, NH 03227
Tel: (603) 284-6919 or E-Mail:
sr@hydrocad.net;

Note: Many members of FSR are also members of WODC, but FSR is independent of the WODC. The material for this article was extracted from FSR publications/notes and does not represent current WODC policy or a decision of the Executive Committee.

Dick Daniels

COMMOM MYTHS

MYTH ONE: "There is no true wilderness in the eastern part of the United States."

Response: There is no general agreement among people as to what wilderness is. Wilderness is a concept, an idea; there are as many ideas of what wilderness is as there are people. To a city dweller any large area of undeveloped land is wilderness. To the experienced explorer or scientist who has searched for a portion of the Earth where man's presence or culture has not penetrated, there is no wilderness left anywhere on Earth. No acre on the surface of any continent or any sea has escaped from man's activities. Plastic throw-aways, oil drums, abandoned vehicles, polluted air, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) are found everywhere on Earth. In this sense there is no "true wilderness" remaining.

For clarity it is necessary to distinguish between the concept of wilderness (printed in this paper with a small "w") that is subjective – varying with each person's experience – and Wilderness (printed with a capital "W") that is designated as such by an act of Congress. It is these designated areas that are dealt with in this article.

Congress has a special interest in eastern portions of the United States, and in an Act of January 3, 1975 stated:

"Therefore, the Congress finds and declares that it is in the national interest that these and similar areas in the eastern half of the United States be promptly designated as Wilderness within the National Wilderness Preservation System, in order to preserve such areas as an enduring resource of wilderness which shall be managed to promote and perpetuate the wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration, and primitive recreation for the benefit of all of the American people of present and future generations."

There is designated Wilderness in eastern United States because Congress

has declared it. One of "these and similar areas" referred to above and established by the 1975 Act was the area currently entitled the "Presidential Range—Dry River Wilderness" in the White Mountain National Forest.

MYTH TWO: "Hunting and fishing are prohibited in Wilderness."

Response: This statement is false. Hunting and fishing are permitted in Wilderness areas.

A full response requires further clarification. The fish and game laws of the State within which a Wilderness area lies apply. A hunter or fisherman must have a State license, and obey the State regulations. The specific wording of the Wilderness Act follows:

"Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests."

In addition, the hunter or fisherman must comply with all regulations of the federal agency within whose jurisdiction the Wilderness occurs. For example, if in a period of high fire danger an area is closed to Forest users, then sportsmen must comply with the restriction.

MYTH THREE: Wilderness is a single use, not a multiple-use.

Response: The simple, straight-forward denial of Myth Three is found in the Wilderness Act itself, (Section 4 (a) (1)):

"Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to be in interference with the purpose for which national forests are established as set forth in the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 11), and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of June 12, 1960 (74 Stat. 215)."

Congress has stated that Wilderness encompasses multiple-use. A more complete response follows, since no term or concept used in discussions of forest management is more widely misunderstood than that of multiple-use. Trained and experienced Forest managers themselves frequently fail to use the term properly.

On a Forest Service sign as one enters a National Forest one reads the words "Land of Many Uses." In essence, that is the significance of the concept; a National Forest must be managed in such a way as to serve many uses. Forests are used for: cattle grazing; timber harvesting; water resources and protection; back country recreation (hiking, back-packing, camping in areas remote from roads); viewing natural scenery; wild life protection (non-game as well as game species, unique and endangered species); hunting and fishing; vehicle driving (automobiles and trucks, summer recreational vehicles (summer ORV's), winter recreational vehicles (winter ORV's); scientific study; developed recreation (down hill skiing, cross country skiing, picnicking, riding gondolas and other types of lift to mountain peaks); mineral development; commercial enterprises (horseback riding, trips by mule and horse, rafting on rivers and lakes, trips led by guides); vacation homes. Each of these uses takes place on some National Forest, somewhere in the US. All National Forests must provide a mix of various uses. That is the basic significance of the multiple-use policy; each National Forest must provide a mix of uses.

All these uses need not take place on each Forest. There is currently no commercial mining on the White Mountain National Forest, nor are there any grazing rights being utilized. Since many other uses do occur on WMNF, multiple use is being practiced.

Significantly, several uses need not occur on the same piece of land. A section of Forest leased to an operator of an alpine ski area is not also available for timber harvest, or mineral development. Usually there is a principal use in any given section of Forest. For example, both sides of the Kancamagus Highway are protected from activities that would compromise the visual quality of a motorist's experience. The principal use is that of developed recreation. The principal use of the Bowl Research Natural Area is scientific study; other uses such as timber

cutting, motorized vehicles, and developed recreation are not permitted.

Some uses are incompatible. Where road building takes place (for timber management, developed campgrounds, or roadside recreation) the water resource cannot be fully protected, and backcountry recreation is compromised.

Some typical uses within Wilderness areas are: wildlife protection, water resource protection, back-country recreation, scientific study, hunting and fishing. Other uses such as temporary structures and commercial services — services generally offered by packers, outfitters, and guides — may be permitted under some conditions. Because a Wilderness serves many purposes, a Wilderness is a multiple use area.

MYTH FOUR: Anyone intending to enter a Wilderness Area must first secure a permit.

Response: There is nothing in the Wilderness Act that mandates permit use. This myth is based, locally, on the early experiences of many users of the Great Gulf Wilderness in the WMNF prior to 1984, and of some areas in a few western States. Further clarification of this statement is needed.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 is explicit in providing that each agency administering any area designated as Wilderness shall be responsible for managing the area. Since the present five Wilderness areas of New Hampshire and Maine are within the WMNF boundaries, it is the WMNF that manages the areas.

Following congressional designation of each Wilderness, the Forest Service prepares a detailed plan which describes how the area will be managed. Such a plan must be consistent with the wording of the Wilderness Act, the terms of the specific Act by which the Area was established, and the interpretation of these Acts by the Department of Agriculture (Code of Federal Regulations Sections 251.70 to 251.84). A management plan is based upon the characteristics of the specific area: its size and location, its topography and terrain, the number of people who can use the areas without injuring the resource — its carrying

capacity — , the traditional use patterns, and other factors.

The first Management Plan for Great Gulf Wilderness, released to the public in 1975 specified a permit system in order "to maintain the wilderness resource and provide a true wilderness experience." The need "to maintain the wilderness resource" was obvious since in excess of 25,000 persons per year were using the Gulf — an area of only 5,552 acres. That was the highest use per acre recorded for any Wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The decision to require permits was introduced in order to limit the number of people using the area, and hence reduce or eliminate degradation of its wilderness qualities.

Preservation of its character is required by the wording of the Act (Section (4) (b)):

"...each agency administering an area designated as Wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character."

In 1984, about ten years after the decision to require permits, a study by WMNF concluded that the objectives to be achieved by a permit system in the Great Gulf Wilderness had been reached, and that a permit for day and/or overnight use need no longer be required. The permit requirement was then withdrawn.

In summary, a permit requirement can be imposed by the Forest Service whenever it is deemed necessary in order to protect an area. But a permit system is not a requirement in Wilderness, nor is the system in common use.

It is not unusual for the Forest Service to require permits whenever any section of the Forest is being degraded by over-use. For many years a permit was required for over-night camping in Tuckerman's Ravine even though Tuckerman's is not in Wilderness.

MYTH FIVE: Wilderness is for recreation.

Response: This myth dies hard! The Wilderness Act is quite specific in stating that the preservation of ecosystems is the prime objective. There may be recreation, but recreation is secondary to preservation. Wilderness is defined by the Act (Sections 2c) in such a way as to make it certain that preservation of natural systems is paramount.

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man



Great Falls on Bennett Street Trail

himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitations, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions...."

The Department of Agriculture under which the Forest Service functions, has stated its objectives in administering Wilderness (Section 251.71 of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations).

"To that end:

(a) Natural ecological succession will be allowed to operate freely to the extent feasible.

(b) Wilderness will be made available for human use to the optimum extent consistent with the maintenance of primitive conditions.

(c) In resolving conflicts in resource use, wilderness values will be dominant to the extent not limited by the Wilderness Act, subsequent establishing legislation, or the regulations in this part."

The intention of Congress is clear. Wilderness is primarily an act of preservation; recreation is not its prime purpose.

In the Pacific Northwest the major challenge to Wilderness may come from the forest industry, in Alaska it may be from oil exploration and development, in areas of the western U.S. it may be from the grazing and mining interests. In the White Mountains of New Hampshire and Maine, the principal challenge comes from high recreational use, and misuse. In a region of 70 million people within one day's driving distance of the New England mountains, preservation of the last remaining vestiges of wild country will require understanding, resolve, sacrifice, and a continued vigilance in support of the ideals of this uniquely American institution

George Zink

FUNDRAISER UPDATE

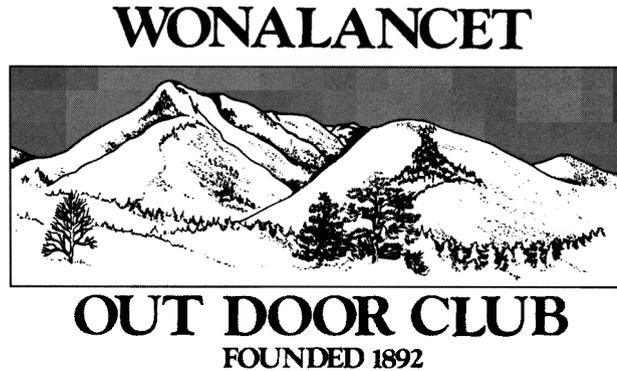
Thanks to strong support from WODC members and friends, the end of the fundraiser is close at hand. We only have about \$2,000 left before we reach our \$20,000 target. With a little luck we may be able to conclude the campaign in time for Annual Meeting.

Dues renewal: If you haven't already done so, please remit your membership dues for 1999. Membership levels are: Basic (\$15), Steward (\$25), Trail Blazer (\$50). Select whichever level works best for you. Contributions always welcome.

Tom Rogers

New WODC T-Shirts Now Available

The long-awaited new WODC T-shirts are now available. After experimenting with other attractive designs, we determined that the design that would print best on T-shirts is the familiar logo from the WODC decal, depicting the mountain view from Wonalancet. This is a change from the smaller circular design used in previous T-shirts.



For the first time, T-shirts are available in either the traditional cotton or Coolmax fabric. Coolmax is a fabric which feels similar to cotton but which wicks away perspiration, making it comfortable for trailwork. When the weather turns wet and chilly, wicking fabrics do not feel clammy like cotton, which can be a comfort and safety factor.

The T-shirts are short-sleeved, with the logo (blue sky and snow-covered mountains in white and black) centered on the front of the shirt. The cotton T-shirt is heather grey, with the Club name in blue surrounding the logo. The Coolmax T-shirt is navy blue, with the Club name in white. They are different enough that everyone should own at least one of each!

Both shirts are available in medium, large, and extra large sizes. The medium size also fits most children.

The T-shirts are in the process of being printed at Original Designs, in North Woodstock (near Lincoln, New Hampshire) and should be available by the time you read this. To order, please mail in the order form below.

WODC Merchandise Order Form



Wonalancet Out Door Club

Please mail completed form and payment to:

WODC Member Services
HCR 64, Box 5
Wonalancet, NH 03897

Phone:

Name:

Street:

City, State, Zip:

Qty	Description	Price	Amount
	WODC Trail Map & Guide	\$5.00	
	WODC Patch	\$3.00	
	WODC heather grey <i>cotton</i> T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Large <input type="checkbox"/> X-Large	\$14.00
	WODC navy blue <i>Coolmax</i> T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Large <input type="checkbox"/> X-Large	\$16.00
	Additional Contribution		
All prices include shipping			Total Enclosed