



WONALANCET OUT DOOR CLUB

GEORGE & SALLY'S GIFT

An editorial

The November, 1999 issue of the *Newsletter* marked the end of an era. For sixteen years George and Sally Zink produced the publication that, twice each year, so many of us eagerly anticipated. Over time they took the newsletter from a handful of typewritten sheets to a professional looking journal, always adhering to a high editorial standard. We have all come to appreciate the well researched historical accounts. We have all benefitted from the astute observations on the policy and planning that shape the nature of our beloved hills.

George and Sally created a respected newsletter, one that elevates WODC in the eyes of all who read it. Last November they turned their gift over to the club.

So now what? Do we thank them kindly and walk away, or do we give them the one true worthy thanks: cherishing their gift, ensuring its perpetuation, and building on it?

WODC has grown over the years, but we are still a group of volunteers. Club business is carried out at the kitchen tables and in the living rooms of Wonalancet and points beyond, wherever love of the mountains and self commitment coexist.

The *Newsletter* will become what the club members make it. Remember this: When you learn something new, or are moved by a passionate narrative, it is because someone took the time to share her thoughts. If, on the other hand, you detect a missing article, if you feel the newsletter is lacking an important news item, it is because you didn't take the time to submit it.

This issue of the *Newsletter* represents the future. It is in your hands.

Chris Conrod

Editor's note: The Newsletter staff is always happy to receive articles related to hiking, forest management, local history (both cultural and natural), or other topics of interest to the readership. We would be especially grateful for any artwork printable in black and white; drawings, photographs or other media. See the Newsletter sidebar on page 2 for submission details.

SPRING TRAILS REPORT

Although snow is falling on the Sandwich Range this evening (April 21st), it's only a few weeks till the start of another busy trail season. Based on the success of last summer's trail crew and strong support from the 1999 Annual Meeting, the WODC will be devoting another summer to the ongoing restoration of Walden Trail. The plan is much the same as last year.

A four person volunteer crew has been recruited through the Student Conservation Association. Over a ten week period they will perform 450 hours of trail work, consisting of new rock steps, water bars, and other measures to protect and restore the fragile treadway of the Walden Trail.

The WODC will provide housing for the SCA crew members, who will also receive a subsistence allowance and travel reimbursement through the SCA. The SCA also offers an \$1100 educational award upon completion of 450 hours of service.

The crew will work under the experienced guidance of Chris Conrod, who has accepted the position of crew leader for the eleven week program. We're very fortunate that Chris has agreed to spend the entire summer on the trail. Although he will be a salaried employee of the WODC for eleven weeks, Chris continues to volunteer a considerable amount of time on the trail.

The WODC will provide all tools, camping gear, and related supplies for the summer program. This includes essential safety gear, such as hard hats and first aid kits, plus a cell phone for emergency communications.

In addition to the full-time crew, nearly one thousand hours of work is expected by WODC members and other volunteers. This includes a wide range of planning and administrative activities, from preparation of a detailed trail log last Fall, to weekly trail work and support activities during the summer season.

All told, nearly 3000 hours of work will be invested in Walden Trail this year, mostly by volunteers. So what does the program actually cost? And who pays for it? In round numbers, the WODC will provide \$6000 from membership dues and

contributions. An additional \$9,920 has been awarded under our new grant from Recreational Trails Program. (See side box for details.) The combined total of nearly \$16,000 covers all out-of-pocket expenses including payroll, housing, tools, supplies, and a share of SCA's program expenses.

The progress made on Walden Trail in 1999, together with the work log produced in the Fall, made it clear that another two seasons would be required to complete the essential work along the entire trail. It was therefore decided to submit an RTP grant request for the entire two years, thus saving the work and uncertainty of another application for the 2001 season. When complete, the WODC will have spent more than three seasons restoring 2.8 miles of trail.

The scope of the Walden restoration project illustrates the importance of good preventative maintenance on all trails. Although many of the problems on Walden are due to poor layout and erodible soils, at least half of the work could have been avoided by proper preventative maintenance. This means correcting problems at the first hint of trouble, such as

Recreational Trails Program

The RTP is a grant program administered by the NH Trails Bureau, and funded by Federal gasoline taxes. The funding is a component of TEA-21: The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. A portion of the tax is earmarked for non-highway use, both motorized and non-motorized.

In 1998, the WODC was awarded a \$9730 RTP grant, which provided primary funding for our 1999 work on Walden Trail. Based on the success of this program, a second application was submitted in January, 2000 to cover an additional *two years* of work on Walden Trail. In late March we learned that our \$19,840 application was approved, and that we would be able to complete the restoration of Walden Trail during the summer seasons of 2000 and 2001.

water draining down a trail rather than off to the side. Loose stones or soil in the treadway are also definite signs of trouble, and require prompt investigation and correction. Unfortunately, these signs went unnoticed on the upper Walden Trail, until minor drainage problems had developed into gullies up to four feet deep and sixty feet long!

While no other WODC trail can compete with Walden for erosion problems, there are several trails that require our attention in the coming years. These include Old Mast Road, Lawrence Trail, and Wiggin Trail. The proximity of OMR makes it feasible to correct these problems with numerous shorter trips. In fact, our 1999 SCA crew did a lot of work on the uppermost OMR erosion, and more will be done this year with Trailwrights. Unfortunately, Lawrence and Wiggin are not so straightforward.

This spring the Trails Committee will be working with the USFS to evaluate the problems on Wiggin Trail, and consider



Caring for the Sandwich Range since 1892

The *Newsletter* is published twice each year by the Wonalancet Out Door Club. Submissions for inclusion in future issues should be sent to:

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Or,
Articles@wodc.org

WODC was established in 1892 for maintaining trails, promoting conservation, and social recreation.

Club Officers for 2000

President: Dick Daniels
V.Presidents: John Boettiger
Ann Rogers
Secretary: Sharron Nothnagle
Acting Treasurer: Tom Rogers

Executive Committee:

Martha Chandler Judith Reardon
Chris Conrod Barbara Sidley
Frank Kelley Ted Sidley
Paul King Peter Smart
John Mersfelder Shannon Spencer
Chele Miller George Zink
Howard Nordeen Sally Zink

WODC Web Site: www.wodc.org

possible solutions. Since this may require relocations or other significant disturbances within Wilderness, the planning process will require a year or more to complete, including the environmental assessment that may be required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

As an interim measure, the Wiggin Trail signs were recently revised to include the wording "Not recommended - Steep and loose". While we do not believe anyone should be prevented from using the trail, this wording should help to reduce "accidental" use by hikers that would actually prefer one of the easier routes.

Although Wilderness sign standards normally allow just basic directional information, this deviation was approved by the USFS because it contributed to "resource protection," which is the ultimate standard by which all Wilderness management should be guided. This is just one of many Wilderness management issues where the WODC continues to work closely with the USFS. Other areas of ongoing collaboration included camping, visitor information, and of course, trail maintenance.

With the major focus on Walden Trail, the Club will again be dependent on Adopters for the majority of trail clearing and basic maintenance. Some trails suffered significant wind damage in December, so trails should be checked early for any major problems. As always, please contact the Trails Committee if you want a hand, or just some company. Trail work is always easier and more fun in a group, so don't hesitate to give us a call.

Despite the full season on Walden trail, no year would be complete without our annual overnight trip on Kate Sleeper Trail, plus an exciting day with Trailwrights. Both events are scheduled for the wonderful bug-free days of fall. Please see the adjacent trail calendar for details.

Finally, please visit the **WODC** web site at www.wodc.org for late-breaking news throughout the summer. We plan to post regular dispatches and photos from the Walden crew, providing a personal perspective on their summer adventures.

Peter Smart
WODC Trails Chairperson

TRAIL CALENDAR

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Fri. 6/9 | 5:30 P.M. Potluck welcome supper with the summer trail crew, at Mersfelders' on Old Mail Road, Tamworth. |
| Sat. 6/10 | 8:15 A.M. Orientation hike for trail crew on Dicey's Mill and Walden Trails. Meet at Ferncroft Kiosk. |
| | <i>Crew training activities: (Contact the Trails Committee for location and details.)</i> |
| Sun. 6/11 | Trail tools, use and safety. Low Impact techniques for the backcountry. Wilderness First Aid. |
| Mon. 6/12 | Basic trail maintenance techniques. (On Dicey's Mill Trail) |
| Tues. 6/13 | Advanced trail tools: Hoist and rigging workshop. |
| Wed. 6/14 | Pack tools and overnight gear to Walden Campsite. Stay overnight in camp. |
| Thu. 6/15 | Morning hike out from Walden Trail. Crew off until next work day. |
| Sat. 6/17 | Hike in for first full week on Walden Trail. |
| Sat. 7/15 | 8:15 A.M. NH Trails Day. Meet at Ferncroft Kiosk. Clear water bars and do general maintenance on the Blueberry Ledge Trail. Potluck supper at Dick Daniels' at 5:30 P.M. |
| Fri. 9/15-17 | Three day work trip on Sleeper Trail. Call Trails Committee for details. |
| Sat. 10/14 | 8:15 A.M. Annual work trip with Trailwrights. Meet at Ferncroft to build waterbars on Old Mast Road. Pizza dinner to follow. |

MEET THE STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TRAIL CREW

The summer of 2000 holds much promise for success with WODC trail maintenance. Four volunteers with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) will live and work in Wonalancet, focusing on further work on the Walden Trail.

In the words of one of them, Ron Alessi, Beth Chesterman, Rebecca Davidson and Mao Teng Lin are "ready to taste the dusty grit associated with trail maintenance." All are college students with a range of outdoor experiences, including previous trail work, camping, environmental studies, athletic pursuits and social service.

Ron Alessi will graduate in May with an Associate Degree from Hocking College in Ohio. His major is Recreation and Wildlife Management. He has hiked the Appalachian Trail in Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee, paddled 150 miles of the Manistee River in Michigan, and successfully completed survival training with the National Ranger Training Institute. Woodworking and backpacking are among Ron's current hobbies.

Beth Chesterman of Dubuque, Iowa is a freshman at the University of Iowa. She is majoring in Journalism and Environmental Science and plans a career in environmental law or research. A swimmer and runner, she has competed in her high school cross-country team and in road races. Summer

vacations at her family's camp on the Mississippi and cycling and paddling in Minnesota and Wisconsin have led to her career choice. Beth rarely watches TV unless the Simpsons are on. She enjoys reading, listening to Johnny Cash and watching Alfred Hitchcock movies.

Rebecca "Becky" Davidson, of Glen Rock, New Jersey, is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania. She has tutored children and adults in reading and English as a second language, received the Girl Scout Gold Award, run on a cross-country team, and participated in an SCA program where she learned to "use a pulaski quite proficiently," as well as construct water bars and check dams. Becky loves "kids, listening to music, reading, shmoozing, sleeping, and WaWa's 10" turkey subs with lettuce, tomato, pickles, and sweet peppers." Just don't ask her to pet-sit your goldfish.

Mao Teng Lin, a sophomore at the State University of New York at Binghamton, is majoring in Environmental Studies. He works with a campus group to maintain and protect his college's 117 acres of natural area and wetland. His deep interest in art is expressed through working with pencils, stone sculpture, drafting and gardening. He rows and runs and describes himself as "hopelessly optimistic." Mao takes "pleasure in learning new things, meeting

new people, and working with mind and body synchronously." He wishes he had more time for running, reading and good conversations.

All four come with glowing recommendations and have a strong urge to work in the outdoors. Let them speak for themselves in this verbal collage from their letters of application:

"I live to learn and do new things."

"...to challenge myself both physically and mentally."

"...to work outdoors as much as possible and meet other volunteers."

"...to be given the opportunity to contribute to conservation."

"...to do backcountry trail work in the Northeast."

"...to spend my last few 'free' summers in wonderful places like our national parks and forests."

WODC welcomes the group and hopes that many members will meet Ron, Beth, Becky and Mao during the summer months. Trail work days, meetings, picnics and potluck dinners are listed in the summer schedule.

Martha Chandler

ABOUT THIS ISSUE – Paper, ink, and the environment

"Printed on recycled paper." We see the phrase often. It suggests an environmental conscience, but what does it really mean?

Not much, actually. The word "recycled" has taken on a wide range of meanings, and gives no indication of how the paper was processed. Most recycled paper consists predominately of pre-consumer waste, paper products that never left the mill but were reprocessed into new products, usually having the bleaching process repeated.

The WODC Executive Committee recently voted to have the *Newsletter* printed on Quest paper, manufactured by Fox River. Quest is made from 100% post-consumer waste, paper that was distributed, used, and later collected for reprocessing. Using post-consumer waste not only reduces demand for pulpwood, it also alleviates

pressures on solid waste facilities, including landfills and incinerators.

Quest is in a category of paper known as PCF (processed chlorine-free). Chlorine bleaching produces organochlorides, a long-lasting family of chemicals that include dioxin and other toxic compounds. These chemicals are known to be carcinogenic, mutagenic, and to suppress the immune system. By using PCF paper, we are playing a small part in reducing the toxic effluent dumped into our rivers.

Fox River's Quest paper is acid-free, manufactured with fiber that has not passed through the de-inking process, and is EcoLogo certified. It is truly a no-compromise recycled paper.

But that is only half of the story. The ink used in printing this issue of the *Newsletter* is soy-based. Using a vegetable-

based ink eliminates many of the deleterious consequences of using oil-based ink. Oil based inks are composed of more than 30% volatile organic compounds. These compounds can be toxic and contribute to smog and damage to the ozone layer. Soy-based inks also require fewer toxic solvents to clean the printing presses.

As an organization involved in national forest policy, WODC is concerned with wood harvesting, watershed protection and other stewardship issues. It is only right that we address these concerns in all our activities.

Chris Conrod

Note: Thanks go to John Boettiger for researching this topic and educating the Newsletter staff. Comments on this change in printing materials are welcome.

A HISTORY OF FOREST PROTECTION AREAS

Why have a 200 foot camping restriction in the Sandwich Range Wilderness?

Editor's Note: A recent change to the WMNF backcountry regulations prohibits camping within 200 feet of all trails in Wilderness. This rule change effectively prohibits camping on most major summits in the Sandwich Range, not to mention the majority of traditional, although unsanctioned, campsites. Saco District Ranger Terry Miller graciously accepted our invitation to explain the history, rationale, and implementation of this new rule. We hope he becomes a regular contributor to the Newsletter.

Hi. I'm Terry Miller and I've been District Ranger at Saco for 8 months now. It is truly a pleasure to return to New England and the White Mountains, where my career started over 20 years ago.

One of the first issues to hit my desk since arriving was the proposal to remove the Camp Rich, Camp Shehadi, and Camp Heermance shelters in the Sandwich Range Wilderness. I was struck by the many thoughtful public responses from WODC members.

We are now involved in negotiations with the State of NH Historical Preservation Office in Concord. I have appreciated the help of WODC members, especially George Zink and Peter Smart, in helping me to understand the historical and cultural issues involved. More on all that in a later issue.

As for the 200-foot camping restriction... It was recently brought to my attention that our 1999 edition of the Backcountry Rules and Regulations included what appeared to be a new restriction in the Sandwich Range Wilderness. This caught some by surprise. Or as one person so aptly put it, "where the @\$&\$ did this %*# come from?" I want to thank the WODC for offering me some space in your newsletter to explain.

Years ago, when the White Mountain National Forest was in its infancy and visitor demands on the Forest were lower, a minimalist approach to recreation management prevailed. Activities were not heavily regulated. There was little need. Most prohibitions related to fire prevention or protecting special areas.

Many of you, however, have observed the steady and even dramatic increase in backcountry use, especially since the 1960s.

Areas of concentrated public use began to show adverse environmental effects, such as erosion and damage to vegetation. Most often, the method used to control such problems was to put these concentrated use areas under special protection, through the use of "Restricted Use Areas." These have become the current "Forest Protection Areas" (FPA's) in the White Mountain National Forest.

FPAs were usually designated to control specific local problems. Unfortunately, the number and variety of FPAs grew over the years, resulting in a confusing patchwork quilt of special regulated areas. These were hard for even Forest Service people to learn and remember, much less explain to the public and enforce.

So, in 1997, the Forest made the administrative decision to simplify the system by establishing uniform, Forest wide FPAs. One of the effects of that decision was to impose a blanket 200-foot camping prohibition for all trails in designated Wilderness Areas, including the Sandwich Range Wilderness.

The obvious result of this rule is to effectively prohibit nearly all camping on or near the summit of Whiteface. While some reduction of this use is desirable from a Wilderness standpoint, we recognize that a total 200-foot prohibition is unreasonable.

Unfortunately, we did not do a thorough job of informing all likely affected parties of this change, including our friends in the Wonalancet Out Door Club. Nor did we back up and discuss how to implement these changes on the ground. For that I apologize.

In recent meetings with the WODC Camping Subcommittee, we have discussed a phased approach to implementing this 200-foot rule. The first steps toward implementing this new policy can be described as "educate and designate":

(1) make a focused effort in the first few years to *educate* users on the need to observe the 200-foot rule to reduce impact within sight of the trail system from a wilderness ethic standpoint. We will do this through the use of brochures, kiosk information, backcountry patrol contacts, and word of mouth.

(2) *designate* specific camping sites within the 200-foot area that can best support such use and still better meet the principles of Leave-No-Trace camping. These designated sites would represent authorized "exceptions" to the 200-foot rule. Over time, enforcement may gradually increase as necessary to accomplish management objectives, but not in the first year or two.

The WODC had a concern that some areas of the Sandwich Range may be damaged more intensely by dispersing the campers than by designating sites and monitoring them for damage. The top of Whiteface Mountain remains an area of concern with its fragile vegetation. Hopefully the 200-foot rule will protect this zone without additional restrictions.

Through future meetings we hope to develop a working model of designating campsites where needed, protecting the ecosystem and using the 200-foot rule for a better Sandwich Range overall.

I will close by expressing my sincere thanks to the WODC, and especially the members of the Camping Subcommittee, for your very positive and solution-oriented approach to helping us work with these issues. I speak for several employees of the White Mountain National Forest when I say we look forward to working with the WODC in the proper stewardship of the Sandwich area trail system.

Terry Miller
District Ranger, Saco Ranger District

Filler

They say that wood will warm you twice,
At the saw and at the hearth.
I say the Ferncroft Parking Lot
Can doubly warm my heart;
First,
At the start of a joyous hike
In the mountains I adore,
And then,
In the long day's dwindling light
When I'm weary, spent, and sore.

Ed.

Who ARE Those People in the Green Uniforms, Anyway?

Ever since WODC successfully lobbied to have the Sandwich Range included in the WMNF, we have had a close working relationship with the Forest Service. Because many of the rangers we are likely to encounter on the trail or at the Saco District Ranger Station are relatively new to the district, this is a good opportunity to introduce them to the readership.

Dean Yoshina is the newest arrival, having assumed his position as Assistant District Ranger in April. He replaces Rick Young, who retired after 37 years of service in the White Mountains.

Dean's last assignment was at Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington, where he served as a recreation forester / planner. He holds a BS in Forest Resources, and looks forward to meeting WODC members.

Bob Pridham joined the Saco District this past winter as Acting Supervisory Technician for Wilderness, Backcountry and Trails. He assumed this job after Eric Sweat was promoted, and hopes to be permanently assigned to the post.

Bob came from the Ammonoosuc-Pemigewasset District where he was the Lead Wilderness Technician. A commanding figure when met on the trail with an axe in his hands, he says "My main job is to come back alive" when taking out tricky blowdowns. A good philosophy.

The Saco District got a new District Ranger last July when Terry Miller replaced acting District Ranger Tom Malicec.

Terry's previous assignment was at Mark Twain National Forest where he also served as District Ranger. Although schooled as a forester, most of his 22 years with the Forest Service has been spent in recreation management, ranging from developed recreation areas to wild and scenic rivers and Wilderness areas.

No stranger to the White Mountains, Terry's first assignment with the Forest Service was in the Evans Notch District. In fact, it was a hike in the Presidential Range that helped him decide to become a forest ranger.

He says he and his family "look forward to rediscovering the backcountry of the White Mountains now that we've come back home to New England."

Chris Conrod

CAMPING POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

A melding of old and new ideas about camping in the Sandwich Range Wilderness is in the wind, and WODC has formed a group to gather and assess them and make recommendations.

For its entire 108-year history WODC's mission has included attention to camping and conservation in the Sandwich Range.

Since 1984, when the Sandwich Range Wilderness was established as part of the White Mountain National Forest, the Club has sought to help the Forest Service balance accommodation of responsible camping, promotion of "low impact" and "leave no trace" camping practices, and the essential preservation of a true wilderness environment.

The core idea of Wilderness designation is to preserve these areas in their natural state, to make the impact of human use as little noticeable as possible. In practice, this has meant rougher trails, minimum use of signs, and camping amenities only as consistent with the protection of wilderness values.



The Camp Heermance "facility" is just one of the camping issues that must be addressed.

Thirty-two of the fifty-two miles of trails maintained by WODC are in the Sandwich Range Wilderness. As the number of campers has increased in recent years, the task of managing camping to ensure respect for wilderness has become more challenging here as elsewhere in the White Mountains and throughout the country.

Seeking to further such goals and to develop consistent rules for all Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest, a few years ago the Forest Service adopted a (not well-publicized) policy prohibiting camping within 200 feet of all trails in

Wilderness except at designated camping sites.

In December 1999, coinciding with the Forest Service's revision of its management plan for WMNF, the WODC Executive Committee established a task group on camping policy to address this issue, consult the membership of the Club, and work closely with the Forest Service in developing, clarifying and implementing its policies.

The camping policy group submitted its first progress report and recommendations to the Executive Committee in February of this year. After discussion and minor revision, the report was endorsed by the Executive Committee and passed on to the Forest Service as a basis for ongoing discussion.

This first report focused on issues including camping on summits where terrain is fragile and easily degraded; ways to promote more responsible camping practices with regard to degradation of land and vegetation and disposal of waste (including human waste); campfires, proximity to trails, designated shelters; and

potentially useful new educational efforts WODC could implement to encourage appropriate use of wilderness.

Camp Rich, in particular, was identified as "the best alternative for retention of any of the WODC shelters" within the Wilderness. A redesigned kiosk in the Ferncroft parking area, as well as more modest, unobtrusive posting of educational material on major trails like Blueberry Ledge and Dickey's Mill, were recommended, as well as

systematic review of all frequently used campsites.

Club members and others with an interest in these matters and others affecting Wilderness camping are encouraged to contact a member of the task group: John Boettiger, Dick Daniels, John Mersfelder, Howard Nordeen, Judith Reardon and Peter Smart. The camping policy group's first report may be found on the WODC website (www.wodc.org).

John Boettiger

WODC NEWS BRIEFS

New Features on WODC Web Site (www.wodc.org)

If you have not visited the WODC web site in a while, it would be worth taking a look. Webmaster Peter Smart updates the site on a regular basis and has recently added a number of features. Among the new additions are:

- Live WODC events calendar, updated on a weekly basis to reflect last-minute changes.
- 1908 WODC map has been added to the library. The map is available in several resolutions for on-line viewing or high-resolution printing.
- Links to many web sites of interest to WODC members, including current information on the WMNF Plan Revision.
- Current information on developing events, including the summer trail crew and the status of the WODC shelters.

Check out www.wodc.org for all the latest club news.

Jesse Beecher Has Book Published

Readers may remember a feature article in the November, 1996 newsletter titled *New Peregrine on Square Ledge*. It was twelve year old Jesse Beecher's account of his work as a New Hampshire Audubon volunteer. In the late winter and spring of 1996 Jesse observed and recorded the activity of the falcon pair nesting on Square Ledge, providing valuable information to Audubon scientists.

Recently, Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers Inc. published Jesse's latest literary work, *Falcon Watch*. Based on his experiences as an Audubon volunteer, it is part of the Scott Foresman Leveled Reader series. This series is designed to give elementary school children improved vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Congratulations, Jesse. WODC is proud and fortunate to have such a talented and motivated young member.

Editor's Note: Jesse is not the only author in the family. Father Ned Beecher wrote Outdoor Explorations in Mt. Washington Valley, published by Tin Mountain Conservation Center in 1989.

Treasurer's Report

I thank the many members who have already sent in their dues for the current calendar year. If you haven't already done so, please mail your check soon. Remember that the three dues levels are: Pathfinder (\$15); Steward (\$25); and Trail-blazer (\$50). You are welcome to Clerical select whichever level works best for you.

The figures on the right show year 2000 Club finances as of March 31.

Gratefully,
Tom Rogers

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Dues | 6193 |
| Contributions | 1463 |
| Checking | 218 |
| Investments | 338 |
| Merchandise | 383 |
| Total Income | 8595 |
| Clerical | 770 |
| Newsletter | 467 |
| Merchandise | 183 |
| Total Expenses | 1420 |
| Net Income | 7175 |
| Total Assets | 43,601 |

WINTER POTLUCK & HISTORYFEST

On January 29, 2000, our WODC winter potluck dinner was held at Runnells Hall in Chocorua. About 40 people enjoyed a wonderful meal and social gathering, which included reminiscences and discussions on informal historical research.

We were pleased to have Terry Miller, Saco District Ranger for the Forest Service, as a guest. He spoke briefly and answered questions, and then the historical portion of the evening began.

George Bates discussed the process of researching and reopening the Lost Pass Trail, with questions and information from the audience, including past and present use of the trail.

Peter Smart spoke about piecing together information on horse-drawn removal of mast pines on Old Mast Road from the Passaconway area on the Swift River, which is now on the Kancamagus Highway. This route is shown on the original WODC map published in 1908.



Railroad track switch, one of many WMNF artifacts.

Pierce Beij brought in some interesting artifacts that he has found over the years in the Forest, some of which were mysteries as to what they were used for. Many others present contributed information they had discovered.

We plan to continue to hold such gatherings, and give more opportunities for reminiscences and historical information. Saturday, July 15, at the NH Trails Day potluck at Dick Daniels' home, will be another such opportunity. Please remember that the potluck dinner is open to everyone, not just those who have worked that day on WODC trail maintenance.

Bring your stories or findings or memorabilia, or invite another person who has them, and bring your questions! (For more information, contact Judith Reardon 323-7165 or 323-8827, or Dick Daniels 323-8078)

Judith Reardon

FRIENDS OF SANDWICH RANGE UPDATE

Friends of Sandwich Range has met monthly throughout the winter. Members have continued to attend WMNF local planning group meetings, providing input to the Forest Service for the revised Forest Management Plan.

We have also sent written comments to the Forest Service in support of President Clinton's "Roadless Initiative", and responded with specific proposals to a Forest Service scoping letter regarding three proposed parking areas in Sandwich Notch.

On March 20, the Friends gave a slide presentation describing proposals to expand Sandwich Range Wilderness and protect Sandwich Notch to the policy committee of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and staffers from the offices of Representative John Sununu and Senator Judd Gregg. Our narrated slide show has been recorded on both VCR cassette and CD. Copies are available from Peter Smart (323-8666, sr@hydrocad.net).

The WMNF Plan Revision Notice of Intent (NOI) was published on March 9. The Friends attended many of the Forest Service open houses to comment on the NOI.

We encourage WODC members to review the NOI and be ready to comment when the draft environmental impact statement is published.

David White

FOREST PLAN REVISION

The plan revision process for White Mountain National Forest has been under way for the past year.

Public planning groups around the National Forest, in Concord and in Massachusetts identified 31 separate issues they believed should be addressed in the plan revision. These issues ranged from logging to various forms of recreation, and included environmental concerns such as water quality and biodiversity. Many of these issues have a direct effect on how the Sandwich Range will be managed.

These groups continued to meet through the fall and winter, refining the scope of the revision process and providing ideas to the WMNF Planning Team for use in the Forest Plan Revision.

This past March the Forest Service released the Notice of Intent (NOI) to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for revising the White Mountain National Forest Plan. The NOI included 23 of the original 31 issues identified by the local planning groups.

The public comment period for the NOI has expired but copies may still be available from: Forest Planning, WMNF; 719 N. Main St.; Laconia, NH 03246.

The draft EIS is due out in the first half of 2001. There will be another opportunity for public comment when it is released.

Chris Conrod

THANKS AND APOLOGIES

An article on old trees in the White Mountains was intended for inclusion in this issue, but limited space and an abundance of newsworthy events necessitated cutting it.

The article will be saved for a future issue when space allows, but the many people who kindly gave of their time and knowledge during research of the piece should be acknowledged.

Thanks go to Charlie Cogbill, David Govatski, Paul Krusic, Bill Leak, Peter Pohl, Shannon Spencer and others who tolerated my incessant questions, encouraged me, and looked forward to reading the finished product.

Ed.

WODC MERCHANDISE

Summer's here and the time is right for a **WODC Coolmax T-shirt!** Or maybe you prefer the traditional 100% cotton shirt. Either way, we've got you covered.

T-shirts, patches, maps; they're all available by simply filling out the order form and mailing it in with payment. Go ahead! The order form is strategically positioned on the back side of the mailing label so you won't lose any important information.

All prices include shipping. Proceeds go towards care of WODC trails.

WODC Merchandise Order Form

Please mail completed form and payment to:

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



Wonalancet Out Door Club

| Qty | Description | Price | Amount |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | WODC Trail Map & Guide | \$5.00 | |
| | WODC Patch | \$3.00 | |
| | WODC heather grey cotton T-Shirt | Q Medium Q Large Q X-Large | \$14.00 |
| | WODC navy blue Coolmax T-Shirt | Q Medium Q Large Q X-Large | \$16.00 |
| | Additional Contribution (tax deductible) | | |
| | <i>All prices include shipping</i> | | Total Enclosed |

Phone: () -

Email:

Name:

Street:

City, State, Zip:

WODC SUMMER SCHEDULE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Friday, June 9 | Welcome the SCA Crew! A potluck supper will be held at John and Cathy Mersfelder's on Old Mail Road, 5:30 P.M., to welcome Ron, Beth, Becky and Mao to Wonalancet. Last year's welcome supper was a great time, so you won't want to miss this one. Bring your favorite dish or call 323-7793 for suggestions. |
| Saturday, July 15 | N.H. Trails Day. This is the traditional WODC Trails Day. If you only make one work trip this year, come to this. A pleasant hike up Blueberry Ledge Trail is planned, and the work of general maintenance will go fast with the crowd that is expected. Meet at the Ferncroft Parking Lot, 8:15 AM. At 5:30 there will be swimming and a potluck supper at Dick Daniels' house (323-8078). All are invited. Even if you can't make the trip, you and your dish will be welcomed at the feast. |
| Sunday, August 20 | WODC Annual Meeting. We have a special treat this year. At 4:00 PM there will be a hike up Mt. Katherine to enjoy the recently cleared views. And as usual, there will be a potluck supper in the Chapel grove at 5:00, followed by annual meeting at 7:00. |
| Friday - Sunday September 15 - 17 | Annual Sleepermania Weekend. If you want to work on a trail that takes half a day to reach, you've got to make it a long weekend. Many consider this trip to be the highlight of the season. Contact the Trails Committee for details (trails@wodc.org, or 284-6686). |
| Saturday, October 14 | Annual Work Trip with Trailwrights. Meet at Ferncroft, 8:15 AM, for a day of much needed drainage control work on Old Mast Road. Afterwards, pizza at the Barn! |

