

WONALANCET OUT DOOR CLUB

MARCH 1984 NEWSLETTER

10 notes out looking for summer paid trail workers

WODC HAS BEEN ON THE GO IN 1983-84. . .

We've cleared trails and seen fierce autumn storms blow more trees across trails; we've talked with the Forest Service about many issues; we've provided signs to land owners, over whose property our trails cross before entering the WMNF; we've held concerts; we've honored a member and another member has autographed copies of his new book at our Annual Meeting; we've been to Washington! We've been so busy we haven't issued a Newsletter in ages!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT DENNY RANDALL. . .

Old Business: 1983 has been the busiest year for the current executive group, and many thanks to them for the hard work. Some highlights:

Our Sandwich Range Wilderness is almost a reality. The Ad Hoc Committee has hammered out a compromise which passed Congress on Nov. 15, 1983. The Senate votes in Jan. 1984. Copies of the legislation are posted at the Wonalancet Post Office. We extend our gratitude for thousands of hours of work to George Zink.

WODC has formed a Timber Committee under Ted Sidley. They have met and walked the proposed Whitten Range sale for 1985 with the Forest Service. We hope all this work, with local foresters DONATING consultant time to WODC will give us a shining example of careful cutting at its best. (see report)

Fierce blow-downs again this fall will need attention as early as possible by the 14 trail adopters; club members should save some time for clearing this spring with George Zink.

The development of a granite repository for high-level nuclear waste in New England is proceeding very slowly. The first dump will be in a salt dome out West or South. We are number two. More later. Our wilderness status should afford some protection here.

New Business: Dues are now due and payable to: Nat Steele, Treasurer WODC, Wonalancet, NH 03897. \$7.00 individual, \$15.00 family. Our workload has been very costly in the past few years, and while 40 people came to Annual Meeting, and others to other events, you are NOT remembering dues. When you have officers willing to give so freely of time and effort, please give the wherewithal also. **DUES ARE NOW DUE -- Thank you.**

We have two jobs open for trail clearing this summer. AMC will help us in training the workers and with the paperwork (insurance, workmen's comp., etc.) and we have appropriated \$1,000.00 in the 1984 budget. Do we have 2 students interested from our club groups? Time and lodging can be managed. Contact George Zink as soon as possible, as we would prefer to hire students within our membership group if possible.

On January 12 & 13, 1984 AMC sponsored a meeting in Durham, NH, with the Forest Service and other state park groups about user fees for recreation on National Forest lands. This idea may become reality soon, so how do you feel about it? With 6 million visitor days per year in WMNF, a user fee for recreation could overwhelm timber sale value. Is that good or bad? We as tax payers already pay for the WMNF; is this a double tax? Which method protects the resource best? We will be asked our opinion so please be thinking and communicating your wishes to the Executive Committee.

This is my last year as President for WODC, and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you all for your support and help -- be thinking about whom you wish to nominate for your slate next year. It's time for new blood!

Denny (Walden S. Randall)

want to set a mtg but not until after 4/2 as not sure until then

then of spring schedule have to call this work. If we get no response to letters I say run an ad or call schools for local kids needing job.

1983 WODC SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Your Executive Committee met in January, May, June and August 1983
Trail Working Days were held in July (2) and in August (2)
. . . 14 Trails have been adopted - (see report)
Apr: WODC co-sponsored a zoning hearing at the Chapel for Tamworth
Planning Board
WODC signed an agreement with USFS to continue as a corporator.
May 30, 1983
WODC asked to be placed on list for groups for information on
development of high-level nuclear waste repository in granite
in New England.
Contact: Office of Crystalline Repository Development
Batelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio
Decision due 1990
WODC toured the Wonalancet Hydro-Electric Co. with Mr. Dave Brooks
Saturday, July 2
Benefit Folk Concert in the Chapel, Sunday, August 7 by Taylor
Whiteside and Jim Rogers
Annual Meeting and Book Signing with Fred Steele, Sunday, August 21
T-Shirt Sales by Martha and John Chandler
Member Russell Kelley presented a copy of Fred Steele's book
in gratitude for untold hours of trail clearing.
Letter to all landowners on legalities of trail crossings, and sign
installation requesting hiker respect for landowners - 30 people
contacted.
Nov: George Zink for WODC, as a member of the Ad Hoc Forest Advisory
Committee for the state, testified before Congress on behalf
of the Sandwich Range Wilderness. Vote passed House of
Representatives.
Senate vote due January, 1984. (see report)
Ted Sidley headed a Timber Sales Committee for WODC and toured
proposed sale on Whitten Ridge in 1985. (see report)

THE 1983-84 SLATE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING INCLUDES:

President	Walden Randall	Treasurer	-	Nat Steele
Vice Pres dent	- Ted Sidley	Newsletter	-	Martha Chandler
Secretary	- Barbara Sidley	Trail/Fore t		
		Service Lia son	-	George Zink

TIMBER SALE COMMITTEE REPORT

At the last Annual Meeting of the Club, a Timber Committee was established. It was hoped that with a formalized structure of a committee, particularly with the aid of consultants, our responses to proposed Forest Service Timber sales in our area should be better organized and of high quality than might otherwise be. I was chosen to be head of the committee, and other members are Doug McVicar, Dana Steele, and George Zink.

Our first test came this fall, when the Forest Service announced plans for a timber sale, one part of which is to be on Mount Mexico, between the Cabin Trail and the Big Rock Cave Trail. The other part of the proposed sale is near the gravel pit on the old timber road. The sale proposal calls for four separate cutting units, two of which would be ten acre clearcuts, one of which would be a five acre clearcut, and one of which would be a 350 acre selective and small patch cut (that is, patches of one-half to two acres arranged in a mosaic pattern). There would not be a broad unbroken clearcut area.

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TIMBER SALE COMMITTEE (continued from page 2)

(The visual impact of such a patchcut area would be far less disturbing than a clearcut over even a much smaller area.) The total harvest would be about a million board feet of timber. The purpose of the sale is not only to harvest the available merchantable timber, but also, in the two ten acre clearcuts, to improve timber production. Some small areas were cut several years ago and left trees which should now be removed because their shade inhibits the growth of more valuable timber.

After receiving notice of the sale proposal at the end of the summer, we enlisted the help of our expert consultants, Stanley Coville, Ed French, Peter Pohl, and Edgar P. Wyman. They helped us to formulate an intelligent and informed set of comments, and they lent authority to our position. We are deeply appreciative of their help.

In late fall we sent to the Forest Service an 11 page comment with a two page appendix. (The appendix represented an expression of difference of opinion on some minor points.) The document was organized according to the following points of potential impact of a timber sale in our area:

Wilderness, Water Issues, Roads, Trails, Timber Management, Public Relations, and monitoring. Our comments included 17 recommendations.

The following represents a summary of the recommendations, which are dedicated primarily to minimizing adverse impacts on our local environment.

*Avoid timber activity close to Wilderness boundaries. *In sensitive soil areas operate only in the winter when the ground is frozen. *Take especial care around streams, and be sure that state laws are followed regarding leaving timber on and near stream banks. *Have truck and skidder roads cross our trails as few times as possible. *Lop slash (timber cutting residues, like branches) near trails to low height, for unobtrusiveness.

*Keep cuts away from the trails, except for possible "demonstration areas" to indicate to the hiking public that an esthetically sensitive timber harvest can be executed. *Produce signs that would inform the public about the nature of the sale and the efforts that have been taken to conform the sale to environmental and esthetic values. (The signs should be truly informative and not self-serving propaganda.)

*Manage some of the cut acreage so as to grow white pine. (We even volunteered to help to some extent in such an effort. We also counseled against the use of chemicals in such activities.) *Distribute patch cuts fairly evenly throughout the large area in order to minimize visual impact.

*Devote significant effort to ensuring that the timber operator adhere strictly to the terms of the sale contract. (It would be a great shame to have the District Office create a highly desirable sale description and to have an operator's actions in the field negate the values of the planning.)

Receipt of our letter has been acknowledged by the Forest Service, and I believe that we will hear from them within the next few months. My impression is that the Forest Service is interested in our comments. As of now, I feel that our interchange with them has been constructive.

I shall try to keep you informed, via future Newsletters, of additional developments in the sale proposal and Timber Committee activities.

Ted Sidley, Chair, Timber Committee

WODC TRAILS COMMITTEE

Weather prediction is uncertain at best! At the Annual Meeting in August your Trails Chairman reported all major blow-downs caused by unusually high winds during the winters of 1980-1982 had been removed; since such winds are rare we can expect a reduced demand for labor on our trails. Unfortunately, Wonalancet experienced very strong winds during late November with extensive blow downs on our trails. The summer of 1984 will be another period of extensive trail clearing. All our resources will be stressed. We need help from members. You can help in many ways.

(1) Support the Adopt-A-Trail Program. There are several trails in need of adoption. Write or phone the Trails Chairman for details.

(2) Offer yourself as a member of the trails crew during the Summer of '84. Dates of these work-days will be set early in June. Members will be informed of dates via postcard. Enjoy a day of work -- work shared with other club members.

(3) Financial support is needed for implementation of our plan to hire two young people to perform trails maintenance this summer. These two workers will first be trained by AMC personnel, and then will work for about six weeks on WODC trails. Your dollars are needed to make this program a success -- a success for the trails as well as for the workers.

SUMMER 1983 TRAIL CHAIRMAN GEORGE ZINK 323-8693

ADOPT-A-TRAIL . . . THREE CATEGORIES

Hike and clear . . . Walk and Inventory . . . Hire a kid by footing the bill to clear

ADOPTIONS:

Lawrence: George Zink, Jr. & Jeff Zink; Bickford: George and Sally Zink; Cabin: Ralph and Lo Weymouth; Bennett St.: (To Sandwich Dome) Rudy Mutter; Gordon Path: John and Denny Randall; Pasture Path & Red Path: John and Martha Candler; Kelley: Helen Steele and Clara Read; Tom Wiggin: Ian and Janet Cooke; McCrillis: Ted and Barbara Sidley; Brook Path: Roger and Susan Korpi; Walden Trail: Steve Harris; Square Ledge: Mildred and Armand Siegel; Big Rock Cave Trail: David Stuntz and the "over the Hill Gang"; Wonalancet Range Trail Russell Kelly

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WODC GOES TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Outdoor Club was very effectively represented in the Nation's Capital by George Zink, who testified November 8, 1983, before the United States Senate Agriculture Committee, Subcommittee on Soil and Water Conservation, Forestry and Environment.

Introducing his testimony on S.1851, a bill "to establish additional wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest," George told Senator Roger W. Jepsen, Subcommittee Chairman, about WODC, its roots, its membership, and its long history of cooperation and contribution to the White Mountain National Forest. George spoke with particular authority, being the only witness who was himself a resident and representing residents living adjacent to the area which will become wilderness when the bill becomes law.

In a beautifully balanced presentation, George and the other members of the Ad Hoc White Mountain National Forest Advisory Committee each stressed a different important reason why the bill deserved the Senate's support, and gave personal witness to the consensus nature of the present wilderness proposal. In his testimony, George emphasized how much consideration, reconsideration, and compromise lay behind the present consensus bill. He gave specific examples . . . which demonstrated how local residents have exercised their proud tradition of working out solutions to difficult problems together. Other members of the Ad Hoc

WODC GOES TO WASHINGTON, D.C. (continued from page 4)

Advisory Committee who spoke in support of the bill with George were Paul Bofinger, Conrad Hardy, George Hamilton, Buhrman Garland, and Abigail Avery. Individually and cumulatively, the impact was very impressive.

George's testimony followed that of Senators Humphrey and Rudman who introduced the bill and strongly urged quick enactment. John Crowell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, spoke for the Administration, taking issue with the bill's "release language." A national representative of the Sierra Club supported the bill, while a speaker for the Wilderness Society said the bill did not go "far enough." A representative of the National Forest Products Association also opposed the bill, voicing concern about the "release language" issue as well.

The hearing took place in the lovely, ornate Senate Agriculture Committee hearing room, with the Senator and witnesses seated together at a long table. The Chairman, Senator Jepsen, was most courteous to George and the other witnesses, and asked a number of questions (among them-the proper pronunciation of Wonalancet). The audience included press and public and a number of Congressional staff people, some of whom knew George from his teaching days and had come to hear him speak and lend their support.

- Raphaelle Semmes

THANKS TO MARYDALE SEMMES. . .

For the following excerpt from the Congressional Record
"FORESTLANDS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE"

"Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Subcommittee on Soil and Water Conservation concluded hearings on S.1851, to establish additional wilderness areas in the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, after receiving testimony from Senators Humphrey and Rudman; John B. Crowell, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment; Paul Bofinger, Forest Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and George Hamilton, BankEast, both of Concord, New Hampshire; C. Russell Hardy, representing the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association, Penacook, George Zink, representing the Wonalancet Outdoor Club, Wonalancet, New Hampshire; Peter Oliver, Appalachian Mountain Club, Andover, Massachusetts; Buhrman Garland, Woodlands, Saunders Brothers, Westbrook, Maine; Abigail Avery, Lincoln Center, Massachusetts, and James T. Mahoney, Washington, D.C., both on behalf of the Sierra Club; and Peter Kirby, the Wilderness Society, and Scott Shotwell, National Forest Products Association, both of Washington, D.C."

THE FOLLOWING IS FROM SENATOR GORDON HUMPHREY'S NEWSLETTER:

"I want to give credit for the Wilderness Act to those citizens of our state who have been working hard over the last five years to find a consensus position among the various parties. These citizens, working under the umbrella of the Ad Hoc White Mountain National Forest Advisory Committee, are representatives of a number of organizations, including...the Wonalancet Outing Club (sic)..."

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NOW LET US HEAR FROM YOU. . .

1. Will you help us on a Trail Clearing Day?
2. Do you know of someone who might like to work for WODC this summer?
3. Would you consider adopting a trail in any of our adoption categories?
4. Perhaps you would like to help on a summer concert committee?
5. Have you paid your dues?

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T-SHIRTS CAN STILL BE PURCHASED: Contact...John Chandler, 16 Orchard Street, Laconia, NH 03246. Light blue/dark lettering or Navy/white lettering S-M-L-XL \$6.00 (plus \$1.00 if mailed to you)