

PEREGRINE FALCONS ON SQUARE LEDGE

Editor's Note: Chris Martin, Wildlife Program Manager for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, graciously provided the Editor with most of the information upon which the following article is based. His assistance made the article possible. Thank you, Chris.

During the summer of 1992 a pair of peregrine falcons nested on the cliffs of Square Ledge, the first record of a breeding pair on territory in the Sandwich Range since the dramatic decline of peregrines in the 1940's and 50's. Prior to the widespread use of DDT as an agricultural pesticide, the population of breeding peregrines in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont was estimated at 53 pairs. By the late 1960's the peregrine was completely absent as a breeding species in eastern United States.

It was later confirmed that the pesticide DDT accumulates in the bodies of the females, causing them to produce thin-shelled eggs. Thin-shelled eggs provide insufficient protection for developing embryos, leading to death of the embryos and a rapid population decline for the species. Not until 1972 was the public sufficiently aware of the situation, resulting ultimately in a ban on the use of DDT in the United States. The pesticide is still produced in the United States for export.

Researchers at Cornell University developed techniques of raising young falcons in captivity where they are protected from DDT accumulations, and then later reintroduced to their native habitats. Through the years, about 4,000 peregrines have been raised and returned to the wilds by these techniques, 98 at two stations in New Hampshire. These methods have been so successful that in recent years nesting pairs have been raising young unassisted at about a half-dozen sites in the State. In the past 12 years a total of 54 wild-hatched chicks are known to have fledged in New Hampshire.

First evidence of wild peregrines near Square Ledge in the Sandwich Range Wilderness (not to be confused with another nesting site on Square Mountain in the Kilkenny district of WMNF) came in May of 1991, but went unreported to

wildlife biologists until September. In late February, 1992, a peregrine was observed near the cliff; by mid-April incubation in a nest on Square Ledge was confirmed. Field biologists and volunteer observers made more than a dozen visits to the site between February and June, documenting at least one falcon present in February, a pair on territory in early April, egg incubation in late April, and nest abandonment in mid-May.

Shell fragments were collected at the Square Ledge site and examined by biologists from the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology. The shells were found to be 22% thinner than the average shell thickness of peregrine eggs from the pre-DDT era. This fact suggests that the cause of failed reproduction was premature egg breakage; there is increased risk of shell breakage when the shells are 17% or more thinner than the pre-DDT average.

There are, however, other factors which may have contributed to a failure to raise chicks. Square Ledge was popular with breeding ravens this past summer; ravens do eat eggs of other species. In addition, Forest Service personnel learned that the cliffs are more popular with rock climbers than they had previously thought. The shy peregrines prefer secluded breeding areas.

The 1992 breeding season was a disappointing one for peregrine restoration in New Hampshire. A total of seven territorial pairs were observed, but only three were successful in raising young, for a combined total of five.

Persons who might be interested in assisting in the effort to monitor breeding peregrines at Square Ledge in 1993, please contact Chris Martin at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (603-224-9909) for more details.

Notes on the Annual Meeting

President John Mersfelder opened the August 23, 1992 Annual Meeting on an optimistic note, recounting the recent successes of WODC: a new map, the Flat Mountain Pond decision, forms and

questionnaires at trailheads, the *Newsletter*, a trail maintenance manual, a trail adopter workshop, efforts at year round activities, relations with the Forest Service, and improved follow up with new members. Both membership and income are up as a result. John visualizes a restructuring of the Club with increased activities, more female involvement, and a turn over of core office-holders.

The Forest Liaison Committee reported a continuing study of issues that the Forest Service and WODC have in common. Of particular concern is the problem of access to the Forest on trails open to the public for decades. John Chandler spoke of the need to protect the integrity of the trails system, and made the following motion:

The WODC is seriously concerned with the issue of the public's continued right of access to public lands over hiking trails that have long been used by the public, and instructs the Executive Committee to investigate problems of threatened limitation of access, study the nature and extent of the public's rights, and advise the Club of any desirable further action.

The motion was seconded and passed.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Doug Mayer, Barbara Sidley, and George Zink, gave its report reflecting the restructuring anticipated earlier by President Mersfelder. The Committee recommended: an Activities Committee be established; the Timber and Forest Liaison Committees be combined; establishment of a committee structure for Trails, Forest

1993 DUES

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$18.00
Camps/Organizations	\$25.00

Please make checks payable to WODC:

New Members: Clarinda Philips
HC 64 Box 275
Wonalancet, NH 03897

Renewals: Dick Daniels
Chase Road
N. Sandwich, NH 03259

Liaison, Membership, and Activities Committees.

The following officers were nominated.

President: John Mersfelder; **Secretary:** Barbara Sidley; **Treasurer:** Dick Daniels; **Executive Committee:** All officers and committee chair persons and At-large-member, Judy Reardon (other At-large members may be selected); **Forest Liaison:** Chair: George Zink; members: Fred Lavigne, James Johnson, Ted Sidley, Judy Reardon; **Membership:** Chair: Clarinda Philips; members: Catherine Mersfelder, Sally Zink. **Newsletter:** Chair: Sally Zink; members: Catherine Mersfelder, George Zink; **Trails Committee:** Chairs: Dana Steele and Doug Mayer; members: Chris Conrod, Jim Myklund, Judy Reardon and Peter Smart; **Activities Committee:** Charlotte and Herb Cooper, Barbara and Howard Nordeen, Jean and Charles Tewksbury.

The report was accepted and the secretary cast one ballot for the slate.

Nat Steele was congratulated for his many years as Treasurer, as well as his many other contributions to the Club.

John Mersfelder was commended for an outstanding term as President.

Addenda:

(1) A temporary location has been found for the WODC library. Still in the cabinet formerly at the Wonalancet Post Office, it is now in the Cook Memorial Library of Tamworth. We are grateful for the new "home" and thank those who made this niche possible. If members have items of interest they would like to donate to the WODC library, there is some room left in the cabinet. The Club received library donations this year: a book written by Edgar L. Heermance, given by his daughter, Louise Heermance Tallman; a WODC Guide(1908) used by Edgar J. Rich, presented by his grand nephew, James Aldrich; a WODC Guide(1908) used by Francis B. Ellis, presented by his son, Richard F. Ellis. Francis Ellis was the cartographer who drew the 1951 WODC map.

(2) As predicted, the Wonalancet Post Office is no longer operating. We do wish the former Postmaster, Mrs Lillian Bowles, many years of health and happiness in her retirement.

(3) We have been offered a place to store WODC tools in close proximity to hiking trails. More on this in another *Newsletter*.

(4) At a Fall Executive Committee Meeting, the decision was made to change the fiscal year to the calendar year. This in response to the confusion we have all experienced in the past. Dues for 1993 are payable as of January 1, 1993. For those who need to revise their schedule of payments, we will send you a reminder with the next *Newsletter* in the Spring.

Map Errata

The *Newsletter* Editor, knowing that map aficionados love to keep their maps current, asked cartographer Mike Bromberg to list errors reported to date. Printed below are changes and corrections for the WODC Trail Map and Guide to the Sandwich Range Wilderness as of December 1, 1992. Not all the changes are "errors," for maps must undergo revisions as trails are altered, abandoned, or created. Mike requests that if you know of changes or errors which are not noted below, send them to the address on the back of the map. If you wish to update your map, Mike recommends an ultra-fine permanent marker such as Pilot or Sharpie to maintain water resistance.

Trails: (Black)

■ One outlook on Tripyramid is on the summit of Middle Peak, not at the junction in col between North and Middle Peaks.

■ The Sabbaday Brook Trail has been relocated around a steep part. Instead of crossing the brook at an elevation of 2700', the trail continues up the brook bed to almost 3000', then contours L to the old route at about 3300'.

■ The Sleeper Trail passes just a few yards W of the summit of West Sleeper.

■ Rollins Trail has been relocated around a steep part. Trail turns sharp R about 0.8 miles from Dickey's Mill Trail junction, contours for 0.1 mile, then zigzags up to the crest of the ridge.

■ Gleason Trail is 1.7 miles from Flat Mtn. Pond Trail to upper Bennett Street Trail junction.

■ East Loop is 0.2 miles long.

■ Kelley Trail is 2.1 miles, not 2.0, from Gordon Path to Lawrence Trail.

■ Brook Path is 2.1 miles long.

■ Bickford Trail from Old Paugus Trail to Brook Trail is 0.7 miles, not 0.5.

■ McCrillis and Flat Mt. Pond Trails. Trailhead in Whiteface Intervale has moved S of bridge. Please respect private property in this area.

Colors:

■ Outlet of Flat Mt. Pond is not NE into Whiteface River, but S into Pond Brook (blue).

■ Identify "Mt. Chocorua Scenic Area" (olive green area at E edge). That is, it should be labeled.

Trail Descriptions on Back:

■ Bennett St. Trail: (0.6) Gleason Trail saves 0.7 miles, not 0.6.

■ Rollins Trail: (0.8) Trail contours R about 0.1 mile, then zigzags up to the top of ridge, avoiding a steep rocky section on the former location.

Winter Program

The newly formed Activities Committee met in November and scheduled several winter activities.

A X-C ski trip is planned to Great Hill Pond on January 17. The trail chosen is a favorite for skiers and snowshoers, approximately four miles in length and suitable for beginners and intermediates. Meet at the parking area at the four corners on top of Great Hill at 10:30 a.m. Bring your family and lunch. Leaders: Howard and Barbara Nordeen, 323-7610.

On February 14 an all day X-C ski trip will be from Waterville Valley to Whiteface Intervale via Lost Pass and Flat Mt. Pond. For advanced skiers, total 12 miles. This Valentine special requires a shuttle of cars to take skiers to Waterville Valley. For details phone John Mersfelder, 323-7793.

An almost full moon X-C ski and snowshoe trek will take place in Wonalancet, and for the whole family. Meet on March 6 at the Wonalancet Chapel at 7:30 p.m. After an evening of skiing or snowshoeing, we will end with

WHO IS W. H. ROLLINS?

Dr. William H. Rollins was unique: brilliant, admired, wealthy and yet frugal, reclusive, a devoted husband, at the cutting edge of several fields of knowledge, a researcher in the application of X-rays to the medical profession, a conservationist of both land and wildlife, a lover of the out-of-doors. WODC and the hiking public know the name if not the person; he opened the Rollins Summit Path in 1899.

Dr. Rollins' interest in the out-of-doors was manifest at an early age. He hiked and camped in the forests of New Hampshire, Maine, and the Adirondacks. For many years prior to purchasing land in Tamworth, he took four days off each month to camp and hike in the White Mountains. "He used to camp in the snow with his fur bag, by way of a change in air. Although most of his middle life was spent in an office, Uncle Rollins was an outdoor man. When a boy he built canvas canoes, long before anyone else had them, and somehow with his slender means he got time to make trips to the Adirondacks and Maine. Parmachene Lake was one of his early camping places." Thus writes his nephew. There is no record of his membership in WODC; he was a life member of the AMC as early as 1891.

He is credited with opening the Rollins Trail in 1899 from the peak of Mt. Whiteface along the ridge to the original Dicey's Mill Trail on Passaconaway, thence eastward to Square Ledge. Whether Rollins himself laid out the trail on the original site, and whether he actually did the clearing and blazing with axe and saw in hand is uncertain. He was capable of doing so. However, it was common at that time for well-to-do people to hire local farmers and woodsmen to do the labor of cutting trails. The 1901 WODC Guide to the Paths and Trails of the Sandwich Range states simply that "It was cut by Dr. William Rollins in 1899." A brief account in the 1900 volume of Appalachia is somewhat fuller, but gives no details: "Acting in harmony with Club (AMC), Dr. William H. Rollins had path opened from summit of Mt. Whiteface along ridge to Club path on Passaconaway and from there down east slope to Square Ledge. This path most valuable." In the

later 1908 WODC Guide the author gives some particulars, but there is a question of precision. "Dr. William H. Rollins took a crowd of men to the summit of Whiteface and from there cut a path to Passaconaway and later he continued it to Square Ledge."

Holiday Giving

A gift, to be special, requires thought and foresight. WODC has several items that will be perfect for giving.

- WODC Trail Map and Guide @ \$5.00
- WODC decal @ \$2.00
- WODC Tee shirt @ \$9.00
- WODC membership: Individual @ \$10, Family @ \$18.00, Organization/Camp @ \$25.00

For Tee shirt orders write or phone: Martha Chandler, 60 Holman Street, Laconia, NH 03246. Tel. 603-524-3987.

For maps and decals write or phone: Sally Zink, HC 64 Box 310, Wonalancet, NH 03897. Tel. 603-323-8693.

For membership orders see Box "Dues 1993."

Dr. Rollins was a most reclusive person; it is difficult visualizing him leading a "crowd of men."

Also in 1899, Rollins cleared the McCrillis Trail from Whiteface Intervale to the peak of Mt. Whiteface. The trail had been cut originally in 1876 but was little used and was being obliterated by natural regeneration. Once the Blueberry Ledge Trail became available, WODC made no further effort to maintain the McCrillis Trail.

William Herbert Rollins was born in 1852 and spent the greater part of his youth in Lawrence, MA, where his father was mayor. He studied dentistry under a local city doctor for three years. Rollins earned a D.M.D from Harvard Dental School, and received a medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1873. He practiced dentistry in Boston until his retirement in 1911.

Throughout life he was an exceptionally gifted and effective experimenter in various scientific fields. For example, immediately following the discovery of X-rays by Röntgen in 1895 he began experimenting. Rollins early recognized the significance of X-ray use in medicine. Tribute to Rollins' pioneering work is

described by Dr. Samuel Ellsworth of Boston in the January 1930 issue of the Journal of Röntgenology.

"William Rollins foresaw the far-reaching benefits which Roentgen's discovery was destined to give to medicine — a vision which the years have fully justified. In the new field thus offered he pursued his investigations with characteristic thoroughness. Numerous reports of his research and experiments appeared in various medical and scientific journals. These reports and experiments he published in book form in 1904 under the title of Notes On X-light.

"His idealism of service, which was his inspiration, is disclosed in the preface of this book: 'In these notes are recorded some impressions derived from experiments made after the day's work, as a recreation, yet with the hope of learning to design and construct apparatus for my friend, Dr. F.H. Williams, who has done most to show the importance of X-light in medical diagnosis.'

"How well his modest hope was fulfilled is attested by the fact that his designs of apparatus, and his axioms as to the manipulation of X-light appear as the work of the master, whose plans and principles are the basis of modern x-ray technique, and the source from which much of the present-day apparatus has been developed.

"He visualized not only the future value of the X-ray in medicine and gave directions for its use, but also realized the danger attendant upon the misuse of this powerful agent and prescribed safety methods for the operator and patient.

"During the year 1900 he made experiments with radioactive substances which led him to believe in the value of radium as a therapeutic agent and he endeavored to obtain further information in that direction with a view to its use in the treatment of certain diseases. In this case, as in that of the X-rays, his belief has been justified.

"Dr. Rollins' work was inspired by the ideal of service, directed by vision, and characterized by practicality,

precision, and completeness. By this we may know the man. In the hope that others may follow the trail of research he has marked out, to ends useful to mankind, he established a generous foundation at the Smithsonian Institution. A lover of nature, he left lands of shore and forest on Cape Cod as a sanctuary for birds."

It is interesting to note that it was during a period of intense scientific investigation on X-rays that he vacationed in Tamworth regularly, and found time and energy to open hiking trails.

In 1894 Rollins purchased land and buildings along Great Hill Road in Tamworth, property presently owned by the Cave family. In his journals Rollins refers to the buildings as "camps." Although he owned property in coastal Maine, Boston, Cape Cod (Wellfleet and Truro), it was Tamworth which meant most to him, during his active life as well as his declining years. It was at his Tamworth house, "Westwind," that he carried out delicate studies on light rays which required freedom from vibration, hybridization of iris and water lilies, photographic studies, and gardening. In Tamworth he was close to family and friends: the Francis Williams family in the house currently owned by Louis Flaccus, and the Clarke family on property now occupied by the Wayne Mocks. In his declining years, following the death of his wife, the happy days spent in Tamworth are frequently recalled in the pages of his journal.

Dr. and Mrs. Rollins had no children, and few close friends. His active intellectual life fostered this isolation. His nephew writes, "Uncle William had few friends outside the family. Somewhere in his journals he says that he had but three intimates among men of his own age and standing. In later life he had none."

Although his name is most frequently remembered in Tamworth due to trail building, he has left other marks upon the Town. He was responsible, together with Major Clarke, for having Great Hill Road rerouted away from their houses to its present location. And it was Rollins who erected milestones from the railroad depot in West Ossipee to his driveway. Several of these stones are in place in 1992. And canoeists on Great Hill Pond will long

remember the gorgeous pink water lilies bred by this unique man.

Editor's Note: Material for this article came from conversations with Joan Cave and a book she made available, *William Herbert Rollins: Journal of Last Years, 1918-1929*.

1993 Winter Activities

January 17, 10:30 a.m. At Great Hill (Hemenway) parking lot. X-C and snowshoe trek to Great Hill Pond.

February 14, All day X-C from Waterville Valley to Whiteface.

March 6, 7:30 p.m. X-C and snowshoe under full moon. Wonalancet Chapel.

March 13, 1:00 p.m. Animal tracking with Dave Thurlow. Tamworth Library.

March 21, All Day X-C up Mt. Washington Auto Road.

See "Winter Program" article for details.

Centennial Dinner

As befits an organization on its Centennial, approximately one hundred members and guests gathered at Runnells Hall, Chocorua, on August 8th, 1992, to celebrate the event.

Activities began outdoors with appetizers and beverages served beneath a colorful awning which had been pitched by Dave Bowles and his crew. The walls of the hall were decorated with murals by Sam'l Newsom, as well as with Club memorabilia assembled by Clarinda Philips. There were beautiful wildflower table centerpieces in birch log holders, all arranged by Cathy Mersfelder, and retired trail signs were mounted throughout the room. The atmosphere was very festive! Everyone enjoyed the indoor buffet chicken dinner with lemon pastry dessert.

President John Mersfelder's anecdotes were entertaining and kept the program focused. As Master of Ceremonies, he introduced the speakers and gave information on the present state of the Club.

The speeches included greetings from the Forest Service: Ranger Jim DiMaio of the Pemigewasset District of the White Mountain National Forest presented framed certificates to George Zink and Ted Sidley, acknowledging their work as members of the planning group for the Sandwich Opportunity Area; Saco District Ranger Bob Walker presented the Club with an engraved plaque to commemorate

the Centennial. The plaque is a large, carved likeness of the WODC logo in full color. It is both impressive and effective.

Forest Supervisor, Rick Cables, then expressed his congratulations to the Club. He was followed by Steve Rice, New Hampshire Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development, who gave friendly and encouraging remarks on behalf of the State. Hank Peterson presented best wishes to WODC from the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Immediately following dinner festivities was the auctioning of retired trail signs. The auctioned signs have been replaced by new ones, made and installed by Doug Mayer. Doug acted as assistant to auctioneer and Trails Chairman, Dana Steele, who maintained a lively, and amusing patter. The result was surprisingly remunerative, and yielded close to four hundred dollars for the Club treasury.

The major program event was an illustrated talk by George and Sally Zink. The Zinks presented a historical summary of the Club's early years, giving background on the people whose activities led to the formation of the WODC. The Zinks also discussed some of the forces that motivated the Club's founders, including economic factors that led them to encourage recreational hiking. The talk also highlighted some more contemporary persons who have made significant contributions, including Walter Walker and Fred Steele.

The Zinks emphasized how the Club has been active in fostering hiking in the Valley and environs, and how it has also made significant efforts to achieve wider-ranging goals. It was noted, for example, that WODC was active in the establishment of the White Mountain National Forest and the acquisition of land for the Forest. The Club has also been involved in Forest Planning, especially on the Saco District.

Everyone found the Zinks' discussion and their slides to be informative and interesting. The audience was highly appreciative of the signal efforts that George and Sally made in preparing their material.

It was a wonderful evening for everyone. The sentiment was that the evening itself was worth the one hundred years' wait! All felt they had celebrated an organization that through the years has made a major and continuing contribution to preserving the values of Wonalancet and its mountains. All hope that the next hundred will be as rewarding as the century just ended.

Ted Sidley

AMC Campsite Workshop

Editor's Note: WODC is faced with various issues related to campsite management. Peter Smart of the Trails Committee is serving Club interests by making himself familiar with the issues and methods of dealing with backcountry problems. Here he reports on his experiences at two campsites in other portions of the Forest.

The AMC recently held a two-day workshop on the design and maintenance of backcountry campsites. The program was hosted by Reuben Rajala, the AMC Trails Director, and consisted of field trips to two campsites plus a discussion, slides, and dinner at Pinkham Notch. Overnight accommodations were provided at Camp Dodge, which serves as the AMC/USFS volunteer camp during the summer season.

Approximately twenty people attended the workshop including "backcountry recreation specialists" from most WMNF ranger districts. Also represented were the Green Mountain Club, the Maine Department of Public Lands, and the WODC. There was very much a "hands on" attitude among the group, with a genuine concern for the outdoors. An interesting side-note were comments on the apparent lack of coordination within the Forest Service at certain times. For example, timber harvesting is not automatically coordinated with recreational plans (trails, camping, etc.). If this is true within the Forest Service, it helps explain why we're sometimes frustrated on the outside.

The first day was spent at the recently reconstructed Imp Shelter in the Carter Range. The original shelter and campsites had developed along the trail and parallel to the stream which is the water source. This is a very natural way for campsites

to develop since people want to be near the water. It also eliminates the need to construct additional trails to reach the camp. However, the proximity of the sites to the stream poses a threat to the water quality at the lower sites. The layout also results in many separate paths being trodden from each site to the stream. The labyrinth of trails destroys vegetation and results in an unsightly and unappealing area.

A common solution to these problems is to close off the bootleg trails, post signs, and even patrol the area. Unfortunately, these solutions are not fully effective, and require a constant effort to maintain and enforce. Simply put, you're fighting the natural attraction of the stream which is why people are there in the first place.

The solution? Redesign the campsite so that people will want to walk where they should. In the Imp case, the sites and new shelter were laid out on a single trail perpendicular to the stream. In this way the redesigned trail is also the shortest, and the motivation to literally cut corners was removed. This also protects water quality by locating sites farther from the stream and reduces traffic along the stream.

To reduce damage at tentsites, raised wooden tent platforms were installed. Platforms eliminate damage caused by tent stakes and trenching, reduce soil compaction, and confine tents to the designated area. Since this particular site is on a fair slope there is simply nowhere else to camp, so there is minimal difficulty with bootleg campsites. (In a Wilderness area, earth pads could be used instead of wood, such as at Thirteen Falls Campsite in the Pemigewasset Wilderness.)

In the case of Imp it was also decided to relocate the main trail so it no longer goes through the site. By placing the campsite on a dead end side trail, day hikers could bypass the site altogether. The primary trails within the site were also hardened with rock to eliminate deterioration.

Since wood fires at each site would cause considerable damage, fires are permitted only in the central fire pit at the shelter. By providing a good, attractive location for a fire, the tendency to build bootleg fire rings is greatly reduced. Wood use is reduced as well as damage

from gathering. The option of banning fires altogether is used only as a last resort since it requires ongoing enforcement and deprives campers of what many believe to be an important outdoor experience. Any damage due to firewood gathering can usually be minimized by recommending area(s) away from the site for gathering wood, or by having a caretaker provide all firewood.

Due to the very heavy use of Imp Campsite, two additional steps were taken. First, a summer caretaker was installed to encourage responsible use of the site and perform necessary maintenance. Secondly, a composting toilet was designed and installed to eliminate the high cost of flying out waste. As at other high-use AMC campsites, a traditional pit toilet was not feasible due to the high usage, poor soils, and high water table. The AMC has developed a "batch bin composting" system which reduces the human wastes to a completely sterile material that can safely be spread on the forest floor. However, this is a very labor intensive task and is one of the major responsibilities of the caretaker.

Although trail maintenance was not the official topic of this workshop, it's hard to spend two days with Reuben without learning something about trails. On the descent from Imp, the importance of proper brushing was discussed. On a side-hill (where many WODC trails are located) failure to trim the growth on the uphill side can cause hikers to walk closer to the edge and actually move the trail! Eventually this can lead to collapse of the treadway, requiring major reconstruction. The importance of clearing water bars was also stressed by several people. One of the Forest Service participants commented that this is the task most often overlooked by adopters. Concern was also expressed about over-blazing of trails.

At the close of the first day we were provided with an excellent turkey dinner at Pinkham Notch followed by slides of various shelters, campsites, and related topics. By this time we were getting a little tired, and not even Reuben's description of a new pedal operated toilet which sprays the waste across the forest floor got much of a rise out of us!

The second day entailed a trip to Mountain Pond in Bartlett. (Not to be confused with Black Mt. Pond or Flat Mt. Pond.) This site had been recommended by a Forest Service participant as suffering from overuse and being in need of rehabilitation. Since the shelter is only a mile from a Forest Service road, this has become a frequent site for weekend beer parties complete with shooting from the shelter across the lake!

Aside from these "social problems", the group found the area has minimal signs of damage or overuse. The shelter itself is reasonably sound, although more attention to water damage is needed. This would entail removing all earth in contact with the sills, a step which would be equally beneficial to our own aging shelters. The importance of adequate roof overhang to keep the walls dry was also stressed. As with any structure, these measures will generally insure a long life.

Altogether this was a very interesting workshop. Although the AMC holds regular trail workshops, this was the first ever held on the topic of backcountry campsites. It was exciting to see the interest and commitment to backcountry campsites by all the participants. I hope I've been able to convey some of the content to other WODC members, and look forward to similar exchanges in the future.

Peter Smart

Trails Committee Report

There has been considerable trails activity in 1992, highlighted by a turnout of more than 25 people for Trails Day. Club turnout was supplemented by volunteers recruited by the Forest Service. The day's activities included brushing and waterbar cleaning on Blueberry Ledge, Dicey Mill, Kelley, Lawrence, and Cabin trails. Excellent progress was made removing hobble bush on the Lawrence Trail, and opening the view from the Paugus Outlook on Cabin Trail.

The Trails Committee held a number of work trips to deal with specific problem areas. At least four trips were devoted to removing dozens of blow-downs on the Kelley Trail. Additional work was started

to improve wet areas, remove stream blockages, and generally make the trail more passable.

Another work trip was spent removing numerous blow-downs from the Dicey Mill Trail. Since this trail lies within wilderness, a two-person saw was used to remove the larger trees. A few rock steps were also placed in a wet section of trail above Camp Rich, and a number of waterbars were cleaned. We will schedule a Spring workshop for adopters on this trail.

While a lot of work was done on special trips, the essential core of our trail maintenance remains the WODC Adopters. The Trails Committee extends a hearty "well done" for all your efforts, and hopes you'll let us know if you'd like any assistance on your trail. Perhaps you've got some large blow-downs or just lots of brush? Just let us know, and we'll be glad to help.

The Sandwich Range Conservation Association (SRCA) spent a week working on WODC trails. The crew worked on Bennett Street Trail this year, performing advanced trail maintenance such as constructing rock steps and water bars. Although the major item of the WODC budget is for work by the SRCA, this represents a fraction of the total cost of the crew. Both the SRCA and the Forest Service provide additional funds to make this vital work possible. Nat Scrimshaw of the SRCA also led a workshop for WODC adopters this past Summer to improve our techniques.

To coordinate these expanded activities, the Trails Committee has also geared up. The newly expanded committee consists of co-chairs Dana Steele and Doug Mayer, and new members Chris Conrod, Jim Mykland, Judith Reardon, and Peter Smart. The committee has begun meeting on a regular basis to address the many challenges and opportunities before us. There is a significant amount of work to do in planning activities for 1993. The committee has also begun discussing a broad range of issues including: blazing of trails, trails crossing private property, maintenance of shelters, bridge repairs, camping policies, and improving communication with the Forest Service. Re-signing of all WODC trails should be completed in 1993.

To outfit our 1993 work trips, \$200 has been approved for the purchase of additional tools. New tools will include items not commonly owned by trail volunteers, such as fire rakes and grub hoes.

We anticipate having the SRCA work on the Blueberry Ledge Trail in 1993. Several sections of the trail are deeply rutted due to water and heavy use. We are investigating the possibility of using the New Hampshire State Shock Incarceration Crew for additional heavy trail work. The Crew consists of nonviolent offenders and has been used on a variety of projects across the State, including trail work in Franconia Notch and for the Randolph Mountain Club. The Crew comes fully supervised and ready to work. The only cost to WODC would be to hire a skilled trail crew director to plan and direct the work. Use of this group would double annual trail construction, at minimal cost.

It is an exciting time for the Trails Committee and the WODC. We hope you'll join us for one of the Winter outings and again in the Spring, when the real work begins. Remember: **Think globally and act locally.** See you on the trail!

Peter Smart

Winter Program (Continued from Page 2)

hot cocoa. Leaders: Charles and Jean Tewksbury, 323-7830.

On March 13 will be an afternoon animal tracking slide show and hike with Dave Thurlow. Dave has been a member of the AMC educational staff. Those who attended a Compass and Map workshop two summers ago, and/or slide show on Antarctica, will recall his lively programs. Meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Cook Memorial Library. For information phone Charlotte Cooper, 323-7558.

A ski up the Mt. Washington Auto Road is scheduled for March 21. If interested, phone Peter Smart at 323-8666.