

ALAN C. PURVES

Members and friends of the Club were saddened to learn of the death of Alan C. Purves on the last day of December, 1996 at his home in Melrose, N.Y. He was formerly an officer of both the Wonalancet Out Door Club and the Wonalancet Union Chapel.

Alan's grandparents, the Spencers, first vacationed in Tamworth during the early 1900's. Later, they stayed at the Chocorua Inn. Then Alan's parents took up summer residence in several different houses: in Chocorua on Heavenly Hill and on the Hammond Trail Road, and in South Tamworth, before purchasing "Talbalkken" in the Tamworth section of Wonalancet in 1956. Alan and wife Anita acquired a vacation house in the Sandwich section of Wonalancet in the early 1960's; their house is west of Squirrel Bridge close to the Blueberry Ledge Trail.

Alan was a distinguished writer, scholar, teacher, and administrator. He received an undergraduate degree from Harvard University, a Ph.D. from Columbia University, and two Fulbright Scholarships. Dr. Purves taught English

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Alan Purves on West Rattlesnake

A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE

Editor's Note: In the Fall of 1995 Trails Chairman Peter Smart attended a six day conference entitled "Inter-agency Wilderness Management Course." Peter was the only representative from outside the Forest Service. On the final day of the program he spoke to the gathering in the following words. I think you will be impressed, as I am, with the cogency of his remarks.

I appreciate the unique opportunity that this week has given me to interact with the people and agencies represented at this workshop. After 35 years of hiking and camping in the hills of New Hampshire they represent home to me more than any other place in the world. This week has given me new insights into the challenges of protecting this resource, as well as into the agency charged with this responsibility.

Although I've had the opportunity to get to know you as caring individuals, I must tell you that as an organization the Forest Service (and other federal agencies) is not particularly "user friendly." I suppose the IRS is also staffed by warm-fuzzy people like you, but the agency is certainly not viewed that way. I feel that the current channels of gathering public input, such as the scoping process, and publishing decisions, is simply not adequate.

I realize that dealing with the general public is difficult for any large organization. Organizations work within well-defined structures, while individuals do not. If an agency asks question "A," the response may very well be to question "B," which was not even asked. A readily available means of improving public interaction is to work more with volunteer groups, such as the Wonalancet Out Door Club. As organizations we can understand and work within the process by which the agency functions, while also communicating with our individual members. Of course, volunteer groups can also help get things done in these tight economic times.

The WODC is a small local organization, and obviously not of direct significance to more than a few people here. However, I offer it as an example of many committed volunteer groups. I urge

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USER FEES

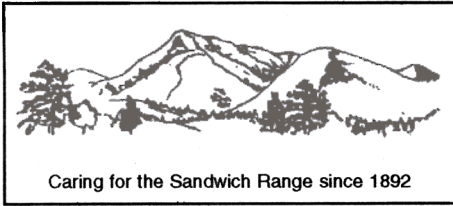
During the past ten years Forest Service managers and hikers have been discussing what are now known as "user fees," payments levied upon those who enter National Forests for recreation, to be spent on maintenance and construction of facilities. Today there is added urgency to the issue. The inadequacy of current funding is apparent to anyone who visits our National Forests; the need for greater funding is universally accepted. Citizen clamor for tax reduction and a conservative Congress bring the issue to a new focus.

In April 1996 Congress authorized four federal agencies—including the US Forest Service—to collect user fees at selected recreation areas throughout the nation during a four-year test period. The principal objective of the legislation is to test methods of collecting fees. Each of the 100 selected Forests will develop and implement its own plan. Income from receipts will be used to fund Federal recreation programs. The White Mountain National Forest was selected.

During the past year WMNF personnel devised a scheme to implement Congressional intent, one that will meet local needs and conditions. Also, and most important, there is a stated recognition that the success of any plan will depend upon the goodwill of the public, including participation in the planning process. There is a refreshing humility upon the part of the WMNF personnel; they really do want "outsiders" to be part of the process. We are seen as partners. We do have ideas. Our support is essential.

The basic structure of the test program for the first three years of implementation is now established. The test program will be closely monitored, modified as experience reveals weaknesses, and changes will be made to improve the plan. A short description and some analysis of its provisions follow.

Simply stated, there will be a **parking passport fee** for unattended vehicles located on Forest lands. Parking passports are priced at \$20 per car per year, or \$5



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WODC Newsletter Editor
 HC 64, Box 5
 Wonalancet, NH 03897

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

for one week. The program will start in May of 1997.

There is no per person charge for use of Forest facilities, it is a **per motor vehicle** fee. Residents or visitors who walk from their homes into the Forest do not need a passport. Visitors who park their cars on private land need no passport. A vehicle in a Forest parking area will be exempt from the fee provided someone is in or near it. A snowmobile driver does not need a passport if his truck or trailer is not parked in the WMNF. There will be exceptions for cars at WMNF Camping Areas and Visitors Centers, and free passports to people who serve the Forest such as trail adopters, police, and search and rescue workers. Clearly then, the parking passport is not required of all users.

To reduce the inconvenience of securing passports, they will be available by mail, and at Ranger Stations, sporting goods stores, local stores, and at some Forest parking areas. As recommended by members of the public who took part in planning, during this first year a visitor who fails to comply with passport regulations will receive notification rather than a citation. There is faith that citizens are fully aware of the inadequate budget for recreation, and will pay willingly for a passport.

Eighty percent of passport income will go directly to the recreation budget of WMNF. Up to 15% of income may be spent on administration costs of the

project, and the remaining 5% will go to the Regional Office for distribution to the participating test Forests. None goes to the Federal Treasury. To be considered successful, the fee pilot program must generate \$500,000 per year, the equivalent of income from 25,000 one-year passports, or 100,000 weekly passports, or some combination. Approximately 6,000,000 people use the WMNF each year.

To some it may seem unfair that funding the recreation budget in this way does not require support from all recreation users, e.g., skiers using sections of Forest at downhill ski areas, pleasure vehicle users on the Kancamagus highway and other WMNF roads, campers at campgrounds, and from people who use the backcountry but do not use motorized transportation within it. This is a pilot program. It is a transition from a Public Law and Forest Service program not requiring public acceptance, to a management program of public participation. The Forest management must understand and adjust to customer attitudes and perceptions in order to carry out a successful funding method. WMNF must modify the program when and where required to gain public acceptance. Experience and comments from the consumer are essential components of the program. WMNF accepts these principles.

WODC Executive Committee members have had little opportunity to consider all ramifications of the pilot program as they affect the Club. Nevertheless, there is agreement that Federal funding of recreation facilities on the Forest is woefully inadequate, and that user fees may be the most acceptable alternative. The proposed passport parking fee is a reasonable first step. We think it wise that each Forest creates its own program, based on local needs and wants. There must be many adjustments to make the program acceptable to all users, and to assure there is a fair burden on each type of recreation activity. We support the first step. It must not be the last.

George E. Zink

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A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE

you to seek out these groups and work with them.

One of the goals we should pursue together is to build a broader ethic of involvement, volunteerism, and respect for Wilderness. One very successful public ethics program has been the increased awareness of recycling among children. I was delighted to see that last night's program focused specifically on building Wilderness awareness among children. Wilderness awareness could also be enhanced by public recognition, such as awarding an "I Care For Wilderness" patch to those who take the time to make a contribution to Wilderness needs and issues.

The Appalachian Mountain Club has recognition programs for those who climb all the 4000-footers in New England, or the 100 highest peaks. What if some type of stewardship or volunteer activity was also required to achieve this status? What better group to start with than the hikers who most use our mountains, and often have the greatest impact upon it? I wish I could take credit for this idea, but the devoted members of "Trailwrights" already have such a requirement for their "peak bagging" award. Others should follow suit.

I've been very impressed with the level of passion for Wilderness among those attending this program — from the training cadre, to the Wilderness Rangers, to Butch Marita, have expressed a passion for Wilderness that I didn't know existed in these agencies. That is a wonderful surprise that I will take with me and share with others.

I have concluded that having a passion for Wilderness is probably essential in facing the imprecise and demanding requirements of Wilderness management. Of course, being passionate can also be a liability, because it means you take these feelings home with you from the office. Nevertheless, I wish everyone in your organizations had the same passion for Wilderness that I've seen this week. I suppose that spreading the passion for Wilderness is what this week has been all about, and that gives me hope.

I want to add my voice to those who've said "Wilderness Rangers are one of our greatest resources." They know what's really happening in the field, rather than just what the plans say should be happening. Listen to them and respect their views. I find it odd that these valuable, caring, people are officially at the bottom of the ladder. Perhaps if people had to work their way *up* to being a Wilderness Ranger they'd get more respect and their valuable insights would be taken more seriously.

I have one specific suggestion: That *all* Wilderness managers be required to spend one week a year in the field as *Wilderness rangers or working with a Wilderness ranger*.

Peter Smart

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ALAN C. PURVES

from elementary through university levels while holding office in state, national, and international organizations. He was Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois and Professor Emeritus of Education and Humanities at SUNY Albany. A specialist in literature, composition, and assessment, he wrote and/or edited many books and articles including the 1996 two-volume Encyclopedia of English Studies and Language Arts. Alan wrote a popular guide used by teachers of high school literature entitled "How Porcupines Make Love." He recently completed a volume addressing the impact of hypertext on religion and society.

Throughout life Alan was an active and enthusiastic hiker. Quite naturally this led to service for WODC in several capacities. He was President for three years (1965-1967), Trails Chairman in 1968, and a Trails Co-Chairman in 1971-1972 and 1975. As early as 1965 he spoke with members about rapidly increasing land development in New Hampshire, and pointed out the danger to the community of the rising building boom in the State, and its threat to Wonalancet. He was a warm, soft-spoken man. His Presidency coincided with my family's early

acquaintance with the community and first familiarity with the Club. We recall several annual meetings held at his house. We gathered there in the late afternoon, played a few innings of baseball with players of all ages and abilities — men, women, and children. Following the game there was a fine picnic supper prepared by the Purves's, then the Annual Meeting in their living room. A very enjoyable event which was made memorable by the friendly atmosphere created by the hosts.

After Anita's death, Alan met and later married longtime Bennett Street summer resident, Anne Nesbitt. Since the celebration of their marriage in 1976, they have spent part of each summer in Wonalancet. During these years he was a Trustee of the Wonalancet Union Chapel and annually led a Sunday worship service.

In closing, I want to share with you a brief passage from an annual appeal letter to WODC members written by President Purves in May of 1965. To those of us who knew Alan, it will bring back memories of his love for the mountains. To others, it will reveal something of his remarkable spirit.

"Sitting in New York City on a dry hot afternoon, I can't help but think of bending down to the cold spring by the top of Passaconaway after a good walk. To taste that water, to feel the breeze freshen through the spruces and my hair, to clamber to the top and look over Paugus to Chocorua or down into the Intervale: the love of this kind of experience, I think, forms the strength of the Wonalancet Out Door Club."

A memorial service is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, August 3, at the Chapel.

George E. Zink

THE BOWL

Description: There is an area of the Sandwich Range seldom visited but known to many as "The Bowl." The Bowl is a steep sided valley of over 1,000 acres in which Wonalancet Brook has its source. Except to the south, prominent peaks surround the valley: Mounts Whiteface, Passaconaway, Nanamocomuck, Hedgehog, Hibbard, and Wonalancet. A southern spur of Mount Passaconaway divides the valley into two unequal sections. Steep walls leading to the peaks from the valley floor and its roughly circular shape, led early residents to name it "The Bowl." The valley is a product of glacial action during the Pleistocene epoch, and is well displayed on the WODC Trail Map and Guide.

Two hiking trails pass through The Bowl, 1.8 miles of the Dickey's Mill Trail, and 0.2 miles of the East Loop located high on the south slope of Mt. Passaconaway. Dickey's Mill Trail bisects The Bowl, with the greater acreage on the west side that contains the west branch of Wonalancet Brook. An idiosyncrasy of hikers — to reach peaks by the shortest routes with little interest in out-of-the-way features — has led to a fortunate condition. The Bowl is a well-preserved natural feature; there are few signs of man or his works. There is no evidence of lumbering or burning; it holds an old-growth forest.

The hiker who seeks only a good view of the surrounding lowlands would do well to stay on groomed trails. A hiker with this interest can see a representative slice of The Bowl from the Dickey's Mill Trail without ever entering it. Moreover, its forest, brooks, and wildlife vary only slightly from what one sees elsewhere in the White Mountains. A trained eye is required to see the subtle differences between this pristine natural area and many other areas of the WMNF.

For the hiker who wants to experience an old-growth forest, a trip into The Bowl is worth the effort. There the saunterer will find solitude. During the many hours spent there I have never met another hiker or a researcher. It provides an opportunity to experience closely what the first settlers must have felt as they entered the north

woods for the first time. There are no cut or groomed trails, merely traces of paths trodden by passing animals and researchers. Brooks on the valley bottom are small and attractive. Most streams flowing down the steep valley sides are intermittent, and reveal themselves as gullies filled with a jumble of unsorted boulders and gravel washed down from above by recent heavy freshets. Valley sides are steep and heavily wooded by tall balsam fir and red spruce. Below the canopy are dense thickets of paper, heart-leaved and yellow birch, and mountain ash. At the highest elevations the forest canopy is low in height. Hiking on the valley sides is difficult work. On the valley floor the dominant tree species are the hardwoods: sugar maple, beech, and yellow birch. Common shrubs are hobble bush, striped and mountain maple.

A wealth of information is available to anyone who wishes to know more about the area; approximately 40 monographs are in print. Thanks to the researchers, there are papers available on many subjects such as small animals, birds, water chemistry of the brooks, distribution of tree species, and a botanical inventory.

Historical Background: Although the story of how The Bowl became part of the WMNF, its initial classification as a Research Natural Area, and attempts to expand its designated area make an interesting tale, only a brief synopsis can be given here. The story begins early in the 1900's when New Hampshire residents and visitors alike became angered by the excesses of the timber barons who were despoiling the forests, principally those of the White Mountains. In the words of Marjory Harkness:

"Tamworth's special concern was for the ridge immediately behind it, more particularly that great tract known as 'The Bowl,' between Whiteface and Passaconaway where there were still fifty-six hundred acres unlogged. Some eight hundred acres of this Bowl directly behind Wonalancet were covered with virgin spruce on ledges too high for easy lumber operations. Guarded by the Whiteface-Passaconaway Ridge above it, it had been immune to hurricane. There was

no trail to it, but the most knowing walkers and climbers had visited this wonderful growth."

Concerned with the importance of including The Bowl and surrounding mountains in the purchase of lands to create a White Mountain National Forest, the WODC sent a delegation of 16 members to Gorham in July 1914 to attend the White Mountain Forest Conference, and to appeal for support. The leader of the delegation was Edgar J. Rich, who closed the presentation by declaring:

"It is not as if there was a tremendous area and a great commercial enterprise, but because there is in the Sandwich Mountains the only tract of land which is unscarred. We feel that in the interest of the whole people of the state and nation it ought to be preserved."

Following the assembling of land to create the WMNF, in 1931 the Forest Service did protect a portion of The Bowl by designating it a "Natural Area." The portion was 510 acres, and held only the western tributaries of the west branch of the river. There would be no timber harvesting, no roads, no structures. Put positively, it is preserved in its natural state primarily for basic research of a non-

destructive nature. The values of an old-growth forest are preserved.

Proposed Expansions: By the year 1975 scientists at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station Silvicultural Research Project and staff members of the WMNF, under the leadership of Gordon Mott, suggested that boundaries of the area be extended eastward to include an additional 580 acres. The proposed addition would include the entire upper drainage of the West Fork of Wonalancet Brook, a proposal included in the 1974 Forest Plan. Only one dissent to the proposal was received during the public comment period. Expansion had approval of the WMNF Forest Supervisor and the Regional Office, but was not enacted due to "lack of adequate boundary survey."

In 1985 a second proposal for expansion was prepared, this to include the whole source drainage basin of Wonalancet Brook. It would add about 923 acres to the initial 501. In the draft proposal two justifications for expanding The Bowl are given. Expansion will provide (1) an undisturbed forest condition over the entire western and eastern watersheds, giving an opportunity to monitor nutrient dynamics, (2) additional areas of old-growth northern hardwoods and young-mature red spruce facing west and southwest (in the 1931 Natural Area slopes predominantly face



The Bowl as seen from above looking northward.
Photo courtesy Wayne Martin

east and northeast). There is little old-growth spruce in the present Bowl due to wind damage from the 1938 hurricane. An excellent, well-considered draft proposal was completed.

The Future? It is unfortunate that such a unique area has been neglected by WMNF. Citizen support for expansion, and approval by WMNF personnel, are in place. What is lacking to complete the study started in 1985 and get final approval for the expansion, is the desire and will of the Forest Service to get the job done. I can only speculate as to what is needed to spur action. My hope is that WODC, both members and organization, will work with other like-minded individuals and groups to put sufficient pressure on the Forest Service to complete the job it began in 1975. Twenty-two years is long enough.

George E. Zink

WHAT IS OLD GROWTH?

To many, "old growth" forest evokes images of a primeval wood canopied with towering trees over a shadowy, moist forest floor. This image, while romantic, does not necessarily apply to the forests of New England. In fact, ecologists today still argue over exactly what an old growth forest is. The images we have of New Hampshire's old growth forests are limited to accidental scraps left by loggers, historical anecdotes, and theoretical conjecture.

There is so much variability in Northeastern forests that no single structural characteristic of old growth is universally applicable. The result is that ecologists not only have trouble defining the term 'old growth', but even have difficulty identifying it in the field. However, most forest experts seem to agree that a distinctive condition develops, at least in theory, when a forest is long left unaffected by major disturbance. Such old growth forests are assumed to have four general characteristics:

- it grows over a large enough area that the forest could persist continually;
- the dominant tree species should be old *relative to their maximum longevity* (in other words, trees expected to live 300 to 400 years should be 150 to 200 years old);
- little human impact should be apparent, with the forest altered only by natural disturbances, such as hurricanes; and
- the forest should have more than one generation of trees, showing the dynamic nature of forests.

Old growth forests are distinctly rare in southern New Hampshire and at lower elevations in the north. A few forests in the White Mountains, including The Bowl Research Natural Area in the Sandwich Range Wilderness, the Gibbs Brook in Crawford Notch, and the Norton Pool in Pittsburg are currently our models for New Hampshire old growth. The Nature Conservancy's preserve at Norton Pond harbors a magnificent stand of virgin balsam fir and spruce, some of which are

350 years old. Blow-downs in recent decades have created an almost impenetrable woodland maze — fallen balsam fir and red spruce lie criss-crossed, decaying in the lush, moss-carpeted forest floor, creating the forest primeval of Longfellow's *Acadia*.

Due to our elementary knowledge of old growth and the subtle characters that set these forests apart, it is probable that thousands of acres of old growth or very old forest remain unidentified (and definitely unappreciated) in New Hampshire. When looking at New Hampshire's diverse forests, we need to remember that old growth forests are not necessarily composed of majestic trees. Many factors, from wind to insects to humans, have both subtle and dramatic effects on the landscape. Some of these effects can persist for centuries; others may quickly fade. However New England's old-growth forests are defined, ecologists and conservationists agree that they serve as valuable, intriguing windows on the ecological past, and priceless elements of our natural heritage.

Charles V. Corhill and David VanLuvan
of The Nature Conservancy

MEMBER NOTICE

Questionnaire

In March, a WODC Questionnaire was sent to all members. The response has been gratifying - well over a hundred have been returned. Thank you for your input. Even though the data is currently being analyzed, it is not too late to return your questionnaire since the information can still be added to the data base.

DUES

A reminder: WODC dues are \$10 for individuals, \$18 for a family, and \$25 for an organization. Any 1997 dues that have not been paid should be sent to:

Wonalancet Out Door Club
Member Services
HC 64 Box 5
Wonalancet, NH 03897



SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The Executive Committee has again put its collective mind together and planned a program of summer activities. Of the four, two will be field trips and two will be talks. Experienced and knowledgeable people lead these activities. Should you be interested in participating in any of these events, be sure to register in advance. **Preregistration is required for the event on June 28, a field trip into The Bowl Research Natural Area.** Since The Bowl is located in Wilderness, the maximum group size allowable is ten. **Preregistration for the August 23 glacial geology field trip is also required.** The field trip may enter Wilderness, or may require transportation arrangements. To avoid disappointment, register as early as you can. For all events, we let the leaders know the expected audience size.

☛ On **June 28**, research scientists from the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in Durham and the Hubbard Brook Experiment Station in Thornton, will lead a field trip into The Bowl Research Natural Area. Leaders will be **Mary Louise Smith**, a plant ecologist, and **Dr. Scott Bailey**, a soil scientist. With their different specialties and common interest in The Bowl, this should be an excellent opportunity for participants to increase their knowledge of the area.

Mary Louise Smith is a research ecologist. She holds a B.S. degree from the University of Michigan, an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin, and is currently working on a Ph.D. at the University of New Hampshire. Scott Bailey is a research geologist, with a Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

Meet at the Ferncroft kiosk in the parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and appropriately prepared for a minimum hike of five miles. The trip should end about mid-afternoon. Make a reservation for this hike. For reservations phone Judith Reardon at 323-8666 or Sally Zink at 323-8693.

☛ **Karl Roenke**, Cultural Resource Specialist for the WMNF, will present an illustrated lecture on the topic of **Cultural Resource Heritage in Wilderness**. This evening program will be held in the

Chapel Sunday, **July 13** at 7:30 p.m. For those with interest in the local scene, Karl will be prepared to discuss the cultural resources in the Wonalancet region of the Forest. To allow plenty of time for questions and discussion, he will limit the slide presentation to one-half hour.

Karl is a graduate of Hartwick College with an A.B. degree in English, and the University of Idaho with an M.S. in Anthropology and Archeology. With the Forest Service for 18 years, he spent eight years at the Clearwater Forest in Idaho, and ten years on WMNF. He is responsible for prehistoric and historic sites, and site management within the Forest. Karl is author of the booklet *Interpreting Historic Values of High Elevation Recreation Shelters and Cabins on the White Mountain National Forest: Past, Present, and Future*.

☛ **Ned Beecher** will give an illustrated talk entitled "Ecological Stories of the Wonalancet Area" at **7:30 p.m.** on August 2 in the Wonalancet Chapel. The essential question in the study of ecology is "Why?" In answering this question ecologists create "stories" of interacting natural forces complicated by human influence. Ned will share a few of these "stories" including "Why the Porcupine Came to Great Hill" and "The Teeth of the Plethodontid."

Ned was a teacher/naturalist and camp director for Tin Mountain Conservation Center, and currently teaches environmental science courses at the College for Lifelong Learning. He recently received an M.S. degree from Antioch New England Graduate School, and applies his knowledge to full-time work in the field of organic waste recycling. He is author of a family guide to natural history entitled *Outdoor Explorations in Mt. Washington Valley*.

☛ **Saturday, August 23**, **Robert Newton** of the Geology Department at Smith College will lead a geology field trip to nearby sites. One year ago Dr. Newton led a well-attended field trip on the Kelley Brook Trail. Participants will meet at the kiosk on Ferncroft Road at **9:00 a.m.** prepared for a half day walk. Bring a lunch. Make reservations in advance; phone George or Sally Zink at 323-8693.

At the time of printing, Dr. Newton has made no decision as to the site(s) we will visit. Perhaps the objective will be to explore sites where there is evidence relating to the formation of the Wonalancet Intervale. Another possibility is to visit sites where there are well displayed glacial features in the Ossipee quadrangle. Dr. Newton is a leading authority on the glaciation of that area. He is author of the booklet *Surficial Geology of the Ossipee Lake Quadrangle, New Hampshire*, published by the State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development.

Wherever he takes us, we are assured of an interesting and informative trip.

SUMMER TRAIL PLANS

Summer trailwork is about to begin, and it is more challenging than usual to anticipate when each trail will be thawed and dry enough so that our boots do not cause the same kind of damage we are trying to correct. Thanks to the snows of March and April, there is still 3 feet of snow above 2000 foot elevations. However, with characteristic optimism, we are hoping to patrol the low elevation trails during May to remove blowdowns. We encourage all adopters, particularly those of heavily used trails, to clear any major obstructions from your trails in May or June. Any adopter who would like a hand, or anyone who would like to help, is encouraged to call Fred Lavigne at 284-6919.

Our annual **Sleeper Trail** weekend is **June 13-15**. We will clear blowdowns, inspect, and refine the drainage work that we've done over the past two years. Those who would like to come camp and work are invited to call Peter Smart at 323-8827 for details.

July 19 is **New Hampshire Trails Day**. Our project will be on upper **Blueberry Ledge Trail**, primarily brushing in that sensitive location. The annual WODC barbecue will follow. All WODC members are welcome at the barbecue, whether or not you were able to do trailwork that day. It is a fun occasion,

and a bonus for the trailworkers to see everyone there.

On **July 23** we have been asked by the **Tin Mountain Conservation Center** to provide another half-day program to introduce their students to trailwork, as we have in two previous years. The students are marvelously receptive, and good workers. It is great to see them learning about the "whys" of trailwork, and having so much fun. We will be working on the lower portion of **Old Mast Road**, where ditching, hardening, and waterbars are needed.

On **August 9** we will have our annual trip with the **Chocorua Mountain Club**, and we will work on clearing the important drainage on **Blueberry Ledge Trail**. In keeping with tradition, a tasty potluck supper will follow.

On **September 6** we will work on the middle section of **McCrillis Path**, adding drainage.

October 18 will be our last scheduled trip in 1997. **Trailwrights** will hike with us to **Square Ledge Trail** to clear waterbars, which are commonly mistaken for steps since they fill in so easily. Again in keeping with tradition, we will refuel with pizza after that trip.

If you notice other trail conditions that should be attended to, we would appreciate hearing about them. As always, we enjoy working with adopters when they find something that would benefit from a day of person-power. Work projects are usually more enjoyable with a group.

We're glad to report that **Nat Scrimshaw** will personally lead the trail crew for the **Sandwich Range Conservation Association**. The crew will spend 3 weeks working on the **Walden trail** that contains some of the worst erosion damage of any **WODC** trail. Although work was done on the upper mile two years ago, the lower two miles, starting above the four-way, still needs much work. This work will be funded by the **WODC** and the **Saco District**. The **WMNF** will also fund work on other **Sandwich Range** trails, including the **McCrillis Trail**.

Have a great summer on the trails, and try to stop by on one of the above dates to watch or experience what is involved in trailwork, and why we find it recreational.

Peter Smart

1997 WINTER EVENTS

Three activities were planned for the winter, as publicized in the November Newsletter. Due to the vagaries of New Hampshire winters, the first event - a Wilderness cross-country ski trip - was postponed for lack of snow. It looked as if we would be snow-deprived for the February 1 date too, but just in time we got snow in abundance. Eight people attended and one Siberian husky, as we took turns tracking the deep new powder behind tireless trip leader **Fred Lavigne**. The weather was beautiful, and our route took us over the **Bickford Trail** to **Whitin Brook Trail**, which we followed nearly to the beginning of its ascent to the **Cabin Trail**. **Whitin Brook Trail** has many interesting stream crossings that we dealt with masterfully, one by means of a marvellous detour up and down a neighboring ridge, and another by a rather damp and dicey foray across logs and weakening snow bridges.

We continued in the brook's valley at the point where the trail turned abruptly up **Whitin Ridge**. From here on we were bushwhacking. As the terrain rose steeply, a major switchback trail was tramped out, until we crossed the **Lawrence Trail** and climbed to the ridge beyond. From there the view wasn't quite good enough, so we heeded the urging of our leader and plunged into one more valley and up a steep spruce slope. Finally we were standing above the **Overhang** with our skis hanging over the impressive gorge below.

Our climbing skins, so helpful on the route up, also helped control our adventurous descent back to the **Whitin Brook** and **Bickford Trails**. The dusk had deepened before we reached our vehicles, since the 11 or 12 mile trip had taken us over 9 hours. Some of us admitted to feeling tired, but all were very happy with the experience. Hopefully other

adventurers were able to make use of our trailbreaking efforts.

On **February 8**, an equally interesting event of a very different sort took place at **Runnells Hall** in **Chocorua**. About thirty people attended our winter potluck supper, and the presentation afterward by **WMNF** personnel on the **Forest Plan** revision process. **Chuck Prausa**, of the **Laconia** office, gave a description of the process, which is open to the public through working groups, and answered audience questions, as did **Terry Clark**, the **Saco District Ranger**. There was also some discussion of the upcoming user fee system.

On **February 22**, four hardy souls celebrated the full moon by skiing to **Great Hill Pond**, led by **Sheldon Perry** of the **Tamworth Outing Club**. As you may recall, this was the day of a spectacular spring thaw, the first of many this strange spring, when the temperatures reached into the 50's with a gusty wind and some rain. The evening was clear, and the skiing began very pleasantly, but temperatures plummeted and the snow became ice before the adventurers returned. It was a beautiful night, but with difficult ski conditions.

Next winter we hope and plan to engage in other interesting ventures, including some simpler ski trips with more conventional snow conditions. Please let us know what your interests are.

Judith Reardon

ANNUAL MEETING

WODC will hold its annual meeting and potluck supper on **Sunday, August 24**. The supper will take place in the grove behind the **Wonalancet Chapel** at 5:30 p.m. Because the unplanned approach to the supper is usually successful, there is no need to contact anyone in advance. However, **Sally Zink** at 323-8693 will answer any questions one might have. A few lawn chairs would be helpful; the grove quickly becomes a **Standing Room Only** scene.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. From past experience, we expect the meeting to last about two hours.

We hope to see you that evening. We need your presence for friendship and input into **Club** activities.

CALENDAR OF SUMMER EVENTS

Each of the following coming events is described elsewhere in this issue. All trail clearing activities will depart from the Ferncroft Kiosk at 8:15 a.m. Phone Trails Chairman at (603)-323-8827 for details.

- June 13-15 Celebrate National Trails Day with a three day trip on the **Kate Sleeper Trail**.
- June 28 Field trip into **The Bowl**. Meet at Kiosk at 9:00 a.m. Preregistration required. Phone 323-8693 or 323-8666.
- July 13 Illustrated talk **Cultural Resource Heritage in Wilderness** by **Karl Roenke**. Chapel at 7:30 p.m.
- July 19 **NH Trails Day**. Brushing on the upper **Blueberry Ledge Trail** with adopter **Doug McVicar**. Annual **WODC** barbecue to follow.
- July 23 Clean and install water bars on the **Old Mast Road** with students from the **Tin Mountain Conservation Center**. A fun and easy half day introducing kids to the hows and whys of trail work.
- Aug. 2 Illustrated talk **Ecological Stories of the Wonalancet Area** by **Ned Beecher**. Chapel at 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 9 Annual joint trip with **Chocorua Mountain Club**. We'll clear drainage on the **Blueberry Ledge Trail**. Potluck supper to follow.
- Aug 23 Geology field trip with **Robert Newton**. At Kiosk at 9:00 a.m. Phone 323-8693 for details. Preregistration required.
- Aug 24 Annual Meeting Day. **Potluck supper** in the Grove at 5:30, and **WODC Annual Meeting** at 7:00 in Chapel.
- Sept. 6 Drainage work on the **McCrillis Path** with adopters **Ted and Barbara Sidley**.
- Oct. 18 **Trailwrights** will help us clear drainage on the **Square Ledge Trail**. The rock steps on this trail are actually silted-in waterbars. Pizza dinner to follow.



Wonalancet Out Door Club
HC 64 Box 5
Wonalancet, NH 03897