



Update

F.O.P. Newsletter, Fall 2007, V. 21, No. 3

Annual Meeting November 20, 2007

From the President

Dear Friends,

In the last Update I mentioned that a painting company had offered to paint the exterior of the barn at no cost except for a few gallons of stain. Sherwin Williams of Keene donated the stain, RoBust Valley Rental of Hinsdale donated use of a lift and on 18th of October, S & S Painting of Swanzey informed me that painting would start early on Monday the 22nd of October. The siding has been painted with trim to be done. The barn, of course, is to be barn red with white trim. Note the photo on page 6 and come up and see the barn soon.

Relative to the barn, there were some issues with mold which we have resolved. This summer Sterling Quality Cleaners Inc. of Keene sterilized, painted and sealed the basement of the barn. We have installed a dehumidifier along with a humidity indicator in the basement. I hope that the barn will be utilized for repairs and restoration of the antiques that have been donated or loaned to the Friends of Pisgah for exhibition in the Visitor Center.

Those of you hardy folks who attended know that the Annual Picnic was well attended (over 50 people) with a great choice of salads, baked beans along with many desserts plus the sumptuous hamburgers and hot dogs cooked to perfection by our Chef, John Herrick. Due to the damp weather, we moved the picnic into in the barn. Everything worked smoothly and I hope all enjoyed the day. A special thanks to Martha Rockwell for her efforts in the majority of the food purchases. Also thanks to those who donated some of their food specialties. The Council appreciates all the help received from the members in setting up the tables and chairs plus holding the Mum raffle. I am sure that no one went away hungry.

There will be no Council meeting Nov. 6, 2007 since the annual meeting will be held shortly after on Nov. 20, 2007 at the Winchester Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. See details on p. 6. As you know this is the time to elect officers and the slate for 2008 also is presented on p. 6. You will note that I am not a candidate for President this year. After five years as President, I feel it is time for someone else to get involved. Hopefully, someone will get the urge to step up and bring forth their ideas.

The Friends of Pisgah tries to remain knowledgeable about State activities which will impact the Park. In that respect, we were represented on Sept. 18, 2007 at the first meeting of the State Park System Advisory Council. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 2, 2007 at 9 a.m. at the Dept. of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) office in Concord.

Thanks to all who have been working to keep this organization strong and productive. I appreciate your efforts and support during my term of office.

Bill Roberts

Donations to FOP

We continue to receive generous gifts and donations to the Friends of Pisgah to compliment our growing collection of antiques. These are displayed in our replica 1800's house and restored 100 year old barn. These items are greatly appreciated and the Friends will preserve, document and display each article for the enjoyment of all who come to the Pisgah State Park Visitor Center.

Come and join us at the Visitor Center in Winchester on Old Chesterfield Rd to work on our gift collections or other memorabilia. Contact Laurel Powell at 603/336-7479 (or, if preferred, via email at cpowellbks@cheshire.net).

From the Commissioner of the Dept. of Resources and Economic Development

To the Friends of Pisgah:

With the cold weather returning, we are reviewing how well the Parks System fared and are planning for next summer. It actually was a good year for Parks. The spring was good, a weak July, but then from August through October, we did very well. Warm sunny days in October certainly help to extend the season.

We are planning an overall Park System Master Plan to be completed over the next year. I certainly hope that many of you will join the effort to set a firm foundation for the Parks system in our State. There will be many opportunities for you to participate as we craft a plan that will carry us over the next decade.

I hope to get a little hiking in around the reservoir before the snow flies. Also, I will do my best to join you for your Annual meeting on November 20.

Thank you for your continuing support of Pisgah State Park. Your commitment and dedication are certainly making a difference.

George Bald

Around the Park

General

The Park operated with minimum weather problems this year. The barn was a great help with activities when it rained. The Park staff and volunteers continue to work on signage particularly for trail markers. John Herrick has agreed to have the trail maintenance crew work near the Visitor Center on our November work day, Sat. Nov. 10. Rhonda Winegarner will bring her Upward Bound students and we will do a variety of projects.

A contract was let by the state for mowing some fields in the Park. New gates have been installed at entrances to the Park while a new bridge was constructed on the Ridge Trail. There was a program with school students other than the Upward Bound students working in the Park on trails.

Miracles in Motion used the Park for their horseback and buggy rides and the Pisgah Mt Trail Race also was held. The method of winter plowing has not yet been determined but plowing will be done.

Midweek Work Days

The Midweek Work Crew provides assistance to the Staff on one Wednesday a month from April to November. Among our Crew are Bob Miller, Gil Cameron, Kim Nilsen and Gerry Goslant. However, we can use all who wish to help – for just a few hours or only occasionally during the year. We are on the trails usually from April through November or December dependent on the weather. Come on and join the gang. We meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. on the work day.

Barred Owls in Pisgah

I am reluctant to close up my windows with the coming of cold weather and winter. Have you noticed that the Barred owls have been rather talkative lately? Their barking call resembles this inquisitive eight to nine hooted phrase, “Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all?” Hearing these owls call to each other from different parts of the forest reminds us that winter is approaching and it is the mating season for owls.

Barred owls grow to a full adult height of 17 to 20 inches. These grey-brown raptors have lighter colored crosswise bars on their breast with pale lengthwise streaking on the stomach. Their fringed flight feathers allow them to silently prey on rodents, birds, frogs and crayfish as well as small mammals. The Barred owls nest late in the winter and early spring. Finding food for their young is easier when there is snow cover. They will have one brood a year with 2 to 4 owlets in March. Their nests, in hollow tree cavities or in abandoned nests of larger birds like hawks or crows, are located in dark, low, wet forests and swamplands. There’s plenty of that type of habitat in Pisgah. So, if you, too, have a desire to appreciate this nocturnal wonder, pause when you’re outside at night to listen. These large, liquid brown eyed owls will see you clearly even though it is pitch-black to you. Note the excellent sketch of a Barred owl on page 9.

If venturing out into the cold winter nights doesn’t suit you, stop in at the Visitor Center and visit with our very own mounted owl donated by Clinton Carpenter. His daughter stopped in to the Visitor Center this summer and was pleased to see her dad’s gift gracing the mantel in the kitchen over the barrel churn. A Barred owl’s predator (besides other owls) is the Fisher, a mount of which is in the Park Manager’s Office.

Laurel Powell, Education

FOP Newsletter Fall 2007

Visitor Center Staffing

Background

One of the casualties of the transfer of the operation of Pisgah Park to the Trails Bureau several years ago and resultant drastic reduction in staff assigned to Pisgah Park has been the loss of weekend staffing of the Park. At first the State was funding a weekend Ranger. However, eventually the State decided to forgo weekend staffing. The weekend is the time when most folks are visiting the Park! After more than a year of this situation, the Friends of Pisgah decided to help by providing funds for a knowledgeable person to interact with weekend visitors to the Park. This person was to provide directions, suggestions for activities, comments on the Visitor Center and Barn (provided to the Park by the FOP), and historical information. Laurel Powell, an active volunteer with FOP, agreed to expand her work effort to be responsible for this activity. The following article by Laurel will give you a great insight into how this FOP sponsored project is going. We hope to be able to continue to sponsor Laurel; she is doing a great job! However, you must remember that our annual income from dues, etc. is limited. Your membership renewals and gifts will help us to meet our budget. If you can bring more folks to join the FOP, that would help too. Also, let your state legislators know how you feel about Pisgah.

Matt Donachie

Weekends at the Visitor Center

I was given the opportunity to open the Visitor Center in Winchester on most Saturdays and Sundays this summer and into the fall. After an initial period of adjustment, I set the hours to fit the visitors and ended up being open from 11AM to 4PM. Looking back over this time, I realize that, not only the public, but I benefited from this gesture on the part of the Friends of Pisgah.

What a marvelous experience I have had. I enjoyed greeting each and every person. Some drove by on their way to their favorite spots, obviously very familiar with the Park. A few were taken aback by the looks of the place. They thought the house was a private residence and shyly snuck by or turned around. For the most part, people were grateful to have the buildings open and to have someone available. Granted most of the visitors at this trailhead in Winchester were enjoying the park on their motorized vehicles: ATVs and dirt bikes or motorcycles. The majority of these visitors were from far away, some as far as NY (Long Island), PA, NJ, RI, MA, and CT. They were all impressed by the beautiful scenery and great trails. These visitors expressed their gratitude and vowed to keep Pisgah one of the best places around. We may have unintentionally recruited new members for our trail maintenance group.

I found that most everyone came with a common purpose, to enjoy the Park and the recreation it offers. Kayakers and canoeists, hikers and strollers, riders and mountain bikers, picnickers and sightseers, dog walkers and horseback riders each found their little piece of heaven. There were scientists, history buffs, nature lovers, adventurers and residents from the nearby area who were rediscovering the Park. I gave them a warm welcome, a few suggestions, a bit of information, a tour and in return they gave me stories about their life experiences or reminisced of times past.

My favorite moments were when the visitors first discovered the 1800s post and beam construction of the house and the barn with its museum. They raved about the unique construction techniques of both after I bragged about how both buildings came to be. They carefully examined the logging tools and farm equipment. They appreciated the challenging work done by Pisgah's loggers and farmers especially when peering at the albums and displays of photographs.

Of course, there were quiet times due to inclement weather and I treasured those moments. I was able to have the extra time to do historical work such as recording some of the stories I had heard. I researched and organized information about the tools or farming equipment and the FOP. I've started a database of the documents that record the natural resources of the Park done by local organizations and institutions. All the maps which we have collected about the Park and surrounding area are now listed, marked, organized and safely stored in tubes. The minutes of the FOP Council are in two large binders. All these documents are now easily accessible to anyone who wishes to see them. Again, through the generosity of the FOP, this work was accomplished with some new technical equipment: a voice recorder with a digital & PC link and a printer/scanner/copier.

Besides keeping the Visitor Center open for visitors on weekends, the time of highest usage, I was able to assist our Park Manager, Norma Reppucci, by completing some chores that have hopefully reduced her workload. I keep the house, garage and barn neat and clean. I help with outside work such as lawn mowing, raking, gardening and sweeping. I assist with the distribution of maps and the upkeep of the trailhead signs. I've been able to paint some of the trail markers, too!

People from Germany, Belgium, India, China, and Japan who are studying, working or visiting the US came to the Monadnock area for the hiking and foliage. People new to the Park vow to come back to enjoy other types of recreational activities in different seasons, especially in the winter. People were attracted to the Historic Markers denoting the old foundations. Their curiosity often lead them back to the Visitor Center to ask questions and receive a tour. The average number of visitors on a Saturday or Sunday is 25 vehicles/groups. About 15 of these pass on by. The rest of the Visitors stop to get information, tour, use the facilities or park.

When you come to the Park on a weekend, please stop at the Visitor Center. I will greet you and perhaps be able to help you or listen to stories you may have about this wonderful place called Pisgah Park.

Laurel Powell

Report on the Cheshire Rail Trail North

Two months ago I was advised that there had been a partial collapse of the rock culvert over a seasonal stream just north of the London cut (a mile long – 30 to 40 feet high drilled and blasted excavation through solid granite just south of the Keene/Westmoreland town line). This stone culvert is a duplicate of the one over White Brook next to the stone tunnel on old Route 9 (Arch Street) in Keene and can be viewed from the road. The carved abutments on both sides of the culvert just north of the previously referred to London cut are hand chiseled and hand cut granite blocks made in 1847 by stone masons.

The west side of the faceier of this culvert has collapsed and needs to be restored before the keystone falls out allowing the rest of the culvert to fall in. Such a failure would cause a closure of the Rail Trail North. Additionally, a collapse during a rain period will probably dam up the stream causing a much longer rail bed wash-out like the one in the recent past on the Fort Hill Line in Hinsdale that washed out some 400 feet of rail trail. Although we have just learned about this damage near the London cut, it appears that it may have happened as far back as three or four years ago.

I have personally given Commissioner Bald a picture of this situation and have asked him to look into it. I am awaiting his investigative report.

John Summers, Chair, FOP Rails to Trails

Advisory Committee

Litter and Other Unsightly Trail Objects

Trail Litter and Decomposition Times

Aluminum cans & tabs....80-100 yrs	Plastic bags.....10-20 yrs
Leatherup to 50 yrs	Plastic coated paper....5 yrs
Nylon fabric.....30-40 yrs	Wool socks.....1-5 yrs
Plastic film.....20-30 yrs	Orange peel.....0.5-5 yrs

Dog poop is litter too! It may decompose more rapidly than the above litter but if you find it before it does decompose, it's likely not to be a pleasant day! So, please curb your dog or clean up after her/him in the event the animal relieves itself on the trail. Thank you from a dog and his owner who want to keep dogs welcome visitors in the Park.

FOP Sponsored Fall Hikes/Trips

Petersham, MA and the Harvard Forest

On Saturday, October 20th a group of FOP members took a trip to visit the Harvard Forest and museum in Petersham, MA. The Forest is just down US 202 a short distance below Rte 2 south of Orange/Athol, MA. Created in 1907 by Harvard University, the Harvard Forest is a research and education site for the study of forest ecology, conservation and land use history. The Forest is one of 25 locations in the United States involved in a collaborative effort, created by the National Science Foundation Long Term Ecological Research Network, (LTER), to study important ecological and environmental questions and concerns. The Petersham property consists of 3,000 acres of diverse forest and field, ponds, streams and swamps. There is a forest plantation and agricultural land as well, representing the on-going studies and teaching that take place on the property.

Located on the property is the Fisher Museum of forestry. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by Dr. John O'Keefe, coordinator of the Museum. Inside the Fisher Museum, the history of New England forests and lands is explored through various mediums. A particularly impressive visual presentation is the use of 23 dioramas depicting the history of land use changes that have occurred in New England since Colonial times. Envision displays such as one sees in the NY Museum of Natural History, only miniaturized! The dioramas were conceived by Dr. Richard T. Fisher, Professor of Forestry at Harvard (plus founder/director of the Harvard Forest) and philanthropist Dr. Ernest Stillman. They were begun in the late 1920's by the artisans at the Guernsey and Pittman studio in Cambridge, Mass. The trees are made by gradually twining copper wire until reaching the desired thickness for branches and trunks, while allowing for the flexibility necessary to capture the subtle variations of individual trees. Pine needles were created using incredibly thin pieces of copper which were then soldered to the wire branches. The human and animal figures as well as various objects from rocks to human structures, were fashioned from clay and wax. The results are incredibly life-like scenes.

For those of you who have not spent much time hiking in Pisgah or other New England woodlands and so have not come across the myriad stone walls winding through now heavily forested land, it may not be apparent that New England by the mid 1800s was significantly denuded of trees. From the diorama displays, you can discover that: one family, in the early 1800's, needed 15 acres per

year to support their need for approximately 15 cords of wood. In 1830, in an area encompassing 45 towns in north central Mass., there was less than 30% forest cover (however, in 1985 there was over 85% forest cover in this same area). In addition to a guided tour of the dioramas, Dr. O'Keefe generously gave of his time to answer our many questions regarding what constitutes a healthy forest and how human impacts and interactions are affecting the natural landscape. A major area of on-going research at Harvard Forest is the study of carbon sequestration (carbon trapped by trees). Begun in 1990, using gas sampling and computer techniques, 17 year changes in carbon dioxide and oxygen- photo-synthesis and respiration- can measure how much carbon is being sequestered. Two and one half metric tons per hectare, (2.471 acres), of carbon has been sequestered over the last 3-5 years in an 80 acre stand, with the sequestering increasing rather than leveling off as anticipated. Older hemlocks had somewhat less sequestration while a 50 year old stand stayed about the same. To explore topical issues, as well as find more information on various subjects, Dr. O'Keefe suggested we use a search site to check on "Siberia + timber to see the ramifications of massive harvesting for export. Also suggested was checking out www.MassWoods.net maintained by U. MA, Amherst as well as to read about "Reclaiming the Commons", work being done by Prof. Brian Donahue at Brandeis University. A list of Donahue's publication can be accessed through the Harvard Forest web site which is www.harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu. Thanks to Matt Edson for organizing this wonderfully informative excursion and alerting us to a great resource right in our own back yard.

Kathy Thatcher

Harvard Forest and Pisgah

In the event you were not aware, Harvard University owns the Pisgah Tract, an inholding in Pisgah Park, to which FOP conducted a hike on September 8th. With John Herrick as our guide, a group of FOP members and friends discovered one of Pisgah State Park's well-kept secrets – the remains of an old-growth forest. The Pisgah Tract is located deep in the center of the park. This tract is virtually the last location in Pisgah of the renowned tall trees which in colonial times were reserved for the King's Navy. Members of our group had long been curious about the Pisgah Tract. Particularly owing to stories of tall trees that were harvested in New England during colonial times as ship masts, and were called the "King's Trees". We even had heard that there was still a tree standing in the Pisgah Tract that bore a mark as such! While we knew the site had experienced significant damage during the 1938 hurricane and again in recent years from wind and rain, we still had visions of enormously tall, stately trees reaching skyward.

After nearly an hour hike, John led us off well-marked trails and through thick brush that opened into the 25 acre Pisgah Tract. What we found, was not what we had expected. While a few giants still stood, the area was littered with the magnificent remains of the great forest, lying within a well established second growth of birch, maple, hemlock and oak. We gazed up the massive trunks of the few trees that still stood, admired the huge, uprooted root systems and walked the length of fallen 100 foot trees. We enjoyed our lunches perched on ledges overlooking the mostly fallen stand, then headed back with a stop at the Pisgah reservoir to admire its autumnal beauty.

Returning with more questions than answers, we did some research about the history of the Pisgah Tract. Considered a "Pre-settlement Forest" by Harvard Forest researchers at the time of its purchase in the early 20th century, the tract of old growth white pine and hemlock forest was of particular importance because it had never been disturbed by logging or agriculture, and represented the forest landscape that the first European settlers would have encountered. In four hours, the Hurricane of 1938 blew down the majority of trees. Many of these are still intact, as we observed nearly seventy years later. David Foster, the current director of the Harvard Forest, has been able to trace the history of the site back to 1635. A tremendous hurricane destroyed the forest at that time, and periodic episodes of fire, windstorms and pathogens were disturbances over the next 300 years. We learned that even though the Pisgah Tract is considered a primeval or virgin forest, this refers only to the fact that it has never been impacted by humans through timber cutting or farming, but has been continuously subjected to natural disturbances. The now seventy year old mixed-hardwood forest looks very much like second-growth woodlands that replace abandoned farmland or a timber cut. The difference is the presence of the fallen, still decaying trunks of enormous trees.

While disappointed that the stand was not as we had imagined it, our group discovered yet another wonderful aspect of the historical and ecological wonders Pisgah State Park has to offer. Thanks to John Herrick for making this possible!

Ellen and Matt Edson

Trails and Vistas

John Herrick has continued to work on the Dort property adjacent to the northwest corner of the Park. Monthly second Saturday workday activities in the Park continued with work in various areas, for example, on the Plain Rd Greenway area on Bear Mountain. Rhonda Weingarner's Upward Bound student group continues to be a significant help in trails work. A vista area just north of the barn was cleared long ago by Rodney Doolittle and showcased a view of Monadnock. That area was worked on during the summer by a 4H group and Park Manager, Norma Reppucci. They cut bushes and small trees and started brush piles. On the Nov. 10th work day, John

Herrick and Rhonda's crew will continue work to reopen the Monadnock vista. On that Nov. 10th workday, work also will continue on history projects in the barn, painting of trail markers, and surveying of the Nathan Field Historic Site (with Cliff Struthers).

We hope to offer some winter hikes/XC ski trips during February or March. Check the Park or the winter Update for information.

Friends of Pisgah Annual Meeting

Tuesday November 20, 2007

Town Hall, Winchester

7:00 PM

Agenda

President's Report (Bill Roberts)

News from the Park

Committee Reports

Report of the Nominating Committee (Barry Labombard)

(All nominees have agreed to serve if elected.)

Officers

President	To be announced
Vice President	Kathy Thatcher (Chesterfield)
Treasurer	Nancy Miller (Spofford)
Secretary	Robert Smith (Keene)

Council Members* - To serve a Three Year Term, expiring in November 2010

Cliff Struthers (Winchester)
Deb Hogencamp (Chesterfield)
Matt Donachie (Winchester)

*** - To serve a One Year Term, expiring in November 2008**

Bill Roberts (Hinsdale) – replacing Russ Calkins who has become an honorary member

Election of Officers

Nominations from the floor

Close nominations

Cast ballots

Speaker: Senator Molly Kelly

Topic: Natural Resources and Pisgah Park

Senator Molly Kelly represents the 10th District of New Hampshire, a senatorial district which encompasses Pisgah State Park. Senator Kelly has been a resident of Keene, NH for the past 25 years. She is a graduate of Keene State College and holds a Juris Doctor of Law Degree from Franklin Pierce Law Center. She has been active in the political process for many years while working as a financial advisor. Senator Kelly has served on the boards of the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce, the Keene Downtown Revitalization Committee, and was a member of the International Rotary. She served as the chair of the NH Commission on the Status of Women for seven years (1998 – 2005). Elected to the NH Senate in 2006, Senator Kelly is especially interested in balancing environmental preservation with economic development.

Senator Kelly will give us her thoughts on natural resources, the environment and the role Pisgah Park has in southwest NH and the recreational and development needs of the state.

We are sure that you will have many questions for Senator Kelly.



Annual Picnic – Out of the Rain in the Barn



Past Treasurer John Larson Enjoying the Fare



John Herrick Manning the Grill



Getting the Fixings and Other Stuff



More Friends at the Picnic in September



The Barn Paint Job, Nearly Complete

Thanks to Bill Roberts for the Photos

Friends of Pisgah Historical Group

Formal meetings each month are on the third Wednesday from 4 - 6:30 & the fourth Sunday from 3 - 5:30 p.m.

The FOP Historians have continued with projects that enhance the museum and its displays. Many of the pieces of equipment or tools have printed signs with information about their purpose. We have been able to find drawings, photographs or pictures of the tools in use. The signs have been laminated for protection. Cliff Struthers and Ginny Knapp of Hinsdale helped to sort and organize the various types of maps showing Pisgah.

Our recent work has been researching the newest donations to our collections. Elena Heiden of Winchester donated a metal foot trap. Fred and Janet Doolittle of Winchester donated a wooden cheese press and horse drawn field plough. Fred has provided a description of how the cheese press works. Of course, he has many humorous antidotes to share about the chores he and his seven siblings undertook on the farm in Pisgah. Janet and her daughter, Joanne Perlowski of Keene, are passionate about recording the history of their families. They have scrapbooks filled with photographs, documents and memorabilia. Janet has graciously shared some of the photographs with the Friends of Pisgah. We, in turn, have lent some of our pictures to her to copy for her albums. During the winter, we will be meeting with the Fred and Janet to hear more about life on Old Chesterfield Road, at the cider mill and orchard, the sugarhouse and sugarbush, the house and barn of the Doolittle Farm.

Art Savory has become a regular visitor and dedicated volunteer during the summer and fall. Most weekends he stops in with a surprise. He shared a story of his wife's family who lived on Old Chesterfield Road. He has donated antique tools such as a pitchfork and saw set. He has helped me open and close the Visitor Center and works beside me doing a variety of odious chores. During the weekends, we often get many visitors at one time and Art greets them, answers questions and shares stories of his work as a teenager on a farm in Guilford using some of tools we have on display. He once worked in a barn like ours pitching hay up to the 3rd floor where the temperature rose above 100 degrees on hot August days. He put together an album showing the house and barn construction and gave it to FOP. If encouraged, Art will tell about his own contributions to the house construction and on many trail maintenance projects.

The Chesterfield Historical Society was contacted by a relative of a past resident of Chesterfield whose house was located just inside Pisgah on Old Winchester Road. Bill Mitchell was contacted to give some background information to Mr. Hermanson of Colonie, NY. Abner Stanford (1747-1821) and his second wife, Sarah, lived in a modest home two miles from the center of town. The town records of 1819 and the Chesterfield map of that time show their presence. Bill was able to show Mr. Hermanson the spot, now a depression, where the house stood. The Stanford family is well known for their work on the Transcontinental Railroad and Stanford University. We will be working with the Historical Society and Bill to mark the spot with a historic sign.

Bob Miller has shed some light on the array of photographs that line the hallway into the meeting room of the Visitor Center. A new light illuminates the photos depicting winter in Pisgah, the flood of 2005, accomplishments of our volunteers, special groups or individuals and of course, our own "Santa Norma"!

Many thanks to Cliff, Ginny, Bob, Bill, Art, Elena, Janet and Fred! We'd love to have more of you join us to share more "Tales of Pisgah" or just peruse what we have now, listen to others and help FOP preserve the past of this unique part of New Hampshire.

Laurel Powell, FOP History and Education

Care to join us and learn more about Pisgah's exciting past? Contact me at 336-7479 or email cpowellbks@cheshire.net

Looking for a Great Way to Show Your Friendship?

Why not provide a gift membership in the Friends of Pisgah to a friend or another person you wish to honor/reward, etc. If your friend is a hiker, birder or generally an outdoors person, Pisgah is the place for her/him especially if she/he lives relatively nearby. In the winter, cross country skiing or easy hiking on trails and roadways with the bugs absent can be very invigorating and interesting. Spring/summer/fall hiking is exhilarating and in summer, a light weight kayak can be lugged up the short hill to Pisgah Reservoir and the start of an all day exploration. Alternatively, one can drive to Fullam Pond and launch there. There are vistas and quiet spots, streams and ponds, old cellar holes and dams to see. Also, bear, coyote, bobcat, beaver and beaver ponds, deer, moose, raccoon, porcupine, skunks and other animals and birds are in the Park.

Pisgah has nearly 13,500 acres to explore! A gift membership (only \$10 for a single address) may be just the way to entice her/him to get out into the (almost) wilderness of southwestern New Hampshire. On the last page of this issue of the Update, there is a membership form where you can provide the needed information and return it with your check to FOP.

Pisgah Mt Trail Race

The Pisgah Mt Trail Race is a 16-year-old event benefiting the Special Olympics of NH and VT. This year's Pisgah Mt Trail Race attracted about 200 athletes from all areas of the country as competitors. A number of participating runners broke records. The race is held on the second Sunday of September. This event allows runners to run either an ultra marathon race (a distance greater than 26.2 miles) of 50K (31 miles) or a 23K (14 mile) race through the park. The race starts on Old Chesterfield Road in front of the Chesterfield School. Runners are on pavement until they enter the Park at Horseshoe Road. The race courses through the Park trails between Horseshoe and Dogwood Swamp, around the Kilburn Loop, up Baker and Hubbard mountains (hills), exiting onto pavement once more at Winchester Road. The finish line is located on the lawn of the Chesterfield Fire Station. The race starts at 8:45 a.m., with the last runner coming in between 6 and 7 p.m.

The beauty of the park and its well-groomed trails are a strong draw for many of the runners, a number of whom will choose to run here when faced with a choice. The success of the Pisgah Trail race has much to do with the long-term shared relationship between the Park Manager and the race director. In recent years this relationship has become even more collaborative. Trail maintenance is an important facet of runner safety and pleasure. Communication between the Park Manager and the race director allows the Manager and volunteers to be aware of problems in various parts of the Park. In past years, the race director would monitor and maintain trails as necessary prior to race day. Recently, the removal of downed trees, the cutting of high grass, and the repairing or rebuilding of bridges has been done by the Park Manager and volunteers. This has greatly increased the amount of time the race directors can devote to the other aspects of the Pisgah Mt Trail Race. In appreciation of these efforts the Red Clover Rover Running Club, sponsors of the Pisgah Mt Trail Race, have made donations to The Friends of Pisgah in 2006 and 2007.

Chris & Gary Montgomery, Laurel Powell

Forum – Pisgah State Park: Past, Present and Future

This forum, the first in a projected series of forums, is sponsored by the Pisgah State Park Technical Committee and will be presented by Prof. Tom Wessels of Antioch New England Graduate School. It will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at the auditorium in the Keene Public Library. You are invited to attend this free presentation. The Committee notes that the State of NH is Beginning management planning in the Park now and they want to include your voices in the planning process.

Time to Renew for 2008

If you have not renewed or wish to join now, please remit your dues (see last page for form). Questions? Contact our Treasurer (Nancy Miller, 603/363-4145 or Matt Donachie, 603/239-6590).

Remember the old adage, there is strength in numbers. The more members we have, the greater will be our ability to help the Park. **Please renew now and encourage others to join.** The newsletter, annual Picnic and annual Meeting provide great value to members and you will be helping to shape and protect the future of the Park.



Barred Owl

Update is published occasionally during the year by Friends of Pisgah, Inc.

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President: Bill Roberts (603/336-5462)

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Friends of Pisgah, Inc.
PO Box 134
Chesterfield, NH 03443-0134

First Class Mail

Time to Join, Renew, or Give a Gift Membership in FOP for 2008

Please use the form below and send to the address shown if you wish to join FOP, renew membership or give one as a gift. The Friends of Pisgah maintain a nominal dues structure with the intent being to encourage as many individuals and families as possible to join. Over 60% of the single address dues provides for printing and mailing the Update and the Annual Picnic notice, as well as for the fine food you are provided at the picnic. Dues are \$10 to cover all persons at the same address. Group (club) memberships are \$20.

Cut here -----

If you are joining, renewing, or giving a gift, please use this form. Your dues support our Park efforts.

Date: _____
Member Name(s): _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ (Home)
Phone: _____ (Work)
E-mail: _____

Chesterfield, NH 03443-0134 **Category**
(Check applicable boxes)
◇ New
◇ Renewal
◇ Gift
◇ Single Address (\$10.00)
◇ Group (\$20.00)
◇ Donation \$ _____

*Questions? Call Bill Roberts (603/ 336-5462)
or Matt Donachie (603/239-6590)*

Name/Address of gift giver

Send form and check to:
Friends of Pisgah, Inc.
PO Box 134

Willing to Assist On Committee for:

- ◇ Annual Picnic
- ◇ Educational Programs
- ◇ History/Archaeology
- ◇ Membership

- ◇ Newsletter Articles
- ◇ Planning & Strategy
- ◇ Public Relations/Park Info
- ◇ Rails to Trails Advisory
- ◇ Trails/Maintenance

- ◇ Wantastiquet-Monadnock
Greenway
- ◇ Other _____