



Update

F.O.P. Newsletter, Winter 2015, V. 29, No. 1

From the President

Greetings from the Warmth of the Wood Stove on a blustery, frigid winter's day! I hope this newsletter finds each of you in good health and spirits, getting outdoors whenever you can.

I am happy to report that as is customary, winter allows most of us a bit of time to enjoy indoor activities, and restful days! This holds true for the Friends of Pisgah. With the exception of the Annual Meeting and our evening with Willem Lang at the Chesterfield Town Hall, not much has been happening within Pisgah Park.

The Council welcomes Jim Schofield as our new Secretary. We are grateful for his presence and skills. Welcome Aboard, Jim! And just in time!

The Council received the long-awaited draft proposal or *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* from the State to review at our December meeting. Council members reviewed the proposal separately then came together to discuss our various ideas and concerns as a group at the January meeting. Changes were made at this meeting and sent on to the NH Department of Resource and Economic Development (DRED). We are currently awaiting a reply from DRED. We will continue this process at our February meeting.

The MOU and Council members' recommendations will be available to FOP members on the Friends of Pisgah website. We would welcome any input or comments that you would like to offer. Please give us your thoughts!!

I hope that you will be able to get out into the park this winter. The going has been difficult due to ice, wind, and frosty temps. Hopefully, some real snow will fall soon transforming Pisgah into the Winter Wonderland we have come to expect!

Stay Warm and Well!
Sincerely,

Gary Montgomery

Friends of Pisgah Annual Meeting

The Friends of Pisgah Annual Meeting was held at the Chesterfield Town Hall on Nov 11, 2014. Over 80 members and guests were in attendance. Our speaker was Willem Lange, a television personality and outdoor enthusiast and the long serving host of NH Public TV's award winning show "Windows to the Wild." Mr. Lange presented a video of outdoor scenes mostly from northern New England featuring primarily himself hiking and commenting on various aspects of the outdoors. After the video, Mr. Lange answered questions with many humorous comments judging by the frequent laughter during his comments. The program was well received.

A break was taken for a very fine selection of refreshments and then the business meeting commenced. The following slate of officers for 2015 was presented, nominations closed with no additions and the election was held. All persons nominated were elected. For a list of Council members and FOP officers, please see our web site www.friendsofpisgah.org.

Matt Donachie

Some Images from Our Annual Meeting

You can see more images on our web site (www.friendsofpisgah.com).



Krister Raasoch, John Herrick, Park Mgr. Whip Newell, Willem Lang, Jeff Scott



Speaker Willem Lang



David Crossmon, Leslie Crossmon and Kim Nilsen



Abe Howe, Bob Miller, Marty Summers



Bob Miller Being Recognized by FOP President Gary Montgomery

Bob and Nancy Are Off on New Adventures

All Meeting Images Courtesy Matt Donachie



Jon Knickerbocker, John Hudachek, Krister Raasoch

On the Trail

Pisgah Trail Maintenance - December 13, 2014

Jim Schofield, Abe and Gabe Howe, Jon Knickerbocker and John Hudachek met Friends of Pisgah Trail Chief John Herrick at 10 am on a mostly sunny Saturday, 12/13/14, at the Kilburn Trailhead in Hinsdale. The first order of business was using hand saws to remove the tree top that had fallen on the top of the kiosk. All lumber supporting the roof is broken, but the roof itself appeared to be intact.

All limbs fallen across the trail from the trailhead down the west side of the Kilburn loop to past the dam were cut using handsaws and removed. On the way down the trail to the south end of the loop we caught up with Gary Montgomery with his chain saw, Matt Edson and Kim Nilsen. Gary, Matt and Kim had met and started earlier in the morning. We met no other hikers the entire work session. After lunch on the bridge on the south end of the loop Jon and Matt headed south on the trail toward Hinsdale while the rest of the crew headed up the east side of the loop. We were back to our vehicles just before 2:00 pm.

John Hudachek

Pisgah Trail Maintenance - November 9, 2014

Jim Schofield, David Weisel, Krister Raasoch with his dogs Art and Harry, Iva Wood, John Hudachek and FOP trail chief John Herrick met Pisgah Park Manager Whip Newell at the Visitor Center at 10:00am. Although chilly to start it was a perfect working day. We drove down to Fullam Pond where we cleared brush and limbs to open the view of the pond. Using John Herrick's tractor and chipper all the branches were ground into wood chips. This also opens the shoreline for fishing. We finished shortly after 2:00pm and were back at the Visitor Center before 2:30.

John Hudachek

Monadnock Happy Trails Workday - October 18, 2014

Beth Phippard, Sharon Thomsen, Angie Hauri, Mary Page, Laurie Russell, John Herrick, Gary Montgomery, Art and Laura Susmann and Park Manager Whip Newell worked on the Snow Brook Trail and Orchard Trail. Both are now clear for use. We did not gather for lunch as we were all working in different locations divide and conquer. Weather was cool; we did get sprinkled on for a minute or two but nothing serious.

Laura Susmann

Pisgah Trail Maintenance - October 11, 2014

Volunteers met Pisgah State Park Manager Whip Newell at 10 am on a cloudy Saturday, October 11th, at the Kilburn Trailhead in Hinsdale. The rain had stopped by that time. Using Matt's ATV Gary Montgomery and Matt Edson cleared the east side of the Kilburn Loop. John Herrick, David Weisel and John Hudachek (plus Whip for 1.5 hours) cleared culverts, water bars and ditches and removed any branches across the trail from Kilburn trailhead down the west side of the loop. It was actually very peaceful and quiet in the park. Kilburn Pond was still as glass and beautiful. We met no other hikers the entire work session.

As the sun appeared at the south end of the Kilburn Loop we met Gary and Matt Edson for lunch. After lunch we cleared the trail from the bottom of the loop that heads down to Hinsdale (the trail ends on private property so we had gotten permission). We were back to our vehicles just before 2:00 pm. One stone culvert on the Kilburn Road to the pond is falling in and needs a real culvert soon. One of the bridges at the south side of the loop needs several new deck boards now and new stringers within a couple of years.

John Hudachek

Hiking Trails in Southern New Hampshire

The Southern New Hampshire Trail Guide (4th Edn) is about to be published by the Appalachian Mountain Club. This, comprehensive guide details more than 200 trails of southern New Hampshire's beautiful mountains, parks, and nature areas. Compiled by the same expert editor as AMC's *White Mountain Guide*, this new edition describes the most hike-worthy routes in the region. Twenty, all-new detailed interior trail maps and a full-color, GPS-rendered, pull-out paper map, which now covers Mount Monadnock, Mount Cardigan, the Mount Sunapee and Pillsbury state parks, and the Belknap range are included. Your editor owns several copies of prior editions and expects the new edition to be a good addition to his files.

A Reminder for Hikers

“Darkness Gathers

..... On a warm June 1, in the early evening in the southwest corner of New Hampshire, Sean H. and his family set out for a swim at Kilburn Pond in Pisgah State Park. As they arrived at the water around 7:30 p.m., Sean decided to take a run around the pond. At 8:46 p.m. he called his family to say that he was lost. Then, his cell phone battery ran low. After a brief search, the family called for help, and the Cheshire County Sheriff’s Office notified New Hampshire Fish and Game. Sean’s family reported that he was ‘not a woods person’ and that he had no equipment or light with him.

A little after midnight, searchers began looking for Sean, checking first the global positioning system coordinates from his 8:46 p.m. call. Not finding him there, they looked also at the place where the family had been swimming – no Sean. The search resolved itself finally when Sean emerged from the woods at 5:45 a.m. and approached a house from which he called his mother.

Comments: Sean’s night in the woods featured a classic series of events: an impulsive decision to run around a pond as light faded, a cell phone call for help, a dying cell phone battery and a long night in the woods for searchers. Sean noted to rescuers that the run took longer than he anticipated and that, when he attempted a shortcut, he got lost. Much of what happened is so obvious as to ask for little comment. I do wonder, however, at NHFG’s decision not to recommend payment.”

Editor’s note: New Hampshire Fish and Game is empowered by law to seek restitution for costs incurred in such events as described above. Also, events such as the above are not uncommon. A little common sense would go a long way toward preventing such incidents.

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Appalachia is a publication of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), Boston, MA and is published twice yearly.
This story can be found in the **Accidents** section of the Journal and starts on p 116.

The Trails in Pisgah

Most of the trails in Pisgah have been described at some time or another in the Update. For additional information on Pisgah Park trails, go to our web site. In addition to hike route information, the web contains many links. One link of interest for an interesting winter trip is the trip around Pisgah Mt. check out the Pisgah Mountain Loop interpretive trail brochure available on-line <http://www.nhdf.org/library/pdf/Natural%20Heritage/Pisgah.pdf>

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. ----- 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.

Keeping Up with FOP

FOP has a web site and an email account for use in keeping members informed of events such as Trail Maintenance activities and Historical Story Circles, Hikes and Workdays affecting Pisgah Park. Please use our web address www.friendsofpisgah.org and our email, FriendsOfPisgah@gmail.com. Feel free to contact us with your questions, concerns and suggestions.

**Time to Renew Your FOP Membership for 2015
Use Form on the Address Page – Do It Now!**

Trail Images from Our Fall & Early Winter Work Days

You can see more images on our web site



Abe & John Herrick After Removing Fallen Tree from Kiosk



John Herrick Sawing Tree While Abe & Gabe Watch



Gary & Others Removing Tree from Trail in December



Jon Knickerbocker & Others Removing Downed Trees



The Work Crew After Lunch in October



Another View of the October Work Crew

All Trail Images Courtesy John Herrick or John Hudachek



David Working the Wood Chipper



Cutting a Huge Tree Across the Trail

Historic Sites in Pisgah

In 1991, a very interesting booklet called a Guide for Historic Sites in Pisgah was published by FOP with the assistance of the State. This booklet is long out of print with the last revision in the 1990s. The late Rodney Doolittle and his wife Dorothy (Doolittle) Farnan were the principal providers of photos and worked with Thayer High School students to create the initial edition. Concurrent with the booklet, more or less, a series of plaques were erected throughout Pisgah complete with text about the site and (generally) the structure associated with it. We hope someday to work with the State to reconstruct the plaques which have vanished by environmental degradation or theft. It seems appropriate to bring this work to FOP members' attention again. The photo below and the text following the photo will give readers an idea of the type of information which can be found on Pisgah.



Benjamin Doolittle House

Benjamin Doolittle built this two-story house pictured here in approximately 1805 and lived here with his family until the 1850s. The property was then purchased by Rev. Elias Marble, who farmed 6 days a week and preached the seventh. In his article Reminiscences of District No. 8 or Broad Brook District. Gardner C Mill notes, “(he) baptized, married, (and) buried the neighborhood” during his tenure in the community. In 1856, the property was sold to Erastus Dickenson, the mill owner. Before leasing the farm to Edwin C. and Abigail Doolittle around 1884 a dormer was added to the ell and a separate barn was built to the east. In 1948 Elsie and Forrest Doolittle (son of Edwin) bought the homestead and continued farming until the property was purchased for the Park in 1972.

Pictured here in approximately 1920 are, from left to right, Flora, Edwin and Forrest Doolittle. Many members of the Doolittle family have lived in the area and several have been active in the ongoing life of Pisgah.

Winter Foot Travel in Pisgah

The snow has finally arrived though not quite in the blizzard fashion we were warned about. The state is planning to plow around the Visitor Center and Barn area and parking should be available. I am not sure about how Kilburn is being handled this year but parking is always tight there. I presume Horseshoe will be plowed well. I have no idea about parking up at the Beals Rd entrance. Quite a few years ago now I went on several winter x-c ski trips starting from there and down into the Park and return.

The Snow Brook and Orchard Trails were cleared recently as part of a second Saturday work day and blowdowns hopefully will not be an issue. An interesting trip starts at the Visitor Center. Head north into the Park, downhill for about ¼ mile, passing the Orchard on your left. After a couple of hundred yards the Doolittle Trail is on your left. Continuing north on Old Chesterfield Rd one passes a drained small pond on the right and a steep gorge with a small brook that flows out the north end and through a marshy (in warm weather) flat to cross Old Chesterfield Rd just south of the lumber harvest made a few years ago by the State.

Continue on for a total of about a mile from the Visitor Center to Jon Hill Rd. Turn right and climb on the Jon Hill Road to reach a high point near some power lines. Continue east on Jon Hill Rd up hill and down, eventually after about a mile from Old Chesterfield Rd, come to some ponds on the right, possibly with beavers in them. A small pond exists on the left as well. You are now about 100 yds. from the Old Spofford Rd. Pass the Jon Hill gate and turn left on Old Spofford Rd (there still may be a woods path to the left that sort of parallels the Old Spofford Rd). Proceed north on the Old Spofford Rd about 200 yds. to the (gated) old, unused Spofford Rd parking lot for Pisgah. Turn left and enter the parking lot, crossing it to the southwest corner and find the Snow Brook Trail.

The Snow Brook Trail goes west sort of on a level at first, then downhill, curving quite often to reach a lower level where an old wood bridge may go right and across a brook that the trail has been following. Skiing here may be a bit tricky. At the bridge is the start of a long abandoned trail connector. Continue instead straight west along the Snow Brook Trail with a pond (which may look like a frozen meadow in winter) soon appearing to your right. Follow the pond and eventually cross one or two streams coming from the pond area and flowing to the left (southerly). One of these is Snow Brook which eventually crosses under Old Chesterfield Rd. Continuing on the Snow Brook Trail for a total of about 1½ miles from Old Spofford Rd, and after a brief moderate uphill climb, one reaches Old Chesterfield Rd about 300 yds. west of the Broad Brook Rd junction.

Turn left (east at first) and ski downhill to the junction with Broad Brook Rd. From the junction, proceed gently uphill past Cheese Rock (on your left) and then downhill again to cross Snow Brook (usually quite pretty here in winter). Immediately on your left, pass an old farm location. From this point you continue uphill more steeply and along somewhat curvy Old Chesterfield Rd to its intersection with the Jon Hill Road. Follow the reverse of your starting route, uphill the last mile, to the Visitor Center. An alternate return would be to turn right at the junction with Broad Brook Rd and follow the road south ¾ mile or so past several cellar holes and across a few brooks to the Doolittle Trail on your left. Turn onto the Doolittle Trail and follow it a bit along Broad Brook and then uphill for perhaps ¾ mile to Old Chesterfield Rd just north of the Visitor Center. A right turn at that point and a ¼ mile of uphill skiing on Old Chesterfield Rd brings one to the Visitor Center. Note: when near the top of the Doolittle Trail be sure to follow the snowmobile tracks as a small gorge with steep sides is crossed by the Doolittle Trail which jogs right here.

Member Dues Need to be Paid Now

Member dues for 2015 are due by the first of the year. Please use the form on the last page and send in your renewal or new application now. Dues paid on or after the Annual Picnic are valid for the following year.

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

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First Class Mail

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 half of the student/single/family dues provides for printing and mailing the Update and the Annual Picnic notice, as well as for the fine food at the picnic. Dues are as follows: student - \$10, single - \$15, family - \$20, group (club) - \$30. Cut here -----

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| Date: _____ | <u>Category</u> (Check applicable boxes) | <u>Willing to Assist On Committee for:</u> |
| Name(s): _____ | ◇ New | ◇ Annual Picnic |
| Address: _____ | ◇ Renewal | ◇ Educational Programs |
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