

SUMMER RETROSPECTIVE

Five WODC members, Mike Bromberg, Chris Conrod, Maida Freeman, Doug Mayer, and Dana Steele, met at the Ferncroft kiosk on the June 8th Trail Day. They brushed and cleared the Dicey's Mill Trail to the Tom Wiggin Trail, and the Tom Wiggin Trail to Blueberry Ledge Trail. Several blowdowns on the Blueberry Ledge Trail were cut and cleared, and they worked on the Blueberry Ledge Cut-off. As they came upon signs while working on the trails, Doug Mayer replaced signs with new ones. In the meantime, four other members worked on their respective adopted trails, the McCrillis Path and Mt. Katherine trails.

Following the trail work, workers returned to a potluck supper at Zinks. Furnishing food for the hungry crew were: the Sidleys, the Mersfelders, Doug Mayer, Chris Conrod, the Zinks, and others. Trailwork accomplished on this day is much appreciated by hikers, as notes left in the Ferncroft kiosk "comment box" attest.

The July 13th special meeting in the Chapel coincided with the arrival of the new WODC map: Mike Bromberg, cartographer, displayed the map and described how the map was made. For greater detail see the article on Page 2. It was an informative and entertaining evening, concluding with the melodies of Gilbert & Sullivan. Members thank Mike for a great job, a wonderful new map, and his rendition of "The Mikado."

A Map and Compass workshop was held on August 3rd led by Dave Thurlow of the AMC Education Staff. Using compasses loaned by AMC, fourteen of us spent a full day learning basic techniques. In the morning our locale was the intervale and the grove near the Chapel. After lunch we traveled further afield, finishing the day by following a compass bearing from one point to another without using an

existing trail. It was an active, interesting, productive day. The group was diverse: two representatives of the Forest Service, two from the Sandwich Range Conservation Association Crew, two young students from France, a young visitor from the midwest, and seven members of WODC. Dave is an excellent teacher, with a full understanding of how to cope with the problems a beginner can have with map and compass.

An evening slide show was held on August 18th with Dave Thurlow as lecturer and projectionist, the same Dave Thurlow who led the Map and

Mersfelder, and Andy Thompson.) Doug Mayer has installed 35 new signs. To prevent water erosion, clearing water bars is of utmost importance. The Sandwich Range Conservation Association crew worked on WODC trails for two weeks this summer. There was discussion of the poor condition of the wooden steps on the Blueberry Ledge Trail and what improvements might be made. There was consensus that the steps should be renewed.

Budget: A proposal was made to spend \$1,000 next year for trail work; the Executive Committee will decide whether this is prudent. A sum of \$250 was approved for purchase of a file cabinet. Treasurer Nat Steele recommended that dues be increased to \$10 for single membership and \$18 for a family.

FOREST LIAISON

The Pemigewasset and Saco Ranger Districts have been conducting an analysis of the forest resources in the area which includes the Sandwich Notch Road. The study implements the Forest Plan completed in 1986. The outcome of the study is a list of projects which might be executed following approval

by the Forest Supervisor, as well as further analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

The study was conducted by an interdisciplinary group from the Forest Service including specialists in archaeology, soils, water, wildlife, timber, disability access, and recreation, as well as approximately twenty-five people from the region who know the area and have a special interest in it. Ted Sidley and George Zink of WODC participated in the eight all-day meetings.

This thorough analysis resulted in a list of 30 projects -- a list too lengthy and detailed to include in the *Newsletter*. In brief, the public and Forest Service agree the Sandwich Opportunity Area (SOA) is unique

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WODC Officers 1991-1992

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| President | John Mersfelder |
| Vice President | Ted Sidley |
| Secretary | Barbara Sidley |
| Treasurer | Nat Steele |
| Trails | Dana Steele |
| Membership | Clarinda Philips |
| Timber Committee | Ted Sidley |
| Forest Liaison | George Zink |
| Newsletter | Sally Zink/Catherine Mersfelder |
| Member-at-large | Doug Mayer |
| Member-at-large | Andy Thompson |

Compass workshop. Dave worked one summer at the South Pole with the National Science Foundation. He described the research project which engaged him and the problems inherent in living at the Pole. It gave us a better understanding of Antarctica, and the lasting impact which human habitation has on such a fragile environment.

ANNUAL MEETING

Trails: Trails Chairman Dana Steele gave a full report on trails. Although spring blowdowns were cleared, a recent hurricane left more blowdowns which need attention. Each trail has an adopter. It was noted that the Bennett Street Trail needs extensive work. (Editor's Note: This condition was later rectified by Doug Mayer, John

EDITORIAL

Next year will mark 100 years since the beginnings of the Wonalancet Out Door Club. Word has it that the WODC is one of the oldest hiking and outdoor clubs in the Northeast. Rank aside, the Club has been, and continues to be, a significant force in maintaining trails in the Sandwich Range, and preserving its environmental integrity.

We can take great pride in WODC and its work as we approach our second century. Notably:

The Club consistently receives compliments and 'thank yous' from the hiking public for the trails and their condition.

Our new trail map is unsurpassed in quality and is being purchased at a rate beyond our projections.

Due to the understanding of the issues by Club members, the Forest Service listens when WODC speaks. This and more is accomplished by dedicated volunteers and with monies derived primarily from dues.

To give appropriate recognition to the one hundred years of WODC commitment to the mountains, the Executive Committee will be planning a year of projects, a special celebration in 1992, articles in newspapers and journals, culminating with festivities in 1993.

Beyond the commemorations, the centennial will provide an impetus to set our sights on some important goals such as expanding membership, thus ensuring a stable financial base. Also, because of the pending closing of the post office, the Club needs a central location in Wonalancet to house WODC books and equipment. All these will be important factors in maintaining the Club's identity and vitality into the next century.

To help the Executive Committee plan centennial events, please send your thoughts and suggestions to us as soon as possible.

Most importantly, let us all, members and friends, join together and participate in this special, once in a century, celebration.

John L. Mersfelder
President

LIAISON (Continued)

because it includes the Sandwich Notch Road, the last remaining primitive notch in WMNF. The road will be protected as a narrow, single lane, gravel road with wooden bridges, a forest canopy overhead, limited views of distant landscapes, limited signing, and few indications of human presence. Keeping the Notch Road primitive requires that activities in the Forest well behind the road be restricted and monitored carefully.

WODC representatives are impressed by the openness of the process, the accomplishment by the District Rangers and their staffs in planning and implementing the study, the care taken by WMNF personnel in providing information and in educating representatives of the public, and the concern of all participants in preserving the uniqueness of the Notch and surrounding lands.

MAP SALES

A "Map Committee" consisting of Dana Steele, Sally Zink, and John Mersfelder, was appointed by the Executive Committee to make decisions with respect to financing and marketing the map. Its first concern was to pay printing costs. This was accomplished by utilizing funds available in the WODC bank account, and an interest-free loan from the Tamworth Foundation. Next, there was the question of how to sell the product. After consulting with the agents of several stores which sell sporting and hiking goods, it was decided to fair trade the map at \$5 each, and to sell the map to distributors for \$4. By these methods, and by selling directly to individuals, the Club has to date sold 544 maps, resulting in an income of \$2500. The Committee has been assisted by member Doug Mayer, who brings his customary enthusiasm and dedication to all he undertakes.

The map makes the perfect Christmas gift for the hikers in your family and among your friends. Maps can be ordered through the mail by sending a check payable to WODC for \$5 to: Wonalancet Out Door Club Map Sales, Box 21, Wonalancet, NH 03897.

NEWS RELEASE

The following article appeared in several local newspapers as well as the Boston Globe in mid-November. Written by Doug Mayer, it resulted in an avalanche of requests. The Editor

The Wonalancet Out Door Club (WODC) has recently published a new map and trail guide to the entire Sandwich Range Wilderness of the White Mountains of New Hampshire. It is the first map to delineate the entire Wilderness from Mt. Chocorua on the east, the Kancamagus Highway to the north, Waterville to the west, to Whiteface and Wonalancet on the south.

The map and guide was the result of four years of work by cartographer Mike Bromberg, aided by numerous volunteers who remeasured each trail and took extensive notes. The U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Geological Survey cooperated by providing maps and information from which the overlays were made, resulting in a highly accurate, detailed, and easy to read, 1:40,000 scale map.

The map contains a wealth of detail, including information on current and abandoned trails, public shelters, campsites and parking areas, streams, waterfalls, ponds, and wetlands. Two of the many useful features not normally found on other maps include mileage between trail segments and viewpoints along trails and summits.

The map is printed in four colors, tinted to seven shades to highlight different land divisions and use areas. The map is printed on tear resistant, waterproof Tyvek, is easily foldable and comes with its own Tyvek envelope for easy packing.

On the back of the map are extensive, detailed descriptions of 20 WODC maintained trails, along with specific information and suggestions on summer and winter backcountry hiking and skiing, and land and wilderness use guidelines and regulations.

Because of its large scale and accuracy, the map is excellent for use with a compass. Hikers, backcountry explorers, skiers and map lovers in general will find the map invaluable.

Flat Mountain Pond-- Memoirs of a Conservation Officer

Editor's Note: This paper was written by David E. Hammond, former NH Fish and Game Department officer. David lives in Owl's Head, Maine. He was a member of the Disability Task Force, a group of able and disabled persons selected by the Forest Service to develop a comprehensive plan describing the needs and interests of the disabled, and what conditions on the Forest must exist to meet those interests.

In the Fall of 1951 the NH Fish & Game Department offered me the opportunity to transfer from a coastal district to the Lakes Region. I jumped at the chance to take over a district which, in part, included Sandwich, Tamworth, and those parts of Waterville and Albany south of heights of land from Campton to Mt Chocorua.

It was not until 1952 that I first climbed Black Mountain and made my way across Sandwich Dome to Flat Mountain Pond (FMP). The pond and many beaver flowages extending northerly toward Lost Pass intrigued me. It was not long before those waters were added to my stocking schedule for fingerling brook trout. The trail up Whiteface Brook offered the shortest, though not the smoothest, route of access for backpacking the fish. However, backpack them I did, renewing water at various spots along the way.

Later on, with winch, handyman-jack, saw, axe, and sweat I improved the old railroad bed in order to gain nearer access to the pond. Using a Jeep equipped with fish tank, I entered by way of Bennett Street and was able to drive much closer than by the Whiteface trail. Backpacking the six gallon tanks and fingerling up the more gentle slope of the old railroad bed was easier!

The potential of a major trout fishery at FMP became clear as the fishing improved, and in the mid-fifties the Fish & Game Department authorized a permanent dam at the outlet. In order to bring both men and material closer to the pond, roadbed improvement was

essential. I undertook the task almost single-handedly. Also necessary was a lowering of the water level by removing beaver dams above and at the outlet of the pond. Using a borrowed ex-military Jeep loaded with tools and a case of dynamite, I headed for FMP accompanied by a hired assistant.

Not long after leaving Bennett Street and gaining the old railroad bed the going became difficult. Recent storms raised the water level at some stream crossings; mud and fallen trees hindered passage and ate up much of the day. The Jeep finally became hung-up in a gulch about a mile from the pond. We were compelled to leave the Jeep and backpack the equipment the rest of the way. The Jeep could be backed out later -- or so we thought!

Removing beaver dams, even with dynamite, is slow, meticulous, arduous work. The afternoon soon turned to evening, the evening to night. With no flashlight and only the light of the twinkling stars to help, I placed the last charges at the outlet of the lower pond. It was too dark to read the galvanometer to determine if good circuitry had been made. With crossed fingers, I spun the handle on the blasting machine. It worked! Almost before the echo of the explosion ceased to bounce from mountain to mountain, the roar of the escaping water thundering down the bed of the boulder and ledge bottom of Pond Brook filled the night.

Cautiously feeling our way back to the Jeep, the sound of the rushing waters in the gully below never seemed to lessen. It was awe inspiring! Finally reaching our vehicle, we were soon aware that nature has methods of avenging man's meddling - a backwash from Pond Brook 50 yards away had the Jeep immersed to the bottom of the windshield! Falling into potholes, swatted by tree branches, and pierced by the hungry proboscises of a million and one mosquitoes, we finally reached Bennett Street. The construction crew helped remove and start the stranded Jeep the following day.

The FMP area has been a magnet for the adventurous. The old tarpaper covered shack that stood at the lower end of the pond hosted many a weary

hiker and gave shelter to both the fisherman and the hunter. Even the trapper used its smoke blackened interior as protection from sub-zero weather.

I recall two men, brothers, tempted by the number of beaver both at the pond and in the dozens of impoundments toward Lost Pass, that ventured into the area in the dead of winter. They too reached the railroad bed via Bennett Street, dragging their equipment and food by toboggan to the hut at the foot of the pond. When two weeks passed and they had not come out with either a catch of fur or for supplies, I strapped on my webs and snowshoed in. What a sad sight I found! Half frozen, both so ill that, next to me, death seemed almost welcome, the men had not one pelt to show for their effort. Five feet of ice covered the ponds and an equal amount of snow decked the ice and shoresides with mountainous drifts. Their meager supply of dry wood soon exhausted, the men had resorted to burning camp furnishings to try and coax heat from such green firewood as they had been able to cut. I worked up enough dry wood to supply heat and promised to return the following day and rescue both men and their equipment. The rescue was made as promised when George Plant, Chief of Police at Holderness, went in with his Snow Kitten. Both men swore they would never visit FMP again---either in summer or winter!

Following completion of the dam, the trout grew fat and tasty. Many fishermen took advantage of the old railroad bed to reach the pond. Some hiked in. Some used vehicles of various makes and abilities. One group even made it in by Volkswagen "Bug"! However, after logging sales and operations which used Bennett Street as access, berms, signs, and boulders closed that avenue of approach. Only the Guinea Pond Trail from Sandwich Notch remained available to motorized vehicles. Soon even that became unavailable to vehicular traffic, though many found their way around the blocking gates.

It has been many years since I strapped on snowshoes or rode a snowmachine on patrol to FMP. Even

more years since I first shouldered a canoe and hiked in via the "Brick House Trail". Still, when recalling the excitement of a beautifully colored trout rising to a dry fly, or hearing in my imagination the echo of a distant train chugging up grade to Lost Pass, FMP experiences are unforgettable--- and so it should be for those fortunate enough to know or live the romance of this seemingly remote destination.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

On February 15th, 1992, an all day cross-country ski trip for experienced skiers is planned. The trip will begin on the Kancamagus Highway at the Oliverian Brook trailhead and follow that trail to the Old Mast Road, thence to Wonalancet Intervale. From there skiers will progress to Tamworth village. Call John Mersfelder at 323-7793 for details. Drivers will be needed to transport skiers to the Kancamagus Highway. Please call John Mersfelder if you wish to volunteer.

On February 25th, 1992, an easy walk, ski and snowshoe trip will begin at 10 a.m. Meet on Route 113-A two miles west of the Wonalancet Chapel in the Town of Sandwich. The two to three mile hike will follow the Sandwich 60 Dog Sled Trail. It is an easy hike, scheduled for school vacation week so young and old may participate. Bring a lunch; hot drinks will be provided. For further information call Clarinda Philips at 323-7547.

DUES NOTICE

Dues for 1991-1992 are now payable. Family membership is \$18.00; Individual membership is \$10.00. Make checks payable to the WODC and mail to:

Nat Steele, Treasurer

Wonalancet, NH 03897

Your membership status:

- Dues paid for 1991-1992
 Dues not paid for 1991-1992

