

WONALANCET OUT DOOR CLUB

Newsletter



November 2000

Caring for the Sandwich Range since 1892

A Great Year for Trails

The Sandwich Range benefited from two ambitious trails programs involving WODC. Under the vision and direction of Trails Chairman Peter Smart, the Club accomplished another successful, multi-faceted trail maintenance season. In addition, hands-on activists Fred Lavigne and Evelyn MacKinnon spearheaded a cooperative effort involving four organizations working out of Mead Base. The following accounts are authored by the people who made it all happen..

WODC TRAILS REPORT

The Summer of 2000 marks another banner year for WODC trails. For the second summer, the WODC fielded a full-season crew to continue the restoration of the of Walden Trail, repairing the erosion damage that often results when erodible soils and lack of maintenance meet in the backcountry. Led by veteran crew leader Chris Conrod, the crew spent over 2200 hours building 174 steps, water bars and retainers that will help stabilize the trail for many years to come.

At the heart of this effort were three exceptional crew members: Mao Teng Lin, Beth Chesterman, and Ron Alessi, who were recruited through the Resource Assistant program of the Student Conservation Association. Their efforts were supplemented by fellow SCA volunteers John Lee and Becky Davidson, as well as Kelly Perkins and Evelyn Giguere, who worked with several organizations during the summer.

This year's Walden crew was again funded by WODC dues and donations, together with a matching grant from the Recreational Trails Program. Through two separate grants, the RTP is providing approximately \$10,000 per year in support of our work. However, the grants are based largely on the significant match of volunteer time, totaling nearly 3000 hours per year. The exceptional amount of volunteer time is probably the key reason the Club has been successful in obtaining

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MEAD BASE PROJECT

Mead Base, a collection of cabins and Adirondack style shelters anchored by the Demerit Smith house, is located in Sandwich near the start of Sandwich Notch Road at the foot of Mount Israel. The house and land were willed to the White Mountain National Forest by George Mead.

In 1953, through the efforts of Mead's widow, the Smith house and eleven acres of land were leased to the Daniel Webster Council, Boy Scouts of America. For forty-five years the Scouts operated programs at Mead Base, including the high adventure program, until relinquishing their special use permit in 1998.

Conservation-minded local citizens saw the availability of Mead Base as an opportunity to establish a center for providing stewardship training and housing to trail crews and organizations working in the Sandwich Range and surrounding towns. With support from the Forest Service, WODC, Student Conservation Association (SCA), Squam Lakes Association (SLA), The Quimby Fund and approximately fifty volunteers donating labor, materials and financial support, Mead Base was up and running in May 2000.

The season started with SCA conducting a week-long intensive training course for leaders of the high school age conservation program. Approximately seventy people from all over the country participated in the work skills training. As a

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SCA volunteer
Mao Teng Lin
on Walden Trail



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funding for the entire three year restoration, and highlights the importance of maintaining accurate volunteer records. This combination of support allows the WODC to operate a full season trail crew at a net cost to the membership of under \$6000.

The work began in the bottom of the col south of Nanamocomuck, and progressed northward to a point above the East Loop Junction. At the end of the season the crew had completed 53% of the work slated for 2000/2001, putting us in great shape to reach the summit of Passaconaway in August of 2001.

In many ways, the crew espouses the core values of the WODC: volunteerism, a love of the outdoors, and a "no excuses, just do it" mentality. We salute them, as Chris did with his presentation of inscribed mattock handles at the 2000 Annual Meeting. Thank you all!

Other Activities

Carefully arranged around the Walden crew were a number of other trail activities. We celebrated New Hampshire Trails Day by clearing water bars on Blueberry Ledge Trail, followed by a wonderful potluck supper at Dick Daniels's pond.

Our annual weekend on Kate Sleeper Trail found little clearing to be done, thanks to the efforts of USFS summer patrols. This left time to install six steps and three water bars (all in rock).

The final scheduled trip consisted of building steps and water bars on Old Mast Road. These corrected a number of growing erosion problems.

This summer we welcomed the arrival of Dave Neely as the new Saco Trails Supervisor, and have been encouraged by

the renewed emphasis that Dave brings to trails, as well as addressing the full range of hiking and camping issues we encounter every week. We look forward to an ongoing dialog, and hope the USFS will provide the backcountry and Wilderness programs with the full support they deserve.

Plans for 2001

The primary objective for 2001 will be to complete the slated work on Walden Trail, as authorized and funded at the 2000 Annual Meeting. A request has already been submitted for an SCA crew, and the Trails Committee will continue to refine the details throughout the winter months.

In an effort to encourage the efforts of WODC Adopters, the Trails Committee is launching a renewed effort to support the Club's Adopters. (See related article by John Boettiger.) This will allow the Trails committee to provide assistance where needed, while not duplicating the maintenance each adopter has pledged to provide.

Beyond Walden

Although 2002 may seem a long way off, it will be an important fork in the road. Should we undertake other intensive restoration efforts, or should we look for a scaled-down approach?

The demise of the Sandwich Range Conservation Association a few years ago and the resulting loss of their cooperative

trail crew serving many organizations obliged WODC to become more ambitious. Although our weekend efforts had become substantial, they were not sufficient to cover remote, high volume projects such as the Walden restoration. The result was our first full-time crew in 1999.

Should we continue to operate a full-time crew? Although possible, a significant year-round effort is required to plan, fund, and run a crew. A part-time crew would still require much of the same planning, and good candidates tend to want a full summer program.

Or perhaps we should reconsider the original model of a cooperative crew. It has the advantage of supporting a number of trail clubs, without requiring each of them to perform all the required planning and organization. There would certainly be plenty of work for a co-op crew. The WODC, for one, could use a crew for two weeks just to clean its 600+ water bars. And while no single trail needs the extensive work required on Walden Trail, there are still serious problems to be addressed on Lawrence, Wiggin, and Old Mast Road.

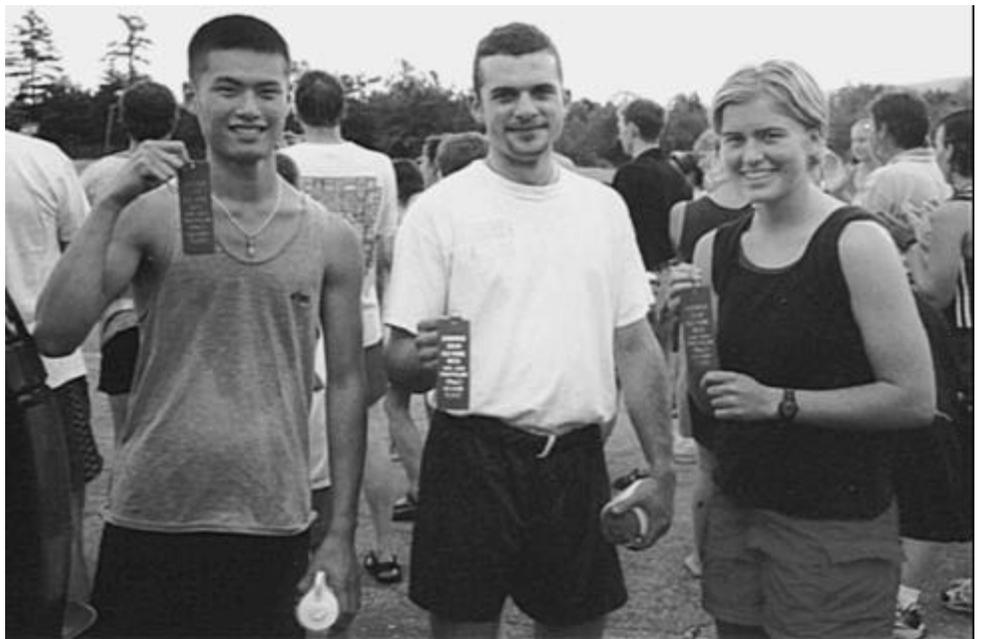
It's your Club. What do you think?

Peter Smart

WODC Trails Chair

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Team Walden

After another week of rolling boulders through the mud, what does a trail crew do to unwind? Enter a triathlon, of course! Mao, Ron and Beth took first place in the team division of the Sandwich Days bike, swim and run race.

Mead Base, from page 1
side benefit, much needed work was accomplished at Beede Falls, Ridgepole Trail, Wentworth Trail and the Bridle Path up West Rattlesnake.

Two Resource Assistants (RA's), Kelly Perkins and Evelyn Giguere, were stationed at the base for twelve weeks through a cooperative arrangement between SCA and WODC, with funding provided by the Quimby Fund. They performed trail work on WODC and SLA trails as well as the Bearcamp River Trail. They did community service, cleaned up litter in Sandwich Notch, maintained the grounds at Mead Base and much more.

The WODC SCA-RA crew working on Walden Trail used Mead Base for lodging during their days off. The ample room inside the house and on the grounds provided the perfect setting for a week of training in work skills, low impact camping, and first-aid.

An SCA high school age group of five young women and two college age leaders camped at Mead Base for approximately two weeks. They completed log and rock turnpiking to harden the trail into Beede Falls. A New Hampshire Department of Transportation SCA crew also camped at the Base while they worked on various projects along state highways.

A five-person SLA-SCA trail crew stayed at the base during the fall while working on SLA trails. A wood stove helped keep them warm on the cool autumn nights. SLA has already applied to SCA for next year's crew members.

No one involved in this project knows where this experimental Mead Base Conservation Center will lead us. However, all participants deem this season a success, not only because of all the good conservation work done, but especially for the chance to work with SCA volunteers and staff. These folks are hard working and motivated, no matter what the conditions.

The challenge now will be to find the energy, funding and solid planning needed to keep Mead Base operating as a center for the stewardship of public and private conservation land. The opportunity is fantastic. The need exists. We encourage any suggestions that will help make Mead Base Conservation Center a permanent resource for the Sandwich Range and surrounding communities. To become part of the solution, call 284-6919.

Fred Lavigne & Evelyn MacKinnon



It's a keeper!

Beth and Becky excavated the mother of all roots while preparing the Walden treadway for rock steps. Don't worry, the tree was dead. It was a matter of time before serious erosion problems would develop.

NEW TRAIL ADOPTER POLICY

Throughout its 108 years, WODC has depended substantially on the volunteer efforts of its members to fulfill its primary trail keeping mission. In recent years that system has shown inevitable signs of growing pains. Steps have been taken to supplement it—notably the work of our full-time summer trail crew and Trails Committee volunteers for major maintenance and repair—but more attention is needed if we are to continue to maintain the best kept trails in the White Mountains.

In an effort to simplify and clarify WODC's trail adopter program, offer adopters better support in their important tasks, and improve communication among all those doing trail work, the Trails Committee has presented to the Club's Executive Committee a set of proposals which were described at the Annual Meeting. At the heart of the policy is a clear set of common basic responsibilities of trail adopters:

- commitment to three occasions each year of trail clearing, cleaning and an oral or written report to a designated Trails Committee liaison person; the first occasion early in the hiking season (preferably before Memorial Day weekend), the second in mid-summer, and the third late in the season (end of summer or fall);
- commitment to participate in two all-member trail work days each year, one

as the season begins in May, and the second in July, on New Hampshire Trails Day.

Adopter liaison persons from the Trails Committee will be assigned a specific set of trails and adopters with whom to work and keep in regular touch, and will be in communication with adopters this fall to clarify details, identify sources of help, and respond to questions.

A small, hardy band of roving trail workers or adopter assistants with special skills will be available to adopters to fill in and help with unwieldy tasks.

A systematic effort will be made, via the newsletter, the Club website, and special mailings, to recruit greater participation from our whole Club membership, near and far, in the two general trail work days at the beginning of the season and in mid-summer.

Finally, steps will be taken—in the newsletter, website, and at kiosks and major trailheads—to garner more feedback from hikers about trail conditions and needs. Adopters will be notified.

Preliminary feedback and questions are welcome, and should be addressed to any of the following: Peter Smart (323-8827 or sr@hydrocad.net); John Boettiger (323-8812 or boettiger@mindspring.com); Dick Daniels (323-8078 or ddi@lr.net).

John Boettiger

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Wonalancet and the Price of Pennacook Neutrality in New England's Bitterest War; 1675-1676

Recently my friends Jim and Laurel Bleyle of Campton gave me a copy of a fine old book: Soldiers in King Philip's War by George Madison Bodge (Boston:1906). I thought members of the club might be interested in Bodge's account of the statesmanship of the Pennacook Sachem Wonalancet, whose name we have appropriated. In assembling the jigsaw pieces of this story from various chapters to make a consistent narrative I have altered Bodge's prose as little as possible. All my editorial interventions are italicized or shown by ellipses. – Doug McVicar

The Pennacooks had always been peaceful towards the English since the first settlement. Passaconoway was their chief at the earliest mention we have of them, and was still alive and active for the welfare of his tribe in 1663, though at great age, for it was probably about this time that Major Gookin saw him . . . "alive at Pawtucket when he was about a hundred and twenty years old." He seems to have been a chief of remarkable ability and wisdom, and had some sort of dominion over many tribes, and there is some evidence that he bore the sway of a "Bashaba," or Great Sagamore. He was reputed by the Indians to be a great "Powow" and to possess supernatural powers, and was held to be a "sorcerer" by the English, and doubtless had some arts of the juggler by which he gained this renown.

It is said that near the close of his life Passaconoway called his people together and gave them his farewell charge, recounting his own early struggles against the English, which had proved in vain, and, showing the steady increase of the white people everywhere in spite of all opposition, he urged upon them their only safe policy, peaceful submission to and friendship with the English.

Upon Wannalancet's succession to his father's title and station, he kept faith with

the English as his father had done and advised, and notwithstanding the many wrongs and provocations received by his people, and the urgent appeals of hostile tribes, he remained true, and was held in high esteem by the authorities of the colony.

When he saw that [*King Philip's War*] was to become a general war, and foresaw that, remaining in the vicinity of the English settlements, his people could hardly fail to be drawn into some active participation in it, either for or against the English, he prudently withdrew to safe retreats whenever the hostile forces approached his country.

On the 22d [*of August, 1675*] some of the Nipmuck Indians fell upon Lancaster [*Massachusetts*] and killed seven or nine inhabitants, and the next day the people sent for Capt. Mosely and told him of their suspicions of the Hassanemesit Indians (friendly or Praying Indians) then living under supervision in a sort of fort at Marlborough. Capt. Mosely hastily marched to the fort and seized . . . fifteen of the Indians, "pinioned" them and bound them neck to neck and sent them down to Boston for trial. Of the fifteen only eleven were accused; all were finally found innocent & acquitted, and Capt. Mosely's proceeding severely criticised by the Court and his superior officers. Major Gookin believed that the people instigated suspicions "in order to secure the land of the Indians."

After sending these prisoners down on August 30th, Capt. Mosely marched up the Merrimac as far as Pennacook (Concord, N.H.) to the home of the peaceful Wannalancet, where he was prepared to repeat the late transaction; but the Pennacooks had quietly withdrawn and eluded him. He burnt their village and stores of food, and marched back.

[*In the face of this crisis, Wannalancet*] displayed not only prudence, but . . . great patience and power; for he restrained his warriors, who pressed him earnestly for

permission to ambush and cut off Mosely's company, which they were in capacity, both of numbers and opportunity, to do.

[*A related tribe, the*] Wamesits, living at what is now Lowell, formerly Chelmsford, were a quiet, reputable "praying village" under the immediate rule of "Numphow," who . . . was probably the brother-in-law of Wannalancet. These Indians [*met*] with another disaster, in the burning of a barn of hay, by some hostile Indian or Englishman, for the purpose of casting reproach upon them. Lieut. Thomas Henchman, and Lieut. James Richardson, whose barn was burnt, were friends of these Indians and in charge of them, and believed them innocent; but some of the English at Chelmsford secretly organized a party who went to the wigwams; and shot down five women, seriously wounding them and killing a boy outright. . . . This horrible outrage greatly exercised the Council; and the murderers, two fellows named Largin and Robins, who were shown to be the ones who had fired their guns, loaded with shot, into the crowd, were arrested. But notwithstanding the efforts of the magistrates and ministers, with all the best men of the colony, no jury could be found to convict them; and after an extended imprisonment they were set free. By this act the rest of the Indians were so disheartened and frightened that they all forsook their villages and went away towards Pennacook to join Wannalancet. . . . But being in straitened circumstances, and earnestly reassured by the Council, they were induced to return after a few weeks; and Lieut. Thomas Henchman was placed in charge as their guardian . . . Although the magistrates, and their faithful friends Eliot and Gookin, did all in their power to help them, these poor souls suffered terribly from cold and hunger during the winter.

In February [*1676*], the Wamesits, fearing the hostile Indians on the one hand, and their English neighbors on the other, petitioned to be removed to some safer place within the Colony. The Court promised, but neglected to take care of them, and the great body of them fled to Pennacook, to Wannalancet, being forced to leave behind for the time some half a dozen of their aged and blind, whom they considered safe, being helpless and harmless. After they were gone, these poor creatures were found and brutally murdered (being burned to death, as

appeared, within their wigwam) by two brutes of the English, against whom nothing direct could be proved, but who were quite well known by the public, as they rather enjoyed such notoriety than feared it among their fellows.

It was by such outrages as these that those Indians who inclined to peace were alienated, and those already inclined to war embittered, and many of the young men of the Wamesits undoubtedly joined the hostile Indians, and passed to the Eastward [*i.e.*, to *Maine*] to swell the ranks and increase the efficiency of those bands of Ammoscoggins and Pequakets, who . . . were carrying destruction to the Eastward settlements.

Throughout 1675 and into early 1676 the Indians dominated the field of battle and managed to drive the English out of most of the interior of New England. But by summer of 1676 the tide had turned decisively in favor of the English, except in Maine. We find Wannalancet and his followers in Dover, NH.

To the friendly intercourse which Dover kept up with Wannalancet was due, probably in some measure, its immunity from repeated assaults.

Before June, 1676, the southern Indians, scattered and pursued from their tribes and homes, and fearing extermination, had hidden themselves amongst these Eastern Indians, and hoped to escape thus the vengeance of the English. In the mean time the Eastern tribes themselves, through the mediation of Wannalancet and Major Walderne, were trying in various ways to atone for past crimes. June 3, 1676, Wannalancet came in with several others of his sachems and brought some English captives, and also the Indians who had been engaged in the

killing of Thomas Kembal of Bradford, a month before, and the capture of his family. This Indian . . . called "Symon" . . . [and] two others . . . were delivered by Wannalancet and his chiefs, and the captives, among them Kembal's family, were offered as a token of their repentance and as an atonement for their crime. But our magistrates, a little doubtful that the price was sufficient, threw these three Indians into prison at Dover for the time, from which they soon escaped, and going to the Eastward joined the Kennebec and Ammoscoggins in the renewed hostilities later on.

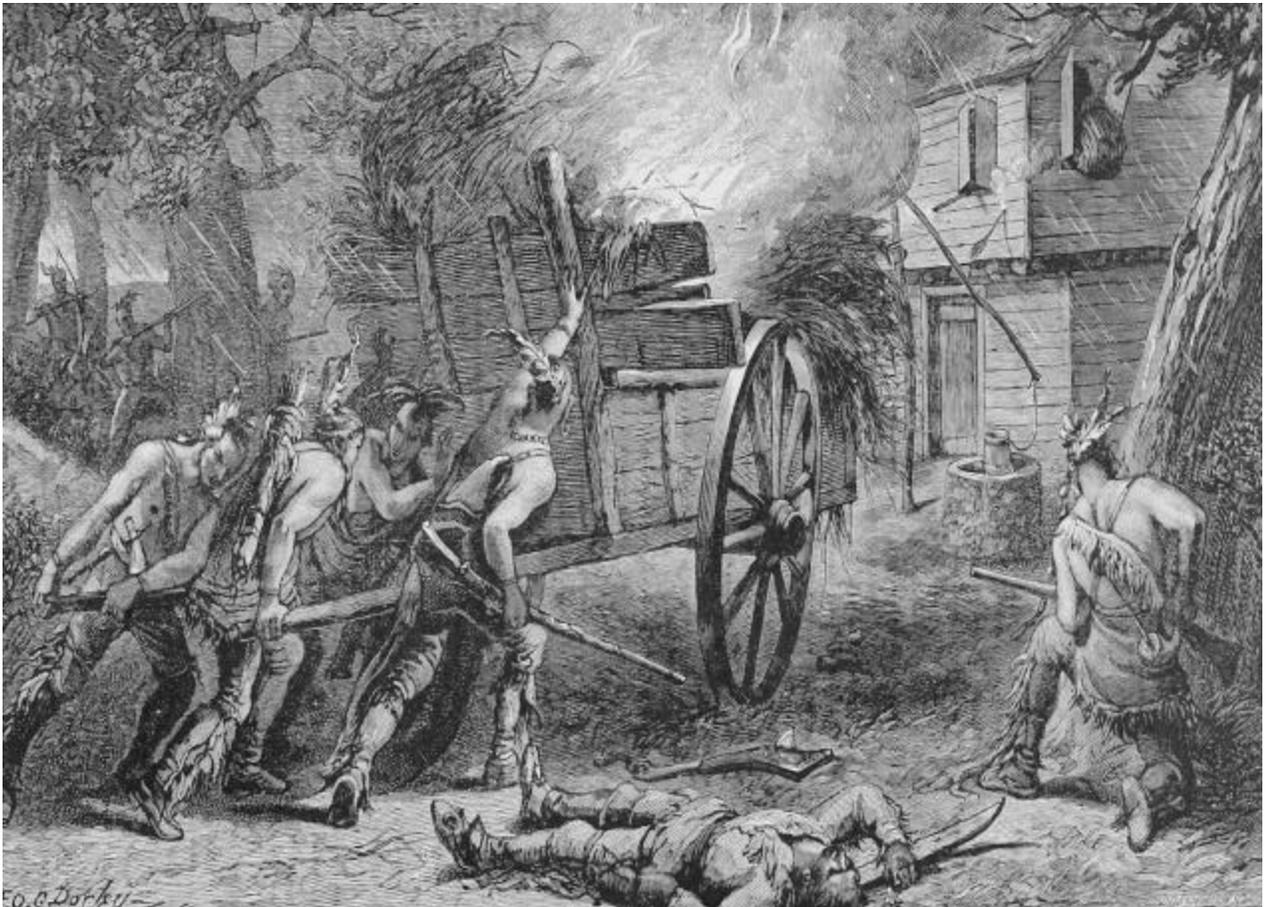
It is not known how much influence the captive Indians, who escaped from Dover, exercised on the Kennebec Indians in the renewal of hostilities, but it is certain that "Symon" was at the head of those who struck the first blow at Casco (now Portland, Me.), in which attack the Brackets and others to the number of thirty-four were killed or captured.

When at the beginning of September some four hundred . . . men of the tribes, came in to Major Walderne's at Dover, under the leadership of Wannalancet, it was, perhaps, to prove themselves not

engaged in the hostilities at the eastward, since they were present now with the Pennacooks and the others who had kept the peace since the winter before. It was known, however, to the General Court that many of the Indians of the south and west who had been engaged with Philip formerly had now found a retreat with these peaceful tribes. . . . [So] the authorities . . . sent Capts. Sill and Hathorne . . . with two companies and full commission to "kill and destroy" all hostile Indians wherever found.

[*Upon their arrival at Dover*] the Captains urged their commission, and Major Walderne urged his duty and pledge of hospitality; but finding them determined he compromised the matter by planning a stratagem by which some two hundred of the hostile Indians were made prisoners, while Wannalancet and his Pennacooks, Ossipees and Pequakets were allowed to depart unharmed.

. . . *After the war the historical record seems to have forgotten Wannalancet. There is a tradition that he lived on to an old age, but that he lost his followers and had to face much enmity as a result of the principles he upheld during the war.*



Indian Siege at Brookfield

DESIGNATED CAMPSITES TO REPLACE SHELTERS

We are again pleased to print an article by Saco District Ranger Terry Miller, this time on the fate of Camps Heermance, Rich and Shehadi.

Let me start by thanking the WODC for your incomparable devotion to wilderness values, and for your patience with me and the Forest Service as we've wrestled with the Sandwich Range shelter issue. I know we seem to work excruciatingly slowly on some things, but it is my opinion that our relationship with WODC demands that we take the time not only to make the right decision, but to do it the right way and listen to everyone.

I am pleased to report that, thanks in large part to the helpful involvement of the WODC membership and the Executive Committee, we are near closure on this issue.

Last year, as many of you know, we sought public comments on a proposal to remove the shelters. What a response we got! Two things became apparent to me: (1) a large number of people who cared passionately also differed widely on the issue, and (2) there was a need to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and assess the potential historic significance of the shelters.

Much of the past year has been spent resolving these two issues, starting with meeting the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. In October, we contracted an historic site evaluation of the shelters. The evaluation report was completed in January and sent to the NH SHPO, which in March made the

determination that the shelters were eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

That determination of eligibility does not preclude our management or disposal of the shelters, but gives us guidelines on the conditions under which they must be managed or disposed. It requires us to seek out "interested parties" in making any management decisions about the structures.

With the help of George Zink and Peter Smart, we identified and sought out several interested parties. And in July, we had a meeting of interested parties to decide on a solution as a group. I was struck by the spirit of honesty and fairness that characterized our discussion. The meeting was attended by several WODC members, and included Louise Heermance Tallman.

Out of that meeting came a consensus to do the following:

1. Remove trail shelters at Camps Shehadi, Heermance, and Rich;
2. Remove the toilet at the Heermance site;
3. Establish "designated campsites" at suitable locations within ½ mile of the shelter sites and within 200 feet of the hiking trails (Dicey's Mill, Rollins, upper Blueberry Ledge, Sleeper, or upper McCrillis Trails);
4. Create appropriate off-site memorialization and interpretation of the historic shelters and trails, and their significance to the history and culture of the Wonalancet area;
5. Develop with partners and co-operators a transition plan to address

the transitional user needs, conflict, and issues on Whiteface once all the shelters are removed.

I discussed this proposal at the WODC's Annual Picnic Meeting in August (which incidentally I enjoyed very much!), and again at the September Executive Committee meeting. Discussion was "robust" and there were still concerns expressed at both meetings, but at the end, and with moderator Dick Daniels at the helm, we achieved at least grudging support and the support of the Executive Committee.

I am now comfortable to begin implementing these actions. Dean Yoshina, Dave Neely, and I are all personally committed to implementing this plan in a way that will (we hope) please you. We know there are issues of sanitation, wilderness values, recreation demand, historic interpretation and visitor education to be dealt with. Much work and coordination still lie ahead. George Zink will continue as a consulting party as we negotiate this fall with SHPO. By the time of your spring newsletter, I hope to be able to report on-the-ground progress.

My thanks again to members of the WODC who have been so patient and helpful. I would especially like to thank George Zink, Dick Daniels, John Boettiger, Louise Tallman, and Peter Smart for special efforts they have made to help resolve this very sensitive matter. It is a privilege to work with you all.

Terry Miller
District Ranger, Saco Ranger District

WINTER HIKES AND GET-TOGETHERS

Due to the popularity of past WODC winter potluck dinners, a potluck dinner has been scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2001, at the Benz Center in Sandwich at 5:30 pm.

After dinner we are anticipating some interesting stories from the history of the WODC, as well as some insights into White Mountain National Forest issues.

For directions to the Benz Center or questions about the dinner, call Judith Reardon at 323-7165 or 323-8827. Bring whatever type of food strikes your fancy. Each year without any coordination we end

up with a marvelous selection of all courses, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian.

Two excursions in the snow are planned for this winter. On Saturday, February 3, a snowshoeing trip is planned (probably also accessible for skiers with climbing skins), to locations in Wonalancet where interesting animal tracks can be observed.

On Saturday, March 3, a cross-country skiing excursion is planned up Old Mast Road (climbing skins are useful, or snowshoes would be very comfortable) and down Oliverian Brook Trail, with the option

to return by the same route or to arrange a ride from the Oliverian Brook parking lot on the Kancamagus Highway.

Both of these trips will leave from the Ferncroft parking area at 8:30 a.m. and are anticipated to last all day. Since weather and snow conditions are totally unpredictable, the trips will be rescheduled if necessary to the following Saturday at the same time. Check the WODC website (www.wodc.org) for more details or call 323-8827.

Judith Reardon

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The WODC Annual Meeting was held on August 27, 2000, with 45 people in attendance.

A plaque was presented to George Zink commending him for his outstanding contribution to the newsletter and to WODC. Gratitude was also expressed for Sally's contributions.

Dick Daniels gave the Treasurer's report for Tom Rogers. As of 8/15/00 there was income of \$11,484 and expenses of \$14,227. The major income items were: membership \$7947; contributions \$1598; maps \$379; T-shirts \$522; checking interest \$620; investments \$406. The major expense items were: newsletter \$1126; clerical \$1031; T-shirts \$548; Trails \$11276. Net assets of WODC were \$36,426. We are anticipating grant income of over \$9,000 to help cover the trails expenses and thus end the year with a positive cash flow. In 1999

the net income for the club was \$8,152.

Membership and related information was provided by Shannon Spencer, Sharon Nothnagle, and Martha Chandler. There were 277 renewals, 162 maps were sold this year, and there is a supply of T-shirts remaining in all sizes.

John Boettiger presented recommendations pertaining to the trail adopter program with the goal of having the adopters' responsibilities better understood. The recommendations will be discussed further by the Executive Committee.

The Trails Report was given by Peter Smart. Via a combination of an SCA trail crew and WODC volunteers, 2200 hours of work were spent on the Walden Trail. See the Trails Report in this newsletter for further details.

Terry Miller, Saco District Ranger, outlined the process that has been followed

pertaining to the WODC shelters. He proposed the removal of all three shelters, with an off-site interpretation display to commemorate their historical significance. (See the related article for details.)

Dick Daniels reported that a port-a-potty may be placed in the Ferncroft kiosk area on a trial basis.

The proposed budget for 2001 was passed unanimously, as follows: Trails \$16500; Newsletter \$1400; Clerical \$1400; T-shirts \$350; Dues/Facility Fees \$250; Misc. \$200; Contingency \$500; Library \$250. The total amount, \$20,850, is approximately \$1,000 less than last year.

The following officers were elected for the year 2000: President – John Boettiger, Vice Presidents - Ann Rogers and Dick Daniels, Secretary – Sharon Nothnagle, Treasurer – Tom Rogers.

Dick Daniels

Book Review: NOLS Guides to Wilderness Hiking and Camping

“Let no one say and say it to your shame, that all was beauty here until you came.”

a sign at the entrance to Tanzania's Manyara National Park

Mark Harvey, *The National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness Guide*, NY: Simon & Schuster, paperback, 1999, 268 pages.

Bruce Hampton and David Cole, *Soft Paths*, Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books (2nd edition), paperback, 1995, 222 pages.

These books are a fine pair, highly useful for anyone who sets out to hike or camp with care, safety and enjoyment in the backcountry, including our own Sandwich Range. Both reflect and offer detailed attention to the well-tested “leave no trace” philosophy and techniques of the National Outdoor Leadership School.

There is some overlapping coverage between the two. Both clearly explain and illustrate the manifold and critical case for minimum impact hiking and camping, as well as the do's, don'ts, necessary preparation and required skills of backcountry travel on trails and cross-country. Both cover with admirable clarity and reasonable detail choosing and using a campsite, fires and stoves, sanitation and waste disposal.

That said, the two books have valuably

complementary emphases. *Soft Paths* adds a series of short chapters on hiking and camping in different sorts of environment, each demanding special techniques and knowledge of the effects of human impact on distinctive landscapes: deserts, rivers and lakes, coastlines, alpine and arctic tundra, snow and ice, and bear country, as well as a chapter on horse packing.

The *Wilderness Guide* is the more thorough (and more recent) book, and I would suggest it without hesitation if I were buying or consulting only one. At the outset, it appears a book designed more for expedition travel, and it certainly offers that additional perspective. But many of the skills of planning, equipping and undertaking a successful expedition also apply to day hiking, or camping alone, as a couple or in a small group, for a night or weekend.

The *Wilderness Guide's* careful attention to choosing and using good equipment, dressing well for the backcountry in different seasons, the utility of maps and compasses, hydration, nutrition, weather, survival and emergency procedures, distinguishes it from its less detailed companion volume. It also has a

good equipment checklist that will, of course, deserve adaptation depending on season, locale, terrain, and length of backcountry trip.

For all hikers and campers, casual or more adventuresome, knowing the basic skills of leave no trace or low-impact travel, adequate planning and appropriate choice and use of equipment can make an enormous difference: to the land, its flora and fauna, and to the safety and satisfaction of one's own and others' experience of the wilderness. Both of these NOLS books are valuable guides to those ends.

John Boettiger

Benediction

When the hour is late
And time seems to creep,
When my mind's in a haze
And my butt falls asleep,
There's just two words
That I wanna hear:
“Meeting adjourned.”
I'm outta here!

Ed.

Old Trees in a

Investigations of an

Clearing blowdowns can be a journey back in history. The annual rings on freshly sawn log ends beg to be counted, revealing not only the tree's age, but other factors including health, climate change and nearby disturbances.

Dendrochronologists use annual growth rings to study past forest dynamics. By examining both living trees and long dead trees preserved in petrified forests, lake bottoms and other decay preventing situations, these scientists have been able to reconstruct forest histories that in some cases go back thousands of years.

For the layperson out on a trail clearing trip, counting rings can provide an insight into the age of the downed tree and the surrounding forest. In temperate areas such as New Hampshire, there is an annual cycle of growth that causes distinct rings to appear on the end of a cut log.

The initial growth spurt in the spring usually produces the majority of new wood for that year. This portion of new growth is often referred to as earlywood. As the growing season progresses, energy demands turn to reproduction and nutrient storage. Woody tissue growth during this phase is commonly denser and darker, and is called latewood. Each set of light-colored earlywood and darker latewood represents one year of growth. Various tree species may have different color patterns or inconspicuous rings but the rule of one dark ring and one light ring for each year of growth works well in New England.

Recent WODC outings have discovered tree ages of more than 200 years, and in the case of one Eastern Hemlock, an age of well over 400 years. How can this be? Local literature and anecdote paint pictures of a landscape cleared for farming in the first half of the nineteenth century, with the remaining forests logged and burned near the turn of the twentieth century. Virgin forests, sometimes referred to as primary by forest ecologists, were supposed to be a thing of the past, with just a handful of well

documented scattered remnants.

Actually, the removal of the original forest was not as complete as some may believe. In the 1850's, at the height of New England's agricultural era, New Hampshire was still 48% forested. Much of these remaining woods had been subject to harvesting, but in those times loggers were mostly after the best specimens of the commercially valuable species. Many mature trees escaped the axe.

For the next century, forest cover steadily increased as abandoned farm land reverted back to trees, eventually encompassing 87% of the state. Not until the last ten years has the state seen a decrease in forest cover.

Even the logging extravaganza that occurred in the White Mountains between 1880 and 1920 failed to totally decimate the forest. Although clear cutting was the norm for this period, some areas, such as mountain tops and steep gullies, were not considered to be worth the effort. A few large landholders were also experimenting with the earliest attempts at sustainable forestry, taking only certain species above a minimum diameter.

Most of what remained was definitely not virgin forest. Nor could it even be labeled old growth, a condition when a forest reaches full maturity with the oldest trees dying to create snags and downed trunks. Yet some forest land did remain.

As the cut-over areas slowly recovered, survivors of the disturbance were surrounded by the new growth. Little by little, they became less conspicuous, more remote. Today they are old trees in a young forest.

The Sugar Maple-Beech-Yellow Birch old-growth forest in the Bowl is the best known stand of old trees in the Wonalancet area, but few people realize that these are not the oldest trees a hiker is likely to encounter in the Sandwich Range.

Studies done by William Leak, a Forest Service researcher, indicate that the typical oldest hardwoods in the Bowl have an age of 250-270 years. This is believed to be about the maximum age for these species.

250 years is a grand old age for a Maple or Beech, but it is far short of the maximum age of two conifers found in this region. Red Spruce and Eastern Hemlock are the longevity champions of the White Mountains.

Charles Cogbill, a forest ecologist in Vermont, has recorded Red Spruce approaching 300 years in the Bowl, considerably less than the maximum age range of 430-450. Leak reports that as little as 50 years ago the western slopes of the Bowl had a large stand of Spruce estimated to be more than 400 years old. They blew down in the 40's and 50's but some of the prone trunks are still visible near the upper end of Wiggin Trail. Other stands of old Red Spruce can be found near the top of Kelley Trail and on the northern slopes of Mt. Passaconaway.

The oldest Red Spruce to be definitively measured in the White Mountains was dated to 1561. This 439 year-old tree is located near Nancy Brook in Crawford Notch.

Here, near the southern extreme of its range, Red Spruce does best at higher elevations. Look for the largest specimens above 1800' elevation, in moist, rich soil. The oldest, healthiest trees will be over 70 feet high and 24" in diameter, with a maximum of 120' and 40".

Red Spruce is a relative newcomer to New England, having made its first appearance a mere 1800 years ago. Unlike the other tree species that migrated northward after the glaciers receded 10,000 years ago, Red Spruce apparently migrated westward from the Canadian coastal plains thousands of years later.

The reason for this late introduction is not certain, but most forest ecologists favor

Young Forest

avid ring counter

climatic change as the catalyst. After 8000 years of gradual warming, known as the hypsithermal among ecologists, the climate began to get colder about 5000 years BP (before present), eventually cooling down enough to allow the ingress of Red Spruce to northern New England.

The future of Red Spruce in the White Mountains is uncertain at present. Populations are declining, and again scientists are looking at climate as the possible cause. Natural climatic trends have led to warmer temperatures during the past century. Perhaps the Red Spruce is a transitory visitor.

Even longer lived than Red Spruce is the Eastern Hemlock. According to *Silvics of North America*, published by the Forest Service, the record age is 988 years. However, the oldest recorded Hemlock in the White Mountains was determined to be 491 years near Gibb's Brook in Crawford Notch. Leak dated a Hemlock at Bartlett Experimental Forest to 1492, but it was cut a number of years ago.

Hemlock can be found in numerous places around Wonalancet. It prefers north facing slopes; low, wet areas; and ravines.

Pure stands are common because Hemlock woods produce a unique microclimate, cooler and moister than the surrounding forest. This, coupled with the low available light found in Hemlock stands, favors the seedlings of this species, resulting in perpetuation of the grove.

Judging the age of a Hemlock without counting the annual rings can be difficult. This tree has the ability to remain in an extremely slow growing state indefinitely. This may go on for more than 200 years until a disturbance creates an opening, allowing the tree to receive adequate light for full growth.

Consequently, a very small Hemlock may be hundreds of years old. Individuals with a 2" diameter have been documented to

be 200 years old. One 10" tree was recorded at 359 years old.

Regardless of the difficulty in determining the age of small trees, it is certain that the largest Hemlocks are more than 300 years old. These trees can grow above 100' in height and 50" in diameter.

Because of its slow-growing nature, the presence of a stand of large Hemlocks is a good indication that the area has never been burned or cleared by humans. This assurance fits well with the wild, primeval character of a mature Hemlock grove.

The Eastern Hemlock made its first appearance in New England 9000 years BP, following the traditional migration route northward up the eastern seaboard. In one short millennium it became well established. With the subsequent introduction of American Beech, a forest very similar to what we have today was formed.

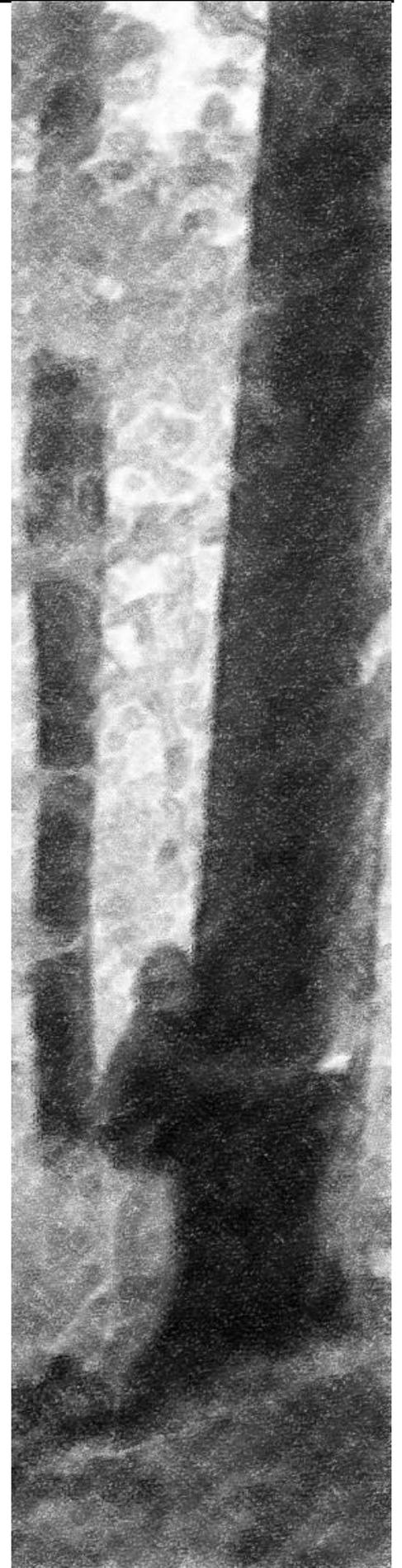
About 4800 years BP, a precipitous drop occurred in the Hemlock population. Paleoecologists believe this was due to a pathogen, most likely an insect. It took over 2000 years for the population to return to former levels.

Today the Eastern Hemlock faces a new crisis. An insect pest, the woolly adelgid, is threatening to repeat the decimation of Hemlocks. At present, this new pest has moved as far north as Massachusetts and south coastal Maine.

Paul Krusic, a dendrochronologist with Cornell University and USFS Eastern Research Station, says "... unless the woolly adelgid is stopped, either by climate or something else, the future for Hemlock is pretty bleak."

On your next hike in the mountains, seek out these grizzled giants. Salute their grandeur, marvel at their endurance. They have persevered longer than we, but their future is no less precarious than our own.

Chris Conrod



A CALL FOR NEW PLACE NAMES

Confusion reigns when duplicate names of prominent features such as mountains and rivers appear on our trail maps.

This problem first caught my attention in 1998 while serving as chairman of the Waterville Valley AIA Map Committee. Our task was to map the hiking and cross-country ski trail network surrounding the Valley. While editing the results, I first noticed there were two Black Mountains on the map, one on the ridge leading to Sandwich Dome and the other next to Loon Mountain.

But the most mind boggling duplication on our map (and WODC's trail map) is the specter of two Flat Mountains, staring at each other across Flat Mountain Pond, both on the Mount Tripyramid Quadrangle. The power to change these names rests in the hands of the US Forest Service (USFS), WODC members and others who live in the vicinity. The purpose of this article is to provide information about the procedures required to resolve the Flat Mountain duplication now and other duplications later.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is responsible for establishing policies and procedures for creating and standardizing domestic geographic names. Established in 1890, the BGN is located in the Department of the Interior and includes representatives from all Federal Departments that use geographic names. The U.S. Geological Survey maintains an official database, the "Geographic Names Information System" (GNIS), in cooperation with the BGN.

Using GNIS and help from the database manager, I found two BGN decisions that indicate: 1) a mistake was made in allowing two adjacent Flat Mountains; and 2) the USFS is able to change place names under its jurisdiction to avoid confusion in its forest management.

In 1910, the BGN decided that the flat ridge north of Sandwich Mt. in Grafton Co. was to be called Flat Mt. rather than Rimmon Mt. Apparently, the BGN was not aware of the cone shaped "Flat Mt." across the pond in Carroll County.

In 1950, the BGN granted the White Mountain National Forest's request to change the name of one Pine Mt. in Coos Co. to Currier Mt. because it was only 9 miles away from another Pine Mt., "which could cause confusion in the Forest's fire control efforts."

Based on the above precedents and BGN procedures, Louis Yost, the GNIS manager, recommended that WODC follow the following process for changing the name of the cone shaped "Flat Mt.": 1) form a committee to select an alternative name that is acceptable to local WODC members and other friends of the Sandwich Range; 2) contact the USFS Region 1 Names Coordinator (Bob Rosenthal 414-297-3403) to inform him of the proposed name change; 3) contact the New Hampshire Names Coordinator (James McLaughlin 603-271-2155) to advise him of the proposed name; 4) Mr. McLaughlin agrees with the need for a name change and will sound out the Carroll Co. Commissioners and the local selectmen on the proposed name; 5) submit a Domestic Geographic Name Report to the Executive Secretary for Domestic Geographic Names. (I have copies of this 2-page form.)

The BGN has the following guidelines for name changes:

- The new name should be as short as possible.
- It should not duplicate another name in the State or nearby in an adjoining State.
- Use of qualifying words (middle, upper, north, big, etc.) should be avoided where possible.

For approval of commemorative names:

- The proposed person must be deceased at least 5 years.
- The person should have some long-term association with the feature or have made a significant contribution to the area or state in which it is located.
- An individual with an outstanding national or international reputation will be considered even if he or she was not associated with the geographic feature.
- If disagreement among county commissioners or local selectmen is encountered, evidence of local support for the proposed name should be submitted in the form of letters or petitions.

After completing the Flat Mt. name change, we can assess the feasibility of reducing other nearby name duplications. I am willing to serve as an advisor to the WODC names committee.

Peter Oliver

PeterOL2000@mediaone.net



Wonalancet Out Door Club

Wonalancet, NH 03897

Please Buy Our Stuff!

Martha needs her closet space back. Everything must go! You know we'll put the money to good use. Every map sold is a blowdown removed **before** you hit the trail next year. Every T-shirt is another badly needed waterbar.

Take a look, there's something for everybody. And don't forget your Christmas shopping. What better way to get stocking stuffers than from the comfort of your easy-chair, with the reassurance that you're helping the trails.

Happy shopping!

T-shirts

Wow, two choices! We have a heather grey 100% cotton "T" (\$14.00) suitable for picnics, dinner parties and watching *Anyplace Wild* on PBS; and we have a navy blue CoolMax "T" (\$16.00) that's perfect for wicking away moisture on that long trek up Whiteface. It keeps you cool in the summer and warm & dry in the winter. Both sport our ever-popular logo, tastefully and modestly displayed over the heart.

Patches

Why not? They're only three bucks! Display our ever-popular logo on your hats and daypacks. Mend your holey jeans. Nicely embroidered wodc-blue letters and green mountains on a white background, bordered with blue; 1-3/4" x 3-1/4" (\$3.00).

Our ever-popular logo -

WONALANCET



OUT DOOR CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Maps

Have you seen one? Then you know they're the best maps available in the White Mountains. The **WODC Trail Map and Guide to the Sandwich Range Wilderness** (\$5.00) has won accolades from hikers, the United States Forest Service and New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. **Plus**, they sport our ever-popular logo! Right there in the upper left corner!

These maps are not only highly detailed, the nine-color printing process makes them easy to read. Printed on Tyvek, they'll last forever, and they store in a Tyvek envelope for added protection.

And now you can purchase these maps flat, unfolded and ready to frame and hang on the wall. Or laminate them for display on the coffee table or as oversized (very oversized) placemats.

These **flat maps** (\$7.00) are in limited supply, so order soon (so we can order some more). No trail-hound's home should be without one!

Wonalancet Out Door Club – Merchandise Order Form

Please mail completed form and payment to:

WODC Member Services
HCR 64, Box 5
Wonalancet, NH 03897

Phone: () -
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Email:
.....

Name:
.....

Street:
.....

City, State, Zip:
.....

Qty	Description	Price	Amount
	WODC Trail Map & Guide	\$5.00	
	WODC Flat(unfolded) Trail Map & Guide	\$7.00	
	WODC Patch	\$3.00	
	WODC Newsletter Back-issues	Q issue _____ Q full set	\$2.50 \$10.00
	WODC heather grey cotton T-Shirt	Q Medium Q Large Q X-Large	\$14.00
	WODC navy blue Coolmax T-Shirt	Q Medium Q Large Q X-Large	\$16.00
	Additional Contribution (tax deductible)		
All prices include shipping		Total Enclosed	

Wow, More Stuff!

Newsletter Back Issues

So Martha thinks she has storage problems. You should see what six years worth of undistributed newsletters looks like.

Here's what we've got:

- April, '95;** includes Kate Sleeper article.
- November, '95;** Nanamocomuck, Camp Rich.
- April, '96;** Glacial Geology, Camp Shehadi.
- November, '96;** Peregrine Falcon, Mountain Thoughts.
- May, '97;** The Bowl, Old Growth.
- November, '97;** Flat Mountain Pond Hikes.
- May, '98;** Lillian Bowles, Ferncroft.
- December, '98;** National Park?
- June, '99;** The Seeleys, Wilderness Myths.
- November, '99;** Scoping, Finding Compatibilities.
- May, 2000;** Forest Protection Areas.

There's lots of good, timeless material here, not to mention a definitive history of WODC at the end of the twentieth century. It deserves to be read.

And, you guessed it - each issue displays our ever-popular logo!

They're priced to sell. We just want to cover mailing and handling with barely enough profit to make it worth the effort. The back issues are available as single issues (\$2.50) or full sets of eleven (\$10.00).

Retired Trail Signs

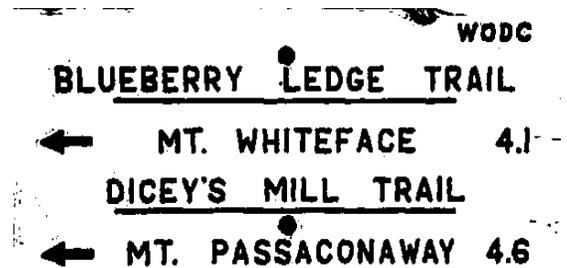
Yup, real honest-to-goodness WODC trail signs that were taken out of service for various reasons.

Some were retired in an effort to update our signs to Forest Service standards. We might even have some classic white-on-blue signs left!

Others came down because a trail intersection got moved, or a very territorial bear wanted to make a statement (these usually go cheap, and make nice jig-saw puzzles).

Sorry, no ever-popular logo on the signs, but most of them display our initials.

Prices and availability vary. The selection is always changing with newly retired signs being added on a regular basis. To see the latest selection, visit our web site, wodc.org, and click on "Signs For Sale".



Ferncroft trailhead sign, before the altercation with an automobile.

Speaking of our Web Site...

Visit it! Three thousand, six hundred, thirty-two web surfers can't be wrong! They know wodc.org can be counted on to provide all sorts of information and services:

Find out what's going on. The *Calendar* and *Trail Activities* pages will keep you up to date.

Check the latest trail conditions. Better yet, make your own report on the *Trail Comments* page.

Visit the *Library*, get *Weather* reports, and much more!

www.wodc.org