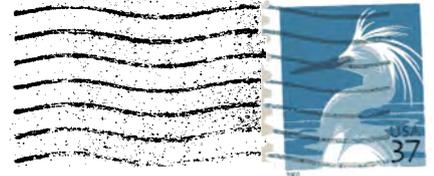


Wonalancet Out Door Club  
HCR 64, Box 248  
Wonalancet, New Hampshire 03897



# Mountain Notes

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE  
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2004

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## Lecture and Field Trip with Susan Morse

On Saturday, August 7, WODC will host a presentation by forester and naturalist Susan Morse. Susan has thirty years of experience tracking and interpreting wildlife uses of habitat. She is an active member of the Western Forest Carnivores Committee and Northeast Carnivore Conservation Working Group and has focused her research activities on cougar, bobcat, black bear, and Canada lynx. Sue was the recipient in 2001 of the Franklin Fairbanks Award for her lifelong creative and dedicated service to enriching the awareness and understanding of the natural world among the residents of New England.

Susan is sole proprietor of Morse and Morse Forestry and Wildlife Consultants, a four generation family business which specializes in assisting private landowners, land trusts, and conservation organizations with assessing wildlife habitat qualities and managing forests to enhance and perpetuate those values. She has lectured in environmental studies and forest ecology at the University of Vermont and Burlington College. She is founder of Keeping Track, Inc.

This promises to be a fascinating workshop on identifying habitat, tracks and signs of our local fauna. The day begins with a presentation at the Benz Center in Center Sandwich at 10:00 am followed by an afternoon in the field [woods] with Susan, led by Fred Lavigne. Those wishing to join the field study need to be dressed for the weather and woods and fortified with a lunch. The presentation will run about 90 minutes, and the field study will run into late afternoon. There will be no fee, but the hat will be passed to support WODC efforts to provide this and future quality programs. For more information, call Chele Miller at 323-8328 or Dick Daniels at 323-8078.



Photographs are copyrighted and courtesy of Susan C. Morse

## Keeping Track Group to Form

Keeping Track, Inc. teaches adults and children to observe, interpret, record and monitor evidence of wildlife in their communities, and supports the use of monitoring data by citizens in local and regional conservation planning. Through its monitoring programs, Keeping Track provides extensive training and support to local groups focusing on area-sensitive carnivores, threatened and endangered carnivores, keystone species, and species with rapidly shifting populations.

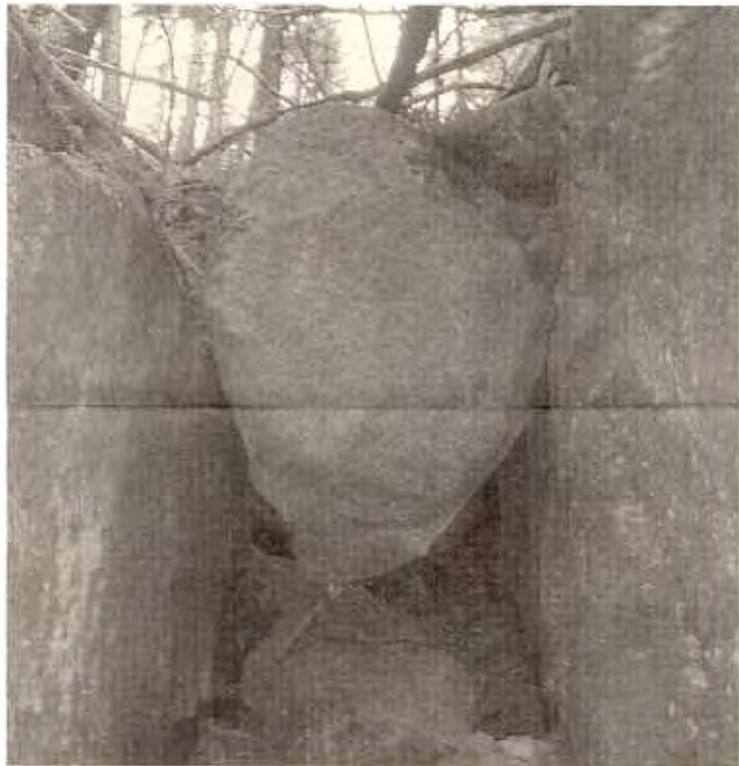
On August 7, 5:30 pm, at the Benz Center in Center Sandwich, there will be a potluck and informational meeting for all who are interested in learning more about local wildlife and habitat, taking occasional walks in the woods with like-minded people, and contributing to the well-being of our environment. If you have any questions about this project, visit Keeping Track's website at [www.keepingtrackinc.org](http://www.keepingtrackinc.org) or call Chele Miller at 323-8328.



## Annual Meeting: August 15

The annual WODC Chapel grove picnic and business meeting will be held on Sunday, August 15 at the Wonalancet Chapel. The picnic will begin at 5:00 pm. There will be the usual burgers and hotdogs (both real and veggie). But remember, it's a potluck and the best stuff will be what **you** bring. Especially if it's a Boston cream pie (hint, hint). The grove is a beautiful place to relax after a hike in the Sandwich Range so we hope many of our long-distance members will make a day of it and drop in to meet some of the local trail fanatics. Don't worry, we accept trail mix and granola bars as contributions to the potluck. Just look for the Chapel in the downtown district of Wonalancet. Oh, that's right; the Chapel **is** the downtown district.

The business meeting will start at 6:30, sharp. That's a half hour earlier than tradition dictates but some of our elderly members, like John Mersfelder, (and me, too – I admit it) have a hard time staying up past 8:30. We have one bylaw change on the agenda, which would give the president power to appoint people other than committee chairs to the executive committee. Also, the nominating committee has scoured the depths of WODC's membership list to produce a new presidential nominee. When asked for his thoughts on the office of WODC President, the candidate replied, "It's the next logical step in a quest to attain my highest level of incompetence." Be that as it may, we have high hopes for this fellow. To find out who it is, go to the meeting; August 15, 6:30 pm, at the Wonalancet Chapel. But don't forget the potluck picnic at 5:00.



On June 20, 1883 the famous hanging boulder of The Flume in Franconia Notch was swept away in a terrific flood, never to be seen again. Could this hanging flume boulder near a WODC trail be one and the same, albeit substantially worn down from its travels? Read ***Search for the Wonalancet Flume***, in the next issue of the WODC Newsletter, and decide for yourself.

## Sleeper Weekend: September 10 - 12

In 1993 Doug Mayer proposed and the club voted to reassume maintenance responsibilities for Sleeper Trail, which were relinquished in the 1950s. And, to eliminate any doubt about the origin of the trail's name, WODC petitioned the Forest Service to have the name changed to Kate Sleeper Trail in honor of our founding matriarch.

Once having accomplished the formalities, our challenge was to figure out how we would care for such an historically and sentimentally important trail. Finding an adopter proved to be out of the question. Kate Sleeper Trail is centered in the most remote area of the Sandwich Range Wilderness. Just hiking to and returning from the trail takes up most of a day. Thus was born an annual three-day get-together, dubbed "Sleepermania Weekend" by Doug, to do the necessary clearing and address the many drainage and erosion problems that had developed over a few decades of minimal maintenance.

Eleven years of TLC have produced dramatic results. The trail has, for the most part, been moved back to its original treadway. Hikers no longer have to follow a meandering path created by bootleg relocations around blowdowns that were never removed. The wet sections have been drained and hardened, and the eroded areas have been stabilized. Blowdowns and prolific foliage growth no longer hinder the hiker nor obscure the trail.

Never the less, trail tending is an ongoing process. It's fortunate that Sleepermania Weekend has remained popular with a core group of WODC member, who view the event not only as a means to contribute to the club's mission, but also a wonderful opportunity for new and old friends to gather in a remote and awesome setting, and to be reminded of why we do what we do – spiritual replenishment, if you will.

In respect for the wilderness (lower case intentional) and Forest Service backcountry rules, participation is limited to ten people. To date, attendance has ranged between five and nine. This year's trip is planned for September 10 - 12. Those interested in doing only one or two days are always welcome. There will be plenty of general clearing (brushing and blowdowns) to do this year and, if the time and interest is there, a few minor drainage issues can be addressed.

If you are interested in the ultimate backcountry trail tending experience, contact Chris Conrod at 284-6686 or email [chris@peakviews.com](mailto:chris@peakviews.com).

## Eastern Old Growth Conference September 23 - 26

The schedule for the sixth annual Eastern Old Growth Conference, to be held at Geneva Point Conference Center in Moultonborough, is firming up. There are many field trips and workshops planned that will address issues including conservation, old growth and management, strategies and techniques, wildlife, biodiversity, and forest dynamics. This is an outstanding opportunity happening in our own neighborhood. Visit [www.oldgrowthconference.org](http://www.oldgrowthconference.org) or send inquiries to Eastern Old Growth Conference, P.O. Box 231, Canterbury, NH 03224.