



Pinnacle News

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association FALL 2018

An Opening and a Closing

Opening of the Radford-Smith Trail

With Edna Radford's snip of the ribbon on Sunday September 9, the new Radford-Smith Trail that leads from WHPA's ridgeline Cascade Trail to Grassy Brook Road in Brookline was opened to the public. That short ceremony culminated months of planning, engineering, and volunteer work that started in 2017 when Terry and Edna Radford of Atlanta, GA, gave 55 acres to WHPA to expand WHPA's protected holdings and make the new trail possible. In addition, the Radfords funded a unique footbridge created by master carpenter Phil Pellerin and a parking area. Sam Bourne of Sam Bourne Landscaping and Excavating in Brookline donated his expertise and machinery to create that parking area. Lastly, long-time Pinnacle volunteer and trailblazer Roger Haydock figured out the best downhill route to display the land's views and features and then engineered and constructed trail solutions through the often challenging, steep, and wet sections.

Sarah Waldo, WHPA Vice Chair, expressed the Pinnacle Association's gratitude for the Radfords' funding of the bridge and parking area, and their important gift of land that provides access to the ridgeline from Brookline Road and adds 1.2 miles to the previous total of 25+ miles of trails the Pinnacle Association maintains from Putney Mountain to Grafton. She also recognized volunteers and professionals who helped make the trail and its access a reality.

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Closing on the Goodridge Land Gift

On Wednesday May 30, the work of several years was finalized when Bill Goodridge signed over approximately 154 acres to WHPA. The land, located at the height of the Athens Dome and contiguous with the Lake property already owned by WHPA, means that WHPA now own ALL the soapstone quarries and associated historic cellar holes (mill building, boarding house, homestead ruins), a soapstone mill site, slag heaps, a well, vernal pools, and an old town road, plus healthy woodland with bear, beaver, and rare bulrush habitats. With acreage owned by WHPA, Vermont Fish and Wildlife, and the Grafton Improvement Association, around 2000 acres is now protected in Athens and Grafton, with the bulk of the property in Grafton.

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Above: celebrants at the Goodridge Family land-gift closing. Bottom row, l-r: Bill Goodridge, donor, and Dick Warren, Athens Dome Chair. Top row, l-r: Sarah Waldo, WHPA Vice Chair; Camilla Roberts, Athens Dome Facilitator; Rick Cowan, former WHPA Chair, and Jane Krochmalny, WHPA's attorney.

At left: Sarah Waldo, center, and Terry and Edna Radford stand in front of the new kiosk and map welcoming visitors to the new Radford-Smith Trail in Brookline.

Volunteer of the Year

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, WHPA Co-Chair and Trail Steward Chair Sarah Waldo recognized Jeff Nugent as the Pinnacle Association's Volunteer of the Year.

A professional GIS/mapping specialist working for the Windham Regional Commission [WRC] since 1995, Jeff Nugent has worked with the Forest Service to open up back-country trails and taught map reading at Keene State College. An avid outdoorsman who skis, bikes, and kayaks, Jeff began a growing relationship with the Pinnacle Association both through a grant WHPA and WRC had received to map the parcels along the Windmill Hill ridgeline and through his association with then WHPA Board Member Arthur Westing.

Over the years Jeff has continued to make, update, and improve the maps that are available at the trailheads and on the Pinnacle website, as well as maps for the Putney Mountain Association, and produced the wonderful view sketches at the Pinnacle cabin and the Monadnock-Sunapee viewpoint that he created so people might better understand what they were looking at and where they were standing.

For at least 15 years Jeff has also been a dedicated trail steward for the Ridgeline Trail that runs from Putney Mountain to the Pinnacle cabin. Most recently, he created a Pinnacle link on the online Trail Finder website, where outdoor enthusiasts can locate maps and trails in VT and NH. Jeff's dedication to WHPA and his mapping skills have helped educate hikers about the world around them and made their outdoor experiences more comfortable and meaningful. Thank you, Jeff, for all you do!



Above: Stewardship Chair Sarah Waldo presents a few thank-you goodies to Jeff Nugent, WHPA's 2018 Volunteer of the Year.

From the Board

Board Changes. Rick Cowan, John Field, and Elaine Gordon have retired from the Board of Trustees.



Pinnacle Trustees & Officers 2018-2019

Curtis (Tony) Coven, Westminster
John Foster, Westminster
Bob Gay, Springfield; Treasurer
James Jordan, Westminster
Alison Latham, Westminster; Assistant Treasurer
James (Silos) Roberts, Rockingham; Chair
Susan Roman, Westminster
Vanessa Stern, Westminster
Andy Toepfer, Athens
Sarah Waldo, Westminster; Vice Chair
Molly Wilson, Westminster; Secretary
Paul Wilson, Cambridgeport

Thank You, Rick

Rick Cowan has retired as Board Chair and WHPA Trustee. His extensive experience with nonprofit organizations, appreciation of organizational promotion and education, greater media and technical literacy, and personal generosity, energy, and enthusiasm made the Pinnacle Association more visible and relevant. Present at almost every WHPA event, Rick and his omnipresent camera captured important moments that were valuable for our newsletters and website. He initiated our Facebook presence and was keenly aware of new or different ways to make contributions to WHPA possible, as well as the importance of personal contact. He shared inspiring ideas from other organizations and always sought to make WHPA current and present in the minds of its supporters. WHPA thanks you, Rick, for the innovations you brought to the organization and wishes you well on your next endeavors.



Support WHPA at No-Cost Amazon Smile

Amazon's Smile program can regularly give a donation to WHPA that is NOT an add-on to your purchase price, but is a donation equivalent to one-half of one percent of your purchase amount...all at no cost to you! To sign up or switch your beneficiary to WHPA, just log onto [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or visit www.windmillhillpinnacle.org/pages/support.html.

WHPA/PMA Joint Board Retreat

On May 20, WHPA and the Putney Mountain Association held a joint Board Retreat, facilitated by Judy Anderson, to allow Board Members the opportunity to get to know each other, determine areas of shared interest, and ponder opportunities for possible collaboration. Instant results were the sharing of board contact information and plans for a shared program. See **Walk to the Windmill on October 13.**

Schedule of Events: Weekend Strolls

For more information and directions, visit www.windmillhillpinnacle.org or contact the program person listed below.

September 15, Saturday, 10:45 AM-2:30 PM. Accessibility Day. This is a once-a-year opportunity for a vehicle ride to a remote and beautiful site for lunch. The destination sits on the Windmill ridgeline between the Pinnacle overlook and Paul's Ledges and has spectacular views of Mt. Snow, Stratton, Bromley, Okemo, and beyond. If you're an adult who has difficulty walking, this is your chance to visit a rural spot with a grandchild or friend. The free program's popularity and need for four-wheel-drive or other appropriate vehicles make advance registrations a MUST for riders. Hikers do not need to pre-register. Bring water, bag lunch, and sweater for chilly weather. Meet at Westminster West Church at 10:45 AM to carpool. Register with Tony Coven at 802-387-6650.



September 23, Sunday, starting at 10 or 11 AM (depending upon route). Annual West Hill Grinder. Organized by the West Hill Shop in Putney, the event is a thank-you benefit to WHPA for its 25-mile trail system. Three different routes offer a variety of rural biking challenges for intermediate and advanced bicyclists. Distances range from 19-39 miles and wind through Westminster, Athens, Brookline, and Putney on town dirt roads, Class-4 woods roads, and Pinnacle hiking trails, with a bit of pavement here and there. Visit www.bikereg.com. Search for West Hill Grinder for information on routes, bike recommendations, equipment requirements, prices, food, and registration. For questions, email jim@westhillshop.com or call 802-387-5718.

October 6, Saturday, 1-4 PM. Fall Foliage Walk. Program features include the Bear Hill summit view, a swamp, and woodlands on Athens Dome trails at a most beautiful time of the year. Participants should meet at the parking lot across from The Nature Museum at 186 Townshend Road in Grafton, VT, to carpool to the Bear Hill Trail kiosk on Kidder Hill Road. Hikers will go up Bear Hill Trail to its summit view to the west; onto the Athens Dome trail, which includes a section along the edge of the spruce swamp; then to Kidder Hill Road and back to the parking area. This is a longer hike than usual, with several steep sections. For information and requested registration, contact Camilla Roberts at camil@vermontel.net or 802-869-1388.



October 13, Saturday, starting at 10 AM and ending at 2 PM (depending upon the route taken). Walk to the Windmill. Leaders from the Putney Mountain Association and Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association will guide hikers on different routes to converge upon the site of the ancient windmill that inspired the names for Windmill Mountain, Windmill Hill, and Windmill Ridge. Hikers will learn about the Five Corners, the early ridgeline settlement there, and the history of the ridge and its conservation. Come celebrate that combined and continuing conservation effort! Participants should bring water, snack, and a bag lunch. Because of necessary carpooling to and from different trailheads, registration is required for this free hike. For information and registration contact Elizabeth Bissell at 802-387-4587 or ehfbissell@gmail.com. Further details about routes, terrain, and meeting locations will be posted on the WHPA website closer the date. **Rain date is Sunday October 14.**

November 3, Saturday, 1-3 PM. Hike at Bald Hill. Vanessa Stern, member of the Bald Hill Committee and WHPA Board, will lead this riverside walk along the gorgeous Saxtons River, where hikers can venture down to get a closer look at the rock basins and Twin Falls. Meet at the Bald Hill kiosk on Covered Bridge Road in Westminster. Wear waterproof shoes. Contact Vanessa Stern at 802-463 4948 to register, get information, or check on the weather.

Radford-Smith Trail Opening (Cont.)

In his remarks, Terry Radford shared his motivation for the land gift and the Radford-Smith Trail as both a testament to a shared love of nature and a memorial to Paul Smith, Terry's boyhood friend.

Then Roger Haydock described the remarkable features of the terrain and how he plotted and created the trail through the beautiful landscape.

The Radford-Smith Trail embodies a generosity of time, talent, and treasure freely given by individuals who love and value the land and want to open up its power and beauty to others who can learn how to enjoy and care for it.

Read more about the opening on the WHPA website.

WHPA Tries to Outfox Google

If you're using GPS to go to the Martin Wildlife Sanctuary and Dunn Nature Trails at 1522 Bemis Hill Road, don't be surprised when Google indicates your "destination" is the farmhouse at 788 Bemis Hill Road. Apparently Google doesn't believe the trailhead's legal address. Outfox Google by going 1.5 miles up Bemis Hill Road. The trailhead, parking area, and kiosk with self-guiding nature guides to the Dunn Nature Trails will be on your right.



Pizza Night

On June 16, Orchard Hill Breadworks in East Alstead, NH, held a Pizza Night benefit for WHPA. Over 300 people participated in one of the company's popular Tuesday night summertime benefits that support a chosen charity. The event quickly sold out of pizzas and realized a donation of around \$2000 to WHPA. Many WHPA Trustees

helped with distribution basics (here Paul Wilson and Treasurer Bob Gay are decked out in official aprons for the event), and many members of WHPA and the public enjoyed both the food and live music by Mark Greico and Friends. WHPA sends enthusiastic thanks to Orchard Hill Breadworks for a fabulous evening of delicious food and entertainment and for a wonderful donation to WHPA.



PO Box 584
Saxtons River, VT 05154
www.windmillhillpinnacle.org
whpa@sover.net

Wanted: Your Email

If you haven't done it, please send us your email address. Then we can send you our newsletter, updates, or last-minute notices about special events. That means faster contact with you while saving time, money, and trees.

Goodridge Land-Gift Closing (Cont.)

The gifted land had been in the Goodridge Family since 1830, with other nearby property in Grafton owned by the family since 1790. Going back in time with Bill Goodridge through a considerable group of old anecdotal letters, articles, and books reveals stories of pioneers, Indian attacks, soapstone entrepreneurs, the commercialized silk trade and clipper ships, quarry land given to the Goodridges to pay a debt, relatives who saved up their World War II gas rations so they could journey to Grafton to see the quarries, sales back and forth between cousins, and wonderful statements from letters such as these:

"Grafton is such a nice little town, so I'm wondering why the Goodridges left."

"The Grafton soapstone quarries operated longer and with more profit than any other quarries in Vermont."

Bill's earliest memory of the land was when he was 7 or 8 years old on one of his father's trips to Grafton. They stayed at a hotel in Bellows Falls and drove up a steep hill to Daisy Turner's house because they needed to go through her land to get to theirs. Daisy was sitting on her porch in her cowboy boots with a rifle on her lap. Bill's dad said not to worry because Daisy liked the Goodridges. She gave them a glass of water before they journeyed on.

Lack of proximity, a move to Pittsburgh, college, and other reasons kept Bill away until he moved to Boston after college. After his father died in 2001, Bill and his brother, James, went more often to Grafton, but the land had awkward access that prevented implementation of its forestry management plan, and the brothers began to think about giving it to an organization that would care for it. When Bill was contacted by WHPA's Athens Dome Committee about resolving a shared boundary and swapping a few acres, the idea of a gift to WHPA was born. Finally transacted, the wonderful acreage, its history, and exceptional features will be preserved and appreciated by people who will come to love that land as much as the Goodridge Family has for generations.



Above: Sarah Waldo and Paul Wilson by one of the Goodridge soapstone quarries.

At right: long claw marks on a beech tree where a bear slid down the trunk after climbing for favorite beech nuts.

