

## 2006 Crop Walk Planned

Come rain or shine, many area residents are gearing up to join in the Crop Walk on Sunday, September 24, at 1 PM. The walk will circle Pleasant Lake in New London, beginning and ending at Elkins Beach.

Organized through area churches, Crop Walk hopes to raise \$10,000 locally, helping to feed the hungry in our communities and around the world. A portion of the funds raised here will go to local food bank agencies, and the rest put to use around the world through Church World Services.

Last year, walkers from our area raised more than \$9,000 in our Crop Walk.

More than 2,000 cities and towns nationwide have Crop Walks, helping to support the millions of people around the world who need to walk in order to live – as well as the millions more served by food pantries, food banks, and meal sites here in the US.

Crop Walks have made a difference in Africa, helping people grow food, providing clean water to villages, and also helping in the struggle against the AIDS pandemic. This year Africa presents special challenges, with the uprooting of millions in the Darfur region of Sudan and the severe drought-induced food shortages plaguing Niger and other parts of the Sahel region.

Crop Walk has also made a differ-

ence in communities recovering from Hurricane Katrina, enabling emergency responders to be trained and equipped to assist in the relief effort along the Gulf Coast.

For more information about our local Crop Walk, contact Marie MacDonald at 763-2884 or Janet Howe at 526-4559.

## Wilmot Community Association Luncheon

The next Wilmot Community Association Senior Luncheon will be held Tuesday, September 19, at noon. The speaker will be Marie Pacetta, whose lifestyle/cooking show airs on public access channels Adelphia Cable Channel 8 in Andover and Cable Channel 10 in New London.

Marie, who is also proprietor of Riverview Farms Bed and Breakfast in Wilmot, will demonstrate the art of cooking easy meals for two or one. Her demonstration will be recorded for airing on the public access channels.

The luncheon is part of an ongoing program sponsored by the WCA and Community Action Program of Belknap-Merrimack Counties. Reservations are required, so please call Kate McKibbin at 526-4540 or email [mckibbin@adelphia.net](mailto:mckibbin@adelphia.net)

## Soo-Nipi Audubon Events

By Natalie Davis  
Soo-Nipi Audubon

The Soo-Nipi Chapter of New Hampshire Audubon presents a variety of programs about the natural world the second Friday of each month from September through May. It meets at 7:30 PM at Tracy Memorial Library in New London. If you have any questions about these programs, contact Natalie Davis at 763-5320 or Ruth White at 763-4893.

**September 8:** Susan Fogelman, a field biologist, will present an engaging program on hawk migration, from the dynamics involved through identification tips for watchers in the New England area. Susan is a site leader at New Hampshire's oldest watch, NorthEast Hawk Watch in Bristol.

In addition to her field work, Susan leads field trips, conducts seminars and workshops, is a writer and editor, and is the author of several published articles on birds and birding.

On Sunday, September 17, the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter will host a Hawk Watch half-day field trip to Little Round Top Mountain in Bristol. We hope to see some good kettles of Broad-winged Hawks as well as other raptors.

Participants should meet leader Peter Newbern at the old Cricenti's (now Shop and Save) on Route 104 in Bristol at 9 AM to drive to the mountain parking lot. The viewing area is a short, uphill walk from there. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. Inclement weather cancels the trip. Contact Peter Newbern at 763-4308 for details.

**October 13:** Ruth White and George Green will show their fabulous pictures

of the birds and animals they saw in South Africa. They observed 320 bird species out of 870, including African hoopoe, pin-tailed whydah, the weavers, the spectacular lilac-breasted roller, the bright tiny sunbirds, the ungainly hornbills, and an occasional lion and elephant. George and Ruth are expert birders and avid naturalists.

**November 17:** Please join the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter to welcome Phil Brown, Sanctuaries Manager of New Hampshire Audubon for a photo presentation exploring some of the 35 separate sanctuaries across the state. His goals are to continue building a network of sanctuary stewards and enhance appropriate public access and educational opportunities at these sanctuaries. The habitats they cover contain beaver swamps, bogs, salt marshes, boreal forests, and wooded islands. An expert birder, Phil leads ecotours through New Hampshire Audubon and independently.

**December 8:** In May, 2003, the Old Man of the Mountain collapsed into Franconia Notch, ending a nearly 200-year relationship between the people of New England and the Profile, a relationship that was very personal for many. Brian Fowler, the engineering geologist and mountaineer who supervised more than 25 years of stability studies on the Profile for the State, will present a uniquely illustrated "remembrance" that describes the Profile's formation, the structure and mechanisms of its delicate stability and collapse, and some of the human attempts that were made to save it.

## Area Groups Receive Grants

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Lakes Region announced grants of \$99,500 through its Community Impact Grant Program. Grants were awarded to eight nonprofit organizations serving the region's 35 communities.

One Andover-based organization received a grant. The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack

County (FNRT.org) received \$1,500 to support its October 1 Rail Trail Sunday Fun Day, a fun walk/run and art exhibition and sale to bring awareness to the Rail Trail. Myra Mayman, Secretary of FNRT, said "We are thrilled by the support of the Jocelyn F. Gutchess Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The NHCF's aim is to improve the quality of life in New Hampshire communities – how great of them to recognize the Northern Rail Trail as a common good for our towns."

The Danbury Community Center received \$15,000 to support after-school activities, and the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLakes.org), which works in support of lakes all across the state, received \$15,000 to create a book to encourage "lake friendly" living.

The Charitable Foundation awards Community Impact grants twice a year, with application deadlines on March 1 and September 1. In the spring cycle, the Charitable Foundation, with its seven regions, awarded 120 grants to nonprofits throughout the state totaling more than \$1.5 million.

For more information, visit [NHCF.org](http://NHCF.org) or call 225-6641.

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