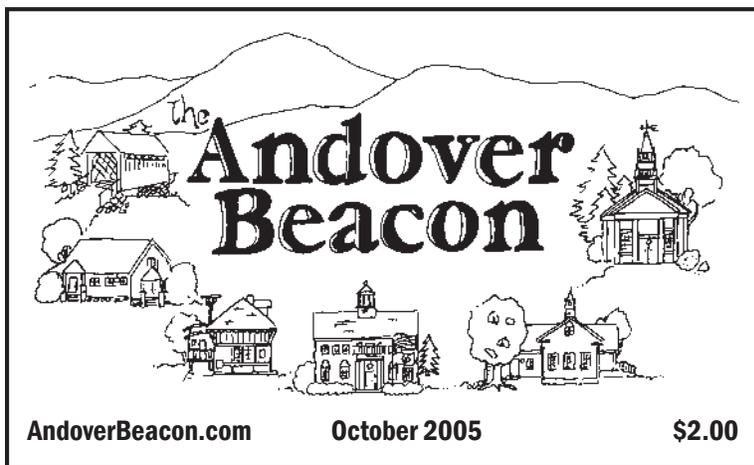




Andover's fire departments were invited to burn the old dining hall at Ragged Mountain Fish & Game Club. Learn more about this important training exercise on page 14. Photo by Charlie Darling



Beacon Is One Year Old!

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

The October issue of *The Andover Beacon* marks the beginning of the *Beacon's* second year of publishing. Looking back over the first year, it feels like a notable success. Among the highlights are:

- We've published over 600 stories and 400 pictures, capturing life in Andover – kids, sports, town government, history, organizations, people, and more – in breadth and depth that's just extraordinary for a town our size.

- We've delivered the *Beacon* every month to all 1,100 mailing addresses in Andover and East Andover. From what we hear, it's thoroughly read and greatly appreciated.
- We've involved scores of volunteers from near and far in producing every issue, making the *Beacon* a true community effort.
- We've learned state-of-the-art publishing techniques, building the entire paper on a computer, sending it to the printer over the Internet, and publishing every page of every

See *Beacon* on page 2

Purple Heart Trail Runs Through The Heart Of Town

By David L. Smith
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Purple Heart Trail Coordinator

As you travel from Lebanon to Portsmouth and up and down Interstate 95, you will notice something new has been added this summer. There are signs indicating you are on the Purple Heart Trail.

A national veterans organization, the Military Order of the Purple Heart

(MOPH), adopted a resolution at their National Convention in 1992 to have all the states and territories of the United States have a Purple Heart Trail or a Purple Heart Highway to honor the Combat Wounded of New Hampshire. Each state Department of the MOPH has had to work with their respective state Department of Transportation (DOT) and legislative bodies to get the routes approved. The goal is to have as many as possible done in the next few years.

Currently, our neighboring states of Vermont and Maine have signs in place. Nationally, thirteen states have the signs, and six more trails will be complete by the end of 2005. Many more states are in the process of getting their trails approved.

Governor Craig Benson signed Senate Joint Resolution 2 to be effective May 5, 2004, and it designates New Hampshire Route 4 from the state border at Lebanon to the junction of Interstate 95, plus the entire length of Interstate 95, as the New Hampshire Purple Heart Trail. See *Purple* on page 5



SUPPORT THE BEACON!

The *Andover Beacon* is mailed free to all Andover addresses thanks to the support of our volunteers, our members, and our advertisers. Have you done your part to support our community newspaper?

Andover Confronts EEE

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

New Hampshire is being hit hard by the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus this year, and the virus is clearly present in Andover. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) confirmed that one dead bird found at Proctor Academy in late August carried the EEE virus. As a result of that finding, DHHS set up mosquito traps (or "pools") in town and found that three of them contained mosquitoes that carried the EEE virus.

including one horse that died of the disease in Andover. This year, through late September, DHHS reports over 50 birds and horses testing positive, plus six human cases, two of them fatal.

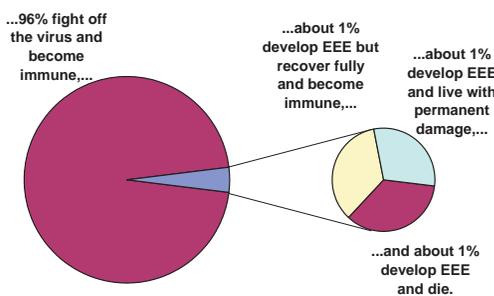
The Future Of EEE

Because EEE is considered a rare disease, there has not been a lot of public money available for research, so there's much that scientists simply don't know about the EEE virus and how it behaves in the wild. A few states, including Massachusetts, seem to see sustained presence of the virus, year after year.

In other areas, including New Hampshire about 20 years ago, you might see an outbreak that lasts a few years and then goes away. The reason is still a mystery.

It's pretty clear that every spring, when the new crop of mosquitoes hatches, they are all born EEE-free. But whether they will be re-infected with the EEE virus, and from where, is much

Of all the people infected with the EEE virus...



harder to predict. Another dead bird was found on September 20, this time at the Andover Elementary/Middle School. DHHS tested the bird, however, and determined that it did not carry the EEE virus. It must have died of some other cause.

EEE On The Rise

The disease caused by the EEE virus is rare in humans, but because of the disease's high fatality rate it is regarded as one of the more serious mosquito-borne diseases in the United States.

Because it is so rare, in most years EEE flies completely under everyone's radar. Over the past 40 years there have only been 200 confirmed cases nationwide, an average of about five per year. Over the past 25 years in New Hampshire there had been only a single human case until this year.

But the EEE virus that causes EEE (the disease) is clearly on the upswing. Last year New Hampshire reported 19 mosquito "pools" that tested positive for the EEE virus, plus three horses and three emus that tested positive for EEE,

harder to predict.

Given the sudden surge of EEE activity in New Hampshire this year, Elizabeth Talbot, Deputy State Epidemiologist

See *EEE* on page 4



Bryant Adams takes out the first splashboard to begin lowering Highland Lake. Pictures of the lowered lake on page 3. Photo: Charlie Darling

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