

## Friends of the Northern Rail Trail SUNAPEE-RAGGED-KEARSARGE GREENWAY

By Myra Mayman

### Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail has a bright turquoise hybrid bicycle from Ed Dansereau's Blackwater Sport and Ski Shop to raffle off. Ticket sales will begin on July 4 at the FNRT-MC table at the Andover Village Green. The bike raffle is part of an event being planned for Sunday, October 1: "The Artists on the Trail Exhibition and Silent Auction" at the Andover Elementary/Middle School.

The purpose of the Artists on the Trail Exhibition and Silent Auction is to increase appreciation of the rail trail and the beauty of its surroundings and to raise money for its construction. Nancy Tripp, now of Andover and formerly of Broadway, will be the Master of Ceremonies for the October 1 event.

Committee member and Andover artist Edibeth Farrington has sent out a Call to Artists, soliciting commitments for artists to create artworks that are relevant to the Northern Rail Trail, to be exhibited and sold in a Silent Auction. Guidelines for submission to the exhibition and silent auction as well as the Call for Entry form are available at FNRT.org.

In addition, Mark Vernon of New London and Mike Silverstein, physical education teacher at AE/MS who uses the rail trail as a running track for his students, are planning a foot race along the rail trail to launch the event. There will be refreshments and live music and, of course, the bike raffle.

The Floods of May have taken their toll on the Northern Rail Trail as well as on local roads, bridges, and basements. FNRT President Bob Ward, along with Andover Snowmobile Club volunteers Norman LeMay and George Burdick, have worked from morning to night

with a road grader donated by Chris Bentley to complete 3/4 of a mile of new rail trail.

There is still 1/3 of a mile left to cover with stone dust and compact on the section between Blackwater Park and Potter Place. The stone dust was purchased with the remainder of our 2005 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant of \$20,000.

FNRT's second grant from RTP, \$30,000, was announced in May. In July new construction is scheduled to begin to extend the trail from Blackwater Park east to Switch Road.

While waiting for a dry spell, the Friends are working on projects to reach out to the community: adding news briefs to its Web site, FNRT.org, organizing a second appeal to individuals for financial support, speaking with the Franklin City Council on July 3 to update them about the rail trail, and making plans for representation at Andover's Fourth of July celebration. In addition, FNRT will be present at the Andover Historical Society's Old Time Fair on August 6 in Potter Place and at Danbury's Blazing Star Grange Fair in September.

FNRT has also connected with Healthy Heart for Life, a project of the Caring Community Network of the Twin Rivers. Healthy Heart, headed by Melissa Rizzo, Education Coordinator at the Franklin Regional Hospital, prints a Walking Guide to the Greater Franklin Area. They plan to include the Andover portion of the Northern Rail Trail in their next Guide and incorporate it into their Saturday summer walk schedule in 2007. The rail trail is an amenity for people who want to exercise to promote their health and well being.

If you have questions about the Northern Rail Trail or any of the upcoming events, or wish to reach us, our email address is [Info@FNRT.org](mailto:Info@FNRT.org).

The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge (SRK) Greenway Coalition has planned 11 summer hikes both on and off the Greenway trail. July hikes are shown below. The purpose of the hikes is to see and enjoy our part of New Hampshire. Please contact the leader at least one day before the hike for start time and meeting location. Ample water and snacks are essential, as are good walking shoes or boots.

Most of these hikes are shorter than the series of 14 hikes that make up the Greenway's Fall Walkabout. For information about the SRK Greenway, visit [SRKG.com](http://SRKG.com).

### July Hikes And Walks

Saturday, July 8 – Peter Sabin (456-3473) – Climb Mount Kearsarge via the Lincoln Trail and return via Winslow Site State Park – six miles total. This is a moderate four- to five-hour hike.

Saturday, July 15 – Brian Faughnan

(526-7838) – In New London, a three- to four-mile hike on the new Pleasant Lake High Trail starting from the Cook Trail off Whitney Brook Road and ending at Messer Road, Wilmot, via the Langenau Trail.

Wednesday, July 19 – Gerry Gold (938-6132) – Climb Mount Sunapee via the Summit Trail. Moderately strenuous four-hour hike. A visit to Lake Solitude cliffs is open to group decision.

Saturday, July 29 – Charlie Killam (cell 603-493-2006) – Climb the highest mountain in our area, Mount Cardigan (3,121 feet). Meet locally and car pool over to the mountain. Allow all day for this climb.

Greenway guidebooks are available at local book stores. The SRK Greenway Coalition, incorporated in 1993, is a ten-town all-volunteer non-profit organization with members throughout the SRK region and beyond.

## “Make The Move” Walking Club

“Make the Move” with the Three Rivers Walking Club in July as we walk River Street in Franklin. Located just past Franklin Falls Hydro Dam in downtown Franklin, the River Street walk is a four-mile jaunt up the road and back. It is flat and can be enjoyed for activities such as walking, biking, and rollerblading. Parking can be found at the Brick Pump Station at the beginning of the road.

Walks will take place at this location each Saturday morning in July begin-

ning at 8:30 AM. Join us on Saturday, July 1 as the Franklin Parks and Recreation Department leads the walk with our new Miss New Hampshire, Emily Hughes. Meet at the Brick Pump Station for an 8:30 AM sharp walk time. There will be free t-shirt giveaways as supplies last.

For more information or to register for the “Make the Move” Experience Three Rivers Walking Club, visit [ExperienceThreeRivers.com](http://ExperienceThreeRivers.com) or call Melissa Rizzo at 934-2060 ext. 369.

## Watershed Management Plan Coming For Highland Lake and Webster Lake

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) recently awarded a grant to help form a partnership that will lead to the development of a watershed management plan for Webster and Highland Lakes. The Webster and Highland Lakes Watershed Partnership (WHLWP) includes:

- residents and other stakeholders from Webster and Highland Lakes
- municipal officials from the City of Franklin and the Town of Andover
- a consultant team led by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., Hutchins Consulting Services, and Nature-source Communications.

The goal is to draft a watershed plan that identifies water quality impairments and sources and recommends actions that the partnership will implement.

Along with over 17 years of data from Webster and Highland Lakes, WHLWP is referencing and analyzing a variety

of reports, including a diagnostic and feasibility study and lake monitoring reports prepared by DES. Using its local knowledge, WHLWP will sleuth out areas where algae and other water quality issues have been reported, identify possible causes in the watershed, and form recommendations for solutions. The watershed management plan will be released in the late fall of 2006.

The public is invited to a listening session on Tuesday, July 18, at the Andover Elementary/Middle School from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. Learn about the watershed study in Andover and Franklin. Talk to WHLWP about the plan to improve water quality in the Highland and Webster Lakes watershed. Get involved with WHLWP. Make your voice heard about your watershed concerns.

For more information contact Brian Sullivan, Project Manager, City of Franklin, at 934-4103 or [bsullivan@franklinnh.org](mailto:bsullivan@franklinnh.org).

## Area Hunters Win In Moose Lottery

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department drew 675 lucky winners in the moose hunt lottery on June 23. The Department had received 16,344 applications, up three percent from last year.

Thanks to careful management of the state moose population and good moose habitat, the Department was able to issue almost 29% more permits this year than last year. The odds of winning a permit were 1 in 18 for a New Hampshire resident, among the best odds in the nation

for moose hunting. The odds of bagging a moose, based on last year's state-wide success rate, are better than 75%.

A dozen of the winners this year are from the Andover area. From Andover: Richard Adams, George French, Jr., and Anthony Silva, Jr. From Salisbury: Diana Freeman, her dad Louis Freeman, Gregory Legier, and Marcia Murphy. From Danbury: Judith Gordon. From Wilmot: Robert Levengood, Glenn Lowe, Daniel Merzi, and Matthew Morse.

**“LIBERTY LIES IN THE HEARTS OF MEN AND WOMEN; WHEN IT DIES THERE, NO CONSTITUTION, NO LAW, NO COURT CAN SAVE IT.”**

**JUDGE BILLINGS LEARNED HAND**

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