



Action at last year's Kid's Ice Fishing Derby. Photo: Bob Harrington

AF&G Honors Willis Nowell With Kids' Ice Fishing Derby

By Amanda Gross
Beacon staff

The time for the Kids' Ice Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Andover Fish and Game Club, has come again. Free food and drink, lucky prizes, ribbons, trophies, tackle, and lots of fun will, as always, be provided for those brave souls who venture onto the ice to catch some slippery fish.

Last year's Derby brought in a count of 23 kids, which is a little below the average, probably due to the day's cold and snowy weather. Of course, this year we

need to hope for some cold and snowy weather so that there will be some ice on the water. We also need you to make the Derby a success.

The 24th Annual Kids' Ice Fishing Derby, now to be known as the Willis Nowell Memorial Kids' Ice Fishing Derby, will be held at Eagle Pond in Wilmot on Saturday, February 24, with a bad weather date of March 3. This event is for kids 15 and under. Registration starts at 9 AM, and the Derby runs from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Come join us for a good time.

If you have questions, call 735-5311.

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

By Myra Mayman
Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail convened its first meeting of 2007 on January 17. Those present included Andover members Alex Bernhard, Myra Mayman, Peter Southworth, and Bob Ward; New Londoners Peter Crowell and Charles Martin; and Norman LaPierre and Bob LaPierre of Boscawen.

Charles Martin, Treasurer, reported that the new year finds the organization solvent, from contributions and grants received for Rail Trail signage, printing of a brochure, and trail construction. The National Park Service has extended a grant to retain the services of its Rivers and Trails Program's officer, Lelia Mellen, through September 2007.

FNRT's primary focus is on trail construction, as we keep before us our long-range goal of resurfacing 34 miles of rail trail from Danbury to the Boscawen-Concord line. During the fall our 2006 grant from the Recreational Trails Bureau was completed, including repairs to damage caused by last spring's torren-

tial rains. It was agreed that during the spring tidying the trail around the gates would be done with additional hard pack and a hand compactor.

The 2007 application for \$30,000 of Recreational Trails Program funding is ready to be hand-delivered on January 18. It is being submitted with 12 letters of support from agencies and organizations in Andover, Franklin, and Danbury. If awarded, this grant will allow us to continue construction east of Switch Road, the current end point, toward East Andover.

Initial plans for community outreach were discussed as a part of Andover's July 4 celebration: wagon rides on the trail combined with families' photographs of the trail and its environs, a raffle, and possibly a foot race or bike race. The purpose of this community outreach is to enhance the community's appreciation for the beauty of the trail and its surroundings.

We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at AE/MS. Our next meeting will take place on February 21. Our meetings are open to all.

Becoming An Outdoors Woman

Want to get outdoors more with your friends and family this winter? Here's your chance! The winter Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (B.O.W.) workshop offers a chance to learn ice-fishing; winter outdoor survival skills; basic snowshoeing and tracking; snowmobiling; or 'Shoe and Shoot (combining snowshoeing and target shooting).

Winter B.O.W. is a one-day workshop. It will be held on Saturday, February 24, (snow date February 25), at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness. The program costs \$55 and

includes a box lunch. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

The workshop brochure and registration form are available to download at NHBOW.com, or call 271-3212 to ask for an application. Applications will be accepted by mail or in person through Friday, February 9. Sign up as soon as you can – the workshops fill up fast!

New Hampshire B.O.W. workshops are sponsored jointly by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation.

Bachelor Book Club

By Brandy Collette
Bachelor Book Club

Do you enjoy reading good books and spending time with wonderful friends? If so, then the Bachelor Book Club is for you! The Bachelor Book

Club is holding their first meeting on Saturday, February 10 at 9 AM in East Andover's Bachelor Library.

Our first novel will be *The Cloister Walk* by Kathleen Norris. We will also be adding new novels to an already growing list of future reads from every literary genre, enjoying coffee, tea, food and of course meeting new and old friends.

Please call Brandy Collette at 735-4064 or Mary Sell or Priscilla Poulin at 735-5333 as soon as possible if you or someone you know may be interested in joining. This will ensure that there will be enough books on hand for everyone to read.

We hope you join us for what will be a wonderful friendship between good neighbors and good books!

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Andover Fish & Game Club Willis Nowell Memorial Kids Ice Fishing Derby

Saturday, February 24 • 9 AM
Bad weather: March 3

Kids, 15 & under!
Free food and drink
Lucky prizes
Ribbons
Trophies
Tackle provided

Eagle Pond, Wilmot
735-5311