

# Gardening Workshops Continue In Boscawen

**BAC press release**

The Boscawen Agriculture Commission (BAC) announces a new series of gardening workshops for the summer. The workshops are held at 116 North Main Street in Boscawen, upstairs in the Community Room.

**Monday, July 18, 6 PM:** Beneficial Insects. Dot Perkins of the UNH Cooperative Extension will discuss beneficial insects in your garden and how to attract them.

**Monday, August 1, 6:30 PM:** Integrated Pest Management. Dot Perkins will discuss how to rid your garden of bothersome pests with integrated pest management.

**Monday, Sept. 12:** Cooking From Your Garden. Learn how to make healthy meals with your garden bounty.

**Monday, Oct 3, 6:30 PM:** Root Cellaring. Learn how to preserve and store your garden bounty.

**Monday, Oct. 24, 6:30 PM:** Putting the Garden to Bed. A Master Gardener will cover the end of gardening season practices that will give you a jump on next year's growing season: soil testing and amendments, lawn care, mulching, harvest fall vegetables, clean-up, and composting.

For more information and to register, e-mail Agriculture03303@gmail.com or call Elaine at 796-6241.

## Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

**June 15**

*Condensed from draft minutes*

**Present:** Larry Chase, Steve Darling, Tom Frantz, Charles Martin, Peter Southworth, Bob Ward.

**Correspondence:** We received a Merrimack County Savings Bank letter, and it was noted that the foundation has supported non-profit organizations in the past.

**Old Business**

**Andover Fourth of July:** Tom requested \$100 to pay the Trails Bureau event fee. Approval for the expenditure was passed. Costs are up this year (professional timing, t-shirts, trail fee, etc.), and Tom does not expect we will raise as much as past years. We allocated \$100 prize money for the event. Tom could still use help with registration and picture taking. In addition to the race, we will continue to hold our bicycle raffle and will need volunteers to staff our table and sell tickets.

**Golden Spike event in Danbury:** The July 31 event celebrates the joining of the Merrimack and Grafton Rail Trails. We discussed what state, federal, and local politicians and dignitaries to invite in hopes of attracting media coverage. We approved \$500 for music (Bob will contact the Kearsarge Community Band) and refreshments. We discussed to whom we should give golden appreciation spikes and plaques (six, mounted with a brass plate). We approved money for plaques, not to exceed \$250. Larry will contact Harvey Best about the spikes and a mounting board.

**Maintenance issues:** We have a estimate of \$1,260 to mow both sides of 21 miles of trail from John Schoeller and Jim Shaw. Their charge is \$60/hour. Spraying costs from Prescott Towle are as follows: to spray both the road bed and the edges of the trail for a distance of 10 miles would cost approx. \$3,450.

In addition, hiring a tractor with tanks is \$80/hour, the smaller 4-wheeler spray unit is \$50/hour, the chemical for the edges is approximately \$130/mile, and chemical for the road bed is approximately \$45/mile. Prescott would need to submit and apply for two state permits.

Charles suggested we treat four miles of our oldest trail, starting from Potter Place, but others felt we need more information and more Board involvement before we proceed with spraying expenditures.

Peter made a proposal to treat the grass and weeds currently encroaching on the trail bed west of Bridge Street plus spot-treat poison ivy, not to exceed \$300. The motion was approved. Peter will follow up with Prescott about this. *June 22 addendum: approval to allocate \$1,260 for mowing was proposed and approved via e-mail.*

**Technology Report:** Steve spoke briefly about posting maps on the Web site.

**Signage:** Larry shared a sheet listing the precise distances of road and bridge sections as well as parking notes for the Andover trail. Larry showed us laminated cards he had made (for 75¢ each) to post at trail heads. He also told us that *The Andover Beacon* is willing to publish the trail mileages. There was unanimous support and appreciation for Larry's work, which runners and walkers will especially appreciate.

**New Business**

**Upcoming events:** The next meeting is Wednesday, July 20.

**September 28 strategic planning meeting:** What preparation is required? Bob reported that Leila Mellen has agreed to help our strategic planning and will attend this meeting.

The Lakes Region Planning Commission meeting is on Monday, June 27. Bob will be attending the meeting and will coordinate with any other FNRT attendees.



On June 17, in the first of three summer water-collecting sessions on Bradley Lake, volunteers joined Anna Sullivan of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to gather samples from various lake locations and depths. The samples will be analyzed for water quality by a state laboratory, and the results will be included in the statewide Voluntary Lake Assessment Program. (L-r) Paula Higgins, Mike Vercellotti, Stan Boyd-Robinson, Susan Chase, Anna Sullivan (back), and Larry Chase.

Photo: Dot Skeels

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turtle on Route 11 in East Andover.

At the end of July and in early August, when the moon will be in a waxing phase, we have a good chance of seeing the Delta Aquarid meteor shower. Look for the meteors, which appear to radiate from the southern sky, an hour or two before dawn.

Please remember to send me your observations, photographs, and nature tips at [AndoverNaturally@gmail.com](mailto:AndoverNaturally@gmail.com) so I can include them in next month's column.

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