

The Story Behind the Photo of Proctor Woodland Classroom Boys

Building Bridges: It Took A Village

Sooze Hodgson

The March issue of the Andover Beacon has a lovely photo of Proctor students standing on a not-quite-finished hiker's bridge on the SRK (Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway) trail #9, which leads to the summit of Ragged Mt. from Proctor Academy. This photo seems to be a random "filler," placed with totally unrelated issues amidst the Town Report. There was no underlying story about the bridge elsewhere in this March issue. So, this note is to provide some background to this project, and to say thank you to the many volunteers who collaborated on this project. The Proctor Woodlands Classroom boys and faculty were indeed wonderful participants in this bridge building, though late-comers to the process. Many others were also instrumental in the success of this project.

In 2007 the Proctor Woodlands Classroom, under the direction of Mr. Dave Pilla, built the Nancy Schoeller bridge on SRK trail #9, in the same location as the newly built bridge. This 2007 project relied on Mr. Pilla's expertise, his gathering and milling the necessary hemlock from the Proctor woodlands, and his direction of Proctor Woodlands Classroom students and volunteers from the SRK in the construction of this first hiker's bridge. Ragged Mt. Fish and Game Club collaborated with Proctor and the SRK and enabled materials to be brought to the site through the Fish and Game Club. By 2016 this Nancy Schoeller bridge had become hazardous: it was aslant and sinking into the bog, and numerous cross pieces had rotted out. The SRK Board approached Proctor to ask for assistance in replacing the bridge. Proctor also wanted the bridge replaced.

By 2016 Mr. Gerry Gold, former Trail Master for the SRK, had secured some grant funding for materials to rebuild this bridge through the Quabbin 2 Cardigan trail program. The grant funding was turned over to Mr. Dave Pilla at Proctor, and the Ragged Mt. Fish and Game Club again approved access for bridge and trail work through their property, as needed. During the summer of 2017 numerous SRK board members, Proctor families, and Ragged Mt. Fish and Game Club volunteers spent time demolishing the old Nancy Schoeller bridge, collecting and disposing of rusted hardware and nails and old rotted wood, "rock harvesting" from the woods

around the bridge site, preparing rock pillars for new footings for the bridge. By fall 2017 Mr. Pilla had some building materials delivered to the bridge site, with the plan for construction the following year. Bad weather and other events prevented the Proctor Woodlands Classroom from participating in this bridge project until November 2018. Due



to the untimely death of Mr. Pilla in the summer of 2018, Mat Rowley, a Proctor student parent and member at Ragged Mt. Fish and Game Club, stepped up, designed the bridge and oversaw its construction. Donated use of a Kubota tractor from another Ragged Mt. Fish and Game Club member, Kevin Hinds (also a parent of Proctor students), enabled tools and other materials to be delivered to the bridge site in the fall of 2018. Grant and memorial gift funds from the SRK covered the costs of all the materials used in this bridge. The bridge was finished in November 2018. It is a beautiful, solid bridge which will last for many years.

On a solo snowshoe trek this January I went to see the bridge. No humans had broken out the trail. I was following a buck track up the SRK trail #9, heading towards the bridge. The buck track went straight across the bridge and on up towards Balancing Rock. Even the deer appreciate this bridge!

Special thanks goes to the following people: Mr. Mat Rowley for the design and oversight of construction and for coordination of final phases of construction with the Proctor Woodlands Classroom in November 2018; Anne Rowley and their son, Rowan Rowley (now a Proctor senior), for volunteer labor throughout this project; Kevin Hinds (another parent of two Proctor students) for donating the use of his Kubota many times; David Powers, Caretaker at Ragged Mt. Fish and Game Club (and also a par-

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Kearsarge Area Senior Luncheon Thursday, April 18

Press release

The last of the season luncheons serving seniors in the Kearsarge Region will take place at the Wilmot Community Association (WCA) Red Barn at 11:30 AM on Thursday, April 18. After the April luncheon, senior luncheons will resume in October.

Reservations are required for each luncheon. First time attendees wanting to enjoy a hot lunch, or the camaraderie of other seniors, are requested to call the New London Council on Aging ten days in advance at 526-6368.

Door prizes, table flower arrangements, and books will be given away, and fun entertainment will follow the meal. Our guest entertainment for our final luncheon of the season is Time Travelers, a ladies' cappella singing group performing a variety of music including folk, pop, jazz and ditties from the 60's. This group has been sing-

ing together for 20 years, drawing its members from the towns of Grantham, Sunapee, and Andover. Cindy Benson and Sarah Will are Andover members of this popular singing group.

A \$2 donation is suggested for the meal and a \$3 donation for the WCA for providing the space and kitchen for a total of \$5. For those aged 60 years and under, the charge is \$6 for CAP and a suggested donation of \$3 for the WCA.

If the weather is frightful, please use your best judgement about venturing out. As a guide, however, the luncheons will be "on" if the Kearsarge Schools are open or delayed. If school is cancelled, the luncheon will be cancelled.

The WCA Red Barn is located at 64 Village Road next to the Wilmot Post Office in Wilmot Flat. Parking is available in the WCA's upper parking lot, the Wilmot Baptist Church and across the street.

April News from the South Danbury Christian Church

Press release

We send our heartfelt thanks to the Danbury Board of Selectmen. They honored our church and its Land & Community Heritage Investment Program historic preservation project with a beautiful photo on the cover of the 2018 Danbury Town Report and a description of the history of the church and the project in the report.

We are so grateful for the support of the Town, and the donors, helpers, volunteers, and skilled artisans who made it all possible.

Everyone is always welcome at the South Danbury Church! Sunday worship is at 11 AM. On stormy Sundays, call or text to 603-491-3196 to be sure there will be a service at the church.

To receive our weekly email news, or to be notified of church events, please send a short message to southdanbury-church@gmail.com. Follow us on Face-

book at "Friends of the South Danbury Christian Church." And whenever you see any activity at the church, please do stop by for a visit!

We invite all to share in our church events for April, which are centered on Easter:

Thursday, April 18 – Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM.

Easter Sunday, April 21 – Sunrise Service at the intersection of Frazier and Walker Brook Roads, at 5:45 AM. (sunrise is at 5:56 AM.). Followed by potluck breakfast at the church, and an informal morning worship service at 11 AM.

South Danbury Church, an Open & Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, is located at 1411 U.S. Route 4 in South Danbury, NH 03230.

Please contact us if you need a ride. We'll be happy to help. SouthDanburyChurch@gmail.com or call (603) 491-3196.





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