



# The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition

Newsletter #93

February 2017

## 2017 Annual Meeting Sunday March 12th “Birds of Prey” featuring Nick Baer of Colby-Sawyer College

The Annual SRKG Meeting will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Church in New London on Sunday March 12th. Dr. Nick Baer, Chair of the Natural Sciences Department at Colby-Sawyer College, will present a program “Birds of Prey” exploring the diversity of raptors in New England. Nick will discuss the key characteristics of local hawks to help us identify these fascinating creatures and teach us where and when to look for them. He will also explain the varied behaviors and survivorship strategies of these hunters of the sky, from huge Bald Eagles to the much smaller American Kestrel.

Nick’s interest in hawks began in 1996 when he first volunteered to help with a bird banding project. As he walked out in the field he saw someone holding two peregrine falcons while



another falcon was being removed from a net. Nick remembers telling the other participants, “I don’t know what you are doing, but I want to be part of this for the rest of my life.” Indeed, he has been volunteering at the Cape May

Raptor Banding Project Inc. since then, banding birds every fall during the migration to learn more about their populations. Nick has recognized the importance of introducing this effort to the next generations, so they will continue the progress. His own children are now helping with the project and Nick’s college students are studying how these birds may transport pathogens like the West Nile Virus during their migrations.

Meeting Details: The evening begins with a pot-luck supper at 5 PM. We are grateful, once again, that Jean LaChance has volunteered to organize the dinner. Please give Jean a call to tell her what you are planning to bring: 927-4345. Nick will begin his presentation after dinner and a brief business meeting. If you are unable to join us for dinner, plan to arrive at about 6:30 for his talk.

Winter Hikes still to come.... Call hike leaders at least one day in advance for details.

**Feb 18 (Sat)** Joel Sadler from SPNHF will join us for a XC ski up the Lincoln Trail from Kearsarge Valley Road. Ability to do turns with metal edge skis required. George Beaton 938-2637

**Mar 5 (Sat)** The *fourth* annual bushwhack with Frank Baker. Expect another snowshoe adventure as we explore Shaw Pond in East Andover. Lee Carvalho 603-581-8585

The SRKG Newsletter is issued four times a year. Comments and articles may be sent to SRKG PO Box 1684, New London, NH 03257. Editor: Lee Carvalho, [leecarvalho6@gmail.com](mailto:leecarvalho6@gmail.com)

## Weaving the Green Necklace by Dan Allen

*Part II of a series of articles exploring the origin and early history of the SRKG.*

At the first public meeting of people interested in a “green necklace around Lake Sunapee” there were two principle interests. Some saw the establishment of a trail as the key to enticing landowners’ understanding of the importance of their land in the necklace. Some of those, interested only in land preservation, dropped out of the nascent organization. Early participants I recall were Paul Gravested, Dave Anderson, Peter Sabin, Dick Martin, Cynthia Bruss, Bill Hoffman, Bill Best, and George Howe. George believed the structure should provide each town autonomy and responsibility for securing landowner trail agreements, ragging, cutting and maintaining its trails. The overall organization at the start was, as it is now, representative, with a Chairman chosen each year by the board of directors. The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway was incorporated in 1993. Tax exempt status was obtained soon after. No one jumped up to volunteer as the first Chairman. I thought the best qualified person was Bill Best. He demurred, and I was chosen. It was a post I held for three years until I convinced the board that the office should rotate among town representatives. Bill was the second Chairman.

The Greenway engaged the services of Burnham Martin through a National Park Service grant. He drove down monthly from Brunswick, ME, to offer assistance as part of a national trail assistance program.

The first Walkabout was held on September 23, 24, 25, & 26, 1994. Three of us, Dick Martin, Bill Best, and I, completed, with much of it in the rain. Cynthia Bruss, Burnham Martin, Debbie Perkins, and several others, joined us for part of the walkabout.

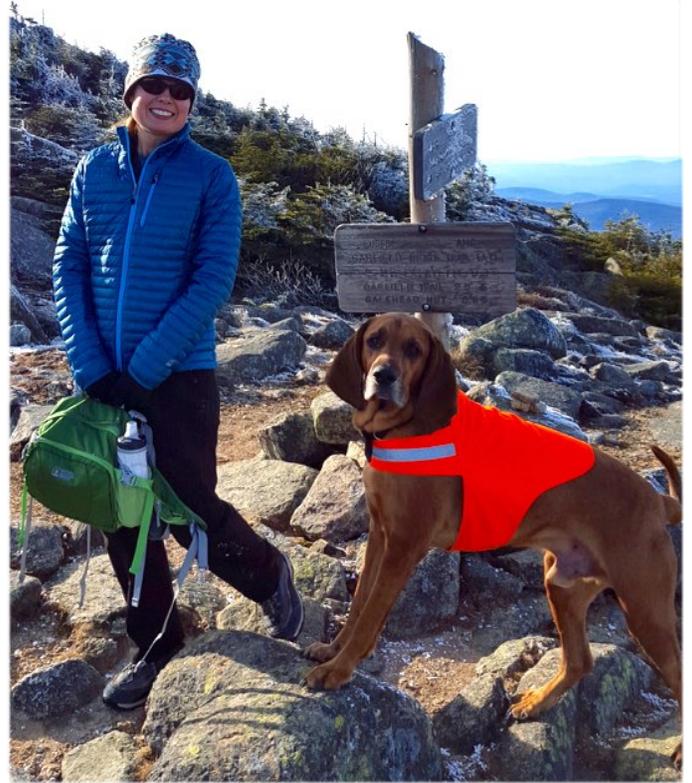
People wanted maps and a guidebook. My wife, Natalie Davis, pushed the issue. Bill Best was insistent that trail agreements came first. After several years of stumbling along the guidebook was given serious help by Brian Faughnan who did map development and book compilation. Loa Winter volunteered drawings for inclusion.

Were there any serious disagreements? The only one I can remember was over responsibility for the Lincoln Trail, which was built by students at Kearsarge Regional High School under the guidance of Lincoln Cleveland. The trail crossed one private ownership and entered the Mount Kearsarge State Forest. Trail agreements had been obtained by the high school. The Sutton representatives thought that the Trail should become their responsibility, and I thought the Greenway should let the High School be responsible with the Greenway offering its assistance. Many years there was no one at the high school who took on the job. For awhile Natalie and I were the volunteer maintainers. When the Sutton Reps asked the board for a stand on the issue, I counted the votes, and dropped out.

Unfortunately, the Greenway has a long way to go to become a preserved necklace. There are some trail agreements, but most of those include a drop dead clause (the agreement can be cancelled on short notice by either party). Worse yet, a significant portion of the Greenway is still on roads. Road walking is necessary near the two crossings under Interstate 89.

## New Town Director Heidi Holman

Hi! My name is Heidi and I’m from Warner. I love to get outdoors and appreciate the amazing opportunities we have in NH, from the White Mountains to local trails such as SRKG. I grew up in Southwest NH hiking Mount Monadnock and the hills surrounding it. My recreational pursuits eventually led me to a job with natural resources working with NH Fish and Game to recover endangered species and trying to keep common species common. I look forward to interacting with the board and helping steward this great resource that is available in our area. It truly is a remarkable story of partnership.



### Greenway Town Directors

Andover	Lee Carvalho Anne Hewitt	735-5719 848-5762
Danbury		
Goshen	Tom Lawton	477-1995
Newbury	Nathan Richer	763-2127
New London	Andy Hager Nick Baer	526-2846 526-8233
Springfield	Charles Baughman	667-3551
Sunapee	Tim Eliassen	763-2502
Sutton	Jean LaChance Dave Gardner	927-4345 927-4033
Warner	Shelby Wischan Heide Holman	748-3766 456-2475
Wilmot	Chris Naimie Rosanna Long	491-5223 828-1001

### *Weaving the Green Necklace, continued*

Dedicated volunteers, like Gerry Gold, are a treasure you should keep, help and encourage. I think some of the most enjoyable time of my life has been laying out and cutting trails. I love the Greenway, particularly sections 5, through Gile Forest, and 9, over Ragged Mountain.