

Mountain View



A newsletter by and for the Randolph Community, published by the Randolph Foundation

King Ravine Purchased in 1914

by David Govatski
Revised 12 March 2014

The US Forest Service purchased King Ravine on the northern slopes of Mount Adams on January 20, 1914. This acquisition was part of a larger purchase of 30,264 acres in portions of Gorham, Randolph, Jefferson, Carroll and the entire unincorporated township of Low and Burbanks Grant in Coös County, NH.

This was the second acquisition for the White Mountain National Forest. The first tract had been purchased two weeks earlier on January 2, 1914 in Benton, NH. The purchase was made under the federal legislation known as the Weeks Act, signed in 1911 by President Taft and named for Lancaster native and Massachusetts Congressman John Wingate Weeks.

The Berlin Timberland Company sold the 30,264 acres to the US Forest Service for \$242,118 or \$8.00 an acre. The land was on the northern slopes of the Presidential Range and also in the Cherry Mountain region. The land had been owned by the Berlin Timberland Company since 1900. The company, earlier known as the Berlin Mills Company, was headquartered in Portland, Maine but conducted logging operations out of Berlin, NH. It was the predecessor of the Brown Company of Berlin, NH. The legendary William Robinson Brown was in charge of the company.

King Ravine is a spectacular glacial cirque on the north side of Mount Adams. It was originally named Adams Ravine by Thomas Starr King who wrote "The White Hills: Their Legends, Landscape and Poetry" in 1859. This classic book is credited with making the White Mountains popular for tourists. The name was later changed to King Ravine in honor of the author. Charles Lowe built the first trail through King Ravine in 1876 and it continues to be one of the most spectacular trails in the White Mountains.

The US Forest Service surveyed the rugged landscape from July-November, 1912. The original survey books signed by surveyor F. Gardner are pre-



The U.S. Forest Service purchased King Ravine 100 years ago as part of a larger purchase of 30,264 acres, the second acquisition for what became the White Mountain National Forest, formally established by President Woodrow Wilson in 1918. Photo by Edith Tucker

served at the WMNF Headquarters in Campton, NH. It was exciting to open these century-old field notebooks and read what the surveyors were seeing. Craig Young, Realty Specialist with the Forest Service showed me these historical treasures from a century ago.

Karl Woodward was the Forest Service appraiser who wrote the appraisal report for his superiors in Washington. Woodward described "the land rose from the valley of the Moose River in Randolph at about 1,000 feet in elevation to the summits of the Presidential Range at 5,000 to 6,000 feet above sea level." Woodward described how forest fires in some areas destroyed the topsoil. He was likely referring to the disastrous 1903 fire season where over 85,000 acres of the White Mountain region burned.

Karl Woodward wrote in his report "from an aesthetic standpoint this tract is one of the most important in the White Mountains for the reason that it includes nearly the entire north slope of the Presidential Range and is one of the most frequently visited

See "King Ravine", page 4

Meeting notices, inquiries, comments, and ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please send materials for the *Mountain View* to Dede Aube, Nekal Lane, Randolph, NH 03593, (603-723-0847 or daube@ne.rr.com) by the 15th of the month preceding publication (publication is quarterly: September, December, April & June). The *Randolph Weekly* is published weekly in July & August. Send notices by Tuesday of each week to Gail Scott at 603-466-5498 (call or FAX); or mscott1@ne.rr.com; or PO Box 160, Gorham, NH 03581. The *Blizzard* is published the first of each month except July and August. Please send all notices for the *Blizzard* to Laura Brockett, 603-466-2034; lbrockett@gmail.com or 11 Randolph Hill Road, Randolph, NH 03593. *Blizzard* materials by the 24th of the preceding month. If you are not receiving the *Blizzard* and wish to, please let Laura know. A grant from the Randolph Foundation makes all these publications possible.

Mountain View Publications

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Laurie Archambault , Publisher
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Barbara Arnold, Design / Production

Town Directory

- AMBULANCE 911**
- BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** (Chair, Paul Cormier) 466-5841
meets at 7 PM the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- BOARD OF SELECTMEN** (Chair, Ted Wier) 466-3970
Administrative Assistant, Linda Dupont; Treasurer Angela Brown
Meets at 7 p.m. at Town Hall 2nd & 4th Monday 466-5771
- BUILDING PERMITS.** See Board of Selectmen
- CEMETERY TRUSTEES** Suzanne Santos, Steve Hartman, & Karen Eitel
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION** (Chair, Bruce Kimmse) 466-5777
- DOG LICENSES** See Town Clerk. Obtain or renew by the end of April.
- FIRE DEPARTMENT - ALL ALARMS - CALL 911;**
Randolph Chief, Dana Horne
- FOREST FIRE WARDEN** (Jeff Parker) Call for Burning Permits 662-4050
- GRS COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD** Contact the SAU Office 466-3632
Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month; location
alternates between the 3 towns.
- LIBRARY** Trustees meet the 3rd Mon. of each month; Chair, Jean Malick,
Librarian, Amy Cyr, Open Mon. 10 – noon; Wed. 3 -8 p.m.,
Thur. 3-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 –noon 466-5408
- LIFELINE** (Heather Wiley) 466-5179
- PLANNING BOARD** (Chair, John Scarinza) 466-5775
Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the first Thursday of the month.
- POLICE** (Randolph Chief, Alan Lowe) 466-3950
- RANDOLPH CHURCH** (Moderator Dick Doyle)
Sunday morning services July & August (10:30 a.m.).
- RANDOLPH COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION** (chair, John Scarinza) 466-5775
Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the 1st Wednesday
- RANDOLPH FOUNDATION** (President, Keith Dempster)
- RANDOLPH LIFE SQUAD — Call 911 in an emergency**
Co-Directors Bill & Barbara Arnold 466-2438
- RANDOLPH MOUNTAIN CLUB** (President, John Scarinza) 466-5775
- ROAD AGENT** (Kevin Rousseau) 466-5185
- SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST**
Denise Demers, Michael Sewick & Angela Chakalis-Pfeffer
- TAX COLLECTOR** (Anne Kenison) by appointment; call the Town Hall 466-5771
- TOWN CLERK** (Anne Kenison) 466-2606
Town Hall hours: Mondays 9 - 11 a.m. ; Wednesdays 7 - 9 p.m.
- TOWN HALL** Monday– Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon. 466-5771
- TRASH COLLECTION** Must be at roadside by 7 a.m.
Trash - every Tuesday; Recycling, sorted & bagged - 1st Saturday of every month.
- TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND** Judy Kenison, Michael Sewick, M. Lark Andreas

Community Calendar

(NOTE: For recurring meeting schedules see "Town Directory" on the left)

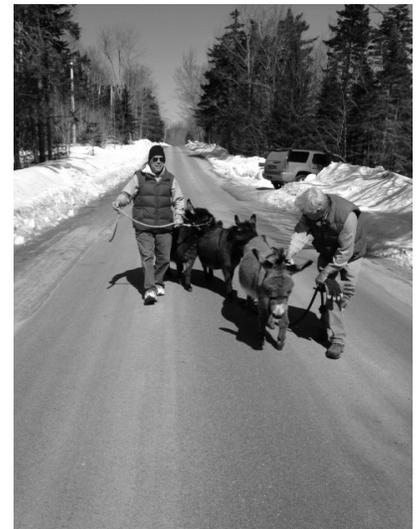
- April**
- 21-25 GRSC School Vacation
- May**
- 20 GRS Cooperative School Board Meeting 6:30pm Shelburne Town Hall
- 23 early release for GRS students
- 26 Memorial Day no school
- June**
- 6 GRSC Graduation
- 12 Last scheduled day of school at GRSC

At the request of the State of
NH-DMV
Please present your
PHOTO I.D.

**For all
MOTOR VEHICLE
TRANSACTIONS**

Thank you for your cooperation.
Together we can help prevent in-
surance and registration fraud by
consistently complying with the
state of NH requests.

Only in Randolph



Randolph Election Results March, 2014

Submitted by Anne Kenison, Town Clerk

Select Board	Michele Cormier
Treasurer	Angela Brown
Trustee of Trust Funds	M. Lark Andreas
Cemetery Trustee	Steven R. Hartman
Board of Adjustment	Alan Lowe
Auditor	Philip Guiser
Library Trustee	Greta Smithson
Planning Board	Robert Ross
Tax Collector	Anne Kenison
Moderator	David Wilcox
Supervisor of the Checklist	Angela Chakalis-Pfeffer
School Board At Large	Gregory Corrigan (Shelburne)
Executive Counselor	Michael Cryans

*All warrants passed.



Nancy Penney's 75th birthday - March 1st - was celebrated by a group of her women friends at Roberta Arbree's house. Photo by Clover Koopman

Summer Reading Discussions

Julie Barrows has chosen two books for the Randolph Summer Reading discussions; both about the contributions of immigrant groups to American life and culture. The first is "A Place for Us: A Greek Immigrant Boy's Odyssey to a New Country and an Unknown Father," by Nicholas Gage, 2004. The second book will be "American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America," by Colin Woodward, 1911. Both books are available in paperback. The author describes how the origins of various immigrant groups have shaped the regional and political attitudes of the US.

Arrangements have yet to be made for dates and times. More information will be found in the June editions of the Mountain View and Blizzard as well as the summer Randolph Weekly.



Senator Jeff Woodburn and Secretary of State Bill Gardner honored Judy Kenison (center) at the Randolph Town Hall on January 21, for her 42 years of service as a ballot clerk. Also in the photo are David Wilcox, Michele Cormier, and Ted Wier, Photo submitted by Jeff Woodburn

sections of the White Mountains. The chief points of interest are Snyder Brook, King's Ravine, Ravine of the Castles and Ridge of the Castles. All of these are reached by good trails built and maintained by the Appalachian Mountain Club." The report was written in 1912 when the fledgling Randolph Mountain Club was just two years old

Forest Composition in 1914

Hardwood forests occupied 19,214 acres or 65% of the tract. Ninety percent had been culled, meaning that the pine, spruce and hemlock had been removed. Another 10% had been burned. Very little of the hardwood such as sugar maple and yellow birch had been removed due to the lack of markets for hardwoods at the time.

The spruce forest was confined to the higher slopes and consisted of nearly 8,000 acres or 27% of the tract. About half of this type had been completely cut over and another 22% had been culled and the best trees removed.

Woodward described the subalpine type as "found on slopes that lie at such an altitude and have such thin soil that trees have not reached merchantable size." This forest consisted of balsam fir, red spruce and paper birch and was 1,295 acres or about 4% of the tract.

Woodward used the term "barren land" to describe the land on the summits of Mount Adams and Madison. There were 1,275 acres of barren land or about 4% of the total tract. A one-acre piece had previously been sold to the Appalachian Mountain Club for the construction of a stone hut (today Madison Spring Hut) between the summits of Madison and Adams.

The appraisal concluded that the tract was worth \$8.00 an acre or \$242,118. This value was based on two things. First was the value of the land, which ranged from \$0.50 an acre for barren land at the summits of the highest peaks, \$1.00 for subalpine land, and \$3.00 per acre for highly productive spruce and hardwood forestland. The second factor was the value of the remaining timber, consisting of over 118,000 cords of wood worth over \$150,000.

It is worth comparing the value of the purchase price in both 1914 dollars and what that money is worth today. Calculating inflation, the land purchased in 1914 at \$8.00 an acre is worth \$186.37 in 2014 dollars.

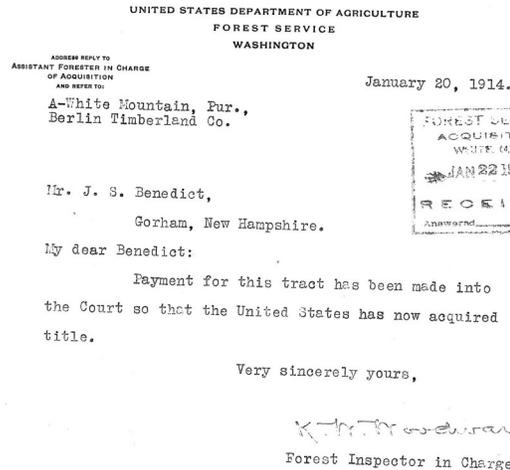


Photo of the letter indicating the purchase date of the tract on January 20, 1914.
Photo provided by David Govatski

1914 Purchase Price	2014 Dollar Value
\$8.00 per acre	\$186.37 per acre
\$242,264.76 total price	\$5,640,310.16 total

What was the selling price of the summit areas of Mount Adams and Madison? I measured the acreage (using a planimeter) in Low and Burbanks Grant that was above tree line on Mount Adams and Madison and determined it was 520 acres. This land was typed as "barren" by the appraiser and had a value of \$0.50 an acre in 1914 or \$260.00 total. In 2014 dollars that would correspond to \$11.65 an acre or \$6,056.88 for the 520 acres of these two well known summits. Today several trails, including the Gulfside Trail, part of the Appalachian Trail system, traverses this same barren land purchased for 50 cents an acre in 1914.

What was the appraised value of King Ravine? This large glacial cirque with a fossil rock glacier and year-round ice is a place of spectacular beauty. I determined that it was approximately 600 acres in size and was classified as "subalpine" by the appraiser. The value was \$1.00 per acre and like the barren land it did not have any timber value. King Ravine was purchased for \$600 in 1914. Using today's value of money, King Ravine was acquired for \$13,977.42 or \$23.30 an acre in today's money. The true value of this mystical landscape cannot be measured in dollars alone.

Conclusion



The survey books of tract in which surveyors recorded findings in 1912.

Photo provided by David Govatski

Today the White Mountain National Forest is nearly 800,000 acres in size. The purchase of the Northern Presidential Range and Cherry Mountain region was an important addition. It added many miles of streams, trails and opportunities for recreation, wildlife habitat and the production of forest products in a sustainable manner. Two months later, on March 30, 1914, the 37,124-acre Hastings Lumber Company land in the Wild River region was acquired for the national forest.

Special thanks to Marcia Watson Gulesian and her North Country Chronicle blog for use of the 1912 photos of US Forest Service survey crews and camps in Randolph. Also to Judith Maddock Hudson for use of early photos from the RMC Archives.

Sources: *Land Status Atlas for the White Mountain National Forest*. Map. Campton, NH: US Forest Service, 2014. US Forest Service. *Report on the Forest Lands of the Berlin Timberland Company*. By Karl W. Woodward, Forest Examiner: no date. US Forest Service. *Berlin Timberlands Company, Civil #71*. Case folder in land acquisition files. White Mountain National Forest. Campton, NH. US Forest Service. *Map of the White Mountain Region*. May 1914. Gorham, NH. Woodward, Karl to J. S. Benedict, "White Mountain Purchase, Berlin Timberland Company" January 20, 1914. White Mountain National Forest, Campton, NH. Young, Craig. Interview by the author. WMNF Headquarters, Campton, NH. January 13, 2014.

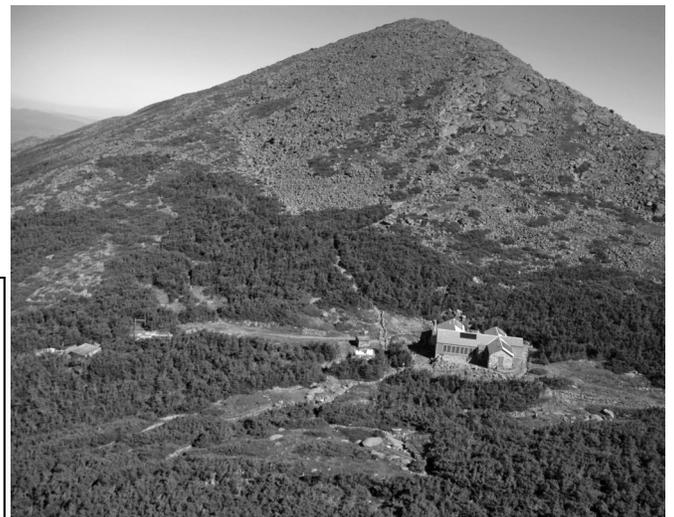
David Govatski lives in Jefferson with his wife Kathi. He is an avid hiker, trail maintainer and enjoys writing about White Mountain history. He worked for 33 years for the US Forest Service before his retirement.



King Ravine and forest fire scars in the foreground and 2 hikers on the left of picture. Shorey Photo from Mount Washington Observatory Archives.

The Appalachian Mountain Club had already purchased an acre of land for its first stone cabin, built in the summer of 1888, when the U. S. Forest Service purchased the surrounding acreage on Jan. 20, 1914, seen in this photo taken on Oct. 1, 2013, from a JBI Helicopter Services chopper.

Photo by Edith Tucker



Randolph Remembers

Harriet Brown Baldwin passed away on Thursday, November 21, 2013 in Hanover, NH. She is survived by her husband James, of Hanover; her daughter, Sara Fauquier and three grandsons, all of Bethesda, Md.



She was a graduate of Central High School, Binghamton, NY, Wellesley College in 1945 and George Washington University in 1968.

Harriet resided in Bethesda, Md., from 1958 to 1999. She served as a research assistant in the Department of Curriculum and Supervision in the Montgomery County Public School and was teacher-producer of a television series produced and broadcast for school use from 1970 to 1972. She was also a member of a history project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, at the Washington International School. In 1977, she joined the Publications Department of the World Bank where she developed educational materials around economic development for schools.

Harriet retired in 1986 and became a volunteer with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and a board member of local and state organizations. She also volunteered with the Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund at the World Bank, a scholarship program for women from developing countries.

The Baldwin family spent many summers at their cottage on Durand Road, in Randolph, NH. Harriet was an active member of the Randolph Church and spearheaded the Randolph Church Benevolence fund, supporting agencies and programs in the Randolph-Gorham-Berlin area that minister effectively to human needs. She was also a board member of Northern Human Services.

A service commemorating her life was held in the gathering room at Kendal in Hanover, on November 30. Memorial gifts may be made to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (3803 Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203) and the Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund (The World Bank, 1818 H St., NW, Washington, DC 20433).

Frederick W. Phinney, 91, of Randolph, NH and Yarmouth Port, MA died peacefully on January 21, 2014 at home surrounded by his six children. His wife, Eleanor Sanburn Phinney, predeceased him after fifty-eight years of marriage. He is survived by his six children: Ben, Joanna, Fred Jr., John, Harriet, Martha and their respective spouses: Barbara Phinney, Lhakpa Phinney, Yutian Phinney, Adam Berger; by ten grandchildren: Sam, Louisa, Jamie, David, Peter, Warren, Sarah, William, Elijah, Alana; by two great grandsons: Robbie and Henry; and by two brothers: Arthur and William. His faithful golden retriever, Lucy, also survives him.

Fred, born in Lawrence, MA on May 15, 1922, was the son of Rev. Arthur O. and Lucille (Flagg) Phinney and was raised in Concord, NH and Lynn, MA. He attended Lynn English High School, Browne and Nichols School, Harvard College and Episcopal Theological School.

Fred was awarded two Silver Stars for gallantry and intrepidity in action with the 44th Infantry Division in World War II. During his long career as an Episcopal priest he served in Waterbury, CT, Brookline, MA, Beverly Farms, MA, Lake Forest, IL, Limuru, Kenya, and Rome, Italy, Cambridge, MA and Wellesley, MA.



Fred, who captained the Harvard cross-country team, enjoyed physical activity until the end of his life. Hiking, skiing, gardening, reading and classical music were some of his favorite pastimes. He was a member of the Randolph

Family photo

Mountain Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, St. Barnabas Church in Berlin, NH and St. Mary's Church in Barnstable, MA.

A true gentleman, Fred will be remembered for his humility, high standards, articulate self-expression, learning and compassion. Throughout

Continued next page

Fred Phinney

his career he worked to build bridges between people of different ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, religions, and perspectives. Above all, Fred was a family man whose greatest joy was being with Eleanor and his children. A burial service was held at Woodside Cemetery in Yarmouth Port, MA on June 23 and a memorial gathering will be held in Randolph, NH in the summer.

Gifts in his memory may be sent to the Randolph Mountain Club (P.O. Box 279, Randolph, NH 03581) or St. Barnabas Church (P.O. Box 545 Berlin, NH 03570). Condolences may be sent to Ben Phinney (104 Canton Ave. Milton, MA 02186).

Matthew S. Simon, 82, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday February 8, 2014 at the Androscoggin Valley Hospital in Berlin. He was born in Newark, NJ on March 5, 1931 the son of Matthew and Barbara (Wolf) Simon. He was raised in Union, New Jersey and was a graduate of Seton Hall University with a degree in accounting. He proudly served his country in the US Army.



Family photo

In 1987, he and his family moved to Randolph. He worked for Crown Vantage as a Systems Analyst, retiring in 1998 and until the time of his death he worked for the Census Bureau. He enjoyed sports, gardening, traveling and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years Barbara A. (Gargalowitz) Simon of Randolph; a daughter Jennifer Simon of Whitefield; a son Stephen Simon of San Francisco, CA; a granddaughter Emma G. Labonte; son in law Brian Labonte of Whitefield; a sister Barbara F. Simon of Union, NJ; his in-laws Gladys Metzger of Toms River, NJ and Ron Gargalowitz and his wife Carole of Andover, MA; nieces and nephews. He will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved him.

A Mass of Christian Burial and a celebration of his life was celebrated on Thursday February 13, 2014 at 10 AM at Holy Family Church in Gorham. Donations in his memory may be made to the National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter, PO Box 845945, Boston, MA, 02284-5945.

Anne Wilson

Submitted by Rebcca Lowndes



Family photo

After more than 92 years of great spirit and humor, compassion for others and endless hours of service to the communities in which she lived, and after eight days at Gosnell Memorial Hospice in Scarborough, Maine, Anne Elizabeth Leavitt Wilson passed on with grace, dignity and in peace, on Monday at sunset, January 13, 2014. Her youngest daughter, Molly Fairchild was with her and while holding her hand she spoke to her of all the places she had been, things she had done and the people she had loved in this world. Anne's oldest daughter, Becky Lowndes returned shortly after Anne's passing, having spent the day in Kennebunk with her father, Roger, Anne's husband of almost 60 years.

"We miss her wisdom, generosity and love, and are thankful for our good fortune to have her as our mother." Molly and Becky camped out in Anne's hospice room during her stay and "are grateful that we were able to share the last bit of her journey". Roger joined Anne for two afternoons to hold her hand and speak with her, and was with her the day before she died. He continues with the rhythm of life at Atria Kennebunk and is able to share his thoughts and sadness on her passing with his family and with the support of friends and staff in the community. Granddaughters Ruby, Grace and Hannah, and Molly had a wonderful visit with "Granny and Pop-Pop" the day after Christmas.

Although Anne's memory faded in the last few years, her spirit and warmth remained strong. She retained the

Continued next page

Anne Wilson, continued ...

ability to respond to people emotionally, and to read and respond to their feelings. A memorial service in memory of Anne, will be held Saturday April 26, 2014, 2:30 – 3:30 pm at the Wellesley Friends Meeting House, 26 Benvenue Street, Wellesley, MA. A reception and dinner will follow at the home of Molly, Ruby, and Grace. For more information call Becky at 951-285-8685

The family will one day hike Mt. Adams in New Hampshire in their honor of Anne and Roger .

In Lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your local hospice or Gosnell Memorial Hospice of Southern Maine, 11 Hunnewell Road, Scarborough, ME 04074.

Anne was born on April 29, 1921 and passed away on Monday, January 13, 2014.

Winter Activities with Friends of the Library

As is usually the case in the small town of Randolph, The Friends of the Randolph Public Library and the Randolph Public Library presented several activities to keep the town busy during the cold winter months.

Opera buff, Bob Kruszyna presented a couple of opera previews during February, including “Rusalka” by Antonin Dvorak and “Prince Igor” by Alexander Borodin.

The library presented “The Stories behind the Stars” with Matt Krug. Through myths and a gentle mix of science, the audience was introduced to the wonders of the night sky. The program identified commonly seen objects such as constellations, meteors, planets, northern lights, and satellites, and discussed the phases of the moon.

During the month of March, Ingrid Graff presented “Not in Front of the Children: The Art and importance of Fairy Tales” at the town hall. Ingrid led a discussion on where fairy tales come from, what they tell us about ourselves and our history, why they have been censored and changed and how they have retained their currency and popularity today. The following night The Friends presented a Pot Luck Dessert and film entitled “Into the Woods”. This film was a musical extravaganza illustrating and celebrating the fairy tales discussed the evening before. The program was co-sponsored by the NH Humanities to Go Program.



Ingrid Graff provided yet another splendid talk at the Randolph Town Hall on Friday, March 7, this one titled “Not in Front of the Children: The Art and Importance of Fairy Tales.” Ingrid discussed the sources, varieties and cultural effect of fairy tales over the ages and displayed a large collection of books of and about fairy tales for viewing. Gail Scott Photo

Strategic Planning for the Future at the Randolph Church

by Dick Doyle, Church Moderator

Changes have been gradual but nonetheless dramatic in the town and specifically at the Randolph Church. In particular, a changing demographic among seasonal residents has had an impact upon attendance and support of our ecumenical summer chapel. Far fewer families are able to spend extended periods in town during the summer. The number of clergy who were able to provide leadership, once numbering well over thirty, has dwindled to a handful. Year round residents face divided loyalties between Randolph and other local churches.

We also find ourselves in an era when church attendance in the wider culture is in decline, especially among the young. Although the Christmas Eve service at the Randolph Church – the only service in the off season – continues to draw a substantial crowd, average attendance at the summer services has declined to ONE-HALF of what it was just ten years ago!

An in-depth evaluation was appropriate and a strategic planning committee was formed followed by a community survey in the fall. The survey, emailed to 113 homes, had a 45% return rate with several thoughtful suggestions. Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond. However, no one – myself included – has been able to identify a magic formula to reverse the current trend. For many decades the church has been self-perpetuating; we've had no pressing need to thoroughly examine its purpose or function. This approach will no longer suffice in today's environment.

In order to address at least some of the dynamics, we are creating two new church committees. The first is an Outreach Committee to be charged with raising the church "profile" in the community. No doubt, there are many untapped opportunities for publicity, outreach, and enticement to the church.

Someone observed that one could drive up the hill and think that the church was merely an historic site that was no longer in use. A new detailed sign on the lawn out front is probably overdue. Plans are currently in the works for some outdoor lighting around the building and parking area to facilitate more evening activities. Lighting on a new sign would signal that we are indeed in business

The second new committee will address Spiritual/Cultural events apart from Sunday worship. The survey revealed strong support especially for musical offerings, and also lectures, discussion groups, etc. At this report there are already three special musical events planned for this coming summer with more under exploration. We suspect that we would not have to look too far to find learned persons who could provide stimulating spiritual/cultural presentations that would be of interest to many. My personal belief is that enticing people to these activities just might lead at least a few of them wanting to explore our vibrant services on Sunday morning.

There is one obvious key to the success of any of these ventures and indeed to the ongoing vitality of the church: VOLUNTEERS! We cannot and WILL NOT overcome the current trend without a number of persons willing to step forward to help and provide leadership. So, consider this your invitation to get involved and become a part of insuring the future of the Randolph Church. Persons are needed for the above committees or as members of the church Board of Management. Please let your willingness be known to myself or any one of the strategic planning committee members: Bea and Heywood Alexander, Susan Ferré, Mark Kelley, Cathy McDowell, and Clover Koopman.



Austin & Blake Scarinza, John Micucci, and Henry Snider singing at the Christmas Eve Carol Service with Marie Beringer leading them. B. Arnold photo.

From Newton/Einstein to the 'String Theory' of Modern Physics

By Dr. Sada Shankar Saxena

Randolph is a rare sort of a hill resort. Here, holiday-makers option to writing on rare topics. The author, Samarjit Shankar's father, is no exception, choosing to pen down on the above captioned esoteric subject reinforced by his background in Theoretical Physics, at the TIFR, Mumbai, India *

Newton's view considers space and time as separate and different. Symmetries of the laws of physics are combinations of rigid motions of space and independent shift in time. But these transformations do not leave the famous Maxwell's Equations invariant, Maxwell/Faraday discovered electromagnetic principles on which runs our entire life via dynamos, motors and what not. This non-invariance worried Einstein, who then unified space and time for his Relativity Theory; which is also a correct theory. In fact, the GPS installed in our cars, is a testimony of the same. Further, an atom, long believed the smallest building block of matter, was proven to consist of even smaller components, called protons, neutrons and electrons, known as sub-atomic particles. During the 1970's, it was discovered that protons, neutrons, and other hadrons are themselves made up of smaller particles called quarks. Quantum theory is the set of rules that describes the interaction of these particles.

In the 1980s, a new mathematical model called String Theory emerged showing how all the particles and forms of energy in the universe could be constructed by hypothetical one-dimensional "strings", infinitely small building blocks that have only the dimension of length, but not height nor width. Further, string theory suggested that the universe is made up of multiple dimensions. Height, width and length constitute three-dimensional space, and time gives a total of four observational dimensions. String theories initially supported the possibility of ten dimensions, the remaining six of which we cannot detect directly. This was later increased to 11 dimensions based on various interpretations of the ten-dimensional theory: Supergravity theory also played a significant part in establishing the existence of the 11th dimension.

These "strings" vibrate in multiple dimensions, and depending on how they vibrate, they might be seen in three-dimensional space as matter, light or gravity. It is the vibration of the string which determines whether it appears to be matter or energy, and every form of matter or energy is the result of the vibration of strings. The problem arose, though, that there were five major string theories. In 1994, Witten of Princeton (Institute of Advanced Studies) considered that these

five might be describing the same thing, seen from different perspectives. It was called the "M-Theory", in which the "M" is not specifically defined, but is generally understood to stand for "membrane". The words "matrix", "mother", "monster", "mystery", "magic" have also been claimed. M-theory brought the string theories together by asserting that strings are really one-dimensional slices of a two-dimensional membrane vibrating in 11-dimensional space. M-theory is not yet complete but it successfully combines quantum mechanics and gravity, the two pillars of modern physics at the two ends--the largest and the smallest.

Some cosmologists are drawn to M-theory because of its mathematical elegance and simplicity. Physicist M. Kaku remarked that M-theory might present a "Theory of Everything" so concise that the underlying formula would fit on a t-shirt.

Robert Frost remarked, "The brain is a wonderful organ, it starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get to the office." Perhaps the same can be said about the handling of very fundamental questions; savor this one.

Even to this day, we find, quantum mechanics weird on objective reality. In practice though, quantum mechanics does not replace Newton's physics, it includes it.

Let us relax for a moment with a Vietnamese thought: Breathing in, I know that I am alive. Breathing out, I smile to life. ...Thich Nhat Hanh

Here one might reflect understandably, whether physics & philosophy are real sisters or only distant cousins? I think I better conclude this brief essay, lest some reader were to ask me: "Can you define 'I'? Who am 'I'?" Or, who is that who is alive, breathing and even smiling (if not exactly winking)?

At this Randolph house, sitting on my lap is UMA, my 5-year granddaughter, who chirps in, "Oh! Dada (grandfather in Hindi language) put me down and play with me."

As for the 'heavy' questions on "I" ...Look above for all the answers in the bright, well lit, clear-- Randolph sky. It is so high---that is why

* TIFR stands for Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (both at Mumbai & Bangalore) Incidentally, 2013 was the centenary year of Asia's first Nobel Prize (won by India's Rabindranath Tagore of Calcutta, for Literature), while the second Nobel Prize came to be awarded for Physics, in 1930 to Sir C.V. Raman of Bangalore, for his famous "Raman Effect".

Community Forest News

By Doug Mayer

As the snows on the Randolph Community Forest begin to melt and we look forward to spring on the Forest, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on the fact that our Community Forest is already headed into its fourteenth year.

The day-to-day work of the Community Forest takes place under the framework of a decade-long stewardship plan. Our second such plan is now pending with the State of New Hampshire's Department of Resources and Economic Development, which holds the easement on the Community Forest. We expect the plan to be approved shortly. A copy of the plan can be downloaded for the Forest's web site, at randolphforest.org.

This winter saw one harvest, called the Ledge Timber Sale, completed on the Forest. The project wrapped up last month. A good summary of the sale can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Mountain View, courtesy of Edith Tucker. To see the harvest in action, check out John Scarinza's video on the Community Forest web site.

Who's been on the Community Forest recently? Snowshoers, skiers, hikers, snowmobiles, and no shortage of wildlife. Usually, the latter come and go, leaving behind only a few, scattered telltale signs. But, our Community Forest wildlife cameras did capture some remarkable footage of a very healthy looking eastern coyote, and an elusive pine marten.



Typically weighing 30 to fifty pounds, the Eastern Coyote is almost twice the size of its western cousin. While very elusive and not often seen, sometimes they can be heard howling to other members of the pack, and thus letting those of us who live nearby, that the Eastern Coyote is a permanent inhabitant of the Randolph Community Forest. Courtesy Photo, RCF website

You can take a peek at the visitors (or perhaps they're residents?), on the web site.

This spring, construction will take place on the new trailhead at the end of Randolph Hill Road. The Commission is currently soliciting bids for the project, with an anticipated completion date of June 15th — though a rainy, wet spring might delay that completion date. Nicky Pizzo, of Gorham, is designing a short, mile-long interpretive trail, using existing paths and logging roads. The interpretive route will start at the new trailhead, and should be completed by early summer.

For those of you planning ahead for the always-busy Randolph summers, add this date to your calendar: Saturday, August 2nd. It's our annual, popular Forest Tour Day, which will start at the Randolph Town Hall at 9 am.

Off the Forest on slightly more technological terrain, improvements continue with our web site. If you'd like to stay up to date on the goings-on on the Forest, we've now added an option to be notified of news. Simply add your email to the form on the site's homepage. You'll receive a brief email whenever we share an update, which is approximately once a month.

As always, the Forest Commission welcomes your input, energy and ideas. You can reach us via the web site, or contact one of the commission members around town-- Walter Graff, Mark Kelley, Doug Mayer, Jeff Parker, or John Scarinza



Musher Sally Manikian, of Shelburne, enjoys running her team of 19 Alaskan Huskies on the Randolph Community Forest. Courtesy Photo, RCF website

Students Visit Tree Harvest on Randolph Community Forest

By Edith Tucker

White Mountains Regional High School Natural Resources teacher Jenn Scarinza of Randolph and seven of her 12 students, spent the morning of February 20 on a Career and Technical Education field trip to visit a tree harvest in Jefferson within the five-town school district on the Randolph Community Forest (RCF). They lucked out on the weather: bright sunshine, little-to-no wind, and temperatures in the 30s

Licensed forester Walt Winturri, who spent his career in the Androscoggin Ranger District of the WMNF, talked with the students about some of the factors that go into developing a 10-year forest management plan that guides what he does on the ground when he lays out a timber harvest to ensure that it is sustainable.

The acreage in the 10,000-acre Randolph Community Forest, he explained, has been commercially harvested for over 100 years, first by the Brown Lumber Co. of Whitefield and then by the Brown Company of Berlin and its successors.

The Boston based Hancock Timber Resource Group (HTRG) bought the property some 20 years ago when the pulp-and-paper mill owners severed the manufacturing end of papermaking from growing and harvesting trees for fiber.

After the ice storm of 1998, HTRG decided to sell the property and concerted efforts at the local, state, and federal level resulted in the town of Randolph with a population of just over 300 people owning the largest "working" town forest in the East, all subject to a conservation easement, with no cutting over 2,500 feet in elevation. Some 1,100 acres are in Jefferson.

When Winturri asked the students what the word "sustainable" meant to them, one replied, "doing it right," and another, "to make it so it lasts."

"Trees put on new growth every summer, increasing both their height and diameter, increasing the timber volume per acre," he explained. "We only want to capture that growth and no more, so the forest will be harvestable years into the future. Wood is a renewable resource, but we don't want to cut too much of the annual growth." He also em-

phasized the importance of other forest resources, including aquatic habitat to support fish and other aquatic species, soils, and wildlife habitat.

Jenn Scarinza explained that logging contractors working on the town-owned property use Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Winturri, working with John Severance and Elise Lawson of Watershed to Wildlife of Whitefield, worked on the first management plan once Randolph acquired the forest.

The team's second 10-year management plan was accepted by the Randolph Forest Commission in Dec. 2013 and is awaiting state approval. "By working on the forest and preparing several timber sales, I gathered more information than the first time around — many nuances and a greater understanding of the variables on these stands," the forester said.

Forrest Hicks of Hicks Logging in Jefferson submitted the high bid for the project and won the contract. Hicks, in turn, employed SDS Logging, also of Jefferson, to do the work.

The wood chips hauled from the on-site chipper have gone the short distance to Whitefield Power and Light, owned by Korea East-West Power, with a few loads heading to Pinetree Power in Bethlehem, owned by GDF Suez, Paris, France. Pulpwood has been hauled to the paper mill in Skowhegan, Me., as well as the chip plant of R. J. Chipping Enterprises, Inc. in Shelburne, to be readied for shipping to the paper mill in Rumford.

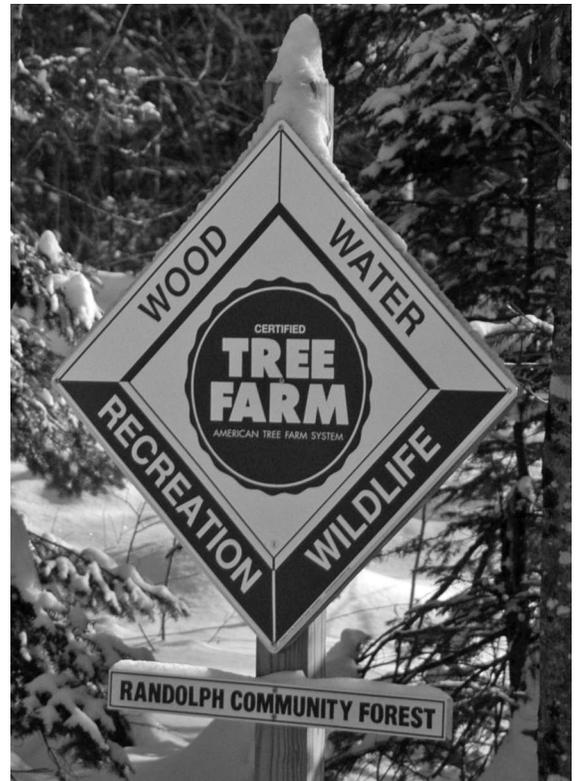
Sawlogs are hauled to a concentration yard in Colebrook, ready to be exported to a buyer in Canada where they are processed. Some dimensional lumber will likely will be shipped south to the U.S., others across the continent in a train and be shipped cross the Pacific Ocean to China. This timber sale will provide 410 thousand board feet of sawlogs, primarily sugar maple, and 3,500 tons of pulpwood, which translates to 85 tractor-trailer loads of sawlogs and 155 loads of chips and pulpwood.

Editor's Note: According to the community forest website, when it was first created, the Randolph Community Forest might have been named, "The Randolph Town Forest." The word "community" was selected because it spoke to residents beyond town boundaries, in the hopes that the forest would engage North Country citizens in nearby towns, as well. This article, originally reported by Edith Tucker in the Coös County Democrat, shows that is exactly what has happened. Edith is also a former member of the Randolph Forest Commission.



Natural Resources teacher Jenn Scarinza of Randolph, left, with WMRHS students and licensed forester Walt Winturri, spent the morning of Feb. 20 on at a tree harvest on the Randolph Community Forest. No machinery was operating when the photo was taken. Photo by Edith Tucker

This Tree Farm sign, indicates the Randolph Community Forest is certified and highlights the goals of the nationwide American Tree Farm system. Photo by Edith Tucker



Maple Sunday, 2014 ...



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