



Box 20
Marlboro, Vermont, 05344
Ph. 802 254 9192
Email: Hogback1@sover.net
www.hogback.org

NEWS AND EVENTS AT HOGBACK MOUNTAIN

Winter 2008

Welcome to the first of what is planned to be a periodic newsletter of news and events that relate to Hogback Mountain - its past, its present and its future.

FUNDRAISING STATUS. We have now raised over \$1,351,621 towards our project goal of \$1.737 million. The funding so far has come from a variety of sources. Grants comprise \$484,590, leadership donations total \$700,000, the Town of Marlboro appropriated \$50,000 at a special town meeting in June, and other donations and pledges total \$107,465. We are nearly 80% of the way there.

HOGBACK WALKS. The walks we conducted last summer were so enthusiastically received that we plan to set up more next summer. The Newsletter will provide dates and times as the summer season draws near.

TRACKING EVENT. George Leoniak has agreed to do a tracking course on February 7, 2009 at Hogback. There's an amazing amount of animal activity going on in the dead of winter at Hogback. The proof's on the ground and the tracks will often tell quite a story, particularly with the help of George's perspective. We'll meet at the parking area at 9:30 AM and spend the morning outside tracking. Around noon we'll go inside, have a bite (bring your own) and then we'll ask George some of those questions that popped up earlier. Dress warmly. The alternate date for inclement weather is February 14, 2008. Inclement weather means snow or rain that might wipe out good tracks. Email us if you're interested in this event and give us a contact phone number so we can confirm inclement weather or cancellation. Hope to see you there and don't forget your snowshoes.

DAILY WONDER IN PLAIN SIGHT-LICHEN - I was so glad that someone raised the question on our final fall walk, what is that stuff growing on the tree trunks? I had always thought it was a harmful fungus, a sign of a diseased tree. No so, according to our guide, wildlife consultant George Leoniak, and also a recent article in Northern Woodlands magazine (1). That substance is lichen, and it is actually composed of both fungus and algae that live in a symbiotic relationship. Lichen don't have chlorophyll and thus cannot produce their own food. Instead they use the carbohydrates produced by the algae. In return, the algae get a base of operations from where they can draw water and nutrients from the tree bark. At this point, there seems to be no clear evidence that lichen harm trees. It is more likely that lichen proliferating on decaying trees are responding to the additional sunlight filtering down due to the absence of leaves. (Submitted by Nancy Anderson)

(1) Northern Woodlands /Winter 2008, Woods Whys article by Michael Snyder, p. 25.

If you have an item or a good (digital) picture you would like to see included in the Newsletter, please send it along to the email address on the masthead.

FUTURE NOTICES AND EVENTS. If you received this Newsletter by snail mail and wish to continue receiving it, please send us your email address. Our email address is hogback1@sover.net. To keep costs down, we try to use email whenever possible. If you prefer not to receive future email Newsletters please let us know.