

Mountain View



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

The Ravine House Pool Dam: What Happened and What's Next?

Like many seasonal residents, my first walk to the Ravine House pool this past spring was a bit of an eye-opener. The familiar roadway topping the pool dam was gone, and the path to Lake Durand. We were just belatedly experiencing the damage of which the town and its officials were well aware. With the July 4 season fast approaching, a temporary reconstruction of the eroded section enabled the filling of the pool, and resumption of access to the recreational areas around



Ravine House Pool Dam- 2011 Overflow Damage photo credit: Gail Scott

it. But this was a temporary fix. I sat recently with selectmen Michele Cormier and Ted Wier to discuss the progress of plans for a more permanent solution to a recurrent problem with

this important town asset. By formal agreement last renewed in 2004, the town and The Randolph Foundation share responsibility for the maintenance, upkeep and repair of the Lake Durand Recreational Area and the Ravine House properties. We thought it appropriate to jointly report on the history of the problems with the pool dam, and the plans for remediation.

The Dam and Its Troubles..

The Ravine House dam, has been with us for awhile. George Cross writes in 1924, in *Randolph Old and New* that Abel and Laban Watson "...built croquet grounds, tennis courts, and a bowling alley; and with a new and costly dam spread out the waters of the Moose into a clear lake for fishing, boating and bathing." And this, he further relates, was prior to their retirement and sale of the Ravine House property in 1909.

In this photo of the west elevation taken last October,



Ravine House Dam Looking East, October 2012 photo: Keith Dempster

the major elements of the dam can be seen. Three openings, or spillways channel the normal flow of the brook past the dam. These are blocked

with seven stop-logs each to create the pool in summer. To the right, or south of the spillways the dam elevation lowers slightly to provide an overflow weir whose purpose is to contain water flows from storm events that overtop the dam even with the spillway stop-logs removed. Not visible in the photo is the third essential element of the dam, which is the level walkway across the brook connecting Durand Road to the recreational area beyond. Those of us of a certain age will even remember when our parents and grandparents drove across this surface to deposit us and our swimming paraphernalia directly by the beach. Ah, the old days...

While time has certainly exacted a toll on the granite and masonry dam face and on the spillways, it is the overflow weir that has been the focus of our more recent troubles. From the Selectmen's report of 2010:

"2010 was a tough year for the swimming pool area, starting with a washout of the walkway over the dam in early August when 2.62 inches of rain fell in two days. Another washout occurred in early October when we received 2.92 inches of rain in two days, and the final washout occurred in mid-December when 3.34 inches of rain fell in two days and 14.5 inches of snow melted at the same time."

See "Ravine House Pool", page 4 ...

Meeting notices, inquiries, comments, and ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please send materials for the *Mountain View* to Diana Aube, Nekal Lane, Randolph, NH 03593 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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Diana (Dede) Aube , Editor
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, Carol Gagnon; Treasurer Connie Chaffee
 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 Kirmmse) 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** (Rebecca Boothman) Call for Burning Permits 466-2332
- 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, 466-5408
 Librarian, Yvonne Jenkins, Open Mon. 10 – noon; Wed. 3 -8 p.m.,
 Thur. 3-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 –noon
- 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 Edgar Adams)
 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** (Scott Robinson) 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** (Secretary, Carol Gagnon) Mon. - Fri.; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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)
 Town Hall

- December**
- 15 Town Christmas Party,
 Randolph Town Hall, 6:00pm
 for children of all ages.
 - 22 Caroling Party; 6:30 Caroling
 8:00 Refreshments and Poetry
 At the home of Marie Beringer,
 272 Randolph Hill, all welcome
 to either or both parts
 Mon. Dec. 24, Town Hall closed
 Tues. Dec. 25, Town Hall closed

- January**
- Shakespeare Reading Group; Paint,
 Marble and Words; watch for dates for
 both programs in Blizzard

Building Permits

REMINDER
 Randolph property owners are responsible for ensuring that they or their builders receive any necessary permits before beginning any construction. Building permits must be approved by the Selectmen. The Selectmen need time to review all permits, so please remember to submit them early enough to allow that process.

- 8/27/12 Frank and Sandy McCarron
 Reissue permit for new house
- 9/24/12 Doug and Andrea Coursey
 New supports for camp
- 9/24/12 Doug Mayer
 Solar
- 9/24/12 Mark MacDonald
 Solar
- 9/24/12 Walter Eitel
 Solar
- 10/22/12 Floyd Harris
 Replace roof and construct dormer
- 11/6/12 Samarjit & Tara Shankar
 Add second floor in living area

Real Estate

August 31, 2012
 From: Margaret Baker
 To: Town of Randolph
 Quitclaim Deed of Easement

September 14, 2012
 From: Jeffrey D. & Ludziminda B. Mix
 To: Alan T. Mix
 Trustee Deed

Local Writers Rolled out "Mountain Voices"

By Edith Tucker

"Mountain Voices: Stories of Life and Adventure in the White Mountains and Beyond," compiled and edited by Doug Mayer of Randolph and Rebecca Oreskes of Milan, was rolled out locally on Sunday afternoon at the White Mountain Café and Bookstore, along with other recently published books on the North Country. Mountain Voice is a collection of 15 well-shaped interviews first published in "Appalachia," the nation's longest running journal of mountaineering and conversation.

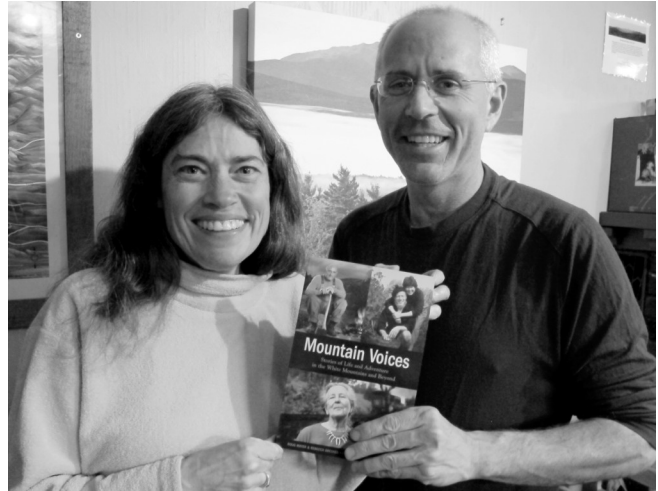
For nearly two decades, Oreskes and Mayer talked with people whose lives had made a positive impact on the White Mountains – including some who either lived in or regularly visited where they could look south to the northern slopes of the Presidential Range: Casey Hodgdon, Bill Arnold, Fran Belcher, Doug Philbrook, Paul Doherty, and Brad and Barbara Washburn.

The paperback is dotted with historical photographs and portraits, plus a preface by wilderness writer Laura Waterman.

WMNF supervisor Tom Wagner praised the book: "Rebeca and Doug have captured the unique voices of many people in a way that is as inspiring as the placed called the White Mountains. One is left wondering, as their individual stories unfold, how people and place interact to build values and character. Consistent words flow from the stories to describe the mysteries of that interaction; humility, persistence, honesty, adaptation, beauty, love, fun and giving back. A necessary read for the newcomer and old timer alike to be introduced or reminded how this beautiful place and the many wonderful voices shape our lives."

Teen and college-age readers are likely to be particularly interested in how many of those profiled were able to figure out how to make a living in a region they were determined to call home.

(taken in part from The Berlin Reporter on 11/14/12)



Doug Mayer and Rebecca Oreskes, authors of newly released "Mountain Voices" Photo by Christine Woodside

Important notices

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 Insurance and Registration Fraud by consistently complying with the state of NH requests.

Notice to Residents

Please be aware that the plows are out and the Selectmen are requesting that residents make sure that their vehicles are off the roads and parked clear of the road's edge. In order to prevent any damage from the plow's blade during snow removal, it is necessary to keep vehicles out of its path during the winter months.

“Ravine House Pool, from page 1

And recapping 2011, the selectmen wrote:

“Floods were abundant this year with water going over the dam three times. The first one took out a small section of the dam and destroyed the raft; this damage was repaired and the raft replaced. The third flood, Hurricane Irene, caused severe damage and the Town is currently working with FEMA to obtain funds to repair it. Don’t look for a quick fix; there is more damage than just the top portion.”

So what’s going on? In a nutshell, the overflow weir has been failing. As noted above, its purpose is to channel excess water from storm events smoothly over the dam surface and return them to the brook downstream. But to the downstream side of the overflow area, the channel drops off sharply for several feet. The resultant waterfall picks up pebbles, then rocks, then still larger rocks and erodes the dam and walkway right back to the granite facing. And it’s important to remember that these overflows are occurring even with the spillways fully open; in the face of major storms, the three have insufficient capacity to channel the Moose’s flow past the dam.



After Hurricane Irene 8/28/11 Photo: Barbara Arnold. Pool had been emptied (see previous photo) before the hurricane.

Looking for the Fix

As referenced above, town officials began the search for a substantive repair in the wake of Hurricane Irene last fall. This involved outreach to a panoply of

agencies at both state and federal levels, most significantly the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services’ (NHDES) Dam Bureau. In December, 2011, FEMA issued a Project Application Grant outlining specific areas and cost allowances for work that it would underwrite—contingent on the town procuring the necessary state-level permits and the completion of a formal engineering and design study. A significant advance on the former (permit) front came with the determination of NHDES that the dam

is a “low-menace” structure, meaning in essence that incidents of overtopping are not considered a threat to downstream property or safety. This means that we will not be required to increase the overall height, or freeboard, of the dam in order to receive state approval to proceed.

Engineering and design work, as required by the FEMA grant, has been contracted by the town to the firm of H. E. Bergeron (HEB); their recommendations, which will be completed by late November, are in substantial accord with those of FEMA, albeit somewhat larger in scope, and the selectmen believe that FEMA will adjust their recommendation, and grant, to the larger project.

So what’s to be done, and what will it cost? The final plan will most likely include repairs to the spillways and the stop-log system, and replacement of the wooden plank bridge over the largest spillway. But the bulk of the project will focus on reconstruction of the outflow weir and downstream channel to eliminate the erosion-causing dropoff and create a walkway surface that will survive repeated overtopping. FEMA will bear 75% of the project cost and the town will be responsible for the remaining 25%. The selectmen believe that the town’s existing Recreation Facilities and Equipment fund will be sufficient to meet this obligation.

Don’t Fight Mother Nature...

Yes, the process is complicated—But the bottom line is this: the plan for repair seeks to work with the forces of nature rather than do battle with them. When it’s finished, storm water will still come over the dam. But afterwards, the dam—and the walkway atop it—should come through unscathed. The selectmen plan to have the project details and cost ready for discussion at Town Meeting in March, along with a warrant article seeking concurrence to proceed. The town’s obligation will absorb a substantial portion of the facilities fund that will need to be subsequently replenished. The board of the Randolph Foundation concurs with the selectmen that the pool dam is a community asset worth preserving. It is more than just that; it’s the community’s link to all of the recreational areas beyond: the playground, picnic tables, gazebo, tennis court and Lake Durand (not to mention the blueberries!) We hope that, after satisfying your questions and concerns, you’ll join in support of this effort.

*written by Keith Dempster,
president of the Randolph Foundation*

Heywood Alexander: 70 years as Randolph Church Music Committee Chair

by Avery Post

At the Annual Meeting of the Randolph Church held on the second Sunday in August, all was going smoothly until the report of the Nominating Committee revealed that Heywood Alexander was retiring as Chair of the Music Committee. There was a pause in the meeting as everyone absorbed the surprising news. Someone was heard to say "after seventy years." We all thought that it couldn't be.

But seventy was roughly correct. Heywood and his sister Sally spent summer weeks at Sugar Plum Farm, purchased by his parents in 1927. With piano as a very early interest and with regular family attendance at the Randolph Church, all that happened in church on Sunday mornings was of high interest to both children; for young Heywood, of very great interest was the parlor organ tucked into the front left corner of the church. At ten he was playing for Sunday services. He loved pumping the little organ. When a somewhat larger organ was found he was still at the console in the church, still pumping until the organ was electrified. That second organ is still in a cottage known as Diccillo on Randolph Hill Road. At a remarkably early age Heywood began playing for memorial services and weddings.

For years and years, the little organ supported and encouraged strong singing in the Randolph Church. Ultimately the congregation began to envision the purchase of a new organ. As new options were discussed, Heywood Alexander, with all of his training and experience, was in the middle of the process, and, in fact, guided it. In an historic moment for the Randolph Church, Hershner Cross, in a most generous act, offered to contribute funds for a new organ; it would be dedicated to the memory of his wife Daphne as well as to all who had played the organ for worship over the long years.

An early happy decision was made that the new instrument be a tracker organ. Soon there was another decision that the highly regarded Charles Ruggles of Maine be asked to build the organ. A small group of members, with Heywood's close help, pro-

vided oversight to the lengthy process of building the instrument, locating it in the church building and preparing for its dedication which occurred in 1997.

Without dispute, the organ in the Randolph Church is one of the finest in the region and admired, even loved, by the guest organists who play for worship on summer Sundays.

So it has indeed been seventy years that Heywood Alexander has given musical leadership in Randolph Church. He is regarded as the church's Minister of Music. That ministry had its beginnings in Scarsdale, New York where, in his youth, he played the piano for the Sunday School at the Hitchcock Presbyterian Church. Music was central in his life during his college years at Princeton and his service years in the Coast Guard.

For Heywood, the critical years in his education were those spent at Union Seminary's School of Sacred Music from which he received the Doctor of Sacred Music degree.

Professionally most of his career was in Cleveland where he taught at Case Western University and became a full Professor (now Emeritus) at Cleveland State University. He was the organist and musician at Cleveland's Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and for many years at the Church of the Covenant in University Circle.

Following his Coast Guard years, Heywood and Bea Sanderson of Greenwich, Connecticut and a graduate of Smith College met and were married. The parents of four children, theirs has been a long story of the conjoining of musical gifts and commitments held by each. Worshipers at the Randolph Church know what a veritable feast of good music it is when two of their daughters, with their own instrumental skills, join their father, in their leadership of morning worship.

In 1998 Bea and Heywood Alexander moved to Hanover, New Hampshire. They now reside at Kendal at Hanover and seasonally in Randolph.

Randolph Town Forest Crystal Mine

by David Willcox

The crystal mine, located on the Randolph Community Forest, was worked by the General Electric Corporation during World War II. Alan Lowe is quoted as saying that GE was hauling ox carts full of crystals out of it for radios as part of the war effort. After the war, and after radio technology had moved on, the mine was blown up, probably a couple of times by various landowners to prevent people from getting in and getting lost or hurt.

Hobby gem collectors, however, had discovered a man-hole sized way of entering part of the mine and had been doing so for many years. When the conservation easement, which now governs the uses of land within the Randolph Community Forest, was being negotiated, the Presidential Gem and Mineral Society contacted the forest commission and asked if their right to explore the mine would be protected. As a result, a specific provision allows for non-commercial hobby mineral collecting. Over the last ten years the members of the Society and their guests have used the mine without any problems. They led one of the early Randolph Forest Day tours up to the mine and many of those who went along were able to go down into the mine and enjoy the sight of crystals glittering all around them.

Because the mine is located in a secluded spot and not easy to find for someone unfamiliar with the site, the Forest Commission had always assumed that its seclusion would protect it, and, for the last ten years it seemed to do so. But, last summer that all changed. Members of the Presidential Gem and Mineral Society reported serious vandalism at the mine. Someone was ripping off the covering layer of earth and rock and breaking off large plates of crystals, apparently with the aim of selling them. John Scarinza finally caught the perpetrator and he is now charged with breaking a condition of a DRED conservation easement.

In light of those actions, the Forest Commission is reconsidering its approach to the crystal mine. Instead of avoiding publicity about it and relying on its seclusion to protect it, the commission will now assume regulatory power to limit access to the mine site, as permitted by the conservation easement. Moreover, if the town designates the site as a "natural area," which is proposed in the current draft of the proposed amendment, that would attract a state statute which makes it a class "A" misde-

meanor to vandalize or deface a geological formation or rock surface which has been designated as such by any of the state political subdivisions. While

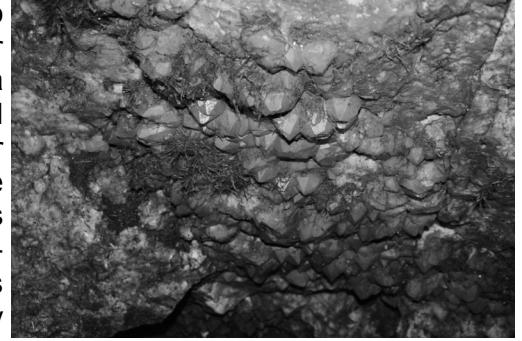


Photo by John Scarinza

these steps will not guarantee protection for the mine, without round-the-clock policing, it will provide the town with a better ability to prosecute violators. The Forest Commission also intends to post notices at the mine site, so no one can claim that they were unaware of the rules that will be put into place.

There will be a public hearing on this and other amendments at the January meeting of the Planning Board. The amendments will then be placed before the town at the March Town Meeting.

Check out the New and Improved Randolph Public Library Website!

by Christa Rousseau

The Randolph Library has a new Website. In addition to all the awesome stuff we had with the old website, we have added some new and cool things, including [Announcements](#) which you see on the [Randolph Public Library](#) or Home page as well as on the sidebar. In the announcements we will post upcoming events and cool stuff we think you should know about.



We still have a Children's page ([Kid's Corner](#)) and one for Teen's as well ([Teen Space](#)).

Feel free to browse and search.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to ask or call Christa or Yvonne at the Library (603 466-5408).

Also ... There are still a few calendars for sale. These would make wonderful Christmas or hostess gifts. To order a 2013 calendar, contact the library at the number above.

Moosehead Feast Potluck, Sing-along, and Bowls of Fire Celebrating the Winter Solstice

On Friday, December 21st, at 6:00 pm, which marks the Winter Solstice (and end of the Mayan calendar, but not really, Saturnalia, the battle between the Oak King and the Holly King, and other such markers of time), Music in the Great North Woods will be celebrating with a medieval feast potluck at Randolph Town Hall to which everyone is cordially invited. Costumes are encouraged. Canterbury Tales will be told. The celebration will include medieval dishes brought by revelers, consumed in the "Castle Great Hall," with was-sail, flaming plum pudding, French chocolate Noel log, and mistletoe provided. In addition, familiar carols to sing, plus music for vielle, portable organ, and singers, will round out the affair. Check with Susan Ferre if you need an authentic medieval recipe, or search online for your favorite 13th century dish: elderberry pie, hunter's stew, boiled garlic and the like. A Procession of the Moose Head (designed by Squire Tim Sappington) will begin the evening. "Goodness Gracious: Great Bowls of Fire," where one can burn old political signs, paper plates and dishes with other unwanted fodder, that will provide warmth for evening's end. Donations will benefit the Norton Scholarship program. FMI contact Betsy Hess 466-5718 or Susan Ferre 326-3242.



Barbara Wyssession, Barbara's sister Louise, Marie Beringer, George Dunham, Joan Rising, Angela Pfeffer, and Gail Scott. Missing from the photo is Bruce Kirmsee, tour guide. Photo provided by Bruce Kirmsee

Tour and a Walk of Israel's River Wetlands

by Bruce Kirmsee

This year's Randolph Community Forest Day (Saturday, August 4) featured a tour of the Israel's River wetlands, a unique natural resource which the Town has approved for eventual addition to the Community Forest. About thirty people took a walk along the Presidential Rail Trail with side trips to features of interest. The weather was very hot that day, however, and several Randolph residents indicated that they would prefer to take the tour on a cooler day. As chairman of the Randolph Conservation Commission, I offered to take them on a tour some time when the weather cooled down. We kept in touch by telephone, and finally the rescheduled walk took place on September 20, a beautiful, sunny, cool day. A group of eight Randolphians took a two-hour ramble along the Rail Trail with many side excursions to inspect beaver meadows, beaver dams, beaver lodges, and other natural features, including what may be Randolph's champion white pine tree. It was a thoroughly pleasant experience, and several of the participants followed it up by replicating the walk with other local residents. I would be happy to lead another walk for those who would like to become acquainted with this unique natural wetland asset of our town. Just contact me at 466-5777.



2012 by Betsy Hess