

to resulting in Association ownership of the land and water system. Upon the advice of the Association's attorney, a separate application was filed with the Secretary of State for a non-profit corporation. The application was approved in 1985.

The 1980's presented a number of challenges. In 1987 the Middlesex Boy Scout Council of Massachusetts announced that the Boy Scout camp on Gregg Lake was for sale. This caused considerable alarm in the town and around the lake. The three-hundred fifty acre site had the potential of unwanted development due to the fact that Antrim's zoning laws would not prohibit extensive development. Efforts were made to secure funding from a conservation organization, but the price (\$1,200,000) was too much of an obstacle. Eventually the Town made an offer to purchase which was rejected, and finally a good outcome occurred when, in 1992, the Swiftwater Girl Scout Council of Bedford, New Hampshire, purchased the property thus insuring no additional development on Gregg Lake. The efforts made by Antrim's citizens during this challenge are still much appreciated by all who own property on the lake as well as by all who continue to enjoy its beauty.

Camp Birchmere property was now reduced to the 2.5 acre parcel on which the lodge, eight bunk buildings, a cottage called "Perch," and the White Birch Inn were located. The Inn had served as a dining hall and meeting place for the campers. Charles and Francis Patten purchased this parcel in the early eighties and turned the lodge into a summer residence. They requested that the Antrim Fire Department burn "Perch," seven of the eight bunk buildings and the Inn. This was completed in 1996.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Association was celebrated in 1987. Several social events were held including a culminating dinner at the Powder Mill Pond Restaurant in Bennington.

As has always been the case, social life at the Point revolves around the beach. During the summer many residents visit the beach on a daily basis. On the weekends, naturally, there is more dense use. The Independence Day and Labor Day holidays draw many extended families. The lake is full of children enjoying themselves and each other. During the 1970's there were just a few rowboats at the beach; then canoes became popular for several years and at the turn of the century kayaks became the most popular boat at the beach. Motorized boats were never popular at the White Birch Point beach.

The Association meets twice a year, in the spring and again on the Saturday before the Labor Day weekend. Following the annual meeting in August a potluck dinner is held. This has been a tradition since 1988. Several times during most summers, Sunday morning breakfasts are held at the beach. Evening BBQs are organized by several families and many members enjoy an occasional lunch at the beach.

White Birch Point has evolved from an area dominated by girls camps surrounded by individually owned cottages, to

an area of twenty-two cottages, five of which are now fully winterized. White Birch Point has a timeless quality about it that is cherished by all who experience its unchanging nature. For those of us who are so fortunate to enjoy ownership here, White Birch Point will continue to be a special place well into the future because those who were here before us maintained its special nature and passed it along to us; and those who succeed us will be just as determined, as we are, that it be preserved and maintained as it has been for one-hundred years. ☞

## THE ANTRIM BOG COPPER

Paul Bedell

Have you ever found yourself looking for something, and in the process found something completely different and unexpected, and been totally taken by this new find?

One of my favorite pastimes is the study of dragonflies. These insects are aquatic, breeding in lakes, ponds, rivers, and marshes. So, in one of my forays in search of different species, I put on my knee boots and bushwhacked into the marshy north end of Gregg Lake. The dragonflies were good, but looking down at my soggy boots, I noticed that I was standing in the midst of wild cranberry! I ate several of these bitterly delicious native fruit, and then also noticed the nondescript, but very interesting butterfly known as the bog copper. This small butterfly is found only in acid bogs of the northeastern United States, from New England west to the Great Lakes. The larvae feed only on wild cranberry and related plants, and the adults feed on "water from raindrops and nectar from cranberry flowers."

I think this marsh is a local treasure. As I witnessed the bog copper, singing in the background were alder flycatcher, swamp sparrow, and rose-breasted grosbeak, among many other birds.

*Paul Bedell, son-in-law of Dick Winslow, recently visited Antrim with his family.* ☞

### FREE Community Suppers

Sept 19 • Oct 17 • Nov 15 • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.



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