

## WOW Docents Nancy Frankel and Bob Jones

Each year, Public Affairs receives more than 100 requests for fish and wildlife-related programs from elementary school teachers and scout or 4-H youth group leaders. Thanks to the support of nearly forty trained volunteer docents, most of those program requests can be honored.



COURTESY PHOTO

Nancy Frankel

Initiated in 1992, the Wonders of Wildlife (WOW) Program offers four interactive elementary school programs about pond ecology, wetlands, endangered species and the habits and habitats of our

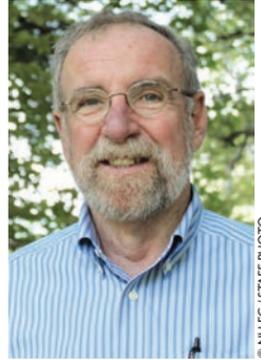
native wildlife. Teachers request programs for their classes by sending in a form available on the Fish and Game website. The requests are then assigned to docents that, ideally, live near the school where the program is to be presented.

Although most docents present programs individually, Bedford docents Nancy Frankel and Bob Jones have preferred working as a team since joining the program nine years ago. Every fall and spring, they hit the road to present WOW programs with a special twist. As Frankel is a magician, they are able to weave magic into their programs, making them even more engaging for children. Both came into the program with strong outdoor recreation backgrounds that include camping, hiking canoeing and a strong interest in wildlife.

A longtime past director of Girl Scout Camp Farnsworth, Frankel served on the boards of the National Camp Association and the American Camp Association-New England. She has just concluded her ninth and final summer as co-director of the Girl Scout Family Weekend Camps at Camp Menotomy in Meredith. When asked why she decided to become a WOW

docent, Frankel said, "Becoming a docent gave me the opportunity to increase my environmental knowledge and share it with others. I was looking for new ways to volunteer that would be on a schedule I could determine. Presenting programs with Bob is fun, too. "I provide the ambience, and he brings in a greater knowledge of wildlife," she says, laughing.

In addition to being a WOW docent, Bob Jones volunteers for UNH Cooperative Extension in the



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Bob Jones

Coverts Program, working to promote wildlife habitat and forest stewardship in New Hampshire. He is also a trustee with the Bedford Land Trust. After retirement, Jones took classes to enhance his knowledge of the outdoors and found he wanted to share what he learned with the next generation. "I enjoy working with Nancy in the classroom," Jones said. "If I don't know the answer to a question, then she might. Also, one of us can be presenting or leading an activity, and the other can work more closely with individual students. Teaching together is less intimidating and allows us to do some activities with the kids that would be hard to do alone."

Special recognition and thanks should also go to long-time WOW docents **David and Tanya Tellman** and **Sam Chase**, of Whitefield, who have just retired from the program after 22 years of service. North Country students and teachers will miss their educational and fun wildlife programs. N.H. Fish and Game is lucky to have such creative, knowledgeable and dedicated people in their volunteer ranks.

— Mary Goodyear,  
WOW Program Coordinator