



## **White Mountains Interpretive Association**

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### **Summer Newsletter, 2013**

The White Mountains Interpretive Association (WMIA) exists to encourage visitors to understand and appreciate our forest resources. The WMIA was the 2006 recipient of the National Association for Interpretation's "Excellence in Interpretive Support" Award.

#### **Board of Directors**

Ken Rancourt—President  
Doug Somerville—Vice President  
Bob Smith—Secretary  
Doug Somerville—Treasurer  
Jim Wilfong  
Carol Felice  
Kathy Somerville  
Tiffany Benna— Public Affairs Officer  
and Partnership Coordinator, WMNF

*Board meetings are held the 3rd  
Tuesday of every month.*

#### **Visit the Forest Discovery Trail**

This 1.5 mile loop trail offers a living classroom in forest ecology with 10 interpretive stops. It includes interpretive panels featuring both natural and managed forest practices.

Self-guided tours can be found in the box at the start of the trail.

Located on the Kancamagus Byway 6.2 miles from I-93 (Exit 32) near Lincoln, NH,



#### **Forest Service still dealing with effects of Hurricane Irene**

*From the Conway Daily Sun, 6/11/13 By Erik Eisele,*

Tropical Storm Irene, which ripped through the Mount Washington Valley in 2011 dumped rain on the mountains, which swelled rivers to record levels. The subsequent flooding destroyed roads, washed away bridges, uprooted trees and inundated homes.

More remote infrastructure, however, like hiking bridges and even trails, are still waiting their turn to return to service. "We still have a good workload both this summer and next summer," said Tiffany Benna, spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service, "and potentially 2015."

The Forest Service has done significant repairs thus far, but still lists a number of trails — the Dry River Trail, the Isolation Trail, the Rocky Branch Trail, the Greeley Ponds Trail and others — that have yet to see a shovel. "The back-country stuff is really what's left to deal with," Benna said.

The Forest Service estimates the storm did around \$10 million in damage. In the months following the storm, Benna said, the Forest Service spent more than \$1 million on Irene repairs. But there are challenges beyond financial hurdles. In some areas, according to Saco District Ranger Mike Martin, the question becomes what is the most sustainable option for the Forest Service.

The challenges have led to some interesting approaches, according to Benna. The Forest Service used draft horses to pull a damaged bridge out of the Pemigewasset wilderness, she said. Forest officials had to wait for snow cover, so they did it this winter.

More than a mile of the Dry River Trail was obliterated by flood waters. The trail was lightly used, but it played a key role in winter rescues. Every year winter hikers blown off the high summits wind up in the Dry River drainage, Rick Wilcox, president of Mountain Rescue Service, said. The Dry River Trail was used regularly by teams to find and extract victims. "We're hoping for at least a route where there's an ability to make a carryout " he said.

## Retail Stores Updated

After much planning and work over the winter months by the Board of Directors, each of the stores located at the Campton and Saco Ranger Stations have been updated with a new QuickBooks Point of Sale computer system. The retail store at the Androscoggin Ranger Station will receive its new Quickbooks Point of Sale system following the installation of an internet connection. The new system, funded in a cooperative effort by the Forest Service and the WMIA, will provide the customers with better service, provide better inventory control and increase efficiency at all the stores. Sales made at these stores provide the main source of funding for all the summer campground programs provided by the WMIA, as well as funding for interpretive programs throughout the year.

Rhonda Rosand, CPA, of New Business Directions was hired to provide software installation and management and Computer Port of Conway was hired to provide the new computer hardware and setup.

## New Hampshire Trails Day

Saturday, July 20th, 9:00 am  
Volunteer Trail Day at  
Kettles Path—Waterville Valley

Join the Forest Service trails staff and the Waterville Valley Athletic and Improvement Association in beginning to take action on the new Greeley Ponds/Flume Brook trail realignment. This is a great opportunity to learn trail building skills and build a new trail.

## National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 28th, 9:00 am  
Volunteer Trail Day at  
Rumney Rocks Climbing Area

Various trail projects at Rumney Rocks climbing Area in partnership with the Rumney Climbers Association. Participate in the stewardship of this unique world class climbing destination by volunteering for the day contributing to the ongoing trail stewardship work within and up to the cliffs.

**Registration information:** Volunteers can register on Volunteer.gov or with Ryan Harvey, Trails Partnership and Volunteer Coordinator at 603-536-6129.



## Spotlight on our Volunteers

We welcome Fanella Lang, a new volunteer to the White Mountain National Forest. Fanella comes to the WMIA and Forest Service from Hanover, Ohio where she worked for many years as a community banking security officer, and raised 2 children, a son, Lance and daughter, Barbara. Retiring from that position in 2009, she set out to see the country by volunteering in National Parks, National Forests and for non-profit organizations. In 2012, Fanella was the recipient of Volunteer of the Year Award twice, one from Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site and one from Blue Ridge Parkway-Pisgah District.

Among her many volunteer experiences, she has worked for 6 months at Swallow Hill in Denver, CO, an acoustic music organization which teaches over 4000 students every year at minimal cost. Soon after, Fanella traveled to Elverson, PA to volunteer at the Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site for 5 months where she staffed the visitors center, retail site and provided living history re-enactment. The Blue Ridge Parkway in Asheville, NC was her next stop where she worked for 4 months at the Visitors and Folk Art Center managing the Eastern National Gift Shop. This enabled the Rangers to go out to schools and provide educational programming to over 6,000 students.

Fanella returned to Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site the following year for several months. During the two volunteer assignments at Hopewell Furnace, she taught over 300 visitors each year how to play the bowed psaltery. Traveling next to Appomattox, VA she volunteered at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. She helped to staff the Visitors Center there, cataloged the library collections and was also able to share her love for music and folk instruments with visitors.

Fanella plays many folk instruments, including the bowed psaltery, autoharp, lap dulcimer, strum stick and pump organ. She has entertained visitors to the RC House with her music and given them a glimpse of musical life in the 1800s.





**Junior Ranger Program**

On June 8th, as part of the National Get Outdoors Day celebration, the White Mountain National Forest hosted a Junior Ranger Program from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Russell-Colbath Barn. National Get Outdoors Day is an annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun.

The "Junior Ranger Programs" are activities prepared especially for 5–12 year-old visitors to the White Mountain National Forest. Children and their families participate in the program by completing prepared activity books which are free. The activity books direct children to areas they might otherwise miss, or to things of special interest to the age group. The booklets contain information that helps children and their families discover the importance of the forest on their own terms at their own speed. After completing the specified amount of pages for the child's age group, the participant is awarded a Junior Ranger Patch at any of the Ranger Stations.

**Items for Sale  
At the Ranger Stations**



**Audubon Plush Birds and Squirrels**

Audubon(tm) Birds and Squirrels by Wild Republic, is a collection of original realistic plush birds and squirrels with authentic sounds available at Saco and Campton Ranger Stations. These toys are a perfect replica of the original species in the way they look and sound.

Each bird and squirrel's lifelike design and detailing are the result of input from Audubon. The authentic sound in each plush has been provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Measures approximately 5-6" and recommended for ages 3+. Cost: \$7.95

**Membership**

The WMIA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that promotes and funds historic, educational and scientific programs on the White Mountain National Forest. The WMIA is supported by membership dues, donations, and sales at ranger stations. All contributions are tax deductible.

Already a member? Please pass this newsletter along to a friend or neighbor who may be interested in joining.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include email address to receive newsletters and calendars.)

Membership level:  
(check one)

Supporter (Individual)...\$15.00 [ ]

Defender (Family).....\$25.00 [ ]

Guardian.....\$50.00 [ ]

Believer.....\$100.00 [ ]

Enhancer.....\$150.00 [ ]