



White Mountains Interpretive Association

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603-452-5148

Winter Newsletter, 2014

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 on a rotating schedule at each Ranger Station.



What can be good about minus 20 degree weather in the White Mountains?

“Cold snap may wipe out many emerald ash borer larvae [@StateForesters](http://dld.bz/dfvFG)”

Board Members Needed

Due to recent retirements, there are several openings on the Board of Directors and we are seeking members to share ideas for activities and help out at one meeting per month. Email or call if you are interested 603-452-5148.

Summer Campground Programs Prove Successful



Peregrine Falcon displayed by Squam Lakes Nature Center

Our summer campground programs attracted 985 visitors this past season. Although the early season programs had low attendance, the numbers grew as we moved into the full summer vacation season. Of great assistance was teacher Jennifer Moulton who worked as an interpreter, Conservation Educator and did marketing for the campground programs, walking through the campgrounds, talking about local wildlife, answering questions and promoting the evening programs. Her position was a joint project of the FS and WMIA.



Old time music performance



Porcupine brought by Squam Lakes



New Point of Sale System

by Doug Somerville, Treasurer

The White Mountains Interpretive Association, in cooperation with the White Mountain National Forest, has purchased and implemented, with the help of Rhonda Rosand, CPA of New Business Directions, a new **Quickbooks Point of Sale System** for all three district stores, replacing older cash registers. Included with the new system are 3 new computers with touch-screen monitors, barcode scanners and printers. The Saco Ranger District houses the largest of the three stores, the other two being at the Androscoggin Ranger Station and the Pemigewasset Ranger Station. The new system will make it easier and more efficient for both WMIA Volunteers and Forest Service personnel, especially during the busy summer and fall seasons. The new POS system will enable WMIA to better track and manage inventory. This increased efficiency should enable the WMIA to fund additional grant projects for the Forest Service.

In addition, the retail sales allow the WMIA to fund the Saturday night campfire programs, interpreters for the Russell-Colbath Historic home on the Kancamagus Highway and at the Brickett Place on Route 113 in Stow, Maine. One Interpreter was funded through a joint grant between the WMIA and the Forest Service. Other volunteer Interpreters are reimbursed for mileage.

Plans are in the works for additional Interpretive Signage to enrich the cultural experiences of our many visitors to the White Mountain National Forest. Please remember you can support our efforts by patronizing one of our stores at birthday or holiday time, or by bringing any out of town guests to our facilities. You will receive a 15% discount on any merchandise if you show your membership card. We welcome any and all volunteers. There are many tasks large and small that can be done during our busy season. Please consider being a volunteer. We will provide training and if desired, we can provide reimbursement for mileage.



Many Thanks to our Dedicated Volunteers

This past busy summer and fall seasons have been very successful for the WMIA due in great part to our many dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers worked the desk at the Visitor Centers, sold items at our stores, worked in cleaning and opening the historic Russell-Colbath House and the Brickett Place, acting as interpreters and staffing these sites, and much, much more. Our volunteers worked more than 1,560 hours in all! Many thanks to:

Maxine Booth	Fanella Lang
Doug Somerville	Kathy Somerville
Tom Bryant	Tom Fowke
Bob Smith	Dick Feeny
Ted White	Jim Wilfong
Jane Rancourt	Ken Rancourt
Joy Kacorowski	Carol Felice
Helen Rautenberg	Bruce Miller

Study Says White Mountain Hikers Often Unprepared

A Brown University study released in late May surveyed 199 hikers in the summer of 2011 about carrying the 10 essential items recommended by New Hampshire's HikeSafe program and found they're hiking without most of the necessary gear. The 10 items are map, compass, extra clothes, rain gear, fire starter, flashlight, extra food and water, knife, first aid kit, and a whistle. The study found only 18 percent of hikers had all 10 items.

Among the 57 hikers in the 20 to 29 age group, only 17 were prepared, while among the 51 hikers age 50-59, 29 were prepared. Among hikers who reported having "a lot of experience" 54 percent proved to be prepared while among hikers with some or little experience only 29 percent were prepared.

The most commonly omitted items from the list were whistle (57%), compass (54%) and a fire starter (48%). While many hikers did not bring a compass, 122 out of 199 brought GPS technology. But most of those hikers brought GPS-enabled cell phone which have little or no reception within the forest (even dedicated GPS receivers can sometimes fail there).

From "Bulletin of the Mount Washington Observatory"

What's the Difference?

Many visitors to the National Forest want to know what is the difference between the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and NH Fish and Game Department and State Parks?

- ◆ The Forest Service manages the national forests and grasslands, forestry research and cooperation with forest managers on State and Private Lands. The Forest Service is dedicated to managing resources under the best combination of uses to benefit the American people while ensuring the productivity of the land and protecting the environment.
- ◆ The National Park Service focuses on preservation. They preserve, unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.
- ◆ State Parks are similar to National Parks but are managed on a state level and can have fewer restrictions.
- ◆ The NH Fish and Game Department handles fishing and hunting permits and works to conserve, manage and protect the state's fish, wildlife and marine resources. Federal wildlife agencies, such as the National Marine Fisheries Service, manage wildlife that crosses state boundaries such as migratory birds and whales and some fish species.

Available in our Retail Shops

Many of the items listed on the HikeSafe site are available at our 3 retail shops. If you are preparing for a hike, make sure you have the necessary tools, many of which can be purchased at the WMIA shops in the Ranger Stations.



*All members receive a **15% discount** on items at the WMIA shops. All proceeds go towards our educational and interpretive programs throughout the WMNF.*

By the Numbers...

985 - attendees of all the Summer Programs at the Campgrounds and Colbath Barn, summer 2013

5000- Visitors to the Russell-Colbath Historic Site, summer 2013 (open 7 days per week)

800 — Weekend Visitors to the Brickett Place, summer 2013

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. Mail to: P.O. Box 1871, Conway, NH 03818

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Membership level:
(check one)

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

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

Guardian.....\$50.00 []

Believer.....\$100.00 []

Enhancer.....\$150.00 []