



White Mountains Interpretive Association

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Summer 2011

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.

Annual Meeting: Sat. August 6, 2011 11:30 am Russell-Colbath Historic Site

Brickett Place Restoration Project

The Brickett Place, built c. 1830 and listed on the National Historic Register is located in the Town of Stow, Maine along scenic Rt. 113 in the Evans Notch area. This 1 1/2 story Federal period brick farmhouse has been in National Forest ownership since 1918 and is the oldest building in the Eastern Region. The WMIA has provided interpretive display materials and volunteer interpreters during the summer months.

Through an interagency agreement with the National Park Service, work to stabilize and rehabilitate the Brickett Place began in the fall of 2009 and will be substantially completed by the fall of 2011. The first phase of work involved repairing, re-glazing and repainting all the doors and windows. The second phase provided for the re-installation of all the doors and windows, re-pointing and replacing broken brick and "stitching" the settlement cracks in the mortar. With the exterior tight, the third phase to address the interior structural repairs began in Sept. 2010. An Historic Architect from the NPS worked with local staff and historians to document the history of the site throughout different periods and will be the basis for determining the final interior restoration phase to be completed this year.

The fourth and final phase of the project will begin this year, with the National Park Service and Historic Preservation Training Center carpentry section rehabilitating the interior first floor, making it a visitor center and may also make the Brickett Place available to host small meetings or educational programs. The walls, ceilings and floors are scheduled to be repaired, replaced and/or refinished. During the 2011 summer, the Brickett Place will be staffed on Saturdays and Sundays; one of the volunteer staffers is Bob Smith, of our WMIA Board of Directors.

Come visit the house sometime this summer!



The Weeks Act:

History and opportunity

The Weeks Act, legislation sponsored by Congressman John Weeks, is one of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation in modern history, yet few have heard of it. This Act was a response to clear-cutting and burned lands in the mountains in the 19th century and sought to protect Eastern forests and rivers. This enabled the creation of the White Mountain National Forest and acquisition of 19 million acres and creation of 124 National forests.

There will be many events sharing information about the Weeks Act. **The Mount Washington Valley Weeks Act Centennial Lecture Series** is sponsored by the **Mount Washington Observatory**. This series will run over six Tuesday evenings in July and August at the Observatory's Weather Discovery Center in North Conway. All lectures are free and will begin at 7 pm. Some topics are:

- ◆ 100 years of Public Land Management
- ◆ Two Centuries of Tourism in the White Mtns.
- ◆ The Weeks Act and the Creation of the White Mountain National Forest
- ◆ Saving the Mountains.

(www.mountwashington.org)

Books and Gift Items

Check out the new gifts, mugs, books and apparel available at the WMIA shops in the Ranger Stations.

All members receive a 15% discount on items at the WMIA shops.



HELP!

There are several openings on the WMIA Board of Directors and we are urgently seeking members to share ideas for activities and help out at one meeting per month. Members can participate in person or by telephone conference call. Please email or call if you are interested.

We also are seeking help from a member who has marketing experience to advise us on our retail sites at the FS Visitor Centers. Our retail income is essential and supports all of our interpretive and educational activities. Please call or email if you can help.

Weeks Act Centennial Festival

Friday July 29, 2011

Mt. Washington Auto Road

The White Mountain National Forest along with the WMIA and other partner organizations is hosting a **one day family-friendly festival on Friday, July 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the base of the Mt. Washington Auto Road. This free, public event is part of a coordinated New Hampshire effort celebrating the Weeks Act Centennial. The WMIA will have a booth and be selling commemorative items as a fund raiser.

The Main Pavilion of the festival will highlight these partnerships in conservation, recreation, and a White Mountain Marketplace that showcases area services and attractions. The Main Pavilion will also host the stage where entertainment will be ongoing throughout the day. Some of the performers will be musician Jeff Warner, fiddler Patrick Ross, storyteller Rebecca Rule and historical interpreter Dick Fortin.

The Forest and Family Experience Pavilion will have hands-on family-friendly activities, including Junior Ranger activities, pond and stream discovery and a wildfire truck display among many others.

The Woodland Pavilion will provide forestry demonstrations from past and present. Watch craftsmen create their wares from wood, see a cross-cut competition, basket-making, and more.

The Festival Food Pavilion will provide offerings from White Mountain Café, NH Kettle Corn, White Mountain Cupcakery and Stonyfield Yogurts.

Two AMC hikes will be offered during the day. For more information, go to: www.weekslegacy.org

We encourage all members to save the date, visit the Festival or take advantage of the Observatory's free programs on Tuesdays.

