



## ***White Mountains Interpretive Association***

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### ***Spring Newsletter, 2016***

The White Mountains Interpretive Association (WMIA) exists to encourage visitors to understand and appreciate our forest resources.

The WMIA is a recipient of the 2015 US Forest Service Enduring Service Award.

#### **Board of Directors**

Bob Smith - President  
Doug Somerville - Vice President  
Maxine Booth - Secretary  
Ken Rancourt - Treasurer  
Maxine Booth - Retail Coordinator  
Bruce Miller  
Gary Gustafson  
Carol Felice  
Kathy Somerville - Membership  
Tiffany Benna - Public Affairs Officer and  
Partnership Coordinator, WMNF

*Kathy Somerville, Newsletter editor*

#### **Repairs to the Russell-Colbath House Planned**



A careful inspection of the c. 1830 Russell-Colbath House in the fall of 2015 revealed a number of structural problems in the house due to normal aging and dry rot. The US Forest Service has hired a specialist in historic home construction to provide the necessary repairs before the house is opened to the public for the summer. This spring the contractor was able to obtain and dismantle a New England barn built in the same time period providing beams and boards which will be used in the repair of the Russell-Colbath house. These materials include period correct vintage Northern Red Pine boards as well as period correct early machine cut nails.

All repairs are anticipated to be completed over the summer. The house will be open to the public and staffed by volunteers 7 days a week with some changes due to the repair work.

#### **WMIA Accomplishments In 2015-2016**

- Saturday evening programs at 4 campgrounds open to the public
- Funding Safety Officer at Lower Falls Scenic Area
- Interpreters staffing the Russell-Colbath and Brickett Place Historic Sites
- Providing Trailhead Stewards promoting safety and conservation
- Informational brochures
- Interpretive panels at historic sites
- Creating new displays at the Androscoggin Visitor Center
- Restoration of the interpretive trail at Boulder Loop
- New items in our Retail shops

#### ***Passaconaway Valley Heritage Day!***

***Historic Artisans, Activities and Civil War Encampment  
Saturday, August 27, 2016 at Russell-Colbath Historic Site***

## Boy Scouts Work on Wildlife Display At Androscoggin Ranger Station

This spring the Rangers at the Androscoggin Ranger Station coordinated a service project with Boy Scout Troop 207 from Berlin, NH, sponsored by Good Shepherd Parish, in which the boys built a display area to protect and enhance our wildlife mounts. Now that the stage is built, we will move to phase 2 of the project and start gathering natural materials to make it look like an outdoor environment. This project was made possible by WMIA funding. Thank you for your support in allowing us to create a conservation ethic and life-long passion for the outdoors through interpretation and education.

*From Nicholas DiGiacco, Visitor Services Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest*



## Buy Hike Safe Cards Before Hitting the Trails

NH Fish and Game reminds outdoor enthusiasts to buy their Hike Safe Card before they hit the trails. Voluntary Hike Safe Cards are now available from NH Fish and Game Dept. and the purchase will support search and rescue efforts. The Card owner will be exempt from liability for repaying any search and rescue costs in the Granite State (unless caused by reckless or intentional behavior). People who possess a current New Hampshire Fish and Game hunting or fishing license, or a current registration for an off-highway recreational vehicle, snowmobile or boat, will also be exempt from repaying rescue costs due to negligence.

In recent years, Fish and Game has conducted an average of 180 search and rescue missions each year. The cards are \$25 for an individual or \$35 for a family (parents and minor children) and are good through the end of the calendar year. Cards may be purchased online at [www.nhfishandgame.com/HikeSafe.aspx](http://www.nhfishandgame.com/HikeSafe.aspx)



## WMIA Receives 2015 Forest Service Enduring Service Award - 30 Years!

The White Mountains Interpretive Association was the recipient of the *Enduring Service Award*, Honorable Mention, from the US Forest Service, Eastern Region. The Award described the WMIA as “a valued partner for over 30 years”.



Over the years, this board has dedicated countless volunteer hours to promote and fund historic, scientific, educational and interpretive programs on the White Mountain National Forest. From retail sales, membership, donations and grants, WMIA has consistently supported living interpretation at the historical Russell Colbath House, campground programs serving hundreds of campers every year, interpretations across the Forest, conservation education programs and materials and has been a source of committed volunteers. With a particular interest in two of our historical buildings, WMIA has been a committed partner in opening and closing these sites as well as carefully maintaining and preserving their historical character. Without their commitment, support and outreach, the Forest would not be able to offer the existing programs and staffing.

## Interpretive Panels: to Inform and Educate

As part of our mission, the WMIA looks for ways to bring information to the visitors to the WMNF. This spring we have funded the production of four large interpretive panels for 3 popular sites. Two panels were designed for the very busy Lower Falls area. The watershed area and water safety is the topic of one panel conveying to visitors the powerful force of water. The second panel will focus on the history of the site and the CCC construction of the picnic shelter.

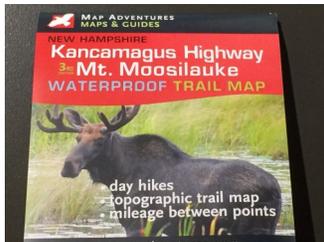
A third panel was designed for Diana's Bath, providing information on the site's long history of tourism to North Conway, while visible mill foundations provide clues about the economic past. A fourth panel will be displayed at the Androscoggin Ranger Station and will tell the story of Mt. Washington through the ages, beginning with its first visitors, its alpine environment and its role today.

The Barn at the Russell-Colbath House is the location of a new panel funded by a gift from the Passaconaway Valley Civic Association (PVCA). The PVCA, a partner of the WMNF, worked with the Forest Service to help fund the construction of the Barn by the Timber Framers Guild in September of 2003. Today the Barn provides a space for interpretive programs, use by the Forest Service, and is available for special use rental. Many thanks to the members of the PVCA who shared photos and details used in the panel.



## New Items available in our Retail Shops!

Every purchase at the retail shops in the Visitor Centers helps to support programs on the White Mountain National Forest.



*Waterproof maps*



*Microspikes*



*Camp the Kanc t-shirts*



*Mt. Chocorua t-shirts*

We offer t-shirts, many with new designs, as well as WMNF sweatshirts and fleeces. Get your official Smokey hat and teddy bear and see the newest books and maps about the region.



*Smokey the Bear hats*



*WMNF hooded sweatshirts*



*New book titles*



*BPA free waterbottles*



We welcome several new faces and all of our returning volunteers this summer to the many volunteer positions available in the White Mountain National Forest. We welcome:

- Help in managing an all-volunteer run bookstore
- Assistance for visitors at the Saco or Androscoggin or Pemigewasset District Visitor Centers
- Help with historic interpretation at the 1830 Brickett Place
- Staff at the new Lower Falls Scenic Area Information Booth, providing interpretive and recreational information to visitors
- Historic interpreters at the 1832 Russell-Colbath Homestead and in caring for the garden at the homestead

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity please contact Ed Wright at 603-447-5448 x 111 or Joseph Phillips at x 110.

### **Favorite Hikes** from Kathy Somerville



*View of Mt. Chocorua and the Moats from the Fire Tower on top of Mt. Kearsarge North.*

One of my favorite hikes is the Mt. Kearsarge North trail to the fire tower on the top of Mt. Kearsarge which provides one of the best 360 degree views in the entire WMNF. This trail begins on Hurricane Mtn. Rd. and travels 3.1 miles to the summit at 3,268 ft. This trail is very popular and is a steady and moderate climb, but inexperienced hikers should not underestimate the 2,600 ft. elevation gain. The trail runs level for a short distance and then begins to climb steadily reaching a ledge area at about 1.8 mi. After following the yellow blazes on the rock, the trail makes a sharp right turn and then angles upward to the fire tower. The views make every step worthwhile!

### **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 [ ]

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