

Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

Saving the White Mountains The Weeks Act Then and Now



SUMMER 2011

SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



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EDITOR'S NOTE

We have dedicated this issue of *Forest Notes* entirely to the 100th anniversary of the Weeks Act. The Forest Society was founded during the ultimately successful effort to convince the nation that the public interest would be well served by setting aside large forest reservations, including what is now the White Mountain National Forest. The passage of the Weeks Act also launched a century of forest conservation that has made New Hampshire what it is today while fostering an ethic of wise use among landowners that will guide us in the future.

Capturing everything that is the Weeks Act would fill volumes. We've chosen to feature a sampling for *Forest Notes* readers.

Historian Char Miller, who has made the Weeks Act a specialty, helps us understand the significance of the legislation from a national perspective in his article, "Righteous Wrath." Another historian, Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More, who happens to be the great-granddaughter of John W. Weeks, offers her insight into the social and political networks of the day that were instrumental in helping pass the Act that bears her family name.

Those for whom seeing is believing may enjoy Jerry Monkman's photo essay contrasting the cutover White Hills of early last century with the recovered and well-managed landscape of today. Jerry's pictures tell a large part of the success story of the last 100 years.

Visual impact was no less important 100 years ago, when Philip Ayres, the Forest Society's first president/forester, effectively used his "Magic Lantern" slides to show the misuse of the White Mountain landscape and build public support for publicly-owned forest reservations. David Govatski and Christopher Johnson tell the story of those slides in "The Slide Show That Saved the Whites," while Dave Anderson's "Nature's View" column describes specifically how the abuses of the past changed the forest composition. Marek Bennett tells the Weeks Act story his way through his medium, a cartoon.

If you're interested in exploring in more detail the history of the arguments in favor of forest preservation and battles fought on its behalf, visit www.whitemountainhistory.org/Weeks_Act, where David Govatski has pulled together a number of original documents including the full text of the bill, a speech by John W. Weeks, the full article by John E. Johnson referenced in Char Miller's piece in this magazine, and other period documents.

More information about the Weeks Act can be found at www.WeeksActLegacy.org.

Jack Savage, Editor
*Weeks Wing, Conservation Center,
Concord, NH*

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

A non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its renewable natural resources. Basic annual membership fee is \$35 and includes a subscription to *Forest Notes*.

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Looking east toward the White Mountains from the Forest Society's Rocks Estate in Bethlehem. Photo by Jack Savage.

Making Tomorrow's History

One hundred ten years ago, when Governor Frank West Rollins invited a small group of people to meet on February 6, little could they have known that they were launching an organization that would go on to not only help pass the Weeks Act and enable the creation of the White Mountain National Forest, but also to facilitate the protection of a million and a half acres, including iconic landscapes like Mt. Monadnock, Mt. Sunapee, Mt. Kearsarge, and Franconia Notch.

It is a great reminder that it's difficult to know at any given moment whether or not that moment will be historic. What was ultimately historic about that meeting 110 years ago is that influential people who shared a vision came together and committed themselves to action. Because in the end, the Forest Society's work is about people—people dedicating themselves to protecting New Hampshire's forests for the greatest public good.

Ten years later, that fledgling organization and its partners celebrated passage of the Weeks Act and its champion, John Wingate Weeks. This law enabled the creation of national forests in the East and forever changed the landscape of both

New Hampshire and the conservation movement.

From my perspective, what is important is that while we're celebrating the passage of the Weeks Act, we're really celebrating what has happened since then: making John Weeks' vision become a reality on the ground. In the intervening one hundred years, close to one million acres has been acquired in New Hampshire to become our beloved White Mountain National Forest. The forest has grown back, and with it the diversity of wildlife has flourished. Stewardship of the forest has become sustainable; watersheds have been restored; and tourism thrives. Granite Staters as well as visitors from around the world enjoy the beauty of our mountains, forests, and waterfalls and appreciate the chance to see a moose or bear or bobcat.

Not only that, but citizens here and throughout New England and beyond participate in building consensus over how such public resources are managed. *The passage of the Weeks Act wasn't the end. It was the beginning.*

My hope—indeed my passion—is that we collectively put those lessons of history to use. Just as Governor Rollins gathered

together a few key people in 1901, Forest Society members share an appreciation for New Hampshire's forests, New Hampshire's history, and the importance of both to our future. My question—my challenge—to all of us is to imagine a century from today. Will those who follow us point to a moment in 2011 as an historic moment that fostered the perpetual protection of many more forests, farms, rivers, and trails? We have an opportunity in our state to pursue a New Hampshire that is truly everlasting. I hope you will all join me in being inspired to look ahead and make our own bit of conservation history.

Jane Difley
President/Forester

Jane Difley is the president/forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.





The Hancocks in autumn. Photo by Forrest Seavey courtesy WMNF.

100 Years Later

By Tom Wagner, Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest

I have had the distinct privilege of working for you as the forest supervisor of the White Mountain National Forest over the last nine years. In 2011, we will celebrate the lasting legacy of the Weeks Act, which is often viewed as one of the most important pieces of conservation legislation in the history of the United States. This event holds a special significance for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, since it was the efforts of the organization's founders that provided the spark to make it all possible. Frank Rollins, Joseph Walker, Philip Ayres, and many others recognized early on that it would require courage and a broad collection of interests to ensure the protection and conservation of the threatened White Mountain Region. While they suffered some early setbacks, they ultimately persevered with the signing of legislation. That legislation has resulted in the designation of over 22 million acres of public land east of the Mississippi River in the last 100 years. This land provides watershed protection, wildlife habitat, wood products, recreation, wilderness experiences, and many

other values that are critical to current and future generations.

The ecosystems of the White Mountain region have proven to be resilient in their ability to recover from the unsustainable logging and clearing practices of the turn of the century. The efforts of professional land managers working with public and private land stakeholders have improved our ability to better understand the complex interactions of our natural resource ecosystems and to help accomplish specific landowner objectives. Our scientific understanding has advanced significantly over the last 100 years through the research efforts of universities, state and federal agencies, and nongovernment organizations such as the Forest Society.

Conservation legislation at the local, state, and federal levels has helped ensure that basic soil, water, and air resources enjoy some level of protection to maintain or improve the overall conditions of these important critical ecosystem components. In the White Mountain National Forest, we continue to work to provide a balance of services, products, and experiences in a way that



Above: As with most national forests in the eastern United States, the White Mountain National Forest owes its existence to the passage of the Weeks Act in 1911. Today more than 5 million people visit the White Mountain National Forest each year. Photo courtesy of White Mountain National Forest.



Right: Tom Wagner is Forester Supervisor for the White Mountain National Forest. Photo courtesy of the White Mountain National Forest.

ensures that those who come behind us will have the same opportunity to experience this spectacular landscape. Forest Service employees are dedicated to doing our best to meet our mission in a way that sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests.

However, it continues to be our relationships with a broad array of people, organizations, and interests that generate a long-lasting conservation ethic—an ethic that will ensure a sustainable approach on both public and private land. The work and balanced approach of the members and employees of the Forest Society serve as an inspiration for many of us about the future potential of our collective efforts.

Our democracy has matured over the last 100 years, but our willingness to work together to solve significant social, economic, and environmental issues is certainly being challenged by the current civic and political discourse. In the book *The Genius of America*, the authors make the case that our future is dependent

upon Americans rekindling their belief that their own interests are served by a system that grants extensive liberty in exchange for a willingness to compromise and tolerate differences. My own experience in managing the “people’s forests” over the last thirty years has demonstrated that when people strive for understanding, tolerate other values, and compromise when necessary, we often are able to make long-term conservation gains.

In his speech twenty-five years ago celebrating seventy-five years of the Weeks Act, then-Governor Sherman Adams hoped that in 2011, we would see harmony around the concept of forests that serve many purposes and still enjoy a broad base of public support. It is clear that we still have work to do to reach this goal and respond to the challenges of our time to both public and private land. The Weeks Act story tells us that it is possible for people to work together to solve problems. Certainly, many times in quiet moments in the White Mountain National Forest, we are reminded that the results are worth the effort. ♯

The White Mountain National Forest

Then and Now

*All present-day photos were first featured in the book **White Mountain Wilderness**, a photographic documentary of New Hampshire's most rugged places by Jerry and Marcy Monkman.*



Mount Adams (left) and Mount Madison as seen from Lowe's Bald Spot on the lower slopes of Mount Washington in 1930. Historical photo courtesy of the Appalachian Mountain Club Library and Archives; present day image by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.



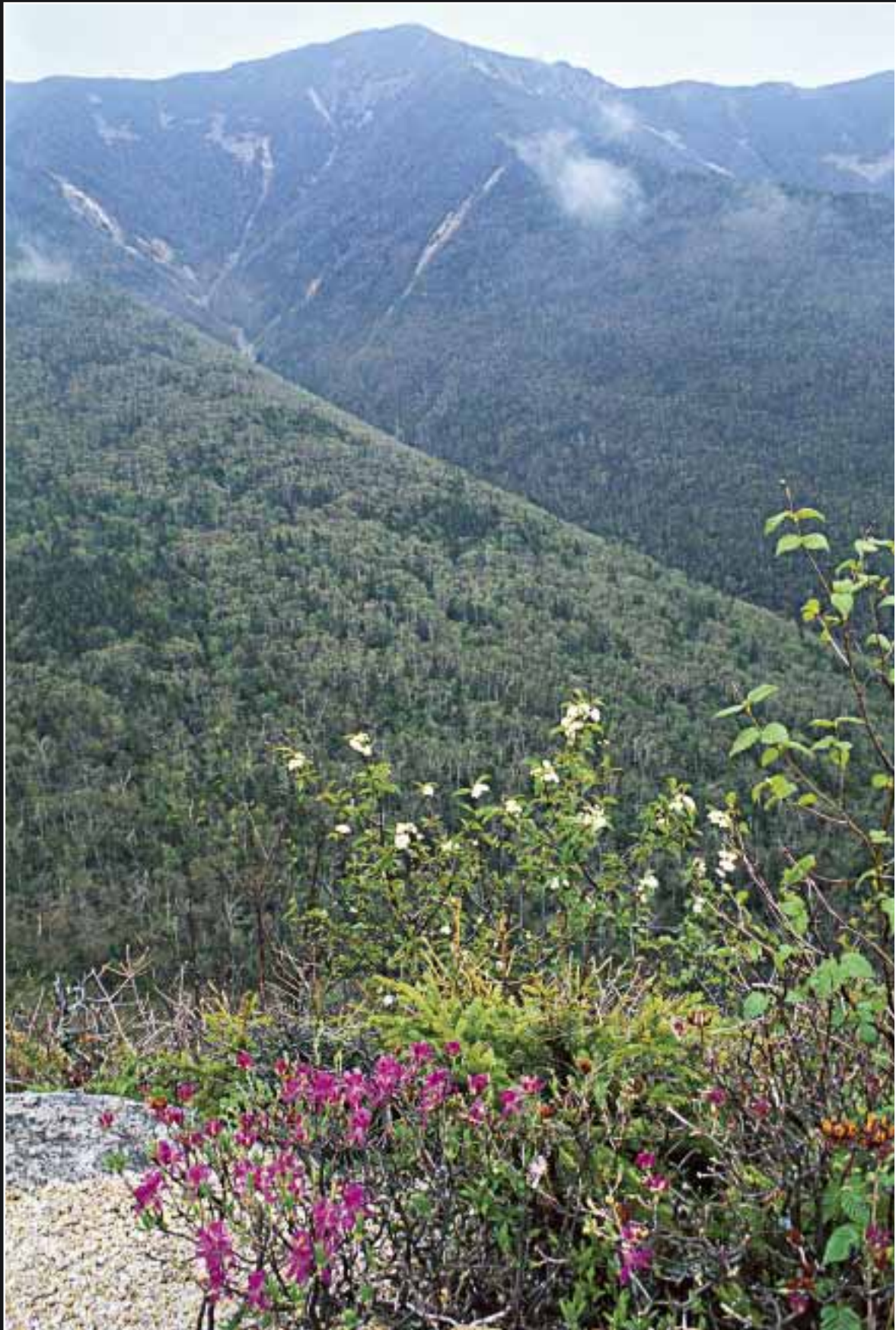


*Aggressive over-cutting and logging roads scar the lower slopes of **Mount Hancock** as seen from Camp 22 in 1915. Today the logging camp is gone, and the forest has returned, although evidence of the logging roads on Mount Hancock can still be seen. This area of the White Mountains is now part of the 45,000-acre Pemigewasset Wilderness. Historical photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service, Laconia, NH; present day image by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.*



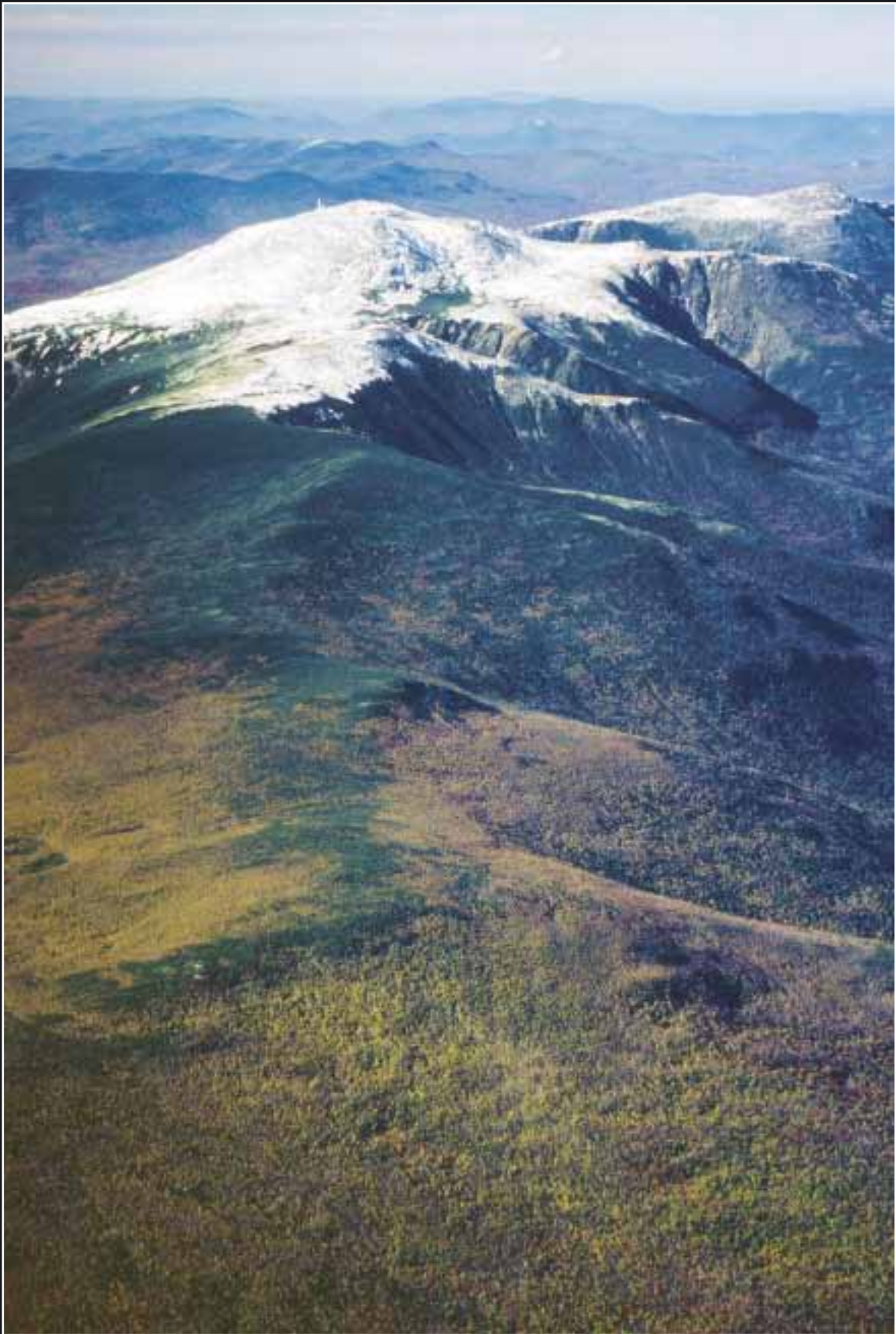


Mount Lincoln as seen from ledges on the Old Bridal Path. In the 1929 photo, the forest is beginning to regenerate in the rectangular block to the right of the photo. Those bald spots were among the incidents that led to the public push to create Franconia Notch State Park in 1928. Historical photo courtesy of the Appalachian Mountain Club Library and Archives; present day image by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.





Both the modern aerial photo to the right and the image above taken in the 1920s show the Presidential Range and the ridge leading up to Mount Washington. The White Mountains were viewed then solely as a source for raw material—lumber for building cities and pulp for papermaking. Today the peaks of the Presidential Range are among the crown jewels in a national forest system that provides not only timber, but also clean water, habitat for wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Historical photo courtesy of the Appalachian Mountain Club Library and Archives; present day image by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.





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Weeks Act Events through October 2011

Go online. Get outside. Visit our website for a complete and up-to-date list of field trips and special events: www.forestsociety.org and click on the "Things To Do" tab.

You may pre-register by calling (603) 224-9945 extension 311, or you may register online at signup@forestsociety.org.

**All events are free
and open to the public.**

www.forestsociety.org/thingstodo

JULY 29 | 9 am – 6 pm

Weeks Act Centennial Festival

Mt. Washington Auto Road, Gorham

Opened in 1861, the Mt. Washington Auto Road is America's oldest manmade tourist attraction. The Mount Washington Auto Road will host a free Weeks Act Centennial Festival featuring various family activities, exhibits, demonstrations, music and entertainment, workshops, and more.

For more information, call (603) 466-3988 or visit www.WeeksLegacy.org.

AUGUST 3 | 7 – 8 pm

The Story of the Weeks Act

Bretzfelder Memorial Park, Prospect Street, Bethlehem

This hands-on, interactive program is designed to entertain and educate all ages. Storyteller Carolyn Black and local artist Rick Hunt collaborate to share the story of the Weeks Act, with Black spinning the tale while Hunt brings the words to life in a

spontaneous improvisational mural. Participants will be invited to help illustrate the stories during the program. The program is part of the Bretzfelder Park Family Educational Series. Owned by the Forest Society, Bretzfelder Park is managed in cooperation with the town of Bethlehem.

For more information, visit www.therocks.org or call (603) 444-6228.

AUGUST 7 | all day

Wonalancet, Weeks, and the White Mountains

Wonalancet Village, Route 113A/Chinook Trail, Tamworth

Visit the beautiful village of Wonalancet for a community-wide event that includes hikes, talks, home tours, music, and art. The Wonalancet Out Door Club and the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire invite you to explore the history of Wonalancet as it was 100 years ago. Programs begin with a service in the historic, non-denominational Wonalancet Union Chapel

at 10 am, followed by presentations on the culture and lifestyle of Wonalancet in 1911, displays of Wonalancet artwork and historic photographs, guided hikes, and picnics. Several historic homes will be open for tours from 1–4 pm. The celebration will end with a Wonalancet 1911-style gathering featuring musical entertainment from 5–7 pm. Light refreshments will be available throughout the day.

This event is part of "8 Days of Weeks: The White Mountains Cultural Festival." For more information, email info2@wodc.org or call (603) 323-7113.

AUGUST 27 | 7 pm – 8:30 pm

The Early Pathmakers

Randolph Town Hall, Durand Road in Randolph

Author Judy Hudson will provide a historical perspective on the paths and trails of the White Mountain National Forest in this lecture about The Early Pathmakers.

For more information, contact johnscarinza@ne.rr.com or (603) 466-5775.

WEEKENDS IN AUGUST

8 Days of Weeks:

The White Mountains Cultural Festival

This multi-day, multi-site collaborative regional festival presented by the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire and its members and partners will address both the rich cultural and artistic history of the White Mountains and the future of the region. Programming will include theater, dance, music, film, humanities and literary, heritage, traditional, and interdisciplinary arts presentations and participatory activities.

In addition to the festival, the region will celebrate "A Year of Weeks" with a menu of arts and environment activities—White Mountain Art tours and workshops as well as a variety of exhibits, performances, artist residencies, school programs, conferences, discussions and other presentations offered to libraries, schools, museums, historical

societies, bookstores, environmental centers and hospitality sites throughout the North Country.

For details, visit <http://aannh.org/8daysofweeks>, call 603-323-7302, or email weeks@aannh.org.



ART EXHIBIT



Thomas Cole, "A View of the Mountain Pass called the Notch of the White Mountains (Crawford Notch)", 1839, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. This painting is part of the traveling exhibit Protecting the Forests: The Weeks Act of 1911 developed by Plymouth State University.

SEPTEMBER 5 – OCTOBER 28

Protecting the Forests: The Weeks Act of 1911

Conservation Center, Concord

This exhibit addresses the history, social significance, and ecological impact of the Weeks Act through images of historical photographs and prints from glass plates and daguerreotypes accompanied by explanatory text. Partners within Plymouth State University that collaborated to produce the exhibition include the Museum of the White Mountains, the Karl Drerup Art Gallery and Exhibitions Program, the Social Sciences Department, and the Center for Rural Partnerships. The exhibit is funded in part by the New Hampshire Humanities Council. For more information about the exhibit, visit www.plymouth.edu/gallery/weeks-act.

The exhibit can be viewed Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 5 pm at the Conservation Center Conference Room, located at 54 Portsmouth Street in Concord, NH. As the Conference Room is used for meetings, please call (603) 224-9945 before visiting to confirm that the room is open.

WEEKS STATE PARK ASSOCIATION SUMMER PROGRAMS

All events will take place in the Summit Lodge at Weeks State Park, located off Route 3 in Lancaster, unless otherwise indicated.

Call (603)788-4004 for more information.

AUGUST 13-14 | 10 am - 5 pm

100 Activities for 100 Years at Weeks State Park

Weeks State Park will host 100 family fun activities as part of the "8 Days of Weeks Cultural Festival." Wildlife presentations, artist demonstrations, badminton, croquet, and lawn bowling will all take place on the grounds of the Weeks Summit Lodge at the park. Visit www.nhstateparks.org for details.

AUGUST 18 | 7 pm

The Weeks Act Legacy Trail

David Govatski will talk about the Weeks Act Legacy Trail, a tour of the many places of historical significance throughout the White Mountains, in the Summit Lodge.

AUGUST 20 | 9 am - 3 pm

Weeks Act Legacy Trail Field Trip

Meet at Artists Bluff parking lot, Route 18, Franconia.

David Govatski will lead a field trip of the Weeks Act Legacy Trail. The tour will ultimately be available online as a self-guided educational tour—check www.weekslegacy.org for updates.

AUGUST 25 | 6 pm

North Country Community and Collaboration on the Weeks Act

As part of the Annual Meeting of the Weeks State Park Association, Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More will discuss how her great-grandfather, John W. Weeks, used the social and business network of his day to help guide the Weeks Act through Congress.

MOUNT WASHINGTON OBSERVATORY WEEKLY LECTURE SERIES

*Tuesday nights at 7 pm through August 16,
Mount Washington Observatory, North Conway*

The Mount Washington Observatory's Weather Discovery Center's summer lecture series focuses on the significance of the Weeks Act and its impact on the past, present, and future of our national forests.

AUGUST 9

Working Forests: From Market Revolution to Industrialization

Linda Upham-Bornstein, Graduate Adjunct Faculty, Plymouth State University

AUGUST 16

Saving the Mountains: Joseph B. Walker, Phillip Ayres, and the Weeks Act of 1911

Marcia Schmidt Blaine, Associate Professor of History, Plymouth State University

For more information, call (603) 356-2137 or visit www.mountwashington.org.



The tower at Weeks State Park in Lancaster. Photo by Tanya Tellman.

THE FOREST SOCIETY'S

ONE HUNDRED TENTH

Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

Celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of The Weeks Act

FIELD TRIPS: Join us on one of these FREE field trips to experience the scenic landscapes that convey the tenor of land conservation and forest stewardship in the White Mountains. For updated information visit www.forestsoctety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

**1 Weeks Act Legacy Trail,
White Mountain National Forest**

Join White Mountains Historian Dave Govatski and Forest Society Naturalist Dave Anderson on an automobile tour of selected sites along the new Weeks Act Legacy Trail. Govatski and Anderson will describe the conditions in New Hampshire and the southern Appalachians that led to the passage of the Weeks Act exactly one century ago. Learn about the extensive over-logging in the White Mountain region and the forest fires and floods that followed, sparking a conservation movement that led to the creation of the White Mountain National Forest.

Difficulty: Easy

**2 Weeks State Park,
Lancaster**

Visitors will have an opportunity to tour the house, climb the stone lookout tower for 360 degree views of the region, and walk in the forest surrounding John Wingate Weeks' mountaintop retreat with Forest Society staff, Friends of Weeks State Park, and NH Parks staff. This 420-acre estate originally built by Weeks was given to the State of New Hampshire in 1941 by his children, Katherine Weeks Davidge and Sinclair Weeks.

Difficulty: Easy

Co-sponsor: Friends of Weeks State Park and NH Division of Parks and Recreation

**3 The Rocks Estate,
Bethlehem**

Dr. Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More, great-granddaughter of John Wingate Weeks, will focus on how John Weeks' New Hampshire roots influenced his commitment to public service and his ability to facilitate the successful passage of the Weeks Act for the benefit of all forest regions of the United States. Forest Society North Country Educator Nigel Manley will lead visitors to a spectacular view of the White Mountains and describe the history of The Rocks Estate over tea in the gardens.

Difficulty: Easy

**4 Sunset Hill House,
Sugar Hill**

Located in Franconia Notch, the Sunset Hill House traces its history to the grand resort hotels of the New Hampshire White Mountains. The conservation easement on the land surrounding the Sunset Hill House is held by Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust and widely acknowledged for its fine views. Staff from the Forest Society and the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust will detail the threats and opportunities facing the North Country's oft-cited tourism economy, which is reliant on spectacular White Mountain scenery.

Difficulty: Easy

Co-sponsor: Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust and the Sunset Hill House

**5 Martin Meadow Pond,
Lancaster**

Explore conservation lands overlooking Martin Meadow Pond that are owned by the Weeks Lancaster Trust and the descendents of John Wingate Weeks. Forest Society Vice President of Land Conservation Paul Doscher and a member of the Weeks family will describe the tapestry of conserved lands in the Lancaster area that have added to the conserved landscape in the shadow White Mountain National Forest since its creation almost 100 years ago.

Difficulty: Easy

Space is limited, so please register early!

**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE:
MONDAY, AUGUST 22ND!**

**PLEASE REGISTER NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9.**

Field trip details and directions will be mailed or emailed with annual meeting registration confirmation. All field trips and tours are free.

Field trips begin at various locations and will return to the Mountain View Grand by 3:30 pm.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Judd Gregg

As congressman, governor, and senator, Judd Gregg repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to protecting New Hampshire's landscape—particularly the White Mountains. An outspoken champion of the Forest Legacy Program, Senator Gregg worked to secure funds for numerous forest conservation projects throughout the state, including virtually every major acquisition to the White Mountain National Forest, the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, the Sylvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge, and the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Above: Then-Governor Judd Gregg as painted by Richard Whitney.

Left: The view of the White Mountains from the deck of the Sunset Hill House in Sugar Hill. Photo courtesy of the Sunset Hill House.

REGISTRATION FORM:

Space is limited, so please register early! Cost: Early Bird price is \$50 per person prior to August 22nd. Regular price is \$60 per person. Early bird registration deadline is August 22nd. Please register no later than Friday, September 9th.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

I (We) plan to attend (check one or both):

☐ Annual Meeting & Dinner Early Bird (Register by August 22nd) Number in your party: _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

☐ Annual Meeting & Dinner (Register AFTER August 22nd) Number in your party: _____ x \$60 = \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed (payable to Forest Society) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Print Cardholder's Name _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Security Code (3-digit code on back of card): _____

Entrée choices:

☐ Pan-seared salmon ☐ Filet mignon ☐ Wild mushroom crepes

Field Trips (Availability is limited, please register early!):

Our 1st Choice is trip # _____ Our 2nd Choice is trip # _____ Number in your party _____

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

ONLINE: Go to www.forestsociety.org

BY MAIL: Complete and return this form to:

Tina Ripley, Forest Society

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301

BY PHONE: Call Tina at (603) 224-9945 ext. 313

ROOM REGISTRATION

The Mountain View Grand Resort is offering discounted room rates starting at \$186/night to Annual Meeting guests who wish to stay for the two nights of September 16-17. For details or to register for rooms, contact the hotel directly at (866) 484-3843 or email rmanners@mountainviewgrand.com.

Be sure to mention the Forest Society Annual Meeting to receive your discount!

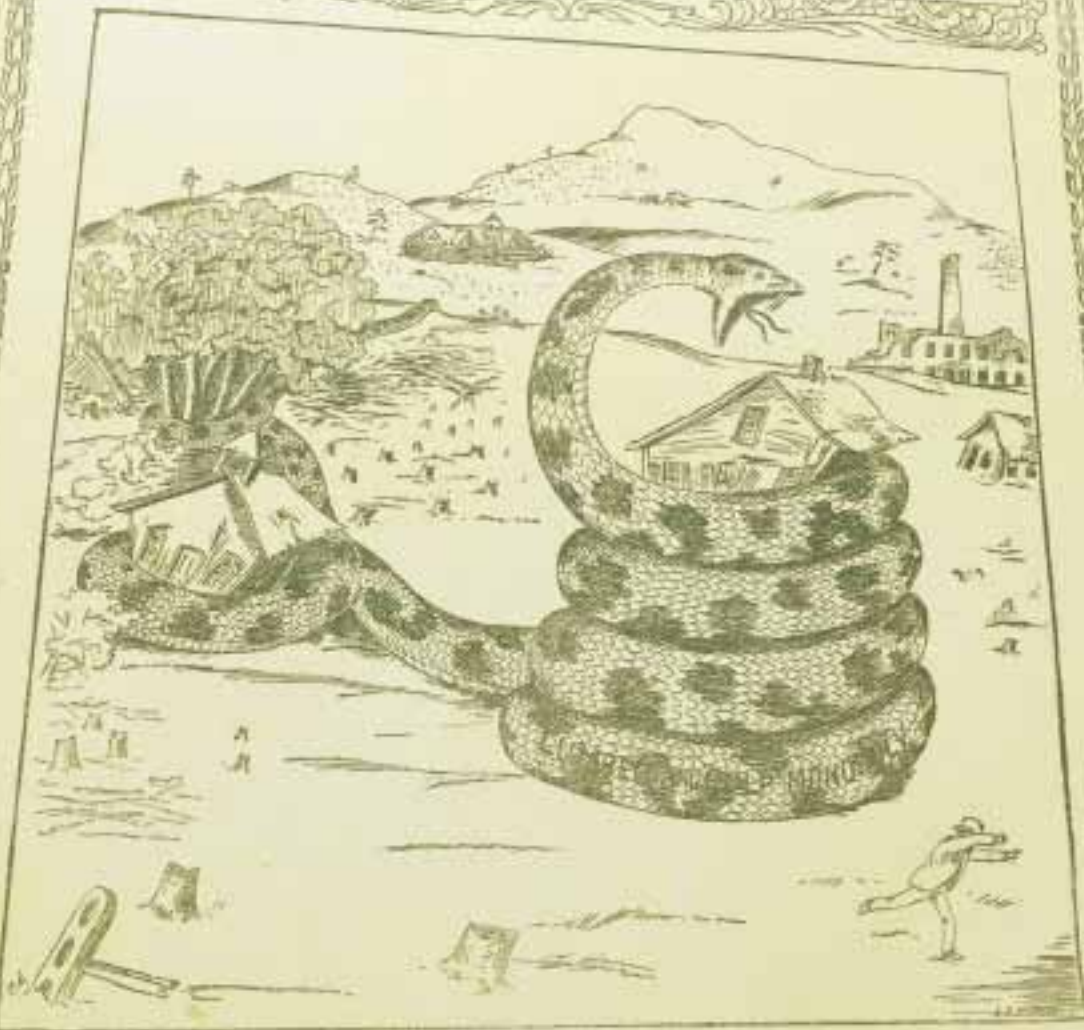
DECEMBER 8, 1900

THE NEW-ENGLAND HOMESTEAD

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

8 CENTS A COPY



The Constrictor of the White Mountains

It threatens the destruction of New Hampshire's forests, and through them her agricultural and manufacturing interests.

RIGHTEOUS WRATH

How an active, engaged citizenry changed the national landscape

By Char Miller

The Weeks Act, which President William Howard Taft signed on March 1, 1911, has had a profound impact on the New England landscape. Yet although the initiative is one the most significant pieces of environmental legislation in modern American history, few Americans have ever heard of it. The Act's centennial this year, then, gives us a golden opportunity to appreciate its transformative power on the land and in our lives. The legislation's complex history and the remarkable energy of its proponents may also serve as guides for how this generation might respond to future challenges.

Today New Hampshire's White Mountains form the foundation of a robust tourist economy: its spectacular vistas and tranquil lakes invite visitors from near and far to explore these unique places and interact with nature. However, a century earlier, the White Mountains suffered greatly from mishandling due to poor timber practices. By the turn of the century, much of the landscape had been cut-over, farmed out, and burned up. The devastation and the growing public outcry that it produced was one of the drivers that led to the passage of the Weeks Act.

Public Trust Betrayed

Congress only protected these bruised environments after sustained grassroots pressure. A key figure in this fight in New Hampshire was the Reverend John E. Johnson, who had become a lover of the New Hampshire hills while attending Dartmouth College. Johnson bought Sky Line Farm on Mann Hill in Littleton, with a superb outlook to the Presidentials on the horizon.

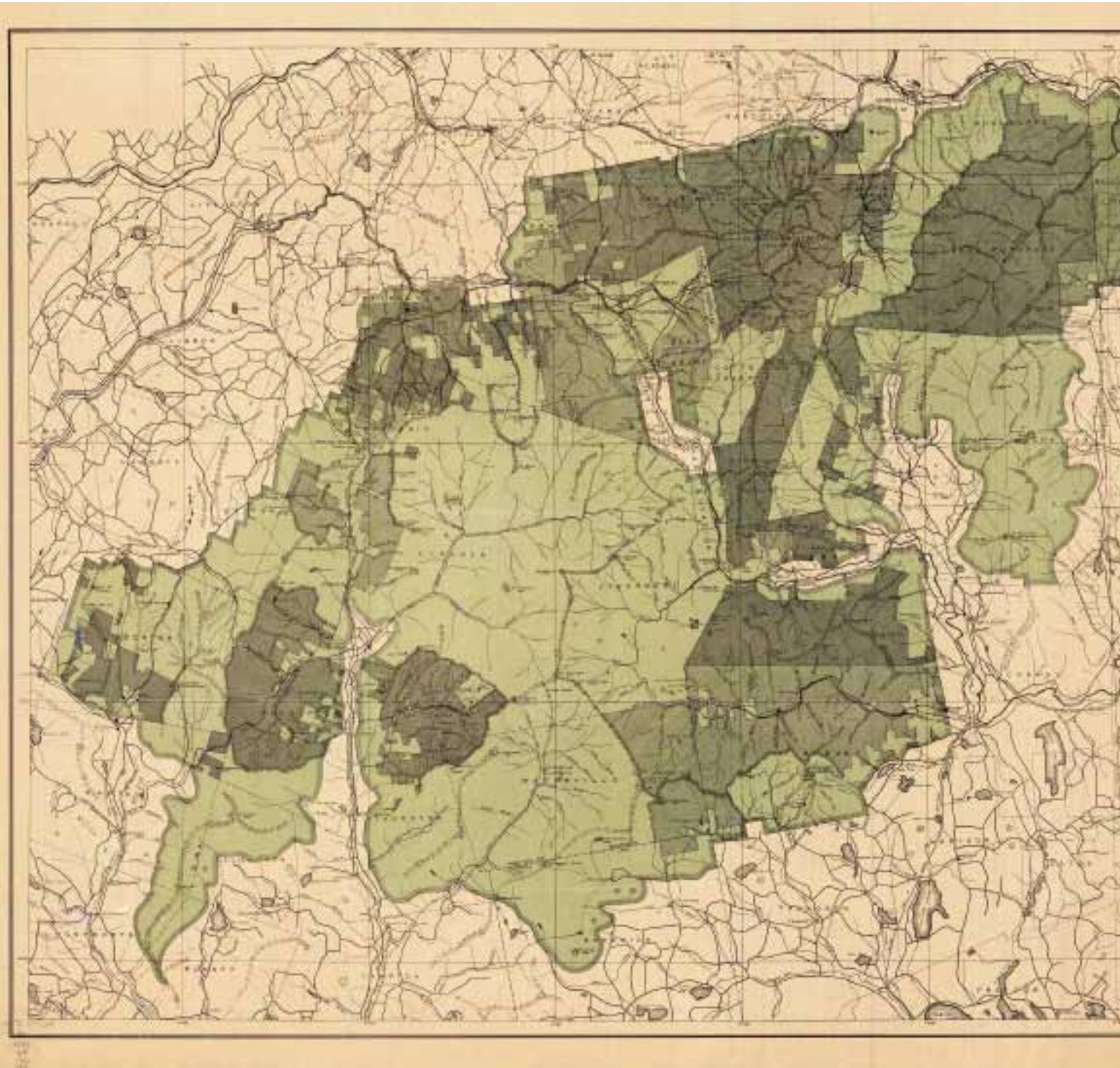
For years, he ministered to hardscrabble families throughout the rugged White Mountains region and had come to know their



Overcut landscapes in the White Mountains led to large fires fed by left-behind woody debris (slash). It was said that residents in Concord and Manchester complained about the smoke and ash, which no doubt helped fuel public sentiment in favor of saving the White Mountains. Forest Society archive photo.

struggles intimately. A definitive factor in their poverty and despair was the New Hampshire Land Company, “a corporation chartered to depopulate and deforest” a wide swath of mountainous country. It was, Johnson thundered in a 1900 pamphlet, the “Worst ‘Trust’ in the World.”

Left: John E. Johnson's view of the world in 1900 was captured in this illustration for his cover story for The New England Homestead magazine. The “Lumber and Pulp Monopoly” boa constrictor worked to squeeze local farmers and landowners, leaving behind a barren landscape.



Once the Weeks Act passed in 1911, the federal government moved quickly to implement the acquisition of cutover lands within the Proclamation Boundary. By as early as 1916, the White Mountain National Forest consisted of 305,000 acres, including the famed Zealand Valley. Crawford Notch State Park had been established as well.

Map image courtesy David Govatski.

public will be eager to pay a fancy price for the denuded lands.” Conservationists knew they were complicit in this bit of green-mail, but believed that the end justified the means: to restore the land and the communities it once supported was worth the inflated costs.²

Local Action Leads to Legal Acts

In the end, New Hampshire did not pick up the tab: The federal government would, through the 1911 Weeks Act, which enabled “any State to cooperate with any other State or States, or with the United States, for the protection of the watersheds of navigable streams, and to appoint a commission for the acquisition of lands for the purpose of conserving the navigability of navigable rivers.” That clunky language notwithstanding, the Act remains one of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation in U.S. political history.³

Named for a New Hampshire native son, John W. Weeks, who shepherded the legislation through Congress as a Massachusetts representative, the act owed much of its popular support to another local boy, Philip Ayres, forester of the newly-created Forest Society. Through his camera and voice, the indefatigable Ayres spoke to whoever would listen, linking up as well with southern and mid-western conservationists to advance the cause. After a ten-year campaign, the act became law.

Fittingly, some of the earliest Weeks Act purchases occurred in the White Mountains. And although the resulting White Mountain National Forest (established in May 1918) was not the first eastern national forest (that honor goes to North Carolina’s Pisgah, created in 1916) together they were the foundation for subsequent action throughout the Appalachians.

The Weeks Act’s most obvious influence is reflected in the purchase of millions of acres of national forests in 26 eastern states. In the next decade, lands forming the Nantahala, Cherokee, George Washington, and Monongahela National Forests were purchased. In the mid-1930s, following a massive infusion of New-Deal funding, additional sites came on line, including Vermont’s Green Mountain National Forest. To date, the Weeks Act has added more than 22 million acres to the national forest system. The economic impact of the Act in terms of forestry has been immeasurable; and the recreational dollars it has generated are even more substantial.

Its impact is clear: by expanding the U.S. Forest Service’s ability to protect watersheds, regenerate heavily logged forests, replant overgrazed prairie, and develop innumerable recreational opportunities, the Weeks Act allowed the agency to operate in the east much as it had done in the west. Put another way, The Weeks Act made the national forests national. Through it, conservation went continental.

Lessons for the Future

Because this seminal piece of legislation also sanctioned cooperation between Washington and the states in the shared pursuit of environmental regulation, it also helped rearrange political relationships within the union, strengthen intergovernmental relations, and engender more uniform land management regulation. Ultimately, the Weeks Act succeeded because it was the result of “public interest in natural resource protection and management, the public concern over forest depletion, and the public appreciation for the unique array of goods and services which emanate from the forest.”⁴

As they fought to secure the passage of the initiative, the Act’s bipartisan advocates forged long-lasting public-private partnerships that depended on an energetic and engaged citizenry. These coalitions were able to respond creatively and successfully to what they perceived to be the environmental challenge of their lifetime. Surely that holds true today as we attempt to build a more sustainable society.

We might also take a lesson from these proponents’ embrace of the charge that Teddy Roosevelt laid down. In 1910, while stumping for the Weeks Act at the Southern Conservation Congress meeting, he thundered: “I ask you to profit from the mistakes made elsewhere...and so handle [natural resources] that you leave your land as a heritage to your children, increased and not impaired in permanent value.”

His remains a clarion call and shrewd advice. ♪

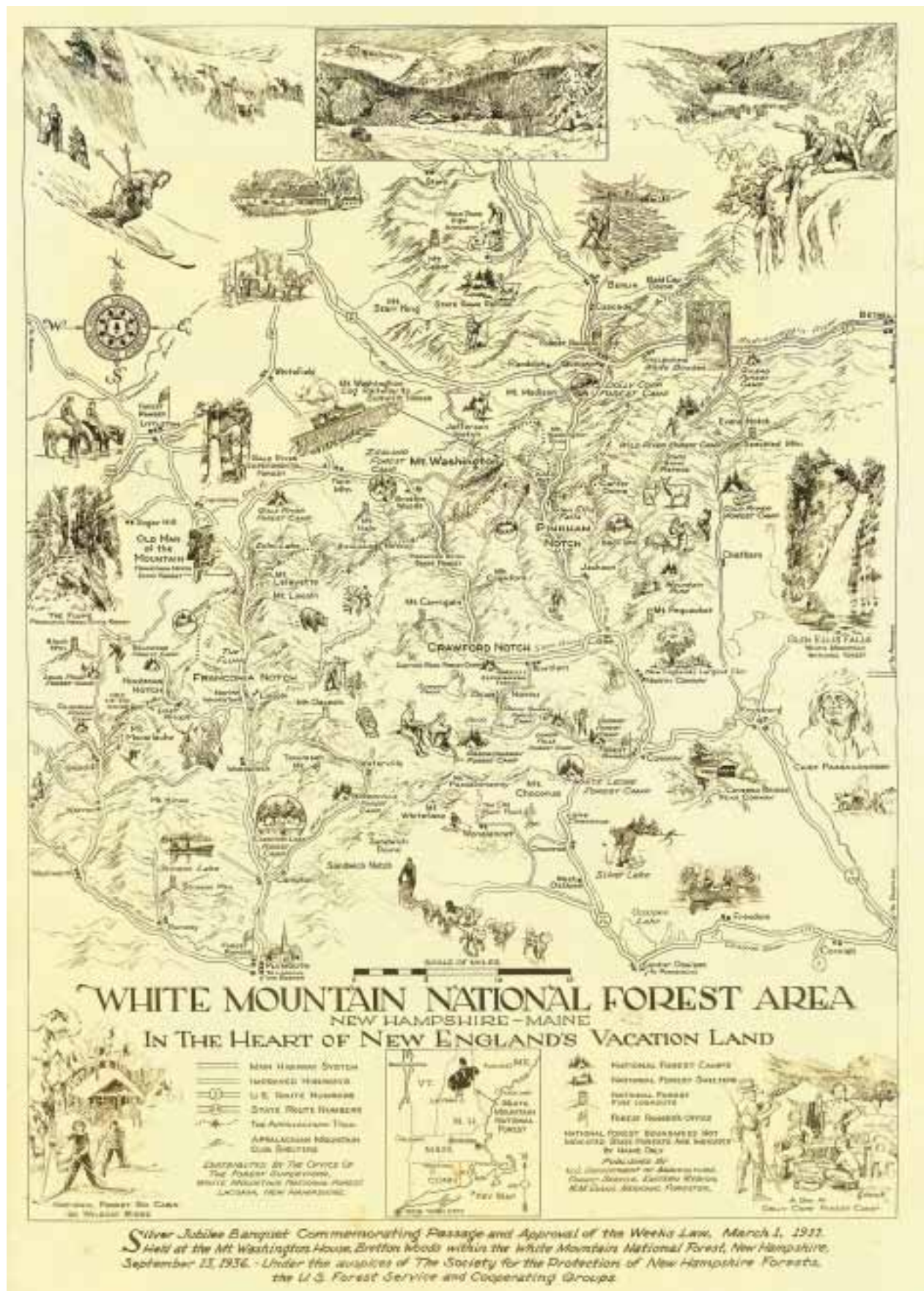
Char Miller directs the environmental analysis program at Pomona College, Claremont, Calif. He is author of the prize-winning Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism, editor of Cities and Nature in the American West, and is working on a book titled Public Lands, Democratic Debates.

¹Rev. John E. Johnson, “The Boa Constrictor of the White Mountains, Or the Worst ‘Trust’ in the World,” (pamphlet), July 4, 1900; reprinted in *New England Homestead*, December 8, 1900, p. 3-5.

²Ibid, p. 4; *New England Homestead*, November 24, 1900, p. 508.

³The Weeks Act is posted at: <http://www.foresthistory.org/ASPNET/Policy/WeeksAct/WeeksBill.pdf>

⁴Sherman Adams, “The Weeks Act: A 75th Anniversary Appraisal,” Newcomen Publication Number 1274, (New York: The Newcomen Society of the United States, 1987), p. 14.



This map of the White Mountain National Forest was published in 1936 as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Weeks Act. Illustrated by Tom Culverwell and made available from the collection of Kurt Masters thanks to David Govatski.



Above: Ayres contrasted images of devastation with pictures that captured the majesty of the White Mountains, such as this slide of Crawford Notch.



Left: From disparate images, Ayres created a unified and powerful message about the plight of the White Mountains. It was a message that shaped how weekend campers and the purveyors of power in Washington perceived the threats to America's forests.

Slide images in this story courtesy SPNHF Archives, Milne Special Collections and Archives Department, University of New Hampshire Library, Durham, NH.



Ayres' slides demonstrated how vulnerable forests and other watersheds actually were by detailing the impact of deforestation on soil erosion and forest fires and emphasizing the connections among the different elements of the forest ecosystem.

“Ayres’ innovative use of the Magic Lantern was pivotal in the passage of the Weeks Act and in transforming how Americans perceived their natural resources.”

THE SLIDE SHOW THAT SAVED THE WHITES

How Philip Ayres made the public care

By Christopher Johnson and David Govatski, excerpted from *Appalachia Journal*

A bespectacled, studious-looking man stood beside a Magic Lantern slide projector that cast photographs onto a screen. The projector was powered by a carbon arc lamp, a common form of light projection in 1903. A brutal picture filled the screen—burned logs scattered up and down a mountainside in New Hampshire’s White Mountains.

The speaker was Philip Wheelock Ayres, who had recently become the chief forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. For months now, Ayres had journeyed to every corner of New England, speaking to women’s clubs, libraries, the Appalachian Mountain Club and other hiking clubs, and grange halls. In all these presentations, he’d put on his lantern slide show to show his audiences the devastating aftermath of heavy logging and forest fires: whole mountains denuded of trees; erosion so severe that tons of soil had slid into rivers; streams engorged with limbs and twigs.



Philip W. Ayres, first president/forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, made the case for protecting eastern forests through his dramatic colorized “Magic Lantern” slide shows. Courtesy photo Forest Society.



Ayres also highlighted the positive effects good forest management, or “wise use”, of the resource, pointing the way to a more sustainable and ecologically responsible future.



To make his lantern images even more effective, Ayres colored them by hand. He worked to convince the public and politicians that, “There should be reservations in the East where the population is dense, where the sawmills and wood-working factories already established need material, and where the rivers, if not protected at their headwaters, will less effectively serve the tremendous interests dependent upon them.”

“Throughout most of history, people in the United States and around the world had viewed forests, fields, lakes, and rivers through a utilitarian lens, regarding them as resources that could be exploited without ever being exhausted.”

Since the 1870s, logging operators had routinely cut every tree in a tract of forest without regard to its size or maturity. They used trees that were less than six inches in diameter to roll the marketable logs down the mountainside. In his precise manner, Ayres described the destruction that this “cut and run” approach caused. However, it was his photographs, showing images of devastation, that packed an emotional punch.

Ayres realized that the most effective way to convince his audience of the threat to the forests was to show what was happening. As he traveled through New England, he used what was known in the nineteenth century as a Magic Lantern. During the 1840s, two Philadelphia-based producers of daguerreotypes, William and Frederick Langenheim, patented a method of transferring photographic images to glass slides. Ayres adopted this method to create glass slides of images of the White Mountains. He then inserted the slides into a lantern slide projector, which used a carbon arc lamp—a common device of the time that generated light from two carbon rods. The lamp’s beams were powerful, and they projected the images onto a screen or wall, much like today’s slide projectors.

Ayres instinctively understood the persuasive power of this new medium. To make the images even more effective, he colored them by hand. One image captured the aftermath of a forest fire on Sugarloaf Mountain in the Zealand Valley. The image showed

charred logs scattered on the huge boulders on the side of the mountain. The black-and-white image was effective, but the colorized version made the charred logs even more lifelike—and more dramatic.

Ayres' innovative use of the Magic Lantern was pivotal in the passage of the Weeks Act and in transforming how Americans perceived their natural resources. Throughout most of history, people in the United States and around the world had viewed forests, fields, lakes, and rivers through a utilitarian lens, regarding them as resources that could be exploited without ever being exhausted. Ayer's slide show demonstrated how vulnerable forests and other watersheds actually were. He selected photographs that detailed the impact of deforestation on soil erosion and forest fires, emphasizing the connections among the different elements of the forest ecosystem.

He also highlighted the positive effects of forest conservation. Several photographs showed images of people working together to plant seedlings, apply sustainable forestry practices, and contain fires, pointing the way to a more sustainable and ecologically responsible future.

From disparate images, Ayres created a unified and powerful message about the plight of the White Mountains. It was a message that shaped how weekend campers and the purveyors of power in Washington perceived the threats to America's forests. ♣

David Govatski of Jefferson retired after working for 22 years in the White Mountain National Forest as a forester, silviculturist, and fire management officer.

Christopher Johnson worked in educational publishing for more than 30 years and is the author of This Grand and Magnificent Place: The Wilderness Heritage of the White Mountains. In 2012 Island Press will publish Govatski and Johnson's book Forest for the People: The Story of the Eastern National Forests.

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The Weeks Act of 1911: Collaboration and Compromise for the Future

By Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More, Ph.D.



The view from the tower of the John Wingate Weeks Estate in Lancaster, today one of New Hampshire's state parks. Weeks, a native of Lancaster, built the original estate as a summer retreat. Photo courtesy of the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation.



What significance does the centennial of the Weeks Act have for the 21st century? In a world beset by a range of serious issues, including health care reform, wars large and small, economic downturns and climate change, among many others, the passage of the White Mountain-Appalachian Forest Reserve Bill in 1911 seems the relic of a remote era. However, the Weeks Act demonstrates the power of collaboration and compromise among diverse constituencies over almost forty years to bring about national commitment to a long-term program for benefit of the entire country.

While the Act bears one man's name, John Wingate Weeks himself said in 1915, "It was not passed by one man or any half dozen men..." It was the result of patient collaboration and compromise by individuals and public and private organizations, from state legislatures to downstream business interests, regional hiking groups and local garden clubs and granges. Support for the first version of the Weeks Bill (1909) was based on a broad spectrum of organizations from across the United States in the early 1900s, including local Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce from Boston to Los Angeles, cotton manufacturing and lumber associations, the Forest Society, The Appalachian Mountain Club, the Sierra Club, the National Federation of Women's Clubs (as well as state and local clubs), and the National Society of the DAR. The dedication of these diverse constituencies is an inspiration to us today as we work to deal with major social issues.

Even in the 19th century, the impact of human activity on the environment was openly acknowledged. The New Hampshire Forestry Commission's first report in 1883 identified loss of habitat: "In Lancaster the timber and wood are nearly gone and the mountains are being stripped to their summits..."¹ In 1885 Lancaster NH merchant and politician Henry O. Kent spoke to the New Hampshire Game and Fish League at Manchester. He noted that while Coös County had abounded in fish and game at its settlement by colonists, "the advance of clearings, the lumber operations, and the century of hunting and fishing that has followed has materially diminished the supply and exterminated some species...it is rare to find moose...a wolf or a beaver. Salmon have entirely disappeared, and trout...seem to be vanishing as did the salmon and shad. It is only in the secluded ponds and the small streams above the mills in the forests that trout are now taken."² Kent also noted the disappearance of migratory birds in the area, such as the once common wild pigeon.³

¹ Carlson, Martha, "Private Lands – Public Forest: The Story of the Weeks Act", *Forest Notes*, #165, Summer 1986, SPNHF: p. 3; Baird, Iris W. *Looking Out for Our Forests: The Evolution of a Plan to Protect New Hampshire's Woodlands from Fire*, (Lancaster, NH, 2005).

² Somers, A. N. ed., *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire, 1898*, Concord NH, 1899, p. 311.

³ Somers, *op. cit.*, p. 316 and p. 315.



Left: Former New Hampshire Governor Frank Rollins was one of the original founders of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Photo courtesy of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Right: Massachusetts Congressman John Wingate Weeks' personal relationships and reputation played a crucial role in the passage of the Weeks Act, which led to the creation of the eastern national forest system. Photo by Henry Havelock Pierce, Boston.

Weeks knew first-hand from his youth on a Lancaster farm the changes that Kent described. The late 19th century maps of Franklin Leavitt depict clearly the dramatic expansion of fire-spewing railroads across the landscape north of “the Notches.” Efforts to involve the federal government in the conservation of forest lands had been underway in both the southern and northern ranges of the Appalachians for decades before the final passage of the Act in 1911. But Weeks’ appointment to the House Agriculture Committee in 1907 was due to his reputation as a businessman, not his youth in the White Mountain region. Accounts of the process by which the bills to create forest reserves in the East were introduced (and reintroduced) from 1908 to 1911 reveal that his particular contribution was to ensure that substantive research and data were employed to prove that *interstate* issues were at stake that required federal intervention and funding.

Personal relationships and reputation also played a crucial role in moving a political process involving so many stakeholders towards a beneficial conclusion. Weeks was closely connected through a complex web of familial, political, social, and business relationships with many of the participants and interests in the forests along the Appalachian Mountain chain, including the mills in southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts, the lumber interests, and the railroad developers. He drew upon his experiences growing up in a remote North Country town, his family’s long standing tradition of involvement in local, state, and national government, his military training at Annapolis, his work as a

railroad land surveyor in the South, and his success in the Boston financial and political arenas to bring people together to effect productive community action.

When Weeks was elected to the House as Representative of the 12th District in 1905, he was only the latest member of his family to dedicate himself to public service. His great-uncle Major John Wingate Weeks had served in the state legislature and the House of Representatives in 1829 and 1832. He was also a great-nephew of New Hampshire Governor and US Senator Jared W. Warner. After Weeks left Annapolis in 1881, he went to work for John G. Sinclair in Florida in land development, including railroads. Sinclair had established the first hotel in Bethlehem, NH and served in the state legislature from 1858-1860. In 1873 his son Charles A. Sinclair had the good fortune to marry the only daughter of Frank Jones, the Portsmouth brewery magnate and major railroad investor. Jones served as mayor of Portsmouth and a New Hampshire congressman. Charles Sinclair also served in the state legislature between 1889 and 1896. In 1885 Weeks married Sinclair’s daughter, Martha, and returned to New England, where he and Charles Sinclair reestablished the Massachusetts National Bank, and he formed the investment house of Hornblower & Weeks. It would be hard to underestimate the role of the Jones fortune in the business career of John Wingate Weeks and, therefore, on the Forest Bill itself.⁴

The first version of the Weeks Act passed the House in 1909 by the tiny margin of 157 to 147 votes. This fragile margin is testament to the challenge Weeks faced of marshalling convincing data that would persuade the majority of the House that expending public funds for private forest lands was justifiable. He drew upon both his first-hand knowledge of economic data and his military experience to find a way to bring as many of the constituencies together as possible. Once the US Geologic Survey Report provided the data to substantiate the need for a federal act to protect stream flow, he

⁴Washburn, Charles G. *The Life of John Wingate Weeks* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1928), pp. 7-12; Bacon, Eve. *Orlando A Centennial History* (Orlando, 1975) p. 90; Washburn, *op. cit.*, pp. 11-16; Brighton, Ray, *Frank Jones, King of the Alemakers* (Portsmouth, 1976/1985).



In 1896 flooding of the Merrimack River was so severe that the Amoskeag Mill in Manchester had to be closed, and some 6,000 workers laid off. The president of the mill, T. Jefferson Coolidge, attributed the flooding to over-cutting in the White Mountains. Photo courtesy of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

had the necessary means to effect a legislative action. Even a major opponent of the bill, the chair of the agricultural committee, stated that the bill “owed its passage entirely to his activity.”⁵

Weeks’ membership in the Massachusetts Republican Party, which was well represented throughout the Boston business, banking, and financial communities, played a crucial role in the final passage of Public Law 435. Through its network, he would have known T. Jefferson Coolidge, president of the Amoskeag Mills, who attributed the flooding of the Merrimack River to the cutting down of the forests. Flooding was so severe that the mill had to be closed, and some 6,000 workers laid off in 1896.⁶

In 1900 Frank Jones changed his affiliation to the Republican Party and served as a presidential elector for New Hampshire. Other members close to Weeks included Curtis Guild, Jr., Governor of Massachusetts and president of the American Forestry Association, and James J. Storrow, head of General Motors and creator of the park along the Charles River in Boston.

His partner Henry Hornblower may have been the first to alert him to the need to support the White Mountain-Appalachian Bill. In 1906 Hornblower wrote to Weeks that he, along with Storrow and others, had signed a petition to the New England representatives in support of the bill because it was “worthy of attention.”⁷ These connections were critical to effecting the collaboration required to move the bill through both the House and the Senate. The Lancaster Gazette later reported the crucial role of the Boston

Merchants Association in drumming up national support for the bill’s passage in the Senate by a wide margin in February 1911.⁸

Weeks worked closely with New Hampshire colleagues such as Frank W. Rollins, former Governor of New Hampshire and founder of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Rollins was also part of the Boston financial community and a member of the University Club there with Weeks, Storrow, and others. Rollins wrote to Weeks in 1908, “If you can pull this thing through the House of Representatives, it will be the best thing you ever did.”⁹ NH Senator Jacob Gallinger’s willingness to compromise his own forest bill and collaborate with Weeks ensured the passage of the Bill in the Senate in February of 1911.

The centennial of the Weeks Act can inspire us to serve the public interest in 2011 with the values of 1911. The passage of the Act involved four coordinated strategies still effective today: substantive research and relevant data; ongoing public education through a variety of media; an understanding of the needs of stakeholders as collaborators; and finally, patient, respectful political action. ♪

Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More is a great-granddaughter of John Wingate Weeks. A part-time resident of Lancaster, she serves on the Board of Trustees of the Weeks Medical Center, on the President’s Council at Plymouth State University, and on the National Council at Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth. She teaches in the department of history at Brown University and also at the Rhode Island School of Design.

⁵ Washburn, *op. cit.*, pp. 74-75.

⁶ Carlson, *op. cit.*, p. 5; Forest History Society “The Eastern Forests” (www.foresthistory.org).

⁷ *Papers of John Wingate Weeks*, Dartmouth College Library, Rauner Special Collections, Box 1, fldr. 1906.

⁸ *The Lancaster Gazette*, February 22, 1911.

⁹ Letter: F.W. Rollins to J.W. Weeks, April 9, 1908, *Papers of John Wingate Weeks*, *loc. cit.*, Box 1, fldr. 1908.



Today the once-charred granite ledges of Middle Sugarloaf provide sweeping views to South Sugarloaf and Mt. Hale at the mouth of the Zealand Valley. Photo by Dave Govatski.

Resilience and Restraint

Successful passage of Weeks Act preceded remarkable era of reforestation

By Dave Anderson

With arm's sweep, US Forest Service Research Forester Bill Leak gestured at the thick regeneration of beech, yellow birch, and sugar maple crowding a 30-year old clear-cut on the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest and said, *"The northern hardwood forest is Nature's answer to armor-plating."*

Even to those most intimately familiar with the past century of reforestation, the raw resilience of the White Mountains' forest cover remains miraculous.

The Sugarloaf Campgrounds are still awakening in June. A red fox emerges from dense red spruce and balsam fir forest on the banks of the Zealand River to trot along a sunlit loop road, checking campsites for red squirrels and chipmunks who regularly panhandle for food scraps. Overhead, colorfully-patterned warblers lisp amid pastel green hardwood leaves: pin cherry, aspen, red maple and white birch. The tropical

migrants so recently returned from the Caribbean or Central and South America defend breeding territories in what is, to all outward appearances, a northern jungle.

The aptly named Trestle Trail descends from the Sugarloaf campground road to cross the Zealand River. Cold clear water spills from pools where brook trout dart amid smooth white boulders that sprout stubs of bent rusty steel—rebar that once anchored an immense railroad trestle, faint remains of a lost logging empire.

Hidden nearby in the forest are remnants of the Zealand Village. Crumbling cement and brick kilns are clearly positioned between parallel railroad grades. Sidings facilitated loading hardwood bolts and unloading cooked charcoal. Downstream, rails converged at the log pond that fed the sawmill on the north bank of the Ammonoosuc River. Steel rails had formerly connected a turn table, engine

house, repair shop, and snowplow shed.

Fires devastated the late nineteenth century logging operations along the Zealand River. According to Bill Gove, author of *J.E. Henry's Logging Railroads*, a fire in July 1886 started when sparks from a Baldwin locomotive landed in sun-dried spruce slash left from the previous winter's cutting. The fire burned seven miles up the Zealand Valley, consuming three logging camps where summer crews abandoned livestock and fled for their lives. A log-scaling crew cut-off from escape and, surrounded by fire, sought refuge in a brook. The locomotive had been climbing uphill, facing backwards while pushing empty cars to retrieve loaded logs cars at a rail siding. When fire broke out in the valley below, the crew retreated hastily, "passing over the 'dry trestle' shortly before it collapsed in flames."

The 1886 fire charred 12,000 acres, including \$50,000 dollars worth of standing



The fire of 1886 roared up the slopes of Mount Oscar, the Rosebrook Range, and the Sugarloaf peaks, charring 12,000 acres and consuming two million board feet of sawlogs. Photo courtesy of Milne Special Collections and Archives Department, University of New Hampshire Library, Durham, NH.

timber in 1886 dollars, and consumed two million board feet of sawlogs resting on railroad skidways or cut and piled on landings in the woods. The fire roared up the slopes and crested the ridge of the Sugarloaf peaks, Mount Oscar, and the Rosebrook Range. The fire burned hot enough to consume the soil and leave behind bare, charred rock of the steep cliffs and summit slopes.

Fire again struck the Zealand Valley in May 1897. This time, the sawmill and village itself burned when a loose pulley in the mill allegedly set a pile of shavings ablaze. In addition to the loss of the mill, sawlogs, and two million board feet of sawn lumber, company housing, a store, and outbuildings were also lost.

Today, new trees sprout from the ashes of Zealand Valley. Forests quietly preside over a once-clamoring industrial complex. The Sugarloaf Trail ascends from the Trestle Trail, following more recent logging roads. Skidder trails fan-out in a dendrite pattern like the veins of hardwood leaves. Sunny, lush-green patch cuts are punctuated by

fresh-cut stumps. A triple slash of fluorescent green Forest Service timber marking paint indicates the boundary of a prescribed timber harvest.

Seeming oblivious to either era of logging history, young families hiking with children ascend a steep wooden ladder and the upper switchbacks to reach the ridge between Middle and North Sugarloaf. The rounded granite domes resemble Colonial-era loaves of granulated maple sugar, the home-grown nineteenth century sweetener.

In Colonial New Hampshire, these mountains were a howling wilderness clad in dark, impenetrable forests of old growth spruce and northern hardwoods. For modern hikers, the changes wrought during the most recent century make it easier to now imagine the time before the rise and fall of J.E. Henry's logging empire, before the construction of his Zealand Valley Railroad and the devastation of raging fires.

The once-charred granite ledges of Middle Sugarloaf provide sweeping views to South Sugarloaf and Mt. Hale at the mouth of the

Zealand Valley. Mount Oscar and the Rosebrook Range rise in the east below the stunning snow-clad Presidential Range.

As rightfully as any other place in the United States, Zealand Valley can be considered "ground zero" for the launch of the campaign that culminated in the establishment of the White Mountain National Forest and every other eastern national forest.

The forests of the White Mountains and the entire Appalachian Region have regenerated naturally. Soils are rebuilt with each successive year's autumn leaf fall. The seemingly pristine wilderness is again cloaked in a deep green mantle as young trees sprout from the ashes of the Zealand Valley where forests preside quietly over rusty remnants. While change and resilience are the natural order of things, human restraint and enlightened self-interest often seem less so.

Today it is not inconceivable that this same valley will be logged again—albeit more "wisely" than a century ago. The entire concept of sustainable forestry in the second growth of eastern national forests provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how political action to affect forest conservation coupled with restraint can overcome a history of human exploitation.

Time built resilience into our forests to allow them to recover from natural disturbances. In the wake of the era of ten thousand-acre clear-cuts and subsequent fires—disturbances on a scale unprecedented since the last glacier—time also wrought cultural changes. The return of forests to the slopes of the Zealand Valley is a saga of devastation, recovery, and enlightened management. In a nutshell, it's the story of the eastern national forest system. ♯

Naturalist Dave Anderson is director of education and volunteer services for the Forest Society. He may be reached via e-mail at danderson@forestsociety.org.



Clockwise from top: Looking south from Mt Lafayette along the Franconia Ridge Trail in early autumn. WMNF photo by Forrest Seavey; Logging operations and snowmobiling in the White Mountain National Forest. WMNF photo by Katie Stuart, January, 2009; Kids in fast water at Franconia Falls. WMNF photo by Forrest Seavey; Leaf peepers at Lily Pond along the Kancamagus Highway. WMNF photo by Forrest Seavey.



Thank you to all of the partners

who have collaborated on the Weeks Act Centennial, including: Appalachian Mountain Club, Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, NH Public Television, NH Division of Parks & Recreation, Plymouth State University, Timberland Owners Association, the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and of course, the White Mountain National Forest.

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THE FOREST SOCIETY'S

ONE HUNDRED TENTH

Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

Join us in the heart of the White Mountains at the Mountain View Grand Hotel
in Whitefield, NH to celebrate 100 years of the Weeks Act.

**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE:
MONDAY, AUGUST 22ND!**

TO REGISTER:

Sign up online at
www.forestssociety.org

OR

Complete and return form
on page 19

OR

Call Tina at (603) 224-9945
ext. 313

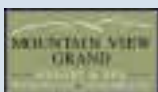
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Mount Sugarloaf in the White Mountains in autumn. Marcia Smith photo courtesy White Mountain National Forest.

HIGHLIGHTS:

**10:00 am
to 3:00 pm**

FIELD TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS

- *Weeks Act Legacy Trail*
- *Mount Prospect Estate in Weeks State Park*
- *The Rocks Estate*
- *Sunset Hill House*
- *Martin Meadow Pond*

**4:00 pm
to 8:00 pm**

FOREST SOCIETY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

- *Reception and Recognitions (including cash bar)*
- *Awards and Keynote Address: Judd Gregg*
- *Dinner*

COST: Early Bird price is \$50 per person prior to August 22nd. Regular price is \$60 per person
Pre-registration is required. There will be no on-site registration. Please register early as space is limited. For more information and to register please visit www.forestssociety.org.

See inside pages 18-19 for details!

*Front cover: Mount Washington with the White Mountain National Forest in the foreground.
Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.*