



*Photo Courtesy of Stefan Claesson*

Hello,

On behalf of the park staff, we are looking forward to another fun and successful season at Weeks State Park on Mt. Prospect in Lancaster. We sincerely welcome and appreciate our Weeks State Park community members and patrons. We also cannot wait for our new park patrons to discover the beauty and wonder of this unique little park.

Weeks State Park is a multiuse park. Its 446 acres comprises of:

- A historic site with a summit house museum. Take a tour and learn about the late John Wingate Weeks and his legacy. Discover just how special this historic site really is!
- A special exhibit on the U.S.S. John W. Weeks DD 701 Naval Destroyer.
- A special exhibit on the Weeks Law of 1911.
- Summit picnic areas with panoramic views of the Presidential Range of the White Mountains, as well as views of the charming village of Lancaster.
- A stone observatory tower and active fire watch with 360 degree views of some of the most stunning scenery in the state.
- The 1.6 mile Mountain Road Scenic Byway. The road takes you to the summit of Mt. Prospect and is enjoyed daily by runners, bikers, hikers, and walkers.
- Several miles of wooded hiking trails including a section of the Heritage Trail.
- Dog friendly areas and trails.
- A variety of fauna and very unique flora. The park's flora is closely monitored by the state's Natural Heritage Bureau and volunteers.
- A sugar bush operated by Fuller's Sugarhouse.
- A forest system that is actively managed by the Division of Forest and Lands.
- In the winter, a ski area operated by the Mt. Prospect Ski Club and snowmobile trails maintained by the Lancaster Snow Drifter's Club. There are also miles of picturesque cross country ski trails.
- Excellent special events and educational programming (please visit <https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/weeks-state-park.aspx>).

Weeks State Park is managed by several state agencies including:

- The Department of Resources and Economic Development
- Division of Forests and Lands

- Division of Parks and Recreation
- Bureau of Trails
- Bureau of Historic Sites
- The Department of Transportation (The Mountain Road Scenic Byway)

We are also gratefully supported by several hardworking and generous volunteer groups:

- The Weeks State Park Association
- The Mt. Prospect Ski Club
- The Lancaster Snow Drifter's Club
- The Heritage Trail Volunteers
- The U.S.S. John W. Weeks DD 701 Association

The beginning of this year was kicked off with another successful First Day Hike event. A big thank you is given to all of our volunteers, partners, and park staff, who have helped to make the First Day Hike of 2017 a memorable and successful event. We could not have done it without you!

It was a beautiful wintery day for the First Day Hike with a temperature of around 30 degrees. We had 156 people in attendance at the park including 14 volunteers, 2 staff members, and 140 park patrons; this included 103 adults and 37 children. Some families had fun going back down the auto road via their sleds. The 28 dogs in attendance also had a grand time. The healthy snacks and apple cider provided by the Mountain View Grand were once again enjoyed by all. Shaw's and the WSPA provided the S'mores, which were a great treat warmed at the summit fire. The Lancaster Snow Drifter's Club once again provided much needed quality event support and transportation. Thank you Shane and Dave! Also providing outstanding support this year was the Weeks State Park Association with 10 excellent and energetic volunteers on site. Thank you Sally and all! The Lancaster Police Department also provided quality assistance by monitoring peak traffic times and providing signage to help improve safety for Rt. 3 drivers and park visitors.

This summer we will see the continuation of the building restoration project on the summit. The stucco work on the house museum (lodge) is scheduled to start sometime in July or August. Then, the interior plaster and paint work will follow. Other projects include routine maintenance of buildings and grounds. We will also be organizing a project to start replacing the guard rails on the West and East Overlooks.

I also want to thank the Weeks Family members, including Rebecca Weeks Sherrill Moore and Robert Bast, for all of their generous support of the park and for their efforts, on behalf of the family, to improve park facilities and conserve museum artifacts. The family recently donated \$2,100.00 towards the digitization, reframing, and preservation of the historic photographic collection in the museum. Over the years, the family has generously donated time to the park, artifacts to the museum, and funds to the WSPA in support of park related projects and needs.

The Weeks State Park Association continues its wonderful support of the park and its mission with volunteerism and funding for a variety of projects and material. We are extremely grateful for their recent donation of \$25,000 towards the stucco work for the exterior of the house museum (lodge). We are always so very grateful to our friend's group. Thank you WSPA!

The park auto road and summit buildings will be open to the public on May 19 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 10:00am-5:00pm. Then on Wednesday, June 14, the park will be operating Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00am-5:00pm through Columbus Day. The park is open on all holidays May-October.

Thank you, and the park staff and I look forward to seeing and hosting all of our park visitors again this season!

Rachel Bruce, Park Manager

Weeks State Park