Park Operational Schedule 2022

Open for the Season: May 27- October 10
Auto Road Open: Mon.-Sun. 10-5
Observation and Fire Tower Open: Mon.-Sun. 10-4:45
House Museum Open: Mon.-Sun. 10-4 (last tour at 4)

Spring 2022 Park Manager's Report

by Rachel Bruce

Dear Park Patrons,

Thank you for your continued support and visitation of Weeks State Park! If you are new to the park- WELCOME- you will not be disappointed!

The park is a great place to hike, stroll, take in the outstanding views, visit the museum, relax, picnic, bird watch, and so much more. Starting in June, the fantastic educational series of programs will be taking place. These valuable programs are organized by the Weeks State Park Association Events Committee, who always do a phenomenal job in scheduling interesting programs.

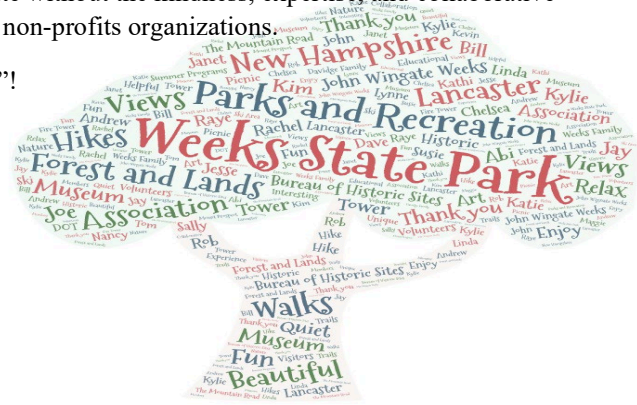
There have been some noteworthy improvements over the past few years, and we are working with our wonderful volunteer organization, the Weeks State Park Association, as well as additional dedicated volunteers and local and state agencies, to continue to bring improvements to the park.

Giving our park visitors and supporters a sneak peek into some upcoming plans, I want to share some of the planned progress with the public. First, we are currently working on restoring some of our taxidermy in the house museum including the restoration of the historic Roosevelt Moose. Next, we are improving park signage throughout the park including the addition of new educational interpretive panels. Additionally, a new trail will be built connecting the summit parking lot to the new North Overlook observation and hawk watch platform, and we will be improving the wooden trail bridges on the Around the Mountain Loop Trail. Most of this aforementioned work is possible from the generous support of the Pat Nelson Fund and the Weeks State Park Association. Another significant project underway includes the official nomination for the expansion of the entire park into the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you, Rebecca, W.S. More for your lead and tremendous efforts with this project. Other planned work includes the stabilization of the foundation of the historic summit auto garage. The North terrace project for the house museum is still in motion; however, progress is extremely slow. Lastly, we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will finally receive a small type of composting toilet facility, which will be installed at the summit of the park off the parking lot area. Stay tuned for more upcoming good news!

Besides our exciting series of summer programs, this summer season we have a couple of exciting wedding ceremonies scheduled, which will be taking place on the summit of Mount Prospect. We are also working on a group use area, which will be located in the area of the former historic tennis court. The area will be available for groups with more than 20 people. A reservation will need to be made, and a small fee will be charged for the use of the group use area. There will be 8-10 picnic tables available, and guests can bring pop up canopy tents, tables, additional chairs, lawn games, etc. Free tours of the museum for the group will be included in the reservation fee. The reservation fee is $250.

In closing, a special thank you to park staff (Kylie, Joe, Chelsea, Kim, and Raye), and to BHS Director, Andrew Cushing, for his awesome support and efforts! I want to extend another huge thanks to all of the people, local and afar, who support and care for the John Wingate Weeks Historic Site and Weeks State Park. We could not operate without the kindness, expertise, and collaborative efforts of so many wonderful people, volunteers, state agencies and staff, and non-profits organizations.

Enjoy the upcoming summer! Please stop by the park and say "hello"!

"John W. Weeks was one of those men, of whom there have been many, who came up from humble, surroundings through their own efforts? There; is no; mystery; in; greatness; it does not overawe; it has friendliness, kindliness, appreciation and understanding. These qualities he had, and these added to a character strong and pure, such as his, constitute true greatness; He will always hold a place among the great men of his time.'" General John G. Pershing

(The Life of John Wingate Weeks- *Charles G. Washburn, 1928)*