

The New Hampshire Update

Spring 2009

Want to know what's new, what's hot, what's happening in New Hampshire? This newsletter, sent twice a year, keeps you up to date on everything new and exciting in New Hampshire's tourism industry.

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New Hampshire Division of Travel & Tourism, Concord: *New and improved website with comprehensive section for the travel trade, new DVD, new itineraries, and images.*

1. LODGING

Attitash Mountain Village Resort, Bartlett: *WiFi has been installed throughout the 60-acre resort. Condominium style accommodations in the new Bemis House scheduled to open May 2009. Contact: Jason Robinson, Director of Marketing & Communications, JasonRobinson@AttitashMtVillage.com P:800-862-1600 www.AttitashMtVillage.com*

Clarion Hotel, Manchester: *Recently renovated, The Clarion Hotel is conveniently located minutes from the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. Close to several area attractions and local points of interest such as The Currier Museum of Art, Palace Theater, and Verizon Wireless Arena. Special group discount rates are available upon request. Contact: Phyllis Larochelle, plarochelle@clarionmanchester.com P:866-203-3762 www.clarionmanchester.com*

Cranmore Mountain Lodge, North Conway: *20 room family friendly B&B under new ownership: pond with rainbow trout restocked annually. Partner of the New Hampshire Sustainable Lodging and Restaurant Program. Come experience French cooking in the White Mountains! Visit website for group information. Contact: Frederique Procyk, thelodge@north-conway.com P:(603) 356-2044 www.cranmoremountainlodge.com*

Eastern Inns, North Conway: *This 56 room smoke-free property offers 2 function rooms suitable for 30-50 people, catered meals upon request, an in-house massage therapy service, indoor pool and sauna. The Eastern Inn is located just five minutes from the North Conway Village.* Contact: Kathy Lewis, info@easterninns.com
P:(603) 356-5447 www.easterninns.com

Eastern Slope Inn Resort, North Conway: *New bedding in all rooms, complimentary WiFi, and other building upgrades.* Contact: Jason Robinson, Director of Marketing & Communications, stay@EasternSlopeInn.com
P:800-862-1600 www.EasternSlopeInn.com

Holiday Inn Express, Tilton: *Brand New, Opened in October 2008. Has 69 rooms, complimentary hot breakfast, high speed wire/wireless internet, pool/hot tub, fitness/business center, and micro-fridge in all rooms.* Contact: Chitran Patel P:(603) 286-4550 www.hiexpress.com/tilton

Jack O'Lantern Resort and Golf, Woodstock: *Specializes in golf groups and provides free services for the group leader. Property has a children's playground, outdoor pool and weekly entertainment.* Contact: Priscilla Conn, info@jackolanternresort.com P:(603) 745-8121 www.jackolanternresort.com

Maplehurst Inn Restaurant and Tavern, Antrim: *A country antique inn for over 200 years in the lodging industry, 14 large rooms with private baths, located at 67 Main St. in Antrim. Group rates available.* Contact: Juliet Ermitano P:(603) 588-8000 www.nh-inn.com

Mt. Washington Resort, Spa and Conference Center, Bretton Woods: *20,000 square feet of meeting and event space was added in December 2008, bringing the Resort's total event space to 30,000 square feet. This is part of a \$50 million renovation to further define the historic Grande Dame as a four-season resort destination. In addition, The Spa has opened in the Presidential Wing.* Contact: Sandy Regli, sregli@mountwashingtonresort.com. P:(603) 278-1000 www.mountwashingtonresort.com

The Balsams Grand Resort Hotel Receives 2 Awards from Travel & Leisure, Dixville Notch: *Ranked #2 and #35 in two different categories of Travel & Leisure's reader-voted "World's Best Awards." The 15,000 acre retreat in the White Mountains was ranked second in the category "Top 10 Hotels for \$250 or less," and #35 in the category: "Top 100 Hotels in Continental U.S. and Canada." The Balsams was sited for its "lovely Victorian buildings, loads of activities (mountain biking, white water kayaking, fly fishing) and a staunchly traditional feel."* Contact: Gary Armitage, garmitag@dncinc.com P:(603) 255-3400 www.thebalsams.com

The Eagle Mountain House & Golf Club, Jackson: *Traditional lodging in the heart of the White Mountains with 96 guest rooms and suites in a casual country décor. Recent additions to the hotel include a new whirlpool room which connects to the new locker room, as well as an improved exercise room. Designated an Environmental Partner by the New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association's Sustainable Lodging Program for their efforts utilizing green technologies.* Contact: Cindy Foster, cindy@eaglemt.com P:(603) 383-9111
www.eaglemt.com

The Inn at East Hill Farm, Troy: *This working farm offers a vacation atmosphere coupled with a unique farm-oriented educational experience. Year round activities include indoor & outdoor swimming, hiking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, cow milking, egg collecting, hay and sleigh rides, and horseback riding. Three home-cooked family style meals served daily. Group travel rates and tour itineraries are available upon request.* Contact: Sheri St. Laurent, info@east-hill-farm.com P:800-242-6495 www.east-hill-farm.com

The Margate Resort on Winnepesaukee, Laconia: *S'mores on the beach, pool parties, movie nights, Lakeside Lobster Bakes, fireworks over the docks reflecting off Paugus Bay are just a sampling of the programs offered to groups. Group rates for kayak and canoe services. Packages ranging from "wellness" to "adventure". Exciting events such as an Open House that will illuminate the sky in May and a weekend for car enthusiast in September. Great location for New England hub and spoke tours. Contact: Laurie Grubbs, laurie.grubbs@themargate.com P:(603) 524-5210 X 184 www.themargate.com*

The Mountain Club on Loon, Lincoln: *Group Ski & Stay Packages include rooms, ski passes, and dining credits. Since spring is just around the corner, also keep an eye out for new Golf & Stay Packages, as well as spring and summer deals. The Mountain Club on Loon is the perfect destination getaway while still being close to family friendly attractions. Contact: Kellee Pfeuti, kpfeuti@mtnclub.com P:800-229-7829 www.mtnclub.com*

The Red Apple Inn, Glen: *Seeking tour groups to fill their sixteen 2-bedded units. Historical tour available of the Bernerhof Inn, circa 1880, located on the same property. Unique and professional dining on site. Contact: June Phillips P:(603) 383-9680 www.theredappleinn.com*

The Royalty Inn, Gorham: *Year round inn located in an ideal spot for outdoor enthusiasts. Can accommodate groups of varying size, and amenities include indoor heated pool, racquetball court and a full service restaurant. Contact: Donald King, innkeeper@royaltyinn.com P:(603) 466-3312 www.royaltyinn.com*

The Wentworth, Jackson : *High end, luxurious 51-room inn undergoing its biggest renovation yet by adding eight deluxe suites to the Fairlawn Cottage and private outdoor hot tubs. Contact: Ellie Koepfel, ellie@thewentworth.com P:(603)383-9700 www.thewentworth.com*

The Wolfboro Inn, Wolfboro: *Renovations of the entire property are underway; rooms will be available to guests throughout. The onsite restaurant and soon to be transformed Wolfe's Tavern is scheduled to reopen early May. Contact Karen Beranger, kberanger@wolfboroinn.com P:(603) 569-3016 www.wolfboroinn.com*

2. CULINARY

Portsmouth Dining & Cava Tapas & Wine Bar, Portsmouth: *With so many restaurants and cafes within a short walking distance of each other, Portsmouth is a great place to drop the group off to eat where they want. With about 250 restaurants in a city of only 20,000, Portsmouth has one of the highest concentrations of restaurants per capita in the U.S. Now they have a new option, the Cava Tapas & Wine Bar. Tapas (aka small plates) are meant to be shared amongst friends. Reservations required for groups of 6 or more. P:(603) 319-1575 www.cavatapasandwinebar.com*

McMenemy's Restaurant & Pub, Portsmouth: *Offers classic Irish fare in a warm and affordable setting – live music on the weekends and customizable menus for large groups upon request. Contact: Traci Schaake, traci@mcmenemyspub.com P:(603) 436-4747 www.mcmenemyspub.com*

Restaurant Week, Seacoast: *Bi-annual culinary event that spotlights the Seacoast as a great culinary destination with a vibrant arts and cultural scene. Restaurants from the seacoast area go all out for this event and feature special 3-course prix fixe menus for lunch and dinner. Area hotels and inns are also adding to the event by offering special rates and packages throughout the week. This event will be held the week of March 22-29, and again in November. Contact: Joan Chawziuk, chawziuk@aol.com P:(603) 610-5522 www.restaurantweekportsmouth.com*

The Governor's Inn, Rochester: *Will open a new restaurant in its facility this spring. This exciting new concept restaurant will be open for dinner nightly and features a casual menu and live entertainment. The Governor's Inn features 20 overnight guest rooms and banquet seating for up to 175. It's proximity to The Rochester Opera House make it the perfect location for entertainment, lodging and dining.* Contact: Herman Ejarque, info@governorsinn.com P:(603) 332-0107

3. EVENTS

10th Anniversary Intertribal Powwow, Warner: *Held at the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, guests will experience the vibrancy of American Indian culture which includes drumming, dancing, performances, kid's crafts, and demonstrations by Native American Indians from New England and beyond. Food and craft vendors. Medicine Woods nature walk and the Museum Store open. Other events and special exhibit information available on website.* Contact: Shawn Olson, mkim@conknet.com P:(603) 456-2600 www.indianmuseum.org

Blueberry Fiddle Festival, Swanzey: *Step back into the past with a one-of-a-kind, old-fashioned family festival: the 7th annual Blueberry Fiddle Festival, organized by Richmond's Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Music, games, crafts, car show, and other activities provide fun for all ages. The festival is held at Cheshire Fairgrounds (Route 12, Swanzey, NH) on August 7 & 8. Admission is free.* P: (603) 239-6495 www.blueberryfiddlefestival.com

Franconia Notch Chamber of Commerce, Franconia Notch: *The greater Franconia Notch area has many exciting summer and fall events including weekly concerts at Dow Field, the Hayseed Festival, Old Home Day Parades, Outdoor Expos and Antique Shows. Be sure to check out the full list of events by visiting their website at www.franconianotch.org.* Contact: Barbara Ashley, executivedirector@franconianotch.org P: (603) 823-5661

Hillsborough Balloon Festival, Hillsborough: *July 9-12, 2009. Balloon rides, regional performing artists, Artists Fair sponsored by Hillsborough area artisans. Hometown parade, fireworks, carnival midway and much more. Enjoy Hillsborough's small town atmosphere, explore the antique shops, ancient stone bridges, and attend a country auction in a 17th century barn.* Contact: Hillsborough Chamber, hcofc@conknet.com P:(603) 464-5858 www.hillsboroughnhchamber.com

Lincoln-Woodstock Area, Lincoln: *The Lincoln-Woodstock area in the White Mountains hosts a variety of local events each year such as Mountainfest, an annual celebration of alpine skiing; Olde New England Day, a celebration of local heritage that boasts a fair and Brewfest; and the Annual Rubber Ducky Regatta on the Pemigewasset River.* Contact: Alyssa Yolda, Alyssa@lincolnwoodstock.com P:(603) 745-6621 x 201 www.lincolnwoodstock.com

Naturally Newfound Fair, Hebron: *Did you know about "fiber farming"? The local Hamel Fiber Farm and Pike Hill Farm are raising llamas, sheep, and angora bunnies – and spinning their wool to be sold or made into useful clothing! Pam and Mike Hamel and Amy Bailey are bringing their animals to the fair too! See these exhibits, learn about renewable energy, learn how to fly-cast, talk to crafters, enjoy live music, local food, and lots of other interactive and educational activities.* Contact: Newfound Lake Region Association P:(603) 744-8689 www.newfoundlake.org

Prescott ParkArts Festival, Portsmouth: *In its 35th year of free outdoor music and entertainment almost every day from June to August in downtown Portsmouth. Kick off the season with its annual Chowder Festival on June 6th. Guests can watch the musical Grease every Thursday through Sunday and Dark Side of the Moon, Sgt. Pepper, JC Superstar, and The Wall on select Monday and Tuesdays.* Contact: Melissa Benson, Melissa@prescottpark.org P:(603) 436-1034 www.prescottpark.org

Scarecrow Festival, Wolfeboro: *Uptown, downtown, all over town the Festival begins September 26th and ends October 3rd. Community members display their creative talents, putting up unique and entertaining scarecrows. Take a self-guided tour following along the Scarecrow Map.* Contact: Mary DeVries, wolfeborochamber@conknet.com P:(603) 569-2200

4. ACTIVITIES

Bretton Woods Canopy Tours, Bretton Woods: *Nature lovers and thrill-seekers alike will enjoy one of the longest canopy tours in the U.S., comprised of ten zip lines, two suspension bridges, hiking and even rappelling deep in the forests of Bretton Woods.* Contact: Jamie Cunningham, adventuredesk@mountwashingtonresort.com P:(603) 278-4947 www.mountwashingtonresort.com

McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center and Planetarium, Concord: *The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center opened March 6, 2009. This exciting new project will engage visitors of all ages in brand new scientific and astronomical adventures.* Contact: Gina Bowler, gbowler@starhop.com P:(603) 271-7827 www.starhop.com

Cog Railway's First Biodiesel Locomotive, Bretton Woods: *A ride up Mount Washington on the world's first mountain-climbing cog railway remains, as it has for well over a century, an exciting and unforgettable experience. On September 6th 2008, the Cog introduced its newest locomotive, the Wajo Nanatasis, which runs solely on bio-diesel fuel.* Contact: Sue Presby, sue@thecog.com P:(603) 278-2256 www.thecog.com

Clark's Trading Post, Lincoln: *Witness mind-bending contortion, a lively lion dance, high-flying hoop diving, and the baffling balancing act of the Chinese Poles - Clark's introduces for 2009, the award-winning Yandong Chinese Acrobatic Troupe. Clark's has an expanded schedule for 2009. During the peak fall foliage Clark's will be open weekdays for 1/2 hour performances with the trained North American Black Bears and a 2 1/2 mile train ride across their 1904 covered bridge.* Contact: Elise Clark, info@clarkstradingpost.com P:(603) 745-8913 x 16 www.clarkstradingpost.com

Conway Scenic Budd Car, Conway: *Budd car has been purchased from the New YorkSusquehanna & Western Railway and arrived in North Conway. With a capacity of 88 passengers, this car will lend itself very well to special charters, and new group programs are being developed for implementation as early as this fall.* Contact: Sandra Janvrin, sandyj@conwayscenic.com P:(603) 3556-7606 X 12 www.conwayscenic.com

Great Glen Trails, Pinkham Notch: *The snow tubing hill has been expanded to three times its original size with a much longer run out. Great Glen Trails is one of the only cross country ski areas in New England with snowmaking and it will now cover an additional .5 kilometers.* Contact: Howie Wemyss, howie@mt-washington.com P: (603) 466-2333 www.greatglentrails.com

Jackson Cross Country, Jackson: *New federally qualified competition course. This new trail will make Jackson XC the sixth cross country ski area in the country to meet federal standards and will allow for the area to host high-level national and international competitions.* Contact: info@jacksonxc.org P:(603) 383-9355
www.jacksonxc.org

Jericho Mountain State Park, Berlin: *The 7,000-acre park is ideal for snowmobiling and ATVing. New Hampshire maintains 6,800 miles of interconnecting snowmobile trails statewide.* P:(603) 752-7424
www.jerichomotorsports.com

Merrimack Premium Outlets, Merrimack: *A new 135-store premium outlet complex is expected to open in Merrimack by 2010. Managed by Simon Property Group* www.outletsyes.com

North Woods Rafting, Milan: *North Woods Rafting has been providing fun-filled rafting trips to individuals, families, school groups and camps, corporate and recreational groups since 2002! They offer a variety of rafting programs for the young, old, brave and timid.* Contact: Heather Piche, info@northwoodsrafting.com P:(603) 449-2628 www.northwoodsrafting.com

Ox-K Farm Discovery Center, Gilford: *Interact with our gentle giants, and learn what an ox is and much more. After visiting the farm you can take a hike up the mountain trails, visit the covered bridge their oxen pulled in place, go on to visit local craftsmen up the road, or take in the historic buildings in Gilford. Bus tours welcome. Also available 3 - 4 hour presentations for schools about the impact oxen have had on American history.* Contact: Kathy, oxk@metrocast.net P: (603) 630-4554 www.oxkfarm.com

Skyventure, Nashua: *The indoor vertical wind tunnel is not only used by the world's best skydivers to train in but it was also designed for the general public to experience the sport of body flight. There is no fall sensation. SkyVenture completely immerses visitors in the world of high adventure skydiving, without ever having to pack a parachute, pull a ripcord, or jump out of a perfectly good airplane. NO Experience Necessary! Virtually anyone can fly ages 3 and up – some restrictions. Groups of all ages welcome!* Contact: Robert Greer P:(603) 897-0002
www.skyventurenh.com

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Holderness: *Group tour packages and prices available for any combination of the following: Science Center Lake Cruise, Exhibit Trail Tour, Mt Fayal Hike, Natural Encounters Programs, and Kirkwood Gardens Stroll. On site parking for motor coaches is available as well as an on site gift shop.* Contact: Tom Klein, info@nhnature.org P:(603) 968-2229 X 10 www.nhnature.org

Tanger Outlet Center, Tilton: *Tanger Outlet Center is happy to offer motor coach drivers and tour leaders a FREE \$10 gift card during their visit, as well as coupon books for each passenger. In addition, Uno's offers the motor coach driver a free lunch or dinner! New Hampshire has no sales tax!* Contact: Eric N. Proulx, enproulx@tangeroutlet.com P:(603) 286-7880 www.tangeroutlet.com/tilton

Whales Tale Waterpark, Lincoln: *Will have the Summerfest Concert Series every weekend throughout the summer season at its unique wave side stage and Oasis Beach Bar. The Whale's Tale was recently voted Best-In-Class Waterpark in America by Aquatics International Magazine.* Contact: Jeb Boyd, jboyd@whalestalewaterpark.net P:(603) 745-8810 www.whalestalewaterpark.net

Wolfeboro Adventure Pass and NH Boat Museum, Wolfeboro: *The New Hampshire Boat Museum and other participating businesses offer a Wolfeboro Adventure Pass which is perfect for groups staying in Wolfeboro that want to split up for some independent fun at area museums and businesses by riding a shuttle-like service with "Molly the Trolley."* A \$50 value for only \$15! Available for purchase through any of the participating businesses. Open Memorial Day through Columbus Day. Contact: Ann W. Sprague, Executive Director, asprague@nhbm.org P: (603)569-4554 www.nhbm.org

5. ARTS & CULTURE

Colonial Theatre, Bethlehem: *Summer stock historic landmark theatre featuring the best of independent film, national touring artists, quality family and children's events May through October.* Contact: Stephen Dignazio, colonial@ncia.net P:(603) 869-3422 www.BethlehemColonial.org.

Downtown Art Stroll, Rochester: *Local galleries and shops have joined together for the "Downtown Art Stroll" to be held the first Friday of every month from 5:30 to 7:00pm. The public is welcome to meet the artists and enjoy an evening of art, fine crafts, and light refreshments.* Contact: Susan Schwake, info@artstreamstudios.com P:(603) 330-0333 www.artstreamstudios.com/artstroll

Hillsborough Pride and Historical Society, Hillsborough: *Host of the 2009 Living History Event - Where History Comes Alive! Experience the mid 1700's through the 1900's as you interact with period musicians, re-enactors (including the 1st NH Cavalry), historical figures, dancers, crafters and artisans. Fun for the whole family! This event takes place the weekend of August 21 - 23, 2009.* Contact: Ellie Harbour, livinghistoryevent@tds.net P:(603) 860-6418 www.livinghistoryevent.net

Shoes of Rochester Summer Downtown Walking Tour, Rochester: *Art Esprit, a non-profit organization of visual and literary artists, will create ten individual large scale shoes complimented with coordinating poetry to be displayed in a walking tour around the downtown. The kick-off event will be Saturday June 6th and the tour will be on display through Saturday September 26th.* Contact: Mary-Jo Monusky or Susan Schwake, info@artesprit.org P:(603) 330-0333 www.artesprit.org

The Music Hall, Portsmouth: *Music Hall unveiled its newly renovated Beaux Arts Lobby - striking design and 21st century amenities were talked about as a breakthrough in architecture. The Music Hall, its architects and designers have been awarded an "Excellence in Architecture" award by the American Institute of Architects.* Contact: Kathleen Soldati, ksoldati@themusichall.org P:(603) 436-9900 www.themusichall.org

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Ideas for Performance Groups, Southern New Hampshire: *Have your group perform at the Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy during any of their year round events and activities, at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester in their 180 seat auditorium or in the Winter Garden Café in the center of the museum, in downtown Keene which is home of the Keene Pumpkin Festival, or outdoors at the beautiful Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge.* Contact: Michele Cota, mcota@dred.state.nh.us

National Geographic Traveler magazine ranks Portsmouth #6 in the U.S. and #26 in the world on its list of the globe's "Historic Places" (Nov/Dec. 2008 issue). The panelist noted the city's "attractive, walkable, lively downtown, full of well-preserved buildings in a variety of styles." Contact: Nicki Noble, tourism@portsmouthchamber.org P: (603) 610-5571. <http://traveler.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/historic-destinations-rated/intro-text>

New Hampshire Named "The Most Livable State" by CQ Press: For the fifth year in a row, a national ranking has named New Hampshire "The Most Livable State" in the country. CQ Press, a division of Congressional Quarterly, bases the ranking on 44 factors including income, crime rates, business taxes, employment, environment and education. http://os.cqpress.com/PressRelease_MostLivableState2008.pdf

Robert Frost Farm Historic Site Named All-American Landmark, Derry: The Robert Frost Farm Historic Site in Derry, NH was named an All-American Landmark by Hampton Hotels 2009 Save-A-Landmark® program. The donation will be used to rehabilitate the extensive trail system, known as Hyla Brook Trail, including interpretive signage that accompanies the trail system. Contact: info@robertfrostfarm.org P:(603) 432-3091 www.robertfrostfarm.org

The United Health Foundation Ranks New Hampshire 3rd Healthiest State in the Country: "America's Health Rankings 2008" study found New Hampshire ranked third in overall health. http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/PIO/LIBRARY/Press+Release/dphs_healthystate.htm