



WHAT'S NEW?

1/1/12

- + Kristin's birthday is this Friday January 6. Let's all gather to celebrate with cake and singing at 12:30 in the kitchen! She will expect birthday hugs from everyone so be prepared!
- + The park's Junior Ranger booklets have recently been updated. Changes to the Junior Ranger Letterboxing booklet include the following: question #7 on page 8 has been changed to reflect the correct number of NPS units (397), letterbox #6 has been removed and the Junior Ranger motto has taken its place on page 9, letterbox #5 has been placed outside in a new location- 10 paces past the Weir Farm National Historic Site sign in the stone wall. Both Letterboxing and Pond Pack booklets have updated maps on the back. We will use the old Pond Pack booklets until they are gone as the map was the only change, and the Letterboxing booklets have already been switched out for the updated version. We have inducted quite a few new Junior Rangers recently. Please be sure to document the number of kids and adults participating in the Junior Ranger program on the clipboard in the Junior Ranger drawer at the visitor center desk. Everyone in the group gets counted and often the adults enjoy the program just as much as the kids!
- + This past summer, the park completed a project to improve accessibility for the park film for our visitors who are hearing and visually impaired. For those that are visually impaired, there is an audio description option. This entails the visitor wearing a headset in which they hear the dialogue of the film interspersed with narrated descriptions of what is visually being seen on the TV screen. For those that are hearing impaired, there is an assisted listening option. This entails the visitor wearing a headset in which they hear the dialogue of the film at a higher volume of their choice – this also cancels out extraneous noise. Closed captioning is set up as the default setting now, so there are always captions scrolling at the bottom of the TV screen. There is a sign on the visitor center door and on the TV cabinet advertising these accessible options. The park now has tour packs of assisted listening headsets available as well. So if a visitor attending a tour is hearing impaired, the park ranger leading the tour can wear a transmitter around their neck which will transmit their speech directly into the headset being worn by the hearing impaired visitor. With a # of cars (and many landscaping trucks or snow plows this time of year) traveling along Nod Hill Road, it can be a challenge for visitors to hear the tour. Also the film in the visitor center is not shown in an enclosed theater, therefore, it's important to be aware of volume levels when the film is playing – i.e. radios upstairs, chatting at the lunch table, rangers orienting visitors in the other room, Kristin just generally getting excited about something, the microwave beeping, etc. If a visitor expresses interest in these accessible options, let a ranger know and we'll get them set up!
- + The change-over between Xiomaro's exhibits will take place this week. On Saturday January 7 at 2:00 PM, Xio will introduce the new exhibit titled 'Weir Was Here – Secret Rooms, Doors, and Windows' with his first gallery talk - 'In the Footsteps of Weir'. This gallery talk as well as all others (2/5, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6) will last until approx. 3:00 PM. The 'Weir Was Here' exhibit presents photos commissioned by the park to document the interiors of the Weir House, Weir Studio, and Young Studio before the interior restoration and furnishing are completed. This is a really exciting exhibit because it gives visitors the sneak peek inside the buildings they're looking for. These photos also call attention to architectural details that may otherwise go unnoticed in a fully furnished setting. 'Weir Was Here' will be on exhibit until May 31st. The exhibit can be viewed January through March on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and April through May, Thursday through Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. As with all park programs, participation in the gallery talks is free, but registration is required. Let a ranger know if you would like to register or call 203.834.1896 x12 (registrants should always be directed to x12).
- + HAPPY NEW YEAR!