



WHAT'S NEW?

1/6/13

Artist-in-Residence: January brings new Artist-in-Residence Kathi Smith. The Weir Farm Art Center will be hosting a reception for Kathi at the Wilton Library on Wednesday, January 16th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm (the reception has been rescheduled from January 22nd). Kathi's open studio for staff and volunteers is being rescheduled; the date is TBD. "Kathi recently began a series of memory/place painting focusing on Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia. [Her] work hovers between representation and abstraction. Kathi will be continuing this body of memory painting, developing larger canvases and more sustained studio works as well as painting smaller en plein air works while discovering the landscape of CT." Kathi has already taken a tour and has shown a lot of interest in this "Great Good Place." Thanks Kathi, and welcome! To learn more about Kathi and her work, visit kathismithpaintings.com



Monthly Volunteer Spotlight: Weir Farm NHS has a new feature that celebrates the dedication of our amazing volunteers. Volunteers: be prepared to share your stories with us for future editions!



January's featured volunteer is Artie! Artie has been volunteering at the park since 2011, and has helped maintain the park's stunning cultural landscape as a Stone Wall Steward Volunteer through hard work, dedication, and an amazing skill set. This past year, Artie spent a month working with Weir Farm NHS's own Greg Waters and Neal Rippingale of Drystone Conservancy to rebuild stone walls along the Terraced Gardens and Sunken Garden, as well as build the exquisite stone staircase adjacent to the Weir House. Artie's skills and experience in stone masonry and stone wall restoration are unmatched, and the park is all the more beautiful because of his hard work. Artie's positive attitude and winning smile always uplift staff, volunteers, and visitors to the park, even on those hot July days! Weir Farm NHS is truly lucky to have his support! We look forward to having you on-site, Artie, and are inspired by what you do for the National Park Service, as well as other organizations. We hope to support you in your effort to continue developing your skills in stone wall and trail work as a Stone Wall Steward Volunteer, and want to say thank you for all you do! To learn more visit the new Monthly Volunteer Spotlight page on our website at nps.gov/wefa/supportyourpark/monthly-volunteer-spotlight.htm

Meet January's Visitors of the Month: Rita and Xiomáro. Most of you are probably familiar with Xiomáro and his wife Rita: they visit often, and Xiomáro was the park's Visiting Artist for 2012! Rita and Xiomáro first visited in the summer of 2010 after reading an article in the New York AAA online magazine suggesting the park as a weekend trip. This cheerful and inspiring duo have been frequenting the park ever since. Rita loves to walk around Weir Pond and through the woods into the Weir Preserve, and enjoys sitting outside Weir's studio to watch the birds in the Secret Garden and Weir Orchard. Xiomaró has continued the artistic tradition started by J. Alden Weir here since he was the park's Artist-in-Residence in March 2011. He has been spreading the word of Weir through his photographic exhibits, including "Weir Was Here – Secret Rooms, Doors, and Windows." – viewable at xiomaro.com

Whether they are here to hike the trails, capture photographs, set up an art exhibit in the gallery, or are just stopping in to say hi, their genuine love for the park is felt and appreciated by all! Thank you Rita and Xio for being such dedicated visitors and friends, and for all the work you do to promote the artistic legacy of Weir Farm NHS!!! To get the full story on January's featured visitors, visit nps.gov/wefa/parknews/visitorofthemonth.htm

