



Hiking the "Rockpile." (PHOTO BY BRIAN POST COURTESY OF BEYOND GRANITE)

## Beyond Granite: Where geology and adventure meet

New exhibit at Plymouth State University museum is told through the lens of those drawn to high places

BY ERIK EISELE  
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

CONWAY — How do you tell the story of the formation and geology of the White Mountains? With skis. And hiking boots. And climbing ropes.

That's the idea behind a new exhibit at Plymouth State University's Museum of the White Mountains. Called "Beyond Granite: The Geology of Adventure," the exhibit is told through the lens of those drawn to high places.

"It's about the connection between the geology of the White Mountains and our experiences in the outdoors," explained Sarah Garlick, a North Conway-based rock climber and geologist who curated the exhibit. Beyond Granite tells the geologic history of Mount Washington through the eyes of skiers and mountaineers, she said, the story of Mount Lafayette through the eyes of hikers, and

the geology of Cannon Cliff through the eyes of rock climbers.

"Our experiences are shaped by the land," Garlick said. This area draws people because of its mountains and its cliffs. "The land has this deeper history," she said. "Most people are pretty captured by the story of how the mountains formed."

When you're out in the mountains, Garlick said, "you're observing." Climbers notice the differences in the rock from Cathedral to Cannon to Rumney. Winter visitors to Washington notice Tuckerman offers the perfect pitch for skiing, while nearby Huntington is home to climbing adventures. These differences, Garlick said, are a direct result of geologic processes from plate tectonics to glaciation dating back 450 million years.

Most people demonstrate a love for geology every time they buy a ski pass, Garlick said, "they just don't know it."

Beyond Granite is about making that connection. It uses a mixture of landscape photos, geologic samples, interactive displays and pairs them with stories of the adventure history of the area.

Outdoor sports form the connection between people and geology, Garlick said. "That is kind of the underlying principle of this whole exhibition."

That storyline lends itself to some interesting displays. The museum will have examples of Limmer boots dating back to the 1920s, climbing gear and ski gear from the 1960s and 1970s, as well as modern gear that people can play with.

"I wanted this exhibition to be fun," Garlick said. There is also a short video shot by local adventure filmmaker Jim Surette, who is also Garlick's husband, that features climbers on Cathedral Ledge, skiers carving their way through Tucker-

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Scaling the cliffs of the White Mountains. (PHOTOS BY ANNE SKIDMORE COURTESY OF BEYOND GRANITE)

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man and hikers making their way from Georgia to Maine via the Appalachian Trail.

Surette also shot massive gigapixel images of Cannon, Lafayette and Washington.

"Each Gigapan is a composite of over 500 individual images," Surette said. "They take hours to capture and process and conditions have to be perfect. But the result is worth it."

The photos will be displayed on 12-foot and 14-foot wide screens that allow viewers to zoom in. "The level of detail you can zoom into is incredible," Surette said. "The technology reveals a new way to look at the mountains."

"It's really exciting," Garlick said, a way to tell a geologic story in a manner people can relate to. When I'm out climbing, she said, "these stories are running through my head." This exhibit lets others see it too.

Geologic processes often unfold over an extended timeline, she said, which makes telling the story in a compelling way a challenge. But this exhibit has hit upon a dynamic way to tell the story.

But the landscape is still changing. Tropical Storm Irene created slides on Mount Washington and throughout the White Mountains, she said. That event will be featured, and "the Old Man falling down is definitely part of it."

This innovative storytelling is just what the Museum of the White Mountain was created for, according to Dr. Catherine Amidon, the museum director. "By incorporating this technology," she said, highlighting the Gigapan images, "informal science education is integrated into the awe of the mountain experience and we extend Plymouth State University's mission to bring science education to new audiences."

Garlick credits Amidon and the museum with being open to such a unique exhibit. This isn't a typical museum display, she said. This exhibit, with its intertwining of science and adventure, involves a level of creativity that puts it at the forefront of such storytelling.

More information about the Museum of the White Mountains and the Beyond Granite exhibit are available online at [www.plymouth.edu/museum-of-the-white-mountains](http://www.plymouth.edu/museum-of-the-white-mountains). The exhibit will run until March 3, 2015.



Skiing the wild terrain. (PHOTO BY BRIAN POST COURTESY OF BEYOND GRANITE)



Left photo by Paul Ross; top photo by Dan Stone. Courtesy Beyond Granite

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earlier today and they were out there using parking lots, the gymnasium and every bit of dry space they could find."

In previous years where the weather has not cooperated, the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) has pushed the schedule back a week to help teams out. The NHIAA also went to an open tournament format one particularly wet spring having all of the baseball and softball teams qualify for post-season play.

"I think what you may see happen for us," Kevin Richard, assistant superintendent, said, "is we'll flip the schedule and play as many of our games down in the southern part of the state as possible."

Monday night the board approved the following coaches:

Brian Day was approved as varsity baseball coach at \$3,275.

Erik Brown was approved as the new junior varsity baseball coach at \$2,675, pending the receipt of a clean criminal record check from the State of New Hampshire.

Peter Ames was approved as varsity softball coach at \$3,954.

The junior varsity softball coach position was vacant, but Larry Meader has just been hired.

Bernie Livingston was approved as varsity boys' and girls' track coach at \$4,696.

Tim Livingston and Peter Kondrat were approved as assistant track coached at \$2,356 and \$2,265, respectively.

Maxine Cadman was approved as varsity girls' tennis coach at \$2,675.

Chris Bailey was approved as varsity boys' tennis

coach at \$2,955.

Jacques Couture was approved as the new junior varsity girls' tennis coach at \$1,000, pending the receipt of a clean criminal record check from the State of New Hampshire (a requirement for all new coach hires).

Jared Doherty was approved as varsity lacrosse coach at \$2,500, pending the receipt of a clean criminal record check from the State of New Hampshire (a requirement for all new coach hires).

Ross Emery was approved as the new junior varsity lacrosse coach at \$2,500.

Both lacrosse positions are being funded by the MWV Lacrosse Club this spring.

Kathleen Murdough, Ken Sciaca and Harrison Kanzler were approved as track volunteers, while Rick West was approved as a baseball volunteer and Andrew Andreani as a lacrosse volunteer.