

# THE COÖS COUNTY DEMOCRAT

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## Mt. Washington State Park celebrates its 50th anniversary

BY EDITH TUCKER

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PLYMOUTH — Fifty years ago, the state of New Hampshire purchased 59 acres atop the state's highest peak in Sargent's Purchase from Dartmouth College, facilitating the establishment of Mt. Washington State Park to preserve and develop the summit's unusual scenic, scientific, historical, and recreational features for public use and enjoyment.

The state's half-century of summit stewardship was celebrated on Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University (PSU).

Dartmouth had acquired 67 acres of land atop the summit in 1962 and in 2008 sold its remaining 8.2 acres to the



Dr. Catherine Amidon, founding director of the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University, is flanked by DRED Commissioner Jeff Rose, left, and State Parks Director Phil Bryce, formerly of Milan, at Thursday's 50th Anniversary celebration of Mt. Washington State Park while posed in front of a GigaPan photo of Cannon Cliff, made up of more than 400 digital shots.

state.

The 50th anniversary celebration drew both Commissioner Jeff Rose

of the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and Director Phil Bryce

of the Division of Parks and Recreation as well as Mount Washington Commission chairman Walter Graff, Appalachian Mountain Club senior vice president, and attorney Jack Mid-

dleton, president of the McLane law firm and current and original Commission member when it was established in the late 1960s.

Mt. Washington Park manager Mike Pelchat

of Gorham built a sturdy cairn outside the Museum building with the help others to mark the special occasion. Speakers also touted his outstanding dedication in fulfilling his responsibilities on the summit of the Northeast's highest mountain.

PSU's executive director of university relations Steve Barba, formerly of Dixville, stood in for PSU President Sara Jayne Steen to welcome the 50 or so people on hand for the happy occasion. He pointed out that he had been an original member of the Coös County Planning Board for the Unincorporated Places, including both Dixville and Sargent's Purchase. Barba said one of his fondest memories of Mt. Washington was the time he spent an overnight in the Sherman Adams

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### Project Homebound sets earlier backing & delivery dates