

All this destruction took a toll on our hiking infrastructure – but it also brought out the best in a lot of people. The WVAIA has taken a lead role in redesigning portions of the trail network, and the Waterville Valley Foundation took up the cause of the Greeley Ponds Trail, raising over \$30,000 to help fund reconstruction — funds that were matched by the National Forest Foundation and the National Forest Service. The new Greeley Ponds Trail has been re-routed away from the low-lying path that hugged the river, and now turns up the bluff high above the Mad River for a section. The reconstruction took over two years to complete.

Roadways saw damage as well. Route 49 had four sections that were washed away, leaving one lane of travel. Temporary lights were put in place to allow traffic to flow. The West Branch Road bridge at the bottom of the hill was closed for more than three months for repairs from the storm, as well as for planned maintenance. The access road to the mountain washed away in several places, but was fixed in time for ski season.

Many may not remember that there was a bridge below the Corcoran’s Pond dam that connected the Snows Brook condos to the back of the Snowy Owl. This was also a casualty that will never be replaced.

Ten years have passed, but the scars still remain. You can see them as eroded slopes when driving up Route 49 or when walking on the Connector Trail. The power of water and gravity is humbling. Oh, ya, and Peter just turned 20!!



### THE GREAT HURRICANE OF 1938

On the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Irene, it’s interesting to look further back, at the accounts of another weather disaster that had a huge impact on New Hampshire and Waterville Valley. Some of us remember stories told by old-timers in our families (my father-in-law used to talk about it whenever a hurricane churned up anywhere). As someone who loves reading weather reports for my favorite places (I know, too much idle time), I can’t imagine the experience of a hurricane hitting with no warning. This was what happened on September 21, 1938, first in the form of 50-foot waves off Long Island, and then up coastal and interior New England, driven by winds that at times registered over 150 miles per hour. Almost everyone was taken by surprise. Those who had electricity (Waterville did not) lost it for weeks. Beach homes in Rhode Island were swept out to sea and then back to land in Connecticut. It is still considered one of the nation’s worst natural disasters.

**MOVIES on the MOUNTAIN**  
**SAT • SEPT 18 • 7:30 PM**  
 WV Resort Base Lodge • Freestyle Lounge

A 2016 Private eye murder comedy set in the 1970s

presented by **Waterville Valley Foundation**

We’re excited to be back in the Freestyle Lounge or— better yet, outside! — for this summer’s movie series, courtesy of Waterville Valley Resort

**Admission FREE**  
**Donations Appreciated**  
**(Film starts when dark settles.)**

**the nice guys**  
 PRIVATE EYES  
 RUSSELL CROWE RYAN GOSLING

**RATED R**



In Rhode Island, entire towns were destroyed. Downtown Providence was under 14 feet of water. Vast forests from New York to Maine were mowed down. Paper mills would work for nine years processing what was able to be salvaged. Close to 700 people were killed by the hurricane, water sources were made undrinkable, and hospitals ran out of typhoid vaccine.

In New Hampshire, part of the Mt. Washington Cog Railway was torn apart. Most of the large elms on Main Street in Plymouth were uprooted. Thousands of acres of the White Mountain National Forest had to be closed and classified as high fire hazard. In Cheshire County, 25% of the forests were blown down. Many ponds across New Hampshire were used to ‘store’ and preserve

the logs, by sinking the timber under water, until they could be processed.

Residents of Waterville Valley witnessed what amounted to a transformation of their landscape. While the path of the worst winds spared the cottages and hotel from complete destruction, most of the trees on southeasterly facing slopes of Mt. Osceola and the northern slopes of Mt. Tecumseh were flattened. In the next year more had to be taken out to reduce the risk of forest fires. Trails were obliterated, such as the one that had been blazed up Mt. Osceola by Nathaniel Goodrich in the early 1930s. Most of the remaining old growth spruce in the Greeley Ponds area was blown down.

The hurricane changed the way our forests look. With the old growth trees blown down in such high numbers, new growth, younger trees were able to take root more quickly. Many of these – such as the white birches, red maple, and beech that are so characteristic of our forested landscape today, giving it the famous New England fall colors – were made possible by the Great Hurricane of 1938.



Photos from the collection of the Forest History Society.

HELEN RITA  
**YOGA & PILATES**

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## There's ALWAYS something happening at the Club



### Breakfast

Friday–Monday | 7 AM–Noon

### Bar Open

Thursday–Sunday | 4–8 PM

### Golf Lessons Available

Private or Couples | Laid Back, No Pressure

### Ladies Only Golf

Very Social with Clinics

Mondays | 3:00–7:00 PM | Sorry, NO Men

### Members Golf Scramble

Pizza to follow

Thursdays | 4:00–8:00 PM

### Friday "Fish Fry"

Other items available

Served 4:00–9:00 PM

### Saturday Entertainment Social

Everyone's Invited


Lobster Rolls | Pizza | Salads | Surf'n Turf | Specials

Served 5:00–9:00

### Casual Sundays

Mostly locals, playing golf and relaxing

\* Sign up for event notices — [Info@WatervilleGolfClub.com](mailto:Info@WatervilleGolfClub.com)

or follow us on  [Waterville Valley Golf Club](https://www.facebook.com/WatervilleValleyGolfClub)

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