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## NH PBS CONNECTIONS

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# NH PBS CONNECTIONS

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AN 2019

Tom Ryan and Willem Lange hike the Brook Path Trail, Wonalancet, NH

# EXPERIENCE LIFE

Three rambunctious dogs, two old friends and one gentle trail set the scene for the next **WINDOWS TO THE WILD** episode. On a brisk fall day, *Following Atticus* author Tom Ryan and host Willem Lange meet at the Brook Path trailhead in Wonalancet and go for a hike.

In 2012, when Tom and Willem first met, Tom recalled they were both a lot younger, and they didn't know that life was about to throw them some curveballs. "You were still in your 70s and I was in my 50s and I had no idea that I was almost going to die," said Tom.

Several years after their first hike together, Tom struggled with heart, lung and kidney problems that threatened his life and his love for outdoor activities. "Going through those health issues made me realize how I missed the outdoors so much," said Tom.

To get back on the path to good health, Tom aimed to find hiking trails that wouldn't leave him dizzy due to blood pressure medications. "I kept having to find easier and flatter trails to walk, because I didn't want to lose nature," recalls Tom.

Tom and Willem take a break alongside a rushing stream. While their dogs run in and out of the water, the men reflect upon life's swiftly changing events.

Determined not to lose what he loved, Tom made changes, and his health improved. Now it is Willem

who struggles with the trails. Willem agrees, "I

think losing my wife was a tremendous blow to my physical body as well as the emotional."

Tom asks Willem if the outside has helped him cope with losing Ida. "I take walks in the park every day, and it was the six month anniversary of her death, and I was hiking in the woods, and I stopped and just cried and cried. That was great; I hadn't cried before that," said Willem.

The two friends agree that with work and desire, there's no reason to give up what's meaningful to them — the outdoors. They pull inspiration from the teachings of the American writer Joseph Campbell and focus on the experiences of being alive.

Nowadays you can find Tom and his two pups, Samwise and Emily, back out on the trails. "I traded in always feeling tired and barely getting by and needing to take a nap, to now almost walking 10 miles a day. I think it helps."

As the two hikers stop near a small waterfall, Tom asks, "We're lucky aren't we?" And Willem replies, "I'm lucky that I have you as a pal. Look where you brought me. It's just gorgeous."

This episode of **WINDOWS TO THE WILD** airs on January 9th at 7:30 PM on **NHPBS** and online at **nhpbs.org/windows**.

# NHPBS PRIMETIME PICKS



#### We'll Meet Again TUE January 1 | 8 PM

Two men search for the people who helped them settle in the U.S. when they fled Castro's Cuba. One hopes to find the family who took him in, while another looks for the shrimp boat skipper who brought him to safety.



#### The Dictator's Playbook WED January 9 | 10 PM

From Mussolini to Saddam Hussein, dictators have had a profound effect on the 20th century. How did they seize and wield power? What forces rose up against them? In six immersive hours, each show reveals a portrait of brutality and power.

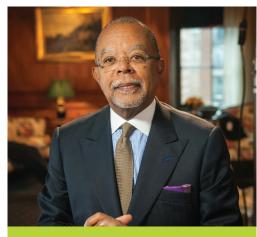


Restoration, NH State House TUE January 3 | 8 PM "Restoration" tells the story of the work done at the New Hampshire State House in 2016. From pre-dawn deliveries to gilding the gold leaf on the dome and eagle, this local documentary celebrates the 200th year of the oldest State House in the United States.



Nature: Equus: The Story of the Horse WED January 16 | 8 PM

Travel around the world to uncover the history of mankind's relationship with the horse. Discover the habits and biology of these majestic animals, and ride along with the world's last nomadic tribes.



#### Finding Your Roots TUE January 8 | 8 PM

Host Henry Louis Gates, Jr. helps actor Andy Samberg and author George R. R. Martin answer some family mysteries when DNA detective work uncovers new branches of their family trees.



#### Windows to the Wild: Mountaintop Wedding WED January 30 | 7:30 PM

What does a hiking couple do when they decide to get married? Stage the wedding on top of Mt. Washington, of course. Host Willem Lange joins the happy couple along the trail and at the summit.

# **ROYAL TREATMENT**



This January, you are in for the Royal treatment! The World premiere of **VICTORIA, SEASON 3 ON MASTERPIECE** kicks off on January 13th at 9 PM. For all you anglophiles, **VICTORIA & ALBERT: THE WEDDING** will also be shown on January 13th and January 20th at 10 PM. And we'll keep the tea hot as we settle in to hear **TALES FROM THE ROYAL BEDCHAMBER** on January 27th, at 10 PM.



### Roads to Recovery

Students throughout New Hampshire combat substance use disorder right in their communities. **ROADS TO RECOVERY** tells the stories of how knowledge, hope and empowerment can turn the tide on substance use for young people in NH. Watch **ROADS TO RECOVERY**, with host Jennifer Rooks, Thursday, January 17th at 8 PM on NHPBS.

### **SOMETHING** FOR EVERYONE



**Portraits in Architecture** FRI January 4 | 8 PM



**Coming of Age in Aging America** THU January 10 | 8 AM



**The Swamp: American Experience** TUE January 15 | 9 PM



Independent Lens: The King MON January 28 | 9 PM

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