

THE ALPINE STEWARD

Newsletter of the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund

December, 2002

www.watermanfund.org

Fund Receives Major Gifts in Memory of Jim Hirshberg

Jim Hirshberg of Warner, NH, was one of those people that everyone who met liked and admired. A District Manager for Eastern Mountain Sports, Jim loved the outdoors, skiing, hiking and tennis. Respected for his work ethic and his leadership skills, he was beloved for his quick wit, his self-deprecating humor and his integrity. Sadly, Jim passed away on April 15, 2002 after a long illness. After his death, his family and friends tried to think of a way they could pay tribute to Jim's life, to his love of the mountains and the values by which he lived.

Jim's sister, Nancy Hirshberg, Vice-President of Natural Resources at Stonyfield Farm in Londonderry, New Hampshire, relates how the idea of donating to the Waterman Fund came to them—

“My mom, sister, brother, sister-in-law and Jim's two best friends were sitting around the dinner table the night he died, writing his obituary and trying to figure out an appropriate group to give money to in Jim's memory. We tossed around a lot of land protection groups and then Mary and Ellen mentioned he loved New Hampshire Trails Day. My brother Gary and I instantly thought of the Waterman Fund. It was perfect! Jim loved the Franconia ridge—and here was a connection to the ridge and trail work. The moment we said it, everyone clapped and said ‘that's perfect’. It was a perfect fit.”

All totaled over \$18,000 was donated to GWASF in Jim's memory. Jim's friends and family donated over \$8,000, while, Danone Groupe of France, owner of Dannon Yogurt and part owner in Stonyfield Farm yogurt, made a corporate donation of \$10,000 in Jim's memory. These contributions helped raise the fund's endowment by over 20%.



Jim Hirshberg

All of us at the GWASF send our heartfelt condolences to Jim's friends and family. Our thanks also go out for their generosity and commitment to helping preserve the mountains Jim cared so much about.

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Fund Announces First Annual Steward Award

The Fund is pleased to announce the establishment of an annual Alpine Steward Award. The award will be given each year to a person or organization who has demonstrated a long term commitment to protecting the physical and spiritual qualities of the northeast's mountain wilderness.

Seeking to remind us of the values that Guy and Laura Waterman wrote about in their books and practiced in their lives, the Stewardship Award will honor and thank people who have shown a lasting commitment to preserving both the physical landscape and the spirit of wildness in the mountains of the northeast.

There will be only one recipient each year. The deadline for nominations each year is December 1. The award winner will be announced at the fund's annual dinner, held on March 17, 2003.

Anyone who has been an active steward of the mountains of the northeast can be nominated for

the Waterman Fund Steward Award. The nominee can be a volunteer, a government employee, or the employee of a for-profit or nonprofit organization. An organization or group may also be nominated. The ideal nominee would display an enduring, heartfelt commitment to protecting both the physical resource and the spiritual experience of the Northeast backcountry.

A letter to the Fund is all that is required to nominate someone. The letter should cite specific examples of the nominee's stewardship of the

Northeast wilderness over a period of years, along with other relevant personal or professional experience.

Each year's winner will be invited to receive his or her Steward Award at the annual fund dinner. To nominate someone for the Guy

Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund Steward Award, write to: Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund, East Corinth, Vermont 05040.



Guy Waterman on the slabs of North Percy

Next Year's Spring Dinner to Be Held in Bradford, Vermont

We will be holding our Annual Spring Dinner at the Perfect Pear Café in Bradford, Vermont, on Saturday, March 17, 2003, at 6 p.m. Last year this event, our first, took place at Libby's Bistro in Gorham, New Hampshire, with about 30 folks in attendance. Our plan is to hold this popular fundraising event at various locations around the

northeast's mountains so as to make it accessible to as many of you as possible. At next year's dinner we will announce the recipient of the Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award – our first. Please save the date and watch the website for more information on a really great evening that supports the Fund.

THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS!

The Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund

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Fund Makes First Grants

We're up and running! In January 2002 the Fund awarded its first grant for an alpine stewardship project, contributing \$1,200 to the Randolph Mountain Club (RMC) of Randolph, New Hampshire, for the construction of a bilingual (English/French) educational alpine zone display to be mounted on an interior wall at RMC's Crag Camp.

This enclosed cabin is located at 4,200 feet on the west edge of King Ravine, just below treeline in the Northern Presidentials. Over 2,000 guests stay overnight at Crag Camp each year, and an estimated 4,000 day hikers pass by annually en route to the area above treeline, making this an ideal location for education. Many of these visitors are French-speaking Canadians who may not be familiar with the unique nature and fragility of the alpine zone.

The 3-foot square display will be of museum quality with photos and text educating visitors in a low-key manner about the delicate flora they will

encounter, and the importance of following cairns to stay on the marked trails and avoid "bootleg" trails. As stated in the RMC grant application, it "would show how thoughtful actions on the part of individual hikers can have a positive impact on this much-cherished and much-traveled environment." The project is slated for completion by December 1, 2002.

Earlier in 2001, the Fund awarded a grant for recording and distributing the proceedings from the Northeast Alpine Stewardship gathering held at The Green Mountain Club last summer. The meeting brought together alpine managers from around New York and New England to discuss current management challenges, recent alpine zone scientific research and related topics.

The Fund also distributed more than 500 complimentary copies of *Wilderness Ethics* and *Backwoods Ethics* to backcountry workers, land managers and club volunteers.

New Grant Guidelines Announced

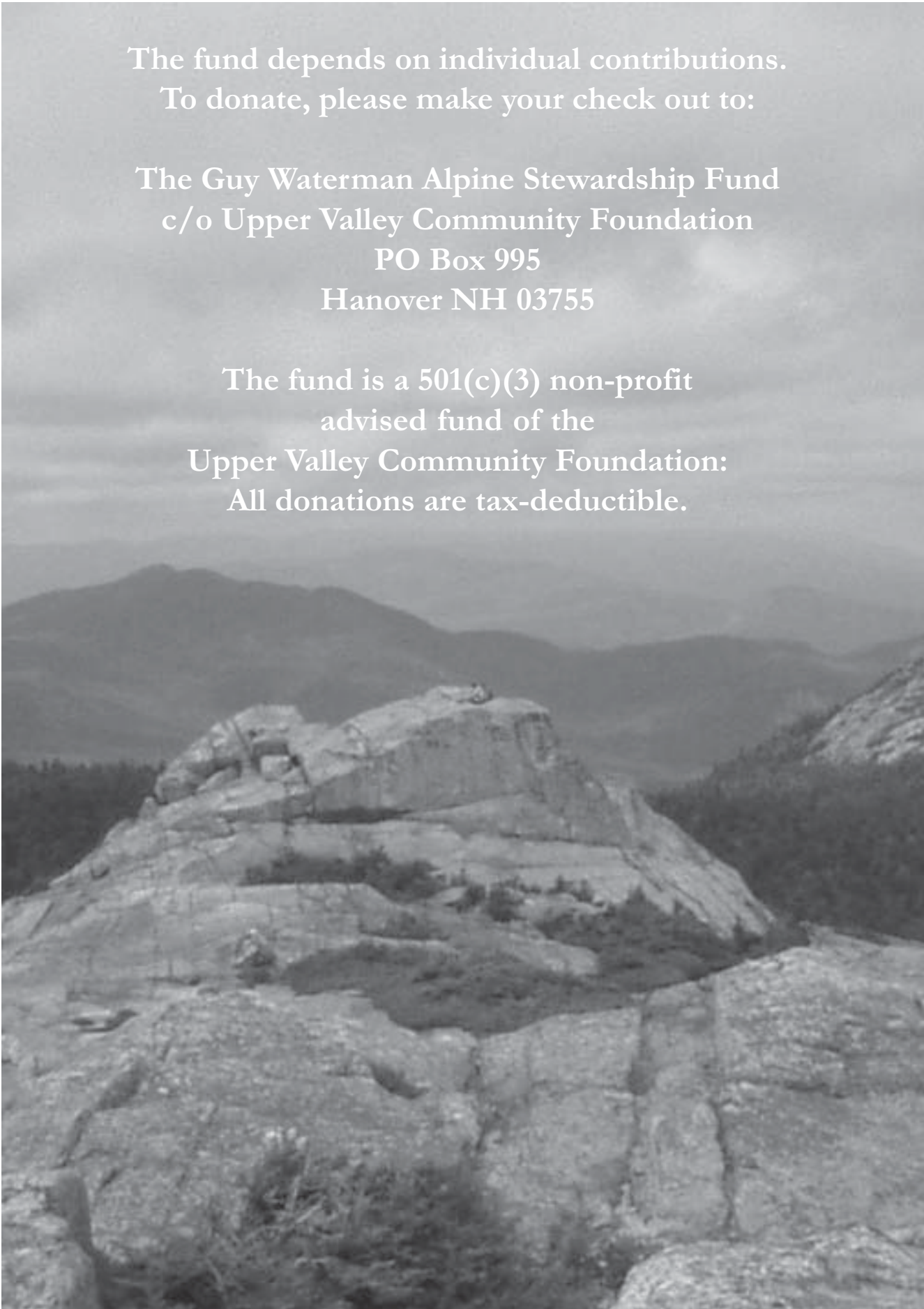
The Fund has changed two of its funding guidelines for 2003 grants: match requirements have been reduced from 50% to 25%, and we will be accepting applications for enhancement of exist-

ing programs. Applications are due December 1, and grantees will be notified by January 31. Application instructions and application forms are available on our website: www.watermanfund.org

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

We here at headquarters of the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund would like to express an enormous and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has given so generously to the Fund this past year. For the record, our grand total right now is **\$87,198.69**. That means we have passed the one third mark on our long hike toward our ultimate summit of \$250,000. We on the board have each one of YOU to thank for that!

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU



The fund depends on individual contributions.
To donate, please make your check out to:

The Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund
c/o Upper Valley Community Foundation
PO Box 995
Hanover NH 03755

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