

THE ALPINE STEWARD

Newsletter of the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund

December, 2003

www.watermanfund.org

Fund Supports New Signage at Crag Camp

Thanks to a \$1,200 grant from the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund, financial support from the Randolph Mountain Club, and hard work by many volunteers, visitors to Crag Camp will now be greeted by a bilingual sign welcoming them to the high country and pointing out ways they can help preserve the fragile environment of the alpine zone.

Instructions are printed in both English and French, explaining how hikers can care for the alpine zone and what simple actions they can take to minimize their impact in the heavily visited areas on the northern slopes of the Presidential Range. Bilingual instructions were included to accommodate the large number of French-speaking visitors to Crag Camp and the nearby summits.

Wrapped in blankets and secured to an RMC packboard, the heavy display board was packed up to Crag Camp by Randolph Mountain Club volunteers Paul Cormier and Doug Mayer.

The display itself is designed to be extremely durable in the harsh weather that is typical at Crag Camp. Printed with waterproof, non-fading inks on a Tyvek surface, the display was then laminated to water-resistant matting. Hardwood was used for the case, protected with several coats of spar varnish. Finally, ultraviolet light-filtering Plexiglas was installed over the face of the display. (To view the finished product, click on the “Experience the Alpine Zone” icon in the lower right-hand corner of the RMC website home page at www.randolphmountainclub.org.)

“We’re all thrilled with the way it turned out —



Doug (L) and Paul wrap the sign (Edith Tucker photo)

very beautiful and quite educational,” Doug Mayer said.

Illustrator Eric Scharnberg donated over 40 hours to the project. Volunteers Jeff Smith of Randolph and Clare Long of Jackson, along with Paul and Doug, played major roles in seeing the project through to completion. Some of the other North Country volunteers who contributed their time and expertise to the effort — from brainstorming ideas, to photography, to translating the English into French, and producing the layout and design — included Lisa Troy, Peter and Holly Crane, Jon Martinson, Regina Ferreria, Tami Hartley, Carl Demrow, Mary Krueger, Laura Waterman, Rebecca Oreskes, Kai Allen, Steve Bailey, Steve Keller, and Sally Dinsmore.

The Waterman Fund is proud to sponsor the work of these dedicated “Gardiens de la Zone Alpine”!

(This is a condensed version of a story by Edith Tucker that first appeared in the Coos County Democrat last September. Thanks!)

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Roger Collins Wins First Alpine Steward Award

The Fund was delighted to honor Roger Collins of the White Mountain National Forest with the first annual Alpine Steward award.

Presented at the March fundraising dinner, the award recognized Roger for more than 30 years of work as Supervisory Forestry Technician on the Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset Ranger District, where he has labored to protect the physical and spiritual qualities of our mountains.

Roger has provided leadership for Forest Service backcountry and wilderness patrols, trail crews, Appalachian Mountain Club hut crews, volunteers and managers learning about the alpine zone. He has shared his knowledge with countless hikers and campers who are drawn to the high open summits of the White Mountains. The award included a beautiful framed photograph of the White Mountains from Sugarloaf near Twin Mountain taken by Ned Therrien.

A letter of thanks from the Fund noted that “Roger combines knowledge, historical perspective, and down-to-earth problem solving skills with serious commitment to practicing and encouraging respect for this fragile landscape.... With this award, the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund honors and thanks Roger ... for his professional work to preserve both the physical landscape and the spirit of wildness in the mountains of the Northeast.”

Everyone who knows Roger will attest to his low-key and modest approach. In a letter to Laura after receiving the award, he wrote, “I want to take a moment to say how much I am honored and how much I appreciate the award. I find it truly



Roger Collins receives the 2003 Stewardship Award

amazing that of all the people that could have been chosen, it ended up with me. It means more to me than any award I have ever received for anything and I will cherish it always.”

The Fund is pleased to honor Roger, and everyone who works to preserve the physical landscape and the spirit of wildness in the mountains of the Northeast. To submit a nomination for the next Alpine Steward Award, be sure to check out www.watermanfund.org.

To nominate for next year's award, go to www.watermanfund.org!

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Waterman Fund Launches New Web Site

This past summer, the Fund took a major step in improving our outreach to the public with the launch of a new web site at www.watermanfund.org. The site is the primary route through which interested donors and grant applicants can obtain information about the Fund and its activities.

The new site was designed by Peter Cole of B2 Creative Solutions in Georges Mills, New Hampshire.

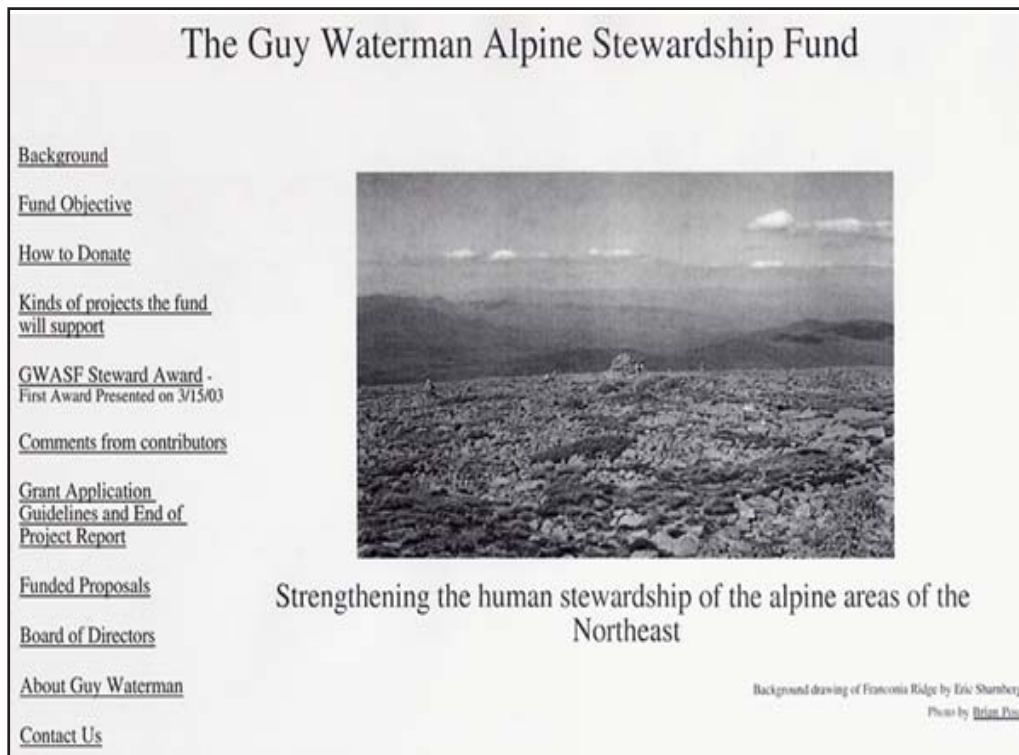
web site will become a clearing house for online access to alpine research, and articles and information about alpine stewardship programs around the northeast. If you have a suggestion for specific content for this area of the web site, please contact Board member Doug Mayer at dmayer@cartalk.com.

Alpine photographs for the new site were donated by Peter Cole and Ned Therrien. The Fund thanks both

for their generous support. Both Peter and Ned are nationally recognized photographers, and their expertise is clear from viewing the many stunning photos on the site.

The Fund would like to thank volunteers Jon Martinson, who provided the impetus to help get the Fund online, along with Jeff Tirey and artist Eric Scharnberg.

While the Fund was able to provide limited financing for the new site, conserving our income for our endowment



A much reduced snapshot of our elegant homepage (editor's apologies: go visit!)

Peter's role was especially appropriate, since he was a long time friend of Guy and Laura Waterman, and has been an active alpinist and backcountry skier in the New England mountains for many years.

The new site incorporates significant improvements. Foremost among the changes is the addition of an alpine resources section. It is the Fund's hope that the

capital campaign was a top priority. Peter Cole graciously assisted by volunteering dozens of hours to the effort, above and beyond his contracted work. We thank him for participating in this major undertaking and look forward to many years of furthering the cause of alpine stewardship in the northeast via [watermanfund.org](http://www.watermanfund.org). Drop by and visit our new site, when you've got a moment!

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2003 Grants Awarded

The **Green Mountain Club** has received \$2,500 to launch a Reach and Teach initiative. This program aims to teach alpine ecology to hiking groups, school groups, summer camps, and Scout troops who annually visit the alpine peaks in the Green Mountains. The GMC will contact these groups while they are still planning their hikes to foster partnerships and cooperation that will minimize visitor impacts once the hiking season begins.

The **Dartmouth Outing Club** has received \$2,500 to hire a summit steward to educate hikers, perform light trailwork, and help mitigate hiker impact on the summit of Mount Moosilauke during the busy summer months. The DOC steward will work with the ridg-

erunner program of the White Mountain National Forest to provide a new level of education and stewardship on one of New Hampshire's most-visited summits. The Waterman Fund is pleased to assist in funding the start up of this program.

With the generous assistance of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation of Maine, the Fund has awarded \$2,500 to the **Appalachian Mountain Club** to create an educational display for hikers visiting the Franconia Ridge in New Hampshire. The Lafayette Place trailhead for the Franconia Ridge is among the most visited in the Northeast. The AMC plans to create a display that will inform hikers about both the beauty and the fragility of the alpine ecosystem.

Capital Campaign: Where We Are, Where We're Heading

The Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund is currently in the middle of a five-year capital campaign aimed at building an endowment of \$250,000. The interest on this endowment will enable the Fund to support up to four major projects in the Northeast's alpine areas each year, in perpetuity. As of October 2003, more than 400 individuals had already contributed a total of \$100,000 towards this goal. Once the endowment is fully funded, the Fund will move into a less active fundraising mode and focus primarily on funding alpine stewardship projects.

While it is true that we have now passed the \$100,000 mark in our fundraising, what we really want to report to you is that we have \$150,000 to go to reach our goal. The \$100,000 raised to date is not only progress, but a wonderful tool: it allows us to show prospective funders, from individuals to foundations, just how successful we've been at raising money through small donations. What it really translates to is a great measure of support for the mission and activities of the Fund!

But enough looking through the rear view mirror. We need your help to move us forward. More specifically, we need leaders who will be willing to take an important role in the next phase: using the \$100,000 we've raised to leverage the additional \$150,000. We need people willing to talk to their friends and others who feel strongly about our work, and to ask them to support it through a contribution. We need major donors, and small donors too. Sure, we'll get there eventually, but why wait? The sooner we get the Fund to full strength, the sooner it can begin working at full strength.

If this sounds a bit like a capital campaign, it is! Essentially, we need \$150,000 to finish the building. If you have a background in fundraising and want to help, we'd like to hear from you. If you know of individuals or foundations who should know of our work but don't, we'd like to hear from you as well.

Thank you! to all alpine stewards who have given in the past, and to all who will in the future.

To donate, please make your check out to Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund and mail it to Upper Valley Community Foundation, Box 995, Hanover NH 03755.

THANKS TO OUR 02/03 DONORS!

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And a Special Word of Thanks from Page Hollow ...

We here at Headquarters want to send a most heartfelt thanks to the following folks who have found, we think, such interesting and innovative ways to support the Waterman Fund—

- **Craggers** climbing shop in North Conway, NH, and proprietors extraordinaires Resa Ritzert and Tim Molinero, for their offer to link the Fund's website to their website. Resa and Tim will also provide a spot on their order form for Craggers' customers to make a dollar donation to the Fund.

- **She Climbs**, a national climbing organization for women, who invited Laura to speak at their 7th Annual Gathering in North Conway, and generously donated the proceeds from Laura's talk to the Fund.



- **J. T. Horn and Suzanna Smith**, who, on the momentous occasion of their wedding, let each guest know through a small card at each place that the married couple had made a donation to the Fund in honor of their guests. All the best to J. T. and Suzanna, and may they hike together happily ever after!

- **The White Mountain Jackass Company**. Formed in 1929, WMJC was responsible for packing supplies into the White Mountains for hut and construction crews. Most recently, a small contingent in the Northern Presidential has come together to honor this unique organization. They've printed a charming T-shirt that you can purchase for \$20, and they'll

send \$10 to the Waterman Fund! Isn't this great? (The address: White Mountain Jackass Co., PO Box 132, Gorham NH 03581.)