

PRESS RELEASE: WATERMAN FUND ANNOUNCES 2008 GRANT RECIPIENTS, UPCOMING ANNUAL DINNER

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For Immediate Release

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Media Note: Digital alpine photos from our partners are available upon request. Complete copies of the funded proposals are available online at www.watermanfund.org. Please contact info@watermanfund.org for details.

At its recent board meeting, the Waterman Fund announced its 2008 alpine stewardship grant recipients. This year's grants represent a broad geographic range, a diversity of projects, and a total of \$15,000 in funding. This is the greatest amount the Fund has been able to award since its inception in 2000.

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), based in Lake Placid, New York, will receive funding for the creation of a year-round summit stewardship coordinator. Since 1990, the summit steward program has focused on raising awareness among hikers about how they can help preserve alpine areas. The goals of a year-round coordinator position will include increasing botany training for stewards and volunteers over the course of the field season, increasing the number of program presentations and sharing them with a wider community throughout the year, and recruiting more volunteer summit stewards. This fulltime position will provide the continuity necessary to expand the program and to take on new initiatives, while remaining true to the core program value of educating hikers on summits.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Conference (MATC) will receive funding for its Caretaker and Ridgerunner Education Program. The MATC's program, based out of Augusta, Maine, will focus on reaching the 10,000 hikers in alpine areas through their interactions with caretakers and ridgerunners. Specifics will include creating teaching materials for use in the field, creating a manual to document and encompass the scope of the program, and continuing to build and share knowledge of site-specific alpine plants and ecology.

The Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE), in Norwich, Vermont, will receive funding for a project monitoring alpine butterflies endemic to the Presidential Range. Working in conjunction with the White Mountain National Forest, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and citizen scientist volunteers, VCE will look at two species, the White Mountain Arctic and the White Mountain Fritillary. The project will focus on systematic monitoring and

research for these two imperiled butterflies, noting changes in population. Monitoring will provide empirical data to help address the conservation of the butterflies themselves as well as the broader implications of climate change on wildlife and alpine zones.

The Fund is also announcing the date and location of its upcoming annual dinner. The dinner will start at 5:30 pm, Saturday, April 5, at the Chef's Table in Montpelier. The annual event is open to the public and will feature the presentation of this year's Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award. Due to limited seating, reservations are required. To make a reservation, please contact Julia Goren at jgorenster@gmail.com or (845) 586-2385. For any questions, please contact Val Stori at valstori@yahoo.com or call (802) 439-3079.

Dr. Hubert "Hub" Vogelmann, of Jericho, Vermont, is the 2008 winner of the Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award. Vogelmann, professor emeritus of botany at the University of Vermont, is best known for his pioneering research on acid rain, establishing UVM's Field Naturalist Program, and his work on land conservation in Vermont. Vogelmann also has close ties to alpine issues. Beginning in 1964, Vogelmann took graduate students to collect data from the alpine areas on Mt. Mansfield and Camel's Hump. What began as a basic ecological study in an all but unknown field has become an important measuring tool as we confront global warming and climate change. Vogelmann was instrumental in establishing Camel's Hump's first alpine naturalist and in creating the Green Mountain Club's summit steward program. He worked to pass and later amend the 1963 Vermont Natural Areas Act, as well as the 1965 legislative act declaring Camel's Hump an important state natural area, and later, a National Park Service Natural Landmark. In beginning the Green Mountain Profile Committee, he worked to protect high elevations and pushed for Act 250, Vermont's groundbreaking development and land use law, to require special permits for building above 2500 feet. For over forty years, Hub Vogelmann has demonstrated a forward-thinking and consistent involvement in researching and protecting alpine areas, and in educating both scientific and recreational communities.

At the close of 2007, the Waterman Fund had raised over \$300,000 for alpine stewardship projects across New England. The Fund, named in memory of the late climber and outdoors writer Guy Waterman and in honor of his wife Laura, has the goal of strengthening the human stewardship of the open summits, exposed ridgelines, and alpine areas of the Northeast. The Waterman Fund is a 501c(3) non-profit. All donations are tax deductible. New supporters are encouraged to contact the Fund via the website at www.watermanfund.org or via Waterman Fund, PO Box 1064, East Corinth VT 05040.