



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Acadia National Park

P.O. Box 177

Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 10, 2007

Carl Demrow
President, The Waterman Fund

Dear Carl:

I write to thank the Waterman Fund for their support of the 5th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering held this past June at Acadia National Park. We were pleased to be able to host this event with Acadia Partners for Science and Learning at our new facilities at the Schoodic Education and Research Center on the campus of the former Navy Base at Schoodic Point. You should expect an invoice from Acadia Partners in the next week or so. I also would like to report briefly to you on the event.

We followed the agenda closely for the two days, which I know were full days, and somewhat tiring for everyone. We had eight speakers in the morning sessions on climate change and an “alpine stew” of a variety of topics. These were followed in the afternoon by presentations from park staff and the University of Vermont and Virginia Tech research teams providing background for the Cadillac Mountain Workshop on Saturday. I hope participants found this work and the results interesting, since social science and the interface between social science and visitor impact research has not been highlighted in previous meetings. Jeff Marion, Bob Manning, and Steve Lawson are all nationally known researchers with much experience and many publications behind them. In the evening, noted ecologist Tom Wessels gave a slide show called the Granite Landscape, which included much material on Acadia’s granite domes. I think this was great fit with and provided additional background for the Cadillac Mountain Workshop.

On Saturday, we traveled to Mount Desert Island and toured Cadillac Mountain, followed by the workshop in three small groups with a final session involving everyone. All park staff involved in the Cadillac Mountain Workshop felt that the discussion and recommendations from the participants will prove extremely valuable as we continue to develop a plan for managing visitor use. We needed to hear from all of you in an uncensored, open forum about what’s working, what’s not working, and what we might do next. We did. I expect to summarize the workshop results and recommendations in a brief report later this summer for park staff so we will have a document to refer to as we move ahead with a management plan.

Most other park staff and Friends of Acadia staff were not very aware of the Waterman Fund or the Alpine Gathering before this event. Now many more are aware, and that’s a good thing.

We had 58 registered participants for the Gathering, and about a dozen of these were park staff, Friends of Acadia staff, or featured speakers. Considering we were at the far end of the geography of the northeast, 46 people “from away”, as they say here, is pretty good, especially since we had a major conflict with the Green Mountain Club annual meeting. Participants came from Baxter State Park, the Friends of Baxter State Park, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Green Mountain National Forest, the White Mountain National Forest, the Appalachian Mountain Club, Elliotsville Plantation, New York State Department of Conservation, Adirondack Summit Stewards, New York Natural Heritage Program, the Rey Center for Mountain Stewardship, the University of Maine, the University of Southern Maine, the University of Vermont, the Sundance Alpine Institute, the Coastal Mountains Land Trust, and of course the Waterman Fund. I was amazed so many folks came from New York State.

Once again, on behalf of Acadia National Park, many thanks to the Waterman Fund for their financial and other support of the Gathering. Without it, we would not have been able to bring in the featured speakers and present the program that we did.

Best wishes to the Waterman Fund for continued success in helping preserve and protect the alpine areas of the northeast, including Acadia National Park, the one I am most attached to.

Sincerely,

Charles Jacobi