

# The Alpine Steward

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATERMAN FUND

SUPPORTING EDUCATION & STEWARDSHIP TO PRESERVE THE ALPINE AREAS OF THE NORTHEAST

## The Trail Ahead

Carl Demrow, President

It's been an exciting year for the Fund. If you are reading this, you've played a role in our success over the past six years. We could not have gotten to where we are today without your strong support. Thank you!

We've started up a new trail. In January, under the able guidance of outgoing president Chuck Wooster, the board adopted a direction for the next five years, and the board has committed the Fund to increasing support in three areas:



Carl Demrow (L), President and Rick Sayles (R), Treasurer of The Waterman Fund.

- *Creating an endowment for an annual grant for writers who follow in the footsteps of Guy and Laura, writing from on-the-ground knowledge and from the heart about wilderness values and issues in the Northeast.*
- *Securing permanent funding for the biennial Northeast alpine managers conferences that Guy believed were so important.*
- *Supporting research on alpine issues, particularly those relating to human visitation.*

The core of the Fund will continue to be our annual stewardship grants and Alpine Steward Award. We believe our continuing work, along with these new efforts, will significantly increase our ability to fulfill our mission to “*strengthen the human stewardship of the open summits, exposed ridgelines, and alpine areas of the Northeast.*”

The Fund awarded four grants in 2006 totaling over \$7,500, to the Dartmouth Outing Club, the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Curious George Cottage/Town of Waterville, NH. Our ability to consistently provide funding for alpine projects in the northeast has made a significant difference. And we could do so much more each year. We end up turning away several fine proposed projects each year for lack of funding.

As you'll note, we've changed our name to **The Waterman Fund**. The change made sense to us as we've found that many of our partners and friends refer to us as The Waterman Fund, and because we wanted to honor Laura's contribution to the stewardship ethic that both she and Guy so relentlessly cultivated in their work

November 2006

Issue IIV

The Waterman Fund

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# The Alpine Steward

together. We will honor Guy by naming our annual award after him: *The Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award*. For those who don't know what we do, our print materials will now include "*supporting education and stewardship to preserve the alpine areas of the northeast*" after our name.

Looking to 2007, we'll be distributing 300 copies of Guy and Laura's Backwoods Ethics and Wilderness Ethics to backcountry workers throughout the Northeast, and we'll be supporting and looking forward to attending the alpine managers conference at Acadia National Park in June. And of course in 2007 we will continue our core work: awarding grants to non-profits engaged in alpine education and stewardship.

Finally, we've just recently incorporated in Vermont and applied for non-profit status with the IRS. We're grateful to the Vermont Community Foundation for being our "parents." In January we'll be leaving home and striking out on our own. The Waterman Fund is growing up!

We hope you are as excited about our new direction as we are. The Fund could not have arrived where we are today without your generous gifts. You are responsible for the Fund's success and your annual support will help to make us even more effective over the next years.

## The Fund Stands on Its Own

Rick Sayles, Treasurer

When the Fund reached its first financial goal of raising \$250,000, the Board began to consider the Fund's future legal and financial structure. Was the structure that we had used since the Fund's beginning, still optimal?

Our status as an "advised fund" of the *Vermont Community Foundation* (VCF) certainly had many advantages. To name a few: VCF took care of all of our investments, had already been granted non-profit status by the IRS, and even cut all our checks for both grants and expenses.

However, after careful consideration and discussion with the Community Foundation, both parties agreed that it was

time for a change. Thanks to our activity level, we had simply outgrown the community foundation approach.

And thus we set off down the road to incorporating as a fully independent non-profit entity. We have filed the required forms with the IRS to apply for our own 501(c)(3) status, enabling us to operate as a non-profit public charity and to accept tax-deductible contributions. We have developed a prudent investment policy to guide and evaluate our investment decisions. And we have discussed how the actual transfer of the assets from the VCF will be carried out, a step that we expect will occur right around the end of this year.

It is appropriate to thank VCF for all of their help over the last several years. Our decision to leave is not based on any dissatisfaction with VCF, but rather on our changed circumstances and our good fortune in having a talented group of advisors and board members who have enabled us to plan this move.

The fund will be shouldering more of the work going forward, but our volunteers will see that the Fund operates as efficiently as possible, and our activity level will no longer stand in the way of our progress.

Particular thanks are due to attorney Chuck Sloan for his significant help with our legal and IRS filings.



The Waterman Fund presented its 2006 Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award to University of Vermont Professor Rick Paradis (right) of Middlesex, Vermont. Paradis currently serves as a member of the faculty of the Environmental Program at UVM and Director of the UVM Natural Areas Center. He has trained dozens of Green Mountain Club alpine stewards, and was instrumental in the expansion of the Summit Caretaker Program to Camel's Hump and Mount Abraham. More recently, he completed a Habitat Recovery Plan for Vermont's alpine communities.

# Fund Prepares to Distribute Watermans' "Ethics" Books

Rebecca Oreskes

One of the goals of **the Waterman Fund** is to foster the land ethic that Guy and Laura Waterman practiced at home and in the mountains. We want to make sure that all of us who care for the mountains as hikers, as trail crew workers, or as managers, take the time to think about what wildness means and how we influence the spirit of wildness in everything we do.

To help with this effort, the Fund's first project six years ago was to distribute 300 copies of Guy and Laura Waterman's books, *Backwoods Ethics* and *Wilderness Ethics*. The books went to seasonal trail crew workers, ridge runners, and backcountry rangers; to shelters, huts, and government land managers—including some in Washington, D.C. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy used the books to promote discussion within its board of directors, and we continue to hear from people across the country who cite the books as major influences on their thinking about wild places.

Some of the 300 copies distributed by the Fund—many of which live on remote and sometimes damp bookshelves high in the mountains—are now well worn and in need of replacement. So one of the Fund's upcoming projects is to do another book distribution, free of charge, to clubs, organizations, and agencies whose employees, volunteers, and members would benefit from the books that have influenced both policy and practice throughout the mountains of the Northeast.

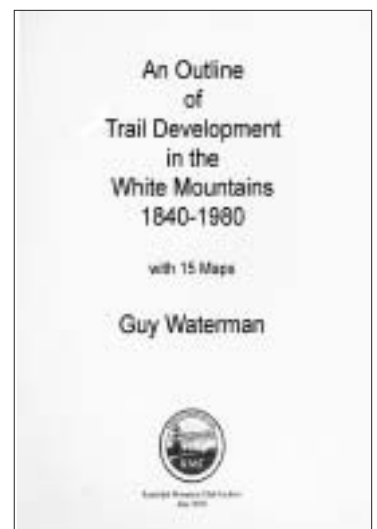
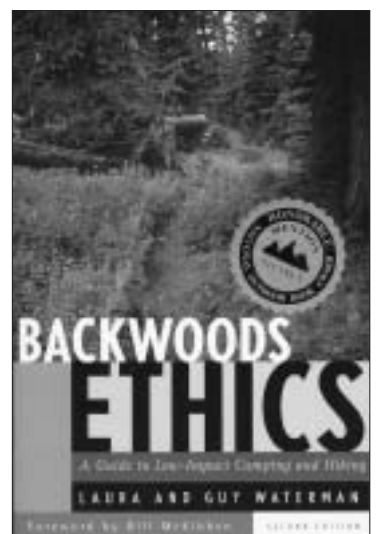
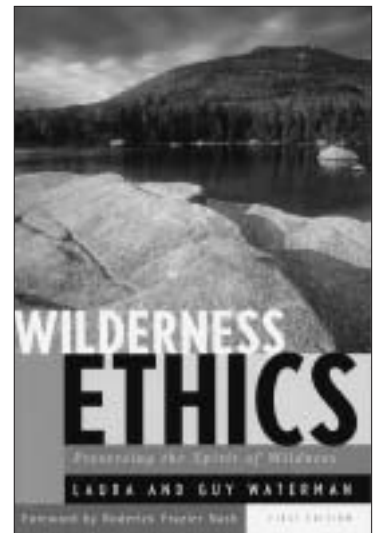
If your organization would like to receive copies of *Backwoods Ethics* or *Wilderness Ethics*, contact **The Waterman Fund**, PO Box 1064, E. Corinth, VT 05040, or [info@watermanfund.org](mailto:info@watermanfund.org)

## Reprint of Guy Waterman's Outline of Trail Development Now Available

Al Hudson, archivist of the Randolph Mountain Club, informs interested readers that Guy Waterman's *An Outline of Trail Development in the White Mountains, 1840-1980* (64 pp, with 15 maps) has been reprinted.

This monograph is based on a manuscript supplied by Laura Waterman and edited by Al and Judith Hudson, who added an introduction and an index to White Mountain Trails. It was originally published by the RMC in 2005, but it quickly went out of print. Copies may be ordered on line from the RMC's web site at [randolphmountain-club.org](http://randolphmountain-club.org) at a cost of \$25.00 plus shipping and handling.

*For each sale, a Waterman Fund friend has agreed to donate \$5 per copy to the Fund.*



## Get Involved with the Fund!

Doug Mayer

When most of us think of lending a hand to **The Waterman Fund**, thoughts obviously turn to the annual appeal you hold in your hands. And that's very important. Our annual letter is a vital means of assuring continuing support for the Fund's efforts to protect our Northeast alpine areas. But there are many other ways you can join the Fund in helping us encourage thoughtful stewardship. Here are a few examples:

### • Lend a Hand—Literally!

The Fund needs volunteers to assist in the following areas: organizing and coordinating the annual dinner; preparing Fund mailings; and searching the web for contributions to our online alpine resource area.

### • Donate Creatively

When the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's JT Horn and his wife Suzanna Smith-Horn got married several years ago, they made a generous donation to the Waterman Fund, rather than buying favors for each of their wedding guests.

Do you have an event at which you could do the same? The little White Mountain Jackass Company in Randolph, N.H., donates \$10 for each shirt they sell to their mountain friends, and have raised over \$1,000 for the Fund since their inception. Could your company chip in, too?

### • Make a Pledge

Multi-year pledges are an excellent way to make a substantial gift to the Fund. When the Fund knows your intentions, it's better able to leverage your donation with future supporters and organizations, and the Fund can better plan its financial future.

### • Spread the Word

Compared to many other outdoors organizations, the Waterman Fund is still new and small. But we're committed to grow, and word of mouth to like-minded friends is one of the best ways we have to spread our message. Ask us for a handful of brochures, or simply e-mail the [Watermanfund.org](http://Watermanfund.org) web address to friends.

### • Attend Our Annual Dinner

The Fund's annual dinner is a great way to meet old

friends and make new acquaintances. If you haven't yet made it to a dinner, we invite you to join us this year. You'll also get to meet this year's Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award winner!

### • Leave a Legacy

Update your will to include a bequest to the Waterman Fund. Your gift will continue to provide important grant money, year after year, to protect the alpine areas for future generations.

Honorary or memorial gifts to remember a friend or relative are also possible. Naming opportunities for specific areas that the Waterman Fund would like to fully endow are available for major gifts. Contact a Fund board member for more information.

### • Apply for a Grant or Nominate an Alpine Steward

Finally, let's not forget the receiving end of the Waterman Fund. If you're involved with a nonprofit or agency with a great alpine stewardship project, we want to hear about it. We can offer funding and publicity to like-minded organizations. Know someone who's been a devoted alpine steward? Why not nominate him or her for our annual Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award? For information on applying for a grant or nominating someone for our annual award, see the Fund web site at [Watermanfund.org](http://Watermanfund.org).

These are just a few ideas. If you'd like to do something more for the Northeast's alpine areas, we hope you'll consider one of them—or several. Better still, surprise us with an idea of your own!

## Alpine Steward Award Nominations Sought

A letter to the Fund is all that is required to nominate someone. Please cite specific examples of the nominee's stewardship of the Northeast wilderness along with other relevant personal or professional experience. The deadline for nominations each year is December 15. The award winner is announced at the Fund's annual dinner, held in April. Each year's winner will be invited to receive his or her Steward Award at the annual dinner.

For more information, visit: [www.watermanfund.org](http://www.watermanfund.org)

### Past Award Winners:

2006	Rick Paradis	2004	Ed Ketchledge
2005	Lester Kenway	2003	Roger Collins

# Photopoints Monitoring Aids Appalachian Trail Management in Alpine Zone

Matt Stevens, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

As staff for a trails organization, we've been confronted numerous times with debate about how a section of trail is improving or degrading. An old timer will say, "Twenty-five years ago, this trail looked totally different." Hopefully, they are explaining that the investments in treadway improvements and in hiker education have improved conditions, but sometimes it is to make the point that more vegetation is being trampled or more erosion has taken place. We value this input immensely, but we've also learned to be careful about trusting people's memories. As anyone who's heard a fisherman or a mountaineer tell a tale can attest, memories are not an objective phenomenon.

So how are we to make decisions as trail managers about whether to invest in more treadway work or more aggressive education? Should we treat the old timer's judgment as gospel? An old timer's opinion that a section of trail used to look better is not always a compelling argument to a land managing agency or to a donor that we need to put a trail crew on the ground or hang more signs or establish a new ridgerunner to educate the masses. Trail work and education cost time and money, and we need to raise funds and mobilize volunteers to take on any significant improvements. Aggressive education and trail construction can do damage to the remote and primitive character of the backcountry—we should have a compelling reason to act before we make decisions that will change the backcountry experience.

Instead of just relying on old timer's recollections and wisdom, we believe that we can be more objective and detailed in assessing the condition of a given section of trail. The state of the art is to employ a photopoint monitoring approach. A photopoint is an image taken from a fixed point (marked with an unobtrusive permanent pin) with a fixed image (focal length, tripod height, compass bearing) that can be easily repeated in the future. This allows us to use imagery to compare the conditions of today with conditions of the past in an objective way. Ideally, we will be able to see changes in the natural conditions — barren ground will revegetate, or the treadway will widen and deepen if erosion and trampling are unchecked.



Val Stori entering data into a GPS unit. The camera on the tripod has a fixed focal length and is set up over a small pin fixed in a rock.



Measuring stick provides accurate sense of scale for viewers. The stick is one meter tall and each colored band is 10 cm.

In the summer of 2006 the Appalachian Trail Conservancy with support from the Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund initiated a photopoint monitoring project to establish a permanent photographic record of the vegetation and trail conditions on the summit of Mount Moosilauke in New Hampshire. ATC staff and volunteers established ten permanent points at various locations along the Appalachian Trail and the Gorge Brook Trail to monitor impacts from foot traffic across the summit area. Permanent photo locations were established with a GPS and the drilling of a small brass screw into a rock. In



Val Stori entering data about the Gorge Brook Trail near the Summit of Moosilauke.

future years we can relocate the points and take additional photos to replicate the baseline images taken in 2006.

Mount Moosilauke is the southernmost of the White Mountain summits to contain populations of alpine vegetation. Many of the plant species associated with this environment are considered Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in New Hampshire due to their limited habitat outside the White Mountains. Alpine vegetation is fragile by nature and can be easily degraded by trampling. The alpine zone may also prove to be highly susceptible to climate change. Changing weather patterns may reduce the size of the alpine area or have other observable effects upon this rare ecotype.

By combining the data collected through photopoint monitoring and rare plant monitoring, we should be able to document how this rare and fragile environment is being affected by local or global phenomena. For locally caused effects, management recommendations can be made in an objective way to respond to specific changes in vegetation and soils. We hope that the photopoint data will illustrate the extent of recovery within the management area as a result of the excellent trail work and education that the Dartmouth Outing Club has done. If, on the

other hand, the photopoints information shows that a specific section of trail is being degraded, we will have good information to make a targeted response.

*The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is a 39,000 member non-profit dedicated to the protection and promotion of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a 2,175 mile hiking trail that stretches from Georgia to Maine. For more information go to: [www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org)*

## News of the Website

Pete Ketcham

The Waterman Fund website ([www.watermanfund.org](http://www.watermanfund.org)) has undergone several adjustments and improvements over the past year, thanks to the skilled work of our website manager, Peter Cole, of B2 Web Services in Georges Mills, New Hampshire. When you visit the web page, you will now find a more streamlined main page sporting the Fund's new name. The new logo will be added in the near future. The front page contains current news items and other items of importance as active links above the main menu. You can also find news items under the Fund News and Events tab, including press releases.

Here's a quick sample of other interesting areas to peruse:

**About the Fund**—Mission, history, current Board of Directors, and commentary about the fund.

**Funded Projects**—Information about what is currently funded, and reports of completed projects from the past. The latter are especially interesting as they exemplify the scope and breadth of work that the Fund supports.

**Applying for a Grant**—Everything you need to know to apply, including forms. It also has an end-of-project report form, necessary for completing a grant.

**Resource Area**—A place for those interested in or directly involved in the important work of protecting the Northeast's alpine zones. Please e-mail us your suggested links, if you have suggestions for this online resource.

The website has much more to offer, so please check out [watermanfund.org](http://watermanfund.org) when you get a chance!

If you have suggestions for content or any questions about the site, please contact me, Pete Antos-Ketcham: [pantosketcham@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:pantosketcham@greenmountainclub.org)

# Fall Fund Visit to the Adirondacks

Doug Mayer

This past month, the Waterman Fund board trekked to the Adirondacks, for a visit with our partners at ADK, the Adirondack Mountain Club. For those members of the board more familiar with alpine stewardship challenges in Maine, the White or Green Mountains, it was a splendid opportunity to visit with summit stewards, rangers, and managers in the Adirondacks and learn about their alpine stewardship work, and understand their unique challenges.

The weekend began with several hikes, including a trip up Mount Wright, guided by ADK's Director of Field Programs Wes Lampman and longtime Adirondack Ranger Pete Fish. Summit Stewards Nate Becker and Julia Goren provided valuable insight into ADK's ongoing summit steward program in the heavily travelled high peaks region. The summit steward program, now in its 18th year, has three goals: public outreach, light trail work and botany research, including monitoring of alpine plant populations and rare plant inventories. The high peaks region sees significant hiker traffic. On Algonquin alone, summit stewards spoke with 2186 hikers in August.

One of ADK's recent success stories is a new "Carry A Rock" program, in which hikers are asked to carry one small rock to the relatively rock-free alpine summits. The rocks are then used to build small retaining walls, reducing soil erosion caused by hiker's boots. Over the course of the summer, hikers moved no less than three truckloads of rocks! In addition to accomplishing a needed task, the project provided an opportunity for summit stewards to engage hikers on alpine stewardship issues.

After hiking, over forty Fund members, friends and partners enjoyed a fabulous dinner at Adirondack Rock and River, in Keene. Matt and Julia treated all present to an alpine slide show, and discussion of Julia's alpine plant population studies, which was funded in part by New York State Heritage Foundation. Following the show, an in-depth discussion ensued, ranging from stewardship successes to date, present challenges and looming issues. The Fund would like to thank Wes Lampman, Nate Becker, Julia Goren, Pete Fish, Ed Palen of Adirondack Rock and River— Nancy Both for the fabulous catering. We look forward to similar events in the future, with other Waterman Fund partners!



ADK's Director of Field Programs Wes Lampman along with Summit Stewards Nate Becker, and Julia Goren and long time Adirondack Ranger Pete Fish provide valuable insight to The Waterman Board Members at the summit Mount Wright.

# Some Special Thank-Yous From Page Hollow

Laura Waterman, Secretary

**Laurie Rinaldi** — For designing our stationery to reflect our newly acquired non-profit status, and laying out our newsletter, The Alpine Steward. **Paul Hansen** — For donating his time and his outstanding photograph for our Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award.

## Waterman Fund Donors

*Thanks to all who have supported The Fund in the past year.*

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John & Shirley Kirincich  
William Kneedler  
Eleanor & Ernst Kohlsaaf  
Allen Kooop  
Robert & Harriett Kruszyna  
Barbara Kukla

**Chuck Wooster**, our past President — For continuing, as an active volunteer, to chair the Nominating and Publications Committees, and maintain the mailing list. **Charles W. Sloan** — For his invaluable legal council as we convert to independent non-profit status. **Peter Antos-Ketcham** — For his continuing first-class maintenance of our website. **Fred Stott** — For his article on the Fund scheduled to appear in the December, 2006, number of Appalachia, and for his unequalled sage advice and generous friendship. **Margaret Gilmore** — For purchasing Guy's piano, proceeds from the sale to go to The Fund.

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