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The Waterman Fund
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The Alpine Steward

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATERMAN FUND

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

President's Report 2010

Mary Margaret Sloan

Over the past decade, the Waterman Fund has supported alpine projects through competitive grants in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. These grants have funded alpine stewards, signage, education, and even a PlantCam. Some projects – like the High Peaks Summit Steward program in the Adirondacks – may not have happened without Waterman Fund support. Or the bi-annual Alpine Conferences. Other projects would have moved forward, but they may not have been as robust or successful. That's a lot to be proud of.



Outgoing president, Mary Margaret Sloan (l) with president elect, Val Stori (r) on Monadnock during this October's retreat.

One of the initiatives I am most proud of, partly because it started during

my tenure on the board of directors, is the Alpine Essay Contest. If you haven't had a chance to read the winning essays from the first two years, it's not too late – they are posted on our web site (watermanfund.org) and they've run in *Appalachia*, our partner in the contest. This year's winning essay, "Hunting the Woolly Adelgid," is the centerfold of this newsletter. The author, Dianne Fallon, talks about searching for the invasive woolly adelgid in southern Maine on a cold winter's day. For me, what makes the story so good is that it's grounded in science and nature, but is at its heart a personal story. It makes the threats to our alpine areas much more real and understandable, because they affect us personally. I hope you enjoy Dianne's essay as much as I did.

When we launched the essay contest, the board hoped that language would be another way to inspire the protection of the alpine areas of the northeast. What we didn't anticipate was just how much these essays have inspired us. We have learned more about these special places by seeing them through the eyes of others. We feel fortunate to be part of such a passionate community, one that not just shares their reflections and personal stories about northeast alpine areas, but one that also supports our grant-making.

The support of our donors really should have been my first point, because without them, without you, we could not continue to protect these iconic places in the northeast. Thank you. As I step off the Waterman Fund board after a very fulfilling six years, I do so knowing that this organization is in such capable hands – yours.

November 2010

No. 9

The Waterman Fund

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The Alpine Steward

Charlie Jacobi Receives the 2010 Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award at the Annual Dinner

Val Stori

Charlie Jacobi, a natural resource specialist at Acadia National Park in Maine, received this year's Guy Waterman Alpine Steward award for his efforts at managing outdoor recreation and visitor use at the Park for 25 years. His tireless efforts to keep Acadia wild and his dedication to protecting Acadia's mountains for future generations made him an ideal candidate for the award which seeks to recognize a lifetime stewardship of, and passion for, mountainous landscapes. It was with great pleasure that the Waterman Fund was able to present Charlie the award along with a gorgeous Bob Thayer photograph of Acadia at the Waterman Fund's annual dinner. The dinner was attended by more than 50 people, including David Manski, Chief of Resource Management at Acadia National Park, who had nominated Charlie for the award. Dr. Bob Manning, Professor of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont and Dr. Jeff Marion, Adjunct Professor of Natural Resource Recreation at Virginia Tech also nominated Charlie for the award.

Outside of his stewardship efforts at Acadia National Park, Charlie has contributed his expertise in visitor and recreation management to the wider land stewardship community in Maine. He organizes and promotes backcountry ethics across the state and has improved the public's understanding of responsible outdoor ethics. In addition, he is a founding member of and still serves on the board of the Friends of Baxter State Park.

Included in the annual dinner and award celebration was a presentation by a nascent organization, Beyond Ktaadn, which promotes the conservation and understanding of alpine biodiversity in eastern North America. The group presented photos and stories of their field research in northern New England and eastern Canada. The Fund had awarded Beyond Ktaadn \$6000 for field research in the Laurentians. We hope to have an update on their work posted on our website later this year.



Laura Waterman presenting Charlie Jacobi with Bob Thayer's framed photo of Acadia. Photo by Bill Bentley.



Barbara Kukla and Scott Monroe enjoying themselves at the annual Waterman Fund dinner. Photo by Bill Bentley.

Annual Fall Retreat Visit to Mount Monadnock

Julia Goren and Val Stori

The Waterman Fund board headed to southwestern New Hampshire to hike Mount Monadnock with Peter Palmiatto and get an overview of the new summit steward program. In 2009, the Fund supported Antioch University New England's Monadnock Ecological Research and Education Program (MERE) in the creation of its Summit Stewardship program with a grant of \$5000. Our day on Mt. Monadnock proved spectacular—we caught a rare, sunny fall day and enjoyed an afternoon visiting with the stewards and learning about Palmiatto's ecological research on the Mountain. Palmiatto is the Director of MERE and Antioch's Conservation Biology department.



Board members on Monadnock during this October's retreat.

Mt. Monadnock rises to a height of 3,165 feet, making it a dominant feature on the landscape, but not a true alpine summit. A number of factors, including nineteenth century fires, contribute to the bald summit. The summit of Monadnock is a sub-alpine rocky bald, where species such as three-tooth cinquefoil, mountain cranberry, boreal bentgrass, and mountain sandwort can be found.

Monadnock claims the distinction of being the second most frequently climbed mountain in the world, after Mt. Fuji. Visitation is in excess of 95,000 hikers annually. Prior to 2009, no education existed on the summit to inform visitors about the fragile plants found above treeline. Antioch's Stewardship Program, in cooperation with Mount Monadnock State Park, aims to increase the public's awareness of the effect of hiker's foot-traffic on crevice communities and is modeled after the alpine stewardship programs that have been successful in the Adirondack Mountains. Through stewardship education, the steward program hopes to increase the total vegetative cover of plant communities on the summit of Mt. Monadnock. With the Fund's financial help, two Summit Stewards were placed on Mt. Monadnock in 2009. In their 24 days on the summit there were over 16,000 visitors! The Stewardship program continued in 2010 and plans to continue in 2011.

The two summit stewards whom we met on the summit shared their experiences as stewards, including the unique challenges of working on such a busy summit with many first-time hikers and international visitors. We also learned about the ecology of the mountain, future educational signs, and future photopoint monitoring projects from Peter along the way. Peter has successfully integrated local AP Biology classes into active research on the mountain through an Antioch program on Monadnock called Crevice Communities. We were impressed with the good work that the Monadnock Summit Stewardship Project has accomplished in such a short period of time.

After the hike, we were joined for dinner by Patrick Hummel, Monadnock State Park Manager, who shared his experiences about managing a busy and diverse state park. Peter and Patrick work together to protect the summit plant communities; the summit stewards are an added benefit to a heavily-visited park and provide yet another opportunity to educate hikers on safety and backcountry ethics.

We extend our sincere thanks to all for a great visit!

The Third Annual Waterman Fund Alpine Essay Contest

Annie Bellerose

The Waterman Fund wrapped up its third annual Alpine Essay Contest in March with a total of thirty-one submissions. This year's prize went to Dianne Fallon, for her essay "Hunting the Woolly Adelgid."

Fallon's essay focuses on issues of stewardship and hope, centering around the study of the invasive woolly adelgid, an insect that's attacking eastern hemlock forests. It will be published in the December issue of *Appalachia*, the Appalachian Mountain Club's biannual journal of mountaineering and conservation, and appears in this issue of the Fund's newsletter. In addition, Fallon will be awarded a \$1,500 prize to help her continue to pursue her writing – and to recognize the importance of a new voice addressing northeastern environmental issues.

In addition to awarding Fallon first place recognition, the Fund awarded Jon Mingle with Honorable Mention for his essay, "The Red Squirrel and The Second Law, or, What the Caretaker Saw." His piece contemplates our ideas of order and disorder in wilderness. Mingle will receive \$500 and two Ethics books by the Watermans.

In addition to running "Hunting the Woolly Adelgid" in the newsletter, both essays will be available in full at www.watermanfund.org, as of December 1st. The Alpine Essay Contest fulfills a long-term goal of the Waterman Fund — encouraging new voices speaking about northeastern environmental issues, much as Guy and Laura Waterman did in the 1970s, 80s and 90s.

All are encouraged to submit essays for the 2011 contest. Essays are due March 15, 2011. Please also check out changes in the contest's details and official rules at www.watermanfund.org or contact Annie Bellerose by mail or email.

To submit an entry, email a Word document (or compatible format) and accompanying cover letter to: info@watermanfund.org attn: Annie Bellerose

or mail to:

The Waterman Fund Attn: Annie Bellerose
P.O. Box 1064
East Corinth, VT 05040

Waterman Fund 2011 Alpine Essay Contest

The Waterman Fund seeks the submission of essays about life in the mountains of the northeastern U.S. for its annual Waterman Fund Alpine Essay Contest.

Wildness! Are you finding it where you least expect? Did you go in search and it wasn't there?

The Waterman Fund is seeking personal essays about stewardship of wild places, whether through a scientific lens or an encounter with wildness.

What do we mean by "the spirit of wildness?" Why is it so important to our lives? Or, is it? Guy and Laura Waterman spent a lifetime reflecting and writing on the Northeast's mountains. The Waterman Fund seeks to further their legacy through essays that celebrate this spirit.

THE WINNING PIECE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN

Appalachia Journal

THE WINNING ESSAYIST WILL BE AWARDED \$1,500

HONORABLE MENTION WILL RECEIVE \$500

For more information
and submission details, visit
www.watermanfund.org



The Waterman Fund

Hunting the Woolly Adelgid

The winning essay of the Waterman Fund contest

Dianne Fallon

Editor's Note: Three years ago, the Waterman Fund, which supports research and teaching projects about alpine areas in the Northeast, approached Appalachia about sponsoring a contest to encourage new writing about the spirit of wildness. It is our goal at the journal to help writers develop their unique voices. Our third winner takes us into the Maine woods, where she struggles to document an invasive insect. Fallon received a \$1,500 prize; honorable mention of \$500 went to Jonathan Mingle for a piece musing on red squirrels. To learn more about the contest, see watermanfund.org.

I have been tramping in the woods near Mount Agamenticus in southern Maine for a couple of hours looking for signs of a tiny aphid-like insect that kills hemlock trees, and I am starting to feel hungry and cold. I should have brought more snacks. I'm feeling a bit uncertain about the scientific aspect of the survey I have volunteered to do. I'm supposed to plot data on a sheet, following the compass points spelled out in the instructions — but I think I can figure it out: Start with the first hemlock tree, examine two branches of new foliage, walk 25 paces, find another tree, check it. Check the sheet for the next cardinal point, use the compass to orient myself, and walk another 25 paces in that direction. My goal is to check 100 hemlock trees in this random but directed fashion.

I have come here today to survey my adopted tree stand for signs of the woolly adelgid because I love hemlocks, the way their lacy branches spread out and make the woods into a cathedral. In the winter, I love seeing the patches of packed down snow beneath a hemlock's sheltering branches—evidence that deer are keeping themselves cozy and warm. And I love these woods, and the opportunity to experience them in a different way—to get out into the forest with my compass and follow the directions for the survey, wandering in terrain I might not otherwise explore. I like having a purpose to direct my wandering, to take me into patches of the forest where I might not go otherwise. I like feeling as if I am taking care of these trees.

The day is overcast, a little chilly, but not cold. This is strange weather for mid-December. On Thursday night came the freezing cold that caused an ice storm that snapped branches and toppled trees. On Friday, a blast of warm air melted the ice within hours. Today, colder air has blown in. We've been camping out at the house without power for five days, stoking the wood stove and flushing the toilet with water siphoned from standing pools into a trash barrel. On this Monday, ten days before Christmas, I have student portfolios to grade, errands to run, and a children's birthday party to organize. Coming to the woods today takes time away from these responsibilities,

but I consider it time well spent, an antidote for this frenzied time of year.

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Earlier, driving up Mountain Road, I navigated debris from the ice storm littering the road: pine needles, branches, and limbs pushed off to the sides. No lights or other signs of electricity in the homes set back on wooded lots. I passed two Central Maine Power trucks, their crews floating in buckets amid the power lines as they worked to restore order from the tangled mess created by the storm. I knew that I would have to be vigilant for hanging limbs in the treetops—"widowmakers"—that might snap and break. Was I crazy to be out here today? Maybe, but I felt confident that most branches weak enough to break had already done so.

As I drove past the Mount Agamenticus access road, I ignored the "Road Closed" sign and continued up Mountain Road as pavement gave way to dirt. This portion is officially closed December to April, but that doesn't mean the road is impassable, at least not until the first heavy snow. I drove to the high point where a cliff overlooks a ravine, and then down the steep hill toward Cedar Creek. I had to slow down and drive around a white pine that lay on one side of the road, blocking the opposite lane. After parking my car at the Cedar Creek trailhead, I set off, walking down the old tote road. My map shows that this old road leads to a pond, so I walked to the pond and then plunged into the woods from there, making that area the first block of my survey.

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Although I live in southern coastal Maine, an area that feels more suburban than rural, today I am alone out here. This patch of forest feels as remote as any that I've walked in North Woods or the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Maybe even more so, because when I hike in the Whites, I take trails. When I visit my tree stand, I wander.

My tree stand is part of the largest unfragmented coastal forest between Acadia National Park and the New Jersey Pine Barrens. The forest here has been preserved in small and large parcels by ten conservation groups working together, the Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Coalition—an effort that began over 100 years ago, when the local water district began to buy up land to protect the water supplies for the towns of York and Kittery. This sprawling stretch of undeveloped land—about 30,000 acres—stretches from the backside of 691-foot Mount Agamenticus to slivers of marshland along the York River.

Like almost all land in New England, these 30,000 acres have been used and developed in many ways over the centuries: for farming, sheep grazing, lumber. During World War II, a radar tower—the first of its kind in the United States—was installed on the summit of Mount A and the forest cut to make room for barracks to house 25 soldiers of the 551st Signal Battalion. For ten years in the 1960s and 1970s, a ski area drew locals to the mountain each winter.

Today, telemark skiers trek up Mount A to turn on slopes that shrink a bit more each season as trees and brush take over. When the snow melts, hikers and casual visitors wander the summit's open meadow, bikers careen down the rocky trails, and the mountaintop can feel like a busy place, like the top of Mount Washington on a clear day. But even with the people there, the blue ocean shimmers to the east. To the west, the spine of Mount Washington rises above the Ossipee Hills, a spectacular sight any day but especially on a clear spring afternoon, when the sloping ridge of Washington remains covered in snow.

These woods below the slope of Mount A are the deepest and thickest area in this vast tract of protected land. A rambler can tramp for hours without seeing a house or road. Although the woods welcome their share of dog walkers and mountain bikers, especially on the weekends, most people, myself included, tend to overlook this wildness in their own back yard. It's only in recent years that I have taken to exploring this terrain. Somehow we have the idea that the woods are wild only if they are remote.

In the past, instead of looking for wildness in my own neighborhood, I sought it in more distant locales: in climbing 4,000-footers in New Hampshire, in bushwhacking in Arctic national parks, and while listening for lions on Mount Kenya. Only when my travels were curbed by family responsibilities did I begin to view the Agamenticus forest as an opportunity to experience the wild.

And these woods are wild. A massive beaver lodge rises from the middle of the boggy pond. Are the beavers still living there, or have they abandoned this lodge? I examine the branches littering the shore, trying to determine if beavers have been gnawing at them, since I know that beavers will live in an area until they have exhausted the food supply, and then move on. The surface of the pond is patchy white. Maybe the surface is frozen, but it's certainly not ice. It's quiet here. As quiet as my house without electricity.

I breathe in the stillness, hopeful that I might see something — a deer, an elusive bobcat? — but I have missed the

prime wildlife watching hours of early morning. I know that bobcats live here because I have seen their snowy tracks on nearby Chase Pond. Wild turkeys roost in the trees and strut about on old logging roads. Wetlands such as this pond and nearby vernal pools are breeding grounds for wood frogs, blue-spotted salamanders, and the rare spotted and Blanding's turtles. Earlier in the fall, on another drive up Mountain Road with my young son and his friend, we passed a "Turtle Crossing" sign, and then, as if the sign had conjured the creature, we came upon a spotted turtle crossing the road.

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After a few minutes of enjoying the pond, I backtrack a few steps and plunge into the forest to do my survey. The forest floor is littered with natural debris — small brooms of leaves, tangles of branches, and, here and there, a large limb that would have killed whatever creature happened to be passing as it fell. Some trees will wither and die from the effects of the ice storm, especially the weaker trees that can't recover from the loss of a thick upper limb. But overall, the forest looks healthy, green. The forest will survive this natural catastrophe.

But will it survive the woolly adelgid? This tiny insect is a killer, gluing itself to the twigs of hemlock foliage where it then sucks the sap within the tree's green needles. Hemlock trees infested with woolly adelgids usually die within four to ten years. This deadly Asian pest, which first appeared in the Northwest in the 1920s, showed up in the eastern United States, in Virginia, in the 1950s. Since then, it has been creeping south and north, carried along by animals, birds, and the wind. The insect has ravaged the eastern Hemlock forests in southern Appalachia, creating large swaths of grayish-green dying or dead hemlocks. Now, the woolly adelgid has reached southern Maine. On the other side of Mountain Road — less than 100 yards from my tree stand — many hemlocks are marked with surveyor's tape so that researchers and conservation workers know where the pests have been spotted.

To try to save the Eastern hemlock in Maine, the Maine Forest Service has mobilized an army of volunteers, staff, and other conservation professionals to detect the woolly adelgids. Entomologists don't believe that they can stop or eradicate the woolly beast; containment is the goal. If these stewards of the forest find an area where the adelgids have invaded, the Forest Service moves in to attack the insects with a tiny black beetle, *Laricobius nigrinus*, that eats woolly adelgids. Nobody knows if this effort will be successful. The cold might kill the beetles. The beetles might not reproduce. Releasing the beetles, which are native to the Northwest, might provoke unintended consequences. Entomologists have evaluated this possibility and believe that the beetles will not upset the balance of the local ecosystem, but they can't be certain.

Other ways of saving the hemlocks also might prove to be successful. The Asian hemlock is resistant to the adelgids and scientists are experimenting with hybridizing this tree with its cousin, the eastern Hemlock. And hemlock forests have been dev-

astated before, but recovered—although in the past, people, not natural pests, caused the devastation, as they looted the trees of their bark to extract the tannins once used in the tanning industry.

I want to be hopeful for these beautiful trees, but sometimes I feel discouraged by the constant trickle of news about threats to our forests. Elongate hemlock scale, from Japan, also damages hemlocks. Other species of trees also face dire threats. Asian longhorned beetles have infested the maple trees in central Massachusetts and are creeping north, especially on firewood. The emerald ash borer already has killed millions of ash trees, just a few years after it was first discovered in the United States in 2002.

Sometimes all of this bad news about invasive insects feels overwhelming, especially in considering the consequences. We've lost our elm trees and our American chestnuts. Can we imagine the forest without hemlocks? Or a New England fall without maple trees? A spring without the sap running?

Our forests need care. In providing the care, in being with the trees, I can deflect the blows from the onslaught of bad news about invasive pests, diseases, and other problems. Although visiting my tree stand has made me more aware of all the threats facing the forest, I didn't know about all of these challenges when I signed on to be part of the Forest Service brigade, to adopt a hemlock tree stand, and check it every year for adelgids. I had seen an item in the newspaper about the insects and decided I want to be part of caring for these trees.

This year, I visited my tree stand in the fall, but it was too early, too warm, to see evidence of them. The adelgids form a protective woolly coating as the weather gets colder—they look like tiny pieces of fuzzy cotton, about the size of a wood tick. The best time to examine hemlocks for the adelgids is winter and early spring because they are more visible, encased in their woolly coats, and because the surveyor is less likely to contribute to spreading the adelgids. In the late spring, mobile larvae known as crawlers emerge from the woolly sacs and will drift on anything that brushes up against an invaded twig.

Today, after a couple of turns and checking of foliage, I land on the bank of Cedar Creek, dark and swollen from the rain. Downstream a few paces, a cluster of rocks creates a bridge, and I cross over to the other side. Hemlocks rise all around me, a primeval cathedral. A few white pines are mixed into the forest, but mostly I am surrounded by hemlocks. This is what I love about hemlocks—the shade created by a mature hemlock stand doesn't allow lower story trees or bushes to flourish, so a hemlock forest is open and airy, devoid of heavy brush.

I work steadily, hiking my 25 paces, in more or less the prescribed direction, climbing up a moss-covered rocky outcropping, then plunging back down toward the stream. At one point, I look up, and notice the shaking crown of a white pine — shaking because something is climbing in the tree — something heavier than a squirrel. Could it be a porcupine? I try to get a look, but the treetop crowns are dense, dark. Still, I feel elated, to be so close to a wild animal doing what it does every day.

The forest floor is damp, spotted with puddles of standing water, but not icy. The ice melted the day after the storm, and it's easy to make my way through the woods. Walk 25 paces, stop, survey branches on one side of the tree, then another. So far, I have not spotted anything that is definitely a woolly adelgid, though I find two branches with whitish spots that could be the adelgid, or something else, like clumps of dried-up sap.

I remind myself to look up for signs of breaking branches. The forest floor is covered with branches and limbs, and some trees are down, but overall, the damage is less than what I expected. Do hemlocks—healthy ones—resist the damage of an ice storm that might kill other trees? I wonder if their foliage, its laciness, protects them by spreading out the weight of the ice.

These hemlocks, it seems, will survive the battering of the ice storm, but may not withstand the slow bleed of this invasive pest. I suppose we're not so different from this tree. We can survive a crisis, get knocked down and still get back up again, but the slow bleed of resentment or stultification does more damage.

I climb up the slope from the creek, scrambling over moss-covered rocks that help to anchor these hemlocks. Hiking in these woods in December reminds me that there are pleasures to savor in all seasons. The emptiness, the quiet, the lack of bugs. The opaque whiteness of the pond. The sound of chickadees calling. These woods today offer as much opportunity for joy as reaching a summit on a brilliant summer afternoon.

I've sampled almost 50 trees. Although I've bagged a couple of twigs with whitish spots, I'm pretty sure that the adelgids have not invaded this side of the road — not yet. I'll need to stop soon, so I won't meet my goal of sampling 100 trees today. But that's okay. I'll have a reason to come here again soon on another day, alone, to wander in this forest, to feel this wildness so close to my everyday life.

The ice storm adds to the pleasures of this December ramble. The storm broke branches and downed trees, creating gaps and light, opening up patches of forest to the sun — opportunity for new life. The broken limbs and uprooted trees will provide food to uncounted insects, fungi, and other organisms. As for me, the storm has caused a shift in perspective. Instead of looking mostly forward, I look up.



Dianne Fallon is a writer and English professor at York County Community College. She grew up in suburban Boston, graduated from Bowdoin College, served in the Peace Corps in Morocco, and earned a doctorate in creative writing from Binghamton University. She lives in Kittery Point, Maine.

Waterman Fund to Launch New Website

Val Stori

The Waterman Fund has been working to redesign its website and update its content based on feedback from the 2009 Alpine Stewardship Gathering. At the 2009 Gathering, the Waterman Fund received feedback that a good use of its website would be as a repository for alpine-related research. To that end, the Waterman Fund has been working on redesigning its site to accommodate easier postings, blog submissions, on-line donations, and on-line grant applications. Phase II of our web upgrade will include a resource library—a searchable database with articles and reports on alpine issues ranging from trail building techniques to alpine flora monitoring. Please visit our site soon to see the changes. Many thanks to web designer Eric Buddington for creating the new site!

Thank You From Page Hollow

Laura Waterman, Secretary

Garrett Allen and **Eric Buddington**, web experts, for their generous and able boost to our website (check it out!); **Beyond Ktaadn** (**Mike Jones**, **Will Kemeza**, and **Liz Willey**), one of our grant recipients for 2010, for speaking with eloquence at our Annual Dinner; **Blake Memorial Library**, for providing us with convenient and comfortable meeting space; **Laurie Demrow**, for her continued and generous support with our newsletter; **Nancy Frost**, our postmaster, for helping us with our mailing list; **Doug Mayer** and **Rebecca Oreskes**, past board members, for weighing in as readers for our essay contest; **Christine Woodside**, editor of *Appalachia*, for her support with our essay contest and for publishing the winning essay in the December issue.

Recalling Ed Ketchledge

Mary Thill and Kathy Regan

Dr. Edwin H. Ketchledge, Founder of the Adirondacks Summit Steward Program, died peacefully on June 30, 2010. He was 85.

“Ketch,” to all who knew him, was a botanist, teacher and founder of the Summit Steward program, a 20-year collaborative effort to educate hikers and protect vulnerable alpine plants that cling to the Adirondacks’ highest summits.

He was a veteran of the 10th Mountain Division’s Italy campaign during World War II where he was seriously injured. Surviving that experience inspired Ketch to live a meaningful life. He dedicated himself to Adirondack conservation, botany, and teaching.

Dr. Ketchledge was a distinguished teaching professor of environmental and forest biology at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

He authored one of the essential Adirondack field guides, *Forests & Trees of the Adirondack High Peaks Region*, first published by Adirondack Mountain Club in 1967. He understood the Adirondack landscape in both paleo and poetic terms.

“The forests we see around us now are unique; they have no analogs in the past. Interglacial conditions have been here for only 40 tree generations of time,” he wrote. “The outwardly stable forests we see in our human lifetime are more correctly understood as dynamic populations of competing species, adjusting as necessary over centuries of time to variations in the proverbial balance of nature: that so-called ‘balance’ is more truthfully an episodic teeter-totter!”

Ketch worked in the High Peaks for more than 40 years, surveying, mapping and restoring alpine meadows. His belief that people would take responsibility for protecting the meadows if they were informed about them has been validated by the success of the Summit Steward program, which teaches hikers on-site about the mountaintop ecosystem.

Ketch was the recipient of the 2004 Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award.



Algonquin Stitch. Photo generously provided courtesy of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Treasurer's Report Fall 2010

Rick Sayles

Our fund balance, as of the writing of this report in late September, stands at \$270,000. This compares to a fund balance of about \$250,000 as of last year's report. In 2010, we approved \$16,000 of grants and awards (described elsewhere in the newsletter) and we have received over \$8,000 in contributions. Cumulative grants and awards since the fund's inception in 2000 now exceed \$86,000, and cumulative contributions received from our donors is more than \$325,000. Awesome! And thank you very much!

We are pleased to note that in this up-and-down investment year, our fund has earned an investment return of approximately 6% year-to-date, or about \$16,000. As I mention each year in this space, the Waterman Fund is volunteer-driven and therefore enjoys extremely low-cost operating expenses. Total operating expenses are \$2,500 year-to-date. With such low expenses, we are able to ensure that as much of your donations as possible go towards the actual mission of the Fund – education and stewardship of the alpine areas of the northeast.

Thanks again for your support!

Alpine Steward Nominations Sought

To nominate someone for the Alpine Steward Award, please send a letter to the Waterman Fund, citing specific examples of the nominee's stewardship of the Northeast wilderness, along with other relevant personal or professional experience. If you have nominated someone in the past, their name remains in the running. Nominations are due Jan. 1, 2011.

Past Award Winners: 2010 Charlie Jacobi, 2009 Pete Fish, 2008 Dr. Hub Vogelmann, 2007 Dick Fortin, 2006 Rick Paradis, 2005 Lester Kenway, 2004 Ed Ketchledge, 2003 Roger Collins.

Grant applications Due

Grant applications for alpine project funding are due on December 15, 2010.

For more information, visit: www.watermanfund.org or mail your nominations or applications to:

The Waterman Fund
PO Box 1064
East Corinth, VT 05040

2010 Grant Recipients

Annie Bellerose

The Waterman Fund gave away \$14,000 in alpine stewardship grants in 2010.

The Wildlife Conservation Society Adirondack Program (WCS) based in Saranac Lake, New York, received funding for an Alpine Moss Mapping project. The project will identify, map, and document alpine mosses and liverworts on four summits in the Adirondack High Peaks, with an end goal of developing enough information to monitor and protect these species.

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), located in Boston, Massachusetts, was awarded funds for an Alpine PlantCam Network. The project's first season seeks to supplement existing citizen science projects of the Mountain Watch program through close monitoring of phenological plant development of targeted alpine and forest species through cameras located at specific monitoring plots throughout the White Mountains.

The Beyond Ktaadn Project (sponsored by Walden Woods Project) of Concord, Massachusetts, is a collaborative project to explore, study, and conserve the alpine summits and surrounding wilderness of eastern North America. The project received funding to visit representative portions of ten major ranges in Quebec, Newfoundland, and Labrador, evaluating and describing access to each range, its natural and cultural history, and current threats. These findings will be collected in a popular account with the intention of highlighting their shared conservation challenges and connections to alpine areas in the United States. Beyond Ktaadn will also establish long-term, no-impact alpine monitoring plots to further the case for preservation of these areas.



Summit Steward on Algonquin, courtesy Adirondack Mountain Club.



*Diapensia lapponica in bloom.
Photo by Val Stori*

The Green Mountain Club, in Waterbury Center, Vermont, received funding for the design, creation, and installation of new informational signage for Mt. Mansfield, Camel's Hump, Mt. Abraham, and Hunger Mountain. This new signage will be placed at trailheads, overnight sites, and summits and ridgelines to further protect alpine vegetation through low-key education.



*Beyond Ktaadn members in Newfoundland, Summer 2010.
Photo courtesy Mike Jones.*

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Thanks to all who have supported The Fund this past year.

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