



The Waterman Fund

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P.O. Box 1064 East Corinth Vermont 05040



# The Alpine Steward

Newsletter of the Waterman Fund

Supporting Education & Stewardship To Preserve the Alpine Areas of the Northeast

## President's Report 2011

Val Stori

This past spring, as the Waterman Fund's annual essay contest deadline drew near, I, too, found myself thinking about the wild and the stewardship of wild places. For the last several years, the Fund's annual essay contest has encouraged essayists to describe their experiences in the wild or experiences where they've found the wild in the most incongruous and least expected places. The essays we've received often describe life-altering or deeply meaningful connections to wild places; many describe a sense of loss as one's complicated work and family life draw one further and further from wild experiences. Yet the majority of the essayists find a surprising reconnection with the wild in places least expected—places like forested neighborhoods, quiet dirt roads, and even city airports.

It has been nearly a decade since the wild has been my home. I too experience a certain sense of loss or sadness when I consider the last time a rain drenched me to the bone or when I fell asleep tired and heavy in my familiar blue bag listening to the whirr of the Bicknell's thrush. Four walls, a woodstove, and indoor plumbing have long since replaced nights under the stars and trips to the outhouse. I am ashamed and even horrified to recognize how infrequently I manage to pull my sleeping bag onto the



Lake of the Clouds from Adam's Apple on Mount Mansfield

porch—often too lured (sedated?) by the glow from my laptop screen rather than the glimmer of April's pink moon.

And so, as I eagerly awaited this year's entries on the wild, I found myself wondering about my own personal connections to the wild. On several early spring runs through the woods, forests, and field of my hometown, I searched for what was wild and untrammelled and unfettered and beautiful. And in searching I discovered second growth northeastern forests and a landscape which had been given another opportunity—a second chance—to grow, to thrive, and to support a host of communities. Nature—the wild—I learned, is not solely a concept reserved for special and distant places, but is around us and within us daily. From it, we learn to listen, explore, expand our senses, and pay attention. These woods of mine, with an old logging road running through, are rich with history, wild nettles, ramps, and human story. Kneeling amidst the leaves, I discover wild ginger with its velvety leaves and a colorful beetle silently lumbering through the detritus, her anachronistic, segmented

legs moving to the forest's rhythm. Time and again, I find myself here, often on my knees, always silent, reciting the first few lines to an e.e. cummings's poem:

*I thank you god for this most amazing  
day: for the leaping greenly spirit of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes*

Those of us who have climbed the ridges, who have walked for miles through a quiet woods in a gentle snowfall, who have traversed—no, crawled—across treeline in hurricane-force winds, who have smelled the sweet scent of decay in an autumn's forest floor—we carry a sense of the wild—the spirit of the wild—within us. We know how to see, how to smell, how to be still and to listen. We know how wild life is and how wild life can be.

And as this year's essays rolled in and as we awarded funds for alpine steward programs, I was keenly aware that both a younger generation was about to be exposed to the Northeast's wilds and that others that had been so moved by their experiences would be putting pen to paper and sharing their stories with us.

This year's essayists spoke passionately of their love for wild places and their experiences therein. It is clear to us at the Fund that the Northeast's wilds play a vital role in shaping

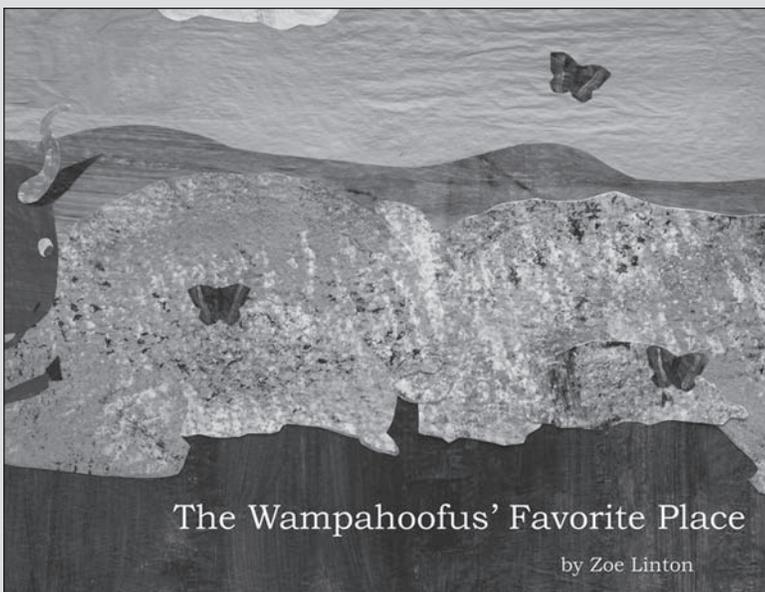
the stewards of tomorrow. The essays speak to the formative role the wild plays in teaching us how to live, whether it is amidst the trees or in more populated areas. We hope that you will enjoy the excerpts from the two winning essays contained in this newsletter and that you'll read the essays in full in Appalachia or on the Fund's website in December.

As I write, the Waterman Fund is preparing its 12th annual RFP for alpine projects. We'll have nearly \$13,000 to award to individuals and organizations across the northeast, but we already know that we will not be able to fully fund all the requests we receive. As the Fund forges ahead in the coming year, the Board will be addressing our vision for the future and how to best support the organizations and individuals who work on behalf of alpine areas and wild places.

Guy and Laura instilled in us a responsibility to care for the land and the mountains we love—the Fund is working hard to ensure that future generations of stewards, researchers, trail workers, and writers receive the financial support needed to not only steward these wild ridgelines, but also to carry forward the illimitable spirit of the mountains.

We could not do this work without you. Thank you for your financial support, your interest in the work of the Fund, and for forging on with your own indomitable and inherent spirit of the wild. 🌿

## Join the Wampahoofus!



Join the Wampahoofus, a mythical creature residing on Vermont's Mount Mansfield, on his travels across the mountain's alpine ridgeline. On his journey, the Wampahoofus learns about alpine plants, meets a Green Mountain Club caretaker, listens to the white-throated sparrow, and watches the sun set over the Adirondacks.

Author and illustrator Zoe Linton, who received a 2010 grant from the Waterman Fund, also created a supplemental treasure hunt to be used on a hike along the Long Trail as it traverses Mount Mansfield.

Copies of the book are available at [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

# The Alpine Steward

## Waterman Fund's Fall Visit to Moosilauke

Kent McFarland

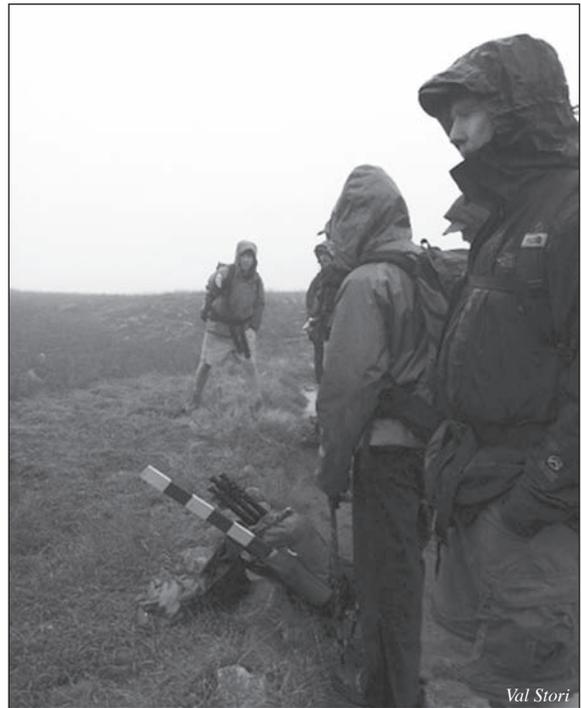
Mount Moosilauke has been called the spiritual home of the 102-year-old Dartmouth Outing Club. The Waterman Fund has been proud to help DOC with alpine stewardship of this popular destination with five grant awards totaling \$8700 since 2003.

In early October, The Waterman Fund, as well as representatives from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and other experienced alpine managers and stewards, convened at DOC's Ravine Lodge at the base of Mount Moosilauke. Our goals were to see what the DOC has recently accomplished with alpine stewardship, to determine what help they may need in the future, and to make suggestions for future projects and improvements. In addition, these field trips are becoming an annual opportunity for the Waterman Fund board to encourage dialogue and information sharing amongst the Northeast's alpine area managers.

The Ravine Lodge, a massive log structure built in the 1930s to serve as the home to nation's earliest competitive skiing, is now a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds. The DOC staffs and manages the entire operation each year from May through October. We joined Jessie Griffen, a recent Dartmouth College graduate and the 2011 Ravine Lodge manager, in the main room to hear how the alpine steward program was progressing.

This year DOC used a new model for staffing the summit. Instead of hiring a single person to be the alpine steward, each day one of the lodge staff hiked to the summit. This gave each person a break from lodge work one time a week. It became a treasured day by many of them, avoided potential burnout, and perhaps began the process of building summit stewardship into the daily routine of lodge management.

At 4,802 feet elevation and ranked as the 10th highest peak in New Hampshire, the summit of Moosilauke commands one of the best views in the White Mountains. On a clear day from the summit the view ranges from Mount Washington



On the annual fall field visit, The Appalachian Trail Conservancy shows Waterman Fund board members photopoint monitoring and regrowth after Doc Stewards installed a scree wall on Mt. Moosilauke in 2007s.

to the northeast, Mount Wachusett and Mount Monadnock to the south, nearly the entire spine of the Green Mountains in Vermont from Stratton to Jay Peak, Mount Marcy and other high peaks in the Adirondacks, and Owl's Head in Quebec. The entire view encompasses nearly 25,000 square miles.

With this kind of a reward for hikers, perhaps it shouldn't have surprised us to learn from Jessie that the alpine stewards regularly encountered days with over 100 people visiting the summit. Although the final numbers have yet to be tallied, it is clear that thousands of people are visiting the alpine zone each summer.

This year Jessie started keeping an alpine stewardship journal. Each day a steward was on the summit, they kept a journal of daily events, thoughts, needs and observations. Because DOC employees are students that only spend one or two seasons at Moosilauke, it is difficult to pass experience and information to the next crew. The journal, along with the annually updated manual, helps.

Like many mountain huts, after breakfast there is a daily weather report and information session for the visitors. Often the staff reminds everyone to stay on the trails in the alpine zone. Several of us suggested that a large wall display in the lodge describing the alpine zone and its conservation would be a powerful tool for passive education.

While the morning drizzle continued to fall, Matt Stevens, Conservation Resources Manager, at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, presented early results from photo-monitoring plots. A series of photographs from 2006 and retaken in 2008 showed amazing results from trail management in just 5 years. An area that had a small stonewall placed along the trail to guide hikers had stopped the tread from changing locations. Early pioneering alpine plants had already covered the old secondary tread. With the rain showers ending and the clouds lifting above the peak, it was time to go see it ourselves.

The rain held off during the climb, but the humidity still soaked us. The alpine zone was in the clouds, with showers and a strong north wind. But the weather didn't keep people away. We met a large school group and many smaller groups of hikers. Moosilauke is a busy place even in October with low visibility and poor weather.

Signs added over the last few years along the trail in the krummholtz reminding hikers of the fragility of the alpine plants were obvious. Some noted that using signs like those adopted at other alpine areas in the region might help reinforce the issue throughout the region. Like a stop sign at an intersection, a common alpine zone sign throughout the region would be instantly recognizable and a reminder for all.

With the northeast wind whipping rain across the alpine zone, we walked the trails to see how trail improvements and management had already helped stop shifting and braided trail treads. It was clear that many more areas could benefit from further management work.

As we crossed the alpine zone with our hoods flapping in the wind we heard a faint call, then another and another. A sandpiper flew past my head calling. We were in the middle of bird migration. The shorebirds scraped the summit in the clouds while riding the northern winds.

Great strides in alpine management and restoration have been made on Moosilauke, from the loss of the summit hotel to fire in 1942, to the removal of the summit cabin in 1978, to restoration and control of trampled areas today. The DOC and other partners continue to proudly protect a spiritual place for all of us. 🌿



Members of the Fund Board and Field Trip Attendees at The Ravine Lodge: L to R, Julia Goren, Charlie Jacobi, Matt Stevens (ATC), Jessie Griffen (DOC), Rick Paradis, Dick Fortin (in cooperation with WMNF), Laura Waterman, and Hawk Metheny (ATC).

<b>Dartmouth Outing Club Grant Awards</b>	
2011	\$2000 for alpine steward
2009	\$2000 for trail remediation on the alpine and subalpine reaches of the Appalachian/Beaver Brook Trail
2006	\$1000 for alpine steward
2005	\$1250 for alpine steward
2003	\$2500 for alpine steward

# The Alpine Steward

## Ken Kimball Receives the 2011 Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award at the Annual Dinner

Laura Waterman

Kenneth D. Kimball, Research Director for the Appalachian Mountain Club, received this year's Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award for his unstinting work to protect the alpine ecosystem of the Northeast. This award is given annually to a person or organization that has demonstrated a long-term commitment to protecting the physical and spiritual qualities of the Northeast's mountain wilderness.

The Waterman Fund presented Ken the award along with a superb framed photograph of Mt. Madison's Star Lake taken by Brian Post of Brian Post Photography in Jackson, New Hampshire at the Fund's annual dinner. The dinner, held at Libby's Bistro in Gorham, NH, was attended by twenty-seven people.

Ken, who has worked in mountain ecology for more than thirty years, was nominated by Andrew Norkin, AMC Director of Trails and Recreation Management, and Scott Monroe, who helped create the AMC's Alpine Steward Volunteer Program. Scott's nominating letter noted Ken's "professional expertise and passion for the mountain environment and air quality...[he is] a strong supporter of... the protection of alpine ecology." As he accepted the award, Ken thanked the Fund for supporting AMC's work and spoke graciously of the support, dedication, and contribution to alpine research of his AMC colleagues.

Ken, who received his Ph.D. in Botany from the University of New Hampshire, has published and spoken extensively on a variety of environmental issues, including in-stream flow policy and hydroelectric dam relicensing, wind power siting policy, Northeast mountain ecology and response to climate change, and endangered alpine plant recovery. Ken has worked in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service to propagate the formerly endangered Robbins' cinquefoil (*Potentilla robbinsiana*) at high elevation restoration sites in New Hampshire. Due to Ken's efforts, the plant, placed on the list of endangered and threatened species in 1980 and found only at two locations in the alpine zones on Mount Washington and Franconia Ridge, was removed from the list in 2002. Ken's work also includes a multi-year study of the effects of climate change on high elevation and alpine ecosystems. Called Mountain Watch, this is a citizen-scientist monitoring program where volunteers collect data on when flowers bloom and how long they flower. The Waterman Fund has supported this program, carried out by the Appalachian Mountain Club.

The evening's celebration included a presentation by Dr. Peter Palmiotto, Director of Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England. Peter shared slides and stories about the Monadnock Ecological Research and Education Project (MERE), a collective research project that has received two years of funding from the Waterman Fund to promote informed use and foster appreciation of New Hampshire's heavily-trafficked Mt. Monadnock through ecological research, monitoring, and educational outreach. Waterman Fund board members also shared information and updates about the 2010 grant recipients. Thanks to all who attended!



Laura Waterman presents Dr. Ken Kimball with the 2010 Alpine Steward Award

# Alpine Species in the Spotlight: Mountain Avens (*Geum peckii*)\*

Kent McFarland

A perennial member of the rose family, Mountain Avens is only found in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and in a few bogs in Nova Scotia. Despite its rarity across the landscape, it can be locally common along alpine and subalpine streamsides and seeps, in snow bank communities, and other wet places in high elevations.

William Peck, a Harvard naturalist, first collected the flower on Mount Washington in 1804; the plant's species name bears Peck's name. With its large yellow petals glowing in the summer sun, it can be found covering areas such as the Alpine Garden on Mount Washington. Its leaves are large and deep green throughout the summer, but turn a striking crimson in autumn to continue its show.

Of the nine species of avens occurring in northeastern North America, this is the only one that grows above tree line. It has large round or kidney-shaped leaves with a toothed edge. The leaves and flower stems grow directly out of the ground. The quarter-sized yellow flowers bloom from June into August and have 5 separate petals and 5 small pointed leaves beneath them petals. Each stem can have from 1 to 5 flowers and grow to nearly a foot high.

This is one of five alpine flowers monitored by volunteer citizen scientists for the Appalachian Mountain Club project called Alpine Flower Watch. Volunteers are encouraged to make observations along trails on the timing of flower and fruit development for inclusion in a long-term study to understand how shifts in climate trends may impact mountain flora.

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[www.watermanfund.org](http://www.watermanfund.org)



*\*This new feature on an alpine species is the brainchild of Kent McFarland. Look for another species in each newsletter to come.*

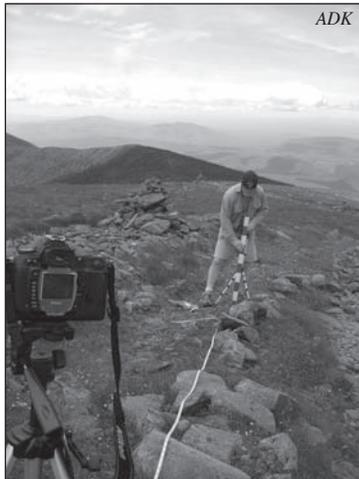
Alpine Species Mountain Avens

2008: The Long Trail across Mt. Mansfield, as well as other alpine areas in Vermont, received new signage through the Green Mountain Club's grant request.

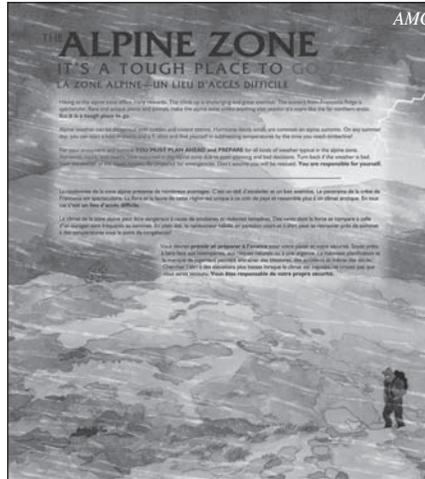


# Ten Years of the Waterman Fund

This is a small representation of projects the Waterman Fund has helped support over the last ten years. Please look on our website for a complete list.



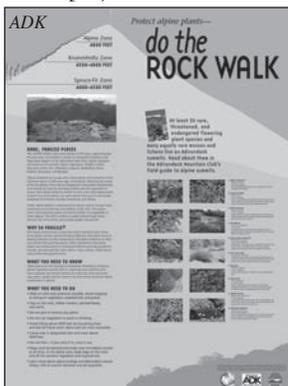
2006: The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's photo monitoring project on Mt. Moosilauke.



2003: Appalachian Mountain Club kiosk at the Lafayette Place trailhead.



2006: Monitoring work along Moosilauke's ridgeline.



2006: The Adirondack Mountain Club designed new interpretive signage for alpine zones.



2010: Appalachian Mountain Club's PlantCam Network monitored targeted alpine and forest species through cameras at specific plots in the Whites.



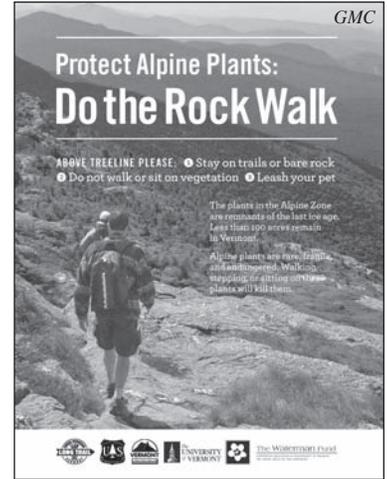
2007: One of the Adirondack Mountain Club's alpine stewards looking out from Algonquin.



2007: An Adirondack Mountain Club Summit Steward collecting data for a baseline plant survey.



2008: The Vermont Center for Ecostudies alpine butterfly monitoring project in the Presidentials.



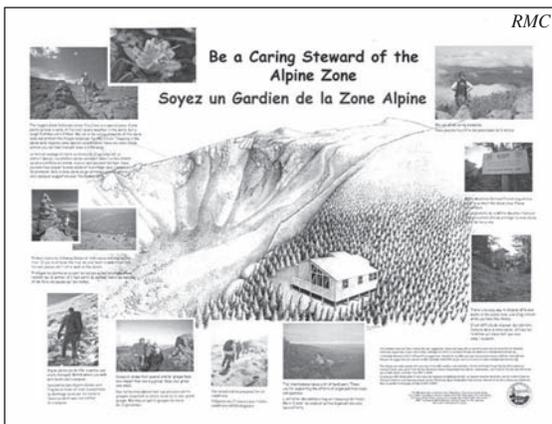
2008: The Green Mountain Club's alpine area signage (based on the ADK model) as organizations aim for a consistent message across the Northeast.



2009: Beyond Ktaadn captured this image of a bull caribou photo in the Monts Groulx, Québec.



2007: Alpine trail work for the Randolph Mountain Club's Lowe's Path project.



2002: Randolph Mountain Club's Crag Camp display.



2005: Restoration work on Welch/Dickey Mountains through the White Mountain National Forest.

## Ten Years of Waterman Fund Board Members

Annie Bellerose, Louis Cornell, Matt Cox, Carl Demrow, Audie Duane, Peter Forbes, Julia Goren, Sarah Heidenreich, Charlie Jacobi, Matt Larson, Jeff Lougee, Doug Mayer, Kent McFarland, Rebecca Oreskes, Sue Painter, Rick Paradis, Rick Sayles, Dennis Shaffer, Mary Margaret Sloan, Val Stori, Sally Tomlinson, Eddie Walsh, Laura Waterman, Chuck Wooster

# Treasurer's Report Fall 2011

Jeff Lougee

As of late September, the Fund's balance stands at roughly \$293,000. The good news is the Fund has recovered substantially from the economic downturn in 2009, when our balance sunk to \$216,000. Within the last 12 months, the Fund also surpassed the "high water mark" of \$303,000 set in 2008, peaking at \$308,000 in April. Unfortunately, volatility in the markets since April has resulted in about a 5% reduction in the Fund's balance. In 2011, we approved \$11,380 in grants, and awarded \$2,000 to the essay contest winners, bringing the Fund to nearly \$100,000 in grants and awards since our inception in 2000!

We continue to maintain very low operating expenses with the work of the Fund being carried out by our volunteer Board. Our year-to-date operating expenses are just \$2,485, which means most of your contributions to the Fund go directly to supporting the stewardship of our alpine areas. Our year-to-date contributions are roughly \$6,500, which means we have some ground to cover before the end of the year to maintain pace with the nearly \$15,000 received in 2010.

On a final note, I would like to nod my hat to Rick Sayles, past Treasurer, who did an incredible job of stewarding the organization's finances the past several years. With his expertise, he established a great investment strategy for the Fund, and put in place intelligent systems for tracking the Fund's expenses and contributions. Thanks, Rick!

## 7th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering November 11-13, 2011

Green Mountain Club Headquarters  
Waterbury Center, Vermont

- A variety of presentations on alpine science and stewardship.
- Field trips to Mount Mansfield and Smugglers' Notch.
- Opportunities to network with a diversity of dedicated alpine enthusiasts.

For more information, contact Rick Paradis at:  
rparadis@uvm.edu (802 656-4055)

Sponsored by: The Green Mountain Club ,  
The Waterman Fund, University of Vermont  
Natural Areas Center

## Thank Yous from Page Hollow

Laura Waterman

**Brian Post** of Brian Post Photography, who donated the superb photograph for the Alpine Steward Award. **Peter Palmiotto**, Director of Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England, for sharing slides and stories about his work on Mt. Monadnock at our Annual Dinner. **Blake Memorial Library** for continuing to provide us with a convenient and comfortable meeting space. **Rebecca Oreskes** and **Chuck Wooster**, past boardmembers, for weighing in as readers for our Essay Contest. **Chris Woodside**, editor of Appalachia, for her valued support with our Essay Contest and for publish-

ing the winning essays in the December issue. **Nat Scrimshaw**, **Jenny Scrimshaw**, **Matt Stevens**, **Dick Fortin**, and **Hawk Metheny** for contributing their expertise on our Fall Retreat hike to the alpine summit of Mt. Moosilauke. **Kara Norman** for designing our Newsletter. **Laurie Demrow** for all her years of past help with designing our Newsletter. **Eric Buddington** for building our website (check it out!). **Appalachian Mountain Club** for providing us meeting space at Pinkham in April. **Libby's Bistro** in Gorham, NH, for preparing a fabulous meal for our annual dinner.

# The Alpine Steward

## Fourth Annual Waterman Fund Alpine Essay Contest

Annie Bellerose

The Waterman Fund is pleased to announce two first place winners in its 2011 Waterman Fund Alpine Essay Contest. Blair Braverman, of Davis, CA, and Bethany Taylor, of Jackson, NH, will be splitting a two thousand dollar award for their essays addressing the spirit of wilderness in unexpected and sometimes accessible places. Of the sixteen essay entries the Waterman Fund received, these two pieces best captured the spirit of the Waterman legacy, as well as the attention and enthusiasm of the Fund's board and volunteers who judged the contest.

The Waterman Fund annual essay contest seeks to encourage new and emerging writers who seek to explore the intricacies of the human relationship with the Northeast's mountains. The contest is held in partnership with *Appalachia*, a journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club edited by Christine Woodside.

Blair Braverman's essay "On Being Lost" examines how wilderness turns up in unexpected places and in unexpected ways through anecdotes of her cartographic work and her own explorations in the woods. One member of the reading committee talked about how the essay addresses the "joy and occasional necessity of willfully getting lost, and how sometimes that is the only way we can truly find the wild."

Bethany Taylor's "The Warp and Weft" addresses the value of separating wilderness from other wild places, including those more accessible in our daily lives. One reader noted the essay's consideration of wilderness and wildness: "the author thoughtfully explores the idea that all geographies have a worth."

You can read a brief excerpt of each essay here in the newsletter. Both pieces will appear in full in the winter/spring issue of *Appalachia*, as well as on the Waterman Fund's website, [www.watermanfund.org](http://www.watermanfund.org), after December 1st.

The Waterman Fund's Alpine Essay Contest is an annual contest which seeks to further the legacy of Guy and Laura

Waterman, who spent a lifetime reflecting and writing on the Northeast's mountains. The essays the contest receives celebrate the spirit of these wild areas. For more information on this annual essay contest, please visit the Fund's website. ❧

### From Blair Braverman's *On Being Lost*:

I've never seen an animal lost, not outdoors at least. I've seen animals lost indoors, and know that even to witness such a thing is alarming, disconcerting. Last year, while waiting for a flight at JFK airport in New York, I saw no fewer than four plump sparrows swooping under the domed ceiling. They rode the air in high arcs, passing over the bowed heads of men and women holding suitcases and cell phones. One of the sparrows kept fluttering against a tall window, sliding back and forth against the glass, over and around. It would stop, rest its small feet on the sill and shiver itself into a perfect light ball; then, after its feathers had smoothed, it would rise again to fly endlessly against the glass. Two of the other birds were hopping beneath a row of benches, pecking the ground. One held a worm in its beak, and I stared at it, stunned, wondering how this perfect anomaly had occurred, how a bird and worm had both happened into the same cement-walled room and found each other in time to enact this modest replica of wildness; then, at the same moment, I understood that the worm was a French fry. ❧



Blair Braverman graduated from Colby College in May 2011 with a degree in environmental policy, and is now a student at the University of Iowa's Nonfiction Writing Program. She has worked as a dogsled guide and naturalist in Norway, Alaska, Colorado, and Maine.

## From Bethany Taylor's *The Warp and the Weft*:



Bethany Taylor holds a Master's in Environmental Studies with a focus in writing from the University of Montana, and currently lives in Jackson, New Hampshire.

Several years ago, far from my beloved and known New England wilds, I drove through Portland, Oregon. A bridge spanned the Willamette River and caught the fading sunlight in rusty steel trusses and brown-stained cement, lit this old industrial structure with the exact key of gold-light as I find in the mountains of home. Alone in a creaking car and gridlocked in rush hour traffic, to find beauty at all was as unexpected as a valentine in August. Let alone for the beautiful thing to be so opposite and foreign to my ideals of beauty, of wildness. And yet...there is my heartbeat and breath and the tug of an invisible thread, all just as if I were in the mountains. If I could take my hands off the wheel and stretch towards the bridge, I would. Rather than the timelessness of the rocks on a trail, I thought of the rivets in the bridge, of the mortality of tough and fragile men who built the bridge, whose hands had maneuvered the cranes and placed the beams. I did not know their history, and judging by the red-gold of the rusty bridge, their time passed years ago. But here I was, seeing the same sun as ever hit the same bridge, and I felt small and safely lodged in the vast fabric of time and space. How could I have lived my life, ignoring the chances for beauty and wildness outside of wild places? 🌿

## 2011 Waterman Fund Grants Update

Charlie Jacobi

At its January 2011 meeting, the Waterman Fund Board of Directors reviewed seven grant applications totaling \$25,365. The Board fully funded two of the seven grants and partially funded three others, awarding a total of \$9,380 in project funding as shown in the table below. Three awards supported the continuation of alpine steward programs, one funded a children's book about Mount Mansfield's alpine environment, and the last supported travel to the 2011 Alpine Gathering for the Canadian colleagues of the Beyond Ktaadn organization.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC), of Augusta, ME, received funding for the Bigelow Range's Horns Pond Caretaker position. The caretaker provides alpine education and Leave No Trace education on the Bigelow Range and at the overnight site. MATC also received grants for alpine education and support in 2008 and in 2005.

The Dartmouth Outing Club, of Hanover, NH, was awarded a grant to continue support of the Alpine Steward program on Mount Moosilauke. Mount Moosilauke was also the site of The Fund's fall field trip, written up elsewhere in the newsletter. The DOC has received five grants from The Fund supporting alpine education and trailwork since 2003.

# Forest and Crag

A HISTORY  
OF HIKING, TRAIL  
BLAZING, AND ADVENTURE  
IN THE NORTHEAST MOUNTAINS



**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB  
LONG TRAIL  
1910  
VERMONT**

*Guy and Laura  
Waterman's  
classic volume  
now available as  
an e-book!*

Available from Amazon at \$9.95, this comprehensive history of hiking in the Northeast can be read on a variety of electronic devices including Kindle, Android, iPad/Phone, Blackberry, and more.

# The Alpine Steward

Antioch University New England's Monadnock Ecological Research and Education Project (MERE), a collective research project promoting informed use and appreciation of New Hampshire's heavily-trafficked Mount Monadnock through ecological research, monitoring, and educational outreach, received funding for a second time. This grant will specifically support the creation of a Mountain Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator position for the Keene, NH, based organization. The coordinator will be responsible for scheduling summit stewards and training volunteers.

Zoe Linton, an undergraduate student at Burlington's University of Vermont, was the first individual to receive a grant from The Fund. A double major in Environmental Studies and Art History, Linton wrote and illustrated a children's book about the alpine areas of Vermont's Mount Mansfield, using as a guide the legendary creature specific to the location, the Wampahoofus. The book will be available in state libraries and visitor centers.

The Beyond Ktaadn Project of Lincoln, MA, is a collaborative project to explore, study, and conserve the alpine summits and surrounding wilderness of eastern North America. The group received a grant enabling their Canadian partners to travel to the 2011 Alpine Gathering. And thanks in part to a 2010 grant from the Waterman Fund, the organization has made great strides towards publishing an Eastern Alpine Guide to all the alpine mountain areas of northeastern North America, which includes many you have likely never

heard of. Other articles about their amphibian, rare plant, and wolverine detection surveys are expected in scientific journals soon. Their final report and scientific publications are available on the Waterman Fund website. It's well worth checking them all out to learn about these remote, fascinating, and obscure areas. Road trip, anyone?

An additional \$2,000 each was allocated to the Alpine Essay Contest award and the biennial Alpine Stewardship Gathering.

The application review process raised many familiar issues for the Board as well as some new ones. A Board subcommittee will be discussing these in the near future with the intent of providing clearer direction for the grants program. Among the issues the Board grappled with are:

- Should the Waterman Fund support scientific research and if so, what kinds?
- Should research proposals require a more rigorous application and review and should we go outside the board for scientific expertise if needed?
- How much of a proposal must be focused on the alpine zone?
- Can we provide long-term support to an organization and if so, under what circumstances?
- Should the Board be soliciting proposals for grants?
- How much money does the Fund need to raise to significantly contribute to alpine stewardship and to fund projects in full? 🌿

## Grant Applications Due

Grant applications for alpine project funding are due on December 15, 2011. For more information, visit: [www.watermanfund.org](http://www.watermanfund.org) or mail your nominations or applications to:

The Waterman Fund  
PO Box 1064  
East Corinth, VT 05040

# The Alpine Steward

## Fund Says Goodbye and Welcome: Board Member Update

Julia Goren

At our January board meeting, we bid a fond farewell to board members Mary Margaret Sloan, Rick Sayles, and Matt Cox. Mary Margaret and Rick had both served on the board since 2005, and Matt had been on the board since 2007. During their terms, the Fund saw a change in name, incorporation as a fully independent non-profit, the addition of the Alpine Essay contest, and the distribution of over \$64,500 in grant awards. We greatly appreciate all of their hard work over the years on behalf of the Fund and alpine stewardship!

Three new board members were elected to fill the vacant positions: Kent McFarland of Woodstock, VT; Charlie Jacobi of Bar Harbor, ME; and Matt Larson of Waterbury Center, VT. We consider ourselves extremely lucky to have such energetic, talented, and enthusiastic new board members to fill Mary Margaret, Rick, and Matt's shoes! Kent, Matt, and Charlie bring over 50 years of cumulative experience in the management, protection, and stewardship of New England's alpine areas.

Charlie Jacobi hails from Bar Harbor, Maine, where he works as a natural resource specialist at Acadia National Park. He has worked for the National Park Service since 1982 and his career has focused on managing visitor use. His responsibilities include identifying and facilitating visitor impact and social science research, monitoring visitor use numbers and behaviors for the park, mitigating visitor impacts to natural and cultural resources, Leave No Trace education, and contributing to a variety of park planning efforts. In addition to his work at Acadia, Charlie is a founding member of Friends of Baxter State Park, an independent citizen's group working to preserve Baxter's wilderness. In 2010, the Waterman Fund presented Charlie with the Alpine Steward Award in recognition of his commitment to, and stewardship of, mountainous areas.

Matt Larson, from Waterbury Center, Vermont, works for the Green Mountain Club as the organization's business manager. Matt has worked at the Green Mountain Club in many capacities since 2001, first as a summit caretaker on Mount Mansfield and then in other roles including group outreach and communications. As an undergraduate student, Matt conducted research in Vermont's alpine areas, including establishing a photo point monitoring project. A talented photographer, Matt lives in Waterbury Center with his wife Ann, son Ben, and daughter Hannah. When time allows, he can be found behind the beam of a headlamp hiking to one of the local summits in hopes of catching sunrise.

Kent McFarland of Woodstock, Vermont, is a co-founder of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of wildlife that engages citizen scientists in a variety of projects. Kent is a conservation biologist whose current projects include the Vermont Butterfly Survey, Bicknell's Thrush studies, and Vermont eBird. In addition, he is an avid photographer, writer and naturalist with nearly 20 years of wildlife research experience in the mountains of northeastern North America.

The three new members serve alongside Rick Paradis (Vice-President), Annie Bellerose, Julia Goren (Secretary), Jeff Lougee (Treasurer), Laura Waterman, and Val Stori (President). Together, the board will be setting the Foundation's vision and direction for the next five years to address the myriad challenges facing the northeast's alpine areas. ❧

# Alpine Ecosystem Workshop Brings Scientists Together

Robert Capers

A number of scientists have been doing research in alpine ecosystems on Northeast mountains in recent years, including ornithologists, botanists, meteorologists, ecosystem scientists, community ecologists and more. There has been no coordination among these scientists, however, and they have had little knowledge of the research questions that others were working on. Largely in response to this need, a two-day workshop was held in April so these researchers could get to know each other and exchange information on the work they are doing.

More than 40 alpine researchers gathered for the workshop at the AMC's Highland Center in Bretton Woods, N.H. A number of them gave talks or presented posters on their research. In addition to researchers based in the Northeast, several outside experts with long-term experience in alpine research nationally or internationally were invited to present talks on their work and to provide advice on how the Northeast might establish a more robust alpine research program.

One of the main goals of the workshop, which was supported by the National Science Foundation, was to develop a list of questions related to alpine ecosystems that researchers feel should be given priority, and the second day of the workshop was devoted to developing this research priorities list. A long list of research needs was compiled, and the list is still being discussed and refined. Once researchers reach a consensus on the priorities, the list will be published so it can be used by researchers in supporting their grant applications.

Although discussion is continuing on the research questions that need to be addressed most immediately, workshop participants agreed immediately that the Northeast needs a network of sites where long-term data can be gathered on alpine communities and the environmental conditions to which they are exposed.

Robert Capers, who kindly volunteered to write up the workshop for the Fund newsletter, is a plant ecologist from the University of Connecticut. Capers organized the workshop along with a committee representing alpine researchers from Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont.

## 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, his or her name remains in the running. Nominations are due Jan. 1, 2012.

Past Award Winners: 2011 Ken Kimball, 2010 Charlie Jacobi, 2009 Pete Fish, 2008 Hub Vogelmann, 2007 Dick Fortin, 2006 Rick Paradis, 2005 Lester Kenway, 2004 Ed Ketchledge, 2003 Roger Collins.

### Waterman Fund

#### 2012 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. 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 wilderness spirit.

This year's contest theme is: **Wildness!**

We are interested in your personal essay about the stewardship of wild places, whether through a scientific lens or through an encounter with wildness. Are you finding it where you least expected? What draws you to the wild or how do you embody the spirit of wildness? Why is it so important to our lives—or, is it?

THE WINNING PIECE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN

**Appalachia Journal**

THE WINNING ESSAYIST WILL BE AWARDED \$1500

Honorable Mention will receive \$500

Contest deadline is April 15.

For more information visit:

[www.watermanfund.org](http://www.watermanfund.org)



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