

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 2012: The Changing Landscape

Changes at the Waterman Fund and in the Landscapes We Work to Conserve

Val Stori

In the few weeks prior to sitting down to write this, my last President's letter, I reflected back on my six years with the Waterman Fund, the changes we've undergone as an organization, and the contributions we've made to the stewardship and conservation of alpine areas across the northeast. People often ask me how I became involved with the Fund; the perfunctory response—"oh, it's a small trail world," or simply, "Carl asked me to join," does little to convey the transformative changes New England's alpine areas produced in me during my formative college and post-college years. Working as a steward above treeline was both an opportunity to experience a mountain in all her variations—from quiet misty dawns to scorching, breezeless days—and an opportunity to protect her rare and fragile plant communities. Life above treeline—through thunderstorms and hail, snow storms and downpours, impenetrable fog and gale-force winds—led to personal and enduring life changes, and, ultimately, to the Waterman



Val Stori enjoying the alpine on the summit of Mount Moosilauke.

Fund. I suspect that many of the Fund's board members share a similar story and a similar passion for and commitment to alpine areas. The Waterman Fund board members with whom I sit today are an entirely new cast (with the exception of Laura Waterman) from those with whom I sat when I joined the board. In the upcoming months, the faces of the board shall yet again change. But I am confident that the Fund will continue to attract talented and passionate members to its board.

The scope and work of the Fund is changing too. For over a decade, the Fund has been "supporting education and stewardship to preserve the alpine areas of the Northeast" by funding projects, programs, and the biannual Alpine Gathering. More recently, the Fund began encouraging budding wilderness writers through its essay contest and ecological research through its grant program. These additions have somewhat limited our ability to fund traditional stewardship projects in full, and as the Fund forges ahead with its strategic plan for the next five years, we've

been asking ourselves how we can increase the scope of our work, yet still provide meaningful grant funding for a wide breadth of alpine-related projects. Through partnerships, dedicated committees, and targeted fundraising, we mean to strengthen the role of the Fund in organizing and hosting the Alpine Gathering, in supporting projects across northeastern North America, and in engaging and encouraging young people active in alpine pursuits.

Preserving wildness has always been at the core of our work and indeed is the subject of Guy and Laura's book, *Wilderness Ethics*. Our vision statement envisions alpine areas where "the spirit of wildness is pervasive." Our five essay contests have engaged emerging writers in personal stories about wilderness, and we've often been touched and encouraged by the many submissions of young stewards whose experiences above treeline have led them to seek the wild in all corners of the earth. And so this year in our essay contest theme, we turn to the stewards and other writers and ask, what technological changes are you encountering in the wild, and how has the introduction of electronic communication devices changed your work, your spirit, your sense of the wild.

As we witness changes to the alpine zone, so too shall we change. Illustrative of our commitment to understanding ecological, climate change-related effects to the alpine zone, is our recent support of Nancy Slack's study of rare bryophytes, lichens, and vascular plants in snowbed communities especially vulnerable to climate change. This research, as well as the Fund-supported Mountain Watch, an Appalachian Mountain Club project engaging volunteers in phenological observations of vascular plants, contributes to our understanding not only of plants and plant communities undergoing change, but also to features of their environments currently undergoing change. With such knowledge, we can more effectively steward the plants and communities that need our attention. To that end, we are committed to expanding our grants program, employing new tactics such as releasing RFPs and dedicating funds for project proposals from stewards and researchers.

On our recent Fund field trip to the ledges on Welch Mountain, we witnessed the changes that can occur to soil and vegetation in steward-less areas. In the two decades that have lapsed since Nat Scrimshaw and Dick Fortin began stewardship efforts on the Welch ledges, efforts to maintain scree walls, signage, blazing, and an active presence on the mountain have been inconsistent. The effects of intermittent stewardship were clearly visible—scree walls, no longer intact, failed to keep hikers from

traipsing across the vegetation, and without a volunteer steward present to provide interpretation and education, hikers had little means to develop an understanding and an appreciation of the unique plant communities. In high visitation mountains such as Welch, a stewardship presence is clearly needed to protect and preserve these alpine islands.

As I prepare to step off the board, leaving the Waterman Fund to forge ahead with a new board and a new long range plan, I wonder how the Fund will fare through future changes—will discussions about wildness and technology in the woods be as relevant in six years? Will climate change be the greatest challenge alpine areas face and how will our work change in response? The truth is, we are already changing. As I glance around the board table in Laura's kitchen, the faces looking back at me are a reflection of that change. We have board members engaged in ecological research, land conservation, recreation, writing, and stewardship. Together, our discussions, our expertise, and our love of all things alpine, broaden our understanding of the changes occurring to the alpine landscape. As we sit together planning for the years ahead, our collective energy and enthusiasm drives us to think big and outside the box. To that end, we'll be adopting a long range plan that promotes a proactive approach to understanding our changing landscape, engaging future stewards and younger generations of wilderness enthusiasts, and appointing new board members who have a wide range of non-profit skills and alpine skills. We hope you'll like the changes we're making and that you'll continue to support our work.

At the end of my first blissful summer as a steward above treeline, I sat down to write a poem before descending the mountain for the last time. I'm not a poet by any means, but something about the innocence of that first summer of alpine discovery—or maybe that morning's silent fog, compelled me to linger for just a moment longer to jot down some parting thoughts. Seventeen years later I can recall with ease the first few lines: "The mountain wind in me/it gathers thoughts into dreams/bringing with it sweet morning mist,/ a raven's kraaw." It's as if on that very last morning, I wanted to inhale the scent, the moisture, the sounds of the alpine, and take them within me. As I look back on the last six years sitting around Laura's table with the Fund, engaged in discussions on the preservation of wildness and alpine stewardship, it feels like the raven's Kraaw was always nearby. I trust that you can hear it too.



The Alpine Steward

Waterman Fund Fall Visit to the Welch Ledges

Laura Waterman

On Saturday, October 13th, the Waterman Fund met with folks from the Rey Center, a grant recipient for 2012, to walk up to the ledges on Welch Mountain. We had gathered to learn about the continuing protection of the outcrop plant communities on the Welch ledges.

Margaret and H. A. Rey, authors of the Curious George children's books, lived and wrote in Waterville Valley. The Center, established in 2006, carries on the Reys' spirit of curiosity and discovery by increasing understanding of and participation in art, science, and nature through programs for youth, adults, and families.

Our grant, awarded to the Welch Ledges Stewardship and Citizen Science Program, acknowledges the importance of these frequently visited ledges as a site for education and understanding of our higher alpine environment. These peaks, Welch (2605 ft.) and Dickey (2734 ft.), are within easy reach of the greater Boston area from Interstate 93, making an accessible day hike for young families. Indeed, in 2007, Rey Center employee and Welch Ledge Steward, Chris Hilke, calculated as many as five thousand visitors to the ledges in a given summer. The intention of the Welch Ledges Stewardship Program is to educate visitors about the importance of the outcrop plant communities and the rare outcrop community species that exist on the mountain. Through stewardship efforts, hikers learn of the importance of staying on the trail and walking on bare rock; since thousands of first-time hikers visit the ledges each year, Welch Mountain can serve as a springboard to educate about the importance of northeastern alpine environments and their vulnerability to visitor impacts.



Field trip to Welch Ledges with Rey center.

Our day on the mountain was sunny and breezy, a blue sky day following a string of rainy weekends. The parking lot was full and the trail a steady flow of old and young adults, children, and dogs, as crowded a mountain trail as we'd ever been on. As we neared the ledges, we wondered what would be the state of the low-growing outcrop community plants so vulnerable to hikers' boots.

On the ascent to the ledges, Kim Votta, the Rey Center's Education Director, and Audrey Eisenhauer, the Executive Director, stopped us now and then to talk about their programs of environmental study with school children and camp groups. As our field trips give an opportunity for the Waterman Fund board to encourage dialogue and share information among the Northeast's alpine area managers, we were joined by Jenny Burnett, Trails Program manager and

John Marunowski, Backcountry and Wilderness manager, of the U.S. Forest Service's Pemigewasset Ranger District, the District which oversees the Waterville Valley mountains. We had invited as well Dick Fortin, a former steward on the ledges whose memory stretched back to twenty years ago.

In the early 1990s, Nat Scrimshaw, a long-time resident of Waterville, whose family played a key role in the laying out and building of trails there, took an interest in the plant communities on the ledges. These small vegetated islands were in danger of disappearing altogether, bisected and trampled by hikers unaware of the plants vulnerability to boot traffic. These outcrop communities exist in an exposed and rocky landscape and are subject to high solar radiation, nutrient-poor soils, and other inhospitable conditions. The communities develop over a long period of time—usually in depressions or areas where soil can accumulate on the otherwise barren ledge. Nat and Dick came up with the idea of encircling the small plant islands with stones, hoping to signal to hikers to walk around—not through—these areas. Nat saw the ledges on Welch as ideal for teaching about the fragility of alpine plants when confronted by hikers' boots. "A mountain for learning," Nat called Welch.

When we arrived at the ledges, we saw that many of the rocks that Nat and Dick had placed were still performing their function and protecting the outcrop islands of mosses, lichens and various species from the heath family. In fact, in some areas, the plants had grown around the rocks, giving the appearance they had always been there. Unfortunately, in other areas, rocks had been displaced, and even low-lying log scree was ineffective at keeping hikers from crossing through the outcrop communities.

As we talked, we watched the hikers as they emerged from the woods on to the rock ledges in what was nearly an unending stream. We could see where we needed to focus future work—more rocks or a low log barricade—when hikers walked through the islands where the plants were sparse, trying to establish a foothold in what appeared to be bare soil. We talked about how to direct hikers around these vulnerable communities with a carefully placed blaze or sign routing them to where the trail turned up the mountain. Mostly, we were encouraged to see the permanence of Nat and Dick's work, work being continued by the Rey Center and its Stewardship program on the Ledges. Welch is indeed "a mountain for learning." ❧

The Waterman Fund Board of Directors

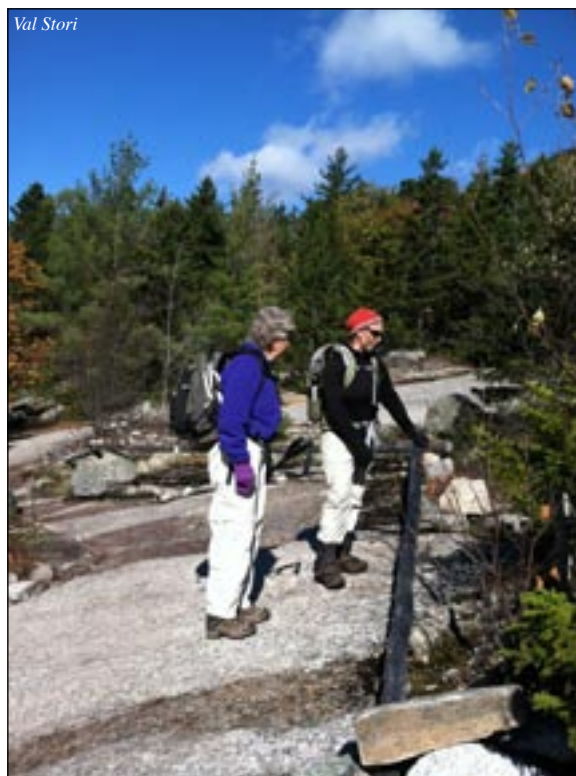
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On the trail to Welch, Kim Votta of the Rey center leading.

The Alpine Steward

Fund Honors Rebecca Oreskes with the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award at its Annual Dinner in Jackson, NH

Each spring, the Waterman Fund hosts an annual dinner to bring together Fund board members and supporters. Most importantly, the annual dinner is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the recipient of the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award. This award honors an individual or organization who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to protecting the physical and spiritual qualities of the Northeast's mountain wilderness. The award is named after the late Guy Waterman who, with his wife Laura, practiced stewardship in their daily lives and embodied a spirit of wildness.

Each year, we ask friends of the Fund to submit nominations for this annual award. Many of us know, or know of, Rebecca Oreskes—her passion for the northeast landscape, her professional role in formally affording special management to alpine areas in the White Mountain National Forest, and her myriad contributions to wilderness preservation. Those who know her well are keenly aware of her inspirational traits

and her ability to foster a sense of stewardship. In his nominating letter, Justin Preisendorfer wrote of Rebecca, “There is something remarkable about her that impacts people’s lives and inspires them to care—to care about people and to care about the land...Her sense of place and connection to our mountains is palpable. She exemplifies all the traits of the stewards we aspire to be.”

Doug Mayer, who also submitted a nominating letter, asked the Fund to consider five qualities which make Rebecca meritorious of the award. One such quality, he wrote, is that “her stewardship has been all encompassing. Not content to leave her passion for alpine stewardship at work, she has made time for it during her otherwise busy private life.”

On Saturday, April 14th, over thirty people gathered at the Wildcat Inn in Jackson, New Hampshire to enjoy a fine dinner and honor Rebecca. Following dinner, Laura Waterman presented Rebecca with the award, citing her many accomplishments while working for the US Forest Service. Rebecca, who recently retired from her career at the Forest Service, helped the agency revise its Forest Plan and afford special management to alpine areas. In addition, Rebecca was a founding member of the Waterman Fund, endowing the nascent organization with a clear vision. The Steward Award recognizes her thoughtful approach to stewardship and her commitment to protecting the many values of wild places.

Following the presentation of the award, Christine Woodside, editor of *Appalachia*, introduced Bethany Taylor, this year’s co-winner of the Fund’s essay contest. Bethany read selections from her graduate thesis on the Crawford Path. She was followed by Will



Fund Honors Rebecca Oreskes with the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award. Laura Waterman presents the award to Rebecca Oreskes with Ned Therrien, the photographer of the award image and a former coworker of Reb's on the WMNF.

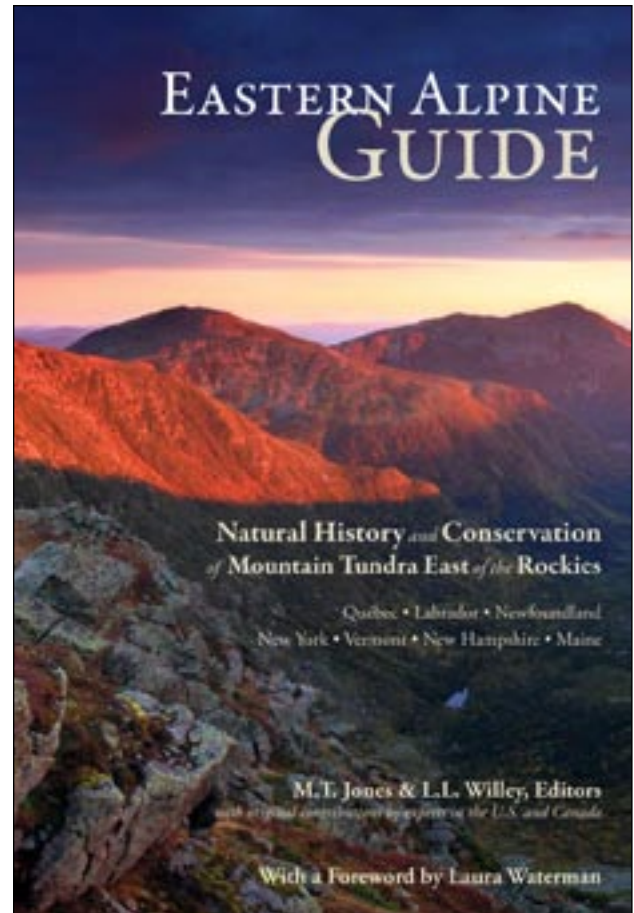
Kemeza, the runner-up in the 2008 contest who read from his essay, “Dark Night on Whitewall.”

The Fund’s vice president, Rick Paradis, briefed the gathering on recent accomplishments including this year’s recipients of the Fund’s grant program which includes Antioch University New England’s Monadnock Ecological Research and Education (MERE) Project, Nancy Slack for studying rare bryophytes, lichens and the vascular plants of snowbed communities on Mount Washington, the Margret and H.A. Rey Center of Waterville Valley, NH to support citizen science and stewardship of the nearby Welch Ledges, and the Appalachian Mountain Club to digitally update and expand an existing bibliography of scientific research on alpine ecology in the north-eastern U.S. 🌲

Alpine Steward Nominations Sought

To nominate someone for the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award, please send nominations letters to the Waterman Fund (forms available on our website), citing specific examples of the nominee’s stewardship of the Northeast’s wilderness, along with other relevant personal or professional experience. If you have nominated someone in the past, the nomination remains in our files and is reviewed annually. Nominations are due January 15th, 2013.

Past Award Winners: 2012 Rebecca Oreskes, 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.



Eastern Alpine Guide

The cover to above is for Beyond Ktaadn’s new publication, *Eastern Alpine Guide*, a project the Waterman Fund supported with a grant in 2010. The illustrated Guide thoroughly explores the natural history and conservation of the major alpine ecosystems of eastern North America (including the highest mountains of New England, New York, Québec, and Newfoundland and Labrador).

Estimated shipping date is November 16. Please visit <http://easternalpine.org/eag/guide.html> for more information.

Below: A patch of *Houstonia caerulea*, the common bluet, which appears in a white-flowered form high on the mountains of the Northeast. Right: Nancy Slack photographs plants in one of the rill communities in the Alpine Garden during surveys in September.



The Waterman Fund

The Year in Photos



Above: Nancy Slack and Kate Storms survey one of the snowbeds in the Alpine Garden. Right top: MERE Project Stewards completing trail restoration. Right bottom: A patch of *Kalmia procumbens* (*Loiseleuria procumbens*) in one of the snowbed communities in the Alpine Garden.



K.P. McFarland



Far left: Boardwalks, strings and signs are effective strategies for keeping hikers on the trail. Location, Mount Mansfield.

Near left: A young camper learns about rare plants on the Welch ledges.



Brad Hardy



Val Stori

MERE Project: Monica Foley, summit steward on Mt. Monadnock.

Above and below: Mount Moosilauke.



Matt Larson



Bob Capers

Jeff Duckett examines a liverwort on the slope above the Alpine Garden, seen at lower elevation behind him.



Val Stori



Matt Larson

Left: Welch-Dickey field trip. Top: with soil islands. Bottom: Val Stori, John Marunowski, Julia Goren, Jenny Burnett, and Audrey Eisenhauer.



A DOC Steward assists a hiker on Mount Moosilauke, where the Waterman Fund again helped put Ravine Lodge staff on the summit in 2011 to educate hikers.

Species in the Spotlight: Rare Alpine Butterflies of the Presidential Range

Kent McFarland

Perched atop the Presidential Range in the unique alpine vegetation are two butterfly species that exist only on this small “sky island”. Their closest relatives live hundreds of miles to the north. Left behind over 9,000 years ago, the White Mountain Arctic (*Oeneis melissa semidea*) and the White Mountain Fritillary (*Boloria chariclea montinus*) have not been in contact with their northern relatives since tundra covered much of the region after continental glaciation. But as the climate warmed and forests began to cover much of the land, the summits of the Presidential Range provided just the right place for tundra vegetation and a small population of these butterflies to persist while their relatives slowly moved northward with the receding tundra.

It is hard to imagine small butterflies surviving the fierce weather of Mount Washington, but they are specially adapted to such conditions. It takes two short summers of nocturnal dining on Bigelow’s Sedge for the White Mountain Arctic caterpillars to mature and then pupate during their third summer under a patch of moss or a rock. The butterflies emerge, mate and lay eggs for only a few weeks in late June to mid-July and then their life is over. White Mountain Fritillary caterpillars hatch and mature over the summer. They probably dine on violets and willows, but no one knows for sure what their food source is. The following summer they pupate, and during the last weeks of July into August the adults mate and feed on the nectar of Alpine Goldenrod and other flowers.

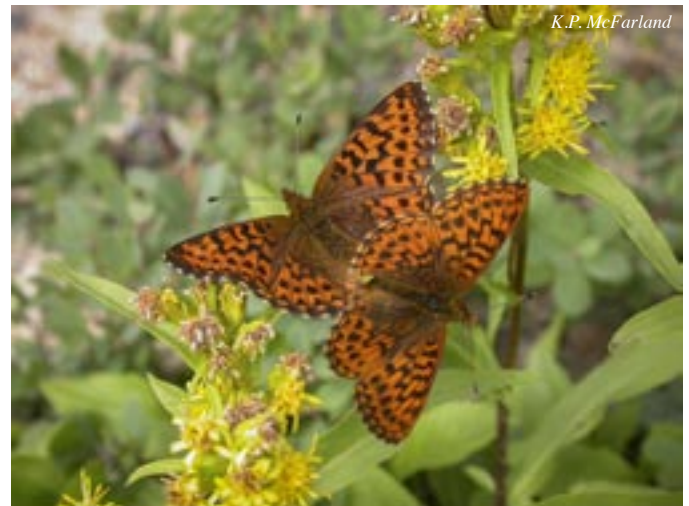
These butterflies have restricted ranges even within the small alpine zone of the Presidentials. The White Mountain Arctic is only found near Bigelow Sedge “lawns” around Mount Washington and Mount Jefferson. The White Mountain Fritillary is fond of wet areas and specializes in springs, snow bank communities and other lush alpine habitats just above treeline.

Both species are surprisingly easy to find and watch during their short flight seasons. Arctics can be found on rocky hilltops around sedge areas and often bask on rocks in the sun and out of the wind on east facing slopes, such as Nelson’s Crag near the Cow Pasture, a large sedge meadow. The Frit-



K.P. McFarland

White Mountain Arctic (*Oeneis melissa semidea*)



K.P. McFarland

White Mountain Fritillary (*Boloria chariclea montinus*)

illary can be found nectaring flowers along hiking trails that cross wet areas, such as the Alpine Garden or just outside the doors of Lake of the Clouds and Madison huts. Both species are listed as Threatened and Endangered in New Hampshire, and biologists are studying each species and monitoring their populations to help keep them flying across the alpine zone for decades to come. The Waterman Fund was a proud supporter of earlier work by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies aimed at understanding the status of these species. ❧

Treasurer's Report Fall 2012

Jeff Lougee

As of late September, the Fund's total assets are roughly \$320,000 and our investment accounts are up about 9% over the past 12 months. In 2012, we approved \$12,890 in grants to four recipients and dedicated \$2,000 for the essay contest. We also spent \$1,500 printing a batch of Guy and Laura Waterman's Wilderness Ethics books, which board members have distributed to stewardship organizations throughout the northeast. The Fund's year-to-date operating expenses total about \$2,000, which is down roughly \$500 from last year. About 25% of this is related to our current effort to improve and upgrade the Fund's website. The Fund's operating expenses continue to be very small, with most of our dollars supporting our core programs. Our year-to-date contributions are just over \$11,000, which is a bit short of the average annual contributions of \$20,000 received over the past six years. But we've still got a few months left in the year to make up some ground!

Fifth Annual Waterman Fund Alpine Essay Contest: What is Wild, and to Whom Does it Belong?

Annie Bellerose

The Waterman Fund is pleased to announce the winners of its fifth annual Alpine Essay Contest, a contest run jointly with *Appalachia* Journal. The Fund received 38 entries this year, and the reading committee, comprised of current and former board members, outside readers, and Christine Woodside, editor of *Appalachia* Journal, chose Katherine Dykstra as the winner of the 2012 Waterman Fund Alpine Essay Contest, with her piece titled "A Place for Everything," and Angela Zukowski as runner up with "Wilderness."

Dykstra, of Brooklyn, New York, is a freelance writer and the nonfiction editor of *Guernica* magazine. Her essay takes on the issue of what "wild" means through a novice camper's encounter with a bear. Her gripping dialogue punctuated with the weight of the bear's fate lingered heavy on our minds after reading the story and made us wonder—what is our responsibility to the wild? Dykstra was awarded a \$1500 prize to help her continue to pursue her writing – and to recognize the importance of a new voice addressing northeastern environmental issues.

Zukowski, from West Springfield, Massachusetts, has worked for the Appalachian Mountain Club and has wandered through the White Mountains and beyond in search of a sense of the wild. In her search for wildness, Zukowski created a "...sort of vague equation in [her] mind that went something like: landscape untouched by man plus epic deed equals true wilderness equals a valid self." Her piece explores what unexpected personal growth can occur when we use wilderness as a personal testing ground. She has been awarded \$500.

You can read a brief excerpt of Dykstra's essay in this newsletter, and both the winning essay and the runner up will be published in full in the December on our website. Dykstra's essay also will appear in the Winter/Spring issue of *Appalachia*, the Appalachian Mountain Club's biannual journal of mountaineering and conservation, available in December.



Waterman Fund
2013 Annual 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: **Technology in the woods!**

Do you venture into the woods with a smart phone or iPad or personal music player? Do you Twitter about bear encounters or call home in the evening? What do you think about "that guy" sitting in the corner of the shelter texting about the number of miles he hiked today? Or are you that guy? How does technology affect personal safety and responsibility? Is keeping the woods separate from our ever-connected world an artificial construct or a necessity? The Waterman Fund is seeking personal essays about the technological changes you've seen arriving in the backcountry and how these changes have affected your experience and the wild itself.

THE WINNING PIECE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN
Appalachia Journal

THE WINNING ESSAYIST WILL BE AWARDED \$1500
Honorable Mention will receive \$500

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



An Excerpt from the 2012 Annual Essay Contest Winning Essay

For the last five years, the Waterman Fund has been seeking essays about wildness, asking emerging writers to share their personal stories about wild places and the spirit of wildness. We ask the writers, “Where do you find wildness?” This year’s winning essay ironically takes place in a car campground in the Delaware Water Gap—as far removed from the wild as our contest judges could imagine. Indeed, the landscape Katherine Dykstra paints for us is not wild, and it is within this landscape that she asks us—what of boundaries? What of animals who wander out of the wild and find inhabited lands? Through gripping dialogue, Dykstra skillfully seats us around a campfire in the Delaware Water Gap, and no sooner are we relaxed by the mesmerizing flames, than the comical dialogue about bears and first-time camping takes a haunting turn. In the ensuing events, we follow the bear as it stumbles through this confused landscape of woodland habitat, car campers, picnic coolers, and pursuing rangers. In the end, Dykstra leaves us seated silently in her car contemplating the gravity of the previous night’s encounter. She writes, “We got back in our car and sat silent. All I could think is

that we had left the city, come out to the country, shot a bear, and now we were going home.” Dykstra asks, “...if the rangers were protecting the site...who was protecting the bear?”



Katherine Dykstra’s essays have appeared in *Gulf Coast*, *Poets and Writers* and the anthology *20 Something Essays By 20 Something Writers*, among other places. She is the nonfiction editor of *Guernica*. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband.

From Katherine Dykstra’s A Place For Everything

At first he looked like the big black dog we’d seen racing after a stick earlier that day, but this guy was bulkier, wide as a wheelbarrow, and he moved slowly like a monster patiently taking a city.

“We’re going to get up, and we’re going to walk away.”

I felt proud of Parker for how quickly he seized control of the situation, but I couldn’t move, my eyes fixed on the bear, waiting to see what he would do.

“Now!” Parker hissed. “Get up, and walk away.” This time I stood. And kind of walk/skipped through the trees to the adjacent campsite where a middle-aged couple had just pulled out a pair of pork chops.

“There’s a bear in our campsite,” I whispered, realizing I’d abandoned all my stuff. I envisioned the bear ransacking our tents, devouring my iPhone, my camera in a fit of rage.

“Yup,” said the man, barely looking up. “I see ‘im.”

“You can get in our van if you like,” the man’s lady friend offered. I straightened at their nonchalance, turned around.

Rather than bury his face in the picnic table covered in half eaten bags of chips, green salsa, packages of hot dogs, buns, he ambled right up to the tree where we’d tied up our trash. After a moment of what looked like thought, he expertly stood on his hind legs, rested one paw against the trunk of the tree and gently took the bag off the rope we’d tied it to. He then sauntered away over the hill, holding the trash as if he were taking it out.

Waterman Fund Grants Update

Charlie Jacobi

Waterman Fund grants continue to be put to good use by diverse organizations throughout the northeast to fulfill the Fund's mission. The Dartmouth Outing Club (DOC) and the Monadnock Ecological Research and Education Project (MERE) submitted final reports recently for their 2011 grants and four new grants were awarded at our January 2012 board meeting.

Some may remember the Waterman Fund helped jump start the DOC mountain steward program in 2003 and provided additional support in 2005, 2006, and 2009. The program was subsequently underwritten through an endowment which, like many others, became depleted as investment returns tanked. The Fund provided interim support again in 2011 to keep a summit steward stationed atop Moosilauke throughout the summer.

With its 2011 Waterman Fund grant, MERE created a new Mountain Stewardship Coordinator position, enabling it to increase communication and collaboration with Monadnock State Park, and build its capacity to act as a long-term partner. Stewards were on duty for Get Outside Day in early May 2011, and were available at trailheads as well as summits, increasing substantially their visitor contact numbers. Through a grant extension in 2012, MERE organized a trail workshop for the mountain, and stewards attended training with their Adirondack Mountain counterparts under the able tutelage of board member Julia Goren.

The 2012 Waterman Fund grants totaled nearly \$13,000 and were awarded to the following individuals and organizations.

Professor Nancy Slack from the Sage Colleges received funding to monitor populations of rare bryophytes and lichens and

snowbed communities on Mount Washington, where she has conducted similar studies in the past. Given the potential threats from visitor use and climate change, the results should prove valuable for scientists and land managers alike.

The Appalachian Mountain Club will create a Northeastern Alpine Ecology, Education, and Stewardship Bibliography, updating an earlier database to a searchable electronic version and including so-called unpublished "gray literature." Bibliographies such as this are typically all about science, but the broader scope of this one will make it a valuable tool for educators and land managers as well as scientists. 2011 Alpine Stewardship award winner Ken Kimball will direct the project.

The Rey Center in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire was awarded the third grant for a project entitled Welch Ledges Stewardship and Citizen Science. The Welch Ledges are known for their outcrop communities which host several rare plants as well as fine views that are popular with hikers. Kim Votta of the Center coordinated three project components: guided hikes for the public and school and camp groups; training and direction for volunteer "Ledge" stewards on busy weekends; and citizen scientists collecting data on outcrop plant community populations.

Finally, the MERE Project hired an additional summit steward educator in 2012 to continue providing coverage and a measure of protection to this busy mountain. The Waterman Fund has been pleased to support and watch the growth of the MERE Program over the past few years. Program Director Peter Palmiotto is moving MERE towards long-term sustainability. ❧

Grant Applications Due

Grant applications for alpine project funding are due on December 21, 2012. For more information, visit: www.watermanfund.org or send us an email: info@watermanfund.org. Applications can be emailed or sent to: The Waterman Fund, PO Box 1064, East Corinth, VT 05040.

Laura and Guy Waterman Presented with the David Brower Conservation Award

The American Alpine Club honored both Guy and Laura Waterman with the prestigious David Brower Conservation Award at its 2012 Annual Benefit Dinner on March 3rd in Boston for their work in preserving and protecting the “alpine places we love.” The annual award has been given since 1991 in recognition of leadership and commitment to preserving mountain regions worldwide.

Laura Waterman and board member Jeff Lougee attended the annual dinner, where Laura accepted the award, receiving specific recognition for:

- Her and Guy’s long-time action for environmental ethics in climbing and for advocating minimum impact practices in the northeast beginning in the 1970s
- Advocating for ethics in wilderness and the co-authoring of the ground-breaking books, *Backwoods Ethics* and *Wilderness Ethics*, and
- Establishing the Waterman Fund and providing a lasting legacy of support for public lands, land trusts, local mountain clubs, universities, and non-profits.

The David Brower Conservation Award honors the legendary activist, climber, and first Executive Director of the Sierra Club. David Brower is perhaps best known for his active role in conserving and protecting vast expanses of American Wilderness and for his mountaineering achievements. Past recipients of the award include Yvon Chouinard, rock climber, environmentalist and founder of Patagonia; Greg Mortensen, mountaineer, author, and founder of Pennies for Peace; and Dr. Alton Byers, a mountain geographer working for The Mountain Institute studying climate change effects on glaciers in Nepal and Peru.

Congratulations, Laura and Guy. Thank you for your contributions to wild places and for being a source of inspiration and encouragement. 🌿



A promotional graphic for the book 'Forest and Crag'. The title is in a large, stylized font. Below it, the subtitle reads 'A HISTORY OF HIKING, TRAIL BLAZING, AND ADVENTURE IN THE NORTHEAST MOUNTAINS'. A starburst graphic contains the text 'Guy and Laura Waterman's classic volume now available as an e-book!'. The background is a black and white photograph of a rocky mountain peak with two hikers. At the bottom left is the Sierra Club logo with 'LONG TRAIL' and '1915' text. At the bottom right, text states: '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

Board Member Update

Laura Waterman

At our September meeting, the board said goodbye to Annie Bellerose, who has served the Fund since 2007. That year the Fund launched a new project: the Essay Contest. Annie embraced this with zeal. She was the right person at the right time to turn this idea into an enormously successful annual contest. She spearheaded as well our newsletter, *The Alpine Steward*, with grace and always a fine writer's eye. Annie has given unstintingly her time and talents and leaves big boots to fill. Life takes her next to New Zealand for nine months of trail work. We wish her all the luck in the world.

We will bid farewell to Val Stori at our January board meeting. Val joined the Fund in 2007, serving the board first as secretary, then vice president, and finally as our

president. Under Val's able, yet always gently encouraging guidance, the board began working on its direction for the future with a long range plan. Val brought to the Fund a commitment to wildness that, under her leadership, enabled us to do our work with foresight and painstaking care. Val's own impressive reverence for nature, her dedication to the stewardship of alpine terrain, has led us to become better stewards ourselves.

We deeply appreciate the hard work of both Annie and Val on the Fund's behalf and in the cause of alpine stewardship. In January 2013 we will elect new board members to fill these vacant positions. Their bios will appear on our website and in our next *Alpine Steward*. ❧

Thank Yous from Page Hollow

Laura Waterman

Ned Therrien, for donating his striking photograph for the Alpine Steward Award. **Bethany Taylor** and **Will Kemeza**, for giving us a fine reading from their winning essays at our Annual Dinner. **Eric Buddington**, for building our website, and to **Brian Post**, for fortuitously taking it over. **Adrien Vlach**, for the generous donation of his considerable expertise in guiding us through the process of long range planning. **Kara Norman**, for editing, laying out, designing, and taking on other crucial details necessary to producing this newsletter. **Rebecca Oreskes**, past board member, and **Bethany Taylor**, for reading and weighing in for our essay contest. **Chris Woodside**, editor of *Appalachia*, for her continuing enthusiasm for our essay contest, for publishing

the winning essays in the December issue, and for her master-of-ceremonies role for the readers at our Annual Dinner. **Green Mountain Club**, for hosting our 7th Alpine Gathering in 2011, and to the University of Vermont for its assistance in coordinating this biennial region-wide event. **Neil Van Dyke** and **Carol Van Dyke**, for their generous discount to out-of-towners for lodging at their Golden Eagle resort in Stowe, Vermont, during the Alpine Gathering. **The Rey Center**, for hosting our Fall Retreat on Welch and Dickey Mountains in Waterville, New Hampshire, and for providing meeting space. **Blake Memorial Library**, for occasionally providing us with comfortable and convenient meeting space.

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