

13th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering

AGENDA Friday, October 25

- 3-5pm Check-in & Registration
- 5pm Happy Hour
- 6pm Dinner – Dining Room/Washburn Room
- 7pm Opening Remarks
- Lars Botzjorns | Waterman Fund
- Georgia Murray | Appalachian Mountain Club
- Kevin Berend | Waterman Fund
The Negative Space
- Steve Tatko | Appalachian Mountain Club

Saturday, October 26

- 6:30-8 Breakfast – Dining Room/Washburn Room
- 8am Keynote address
Mardi Fuller

8:50am **Panel discussion: Reimagining Wild(er)ness**
Feat. **Mardi Fuller, Steve Tatko, Larry Anderson, and Caitlin McDonough Mackenzie**
Moderated by Kevin Berend

9:30am **Research 1: Evolution & Env. Gradients (Canada)**
Moderated by Jason Mazurowski

Ariane Langlois | Université du Québec à Rimouski
Origin and dynamics of boreal upland heath flora

Guillaume de Lafontaine & Laura Pothier Guerra | Université du Québec à Rimouski
Eco-evolutionary dynamics at the altitudinal limit of a transcontinental boreal conifer

Philippe Blier | Université du Québec à Rimouski
Use of a novel approach to unveil an altitudinal vegetation gradient

Anthony St-Jean | Université du Québec à Rimouski
Exotic plants colonize the Chic-Chocs

10:30am **Restoration**
Moderated by Caitlin McDonough Mackenzie

Lester Kenway | Baxter State Park (ret.)
Early efforts to restore and rehabilitate trails on the tablelands of Katahdin 1978-1999

Jesse Wheeler | Acadia National Park, & **Lauren Gibson** | Friends of Acadia
Restoring summit vegetation in a changing climate at Acadia National Park, ME

Rebecca Stanley | Friends of Acadia
Restoration implications of visitor use patterns on sub-alpine environments in Acadia National Park

Molly Bogner | University of Maine

An investigation into effective management techniques to support summit restoration

11:30am Lunch – Dining Room/Washburn Room

12:30pm Wild(er)ness cont'd

Moderated by David Crews

Larry Anderson | Freelance writer & independent scholar

“Speak softly and carry a big map”: Benton MacKaye’s evolving vision of American wild(er)ness

Darryl McGrath | Albany journalist & author

She would’ve hooped me to death: The exhausting, enthralling, and dangerous world of fieldwork with moose

1 pm Research 2: Climate & Vegetation Change (United States)

Moderated by Georgia Murray

Josua Benes | University of Vermont

NorthEast Network of Mountain Observatories (NENMO)

Andrea Tirrell | University of Maine

Alpine plant communities of Katahdin: A resurvey after 33 years

Jordon Tourville | Appalachian Mountain Club

Northeastern US alpine plant community responses (1983–2024) to climate warming and atmospheric pollutant deposition

Dan Spurduto | US Forest Service

Late-sleepers: Perspectives on the vegetation of snowbeds of Northeastern alpine and beyond

Hannah Vollmer | Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest

*Conservation genetics of an endemic alpine flower, *Potentilla robbinsiana* or dwarf cinquefoil, in the White Mountains of New Hampshire*

2:15pm Stewardship & Education

Moderated by Kayla White

Tim Howard | New York Natural Heritage Program

Vegetation response to stewardship assessed using oblique photography

Nigel Bates | Green Mountain Club

What's in a sign?

Jill Weiss | SUNY-ESF

Recreation and stewardship: Hiker preparation and perceptions in the Northeast US

Nathaniel Scrimshaw | Pan American Trails/WTN Americas

Completing the Franconia Ridge Visitor Use Management Plan

Nathaniel Scrimshaw | Pan American Trails/WTN Americas

Northeast Alpine Stewardship Center and its White Mountain Field School college semester

Corey Denenberg Dehner | Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Developing a wilderness ethics certificate program for STEM students

3:45pm Share-out

Moderated by Kayla White

Liam Ebner | Adirondack Mountain Club

Adrienne Bartlett | Green Mountain Club

Peter Palmiotto | Antioch University New England/MERE

Kyra Salancy | Appalachian Mountain Club

Tom Gorril | Maine Appalachian Trail Club & **Leah Beck** | Friends of Acadia

Nava Tabak | Baxter State Park

4:45pm The Role of Communications in Alpine Stewardship

Moderated by Alicia DiCocco

5pm Poster Session/Happy Hour

Joshua Benes | University of Vermont

Northeast Snow Survey (NESS): A feasibility study to develop an automated snowpack and climate monitoring network in the northeast United States

Claire Burnet | Acadia National Park

Save our summits: Community-powered vegetation restoration in Acadia National Park

Mackenzie Case | SUNY-ESF (presented by Sam Socash)

Predictors of hiker preparedness in the Northeast U.S.: Experience, information sources, and Leave No Trace knowledge

Jonathan Chipman | Dartmouth College

Systematic monitoring of alpine zone vegetation change regionwide using satellite remote sensing

Julianne Fiset | Université du Québec à Rimouski

Disentangling the effects of habitat complexity vs time since deglaciation on plant diversity patterns of the Chic-Chocs range: A test of island biogeography theory.

Jacquelyn Gill | University of Maine

Islands in the sky: A new collaborative project integrating community, genetic, and modeling approaches to understand alpine plants in a warming world

Grace (Rei) Jia | University of Vermont

Investigating northeast alpine plant biodiversity in the face of climate change: A first-year field season update

Min-Kook Kim | Stockton University

Remote sensing analysis between 2001 and 2021 at subalpine summits, Acadia National Park

Charles J. Peachey | Mount Washington Observatory

[Title]

Kyler Phillips | Appalachian Mountain Club

Refugia or at risk? Alpine snowbank communities in the face of climate change

Katie Rhodes | Antioch University New England

Canary in the alpine: Snowbed community research in the Adirondack Mountains of New York

Catherine Schmitt | Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park

Acadia summits, then & now

Nathaniel Scrimshaw | Pan American Trails/WTN Americas

Completing the Franconia Ridge Visitor Use Management Plan

Nathaniel Scrimshaw | Pan American Trails/WTN Americas

Northeast Alpine Stewardship Center and its White Mountain Field School college semester

Brittany Slabach | College of the Atlantic

Small mammals, summits, and soil: Investigations into small mammal communities on Acadia's summits

Joe Zeno | University of Maine

How climate change is affecting the alpine plants of New England

6pm Dinner – Dining Room/Washburn Room

7pm Awards

Emerging Steward Award

7:15pm Evening Program – Essay & Poetry

Catherine Wessel

Old Friends in the Alpine

Catherine Wessel is a field ecologist, graduate of the Field Naturalist Masters Program at University of Vermont, and winner of the 2024 Waterman Fund essay contest. Her essay was inspired by a transformative experience with a previous researcher who visited her on Mount Mansfield. She witnessed his return to this

beloved place after being away for nearly thirty years, which offered access to thinking on greater time scales, as well as what the human expression of wholeheartedness and delight in the work could look like as one grapples with how climate change has and has been impacting alpine areas of the Northeast.

David Crews

Mônadenok

Originally from the state of New Jersey, where he served for fifteen years as a public high school literature teacher, David Crews now lives and works at Clear Brook farm, an organic fruit and vegetable farm located at the edge of the Hoosic river watershed in the Vermont valley, ancestral land of Muhheaconneok and western Abenaki peoples. He cares for work that explores land and place, wild(er)ness, preservation, nonviolence, and serves as board member with the Waterman Fund as well as editorial advisor for *Writing the Land*. He is author of *Incantation*, a limited-edition handmade chapbook of poems designed and produced by Josh Dannin of Directangle Press, *Wander-Thrush: Lyric Essays of the Adirondacks*, and *High Peaks*—a poetry collection that catalogs hiking the “Adirondack 46ers” in upstate New York.

Sunday, October 27

6:30–8 Breakfast

8am Field Trips

Lakes of the Clouds Hut via Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail

Hike up the Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail to the Lakes of the Clouds Hut, to view and learn about AMC research infrastructure and projects, including climate and atmospheric chemistry sensors, dendrometers, and open-top chambers. 2–3 volunteers needed for carpooling to the trailhead.

5.8 miles round trip with 2,600 ft. elevation gain, approx. 6 hrs (strenuous).

Maximum number of participants: 12

Meet: 8am at front entrance of Highland Center

Leader: **Jordon Tourville** (734-263-5530; jtourville@outdoors.org)

Crawford Path via Mt. Washington Auto Road

Hike down from the summit of Mt. Washington to view trail maintenance and construction techniques, including the Crawford Path Restoration Project near Lakes of the Clouds Hut, and return. This trip will combine the theory and practice of alpine trail maintenance and management based on the most current recreation ecology research and years of experience maintaining alpine trails in the White Mountains. Topics covered will include the physical component, solutions and tools, and education.

3 miles round trip with 1,300 ft. elevation gain, approx. 7 hrs (moderate).

Maximum number of participants: 12

Meet: 8am at front entrance of Highland Center

Leader: **Erik Samia** (603-986-0551; esamia@outdoors.org)

Mount Washington Observatory tour

Tour the world-famous Mount Washington Observatory, led by facility staff, who will discuss data collection, instruments, research priorities, and the challenges of conducting research in the “worst weather in the world”. Plan for wintry conditions at the summit. Carpool recommended.

<1 mile round trip with 100 ft. elevation gain, approx. 4 hrs (easy).

Maximum number of participants: 13

Meet: 9:30am at gated entrance to Mount Washington Auto Road (off Rt. 16 in Gorham)

Leader: **Michael Carmon** (603-733-6172; mcarmon@mountwashington.org)

9am Workshop

Becky Fullerton | AMC Archivist

Wayfinding in their own words: Historical journals, maps and hikers of the White Mountains

Have you ever tried to retrace the steps of an explorer from before your time or used an old map to guide you around a modern landscape? In this presentation by Appalachian Mountain Club Archivist Becky Fullerton, see the White Mountains through excerpts of early 20th century hiker journals, historical and contemporary photos, and maps. Explore in words and pictures how wayfinding and backpacking have and have not changed over the course of a century or more.

Indoor lecture/workshop

Maximum number of participants: n/a

Meet: Washburn Room