



The Alpine Steward

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FOSTERING THE SPIRIT OF WILDNESS AND CONSERVING THE ALPINE AREAS OF NORTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA



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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Clockwise from top:

2022 high peaks summit steward crew posing on Whiteface Mountain, NY.

Summit steward educating hikers on Algonquin Peak, NY.

Botany training on Whiteface Mountain.

Alpine flowers.

Stewards conducting photopoint monitoring research.

All photos except alpine flowers by Ben Brosseau

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Conserving a Special Alpine Summit for the Future

By Lars Botzjorns

On a magnificent day in late September, my family stood atop Mt. Lafayette on the Franconia Ridge in New Hampshire. We had spent a cold night at the AMC's Greenleaf Hut, but the day dawned bright and calm. Among our group was my 15 month old grandson, Auden, whose mom had worked at the hut ten years ago and whose grandmother and grandfather worked there 35 years ago. His uncle carried him up the mountain, and when we arrived at the summit Auden toddled among the cairns, little icy puddles



Lars with grandson, Auden.

to other interesting features that elicited much pointing and grunting. It was wonderful to be in a place that is so special to our family, and we had the feeling we could stay up there forever. We speculated whether Auden would someday be on the Greenleaf 'cree', and fervently hoped that in 20 years this beautiful place would stand the test of time.

Our basis for hope includes people like Nat Scrimshaw, who received this year's Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award. Nat has worked tirelessly for decades on the Franconia Ridge, tending the ridge trails and educating hikers about proper trail etiquette. He now oversees seasonal summit stewards and hopes to continue to build this program to meet the crush of visitation to the ridge every year. I also took note of our fellow hikers on the ridge that day. Everyone was friendly and appreciative of being there, in fact joyful of the beauty around them. A very small and rather specific slice of our population to be sure, but it reminded me that as long as people can find a connection with nature, anywhere, we will all be the better for it.

I look forward to many more hikes with Auden and I am so very grateful for the people who take care of these special places.



2022 high peaks summit stewards on Whiteface Mountain, NY. Photo: Ben Brosseau.

Grants Support the Health of Our Alpine Communities

By Kayla White

The Waterman Fund grants program has awarded five grants totaling \$33,014 for 2022. These grants have supported trail work, stewardship, education, and research across the alpine of Northeastern North America. The program has awarded a total of \$313,021 since its inception in 2002.

ALPINE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

One of the grants went to supporting and sustaining alpine stewardship programs. The **Green Mountain Club** received \$11,214 for programmatic support of their Backcountry Caretaker Program on Mount Mansfield and Camel's Hump.

EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Two grants went to educational infrastructure this year. The **Maine Appalachian Trail Club** received partial funding (\$5,000) for the construction of the Maine Trail Center, the organization's first permanent home and base-of-operations for its Trail Crew, Ridgerunner, and volunteer programs. The second grant went to the **Mohonk Preserve** (\$2,600) for educational and wayfinding signage to promote Leave No Trace messaging on low impact climbing to protect fragile cliff-side vegetation.

The Waterman Fund is pleased to provide support for a variety of projects across the region we serve," said Lars Botzjoorns, president of the Fund's board of directors. "In addition, we hope each project will contribute ideas and data that can be applied to alpine stewardship efforts more broadly."

RESEARCH

The last two grants went to research to better understand fragile alpine ecosystems, sustain long-term monitoring, and study climate change and its impacts. \$7,000 went to the **Appalachian Mountain Club** to fund climate data analysis from the Mount Washington Observatory weather station. The second research grant went to **Heather Siart** of the **University of Massachusetts** (\$7,200). The focus of the research is the White Mountain Fritillary, a butterfly endemic to the Presidential Range and an indicator species for studying the effects of climate change in alpine habitats.

"I couldn't be prouder of the Fund's work reflected in the variety of grants given out for 2022," said Laura Waterman, founder of the Waterman Fund. "To be of service to our alpine community, and to spread the word about keeping the tundra healthy is what we at the Fund live for."

Conserving Bicknell's Thrush

By Kevin Berend

On Sunday, October 16, the attendees of the 12th Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering met for the final time on the deck of the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, in Craftsbury, Vermont. Lunches stowed, hats on, trekking poles at the ready, we hopped into cars for a day of field trips.

After an hour of rolling hills and leafy back roads, I pulled into a gravel lot in Stowe, where I met Kevin Tolan of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE). Kevin, wearing a hat and sunglasses, muckboots, and a pair of binoculars around his neck, explained that he would be taking seven of us up Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest point, to learn about Bicknell's thrush and the efforts by VCE to protect this rare montane breeding bird and its habitat. We piled into his Subaru for a ride to the top.

Bicknell's thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) is a medium-sized songbird that breeds in high elevation spruce-fir forests of New England. It is closely related to the Gray-cheeked thrush (*Catharus minimus*), and the two species were considered one species until relatively recently (genetic analysis was key), Kevin explained as we bounced along the steep, unpaved Mt. Mansfield Auto Road. Bicknell's thrush, he said, is one of the rarest breeding birds in the United States. After about ten minutes of climbing, hardwoods clinging to their last leaves gave way through our windows to spruce and fir. After another five, we pulled into a cramped parking area with the rocky Nose and Chin of the mountain opening above us.

We donned our gear and set off, heading north on plank boardwalks that wound through dense, shrubby evergreens.

"This is typical breeding habitat," Kevin explained. Not too tall, not too open. Bicknell's thrush prefers these alpine and subalpine forests for nesting, often returning to the

same location year after year. Suitable habitat can be found throughout the Northeast, including the Adirondacks, Green Mountains, White Mountains, and Katahdin. They seem to particularly like disturbed areas, such as fir waves, Kevin explained, that have greater structural complexity.

Habitat loss and climate change are contributing to substantial changes in high elevation habitats, however. Alpine areas worldwide are warming at disproportionately

high rates, forcing vegetation communities upslope and the species that rely on them to rapidly adapt. Some of the more marginal Bicknell's habitat, such as in the Catskills and on Mt. Greylock, for example, is already disappearing.

To better understand these changes, VCE has for years been netting and banding Bicknell's thrushes on Mt. Mansfield, measuring their size, age, breeding status, and taking blood samples. Because they feed exclusively on insects such as caterpillars and spiders (higher on the food web), Bicknell's thrushes can ingest high levels of mercury. In fact, the first evidence of bioaccumulation in a terrestrial animal was discovered in Bicknell's thrush by VCE researchers. Along with taking measurements and samples, researchers attach GPS devices to some of the captured birds to track

their activity and yearly migration routes.

Continuing up the trail of gnarled metamorphic rock, we came to a sweeping westward view. Unbroken forested hills extended from the slopes below us, hugging the city of Burlington. The quicksilver of Lake Champlain spilled out beyond. We stopped to absorb the scene.

Bicknell's thrush is at risk not only here, Kevin continued. Every year at about this time, the birds begin a nearly 2,000 mile migration to their wintering range in the broadleaf cloud forests of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Political and economic instability in those countries have



Photo by Phillip Kenny, Wikimedia Commons.

Thrush on Mt. Mansfield

contributed to rapid deforestation and habitat fragmentation as people struggle to meet their basic needs. While modeling suggests that suitable habitat should be available in Cuba and Puerto Rico, the birds have so far not found their way there. For now, VCE is working with Dominican and Haitian partners to conserve critical wintering habitat across Hispaniola, a truly continental-scale conservation effort.

As we stood there for several minutes, looking out over northern Vermont, I considered this small bird and the epic journey it undertakes every year, its choice to live and raise its young in this harsh environment, its stubbornness and resilience in the face of challenges. Its message? At least to me: The work we do as stewards of our little corner of the world, the Northeast alpine, is inextricably linked to the health of the biosphere. Our reach is expansive and expanding, thanks to the research and partnerships that we support as an organization and have cultivated through hard work and innovation. But that also means that we are not insulated from the world, despite the height and relative remoteness of some of our peaks. Rather, as Kevin and VCE has demonstrated, effective conservation sometimes requires a bird's eye view.



Attendees of the Bicknell's thrush hike on Mt. Mansfield. From left: Mike DeBonis, Kayla White, Liam Ebner, Troy Tetreault, Bridey Ryan, Kevin Tolan, and Laura Lane. Photo: Kevin Berend.

EXTRA: While traipsing around Mt. Mansfield, Adirondack Mountain Club Summit Stewards Kayla White and Liam Ebner located a new occurrence of purple crowberry (*Empetrum atropurpureum*), thought to be extirpated in Vermont. Amazing what trained eyes can do!



Kevin Tolan (center), of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, discusses Bicknell's thrush conservation on Mount Mansfield with attendees of the 12th Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering. Photo: Kevin Berend.



Adirondack Mountain Club Stewardship Manager Kayla White and Summit Steward Liam Ebner inspect a newly discovered patch of purple crowberry (*Empetrum atropurpureum*) on Mt. Mansfield. Photo: Kevin Berend.

SCIENTISTS and ENTHUSIASTS CONVERGE at Alpine Stewardship Gathering

By Alicia DiCocco

Alpine scientists, trail managers, and enthusiasts from organizations across the Northeastern United States joined together for the 12th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering in Craftsbury, Vermont this past October. The Green Mountain Club hosted this Waterman Fund gathering, the first since the onset of the COVID-19

pandemic that resulted in dramatic increases of trail use across the region.

The Green Mountain Club recently celebrated 50 years of their pioneered caretaker program that began in the 1970s in response to an influx of visitors to the mountains and research showing damage to fragile ecological communities. As such, GMC designed the Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering to celebrate the success of the last 50 years of stewardship and education.

VISITOR USE TRENDS VARY ACROSS NORTHEAST

Panelists from multiple organizations discussed the impacts of increased visitation and use of trails throughout the Northeast and the impact on the alpine zone. Not all organizations saw the same patterns in visitor use over the last three years. The Adirondack Mountain Club (New York), Green Mountain Club (Vermont), and Appalachian Mountain Club (New Hampshire) found extensive increased use across their trail systems in 2020, which leveled off in 2021. 2022 data is still being collected, but anecdotally is showing a leveled and slightly higher baseline than pre-pandemic years. Conversely, Friends of Acadia (Maine) and Baxter State Park (also Maine), had decreased visitation in 2020, likely due to their remote locations and the state's pandemic response, and therefore a major boom in 2021—Friends of Acadia reported an increase of 1 million visitors in 2021 up from 2020.

These visitation shifts have significant impacts to programs and organizations, notably summit steward/caretaker programs and alpine zone research. The Adirondack Mountain Club and the Green Mountain Club both reported that while visitation has increased, the number of seasonal staff on mountain summits has remained the



Panelists discuss 50 years of the modern caretaker program/mountain stewardship. Left to right: Rick Paradis, Julia Goren, Isaac Alexandre-Leach, Jill Weiss, Howard VanBenthuyzen. Photo: Alicia DiCocco.



Nat Scrimshaw receiving the Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award at the Alpine Gathering. Nat's biography appears on page 11.
Photo: Alicia DiCocco.

same. Organizations highlighted several concerns around investing in a corps of seasonal stewards: the rising cost of living, especially housing in tourist areas where many of these programs exist; the extended hiking season and need to expand the staffing season; and the importance of providing competitive wages and future career growth opportunities for seasonal field staff to help increase institutional knowledge within organizations.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FINDINGS AND KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

In addition to sharing visitor management insights, the gathering was lucky enough to have ten scientists present their alpine research and findings, many of which are recipients of grant funding from the Waterman Fund. Some highlights include research on non-native species on Mount Washington and tracking climate-related changes in alpine zones. Adirondack Mountain Club shared their work improving methodology for photo monitoring alpine species, while the Appalachian Mountain Club has been studying the variation of alpine phenology as it relates to climate change. Dr. Jill Weiss from S.U.N.Y. presented preliminary findings of a 3-year study assessing hiker trends through surveys on six mountain peaks in Northeastern U.S.

Additionally, there were two keynote speakers. The first night participants listened to geologist Stephen Wright from the University of Vermont as he discussed the formation of the mountains of northern New England, sharing maps and data from his research in the field. Then former GMC caretakers Hugh and Jeanne Joudry gave a keynote presentation sharing stories from their 50 years atop Stratton Mountain.

The Waterman Fund also presented Nat Scrimshaw with the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award for his devotion and work on Franconia Ridge.

ALPINE ZONE FIELD TRIPS

Participants spent a day in the field where the Green Mountain Club and partners showcased work in the alpine zones of the Green Mountains. Two hikes went across the Mount Mansfield ridgeline: one to learn about the alpine vegetation with GMC staff and another to learn about the Bicknell Thrush habitat and monitoring with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. Jon Kim, Vermont State Geologist, discussed the geological history of Smuggler's Notch, and GMC's Keegan Tierney showed off the completed rehabilitation work on the Burrows Trail.

ALPINE STEWARD AWARD: *Nominate someone for 2023!*

To nominate someone for the **Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award** and/or the **Emerging Steward Award**, please send nomination letters to the Waterman Fund (forms are 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.

Olivia Box

“What Climate Models Don’t Show”

Woosh, woosh, thud. The silence of the woods is broken by my clumsiness. In an instant, I’m belly-down on the ground, my arms in a defensive shield in front of my face and my knees taking the brunt of the fall. I am no stranger to abrupt spills when I run. I shuffle my feet, and these New England forests are all roots with just a little bit of flat ground mixed in. I sit up, brushing the duff layer of burnt orange pine needles off my knees. Just a little blood, not bad. I get up and keep going, shaking out my arms and legs. I’ve got miles to go before I resign to another day glued to my computer.

###

Liesl Magnus

“Lizard Dreams & Our Same Hearts”

I want to disavow the idea that winter is cruel. I want to purge the feeling of resentment and dread, and every melancholic essay that describes winter as cold and bitter (in anything but the literal) can get balled up and tossed on the fire I’m going to make tonight. I want to take anyone who has ever said anything biting or miserable about this jewel-encrusted season and smack them upside the head. And then I want to take all that back and then kiss them on the mouth. Repeatedly.

###

Lynn Caseman

“The Tragedy of the Common Peoples”

When I was growing up, I did not interact with nature. The wild was scary. Terrifying. Horrific. As a 4-year-old, the wild was, to me, the trees in the backyard, that turned into menacing figures at night. I didn’t climb trees. I didn’t run and play. I just . . . didn’t go outside as a kid. The wild was the great unknown and it filled me with great fear. As I grew older, the wild didn’t become any less scary to me. It had evolved to contain wild, unknown people and very large, scary bugs.

OUR 2022 CONTEST WINNERS

by Laura Waterman

The Waterman Fund is proud to announce the winners of our thirteenth Essay Contest. We welcomed fifty-two entries—our most ever—of which nine made the final round, presenting the reading committee with some challenging choices. The committee is composed of current and former board members, outside readers, and the editor of *Appalachia Journal*. Our First Place Winner for our 2022

Essay Contest was Olivia Box for her “What Climate Change Models Don’t Show,” Our Second Place Winner was Liesl Magnus for “Lizard Dreams & Our Same Hearts.” We awarded the Runner-Up to Lynn Caseman for her “The Tragedy of the Common Peoples.”

We had no specific prompt for the 2022 Essay Contest, but asked our contestants to keep in mind when they picked up their pens or turned on their computers that Laura and Guy Waterman spent a lifetime exploring, living, and

writing within the boundaries of culture and nature.

Olivia Box explores the areas where climate change, ecology and storytelling meet. An ecologist and writer, she has a degree in Forest Ecology from the University of Vermont and an undergraduate degree in Biology from Hamilton College. Last year, she was a Fulbright student scholar based Viterbo, Italy, studying UNESCO World Heritage and old-growth forests, science communication, and the Italian language. Her writing has been featured in *Northern Woodlands*, *The Counter*, *Backpacker*, and JSTOR, Daily, where she was the Nature and Sustainability contributor. She lives in Maine.

Liesl Magnus is a New Hampshire native whose interests in conservation, natural resources management, and the power that wild places can have over the human experience have led to work and study all over the world, from Patagonia to the wilds of Idaho. A recent graduate of St. Lawrence University, Liesl has spent her post-graduate years going back and forth between Montana and New Hampshire doing any job that will keep her outside and connected with the places she loves. Her essay was drawn from many years of learning to love New England winters, culminating last year in a season spent as a caretaker for the Appalachian Mountain Club where near-constant subzero temperatures and misadventures aplenty forced her to confront head-on

what she has come to regard as the most special of New England's seasons.

Lynette Caseman is a writer, artist and naturalist from Georgia. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor's in natural resources. It was there that she concentrated on the way different cultures of humans interact with the environment. She tries to infuse her love of natural resources into every piece of art she creates- from recycled plastic sculptures to singing the praises of alligators in her novels-in-progress.

She wrote her essay to honor the way the forgotten people of the world contribute to the conservation effort in unconventional ways.

"I realized that people at large tend to think of the profession and world of natural resources as something very free-spirited. However, the people within that world can sometimes be very rigid; thinking that there is only one right way to conserve nature; one right way to enjoy nature; one right person to be in nature and of nature. I watch my mother, an immigrant, recycle and conserve in the interesting ways she's honed since she was a child on a financially poor but culturally rich Caribbean island in the 1960's. Immigrants, disabled people, poor people- they have a seat at the table too. The way they enjoy and conserve nature is good too."

• 2023 ALPINE ESSAY CONTEST •

Are we making hiking/mountain/wilderness trip plans in consideration of the climate changes we are experiencing now? How about our relation to flora and fauna? How are the climate changes affecting our expectations of what we'll see and hear when we go out there? The warming trend can: melt glaciers and loosen rocks, thereby increasing rockfalls. Cause avalanches the consistency of mush. Heavy rains cause flooding and increase risk of river crossings. Raising temperatures cause heat exhaustion, dehydration, and death. How have the results of climate change affected our approach, our attitudes, our decision-making to wilderness travel and our human need for wildness? Will fewer or more people find their way out there? And what would that mean for both us and wildness?

The Waterman Fund seeks new voices on the role and place of wilderness in today's changing world. Please send us your essays on what wild and wilderness means to you.

The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2023. Submissions should be 2000-3000 words. Please include

contact information and a few lines about why the writer feels their essay is appropriate for the contest. Online submissions should be double-spaced manuscripts in 12-point font. Word doc compatible files are preferred. If submitting by mail, please include an email address. We will announce the winners at the end of June. The First Place Winner will be awarded \$1500 and published in *Appalachia Journal*. The Second Place Winner will be awarded \$500. Both essays will be published on our website. For the purposes of this contest, an emerging writer is considered someone who has a solid writing background or interest, but has not yet published a major work of prose on this topic or been featured in nation publications.

We welcome personal, scientific, adventure, or memoir essays; fiction, poetry or songs are not eligible for this contest. More information is available at watermanfund.org, Facebook, and via essays@watermanfund.org. We welcome all inquiries.

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Summit Stewards Annie Dumais and Maeve Mikulski.
Photo: Lars Botzjorns.



Nat Scrimshaw on Franconia Ridge. Nat's biography appears on the next page.
Photo: Lars Botzjorns.

THE CHALLENGES OF CARING FOR FRANCONIA RIDGE

By Lars Botzjorns

Each year the Waterman Board of Directors tries to spend a day in the field visiting one of our grantees. Our annual hikes took a break during the pandemic, but this year we were able to visit the Franconia Ridge hosted by Nat Scrimshaw of World Trails Network (WTN) - Hub for the Americas. The Fund made a grant to WTN in 2021 to cover the costs of a full-time chief summit steward, the first time this position had been in place. This year, the Fund developed a new longer term funding category and is now a sponsor of the Summit Steward program on the ridge.

August 3 was a beautiful day, warm with light winds, and given that it was a Wednesday a relatively light crowd. Relative is a key word as there were still plenty of hikers

on the ridge. Nat showed us various measures undertaken to minimize hiker impacts, such as string fencing, 'microkiosks', brushing, scree walls and reconstruction of rock stairs to make them more enticing to walk on. We met two of the stewards that day, chief steward Annie Dumais and stewardship intern Maeve Mikulski. They expressed their joy at being on the mountain and the challenges of dealing with an overwhelming number of hikers at times. We got to watch how hikers negotiate certain parts of the trail, which is an activity the summit stewards do quite often. Observation is a key aspect of assessing the need and effectiveness of stewardship actions.

We were pleased to see the thought and care that Nat and the summit stewards are putting into stewardship on Franconia Ridge.

*2021 Recipient:***Doug Weihrauch***By Nancy Ritger*

Doug is a gifted alpine ecologist who was a major contributor in AMC's recovery efforts to have *Potentilla robbinsiana*, a rare alpine plant, removed from the federal endangered species list due to successful recovery. Nationwide, this was the first plant to achieve this status. His knowledge of the northeastern alpine biota is highly respected by his professional peers, knowledge he willingly passed on to all who enjoy the outdoors. Whether it was long hours in the field on his hands and knees counting plants in the cold or at times buggy environment, or in front of the computer screen with statistical analysis, the quality of his work is always of the highest scientific quality.

From his early work with the AMC Research Department mapping alpine plant communities and bringing Robbins cinquefoil back from the brink of extinction, to environmental assessments and monitoring for Hut permits and trail projects, to his more recent work monitoring alpine plant populations and phenology, Doug was AMC's scientific boots on the ground for over two decades. The information he has compiled helps deepen the understanding of climate change impacts on these

areas. With Doug's botanical and ecological knowledge, he developed phenology monitoring protocols and field guides, and trained seasonal staff from general botany to plant phenological phases. He was a key contributor to the development of AMC's alpine phenology models (Kimball et al, 2014) and current work to evaluate the role of both spring warming and winter chilling in alpine plant phenological response.

When AMC's trail crews were working in the alpine zone, he was the on-site person to guide where to mine rocks for scree walls to minimize impacts on the alpine flora. He was an effective mentor for many AMC's Hut Naturalist and Research Interns—highly respected for his knowledge, and desire to inform. Doug worked effectively with the Volunteer Alpine Steward Program for many years, sharing his knowledge about botany and alpine zone research. He not only taught the Stewards how to identify plants and monitor their growth at several phenology stations on Franconia Ridge and Mt. Washington, but he also inspired them to become passionate advocates for protecting the alpine ecosystem. Beyond his work at AMC Doug has volunteered himself over the years exemplified by his leading plant surveys for the MA Plant Conservation program and participating in Mountain Birdwatch.

The Waterman Fund Board acknowledges Doug's scientific skill set and dedication to quality science and his enduring contributions to mountain ecology and conservation.

*2022 Recipient:***Nat Scrimshaw***By Nancy Ritger*

Nat has been an active trail steward for over 40 years and has been volunteering on Franconia Ridge as a trail maintainer since 1995. During this time, he has displayed a deep connection to this 2 mile Alpine section of the Appalachian Trail, and has developed an unparalleled knowledge base. It seems that Nat knows every one of these 10,560 feet of trail intimately, across the legendary summits of Little Haystack, Mt. Lincoln, and Mt. Lafayette mapping out past maintenance history, visitor behavior patterns, and future stewardship opportunities along every foot.

He has taken some of the successes on Franconia Ridge to the world trail stage as an active member of the international World Trails Network (WTN), currently serving as chair of the board for WTN-Hub for the

Americas. Their work repairing scree walls, maintaining signage and building temporary string fencing around areas of sensitive vegetation was imperative to the ongoing protection of this beautiful and fragile landscape.

Recently, Nat has been an active member of the Franconia Ridge working group. A partnership endeavor with the WMNF, AMC, The Waterman Fund, NH State agencies and ATC where we seek innovative solutions to the complex challenges we face with our shared mission to protect fragile alpine plants while providing a much sought after recreational experience. Nat attends every meeting and outing, and always provided thoughtful input coupled with time and trail tested wisdom.

Nat has carried on the revered stewardship story of Laura and Guy Waterman, the pioneers in volunteer alpine trail stewardship on Franconia Ridge. This is a personal mission for Nat, one that he holds with high regard and commitment. The Waterman Fund applauds Nat's devotion to the spirit of alpine stewardship through his creative, influential, and enduring work.

Two New Board Members Join Us



ILANA COPEL

Ilana (she/her) is the New England Office Administrator and Outreach Coordinator for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, where she works across multiple program areas to support ATC staff and regional trail clubs from Maine to Connecticut. Her prior work experience includes 10 years of field-based education and trail work for conservation organizations including the Green Mountain Club, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, and the Student Conservation Association. Ilana earned her B.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Vermont, where her interest in public land management began. She now lives in the shadow of the Green Mountains and enjoys hiking and skiing throughout the Northeast.



KEVIN BEREND

Kevin Berend is an environmental scientist and freelance writer from Rochester, New York. His first encounter with the Adirondacks came as a DEC intern in the High Peaks, where he remained for two more summers as a summit steward with the Adirondack Mountain Club. In his graduate research, he studied the ecology of alpine snowbank communities on Mt. Washington, New Hampshire, with a focus on how climate change may affect sensitive plant populations. He is currently working for Grand Staircase Escalante Partners in Escalante, Utah.

Call for Nominations for New Board Members

The Waterman Fund is looking for new board members! For twenty-two years the fund has been an important supporter and advocate for alpine research and stewardship, and the spirit of wildness in our northeastern mountains. We are currently seeking candidates to manage our donor

database and fulfill the role of treasurer. If you think that you, or someone you know, would be a good candidate to serve on our board of directors, please contact us at info@watermanfund.org.

Interested in supporting our work?

Send a donation today!

Your Name: _____
(as you would like it to appear in our records and acknowledgements)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Matching gift? ☐ In honor or in memory of: _____

Please make your check payable to *The Waterman Fund* and mail to: P.O. Box 1064, East Corinth, VT 05040

☐ If your donation is for \$200 or more, we are pleased to offer you a signed copy of *Forest and Crag*, 3rd edition.
Check box if you would like us to mail you a book.

The Waterman Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

Fiscal Report: APRIL 2021 – 2022

Annual contributions reached \$25,000 up 27% of our goal. We had approved \$75,000 of grants for the fiscal year with roughly 65% of the grants paid during the fiscal year due to Covid related delays.

Our program expenses were minimal due to the suspension of the Fund's Field Trip and Annual dinner.

Administrative expenses also came in under budget.

Overall, our anticipated expenses for the fiscal year were lower than expected but with Covid restrictions being lifted for this next fiscal year, funds will be paid out to the grant recipients as research, education and trail work have resumed. Outstanding grants total \$44,000.

The Waterman Fund's investment assets grew from \$501,000 in April 2020 total of \$528,000 in April 2022.

INCOME	
Annual Contributions	\$25,320
Transfer from Investments	\$19,145
EXPENSES	
Administrative	\$5,000
Programs	\$2,000
Grants Disbursed	\$47,500
TOTAL NET ASSETS	
April 2021	\$456,800
April 2022	\$485,840

• • FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS CONTINUES • •

The Waterman Fund continues to discuss providing larger grant awards towards trail projects to better serve the mission of the Fund. Individual grants have been generally between \$2,000-\$3,000. As a result, the Fund has not been able to invest a significant amount of funding towards trail projects.

In recent dialogue with land managers, trail maintainers, and researchers there appears to be a need to invest into the greater alpine trail infrastructure. This improved trail infrastructure will help protect the fragile alpine ecosystem that surrounds these trails.

In the 2022-23 grant cycle, the Waterman Fund is offering up to \$15,000 towards alpine / sub-alpine trail reconstruction and rehabilitation projects. This grant will be in addition to our annual grants awarded and will follow the same guidelines and parameters.

The Fund is excited to offer this expanded opportunity to help strengthen trail stewardship in the alpine areas of Northeastern North America. Please submit a grant application by December 15, 2022.

Thank You from Page Hollow ... *Laura Waterman and Sean Robinson*

The pandemic has eased a bit allowing us to hold our Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering with care and in person. For that we thank **Mike DeBonis** and the **Green Mountain Club** for hosting, and **The Craftsbury Outdoor Center** for providing a wonderful and welcoming setting.

We thank **Annie Bellerose** and **Meika Hashimoto** for their continued inspiring guidance for our Essay Contest. Hats off to our stalwart readers who carry the contest forward: **Emily Mitchell**, **David Crews**, **Rebecca Oreskes**, **Alice Tufel**, and **Christine Woodside** who performs the dual role of both reader and then publisher of the winning essays in *Appalachia Journal*.

We heartily thank climber **Andy Tuthill** for the framed

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*My donation is in memory of Patti Gray who died on March 6 and specified The Waterman Fund for donations. Patti was an avid outdoorswoman and hiker and an admirably kind and generous person. She was a librarian at Bennington College for many years.



Many thanks to each of you for
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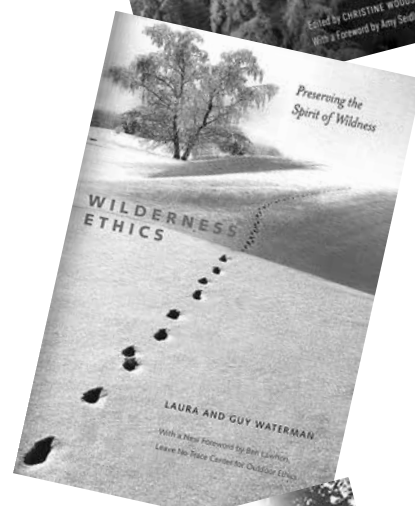
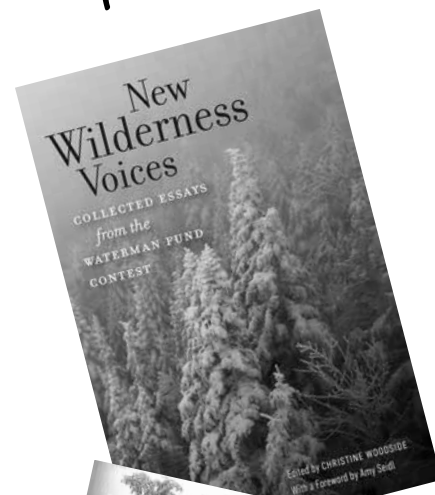
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Photopoint Monitoring Field Tech using
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