

14th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering

Sugarloaf Mountain Hotel
Carrabassett Valley, ME

October 29-31, 2026



"High and dry above the stupendous detail of our job we should hold the reason for it all. This is not to cut a path and then say — 'Ain't it beautiful?' **Our job is to open a realm.**"
- Benton MacKaye



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Supplemental Documents*

Abstracts:
Oral presentations
Posters
Breakout sessions
Workshops
Field trip detailed descriptions

*Scan QR code on registration table

Venue information

Sugarloaf Mountain Hotel
5092 Access Rd.
Carrabasset Valley, ME 04947

Phone: 1-800-843-5623 or 1-207-237-2000 (general switchboard)

Email: info@sugarloaf.com

Map

A map of the Sugarloaf Resort grounds can be found at:
<https://www.sugarloaf.com/mountain-info/mountain-maps>

Parking

Please park in Lot C, near the chapel, which is close to Base Lodge. Signs will direct you to check-in.

NEASG check-in

Upstairs lobby of Sugarloaf hotel

Lodging check-in

Downstairs lobby of Sugarloaf hotel

Wifi

Network: **Sugarloaf**

Meals

All meals will take place in the King Pine Room

Breakfast: **7-8 am**

Lunch (Th only): **12:30-1:30 pm**

Dinner: **6:30-7:30 pm**

Hors d'oeuvres will be served during Thursday happy hour. Guests who would like a more substantial meal, or while traveling, can explore local dining options in the vicinity of Sugarloaf:

Sugarloaf

- *45 North* (Sugarloaf Mountain Hotel)
- *D'Ellies* (breakfast/lunch) (<https://www.dellies.net/>)

Carrabasset Valley

- *Tufulios* (<https://tufulios-food.edan.io/>)
- *Sugarbowl* (<https://www.sugarbowlme.com/>)
- *Back Strap Bar & Grill* (<https://backstrapstratton.com/>)

Stratton

- *Coplin Dinner House*
(<https://thecopлиндinnerhouse.com/>)
- *White Wolf Inn* (<http://thewhitewolfinn.com/>)
- *The Looney Moose* (brunch)
(<https://thelooneymooscafe.com/>)

Eustis

- *Trails End Steakhouse & Tavern*
(<https://trailsendsteakhouse.com/>)

Kingfield

- *Longfellow's Restaurant* (<https://longfellowsme.com/>)
- *Silly Goose Bar N Grill*



The Maine Appalachian Trail Club is proud to partner with The Waterman Fund to co-sponsor the 2026 biennial Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering. The MATC has maintained and protected 267 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Maine for nearly 100 years.

The Appalachian Trail exists thanks to the vision of Benton McKaye, who wanted to provide residents of the east coast of the US an opportunity to recreate and restore their health and their senses in the vast forested wilderness and over significant alpine peaks of the Appalachian Mountains. Maine native Myron Avery oversaw the on-the-ground work to implement McKaye's dream.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail was the first US long-distance hiking trail established through the National Trails System Act in 1968. Its 2,200-mile footpath passes through 14 states from Georgia to Maine. It is maintained and its fragile landscapes are stewarded by volunteers from 31 local maintaining clubs, in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

The MATC places seasonal ridgerunners in sensitive alpine zones on Saddleback and the Bigelows to educate hikers, offering Leave No Trace lessons on how to identify and protect alpine plants and how to safely and sustainably use the Trail. The Waterman Fund is a long-time financial supporter of the work of these MATC ridgerunners. The MATC also hires a seasonal trail crew that carries out more complex rehabilitation and treadway reconstruction and relocations. The Maine Trail Crew and Ridgerunners are housed during the season at the recently constructed Maine Trail Center, in Skowhegan, Maine.

Participants in the NEASG may want to check out the section of the AT that skirts the western flank of Sugarloaf Mountain. The field trips on Saturday include hikes on the AT on Saddleback and on the Bigelow range, which can be seen across the Carrabassett Valley from the Sugarloaf resort.

The MATC extends thanks to the various sponsors and donors who have supported programming and experiences for conference attendees. Special thanks to the Sugarloaf Resort for its flexibility and cooperation in helping conference planners navigate through the complexities of organizing services and events.

Janice Clain
MATC President



Fostering the Spirit of Wildness and Conserving the Alpine Areas of Northeastern North America

Board of Directors

Kevin Berend, President

Steve Crowe, Treasurer

Lorne Currier, Secretary

Kayla White

David Crews

Jason Mazurowski

Jill Weiss

Lester Kenway

Laura Waterman

Alpine Areas

In the U.S.

Adirondacks

Bigelow Range

Cadillac Mountain

Camels Hump

Franconia Ridge

Katahdin

Mount Mansfield

Presidential Range

In Canada

Gros Morne

Long Range

Mealy Mountains

Monts Chic-Chocs

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Waterman Fund board of directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 14th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering. To those who have attended many Gatherings, welcome back. To those attending their first Gathering, you're in for a treat (not least because it's Halloween). On the agenda over the next two days is a rich assortment of talks, workshops, breakout sessions, and field trips, all centered on the mountain ecology of New England and eastern Canada. NEASG is the only meeting of its kind with this unique focus.

Since its inception, though, NEASG has always been more than merely a conference. Underlying the science, stewardship, education, and trail work which Waterman Fund has long championed, we hold a more foundational goal. We seek to foster and carry forward the vision of Laura & Guy Waterman, whose prolific writing on the "Spirit of Wildness" articulates why these places mean so much to us in the first place. Wildness, they insist, is our motivation, the animating passion behind the work itself.

Gathering, therefore, suggests a more complete conviviality, a coming together of kindred spirits to share, celebrate, commiserate, and laugh. In coming together, we recognize that the Spirit of Wildness permeates not only the rugged forests and peaks that surround us, but also the many hearts, both human and non, which call them home. Our team of organizers has made sure that our time together reflects this understanding. We are delighted you could join us, and hope you make the most of it.

Sincerely,

Kevin Berend
President, Waterman Fund

Dear Friends of the Northeast's Alpine,

Of course I miss not being with you all today.

Just to give you a context for what your Gathering here means to me, I turn back in memory almost forty years to the early 1990s and our first Alpine Stewards Gathering. The very first was hosted by the Green Mountain Club.

The idea for such a coming together was Guy's. We were all aware that the mountain clubs and public agencies were doing similar work across the region. That is, maintaining alpine trails and attempting to get across to hikers the importance of not trampling on the low growing plants so easy to ignore. Stewardship and trail work. Guy saw great benefit for all of us from the Adirondacks across to the Greens and the Whites to the mountains in Maine getting together to exchange our methods and share our commitment of what each of us was learning in our own mountain areas. Over the last few years we have been proud to welcome eastern Canada to the ranks.

After the first three meetings there was a pause. A few years went by. Such Gatherings were a lot of work for a club to take on. When Guy died in February 2000, the Waterman Fund came to life. It didn't take those early board members long to see that with the young Fund's direction we could revive these Gatherings. We knew how important they were to Guy and we felt his long ago idea of gathering together was well worth reviving.

What all of you are doing here today, hosted this time and for the first time by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, is carrying on Guy's long ago vision.

Here you all are!

I can tell you it warms my heart!

So, onward!!

Laura Waterman



Featured Speaker: **Hawk Metheny**

VP of Trail Management, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Hawk Metheny holds a B.S. in Environmental Science/Natural Resource Management from the University of Massachusetts and more than 35 years of experience in wilderness, backcountry, and long-distance hiking trail

management, visitor management, and Leave No Trace education. He is also a founder and former board member with the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, and currently serves as the Vice President of Trail Management at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), overseeing Regional and Trail Operations along the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine where he provides strategic direction and prepares the AT for its second century.

Hawk is nationally recognized as an expert in long distance hiking trail management. He has been with the ATC as a staff member since 2010, and before that served several consecutive terms on the ATC's Board of Directors and chaired the Stewardship Council. Prior to his roles at ATC, Hawk worked for the Appalachian Mountain Club as a backcountry management specialist, field coordinator, backcountry caretaker, trail crew member, and five memorable winters as the caretaker at Carter Notch Hut.

Hawk thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 1993 (Hawk-Who-Walks GA→ME) and has hiked many other sections of the AT since. He has thru-hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, the John Muir Trail twice, and has section hiked the Long Trail in Vermont. He has also hiked and backpacked in the Sierra Nevada, Rockies, Alps, Andes, and in Scotland. When not working on the AT you can find him taking care of his family's off grid properties in Vermont, or exploring the nearby rivers, mountains, and trails with his wife, daughter, and two enthusiastic Labrador retrievers.

Keynote Speaker: Jon Leibowitz

President & CEO, Northeast Wilderness Trust



Jon Leibowitz holds a Juris Doctor and a Master's in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado Boulder. He began his career in conservation in 2012 as a transaction specialist at Montezuma Land Conservancy in Colorado, where he later served as Executive Director. Jon joined Northeast Wilderness Trust in 2017.

Northeast Wilderness Trust was founded in 2002 to focus exclusively on forever-wild conservation in New England and northern New York. Under Leibowitz's direction the Wilderness Trust has grown substantially in its work to rewild the Northeast. The organization's staff has expanded from three to over 15 staff located across four states. During Leibowitz's tenure, NEWT has also

protected an additional 45,000 wilderness acres. Today NEWT protects more than 116,000 forever-wild acres.

Jon actively volunteers on various state, regional, and national committees, including the Steering Committee of Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities, the Leadership Council of The Rewilding Institute, and the national Land Trust Alliance Leadership Council. In addition to his conservation work, he co-owns WildEdge Brewing Collective in Cortez, Colorado.

In his free time, Jon enjoys gardening and exploring the forest surrounding his home in Middlesex, Vermont, at the southern edge of the Worcester Mountains. He shares his home with his wife, two sons, a border collie, chickens, and an abundance of wildlife—his favorite being Hermit Thrushes, fishers, and red efts.

Hope is Wild

The forests of the Northeast are some of the most important on the planet. They also represent a remarkable second chance. Just over a century ago, much of the region was cleared for agriculture; today, much of the forest has regrown. What we choose to do with this gift from Nature is one of the great questions of our time. One strategy taking hold is rewilding, an often misunderstood approach that trusts natural processes to lead the way. Hear what rewilding really means, the common characteristic of wild places across the world, and why bringing back old, complex forests is a hopeful endeavor in these trying times.

Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award: **Christine Woodside**

New Jersey native **Christine Woodside** thru-hiked Appalachian Trail when she was 28 years old, an experience she recalls as a formative encounter with the Spirit of Wildness. At that time, AT hikers had little contact with the outside world, she said, and being on the trail felt like a “whole different sense of time.” The experience taught her to “realize how small I am, part of something larger.”



Chris received a Master's degree in history, then was invited to teach a history course at University of Connecticut, kicking off a 22-year career in journalism, including jobs as an environmental reporter, a newspaper editor and reporter, freelance reporter for the *New York Times*, and a stint as editor of *Connecticut Woodlands*.

In 2005 Chris became editor of *Appalachia*, the journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club, which she credits as “combining all the parts of who I am into one enterprise.” Her role, as she saw it, was to turn a journalist's eye to advocate for environmental responsibility, emphasizing passionate storytelling that takes readers along with adventurers and researchers in the woods and mountains of the Northeast. The power of personal narrative backed up with strong reporting became a powerful formula that opened readers' eyes to issues that needed attention. This is the ultimate goal of journalism, she said. “The more we know, the better we are.”

Chris was also instrumental in the origin of the Waterman Fund essay contest. At the 2007 NEASG in Acadia National Park, as she recounts in *New Wilderness Voices: Collected Essays from the Waterman Fund Contest*:

It was the first day of an alpine research conference that joined scientists, writers, and activists in the cause of protecting the Northeast's fragile high-elevation landscapes. Within a few moments, several people quietly surrounded [me], then sat down on both sides of the table. They looked at [me] intently, almost as if they wanted a bite of [my] sandwich, but in fact they were about to ask if [I] would help them start an essay contest for new writers.

Chris was immediately interested in helping writers articulate adventure and science to the public. But most notably, Chris insisted that the prize money be substantial enough to help young or emerging writers who were still getting a foothold in their careers. The Fund agreed, and has increased the award over the years. The Waterman Fund essay contest is unique in

that it specifically encourages dialogue on mountain wilderness, and consistently grapples with and advances conversation at the forefront of conservation, such as the ethics of balancing recreation vs. preservation, witnessing invasive species and climate change, or finding wildness in developed areas. It has recognized the work of countless stewards and environmental advocates, including several who have gone on to become acclaimed writers in their own right. Chris's leadership has been instrumental in the success of the Waterman Fund essay contest, not only as a reader and judge, but also in her one-on-one consultations with winners to polish their work for publication. Exhibiting care and diligence, she understood her mission as encouraging writers to be their best selves.

Chris's career exemplifies what Waterman Fund is all about. How an early encounter with Wildness inspires a lifetime of advocacy and work on its behalf; How true stewardship requires not only knowledge, but the ability to effectively communicate that understanding to others. We are profoundly grateful for her significant contribution to the literature of outdoors writing and the Spirit of Wildness; for her dedication and service to the Waterman Fund and alpine areas; and most importantly, on behalf of a generation of students and writers who owe her their vision.

Congratulations, Christine!

Waterman Fund Essay

Contest awardee:

Douglas Mullins

An Oklahoman by birth and an inhabitant of New Jersey by fate, **Douglas Mullins** combs the abused waterways of his state on foot and by kayak, exploring the pockets of wilderness concealed behind and beneath centuries of development. He is currently at work on a book about the Elizabeth River watershed. In his other life as an ESL teacher, he works with international students from all over the world in Lower Manhattan.



Douglas introduces us to his story, “The Deep Woods of Hillside, New Jersey”:

“Viewed from train windows or from behind the wheel of a car, the warped ecotone where asphalt and invasive plants collide in northeastern New Jersey perplexed me. I wondered what this place might mean and how I might inhabit it. This led me to the Elizabeth River watershed, a clutch of impaired waterways in Essex and Union counties. I wrote ‘The Deep Woods of Hillside, NJ’ as a first report on my attempts to understand the vestigial geography of a thoroughly developed land.”

Excerpt:

On the satellite map, I could see the deep woods, a tuft of green wedged in a sprawling gray lattice of residential, commercial, and industrial districts. This built world represented the New Jersey I was expected to inhabit, the streets and highways that shunt humans in approved directions. The woods were not a reasonable destination for me. What social or economic benefit would accrue from my going there? Google was no help. Trees do not buy ad space.

But I was bent on going there, to see what was left of the old terrain we’ve encased in this solid chitinous shell of development, and to see if I had any place in it.

...

The gap in the fence opened on a ratty desire line of beaten dirt lapped by garbage and weedy vegetation. I followed it, and the air changed around me as I

disappeared from mapped and sanctioned New Jersey. The light fell in beams that flickered and darkened in the bare branches above before striking me. Down a slope I found the Elizabeth flowing under a train trestle. Deer slots pocked the soft earth; ancient railroad spikes cluttered it. But the far bank of the river, only a dozen feet of water away, held my eye. Up its rise grew the deep woods. I climbed onto the concrete pad of a sewer manhole to survey the pocket wilderness. Its yellows and browns fired to gold where the sun lit. Speckles of artificial blue and red and green betrayed the Cheetos packages and Mountain Dew bottles, the tatters of tarp and shards of broken buckets that make up some of the native species of our riparian zones. I longed to enter it, not to get at it but to dwell in it. I didn't want to own it or achieve it. I wanted to try and inhabit that alternate region, if only for a while.

Look for Douglas's essay in this year's issue of *Appalachia*.

Agenda

Thursday Oct. 29

Noon | Registration opens

Sugarloaf hotel, second floor lobby

| Appalachian Trail Scavenger Hunt

Stretch your legs and join Maine Appalachian Trail Club for a scavenger hunt around the Sugarloaf campus where you will learn about the AT's history, purpose and management.

1 | **Workshop:** *Co-creating a Framework for Northeast Alpine Plant Stewardship*
(*Invite only)

Isaac Overcast & Jacquelyn Gill

Carrabassett Room

3 | Lodging check-in

Sugarloaf hotel, first floor lobby

5 | Happy hour + hors d'oeuvres

Maple Room

6 | Opening Remarks

King Pine Room

Janice Clain | President, Maine Appalachian Trail Club (president@matc.org)

Kevin Berend | President, Waterman Fund (berendkevinm@gmail.com)

Hawk Metheny | VP of Trail Management, Appalachian Trail Conservancy
(hmetheny@appalachiantrail.org)

Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award: **Christine Woodside**

Friday Oct. 30

6 | **Workshop:** *Birds, snowmaking, and wastewater treatment*
Tim Flight | Western Maine Audubon
Meet in Lot C near Chapel
(90 minutes)

7-8 | Breakfast
King Pine Room

8³⁰ | Keynote address: **Jon Leibowitz**
Hope is Wild
King Pine Room

9³⁰ | Breakouts & Workshops

Breakout: *Recreation and stewardship in the Northeast data share-out*
Jill Weiss | SUNY-ESF
Competition Center
(60 mins)

Breakout: *Remote sensing applications for research and management in northeastern alpine landscapes*
Jonathan Chipman | Dartmouth College
Carrabassett Room
(45 mins)

Workshop: *Trail work in the alpine/high mountain areas*
Lester Kenway | Trail Services, LLC
Maple Room
(60 mins)

Workshop: *Reading the Maine woods*
Jason Mazurowski | Northeast Wilderness Trust
Meet in Lot C near Chapel
(90 mins)

10¹⁵ | Break & Refreshments 🍷
King Pine Room

Friday Oct. 30

11 | Oral Presentations 1 (concurrent)

<u>Biogeography</u> Competition Center	<u>Maine Ecology & Management</u> Maple Room
<i>Biogeography of the Gol'tsy Flora of Northeastern North America</i> Charlie Cogbill Harvard Forest	<i>Mapping the future of AT conservation: Maine Appalachian Trail geospatial information for conservation</i> Simon Rucker Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust
<i>In the footsteps of Merritt Lyndon Fernald: Tracing postglacial colonization of the Gaspé Highlands through arctic-alpine biodiversity</i> Cassandra Rioux-Couture Université du Québec à Rimouski	<i>Conserving Maine mountain lakes: integrating science and conservation values to inform the knowledge-action gap</i> Amanda Gavin Colby College
<i>Functional trait adjustment strategies in two hawkweed (Pilosella) species colonizing a montane environment</i> Anthony St-Jean University of Ottawa	<i>Findings on alpine birds from the second Maine bird atlas</i> Evan Adams Biodiversity Research Institute
<i>Where growth season shrinks: The plants fighting the clock</i> Luc Sirois Université du Québec à Rimouski	<i>Acadia National Park Visitation: A case study with AllTrails Public Lands Program</i> Becca Stanley Friends of Acadia
<i>Science and collaboration in support of local management – Assessing the impact of winter recreational activities</i> Marianne Valcourt Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere	<i>Does mimicking nature improve mountain summit restoration?</i> Amina Wilson Schoodic Institute

12³⁰ | Lunch
King Pine Room

<u>Climate Change</u> Competition Center	<u>Spirit of Wildness</u> Maple Room
<i>Eight-year study finds balsam fir recruitment increasing in alpine zone on Mount Moosilauke</i> Robert Capers University of Connecticut/Rhodora <i>Does introducing genotypes from warmer populations aid alpine restoration under climate change? Insights from the Sustainable Summits Project</i> Chris Nadeau Schoodic Institute <i>High-resolution satellite mapping of persistent snowbeds above treeline across the northern Appalachian region</i> Jonathan Chipman Dartmouth College <i>Canary in the alpine: Classification and temporal vegetation composition shifts in Adirondack alpine snowbed communities</i> Katie Rhodes Antioch University <i>Climate change refugia in northern Appalachian mountain lakes</i> Rachel Hovel University of Maine at Farmington <i>Updates from the Mt. Washington alpine warming experiment</i> Jordon Tourville Appalachian Mountain Club	<i>Alpine slide: Rapid descent of legal protections for alpine zones in New England's National Forest Inventoried Roadless Areas, and considerations for future management</i> Zach Porter Standing Trees & Todd Martin National Parks Conservation Association <i>From summit stewardship to an Alpine Stewardship Center: Building an integrated model in the White Mountains</i> Nathaniel Scrimshaw World Trails Network – Hub for the Americas <i>Nature is AWEsome: The relationship between nature, awe, spirituality, and well-being</i> Elena Traister Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts <i>"The Deep Woods of Hillside, New Jersey"</i> Douglas Mullins Writer Panel discussion: <i>How outdoor experiences shape attitudes toward Wild(er)ness preservation</i> Mod. by David Crews Waterman Fund

Friday Oct. 30

4 | Stewardship Share-Out

Mod. by **Liam Ebner** | Adirondack Mountain Club & **Jill Weiss** | SUNY-ESF
Maple Room

Katie Leton | Adirondack Mountain Club

Nigel Bates | Green Mountain Club

Peter Palmiotto | Antioch University/MERE

Kyra Salancy | Appalachian Mountain Club/US Forest Service

Nathaniel Scrimshaw | World Trails Network – Hub for the Americas

Stephanie Ley & Lauren Knierim | Friends of Acadia

Janice Clain | Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Nava Tabak | Baxter State Park

5 | Poster Session & Happy Hour

Maple Room

Comparing latitude with altitude to unravel factors associated with biogeographical boundaries

Philippe Blier | Université du Québec à Rimouski

Acadia National Park visitation: A case study with AllTrails Public Lands Program

Taylor Bogucki | Friends of Acadia

Establishing an alpine-focused teaching herbarium in the Adirondacks

Liam Ebner | Adirondack Mountain Club

Associating trails support with trail user activities and motivations in the U.S. Northeast

Dan French | SUNY-ESF

Analogies and differences between elevation and latitude

Ariane Langlois | Université du Québec à Rimouski

Photomonitoring of alpine vegetation on Mount Mansfield

Claudia Mabley | Green Mountain Club

*Modeling the future of a species: *Vaccinium boreale**

Colleen Nelsen | College of the Atlantic

Above and beyond treeline: Cultivating a collaborative alpine stewardship culture at Saddleback Mountain

Tori Jofery | Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Alpine snowbanks of eastern North America: A flexible sampling method for analysis of diversity, biogeographic patterns, and community classification

Dan Spurduto | Eastern Alpine Alliance

Eastern Alpine Alliance: Tundra Without Borders

Dan Spurduto | Eastern Alpine Alliance

Alpine plant persistence in microrefugia: using SDMs to assess current and future scenarios for a G3 alpine taxa in the northeastern United States, Solidago leiocarpa DC.

Andrea Tirrell | University of Maine, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens

6³⁰ | Costume Dinner 🎃

Bring the wild beauty of New England's mountain landscapes to life in the spirit of Halloween! **We invite you to dress as your favorite alpine flora, fauna, or geological feature.** Whether you channel a delicate summit flower, a rugged mountain-dwelling creature, or mighty Katahdin itself, let your creativity run wild as we celebrate the unique and fragile ecosystems of our region. Come dressed to impress, embrace your wild side, and may the best-dressed species win! Special prize to be awarded.

King Pine Room

7³⁰ | Breakouts & Workshops

"Horror stories" of stewardship

Tori Jofery | Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Maple Room

Alpine special issue of Rhodora

Robert Capers | University of Connecticut, Rhodora
Carrabasset Room

The mountains and forests of Japanese tanka

David Crews | Waterman Fund
Flagstaff Room

Saturday Oct. 31

7-8 | Breakfast
King Pine Room

8³⁰ | Breakouts

Breakout: *Volunteer Empowerment*
Erik Brooks | Camden Hills State Park
Maple Room
(60 mins)

| Field Trips

Brown bag lunches will be provided by your hike leaders, distributed off-site.
Detailed descriptions of each hike and leader phone numbers can be found at the QR code at the registration table.

Easier

Shiloh Pond Forest Trail

Walk through lush forests, wetlands, and streams to the scenic 19-acre Shiloh Pond and a small waterfall.

Leaders: **Vicky Charbonneau** | Maine Master Naturalist/High Peaks Alliance & **Leah Beck** | Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Total distance: 3.2 miles

Elevation: relatively flat terrain

End time: 2 pm



Moderate

Stratton Brook Hut

This uphill climb to the Stratton Brook Hut will be via the scenic Oak Knoll Trail which features a forested landscape and mountain views.

Leaders: **Sam Shirley** and **Erika Johnson** | Maine Huts & Trails & **Nate Snow** | Teens to Trails

Total distance: 7 miles

Elevation: 675 feet

End time: 2 pm



Difficult

Saddleback Mountain

At 4,120 feet, Saddleback Mountain is one of Maine's most iconic mountains. Its summit spine features an extensive alpine region and supports one of the highest-quality and largest areas of alpine and subalpine habitat in Maine.

Leaders: **Sydney Sayward** | Maine Appalachian Trail Club & **Hawk Metheny** | Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Total distance (via the ski trail): 4 miles

Elevation: 1,700 feet

End time: 4 pm



Horns Pond Trail

Hike to the highest campsite in Maine at beautiful Horns Pond, perched along the ridge of the Bigelow Mountain Range within the 36,000 acre state-owned Bigelow Preserve.

Leaders: **Steve Niles** | Maine Appalachian Trail Club & **Rachel A. Hovel** | University of ME at Farmington

Total distance: 9 miles

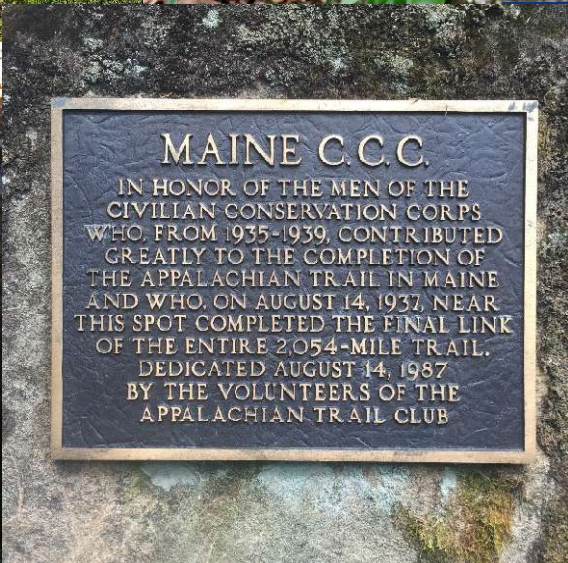
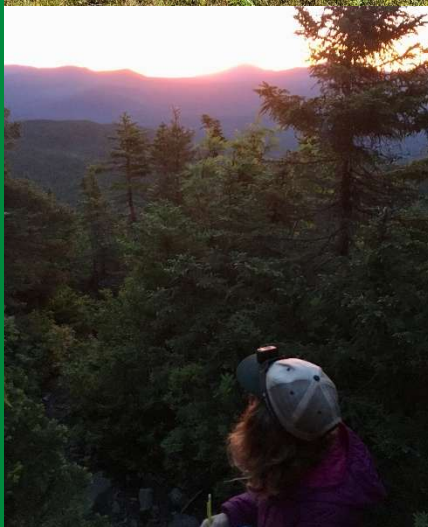
Elevation: 2,020 feet

End time: 5 pm



NEASG Schedule

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6		Tim Flight - Snowfluent Birding (90 mins)	
7		Breakfast (King Pine room)	Breakfast (King Pine Room)
8		Keynote address (8:30) (King Pine room)	Field Trips
9		Weiss - ASANE2 Project (45 mins) (Camp Ctr)	Brooks - Volunteer empowerment (50 mins) (Maple Room)
10		Chapman - Remote sensing applications (45 mins) (Carrabassett Room)	
11		Break (King Pine Room)	
12		Biogeography (Camp Ctr)	
1	Registration opens (Hotel 2nd floor)	Maine Eccl & Mgmt (Maple) Rucker Gavin Adams Stearley Wilson	
2	Overcast & Gill - Co- creating a Framework for NE Alpine Plant Stewardship (Carrabassett Room)	Lunch (King Pine Room)	
3		Climate Change (Camp Ctr)	
4	Hotel check-in/Free time	Spirit of Wilderness (Maple) Porter/Martin Scrimshaw Traister Douglas Muller's (Panel discussion)	
5	Happy hour w/ drinks & hors d'oeuvres (Maple Room)	Break (King Pine Room)	
6	Opening remarks Award presentation (King Pine room)	Stewardship Share-out (King Pine Room)	
7		Poster Session (Maple Room)	
8		Dinner  (King Pine Room)	
9		Laffer - Hartz Series of Alpine Stewardship (60 mins) Maple Room	
		Capers - Alpine special issue of Rhodora (45 mins) (Carrabassett Room)	
		Creek - Japanese tanka poetry (60 mins) (Flagstaff Room)	



Thank you to our sponsors!



MAINE
Appalachian Trail
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OF BAXTER
STATE PARK**



And these individuals:

Anonymous | Tony Barrett | Kevin Berend | Jensen & Breena Bissell | Brenda Clarkson |
Stephen Crowe | Margaret Day | Carl Demrow | Dave Field | Theodore Loukides |
Holly Sheehan | Jordon Tourville