



The Alpine Steward

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Mission Remains Solid

By Kim Votta

My two-year tenure as Waterman Fund President ends this year. While I will remain on the Waterman Fund Board through 2019, I hand over leadership to a new President in January. We look forward to sharing news about our new leader soon. Also new in the coming year will be Sean Robinson, Assistant Professor of Biology at SUNY-Oneonta, who is joining the board in 2019; and, we say goodbye to Peter Palmiotto. Congratulations to Peter who became Chair of the Department of Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England this year. And, thank you Peter for five years of dedicated service.

THE FUND'S FIRST BOOK

We accomplished a lot over the past two years. The Fund released its first book, *New Wilderness Voices: Collected Essays from the Waterman Fund Contest*, published by the University Press of New England; successfully convened alpine stewards, researchers, and advocates for the 10th Alpine Stewardship Gathering in Fairlee, Vermont; awarded over \$36,000 in grants to support efforts in alpine stewardship, education, research, and trails; and, honored its 15th Alpine Steward Award recipient, Jean Hoekwater. Jean served three years as Waterman Fund secretary and in 2015

helped host one of the Fund's more memorable Gatherings in Millinocket, Maine, gateway to Baxter State Park.

PROTECTING MT WASHINGTON

The past two years also brought reminders of why our work is important. A threat to Mount Washington's alpine in the form of a high-elevation hotel prompted the formation of Keep the Whites Wild (KtWW) and its Protect Mount Washington campaign, which the Fund supported in spirit and as fiscal sponsor. Mount Washington's alpine tundra is essential to the mountain's ecological and cultural value and not the place for a hotel. While the Skyline Lodge proposed by the Mount Washington Railway Company has not moved forward yet, KtWW remains vigilant, as do we at the Fund.

FRANCONIA RIDGE WORK

Word from our friends in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont is that pressure on the alpine is growing as an escalating number of visitors stress habitats and resources. Collaborative efforts are underway to combat overuse, including the Franconia Ridge Working Group. In 2016, the Waterman Fund along with other regional partners began meeting to address the challenge of overuse on Franconia Ridge. Using a visitor use management framework designed to incorporate considerations of resource

protection and visitor experience, the FRWG is pioneering efforts to protect the ecological integrity of the Ridge. Likewise, in the Adirondacks, which has seen an unprecedented rise in trail users in its High Peaks' region, managers and stewards are rethinking management of the region for the first time in nearly 20 years.

IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION

Pressure on the alpine and efforts to manage it remind us that the Fund's purpose and work remains relevant. The Fund's new leadership will ensure we remain in the mix, supporting innovative efforts to collaborate, helping to rethink stewardship and management of areas under pressure, and funding initiatives that conserve the wildness and spirit of the alpine. As we work to keep our role intact, we will rely on your continued interest and support.



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The Waterman Fund
P.O. Box 1064
East Corinth, VT 05040
watermanfund.org

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A notice to friends and supporters that the board of directors amended the Fund's Bylaws in 2018. Amendments included a change in our fiscal year to April 1 to March 31. We also simplified requirements on how we communicate meeting notices to board members and expanded options for communicating notices of By-Law amendments to include publication in the Fund's annual newsletter. Lastly, the by-laws were made gender neutral. If you would like a copy of the Fund's By-Laws, contact us at info@watermanfund.org.

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2018 WATERMAN FUND GRANTS REPORT

Trails Restoration Ge

By Seth Jones

The Waterman Fund grants program, which was started in 2002, has awarded 93 grants totaling \$230,071. These grants have supported trail work, stewardship, education and research across the alpine of Northeastern North America. In 2018 the Fund awarded 6 grants totaling \$19,208.

Two of the six grants awarded this year were to help with trail work in the alpine zone. The Fund awarded the **Adirondack Mountain Club** \$3,210 for the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship program to do trail work on alpine summits in the fall of 2018. Work will include rebuilding carins on Mt. Haystack, building and repairing scree walls and brushing in areas to deter hikers.

The **Green Mountain Club** (GMC) was awarded \$3,248 to construct puncheon on the Mt. Mansfield ridgeline, work that continues from projects that the Fund supported in 2016 and 2017. Drawing on research that was done on Mt. Mansfield they will be installing a wider, safer trail structure to be able to further protect vegetation in a heavily traveled and heavily impacted corridor on the mountain.

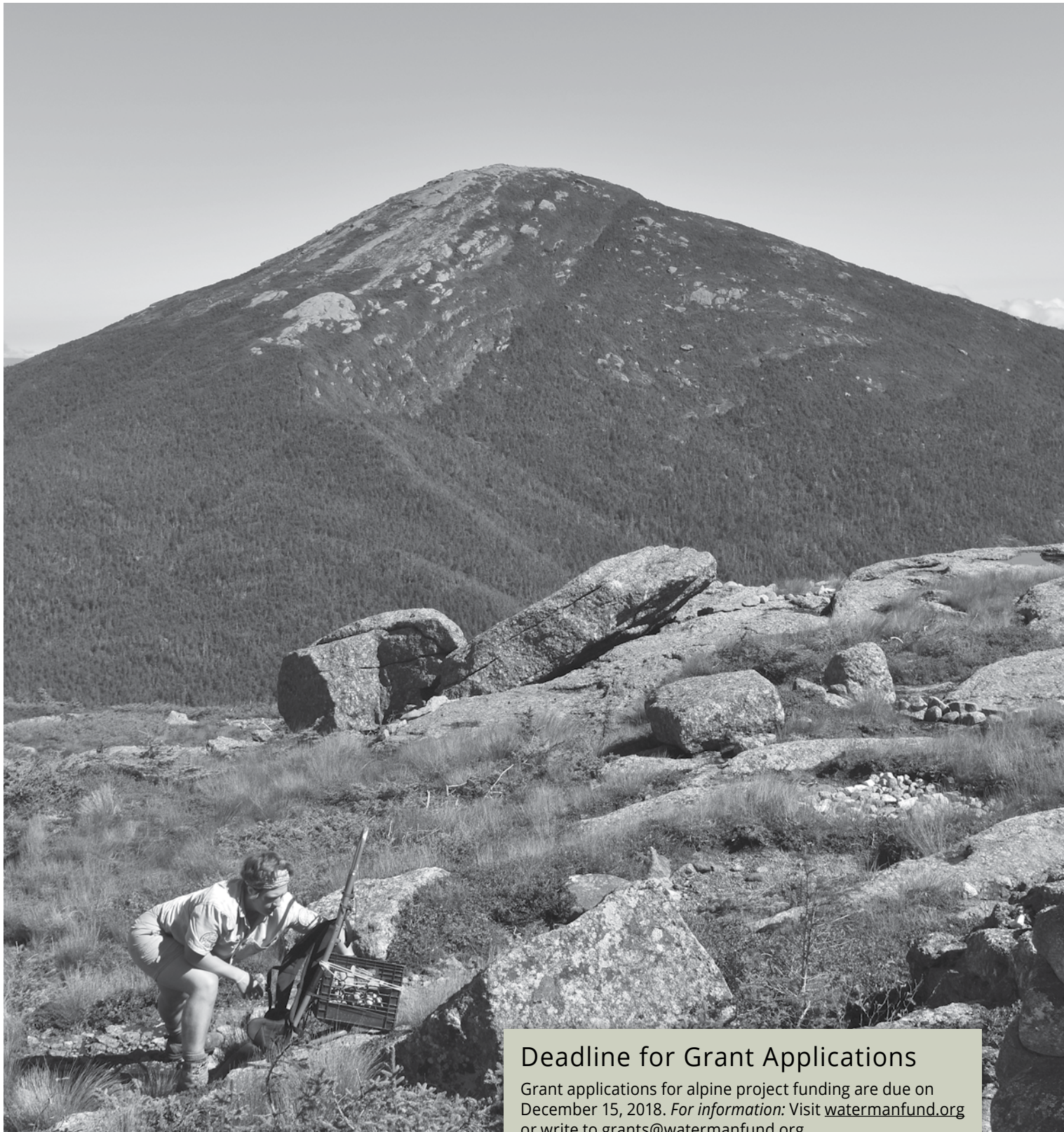
Learn about another grant: *Studying the American Pipit* on page 4

Another two grants awarded this year went towards education. One of them was awarded to Nat Scrimshaw of **World Trails Network - Hub for the Americas** (\$4500) to develop a stewarding manual for the Franconia Ridge Internship Program. The other education grant went to **Jill Weiss** (\$2500) to update the *Sharing Out: Alpine Stewardship Programs in the Northeast* comparison report that was published in 2011.

Like trail work and education, which aim to conserve the alpine, research is needed to understand this fragile habitat. Two research grants were given out this year. \$3,500 was awarded to **Maine Natural History Observatory** to survey breeding bird populations of the alpine and subalpine regions of Maine. **Min Kook Kim** of Marshall University was awarded \$2,250 to monitor vegetation impacts due to trampling on Cadillac Mountain using high spatial resolution remote sensing data.



ets a Boost Once Again



Photos by Seth Jones

Deadline for Grant Applications

Grant applications for alpine project funding are due on December 15, 2018. For information: Visit watermanfund.org or write to grants@watermanfund.org.

Studying the American Pipit

Survey of the American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) breeding population in alpine habitat in New Hampshire's Presidential Range and Franconia Ridge

By Will Kemeza

The Waterman Fund was pleased to support Christian J. Martin (of NH Audubon) and Hector Galbraith in their effort to survey the breeding population of American Pipits in the alpine zone on the Presidential and Franconia Ridges of New Hampshire's White Mountains.

This survey was a major effort; Martin and Galbraith organized eight survey teams, covering nearly fourteen miles of alpine zone during the 2017 field season. Their findings confirm that these remarkable birds love the highest of high ground.

Martin reports: *Our 2017 survey of American Pipit breeding habitat in alpine areas in New Hampshire's Presidential Range and Franconia Ridge found that breeding pipits continue to be restricted to the highest areas of alpine habitat found on Mount Washington. Our fieldwork on other Presidential peaks and on Franconia Ridge failed to detect pipit presence during the breeding season. While several alpine trails went unchecked due to poor weather during the first half*



American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*).

of the survey period, we did cover 13.8 trail miles (67%) of alpine zone habitat, including all of Franconia Ridge and parts of Madison, Adams, Jefferson, Clay, and Washington. We detected a total of 14 pipits (11 adults, 3 fledglings) and, just as in 1998, all detections occurred on Mount Washington.

The 2017 survey is a first step in updating information on pipit status for this insular breeding population. Data gathered in 2017 will help us plan follow-

up fieldwork on Mount Washington in Summer 2018. Progress in 2017 led to NHA receiving two additional grants: \$20,000 from the Robert F. Schumann Foundation, and \$3,000 from the Nuttall Ornithological Club's Blake Nuttall Fund. We plan additional fieldwork on Mount Washington in 2018 that we hope will generate accurate maps and population estimates that indicate how pipits are now using the alpine zone. These data can contribute to better-informed agency decisions about habitat management, recreational activity, and proposals for habitat alteration or development in high elevation areas.



• • FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS • •

In previous years the Waterman Fund has discussed providing larger grant awards towards trail projects to better serve the mission of the Fund. The Fund has cumulatively awarded over \$22,000 towards trail projects since 2002, consisting of only 11% of the total grants awarded. These 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 2019-20 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.

We encourage nonprofit trail maintenance organizations to apply to the Waterman Fund if there is a trail project that the Fund can contribute to. 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, 2018.

Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award

By Nancy Rittger

In recognizing his long legacy of ecological research and dedication to alpine stewardship, the Waterman Fund is proud to announce Charlie Cogbill as the 2018 recipient of the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award.

Charlie has dedicated his career to studying ecosystems by researching regional plant biogeography and investigating the human impacts of the alpine and forested landscapes. According to his colleague, Rick Paradis, “Charlie’s encyclopedic knowledge of the history of alpine exploration and scientific pursuits and his personal research experiences in all four northeastern states with alpine habitat make him the go-to expert for legions of alpine stewards in the region. He has generously and enthusiastically shared his knowledge with all those who seek him out.”

The Waterman Fund is proud to honor Charlie for his



Charlie Cogbill inspects Mountain Sandwort.

hard work, unwavering dedication, and tireless enthusiasm for the alpine areas of the northeast. The award will be presented at the 2019 Alpine Stewardship Gathering being hosted by the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Alpine Steward Award Nominations!

To nominate someone for the Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award, please send nomination 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 15, 2019.**

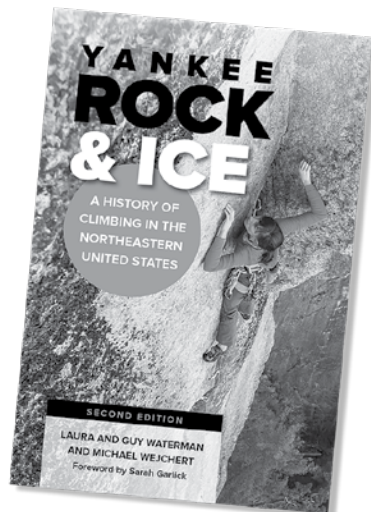
Yankee Rock and Ice Is Still Highly Relevant

By Will Kemeza

The Second Edition of *Yankee Rock and Ice* is a kind of palimpsest; it lays down the sediment of climbing history in the Northeast. And that history is more than a matter of facts: Laura and Guy Waterman (and now, Michael Wejchert) manage to capture - even for armchair climbers like me—the qualities which climbers embody and sound out, secondhand, in the rest of us: courage, child-like foolishness, grit, earnest striving, and, above all, sheer joy.

But perhaps the most striking thing about reading this new edition is the enormity of its relevance to the culture at large. To love mountains, and wild places generally, is to live with a kind of ambient fear for the future of those places. We want to enjoy them. We also want, somehow, for our grandkids and other people’s grandkids to enjoy them, too. How to proceed?

And this is where climbers may be ahead of the ethical



curve. Given their intense attention to the fine details of particular routes, climbers have long been aware that, as Sarah Garlick writes in her brilliant foreword, “the stone - the characteristics of the rock, the style of each line- is almost always the result of decisions made by climbers before us”. So this is a book about climbing, but it is also a book about ethics. Climbers have never had the luxury of pretending that their actions don’t matter; they are literally etched in stone.

Climbing culture in the Northeast has been a long-running conversation (often an argument) about how to balance freedom with responsibility. And how to do so with *style*.

Maybe climbing pioneer Miriam Underhill put it best; “Where there is a real penalty for failure...You must have experience, skill, strength, courage, and, above all, those moral qualities of self-knowledge and self-control”. We all live with a real penalty for failure—and in a world which would do well to take the advice of climbers like Underhill (and the Watermans and Wejchert) to heart.

This Year's Essay Winners *By Laura Waterman*

The Waterman Fund is pleased to announce the winners of our ninth annual Essay Contest. The Fund received 31 entries this year, and the reading committee, comprised of current and former board members, outside readers, and the editor of *Appalachia* chose Emily Mitchell Heidenreich's "On Ceding Control: Motherhood in a Pathless Landscape," as the winner of the 2018 Waterman Fund Essay Contest, and "The Torch of Preservation," by Tyler Socash as our honorable mention.

Our theme for 2018 centered simply on wilderness and wildness. We hoped that writers would welcome the freedom of this invitation while bearing in mind the constraint that what wilderness and wildness means to cultures and individuals changes over time and that they will inevitably be writing within the boundaries of culture and nature. We

encouraged writers to think on the role and place wilderness has in the modern world, where the realities are political turmoil, refugee crises, climate change, 24-hour news access, gun violence, racial and religious intolerance, pollution and how all this plays out alongside wild mountaintops and deep forests—as such changes always have. As would be expected with big, embracing questions, our two contest winners approached this theme differently.

Emily Mitchell Heidenreich is a 2002 graduate of the University of Delaware, with a major in women's studies and biology. In 2003 and 2004 she completed hiking the Appalachian Trail and began working for the Appalachian Mountain Club where she was an outdoor and environmental educator, a position that included teaching

continued on next page

from Emily Mitchell Heidenreich's *'On Ceding Control: Motherhood in a Pathless Landscape'*

At home, alone with this writhing pink bundle of skin and bones and new life and *need*, I step outside and wander. I wander to keep the silence at bay, for the company of the squirrels, the birds, the wind in the trees.

I wander to remain on this side of sanity.

The baby fusses. I loosen her baby carrier, unzip my hoodie, and guide her to my chest.

My body is no longer my own.

I've cut holes in my old t-shirts, the ones with the fading Appalachian Mountain Club logos, the ones I used to wear when welcoming students to the base of Mt. Washington, before leading them to some pre-selected point on the mountain, sometimes all the way to its crowded alpine summit. The ones I used to wear when I was in full control of my body and what it could do in the wilderness. Now, the holes accommodate nursing on-the-go. The hooded sweatshirt is for modesty, for easy access.

I am a New Mother. This is my uniform.

I have learned to wander and offer sustenance in tandem. The alternative? Rocking in a chair, with this tiny mouth and these hungry eyes, nursing up to 18 hours a day. Wandering these pathless woods, my baby strapped to my chest, is an attempt to reassert control over my body after the violence of pregnancy, of motherhood. This wandering body work is a rebellion, a refusing to succumb to the recent assaults on my body: chafed and bleeding nipples, slackened belly, the torn and ravaged nether regions of childbirth, the stupid exhaustion. And my right thumb, which has painfully swelled and weakened from the repetitive motion of scooping up a newborn.

And the need, the need, the *need*. Her body, needing mine.

My body is no longer my own.

2019 ALPINE ESSAY CONTEST

Guy and Laura Waterman spent a lifetime exploring, living, and writing within the boundaries of culture and nature, and through our annual contest, the Waterman Fund seeks new voices on the role and place of wilderness in the modern world.

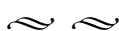
This year we dedicate our contest to the memory of Hannah Taylor, a wilderness runner, Nordic ski coach, and the beloved sister of our essay contest coordinator and former winner, Bethany Taylor. (Read Hannah Taylor's memorial on page 13.)

For the 2019 essay contest, emerging writers are asked to explore the topic: Humor in the Wild

Maybe these scenarios sound familiar. You're tripping sweat under that pack you've overloaded. You're on an exposed ridge, the sky blackening, thunder rolling in. Your stove has malfunctioned. You're forced to conclude you've gotten the whole party lost. Exhaustion, fear, stupidity: yet you're surprised to find yourself laughing.

The mountain world can bring humor unexpectedly into our lives. Perhaps because the mere act of being in the mountains provides an antidote to the daily bombardment of the news cycle and the traumas of modern life. Perhaps because being in the mountains heightens all kinds of human experiences. Perhaps because being in the mountains helps us to remember that life is full of the absurd and the unexpected.

Does laughing—or just a bemused smile—bring us closer to wildness? Does humor bring us to the threshold of finding that mysterious something that often eludes us yet draws us into wild places? Is laughter a natural reaction to wildness—the wild within responding to the wild outside? How and when does humor intersect with our experiences of the wild?



The deadline for submission is February 2, 2019. 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 of double-spaced manuscripts in a 12-point font, Word doc compatible file are preferred. If submitting by mail, please include an email address. We will announce the winners at the end of June. The winning essayist will be awarded \$1500 and published in *Appalachia Journal*. The Honorable Mention essay will receive \$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 national publications.

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

This Year's Winners ... from previous page

Leave No Trace and basic trail maintenance skills to middle and high school students. At present Emily is the director of a library in a rural community. Emily writes, "The inspiration for this essay emerged from a conversation about sense of place with my sister-in-law, who grew up on the family homestead where I now live with my husband, two daughters, and my parents-in-law. The idea was to write about my slow discovery that after moving from the wild and dramatic White Mountains—a place whose loss I grieved for years—I could find wilderness in the rolling hills of the rural Vermont landscape where I now lived. But as I wrote, I found my changing perception of wilderness was totally tied up with my *bodily* experience of new motherhood, especially the loss of control over my own body while caring for young children. I could not write about one without the other."

Tyler Socash attended the University of Rochester culminating, in 2015, with a master's degree in school

counseling. As the Adirondack Mountain Club's Outdoor Skills Coordinator, Tyler writes that he works "to heighten a wilderness ethic in all my outing and workshop participants. In my capacities as a Leave No Trace Master Educator, a co-host of the outdoor recreation-comedy *Foot Stuff Podcast*, and as an active member of the Adirondack Wilderness Advocates, the spirit of wildness is forefront in my endeavors." Tyler was inspired to write his essay, "The Torch of Preservation," after "a poignant landing at Denver International Airport. Upon witnessing the ever-creeping urban sprawl, with open space prairies swallowed whole by humanity's fractal edge, my Adirondack wilderness walk only two-months prior came into perspective." He gives credit as well to "the next generation of steadfast wilderness advocates in New York [who] encouraged me to craft this story." Tyler's piece was adapted as a TEDx Talk under the same title in the spring of 2018.

T H E Y E A R *in*



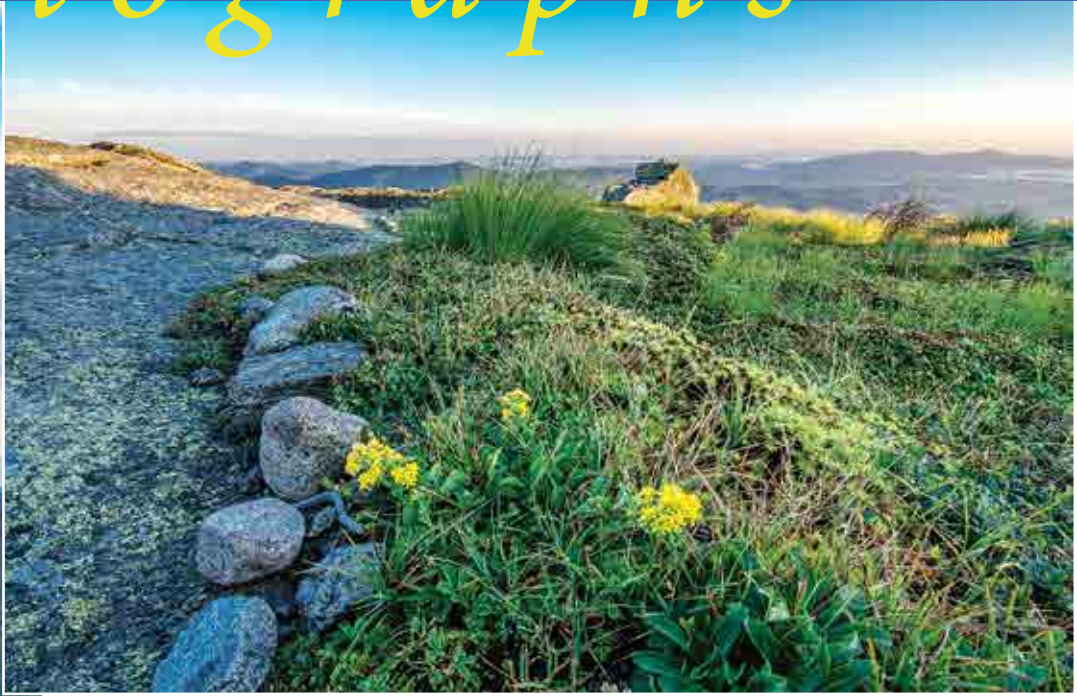
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1. High Peaks at sunset (Brendan Wiltse, photo)
2. Mount Mansfield Field Trip gang (Mike Jones, photo)
3. Annie Bellerose leads the panel discussion at the Alpine Stewardship Gathering (Seth Jones, photo)
4. Dr. Jeff Marion delivers the keynote address: *"Mountains Without Handrails: Carrying Capacity in the Alpine Zone"* (Seth Jones, photo)
5. Alpine Goldenrod on Wright Peak (Brendan Wiltse, photo)
6. Mount Mansfield (Mike Jones, photo)



2

Photographs



5



3



6



4

Fifty Years of Protecting Plants on

By Laura Waterman

On Friday, July 13th a dozen supporters and board members joined for the Sixth Annual Waterman Fund Field Trip. We were hosted by the Green Mountain Club's Field Supervisor Ilana Copel, Director of Development Alicia DiCocco, and Club President Tom Candon. Our party drove up the Carriage Road and began our ridgeline walk toward Mount Mansfield's summit at the Visitors Center below the Forehead.

We were here to see work the Fund began supporting in 2015 that focused on a photo monitoring project that documented significant vegetative recovery around the puncheon sites—board walkways through wet areas—of the ridgeline trail. While there was recovery, with the increase of hiker traffic, the puncheon was too narrow to prevent passing hikers from stepping off onto the plants.

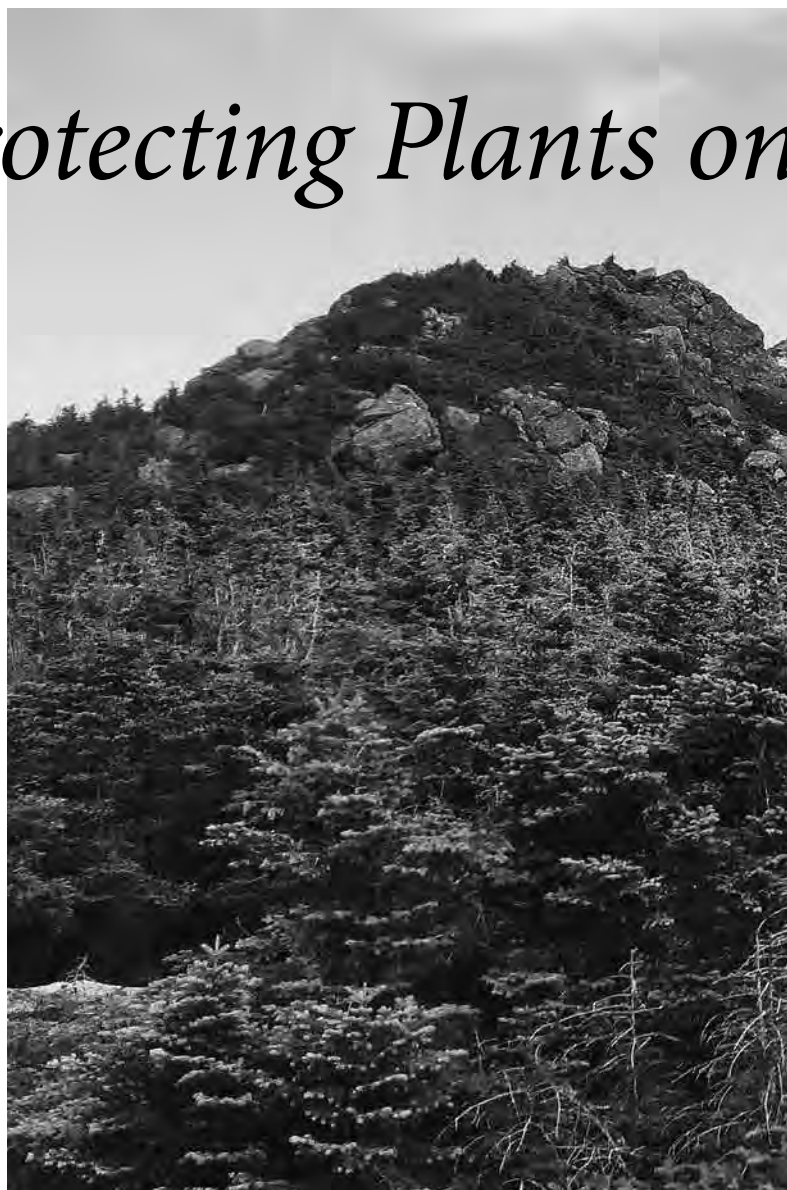
Continuing our support in the 2016 and 2017 field seasons, the GMC replaced deteriorating puncheon with a wider, safer, and more durable footpath. We were all interested to learn that the material used for the puncheon was a rot-resistant Japanese larch obtained from the University of Vermont's Jericho Research Forest. The work on the remaining puncheon will be completed by the end of the 2018 field season, but already summit stewards have noted that the wider puncheon is keeping hikers on the treadway and off the plants.

Fifty thousand visitors a year tramp to Mansfield's summit. 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the summit caretaker program. When a summit steward explains that these plants are remnants to the Ice Age, isolated islands of plant communities from when the glaciers melted thirteen thousand years ago, it is comparatively easy to build an awareness for the fragility of this ecosystem that has hikers' careful where they step.

Aside from puncheon across the wetter sections of trail, the GMC has laid down parallel boundaries of white string along the slab rock sections. This is another method of keeping hikers on the treadway and off the vegetation. Our guides explained that there is no scree on Mansfield with which to build the low stone walls, a technique used in New Hampshire's White Mountain alpine areas. We discussed these various means, all of which detract from the wild feeling many hikers seek. But there is no way around that. With increased hiking traffic safeguarding the vegetation, especially above treeline, comes first. Managers

and volunteers can only do their best to minimize these protective measures of scree or string, cairns or signage.

As we continued across the alpine of Mansfield, we noted, in particular, the Mountain Sandwort. This five-petaled white flower, a colonizer of exposed soils, was doing its job to fill in previously trampled areas. We also spotted Labrador Tea, a small clump, rare on Mansfield, though plentiful on New Hampshire's alpine summits. Most fascinating was a square foot of Bearberry Willow that maintained a tenacious hold on the vertical surface of a twenty-foot high rock outcrop. On our return trip, our youngest member, Lyla Metheny, 10, climbed this outcrop (avoiding the willow!) and, standing against the sky, sang in a voice as clear as the white-throated sparrow's, the Vermont State Song. It was a fitting reminder to all of us of our mountain glory and of our great privilege to be their caretakers.



the Mount Mansfield Ridgeline



Photos by Mike Jones



The Gathering, gathered on the porch.

10th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering

By Will Kemeza

The November 2018 Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering (*the tenth!*) was originally scheduled for late fall 2017. But, as if to underscore the challenges of mountain stewardship, the event was flooded out in a major storm.

Adaptable by nature, the alpine stewardship community gathered, instead, in late April, at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, Vermont. It was worth the wait. The event, hosted by the Waterman Fund and the White Mountain National Forest, and capably organized by graduate students from Antioch University's Monadnock Ecological and Education Project, captured the energy of the early season. It was a weekend of news from the region, networking across organizations, and renewed friendships.

Highlights of the Gathering included a panel discussion on “wildness” by authors from the



Laura Waterman and Julia Goren share a light moment.

recently published *New Wilderness Voices: Collected Essays from the Waterman Fund Contest*; remarks by new White Mountain National Forest Supervisor Clare Mendelsohn; plenary sessions devoted to recent alpine studies; a panel discussion on the management of Franconia Ridge, and an inspiring keynote by Dr. Jeff Marion (a Recreation Ecology specialist with the USGS) entitled “Mountains Without Handrails: Carrying Capacity in the Alpine Zone,” which examined the “art and science of sustainable visitor use management in the context of visitation to high mountain environments.”

The weekend was capped by a celebration long in the making, as Jean Hoekwater, of Baxter State Park, was presented with the Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award.

Participants left the weekend-long event with a refreshed sense of the scope of alpine work in the region, with ideas for new approaches to stewardship in their particular contexts, and with gratitude for this community. All of us are looking forward to the next Gathering, October 2019, in the Adirondacks.



Jean Hoekwater receives the Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award.

Photos by Seth Jones

Hannah Taylor (1979-2018)

Kristi Mayo photo



The Waterman Fund mourns the tragic death of Hannah Taylor. Hannah was the daughter of Dijit Taylor, and sister of Emily and Bethany Taylor, all of whom are lovers of mountains, and friends of the Waterman Fund. Bethany serves as our essay contest administrator.

Hannah learned to love mountains on her home ground in New Hampshire's White Mountains as a hiker and champion Nordic skier. A graduate of Middlebury College with a major in geography, Hannah was living in

Summit County, Colorado where she worked as a Nordic ski coach for Summit Nordic Ski Club and was the Managing Director of the Summit Huts Association that provided backcountry hut experiences for skiers and hikers.

Hannah's obituary in the *Concord Monitor*, penned by her mother, reads: "She was a thoughtful person with an incandescent spirit... As a dedicated outdoorswoman and athlete, she lived to share such experiences with friends, family and especially the young skiers she coached. Hannah was more than a ski coach to her teams and strove to guide them as people through her values of hard work, integrity, truthfulness, humor and sense of adventure. She believed in making the world even more beautiful, and her work as a coach was her highest articulation of that belief."

Hannah fell to her death on the Willow Peak Ridge in the Gore Range in Colorado.

The Waterman Fund wishes to dedicate to Hannah Taylor the 2019 Essay Contest. We recognize in Hannah a true friend to wilderness, to wildness, and to the human relationships forged therein, which she cherished above all things in the mountains.

Thank You ... Laura Waterman from Page Hollow



Hulbert Outdoor Center, for providing a warm welcome, fabulous cuisine, and perfect meeting space for our 10th Northeast Alpine Managers Gathering. Thank yous are also in order to **Cristen Bailey, Dan Sperduto, John Marunowski, Bethany Taylor, Annie Bellerose, Chris Woodside, The Antioch MERE Staff**, who put together a wonderful program, and former board member **Charlie Jacobi**, who is always on hand when you need him.

Jeff Marion, for his inspiring key note address at the Gathering.

Ilana Copel, Alicia Di Cocco, and Tom Candon of the Green Mountain Club for leading our Field Trip across the Mount

Mansfield ridge where we saw the results of trail work the Fund has supported.

Bethany Taylor, Michael Wejchert, Alice Tufel, Chris Woodside, and former board members **Annie Bellerose, Rebecca Oreskes, and Val Stori**, with a special thanks to Bethany for guiding our essay contest and to Chris who publishes our winning essay in *Appalachia*.

Brian Post, for his continued vigilance to ensure the safety of our website.

Anne McKinsey of AMCK Web & Print design, for her unfailing ability to work miracles with *The Alpine Steward*.

2018 Treasurer's Report

By Ryan J. Harvey

First to report is that the Waterman Fund changed its fiscal year from January to December to April through March, beginning April 1, 2018. The change better reflects the Fund's annual grant cycle and expenses. This is important as it will be the basis in which the Fund will report its fiscal year in future newsletters and reports.

For the 2017 calendar year, the Fund awarded \$17,141 in grants to support alpine stewardship, research, and trails projects. Direct program expenses, such as the Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering and publication of *New Wilderness Voices* totaled \$8,028. Operating expenses totaled \$5,524 up 2% from the previous year. Total contributions were \$14,156, (less than in 2016, largely because of a single large contribution during that FY). However, investment

income was up by 9% totaling \$42,990. The Waterman Fund ended its fiscal year under budget in expenses with a surplus of \$43,000.

The Waterman Fund's total investment assets at the close of 2017 totaled \$402,072 up 13%. Consequently, factoring in liabilities (grants payable) the Waterman Fund's net worth at the close of 2017 was \$399,237 up 13%. As for the current fiscal year (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019), the Fund is well positioned financially. For this year's grant cycle the Fund increased annual grants awarded by 12% to \$19,208. Operating expenses are projected to increase by 44% to \$7,940 due to the addition of important expenses, including database management software and board of directors and liability insurances. The Waterman Fund remains committed to keep expenses low and is projected to end the current fiscal year with a surplus.

EXPENSES

ANNUAL GRANTS 56%
FIELD TRIP 1%
STEWARD AWARD 2%
ALPINE GATHERING 8%

ANTHOLOGY 9%
FRANCONIA RIDGE SUPPORT 1%
FOREST AND CRAG 5%
OPERATING EXPENSES 18%

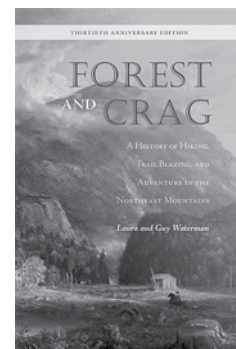
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2019 Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering October 25 – 27, 2019

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