

End of Summer Summit Steward Progress Report

To: Summit Steward Program Partners, Supporters, and Friends
From: Matt Diskin, Chief Summit Steward
Date: September 9, 2004
Re: End of Summer Summit Steward Progress Report

Yes, it has been wet! Despite the excessive amount of rain, the summer of 2004 has been another excellent season for the Summit Steward Program and we are looking forward to a drier (hopefully) fall to finish out the year.



Personnel and Scheduling

As I mentioned in my last report, Kyle Shenk injured his ankle in late July, causing him to miss the remainder of the season in the field. With Krista Nelson and Mark Atkinson leaving by August 20th to go back to school, we were fortunate that former stewards Shannon Belt and Kathleen Wiley were able to pinch hit and provide coverage on Marcy and Algonquin in late August and early September. DEC forest rangers Jim Giglinto, Traci Redmond, Thea Moruzzi, and Pete Price also provided extra support during that time.

Frank Kreuger and I provided coverage on Marcy and Algonquin over Labor Day weekend, which was probably the busiest weekend of the summer. Matt Maloney, a summit steward in 2001-2003, has returned to help us out this fall. I look forward to working with such an experienced steward!



Usage Reports

Note that the number of hiker contacts in August of 2004 reflects missed coverage due to injury and early college departures.

August 2004 Contacts

Algonquin	1144 (19 coverage days)
Marcy	1254 (17 coverage days)
Total August 2004	2398 (36 coverage days, 10 rainy)

Total August 2003	4078 (49 coverage days, 14 rainy)
August 2002	4824
August 2001	5103
August 2000	4535
August 1999	5223

(over for Labor Day information)

Labor Day 2004 Contacts

Algonquin	412 (3 coverage days)
Marcy	369 (3 coverage days)
Total Labor Day	781 (6 coverage days, 0 rainy)

Fall 2004 Projects

We finished taking all the pictures for the photo-point monitoring project in August. This fall, I will write a summary of how the project went this summer and include recommendations for future work on the project.

Matt Maloney and I will be working to complete a 'Peak Health Report' for each of the alpine summits. Much of this work has already been done for the summits we visit more regularly, but Matt and I will visit the peaks we have not been to thus far this summer to do some trail and inventory work. The Peak Health Reports are an important way to provide continuity in our program by providing insight into the general health of the alpine vegetation on the summit and give direction for future work on the mountain.



On September 17, I will be heading up Whiteface to participate in the filming of a TV series called Empire State Outdoors. The Public Affairs office of the DEC is producing this series and would like to feature our program as part of the show. A group from Antioch New England Graduate School will visit us on Mt. Marcy on September 20 as a part of the course "Ecology of the Adirondack Mountains."

As the season draws to a close, Matt and I will be breaking down the camps and cleaning, organizing, and inventorying our equipment. The equipment has worked well this summer, and I do not predict that we will need any major items for next season.



It's looking like it will be a busy fall! Stay tuned for our end of season report in October that will provide a complete synopsis of the 2004 summit steward season.

In the meantime, feel free to visit us on Algonquin or Marcy if you are in the High Peaks on a weekend between now and Columbus Day.

Happy Trails!

Matt