

# Some Special Thank-Yous From Page Hollow

Laura Waterman, Secretary

Laurie Demrow for continuing to do such a wonderful job with laying out our newsletter, *The Alpine Steward*.

Robert Sobel for generously giving to the Fund sufficient copies of Laura's memoir, *Losing the Garden*, so that, in turn, we can give copies to those who have been Friends to the Fund.

Ned Therrien for making available to us his stunning photograph of Welch and Dickey Mountains for our 2007 Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award.

Gary Clark and Jim Schley for their generosity in helping us think through the future steps of turning Page Hollow into the Page Hollow Writer's Residence.

Pete Antos-Ketchum for coordinating our website.

Our undying thanks to Doug Mayer, Rebecca Oreskes, Louis Cornell, and Dennis Shaffer, who have stepped off our board this past year. Doug, Rebecca, and Louis were founding members, and their counsel, good sense, and laughter have steered us forward in the grandest style possible. And thanks to Dennis for continuing to keep us on course.

## Memorial Gifts

David Scott and Joann Wright-Scott, in memory of Jim Hirshberg

## Gifts-in-Honor

Mary Weeden Winants, in honor of Amy Regan; Daniel L. Dolgin and Loraine F. Gardner, in honor of Doug Mayer; Charles and Caroline McCrave, Laura Waterman, Doug Mayer; Rick and Jan Sayles, in honor of the marriage of Carl and Laurie Demrow.

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# The Alpine Steward

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATERMAN FUND

SUPPORTING EDUCATION & STEWARDSHIP TO PRESERVE THE ALPINE AREAS OF THE NORTHEAST

## President's Letter

Carl Demrow, President

At the end of last month, the Waterman Fund board spent a day in Randolph, New Hampshire, to check out two of the Randolph Mountain Club (RMC) projects the Fund has supported on the White Mountain National Forest. One was a bilingual alpine zone educational display at Crag Camp, one of the very first projects the Fund provided support for; the second was a reconstruction of the alpine section of Lowe's Path, supported by the Fund in 2007, which had just been completed. They were, in a sense, bookends of our history of supporting alpine education and stewardship.



The Waterman Fund Board 2007, L to R: Mary Margaret Sloan, Carl C. Demrow, Laura Waterman, Rick Sayles, Val Stori, Louis Cornell, Doug Mayer, Matt Cox.

November 2007

Issue IIIIV

The Waterman Fund

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While it was great to visit our past project at Crag Camp, visiting with the RMC trail crew was a special moment for the Fund's board. In spite of the 50 mph wind and rain, reviewing RMC's excellent work on Lowe's Path was a very tangible reminder that the Fund is making a difference in alpine stewardship and education!

In 2007 the Fund granted \$11,000 to support projects involving trail reconstruction, innovative alpine plant research, an alpine botany steward program, and the 5th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering, held at Acadia National Park in June. Guy Waterman felt the gathering was a critical link to better stewardship of our alpine zones, and we share that belief- we've supported each Gathering since the Fund's birth and have set a goal of finding permanent financial support for it. In 2007 we also continued our practice of distributing copies of Guy and Laura Waterman's *Backwoods Ethics* and *Wilderness Ethics* to folks working in alpine areas and the backcountry.

While we are excited by the Fund's growth, work, and the projects we've supported in the past year, we are very excited about our goal of supporting writers who follow in Guy and Laura Waterman's footsteps. In order to find those writers, we've created a writing contest; the author of the winning piece will receive a cash prize and the piece will be published in *Appalachia Journal*. You can find out more about the contest, the grants we awarded in 2007, the board's visit to Randolph, and much more in this newsletter.

There's one more part to all the wonderful work the Fund is doing, and that is you! The Fund is where it is today as a result of your support, encouragement, and good wishes. The Fund's work is done by volunteers, and your donation directly support our alpine education and stewardship work. Thank you!!

## Waterman Fund Announces a New Essay Contest

Mary Margaret Sloan

The Waterman Fund has launched a new project—the first Waterman Fund Alpine Essay Contest.

One of our goals as an organization has been to both honor the writings of Guy and Laura Waterman—which are touchstones for the founding of the Fund—and to nurture Guy and Laura’s successors. Our contest is an effort to seek out writers who care about our alpine areas and want to write about them.

Guy and Laura Waterman spent a lifetime reflecting and writing on the Northeast’s mountains. The Waterman Fund seeks to further their legacy through essays and stories that celebrate the spirit of this unique landscape. We invite the submission of essays that explore the relationship between the human spirit and the mountain environment. For example, we seek essays about the effects of global warming; personal stories about hiking experiences; or writings that explore the relationship between people and wildness.

Essays must be original works ranging from 2500 to 4000 words. The submission deadline is May 1, 2008. The winning piece will be published in *Appalachia Journal*, and the winning essayist will be awarded \$2,000.

Eligible for participation are writers who have not previously published a work on such topics, either as a book or an article in a national magazine.

*Details and official rules can be viewed at:*  
**[www.watermanfund.org](http://www.watermanfund.org)**

*To submit an entry, email a Word document (or compatible format) to Mary Margaret Sloan at:*  
**[mmsloan@peoplepc.com](mailto:mmsloan@peoplepc.com)**

*or mail to:*  
890 Hunt Road, Windsor, VT 05089.

## Dick Fortin Receives 2007 Alpine Steward Award

Annie Bellerose

Each year the Waterman Fund gives out the *Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award* to a person or an organization noted for a long-term commitment to the protection of the physical and spiritual qualities of the Northeast’s mountain wilderness. On Saturday, March 31, at its annual dinner held at the Perfect Pear, in Bradford, Vermont, the Fund presented Dick Fortin with the 2007 award.



Fortin, of Snowville, New Hampshire, is a longtime Summit Steward on Welch and Dickey Mountains, two peaks located within the White Mountain National Forest in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. Fortin has also served as Adjunct Professor of Alpine Ecology at Antioch University of New England. Hired in 1991 by the *Sandwich Range Conservation Association* and the *White Mountain National Forest*, Fortin became the first Welch Mountain summit steward. Along with his students from *Antioch New England Graduate School*, Fortin has also been monitoring alpine plants in the Northern Presidentials.

Nominated by Nat Scrimshaw of the *Center for Mountain Stewardship* for his thoughtful and innovative approaches to caring for the heavily-hiked and fragile soil and plant communities of Welch and Dickey peaks, Fortin received a framed Ned Therrien photograph of Welch Mountain.

# Waterman Fund Visits RMC Alpine Restoration Project

Doug Mayer

This past month, the Waterman Fund undertook its second annual fall field trip, following up on last year's successful foray to visit our friends and partners in the Adirondacks. This time around, the board headed to the Northern Presidentials, and the Randolph Mountain Club, where the Waterman Fund helped to finance a fall RMC trail crew. The crew repaired an above-treeline stretch of Lowe's Path from near Gray Knob cabin to Thunderstorm Junction, near the summit of Mount Adams.

The fall gatherings are an important part of the Board's work on behalf of the Fund. They enable us to see, first-hand, the on-the-ground results of our funding. Board members ventured forth on a stormy and wet Saturday, and hiked to treeline on Mount Adams. The first stop was at Crag Camp, where we viewed the RMC alpine interpretive display, which was one of the first projects the Waterman Fund financed, back in 2002. From there, it was on to Gray Knob, where we had lunch with RMC's fall trail crew and Gray Knob caretaker, Leslie Ham. At Gray Knob, the board heard first-hand about the history of the project, accomplishments, surprises, along with the lessons learned. Most interesting, was the challenge of moving many tons of rocks that were moved, all by hand and while "rock-hopping" to protect vegetation, in order to provide rock for low scree walls, tiling and cairns.

With raingear donned, we poked our heads above treeline, to look at the results of the project. Crew members Milo Moore and Will Manty pointed out a number of areas that were markedly improved. The key aspects of the alpine trail work consisted of:

- \* Moving or reconstructing cairns to accurately define the exact location of the trail, as visibly as possible, without creating enormous cairns that were visible for miles on clear days.
- \* Clearing the trail of impinging brush to better define the route, and keep hikers on the trail in the name of both safety and protecting alpine vegetation.
- \* Brushing in, to close off alternate "bootleg" routes. In an interesting twist, the crew packed multiple loads of brush from nearby, recently cleared paths, when not enough brush was on hand on Lowe's Path itself.
- \* Low scree walls, which keep hikers on the trail, and keep them from straying where trail "braiding" had occurred and several options were present.



Photo Captions

# The Alpine Steward



\* Rock “tiling” to protect exposed roots that were vulnerable to damage.

A key component of the Waterman Fund’s mission involves education of hikers. In this case, RMC provided informative signs on the trail while work was in progress, a notebook at Gray Knob for guests to read, and the organization is writing an article on the work in its newsletter, along with creating a photo gallery on its web site and photo albums at its cabins.

The Waterman Fund is actively seeking other such alpine trail work projects to fund, which incorporate an interpretive element in addition to the trail work itself.

Following our visit with the crew, we descended to Randolph for a dinner and slide show with the RMC trail crew and area partners involved in alpine trail work. The dinner was generously hosted by former RMC President Ben Phinney.

The author, it should be pointed out, is not entirely disinterested in the RMC project, as he also serves as RMC Trails Co-Chair. From that perspective, I must add my two cents, that the project simply would not have occurred, were it not for the Waterman Fund’s ability to fund such projects. This alpine restoration work was the first in this area in at least 20 years. The project was matched by funding from the White Mountain National Forest.

From the Fund’s point of view, this was an invaluable opportunity to see the issues first hand, and hear from the trail crews who are doing this important alpine work. And, aside from the knowledge gained, it was invaluable to simply have a chance to visit, talk and brainstorm, without the looming threat of a long Fund agenda or other pressing matters. The Fund eagerly looks forward to many other upcoming fall gatherings with our partners.

Photo Captions

## Treasurer’s Report – Several Positives to Point Out

Rick Sayles, Treasurer

We have very good news to report about our progress.

For those who remember last year’s newsletter, in this space we described how the Fund had decided to become an independent nonprofit entity and was in the process of carrying out that plan. No longer would we operate as an “advised fund” of the Vermont Community Foundation.

Before we could proceed too far down that path, we needed to receive IRS approval of our nonprofit status. Approval was received in February, 2007. We were official!

The Board had previously approved an investment approach that was deemed prudent. One of the first

things we did upon receiving IRS approval was to implement our investment policy with the funds that we steward: the policy was put into place and our investments (mostly low-cost index and mutual funds) were made early in 2007. Thus far, we have been quite pleased with the results.

At a recent board meeting, it was pointed out just how cost-effective the Waterman Fund’s operations are. Not only is it an entirely voluntary board, but essentially all of the organization’s functions are being carried with great volunteer help. A hearty “thank you” goes out to all of our volunteers! Outside of the board, these have recently included Laurie Demrow, Pete Antos-Ketcham, and Donna Marlatt, among others.

So for our friends and donors, feel great about the fact that essentially 100% of your donations are going directly to those alpine programs and projects that we all so care about!

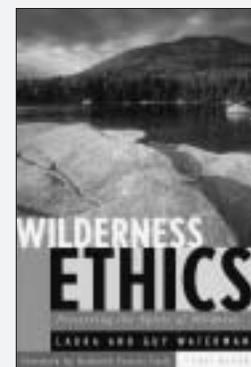
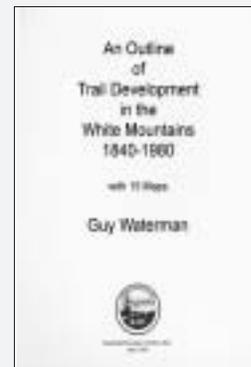
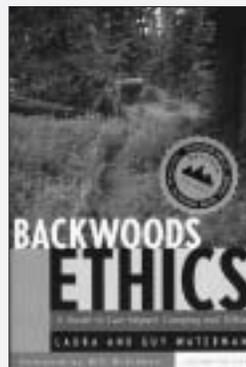
# Book Project Reaches Out to More Than 15 Organizations across the U.S.

Val Stori

When the Watermans wrote and later revised *Wilderness Ethics* and *Backwoods Ethics*, they strove to help others understand, appreciate, and take care of wildness through statements of conviction and stories of personal experience. These two books reflect the passion both Laura and Guy felt for the mountains of the Northeast and speak to the spirit of wildness that they felt must be preserved both in the mountains and within the human soul.

Guy would be pleased to learn that over 15 organizations from across the United States requested copies of *Wilderness Ethics* and *Backwoods Ethics* in the course of this year's Book Distribution Project. The Waterman Fund is proud to have provided over 300 copies of the books to organizations that promote the stewardship of mountain areas. We are hopeful that a new generation of readers will embrace the Watermans' philosophy of responsible stewardship and ethical relationships with mountains. While these books do not preach or provide guidelines for responsible backcountry behavior, they do invoke the spirit of the wild and in this manner allow readers to build their own set of ethical values about the natural world.

The Waterman Fund will undertake the Book Distribution Project again, most probably in 2010. If your organization wishes to participate in the next distribution, please let us know. Until then, the books are available from your local retailers.



## 2007 Alpine Stewardship Grant Recipients

Annie Bellerose

This year, the Waterman Fund gave out \$11,000 in funding to the 2007 alpine stewardship grant recipients. The four grants span the Northeast, as well as a spectrum of projects.

**The Adirondack Mountain Club**, in Lake Placid, New York, received funding for a botanical alpine steward. The goal of the program is to obtain an accurate picture of the health of the Adirondack High Peaks' alpine vegetation. The data collected over this summer will become the baseline for future monitoring projects. This will allow a greater knowledge of the alpine zone to be passed on to the hiking public through the ADK's Summit Steward program.

**Maine's Acadia National Park** received a grant for the 2007 Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering. The

intent of the Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering is to share and improve the knowledge and management of Northeastern alpine areas. This year's conference, hosted in June by Acadia National Park, included ecologist Tom Wessels and recreation ecologist Dr. Jeff Marion as speakers.

**The Appalachian Mountain Club**, based in Boston, Massachusetts, was awarded a grant for a monitoring program using volunteers to survey the health of sensitive alpine plant communities. By tracking numbers, locations, flowering dates, and other related data, the program seeks indicators of climate change, and, by using volunteers, seeks to increase interest in and knowledge of alpine area stewardship.

**The Randolph Mountain Club**, in Randolph, New Hampshire, received funding for alpine trail work and photo documentation on Lowe's Path. The project on this heavily-used historic trail on the Northern Presidentials' Mt. Adams has included building natural enforcements to prevent erosion, as well as the rebuilding of cairns to keep hikers on the trail.

## Fifth Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering

*“I’d go about anywhere to hear Tom Wessels and Jeff Marion speak.” — overheard at the Gathering*

Laura Waterman

On Friday, June 8, and Saturday the 9th, 2007, nearly 60 alpine managers, field people, academics, and friends met at *Acadia National Park* for a weekend of discussion, workshops, brainstorming, field trips, and fun.

This was the fifth such gathering and was hosted by the *National Park Service, Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, Friends of Acadia, and The Waterman Fund*. The able master of ceremonies was Charlie Jacoby, the Natural Resource Specialist at Acadia National Park.

Friday was devoted to speakers, most of whom drew our attention to the negative effects of climate change on alpine vegetation. Our alpine areas are the “canary in the coal mine”: as the climate warms, these plants cannot retreat to higher ground, and so the pressures on them increase as the treeline pushes upward.

On Friday evening Tom Wessels gave a beautifully illustrated slide show, “The Granite Landscape,” expanding on his book of that title.

On Saturday everyone went up Cadillac Mountain to survey visitor impacts. The Park sees 5,000 visitors a day in peak season, most of whom drive up by the road and are not hikers. Charlie took the opportunity of this Gathering to solicit our thoughts on how to manage and protect the summit area. Is it time for strict enforcement? How best to educate? Robert Manning of the University of Vermont and Jeff Marion of the U. S. Geological Survey told us about their work of observing and interviewing visitors on Cadillac over the past year.

The Waterman Fund’s contribution was a workshop entitled “*The Next Big Idea in Northeast Alpine Stewardship*,” conducted as a brainstorming session. Any bright ideas out there? Please email them to us!



Photo captions:

We have found these gatherings, held every two or three years, to be most valuable. They give managers and caretakers of alpine areas across the Northeast an opportunity to come together and exchange ideas, learn from one another, ask questions, and solicit advice as Charlie did for Cadillac. I know we at the Fund returned home feeling fired up to work even harder to support education and stewardship of our precious and beleaguered alpine areas.

# It's Never Too Soon to Think About Planned Giving

Matt Cox

One sunny, breezy day last summer, a group from the Waterman Fund board gathered at Page Hollow—Laura Waterman's home and often times "command central" for the Waterman Fund—to talk about Laura's desire to donate her home and other assets to the Fund upon her death. She was emphatic in her wish to do something meaningful today that would help ensure the financial health and longevity of the organization she founded to honor Guy.

"But Laura," someone said, "you could live another 20 or 30 years!"

"True, but isn't it a good idea to start planning—and talking—about that now, while I'm well and active?"

Right on, Laura! The fact is, while many people hold certain causes or organizations close to their hearts and give generously to annual appeals and special projects, few of us think about planning our gifts for a time when we are no longer present in the physical world.

Planning for the future is important for individuals, families, and nonprofit organizations alike. It is increasingly common for groups like ours to receive a bequest upon the death of a supporter—a bequest we did not know about, could not include in our financial plan, and could not thank the donor for making. Some donors to the Fund have already made known their desire to support the organization for the long haul. They have decided to concentrate their gifts on just one, or a few, charities in order to have the greatest impact on the causes they care about. During our meeting, Laura was surprised to learn that two members of the board have already named the Waterman Fund in their wills!

There are many options available in estate planning: where should you start? Begin by talking with your financial planner, accountant, and attorney, as they know the laws and regulations in your area and can help inform the process of establishing your legacy. Donors should seek charitable gift planning advice from professionals with integrity, expertise, and experience in law, investments, property, tax, and charitable transfers in order to assure both the technical merits of the transfer and the philanthropic quality of the gift. Options such as charitable gift annuities; charitable remainder trusts; gifts of stock, securities, or real property; and cash bequests are the most

common, but other vehicles such as tax-free distributions from IRA accounts and donor-advised funds are also worth considering.

You should also take care to share your plans with your heirs and the nonprofit organizations that will benefit from your gifts. This allows everyone involved to plan for the future, and to acknowledge your generosity. When your physical existence ceases, what will be your legacy? How can your present resources continue to impact the people and causes you care about most? Start the conversation now.

*For more information about planned giving, logon to the **Vermont Community Foundation** at [www.vermontcf.org](http://www.vermontcf.org) and click on "Options for Giving"; the **New Hampshire Charitable Foundation** at [www.nhcf.org/page16880.cfm](http://www.nhcf.org/page16880.cfm), then click on "Outright Gifts," "Deferred Gifts," or "Life Income Plans"; or websites sponsored by your financial advisor.*

## Alpine Steward Award Nominations Sought

A letter to the Waterman Fund is all that is required to nominate someone. Please cite specific examples of the nominee's stewardship of the Northeast wilderness along with other relevant personal or professional experience. The deadline for nominations each year is December 15. The award winner is announced at the Fund's annual dinner, held in April. Each year's winner will be invited to receive his or her Alpine Steward Award at the annual dinner.

For more information, visit:  
[www.watermanfund.org](http://www.watermanfund.org)

or mail your nominations to:  
the Waterman Fund  
PO Box 1064  
East Corinth, VT 05040

Past Award Winners:

|      |               |      |               |
|------|---------------|------|---------------|
| 2007 | Dick Fortin   | 2004 | Ed Ketchledge |
| 2006 | Rick Paradis  | 2003 | Roger Collins |
| 2005 | Lester Kenway |      |               |