



The Alpine Steward

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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

Collaboration on Franconia Ridge



By Jason Zink, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Franconia Ridge in the White Mountains of New Hampshire has long been a destination for outdoor recreation. In recent years, visitor use of the Ridge has grown considerably; on summer and fall weekends, several hundred people per day have been observed within the alpine zone. Protecting the ecological integrity of alpine areas of the Ridge has been a goal of stewards and land managers for several decades. Yet, traditional approaches to visitor use management (e.g., scree walls, trail treadway hardening, education) provide considerable benefit, but may have diminished effectiveness as visitation to Franconia Ridge continues to increase.

In 2016, the Waterman Fund along with other regional partners began meeting to address this challenge. Partners include: White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation, Appalachian Mountain Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and others. The group has followed the newly released Interagency Visitor Use Management Council (IVUMC) framework, which has been adopted as a visitor use planning process by many Federal agencies and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

This framework goes beyond the traditional carrying capacity approach to visitor use management, by incorporating considerations of resource protection and visitor experience in addition to capacity.

In recent months, multiple partner meetings have occurred and have built upon the already rich history of data collection, monitoring, and lessons learned from managing visitors on Franconia Ridge. The group has worked through the IVUMC framework to the point of identifying possible strategies for managing use.

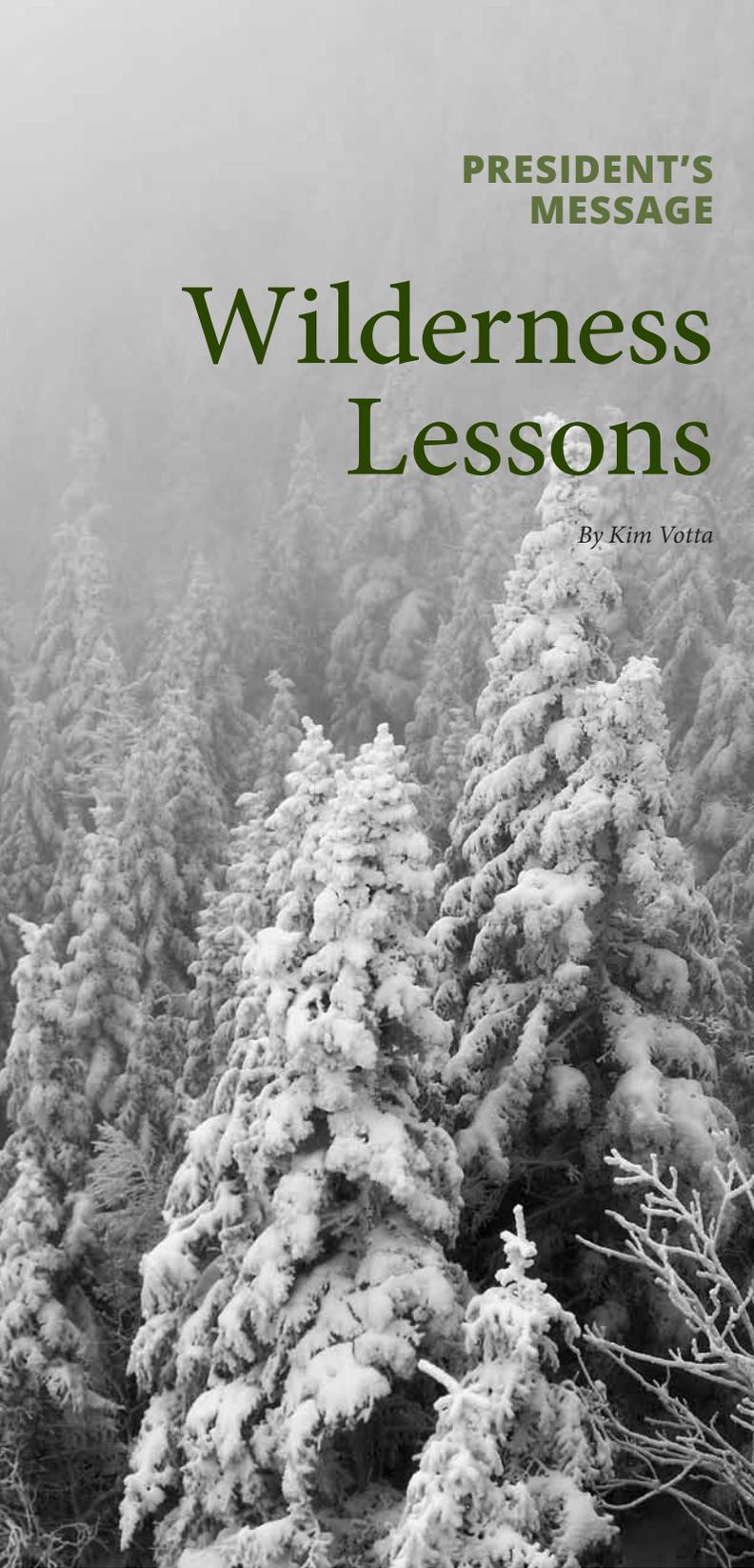
The evaluation and prioritization of potential actions is ongoing, with the goal of developing and implementing a visitor use management plan that protects the ecological integrity of Franconia Ridge while providing for appropriate recreation opportunities. We anticipate this approach will be applicable to other alpine areas in the Northeast experiencing similar visitor use management challenges.

Protecting the ecological integrity of alpine areas of the Ridge has been a goal of stewards and land managers....

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

Wilderness Lessons

By Kim Votta



The Waterman Fund has published its first book. *New Wilderness Voices: Collected Essays from the Waterman Fund Contest*, published by the Univesity Press of New England (UPNE), is a milestone accomplishment for the Fund, signifying the success and relevance of its essay contest. In 2007, an enthusiastic group of Waterman Fund volunteers approached Chris Woodside, editor of *Appalachia Journal*, with the idea of an essay contest. We are privileged that Chris said yes! Since that first winning essay published in 2008 in *Appalachia*, the Fund has awarded over \$13,000 to eleven emerging writers, encouraging new voices to explore and challenge our relationship with wilderness and wildness.

In her foreword to *New Wilderness Voices*, Amy Seidl reminds us that being in wilderness is *good fortune*. The writers whose essays she is introducing aptly prove her point, as they share their stories of discovery and wonder in wilderness – each writer gaining from the experience a deeper understanding of wilderness’ power to define and shape us.

While not all experiences of wilderness lead to prize-winning essays, they do teach us. They teach us that over time wilderness shifts in its physical make-up. Kimberly Beal explores physical shifts in treeline in her winning essay, *Climate Change at the Top*. Kimberly eloquently shares her first summer conducting field research to answer the question, “would a warmer climate mean a shrinking alpine zone?” While comparing old photographs of treeline from the highest peaks in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, Kimberly discovered that, yes, treeline is shifting. Her photographic views from the mountaintops vary from the views of those who came before and opened the door to more questions about physical changes we see in the alpine. Questions we still need to answer.

Wilderness experiences also teach us who we are. Sandy Stott, in his essay, *Looking Up*, shares a journey of self-discovery in wilderness. His story begins on a solo hike atop New Hampshire’s Mount Cardigan, but his wilderness path was laid out much earlier, under the guidance of his father. Sandy realizes a sense of freedom in wilderness, embraces self-reliance, and after countless experiences discovers his

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calling. At journey's end, Sandy is the teacher who brings his students into wilderness, understanding that within its boundaries one's best self can be found.

Our wilderness experiences also remind us we are human. Jenny Kelly Wagner, exploring our humanity in her essay, *The Cage Canyon*, introduces us to Kiya, a black wolf, born in captivity, who is eventually mismanaged, then forced to live restlessly in a wolf sanctuary. Both drawn to and awed by the ferocity of Kiya's wildness, Jenny discovers that the lines between our understanding of wilderness and wilderness itself are nebulous. Jenny aches to connect to Kiya but grows to recognize a true connection is impossible. As Jenny tells us "by isolating ourselves from the outdoors, we have created a cage for ourselves that is warm, comfortable, and lonely as hell." Is this not the antithesis of wilderness?

These stories of wilderness are at the heart of the Waterman Fund. Yes, it is important that we do the practical work of awarding grants that support conservation of the alpine; and, that we recognize the work of our most dedicated

practitioners through the Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award. However, it is the honest stories of our experiences in wilderness that push us to rethink the boundaries and the scale of it, to question our place in it, and to protect it.

In her foreword, Amy Seidl, also speaks of her good fortune of coming to wilderness under "the tutelage of parents who were captivated by the crisp air and granite peaks of the White Mountains." Having grown up in the urban jungle of Boston, I came to wilderness as an adult, discovering the valleys and mountains of New Hampshire first as a hiker, and later as an environmental researcher and educator. As a youth, I did not realize something was missing; yet, I can see how early explorations in wilderness can shape one's path, so I often wonder. I am schooled by Bethany Taylor in her essay, *The Warp and the Weft*, that we can experience wilderness in many places, even in rush hour traffic on a bridge in Portland, Oregon. Perhaps, we are only limited in finding wilderness by our imaginations. Wherever you find wilderness, revel in it, respect it, learn from it—and tell us your story.



Protect Mount Washington

by Chris Magness

At the Coos County Planning Board meeting on December 8, 2016, the Mount Washington Cog Railway proposed to build a 25,000-square foot, 35-room, luxury lodge in the alpine zone. Several founding members of Keep the White's Wild (KtWW) and its Protect Mount Washington Campaign (PMW) were also in attendance.

What began as a conversation in the darkness of a wintry parking lot, while snow slowly collected on our shoulders and on our heads, has become an important grassroots effort with two critical facets. Although the campaign began largely around the idea of legal advocacy, the second component, public outreach, has proved to be more critical, to-date garnering 17,000 signatures on a change.org petition. Like a drop of soap penetrating oily water, social media, public radio, regional fundraisers, and savvy writers have made it clear: we're moving forward.

Part of KtWW's preparedness comes from networking with other NGO's. Regional and national support from conservation focused organizations, like the Waterman Fund, has been paramount.

Looking ahead, that second component, public outreach, will continue to be the backbone of PMW. Public outreach is compassion. Compassion for wildlife, compassion for the spirit of a mountain, compassion for those who venture into the alpine or gawk at a mountainscape from a valley floor, that is centrist to outreach and is the essence of our campaign. Protect Mount Washington, even before ballots have been considered, is successful by any measure.

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Waterman Fund Exceeds \$200,000 in Grants for Alpine Conservation



Sam Kilburn and mentor Charlie Jacobi in the Alpine Garden on Mount Washington.

By Peter Palmiotto

The Waterman Fund grants program, which was started in 2002, has to date awarded 87 grants totaling \$210,863. These grants have supported trail work, stewardship, education and research across the alpine of Northeastern North America. In 2017 the Fund awarded 6 grants totaling \$19,641, which included \$2500 to support the 10th NE Alpine Stewardship Gathering.

Continuing to support proactive management of the Franconia Ridge, the Fund award the Appalachian Mountain Club \$7925 to assess current scree wall efficacy and alpine trail treadway standards on the Franconia Ridge. This grant follows last year's grant to **Sam Kilburn** (grantee featured on next page) and other Waterman Fund Board member activities that aim to minimize hiker impact on alpine communities along the Franconia Ridge.

Waterman Fund grants were also awarded to the **Maine Appalachian Trail Club** (\$1000) to support their ongoing stewardship of the alpine habitat on Bigelow and Saddleback Mts. in Maine (see page 14), and the Adirondack Mountain Club (\$1865) to develop new distinctive educational and

interpretive signs to combine signage with active stewarding. These grants were awarded to help mitigate the impact of the ever increasing visitor use experienced by our network of staffed sites. It is clear that active education in the form of in-person stewardship and education as well as signage is needed more than ever.

Like stewardship and education which aims to conserve the alpine, research is needed to understand how the species that make up that habitat and call it home are impacted by our changing climate. **Kevin Berend**, a student at the University of Brockport, was awarded \$2865 to examine snowpack variables and their effect on community composition and phenology at snowbank sites on Mt. Washington, NH. In his

DEADLINE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grant applications for alpine project funding are due on 12/15/2018.

For information: Visit watermanfund.org or write to grants@watermanfund.org.



Chris Martin's grant involves work with the American Pipit.

progress report he writes, "Beginning in May, I revisited transects every 4-5 days, taking a total of 717 snow depth measurements. Upon snowmelt at a given site, I began observing vegetative and flowering phenology according to National Phenology Network (and AMC Mountain Watch) protocols. I made a total of 1,926 observations for seven focal species." Wow, that's a lot of observations.

Chris Martin of NH Audubon was awarded \$3500 to develop an up-to-date population estimate and distribution map of American Pipits in alpine areas of New Hampshire's White Mountains. Chris writes, "Continued presence of this lovely bird, with its captivating display flight and delicate vocalizations, contributes subtly but significantly to the wild character of our alpine summits." We want this bird to continue to grace our regional alpine environment.



Kevin Berend examines Mount Washington snowpack.

WATERMAN FUND GRANTEE: **Sam Kilburn**

Sam Kilburn was a recipient of a 2016 research grant from the Waterman Fund, and he used his research grant to create a comprehensive analysis of alpine trail conditions in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Sam identified 154 locations where trail restoration is needed across 50 miles of alpine trails. His work can help management organizations and agencies prioritize their restoration work.

Sam is a trail worker and student in his senior year at the University of Vermont, where he is earning his B.S. in Natural Resource Ecology. At UVM, Sam plays on the men's ultimate frisbee team and leads fellow students on trail maintenance and backpacking trips for the Outing Club. Sam has been working on trails throughout the United States for the past six years, and he recently finished his year as the Trailmaster for the AMC White Mountain Professional Trail Crew. When Sam is not in school or working on trails, he enjoys ice climbing, throwing a frisbee, or attempting to create the perfect BLT. He is quite a good photographer too.



Enjoy Two Excerpts from *New Wilderness Voices* ...

from Michael Wejchert's "*Epigoni, Revisited*"

"C'mon DEBORAH!" I scream, a jilted lover. "Let us CLIMB!" Our systems have failed us. I do not snap photographs; exposed skin means frostbite. After everyone wakes up, we ski towards the wall in our down jackets. Our feet, buried in neoprene-lined double boots, are without feeling. For a second I am detached. I start weighing how many toes I am willing to lose before I turn around. For a minute I contemplate this perverse absurdity in the arctic dawn. The rope between the three of us suddenly comes tight. Bayard, stopping.

"I'm going back. I strongly suggest you guys do the same." Our plans are unraveling. By now, success seems impossible. But just a few minutes of footage, Elliot and I climbing on the face... something for the grant committee. I take some rope from Bayard. Elliot takes some climbing gear. We keep going. Is this what Jonny and Micah thought as they pushed forward with Wade? Or Dave and Don? Does the camera make us any less vulnerable?

I realize the mountain doesn't care who we are, why we're here, or what we've brought.

My frozen fingers unzip four layers and finally fumble with the camera lens. I manage thirty seconds of shaky footage almost automatically: Elliot below the mountain, swinging his feet like a football punter to stay warm. I don't need the film to remember the moment though: we two grown men doing jumping jacks, miles from anywhere, beneath a hunk of granite no one really cares about, pistons of humanity bobbing up and down, fighting for enough warmth to stay alive. The climbing ceases to matter, and the movie, too. Sometimes, surviving is enough.



from Jenny Wagner's "*The Cage Canyon*"

The first time I meet Kiya, she is chained to the passenger seat of a two-door Audi, glaring at me suspiciously with intense yellow eyes. When I approach the car, she cowers in the corner as far as the chain around her neck will allow. If I try to open the door, she might hurt herself struggling against the restraints in her attempt to get away from me, so I don't push my luck. I take a deep breath as the woman who chained Kiya to the seat steps out of the driver side door.

Kiya is a two-year-old black wolf. I am a 22-year-old blonde girl with a liberal arts degree who was never even allowed to own a dog as a kid, wearing filthy Carhartt jeans and a weeks' worth of grime. I live and volunteer at Mission: Wolf, a captive wolf sanctuary overlooking the jagged Sangre de Cristo Mountains in southern Colorado.

I have never seen a wolf in the wild. My ancestors, settlers from Europe, initiated the decline of the North American grey wolf by killing countless bison, elk, moose, and deer. Then, beginning in 1906, the US Forest Service and US Bureau of Biological Survey (now the US Fish and Wildlife Service) sponsored a nationwide extermination of grey wolves to make grazing land safe for domestic cattle. Up until 1965, a wolf carcass could earn you up to fifty dollars from the US Government. At that time, a gallon of gasoline sold for thirty-five cents.

2018 ALPINE ESSAY CONTEST

As the world hums along, what wilderness and wildness mean to cultures and individuals changes. Guy and Laura Waterman spent their lives exploring, living and writing within the boundaries of culture and nature, and through the annual essay contest, the Waterman Fund seeks new voices on the role and place of wilderness in the modern world. Political turmoil, refugee crises, climate change, 24-hour news access, gun violence, racial and religious intolerance, pollution and all the rest play out alongside wild mountaintops and deep forests—as such changes always have.

At the Waterman Fund, we believe that the silence and adventure found in wild places remain vital to human society, even as the world beyond the trailhead becomes freshly fraught. —*Bethany Taylor*

For the 2018 essay contest, the Waterman Fund invites emerging writers to submit personal essays between 2000 and 3000 words. The topic is, simply, wilderness and wildness. We hope that writers will welcome the freedom of this invitation. We look forward to seeing what journeys and perspectives the writing of emerging voices guide us towards.

Essays will be accepted through February 2, 2018. The winning essay will be awarded \$1,500. The runner-up essay will receive \$500. Both will be published on the Fund's website, and the winner will appear in *Appalachia*. Essay winners will be selected and announced by mid-summer 2018. 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 all inquiries at essays@watermanfund.org.

2017 Alpine Essay Contest Note:

The Waterman Fund Essay Contest appreciates all those emerging writers who submitted essays for the 2017 contest. Writers were requested to focus on what and how humans build in wilderness—from trails and visitor centers to the idea of wilderness itself.

Despite much review and deliberation, the Essay Committee ultimately decided that none of the submitted essays fully addressed the prompt with quality of tone and craft associated with Guy and Laura Waterman's legacy.

We would like to provide Special Recognition to the four essays that generated the most robust discussions:

Lisa De Prospo Philo: *The Residue of Wilderness*

Alivia Acosta: *Nurturing Nature*

Augie Williams-Eyan: *Shaping Paths*

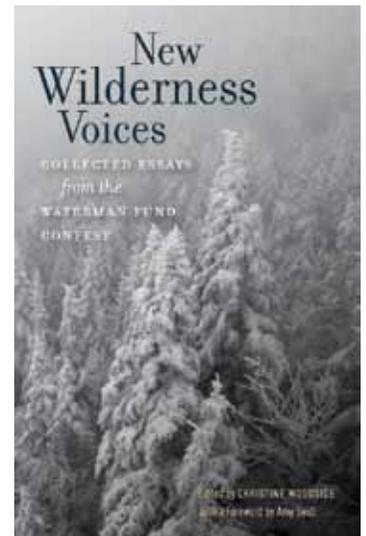
Jimmy Voorhis: *Connected in High Places*

The Essay Committee did not come to this decision lightly and we hope that all those who submitted will consider writing again in future years.

Collected Essays for Your Reading Pleasure!

In the lineage of wilderness advocates, stewards, and poets, *New Wilderness Voices: Collected Essays from the Waterman Fund Contest* debuted in July 2017, published by University Press of New England and edited by Chris Woodside. Amy Seidl, lecturer in environmental studies at the University of Vermont, author of *Early Spring: Waking to a Warming World*, contributed the foreword. The anthology is a collection of winning and runner-up essays from eight years of the Waterman Fund essay contest, featuring the musings of trail workers, alpine stewards, researchers and mountain wanderers. The essays include landscapes from Alaska to New England, with many authors drawing on the northeastern mountains that Laura and Guy Waterman explored, climbed, wrote of, and advocated for. Contributors to this anthology continue the path of wilderness exploration, authorship, and stewardship, synthesizing and expounding on the meaning of wildness and wilderness in the context of our daily lives, adventures, and the rush of modernity.

Enhance your library by placing these contemporary writers alongside your wilderness and mountain literature classics. The proceeds from the sale of the anthology support The Waterman Fund's mission: "Fostering the spirit of wildness and conserving the alpine areas of Northeastern North America."



THE YEAR *in*



Photographs



9



8



7



5



6

1. Green frogs
2. Hobblebush
3. Mountain Ash Berries
4. The Presidentials in early spring
5. Brendan Wiltse speaks to the group on the Annual Field Trip
6. Along the Jewell Trail, Presidential Range
7. Sam Kilburn assesses the Crawford Path
8. Julia Goren on Cascade Mountain
9. Looking toward the populated summit of Mount Washington

Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award

By Nancy Ritger

Each year the Waterman Fund recognizes the dedication and significant contributions by an individual furthering stewardship of New England alpine landscapes. This year the Waterman Fund is thrilled to announce Jean Hoekwater as the recipient of the 2017 Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award. Jean Hoekwater has been the face of Baxter State Park's information and interpretive services for 25 years, helping visitors understand the unique values of the park and how to use it, as Governor Baxter once said, "in the right, unspoiled way." Guidebooks, maps, brochures, trailhead bulletin boards and the website all bear the imprint of Jean's dedication to the mission of Baxter State Park. Thousands of visitors and numerous groups, including scouts, churches, schools, and conservation organizations, have heard Jean speak with passion and authority about the management of Baxter State Park, its diverse array of resources and how to help preserve it for future generations.

Jean initiated Leave No Trace (LNT) training for Baxter State Park staff and LNT education for visitors. She helped found Maine's LNT Steering Committee, a group of land managers and others who collaborate on LNT education projects throughout the state. Closer to home, Jean implemented the park's Mountain Patrol program educating visitors about visiting the alpine zone appropriately. She is also instrumental in several resource management efforts



Jean Hoekwater is the 2017 Award recipient.

at Baxter State Park including monitoring for rare alpine plants such as Bigelow sedge and rare wildlife species such as Bicknell's thrush.

Jean served three years as a Waterman Fund Board Member and Board Secretary, contributing the same passion and commitment to the Fund, she brought to all endeavors in support of the alpine.

The Waterman Fund is proud to honor Jean for her hard work, unwavering dedication, and endless enthusiasm for the alpine zones of New England. The award will be presented at the spring 2018 Alpine Stewardship Gathering.

10th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering Postponed

By Kim Votta

The Waterman Fund Board of Directors is disappointed to share the news that the 10th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering scheduled for November 3 -5, at the Moosilauke Ravine Lodge, was postponed. Impacts from wind and rain storms that occurred the prior Sunday and Monday made access to the lodge unstable.

We would like to thank our 2017 Gathering partners, the White Mountain National Forest and Antioch University and its MERE Project, for their hard work putting together an excellent agenda for the upcoming Gathering. It could not have happened without them! Our appreciation also extends to the Moosilauke Ravine Lodge and their staff for agreeing to

host the event and preparing a warm welcome for it.

We are not canceling, just postponing. Think spring! We will be hosting the Gathering April 27-29, 2018, at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, Vermont. We hope to see you there. Stay tuned for further details.

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, 2018.*

••• MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS •••

The Waterman Fund said goodbye to two long-time board members this year. Charlie Jacobi, President, and Matt Larson, Treasurer, both stepped off the board after serving for six years. Charlie and Matt both brought great leadership and experience to the board. While they are no longer serving The Waterman Fund in an official capacity, both remain active supporters and advisors of the Fund. Vice President, Kim Votta stepped up to fill the role of President, and Peter Palmiotto stepped into the role of Vice President. Ryan Harvey is now serving as Treasurer.

In addition to the rearrangements of executive roles, the Fund is pleased to welcome **June Hammond Rowan** and **Nancy Ritger** to the board. June is associate director of the Center for the Environment and a research assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at Plymouth State University where she teaches courses in land use planning, land conservation, and outreach. June has previously worked as a land use planner in Berlin and Plymouth, NH, a forestry technician for the White Mountain National Forest, and a staff scientist for the Appalachian Mountain Club.

June and her husband Peter are the editors of *Mountain Summers: Tales of Hiking and Exploration in the White Mountains from 1878 to 1886 as Seen Through the Eyes of Women*. June is a New Hampshire native from the Monadnock region and now lives in Campton and Randolph, NH.

Nancy Ritger has devoted her career to promoting an understanding of mountain ecosystems. As an interpretive



Nancy Ritger and June Hammond Rowan join the Board of the Waterman Fund.

naturalist, guide, and program manager for Appalachian Mountain Club she focuses on educating outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. Through her works she instructs courses on alpine and boreal forest ecology, provides interpretive skill development, manages volunteers, and creates activity books for the Junior Naturalist Program in an effort to cultivate strong connections between individuals and the natural world.

In her free time, Nancy can be found hiking, biking, or skiing in Crawford Notch where she resides with her husband, Mark Dindorf and family in the White Mountains. Nancy is proud to be the 2015 recipient of the Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award.

2017 Treasurer's Report

By Ryan J. Harvey

First, and foremost I would like to thank the outgoing treasurer Matt Larson for his service and for a seamless transition into this role. The year to date, the Waterman Fund has awarded grants totaling \$17,141 for five projects spanning the northeastern alpine region. In addition, the Fund has committed \$1500 to the reprinting of the Waterman's mountain history, *Forest and Crag*. The Fund's support will be acknowledged with a page detailing the Fund's work in the alpine areas across the Northeast.

The Waterman Fund's total investment assets are \$390,739, an increase of \$30,636 since November 2016. Total liabilities (grants payable) have increased slightly

to \$20,141 from \$19,815 last year. Consequently the Waterman Fund's net worth is presently \$395,083, an increase of \$54,795.

Donations received in the first ten months of 2017 totaled \$6,656 down by 49 percent from the previous year. With the budgeted goal of raising \$15,000 this year \$8,344 is left to raise. As most of our contributions are received towards the end and beginning of the calendar year we feel confident this goal will be achieved and possibly surpassed as in previous years. Operation expenses to date are \$1,605 down by 51% and are projected to remain low and within budget for the remainder of the year. The Fund should close the end of the year with a surplus.



Boots-on-the-Ground in the Adirondacks

By Seth Jones

On June 30th, ten Waterman Fund supporters, friends and board members gathered at the trailhead for Cascade Mountain in the Adirondack Mountains of New York for the Fifth Annual Waterman Fund Field Trip. Joined by Julia Goren, Adirondack Mountain Club's (ADK) Education Director and Tait Connor, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Forester, we discussed the high use and stewardship of Cascade Mountain.

Cascade Mountain is one of the most popular hikes in the Adirondack High Peaks with use significantly growing over the past five years. It is not uncommon for the trailhead parking to be completely full on weekends with hundreds of cars lining the road. Summit Stewards have seen record numbers on Cascade, including 1500 people over Labor Day Weekend in 2016. High use of public lands is not isolated to the Adirondacks but is seen across the mountainous regions of the Northeast.

The Waterman Fund is a supporter of the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program. In 2016, the Fund helped narrow a funding gap that the program experienced after losing a significant program sponsor in 2015. Most recently, the Fund supported a 2017 interpretive sign project at the trailhead of Cascade. The signs will communicate the harmful impacts of hiker-built rock cairns as well as the importance of wearing traction devices on boots during the

shoulder seasons.

The trail was wet and muddy as we slowly ascended to the top of Cascade. It had downpoured the night before and the weather for our hike looked ominous. Along the way, our group observed visible trail impacts and discussed possible trail management solutions, a discussion that is occurring across the Northeast among non-profits and land management agencies, as hiking and recreational use continues to grow each year.

The rain started falling as our group arrived at our first overlook, just below tree line. The rain didn't stop our dedicated group; we continued towards the summit to explore the work of the Summit Stewards and to discuss other management decisions surrounding Cascade Mountain. After a quick lunch break, all headed back down the mountain, avoiding the increasing rain and wind.

Waterman Fund field trips are a great way to get our boots on the ground and see the stewardship efforts that the Fund supports. It's a way for us to better understand the issues and for our grantees to connect with our donors. "These visits are so important because the Waterman Fund is uniquely suited to help place local issues in a broader regional context," says Goren. "It's good to hear from the Fund about the strategies that other stewardship programs are implementing across the Northeast."

We hope to see you at our 2018 field trip!



Photo courtesy of
Tilbury House Publishing

Phyllis Austin

The Fund lost a good friend and long-time supporter with the death of Phyllis Austin on November 21, 2016.

Environmental journalist, Phyllis was born in the South. She moved to Maine in 1969 to cover the State House as a reporter for the Associated Press, and in 1972 became AP's first environmental writer for New England.

Phyllis wrote, "I hold the value that there is a need to be in places where we are not in control and where our hand is not felt." She conducted her life by these words.

From 1974 to 2002 Phyllis hammered out in-depth reporting that centered on and raised appreciation for forestry practices, land use, public utilities, rural community development, and conservation. She garnered a well-deserved reputation for thoroughly researched articles, fairly balanced news explored with integrity and a reasoned, yet passionate voice.

An outdoors person herself, Phyllis confessed in her last published article, "On Reaching the End of the Trail," that appeared in *AMC Outdoors*, that no life could be long enough to satiate her love of hiking. It is this boots-on-the-ground devotion that drove her journalism, giving it credibility and force. Her reporting affected policy-making and influenced law makers to strengthen environmental protection. It brought her two of her profession's most prestigious national awards: an Alicia Patterson Journalism Fellowship in Washington, D.C., and a John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University.

After the *Maine Times* folded in 2002, Phyllis wrote for *AMC Outdoors*, *Backpacker*, *Wild Earth*, *Yankee*, and *Down East* among other publications. Her books include an essay collection she co-edited titled, *On Wilderness: Voices from Maine* (2003), as well as two substantive biographies: *Wilderness Partners: Buzz Caverly and Baxter State Park* (2008), and *Queen Bee: Roxanne Quimby, Burt's Bees, and Her Quest for a New National Park* (2015).

Guy and I had the privilege of getting to know Phyllis when she came to our homestead to interview us for an article that appeared in the *Maine Times*. From those few hours together sprang a lasting friendship. Phyllis understood, at a profound level, that we humans need the natural world for physical as well as our spiritual sustenance and well-being.

It's hard to imagine a truer friend to wilderness and wildness than Phyllis Austin.

Thank You ... *Laura Waterman from Page Hollow*



Julia Goren, former board member, who led our Field Trip up Cascade Mountain in the Adirondacks where we discussed how to protect a highly popular mountain trail and witnessed her Summit Steward program in action. Thanks to **Tait Conner** of New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation, for sharing the State's view of how to protect Cascade.

Chris Woodside, for helping us throw a successful launch party for the Fund's anthology of winning essays, *New Wilderness Voices*, and to **Stephen Hull** and his competent **Staff at the University Press of New England** for their contributions to this event. Thanks to Chris for continuing to guide our thinking about the essay contest and, as *Appalachia's* editor, publishing our winning essays.

Bethany Taylor, **Michael Wejchert**, and former board members **Rebecca Oreskes**, **Annie Bellerose**, and **Val Stori**, faithful readers for our essay contest, and a special hearty thanks to

Bethany who administers the contest.

Though the Alpine Stewardship Gathering is postponed (see page 10), thank yous are in order to **Cristen Bailey**, **Bethany Taylor**, **Dan Sperduto**, **John Marunowski**, **The Antioch MERE Staff**, and former board member **Charlie Jacobi**, who worked hard to develop the program. **Dan Nelson**, **Rory Gawler**, **The Dartmouth Outing Club**, and **the Staff at the Moosilauke Ravine Lodge** also worked to provide a warm welcome at the new Lodge.

Rick Sayles, former board member, for continuing to keep us on a happy financial path.

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

Anne McKinsey, of AMCK Web & Print Design, who never ceases to work miracles with *The Alpine Steward*.



The Maine Appalachian Trail Club received a grant for ongoing stewardship in the alpine on Bigelow and Saddleback.

Photographs by Peter Palmiotto

Glen, Evan and Erin



Glen and Evan



Holly and Dan on Saddleback

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2018 Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering April 27 – 29, 2018

On April 27–29, the Waterman Fund, Antioch University and its MERE Project, and the White Mountain National Forest will host the 10th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering at the Hulbert Outdoor Center on picturesque Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT. *Plan to join us!*