

To: Summit Steward Program Partners, Supporters, and Friends
From: Kayla White & Julia Goren
Date: 10/15/2017

2017 Summit Steward End of Season Report



Photo Credit: Ryan Nerp

We ended the season the same way we started: rain, cold, blistering winds and plenty of clouds. On Columbus Day weekend, for brief moments the sun peeked out to warm our skin and we even got a rainbow. The **28th year of the Summit Steward Program** has brought new challenges and

opportunities to instill in hikers a sense of wilderness ethics. The trend of increasing numbers of hikers continues (**31,625**), although we did not break last year's record (36,355). Stewards are still **averaging over a hundred contacts per day** despite the rain and muddy, slick trails. Soil and vegetation are even more prone to erosion in these conditions and the summit stewards have been diligently working to mitigate these impacts. Without the continual support of our partners, donors, sponsors, and people like you, we would not be able to remain a driving force in alpine protection and stewardship.

A huge thank you goes to the Adirondack 46ers (<http://adk46er.org/>), whose generosity made it possible to field a full crew this season. They have continued to show their support as the program has struggled to bridge our funding gap. The 46ers have pledged to support the Summit Steward Program for the next three years, for which we are tremendously grateful. Another thank you goes to the ADKhighpeaks Foundation (<http://www.adkhighpeaksfoundation.org>) whose support provides regular coverage of Cascade Mountain for an eighth year in a row. ADKhighpeaks Foundation has pledged to support this important expansion of the Summit Steward Program through 2018. We also owe our gratitude to the Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund (www.watermanfund.org), which funded a sign project about cairns this year. We were also glad to host members of the Waterman Fund board for a hike up Cascade this spring.

We had a crew of four paid stewards and twenty one volunteers who continue to dedicate their blood, sweat, and tears to the protection of tiny alpine plants. We had a veteran crew this year making the interactions stewards had with hikers that much more effective. I'm proud to be a part of such a devoted group of unwavering alpine educators.

While hiker ethics have changed dramatically in the past 28 years and some visitors to the summit have met stewards before or are familiar with the message, we still have many new hikers to the area. There are always new people to educate and to enlist in the cause of alpine stewardship!

State of the Summit Steward Program:

Every year, I include in this report a list of projects that I'd like to work on in the upcoming year and spend some time reflecting upon the past season's accomplishments.

Below you can see the 2016 project list in *italics*.

❑ *Continuing to work on the future of the program*

In 2015, the #507 Fund for Summit Stewardship was created, and in 2016, Adirondack Archangels: Guardians of the High Peaks was released as a fundraiser for this endowment. We are happy to announce that the #507 Fund has given its second grant to help fund stewardship of Giant Mountain and partial funding for one summit steward position. We continue to work to raise awareness about this endowment and other ways to assist with funding the Summit Steward Program. More information about it, including ways to donate, can be found here: <http://507fund.org/>

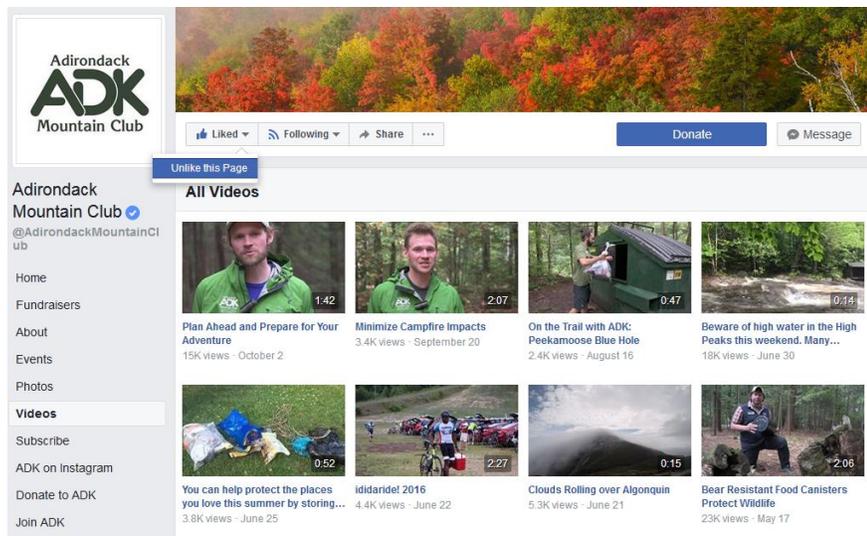
❑ *Working with organizations to suggest alternative hikes to try to divert hikers away from overcrowded trails and using social media as an educational tool*

ADK has been working with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to discuss ways to get important information to hikers including alternate hikes for busy holiday weekends. The DEC rerouted the trail to Cascade Mountain to start at ORDA's Mt. Van Hoevenberg Sports Complex for Columbus Day weekend. This was to ensure hiker safety since State Route 73 has become a parking hazard with cars parked on both sides of the road. Additionally, doing so re-routed hikers from Cascade to Mt. Van

Hoevenberg. This was in large part due to the addition of four miles to the round-trip distance with the relocated trailhead. Last year we spoke with 443 hikers on the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend while this year we spoke with 266.

ADK has also been creating more Public Service Announcement

videos to try to educate hikers on a variety of Leave No Trace topics like properly storing food in bear cans, planning ahead and preparing, minimizing campfire impacts, as well as reposting older videos on



mud season and human waste. Together, these videos have had over 77,900 views. These videos can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/AdirondackMountainClub/>. In the next year, we hope to create more educational videos including one focused on the work of the summit stewards.

- *Spending more time team stewarding, both in the beginning and throughout the season, and incorporating botany information throughout the year.*

Team stewarding continues to be an important and extremely valuable experience with both volunteers and our professional crew. While this year we did less team stewarding due to having an experienced crew and losing one crew member to injury early on, we did acquire five new volunteers. That meant I spent five days of team stewarding with the stewards and six days stewarding with the volunteers. Going forward I would like to continue to team steward with each crew member a minimum of two times and two-three times with each new volunteer for the season.

Summit stewards need to know not only botany but an array of topics that hikers might ask about. Those questions could range from regulations, Adirondack history, ornithology, geology or how to go the bathroom in the woods. I hope to incorporate a mid-season botany refresher and provide informational reading to not only summit stewards but volunteers as well.

- *Continuing to work with our volunteers to improve the program and expand coverage*

With our dedicated volunteers we were able to keep our coverage high despite losing a steward early in the season. Julia and I held a training in May for five new volunteers at Ray Brook. We have twenty one volunteers in total, who spent 52 coverage days and spoke to a total of 7,057 people. That means that our volunteer stewards spoke to an **average of 136 contacts a day!**

We were able to cover 41 days on Cascade Mountain this year, meaning we were able to talk to 8,976 people on Cascade alone. Volunteers covered 26 of the 41 days on Cascade, enabling the paid crew to spend time on other locations, such as Colden, and on other projects, such as trail work. We are contacted frequently by people who either want to know more about the Summit Steward program or are interested in volunteering.

Additionally this year, Julia and I assisted with training for the new 46er Trailhead Steward Program. All summer long, 46ers stationed a table on weekends at the Cascade trailhead and took the opportunity to educate visitors about Leave No Trace and preparedness. We were able to share our techniques for visitor interaction and expertise in sharing Leave No Trace with the crew at the start of the season. From our perspective, the Trailhead Steward Program was a huge success, reducing the amount of trash we saw on the trail and number of dogs we saw off-leash.

❑ *Analyzing the data from our Photopoint Monitoring project*

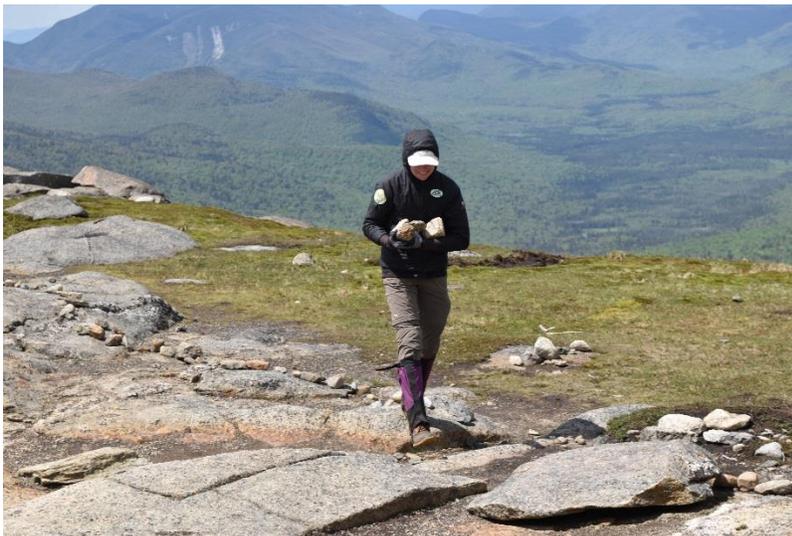
In 2015 we retook all 59 photopoint pictures that are spread across nine summits as part of our long-term Photopoint Monitoring project. This project has allowed us to compare specific alpine images from the past with images from today to compare for signs of regrowth, habitat change, and vegetation loss. This project is extremely important because it has given us quantitative data that shows that stewarded peaks are showing signs of substantial vegetative regrowth compared to summits that do not have summit stewards.



Ryan trying to keep the Deer's Hair Sedge from blocking the picture.
Photo Credit: Chuck Pacer

Over the winter, Julia and I did an ocular analysis on the photographs taken in 2015, looking at the change in alpine vegetation, exposed soil, and bedrock. We also made note of photos that we were unable to use because they did not match up to the original photos. Summit stewards then retook those photographs this season. We plan on presenting our preliminary findings at the Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering next month.

❑ *Continuing group project days to accomplish more trail work*



In addition to our research projects, the summit stewards accomplished 18 project days of trail work. Projects ranged from cairn rebuilding to digging new privy holes, as well as the routine maintenance of brushing, scree wall, and rock packing. ADK is also working with the DEC to try and figure out how to decrease the amount of alpine vegetation that is being trampled due to hikers exiting the Trap Dike on Mount

Colden. Furthermore, we've put multiple revegetation signs on Haystack and redid cairns on Little Haystack.

This season we accomplished major and minor projects on Marcy, Algonquin, Wright, Cascade, Colden, Gothics, Saddleback, Giant, Haystack and Boundary.

- ❑ *Conducting more public outreach programs throughout the year to expand our visibility (and please contact us if you're interested in having a program!)*

In the spring, I put out our pre-season mailing to camps, colleges, and organizations who bring groups into the High Peaks (64 in total, spanning 8 states and 2 provinces). I found it very effective to communicate with groups via email and many were interested in alpine presentations and Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops. I was able to educate over 200 hikers in Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops (this is not including all of the groups who asked only for alpine presentations).

Since the end of last season, Julia and I have done 22 outreach alpine presentations including presentations for the public, college orientation groups, hiking organizations, Road Scholars, youth camp groups, ADK Chapters and researchers. Doing these programs are such a great way to get the message out to people before they visit the area. It's also a way to recruit people who want to volunteer, become a paid steward, or donate to help protect a beautiful ecosystem.

Personnel and Scheduling

The 2017 Summit Stewards are a cheerful and experienced crew. Every steward is returning except Chuck, who was a volunteer last year. This has created a group which has the confidence and skill to tackle anything thrown at them. The mountains are lucky to have them!

Tyra Olstad— Tyra has returned for an unheard of fourth year. She is never to be found without a smile on her face and a sketch pad in her bag. Tyra is fascinated by clouds, mountain weather, and connection to place. She brings her experience (from Petrified Forest to Denali), her thoughtful perspective, her enthusiasm for the alpine, and her artistry to all her interactions, both with fellow stewards and visitors.



Figure 1: 2017 Crew: L to R: Chuck Pacer, Kayla White (Summit Steward Coordinator), Tyra Olstad, Wade Bastian and Ryan Nerp.

Ryan Nerp—Ryan is returning for a second year of stewarding. As a Paul Smith's alum, Ryan has worked and went to school in the Adirondacks for the past five years. When not chatting with hikers on the mountains, you can find Ryan paddling on some Adirondack body of water, working the ropes course at Paul Smith's, or developing his own film. On the mountain, he is always happy to point out alpine plants or eagerly listening to a hiker tell of his or her latest adventure.

Wade Bastian—Wade is another summit steward returning for his second year and Paul Smith's alum. An avid hiker and 46er, Wade brings not only a knowledge of the area but a passion for everything

outdoors. Whether he is excitedly chatting to hikers or hard at work brushing in herd paths, you can always find Wade with a grin on his face.

Chuck Pacer—Chuck was a volunteer last year but has joined the ranks of the professional crew. He is very knowledgeable of the area and of the outdoor gear you'll need for the hike. His bag is always heavily filled with lots of gadgets. His energy and willingness to share his experiences makes him a friendly face to find on the mountain and a perfect addition to our veteran crew.

Julia Goren—Julia's been a devoted part of the Summit Steward Program since 2006 and is ADK's Educational Director. She continues to be a mentor, focusing on education and securing donations for the program.

Kayla White—This is my first year as Summit Steward Coordinator, my fourth year with the Summit Steward Program and my sixth year at ADK. I'm so excited to begin this new journey with such an amazing group of people!

Volunteer Stewards: Our volunteers are a wonderful group of devoted stewards, many of them have been with us for multiple years. Being short-staffed this year has been a struggle and we would not have been able to fully staff the peaks without the continued commitment of our volunteers. Volunteers have provided **52 coverage days** and spoke to a total of **7,057 people**. This year the record number of contacts in a single day (**593**) goes to volunteers on Cascade Mountain!

Ian Ellbogen— Ian has been with the volunteer program for eight years. When not stewarding, you can find Ian taking his grandchildren hiking, and in the winter, you're sure to find him skiing.

David Warfield— This is Dave's seventh year with the steward program. He has spent a great deal of time hiking above treeline here and in the White Mountains. He has climbed Chamonix, Mt. Blanc, and Mt. Rainier, and can frequently be found cycling the area.

Mike Cady—Mike is back for a fifth season of volunteering. He is a member of the ADKhighpeaks Forum, a professional photographer, a 46er in summer and winter, and a Saranac Lake Ultra 6er. Mike recently completed his second round of the 46 with his son Eli, who just completed his first round.

Jack Coleman—Jack is also back for his fifth season as a volunteer. Jack is treasurer of the ADKhighpeaks Forum, a 46er and winter 46er, an inspirational hiker who helps leads challenge hikes for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and he is never to be found without a smile on his face.

Mary Lamb—Mary is returning for a fifth season as a hard core steward volunteer. Mary is also a member of the ADKhighpeaks Forum, a 46er, winter 46er, and boundlessly energetic.

Bob Rock—Bob is also returning for a fifth season as a volunteer. He, too, comes to the program through the ADKhighpeaks Forum and as a 46er. Bob has the endless patience that comes, among other things, with years of experience as a Boy Scout troop leader.

John Wood—John is also returning for his fifth year. John is a former student of Dr. Ketchledge; he did some of the first trail work on these summits to help protect the alpine plants. John has the incredible patience to spend hours combing the summits looking for tiny nails as part of our Photopoint Monitoring project.

Chrissy Dagenais—Chrissy is returning for her fourth year. She is an enthusiastic hiker, paddler, and cyclist. She is a 46er and trip leader for the Cornwall Outing Club.

Dan Kane—Dan is returning for a fourth year. He is a familiar face around the Loj, having served as Campground Host for five years and helped tremendously with the renovations to the HPIC. Dan's previous experiences are too numerous to name, but include teaching, interning at the APA, and regional planning. Among many other interests (concert bouncer!), Dan is an enthusiastic hiker and 46er.

Vin Maresco—Vin is returning for his third year. He is a geologist, avid hiker, ski patroller, and former JBL hut crew member. He brings tremendous enthusiasm and energy to the program.

Larry Lepak—Larry is also returning for his third year. He's passionate about botany, skiing in the Alps, and is currently volunteering in disaster relief.

Lois Dannenberg—Lois is returning for her second year. She has a passion for botany and currently works for a tree and lawn care company. She just finished becoming a 46er and brings her love of the outdoors to everything she does.



Volunteer Lois Dannenberg, Labor Day weekend on Cascade. Photo credit: Volunteer Ian Ellbogen

Ann Fogarty—Ann is returning for a second year. She is very active in the Genesee Valley Chapter and hikes frequently in the Adirondacks. Ann has a friendly demeanor, enjoys traveling, and loves talking to hikers about doing the 46 High Peaks.

Jen Maguder—This is Jen's second year volunteering but her face is a familiar one at ADK. Jen was a summit steward for two years and brings enthusiasm, knowledge, and positivity to the program. Her dedication to the mountains is extremely admirable.

Patrick Murphy—Pat is another previous summit steward turned volunteer. Pat was a steward in 2012 and a botany steward in 2013. He has a wealth of

knowledge of the alpine vegetation, the High Peaks area, and anything outdoors related. He is currently employed at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake.

Andrew Wood—Andrew is also returning for a second year of stewarding. He went to school for Global Economics. His indoor job makes him want to come and explore the Adirondacks in his free time. He is a natural at stewarding and a great conversationalist on the peaks.

Jon and Alison Laurin—Both Jon and Alison are coming to us as brand new stewards but they are experienced hikers. They have completed the North East 111 and are both 46ers. They are also teachers so summit stewarding comes to them naturally. They make quite the tag team on the summit.

Jim Schneider—Jim is a new steward who wanted to be part of the solution. He is a very experienced hiker, hiking throughout the northeast and out west. A summer and winter 46er, Jim loves talking with hikers about their experiences on and off the mountain.

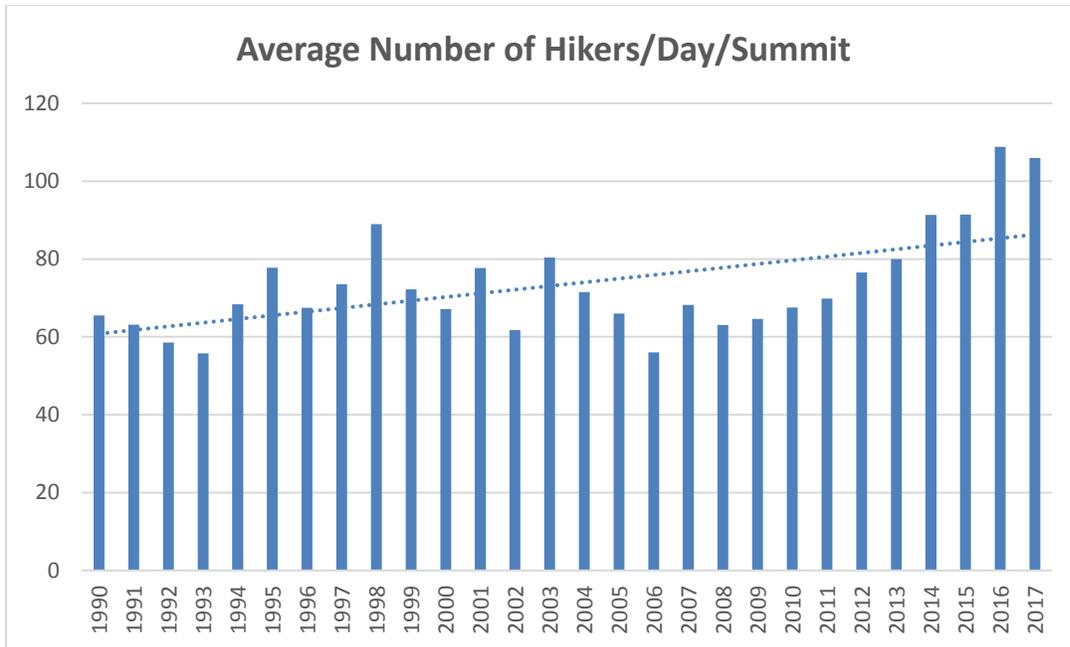
Jonathan Leff—Jonathan is another new steward, but a friendly face on the mountain. He is an arborist who loves spending his time in the outdoors. Jonathan is a Lake Placid native who now makes the trek from Massachusetts to volunteer in the mountains he grew up in.

Troy Tetreault—Troy is another new face to the volunteer crew. He is attending SUNY Plattsburgh for ecology with a minor in botany. Troy is volunteering with us to better understand the alpine ecosystem and is currently working on a project to document alpine pollinators.

Education: Usage and Outreach

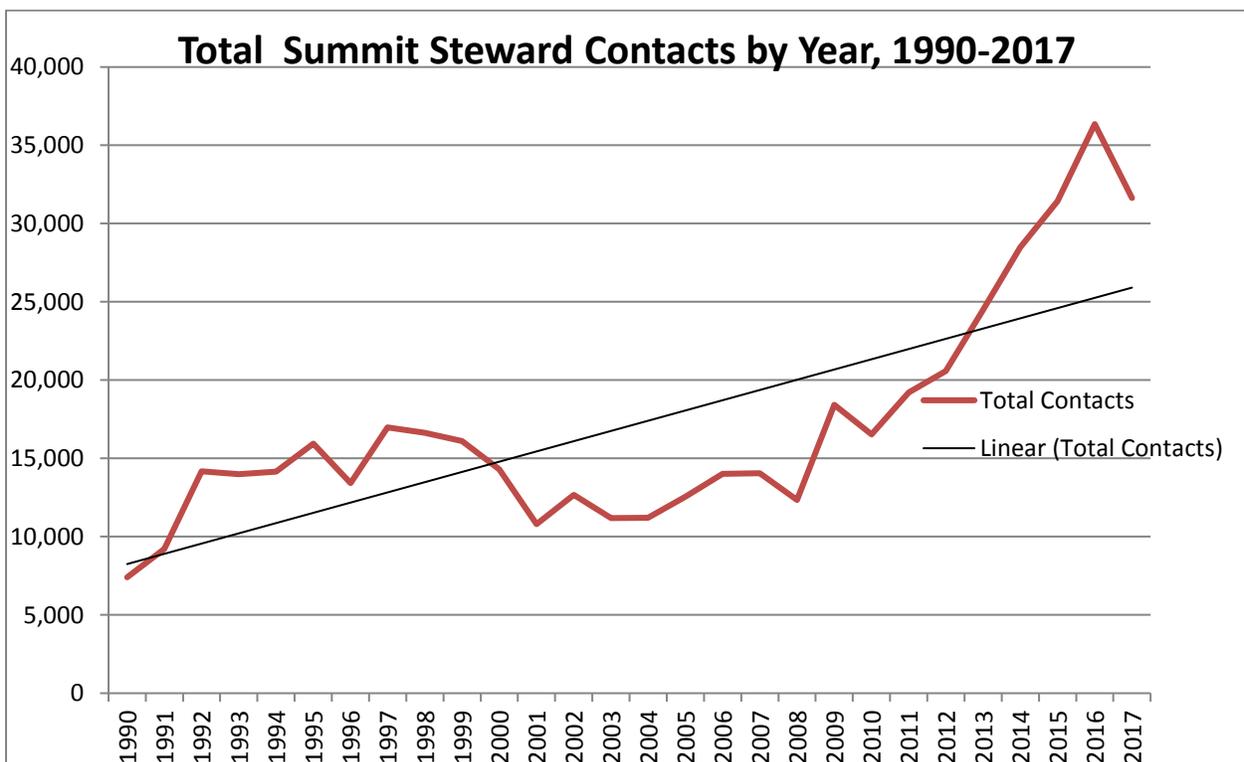
Year	Total Contacts	Days Covered	Average
2017	31,625	305	104
2016	36,355	334	109
2015	31,440	344	91
2014	28,488	312	91
2013	23,804	305	78
2012	20,567	269	77
2011	19,211	275	70
2010	15,639	238	66
2009	18,420	283	65
2008	12,350	198	62
2007	14,005	199	70
Total Contacts 1990-2017: 478,239			

Even with a rainy season, contact numbers continue to soar. To put a 31,625 person year in context, when the Summit Steward program started in 1990, stewards spoke with just over 7,000 hikers. This year saw a fourfold increase over that season.



The graph shows the average number of hikers per day since the program started.

As the graph of total steward contacts shows, the trend is toward increasing numbers of visitors, with a particularly sharp rise in the past 7 seasons.



A continuing goal has been to increase the amount of outreach that we do with groups before they arrive at the summits. In the spring, I put out our pre-season mailing to camps, colleges, and organizations who bring groups into the High Peaks (64 in total, spanning 8 states and 2 provinces). I found it very effective to communicate with groups via email and many were interested in alpine presentations and Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops. I did presentations for Camp Echo Lake, Deerfoot Lodge, Camp Dudley, North Country Camps, Northwoods School, Camp Gould Lake, Glens Falls- Saratoga Chapter, Algonquin Chapter, ADK's Winter Lecture Series, Malta Library, UVM and Plattsburgh's Odyssey orientation groups. Summit stewards did an alpine presentation and trail work with Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA. This year Julia gave presentations to ADK's Binghamton Chapter, Iroquois Chapter, Paul Smith's College, Gordon College's La Vida Program, MCLA, Road Scholars and Adirondack Foundation. Doing these programs are such a great way to get the message out to people before they visit our area.



Mount Mansfield botany hike.

Julia and I conducted training for the Hurricane Mountain Firetower Steward, Cadillac Summit Stewards, Poke-O-Moonshine Steward, the 46ers Trailhead Education Program, and the Green Mountain Club. I also went over to Mount Mansfield to accompany the Green

Mountain Stewards on their botany hike with the state botanist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

Botany and Research Projects:

This year stewards participated in Vermont's Center of Ecostudies Mountain Birdwatch. Mountain Birdwatch focuses on monitoring high elevation birds in the spruce/fir and alpine zone which spans 4 states. This project looks at 10 bird species with a focus on the endangered Bicknell's Thrush, as well as red squirrels and conifer cones (red squirrels eat conifer seeds and baby birds). Summit stewards went up the north and south trails of Algonquin, Cascade/Porter, and Saddleback while stopping at specific points to listen to bird calls and map their locations. To see a distribution map of the data collected from this survey on Bicknell's Thrush, visit

<https://databasin.org/galleries/b5e98de6a2fb43d586665256ec78059f>.

Photopoint Monitoring has continued to be a focus. Over the winter, I juxtaposed the photos that were taken in 2015 over photos that were taken in the 1960's. Photopoint Monitoring can be a very tedious

process since the photos have to be almost an exact match to the ones taken in years past. Some of the 59 photopoints had to be retaken this year, which has been difficult due to the lack of sunny days.

This year marks the tenth year of our participation in the AMC Mountain Watch phenology program. We monitor the phenological stages of four species: Bigelow's Sedge, Diapensia, Labrador Tea, and Bilberry. These species are monitored at standardized monitoring areas. The AMC switched the way they collected their data to be in line with the National Phenology Network (NPN). This ensures the data can be used in broader studies that look at global trends. The data collected is being stored in hard copy here at the Adirondack Mountain Club and being submitted electronically to NPN's website. AMC uses this data to analyze long term trends in the timing of the different phenological stages, which could be an indication of the effects of climate change on the alpine ecosystem.

The Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund (www.watermanfund.org) granted funds for a sign project at the Cascade trail and at the High Peaks Information Center (HPIC). These signs cover alpine vegetation, cairn tampering, shoulder season and winter preparedness. These signs are designed and will be put up later this fall. To see whether the cairn signs will be effective, we are counting the occurrence of cairn tampering on Cascade before and after the signs go up. I will present a poster on cairn tampering at the Northeast Alpine Gathering next month.

SUNY Oneonta Professor Sean Robinson has redone the transect work of Ed Ketchledge this year on Iroquois, Boundary, Algonquin, and Wright. Steward Tyra Olstad and I

went up with Sean Robinson's crew to help look at the dominant species at different intervals to see how alpine species are changing over time.



Sean Robinson doing transect work on Wright Peak.

Trail Work and Project Days:

With a seasoned crew we've been able to get a lot of work done. Trail work has been done on Marcy, Algonquin, Wright, Cascade, Colden, Gothics, Saddleback, Giant, Haystack and Boundary. We've put multiple revegetation signs on Haystack and redid cairns on Little Haystack. We dug a new privy hole at the Algonquin/Wright junction and the DEC redid the higher elevation privy holes on Cascade. The DEC was also kind enough to drop via helicopter several tons of rock on Colden for rock work like scree walls and rock packing.

	Scree Wall	Brush	Rock Pack	Cairn Rocks Removed*	Cairn Repair
Marcy	520	955	113	53	3
Algonquin	290	231	131	41	
Wright	145	390	52	24	5
Cascade	215	335	15	18	
Colden		80	120		
Gothics	80	40	12		
Haystack	50		4	12	12
Boundary	50	55		3	
Giant		480			
Saddleback		50	3		
Totals	1350 (feet)	2616 (feet)	450 (square feet)	151	20

* Refers to number of cairns where stewards had to take off rocks put there by hikers.

Equipment and Campsites:

As is to be expected, our equipment receives heavy use and something is always in need of repair or replacement. Many thanks go to the companies that provide us with equipment and clothing for supporting the Summit Steward program. Stalwart program sustainers, such as Vasque, and Outdoor Research helped to improve the program and the experience of the stewards through their donations of equipment and gear. We are very grateful for the support!

Outdoor Research (OR) donated rain jackets, rain pants, mittens, moisture wicking shirts, pants, and gloves. As always, we are so grateful for the support of Jaeger Shaw and the fine folks at OR—no one likes to stand on a mountain summit in the rain day in and day out, but being able to do so and stay warm and dry makes life so much better.

Darn Tough donated socks and Vasque donated boots to the stewards through The Mountaineer. Waterproof boots and wool socks make it so summit steward's feet stay nice and dry. We couldn't do our jobs without such necessary gear items.

The Will Cummer Gear Fund was established last year to honor the memory of Will Cummer, who was an avid outdoorsman and tech-geek. This endowment fund will provide support for generations of Summit Stewards. Thanks to this Fund, the Summit Steward Program was able to purchase much needed supplies, including another Kestrel unit, rock for the Carry-a-rock Program, map cases, filters, saw blades, and partially funded a new Vertex radio (volunteers funded the remaining amount).

Thanks goes to Cascade Designs who gave us a significant discount on the repair of our two camp MSR Dragonfly stoves. Another thanks goes to Upstone Materials (formally known as Graymont), once again they have been generous and given us rock and trucking at a significant discount. They also donated rock for ADK's National Trails Day.

For next year, we will replace rain pants and jackets that are no longer waterproof. Furthermore, a new tent for Marcy camp and overnight packs will also need to be purchased. We're looking for companies that might want to supply or sponsor these items. Please contact us if you're interested!

Special thanks go to Ryan, Chuck, Julia, Tyler and Seth for setting up and taking down Marcy and Algonquin camps.

Future recommendations:

Here are a few things that I look forward to doing in the upcoming year:

- ❑ Working to educate more hikers before they arrive at the trailhead through outreach and social media
- ❑ Working with the DEC to devise ways to get information out on suggested alternative hikes to try to divert some of the less prepared tourists away from Cascade and other severely damaged trails
- ❑ Spending more time team stewarding, both in the beginning and throughout the season, and incorporating botany information throughout the season
- ❑ Analyzing the photopoint images from 2015 and 2017
- ❑ Continuing to expand and improve the volunteer program
- ❑ Finish the Waterman Fund Sign Project
- ❑ Building group project days to accomplish more high quality trail work
- ❑ Conducting more public outreach programs throughout the year to expand our visibility (and please contact me if you're interested in having a program!)

Thank you!

As always, the Summit Steward Program would not be possible without the support and funding of a number of various organizations and individuals. We'd like to thank the following organizations:

- ❑ NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- ❑ Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy
- ❑ The Adirondack 46ers
- ❑ ADKhighpeaks Foundation
- ❑ Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund
- ❑ Will Cummer Gear Fund
- ❑ ORDA and the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center for access to the summit of Whiteface via the Memorial Highway
- ❑ The Mountaineer
- ❑ Vasque for boots for the stewards
- ❑ Outdoor Research
- ❑ Darn Tough Socks
- ❑ Cascade Designs
- ❑ Upstone Materials

And individuals:

Wes Lampman (ADK), , Connie Prickett (TNC), Jim Giglinto (DEC), Tate Connor (DEC), Jack Coleman (ADKhighpeaks Foundation), Christine Bourjade, Alex Radmanovich, Wilson Cummer, Ian Ellbogen, David Warfield, Mary Lamb, Bob Rock, Chrissy Dagenais, Dan Kane, Vin Maresco, Larry Lepak, John Wood, Andrew Wood, Seth Jones, Dr. Brendan Wiltse, Dr. Tim Howard (NYNHP), Dr. Sean Robinson (SUNY Oneonta), Jeff Chiarenzelli (St. Lawrence University), Dr. Sean Regan (USGS), Paul Casson (ASRC), Vinny McClelland, Chuck Bruja and the entire staff of The Mountaineer, Bill O'Donnell, Jaeger Shaw, Hal Elmes, Tom Manitta, Bobby Clark, Matt Baer, Paul Gallery (TNC), Tyler Socash, and our three dedicated interns from Hamilton College's Adirondack Semester: AJ Lodge, Mary Lundin, and Nick Pace.

It has been a great season! The more time I spend on the mountains, the more I come to love and appreciate the unique ecosystem that is the alpine zone. It is a privilege to be a part of this conservation program; we can't imagine a better place to work or more satisfying work to do. The alpine zone is a remarkable ecosystem, and everyone should be proud to be a part of protecting it. Please feel free to contact either Kayla (chiefsteward@adk.org) or Julia (summit@adk.org) at any time for help or with questions, suggestions, or opportunities for the program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kayla White
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and

Julia Goren
Education Director
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