Greetings Summit Steward friends and supporters! It’s hard to believe that we’re already writing a mid-season report. June and July have been filled with hot, dry days which has meant that the trails have been busy. We’ve seen a 22% increase in the number of summit steward contacts from last year and have reached approximately half a million hikers since the start of the program. With the 29th season of the Summit Steward Program, we have continued to increase our outreach efforts and Volunteer Program to make sure that the hikers who come to recreate on these beautiful alpine summits are educated in Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and alpine stewardship.

Our third round of alpine plant population monitoring is taking place, with two botany stewards sampling across the alpine zone. Research is instrumental in protecting our alpine summits from climate change and human trampling. Trail work has also been a focus this year to keep hikers staying on trails and bare rock surfaces above tree line.

Thanks to a dedicated crew and rock star volunteers, we’ve been able to accomplish an incredible amount of work thus far this season.

**Thank you to our donors, sponsors, and partners!**

The Adirondack 46ers (http://adk46er.org/) continue to be generous donors to the Summit Stewardship Program. Every year, we continue to struggle to fully fund the program. We would not have been able to field a full crew without substantial support from the Adirondack 46ers. This is the first of a three year pledge to support the Summit Steward Program.

We are, once again, grateful for the generosity of the ADKhighpeaks Foundation (http://www.adkhighpeaksfoundation.org), whose support provides regular coverage of Cascade Mountain for a ninth year. We can’t overstate how important expanding to Cascade has been and how we would not have been able to do so without the ADKhighpeaks Foundation. Cascade Mountain holds the record for highest number of
hiker contacts in a single day (668)! Last year summit stewards spoke with 9,276 hikers on Cascade alone!

This year, the #507 Fund for the Summit Stewardship Program (http://507fund.org/) made its third grant to help fund stewardship. Donations to this endowment help ADK pay the salaries of summit stewards.

A big thank you goes to our friends at The Mountaineer for facilitating funding through Patagonia (https://www.patagonia.com). Patagonia’s grant program is a great fit for the Summit Steward Program, helping us fund our educational and research efforts to protect alpine biodiversity in the face of human-driven impacts. The Mountaineer has been a proud supporter of the program since the beginning and it’s always a pleasure to work with them to protect the outdoor spaces we all love. The Mountaineer has also continued to provide Vasque boots and Darn Tough socks.

REI (https://www.rei.com/) has also provided funding to cover the cost of one summit steward position. REI’s goal is to invest in community engagement in the outdoors, support local nonprofits and to advocate for wild places. This makes them an excellent collaborator to the program. We are tremendously grateful for their financial support and excited to work with REI’s Rochester store to engage their community.

The Will Cummer Gear Fund was established in 2016 to honor the memory of Will Cummer, who was an avid outdoorsman and tech-geek. This endowment will provide support for generations of Summit Stewards. Thanks to this Fund, the Summit Steward Program was able to purchase much needed supplies, including an extra radio battery, GPS, rechargeable batteries and charger for the botany stewards. Due to an early season storm, Marcy camp needed a new tarp, water filter and cook tent. The Will Cummer Gear Fund made it possible to deal with this emergency and gave us comfort knowing we had the funds to make the Summit Steward Program a success.

The Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund (www.watermanfund.org) granted us funding for a fall summit steward position. We will have three fall stewards, doing much needed trail work during the week and stewarding the summits over the weekend. With the increase in hikers, this trail work upkeep helps us protect alpine vegetation during the fragile shoulder season and puts us in a better place for next year.

If you haven’t gotten a copy yet, go get Adirondack Archangels: Guardians of the High Peaks inspired by Ed Ketchledge’s legacy. More than 35 authors and photographers contributed to this book, which includes essays from hikers, stewards, scientists, and advocates for the Adirondacks, all of whom share a role in the ongoing effort to protect the Adirondack Park. All proceeds from the sale of this book support the Summit Steward Program (half go to our annual fund and half go to the #507 Fund).

Thanks also to the program partners who keep the Summit Steward program running: the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for extensive administrative, logistical, and financial support.
We are really fortunate to have sponsorship from excellent gear manufacturers! Thanks to Outdoor Research, Darn Tough, Vasque Boots, and The Mountaineer for providing equipment, boots, and advice to all of the stewards. These companies see to it that the stewards have the best equipment and outdoor clothing available. Thank you Jaeger Shaw, Hal Elms, Chuck Bruja, and Vinny McClelland!

I’d also like to thank Julia Goren, Wes Lampman, Jim Giglinto, Sophie McClelland, Bill Martin, and Tate Connor for their continued guidance. Thanks also to all the individuals who have volunteered time, including Ian Ellbogen, David Warfield, Jack Coleman, Mike Cady, Mary Lamb, Bob Rock, Chrissy Dagenais, Dan Kane, John Wood, Vin Maresco, Lois Dannenberg, Annie Fogarty, Patrick Murphy, Jen Maguder, Larry Lepak, Andrew Wood, Jon and Alison Laurin, Jim Schneider, Jonathan Leff, Troy Tetreault, Chuck Pacer, Danna Libbey, Addie Clayton, Tyler Socash and Matt Baer.

**Personnel and Scheduling**

The 2018 Summit Stewards are a cheerful and energized crew. This year we have a mixture of returning and new staff, making the group dynamic fresh and interesting. I am proud of the growth and experience of this crew. The mountains (and plants) are lucky to have them!

**Ryan Nerp**—Ryan is returning for a third year of stewarding. As a Paul Smith’s alum, Ryan has worked and went to school in the Adirondacks for the past six 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.

**Matt Baer**—This is Matt’s first year as a summit steward, but his third year here at ADK. He’s worked at the High Peaks Information Center and as ADK’s Wilderness Trip Leader. He is another Paul Smith’s alum and has spent a considerable amount of time in the High Peaks. This makes Matt a knowledgeable person to have in the backcountry and an amazing educator. He even has a podcast called Foot Stuff which is dedicated to outdoor adventure, antics and activism. Give it a listen!
Nathan Kiel—Nathan is brand new to the Summit Steward Program, but has extensive knowledge of the High Peaks. He is a 46er and has been hiking the High Peaks since childhood. Currently attending SUNY-ESF for Conservation Biology, Nathan also has experience educating, backpacking and conducting research in Patagonia. He’s a natural in the mountains, enjoying everything the alpine zone has to offer!

Michaela Dunn—This is Michaela’s first year as a summit steward, but she grew up in the Adirondacks in Lake George. Last year, Michaela worked at the Wild Center as a Summer Naturalist so she has a deep understanding of Adirondack fauna and flora. She’s a recent graduate of the University of New Hampshire, majoring in Wildlife and Conservation Biology. Michaela is a quiet soul on the mountain, always with a smile on her face!

Yuuka McPherson—Yuuka is a Botany Steward and is brand new to the Program. She is currently enrolled in Williams College for Geosciences. Yuuka loves farming and has done so in Italy, Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut. It was in the Alps where she discovered an interest in mountainous alpine regions. Yuuka’s strength lies in plant identification and a willingness to be out in all weather conditions. After her time counting alpine plants, Yuuka will be travelling to Japan for an internship on repurposing old farmhouses!

Connor Moore—Connor is also a Botany Steward and worked at ADK last year as a Summer Naturalist. He currently goes to Columbia College and is majoring in Environmental Biology. Well versed in research and education, Connor’s been a Naturalist for Delaware State Parks. He enjoys biking around NYC and cooking, especially when it is breakfast on an Adirondack alpine summit for sunrise!

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 second year as Summit Steward Coordinator, my fifth year with the Summit Steward Program and my seventh year at ADK. I’m so excited to be on this 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. They are always willing to fill in and we could not fully staff the peaks or do much needed trail work without their perseverance. Volunteers have provided 30 coverage days this season, plus an additional 4 days of help in the pre-season.
Ian Ellbogen—Ian has been with the volunteer program for nine 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 eighth year with the steward program. He has spent a great deal of time hiking above tree line 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 sixth 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 sixth 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 sixth 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 sixth 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 sixth 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.

Dan Kane—Dan is returning for a fifth year. He is a familiar face around the Loj, having served as Campground Host for six 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 fourth year. He is a geologist, avid hiker, ski patroller, and former JBL hut crew member. He brings tremendous enthusiasm and energy to the program.

Lois Dannenberg—Lois is returning for her third 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.

Ann Fogarty—Ann is returning for a third 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 third 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 third 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 returning for their second year as stewards. They are experienced hikers and have done almost all of the 4,000 footers in the Northeast (making them also 46ers). They are both teachers so summit stewarding comes to them naturally. They make quite the tag team on the summit.

Jim Schneider—This is Jim’s second year as a summit 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. Check out his Adirondack Firetower book: Views from on High.

Jonathan Leff—Jonathan is another second year steward. 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 second year summit steward. He is attending SUNY Plattsburgh, majoring in 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.

Bill Paradies—Bill is brand new to the program, but already completely hooked. He ran into a summit steward on Marcy and decided to do some shadowing last fall. Half way through his 46, Bill is working on becoming a 46er. He’s excited to give back to the mountains that give him such joy!

Brian Coville—Brian is also brand new to the program and excited to get out on the mountains. He works as an auditor and therefore spends a lot of time inside. Summit stewarding is a great excuse for him to come enjoy the Adirondacks and it’s a short drive from Saratoga Springs where he just bought a new house!

Training
The stewards arrived on Friday, May 25th, and were greeted with orientation and introductions, equipment was distributed and we did a property tour. Training then began with two days of Wilderness First Aid. Returning stewards and stewards who already had WFA team stewarded on the mountains for Memorial Day weekend.

Monday, May 28th, we did a training hike up Mt. Marcy focusing on botany and Mountain Watch plots. Luckily, we got to observe Lapland Rosebay in full bloom.

Tuesday, May 29th, we did a combination of radio protocol and interpretive communication training at the Adirondack Park Agency in Raybrook, NY. Professor Jeff Chiarenzelli from St. Lawrence University and Dr. Sean Regan from the US Geological Survey gave presentations on the geology of the Adirondacks. Forester Tate Connor gave a presentation on the High Peaks Unit Management Plan and all of the new changes to come. I went over alpine ecology and Julia went over radio protocol and personal safety training. Julia and I went over interpretive communication, coaching techniques, and Authority of the Resource. We practiced some role-playing so that all could get comfortable using these interpretive techniques. We were joined for this by the Green Mountain Stewards, Blue Hole Stewards, SCA Backcountry Steward, 46er Trailhead Stewards, Monadnock Steward (MERE), Bill Martin (TNC), and new and returning volunteers.
Wednesday, May 30th, we headed to Whiteface for an alpine plant identification trip. The Green Mountain Stewards joined us. The folks at ORDA kindly allowed us to utilize the highway free of charge. Afterwards, we went to the Mountaineer in Keene Valley to get fitted and took home Vasque boots that day!

Saturday, June 2nd, and Sunday, June 3rd were spent team stewarding on Marcy and Algonquin. Team stewarding is an important part of the training process because it allows new stewards to learn techniques and receive constructive criticism on their own educational approach.

Monday, June 4th, and Tuesday, June 5th stewards participated in a Leave No Trace Trainer course taught by Outreach Coordinator Tom Manitta, HPIC Manager Bobby Clark, Summit Steward Matt Baer, and myself. Returning Steward Ryan Nerp went up Haystack to fix the signs, do trail work and teach a Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop to Camp Echo.

Wednesday, June 6th, everyone participated in ADK’s All-Staff Training. I gave a short presentation for the staff on alpine ecology and the Summit Steward Program.

Saturday, June 9th, and Sunday, June 10th, were spent team stewarding on Marcy and Algonquin. With two weekends of team stewarding, everyone had the opportunity to observe other stewards in action.

Monday, June 11th, we did a training hike up Cascade. We focused on trail work including brushing, scree wall, and rock packing techniques, as well as cairn building. We also discussed various techniques for stewarding on Cascade. The Poke-O-Moonshine and Hurricane Stewards joined us.

Thursday, June 14th, we did a botany training hike up Algonquin Peak. SUNY Oneonta Professor and former steward Sean Robinson provided an overview of the ecological succession that we see as we hike from trailhead to summit as well as an in depth look into alpine plant community ecology. Sean also went over his bryophyte research.
Thank you to everyone that participated in the training: Julia Goren, Bobby Clark, Tom Manitta, Matt Baer, Jeffrey Chiarenzelli, Sean Regan, Tim Howard, Sean Robinson, and Tate Connor.

**Weather and Usage**
Beautiful, sunny days have made June busier than last year. However on average, this year we have spoken to the same number of hikers per day compared to last year (94) for May, June, and July.

The chart below highlights the usage summaries for May and June for this year and last year. The average represents the average number of people contacted per day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mountain</th>
<th># People</th>
<th># Days</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Mountain</th>
<th># People</th>
<th># Days</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algonquin</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Algonquin</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcy</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Marcy</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Wright</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>1162</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,714</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>114</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,465</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>154</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mountain</th>
<th># People</th>
<th># Days</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Mountain</th>
<th># People</th>
<th># Days</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algonquin</td>
<td>1653</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Algonquin</td>
<td>1121</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcy</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Marcy</td>
<td>1272</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Wright</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>1417</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,509</strong></td>
<td><strong>57</strong></td>
<td><strong>97</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,704</strong></td>
<td><strong>53</strong></td>
<td><strong>70</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 2. Summary of usage data for May and June of 2018 and 2017.*
**Equipment and Campsites**

Summit Steward equipment receives constant use, which means that something is always in need of repair or replacement. I spent a significant amount of time waterproofing tarps and tents and repairing uniforms at the beginning of the season. Unfortunately, a May wind storm took out our Marcy camp tarp and cook tent. Luckily, we were able to replace those items (as well as a gravity filter) last minute thanks to the Will Cummer gear fund. Former summit steward and volunteer Chuck Pacer donated a tent for Marcy camp which has held up tremendously well, even in the storm.

We were also able to buy, through the Will Cummer gear fund, a new GPS, rechargeable batteries, charger and radio battery for the botany stewards. Through the donation of our generous gear sponsors, we made sure that the stewards are properly equipped for the harsh mountain conditions.

Outdoor Research (OR) donated winter gloves, fleece gloves, rain pants, rain jackets, gaiters, shirts, pants, bug hats and winter hats. They truly deck us out head to toe with gear! As always, we are so grateful for the support of Jaeger Shaw and the fine folks at OR—with this heat the moisture wicking clothing and bug hats have kept us dry and happy on the mountains.

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, even in a hot summer like this. We couldn’t do our jobs without such necessary gear items.

Many, many thanks go to the Will Cummer Gear Fund, Outdoor Research (OR), Darn Tough, The Mountaineer, and Vasque for their generous support of the Summit Steward Program.

Special thanks go to Addie Clayton, Tyler Socash and Matt Baer for setting up the Marcy and Algonquin camps.

**Botany and Research Projects**

This year we have started our third round of alpine population sampling, hiring botany stewards Yuuka and Connor. In 2006-2007, we collected baseline population data on the 27 rare, threatened and endangered alpine plants through a
stratified random sampling procedure. With this data, we could model population densities and estimate population sizes. This sampling was done again in 2013 to test for any divergence in population. Botany stewards have to travel to remote parts of the mountain, swimming through krummholz and skirting ledges to find their sampling plots. Once at the sampling point, they lay down a 5 x 5 meter plot with string and then count plants. This data is extremely valuable and looks at how plant and community populations are shifting.

For a second year in a row, stewards participated in Vermont’s Center for 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 rare Bicknell’s Thrush, as well as red squirrels. Summit stewards went up the north and south trails of Algonquin, Porter, and Saddleback while stopping at specific points to listen to bird calls and map their locations. To read their findings, go to https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/ecs2.1921.

Over the last two years, we have been analyzing our Photopoint Monitoring data. Photopoint Monitoring juxtaposes photographs taken today from photos taken from the 1960-1990’s. The last round of analysis took place in 2009, before the surge in hiker contacts. The question we asked was whether traditional methods of alpine stewardship would continue to protect the alpine zone given the tremendous increase in visitors. We found no statistically significant difference between 2009 and 2015, meaning that summit stewards are continuing to hold the line! We reported our findings at the Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering this past April. Since this data only looks at damaged trailside areas and vegetation without discrimination between alpine and non-alpine species, our alpine population study shows us how the alpine zone is changing as a whole, giving us a bigger picture and better understanding of the challenges these areas face in the future.

This year marks the eleventh 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 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 these 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.

Another project that summit stewards are conducting is testing the pH of soil on the summits. Both due to the soil amendments added by Dr. Ketchledge and the lessening of acid deposition due to the Clean Air Act, we suspect that the pH of the soils may have become less acidic since last tested in the 1970s. We are interested to see what we’ll find up there.

**Trail Work**
Thanks to a highly motivated crew and dedicated volunteer coverage, we’ve been able to get a lot of work done. Trail work has been done on Marcy, Algonquin, Wright, Cascade, Colden, Gothics, Haystack, Iroquois and Giant. We’ve been repairing cairns on Cascade and Marcy due to hiker tampering and winter damage. We plan to tackle the overgrown cairn on Skylight, repaint blazes on multiple peaks and do some heavy duty trail work on Whiteface for the fall. As always we have been hard at work with regular brushing, scree wall work, cairn repair, and rock packing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Scree Wall in feet</th>
<th>Brushing in feet</th>
<th>Rock Packing in square feet</th>
<th>Cairn Rocks removed</th>
<th>Cairn repair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marcy</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algonquin</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colden</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals as of 7/23:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brushing (feet)</th>
<th>Rock Pack (feet²)</th>
<th>Scree Wall (feet)</th>
<th>Cairn Rocks removed</th>
<th>Cairn repaired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>893</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>1563</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peak Health reports have been started and will become more of a focus throughout August, September and October.
Outreach
We are always trying to connect with hikers and educate them in Leave No Trace and responsible recreation before they enter the backcountry. We’ve continued our goal to increase the amount of outreach that we do with camps, colleges and organizations who bring groups into the High Peaks. I’ve continued our pre-season mailing and did Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops for those interested. Presentations were done for Camp Echo Lake, Deerfoot Lodge, Camp Dudley, Camp Chingachgook, Camp Gould Lake, Camp Unirondack, Camp Kirchenwald and Overland. This year Julia gave presentations to North Country Community College, Saranac Lake Public Library, several Road Scholar groups, and Gordon College’s La Vida Program. Julia and I also conducted training for the Hurricane Mountain Firetower Steward, Poke-O-Moonshine Steward, and the 46ers Trailhead Steward Program, SCA Backcountry Stewards, Catskill Center’s Peekamoose Blue Hole Stewards, MERE Steward and the Green Mountain Club. There are more presentations scheduled for the fall.

During all-staff training I gave a presentation on alpine ecology and the Summit Steward Program to the ADK Staff. Many of the staff now have a better understanding of our program. The HPIC staff have become amazing front country educators about the alpine summits. It is not uncommon to have hikers approach us on the summit asking about the plants and stating they heard about the Summit Steward Program from other ADK staff members. The High Peaks Information Center started a new volunteer program to assist their staff and Assistant Forest Rangers educate hikers at the trailhead. I helped conduct Leave No Trace and alpine training to these new volunteers.

This spring we also worked to expand our outreach via social and traditional media thanks to Seth Jones, ADK’s Education Programs Manager.

Conclusion
We would not be able to do what we do without the tremendous support from our partners, donors, and volunteers. The alpine ecosystem would not look like what it does today without your continued support. It is so important that we continue to fight the good fight for generations to come, now more than ever. Please feel free to reach out via phone (518-523-3480 x 18) or email with any questions or comments. Thank you for protecting this very fragile and special ecosystem.

Most sincerely,

Kayla White and
Summit Steward Coordinator
chiefsteward@adk.org

Julia Goren
Education Director
summit@adk.org