

2019 Mid-Season Summit Steward Report

Greetings summit steward partners, friends, and supporters! We've had a late snow this year, with snow in the Marcy bowl only leaving a couple of weeks ago. June has been wet and very buggy and July has been filled with hot days. The summit stewards are in great shape and have been busy on the mountains. We're excited to announce that this is the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program's **30th year anniversary** and we've been celebrating and spreading the word of alpine stewardship through a plethora of ways. Two events that ADK will be hosting is the [Leave No Trace Hot Spot](#) (August 7-14) and [Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering](#) (October 25-27). Both events are meant to bring together stakeholders, managers, researchers and organizations to brainstorm ways to protect our public lands. You can register for both events by clicking their respective links.



Photo Credit: Ben Brosseau

Our third round of alpine plant population monitoring is under way, with one botany steward finishing the sampling started in 2018. This research is instrumental in looking at alpine community type shifts as impacts like climate change and human trampling effect the alpine zone. We are also collecting data on alpine pollinators and continuing our search for different alpine moss species. All of this research helps us look at the

alpine ecosystem as a whole, developing a comprehensive understanding and management plan for the future.

I want to thank our rock star crew and devoted volunteers who make it possible to accomplish an incredible amount of work up on our alpine summits. Furthermore, none of this is possible without all of your support.

Thank you to our donors, sponsors, and partners!

Not only have the [Adirondack 46ers](#) continued to be generous donors to the Summit Stewardship Program, they also sponsored the Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering. Sponsorship of the Alpine Gathering keeps registration costs low for attendees, most of whom have to pay for travel and lodging expenses. We would not

have been able to field a full crew without substantial support from the 46ers. This is the second year of a three-year commitment to support the Summit Stewardship Program.

[REI](#) has provided funding to cover the cost of one summit steward position and is a sponsor for the Alpine Gathering. REI's goal is to invest in community engagement in the outdoors, support local nonprofits and to advocate for wild places. We have been working with REI's Rochester store on ways to collaborate and engage ADK's and REI's community, whether it be through local events, Leave No Trace education or social media coordination. We are tremendously grateful for their financial support and excited to continue this partnership.

This year, the botany steward position is being funded in honor of the late Dr. Norton Miller. Dr. Norton Miller was a botanist and bryologist who spent many hours in the Adirondack High Peaks conducting research on the alpine summits. His family wanted to support the Summit Stewardship Program to honor his legacy of alpine research. This year, we proudly named the botany steward position the Dr. Norton Miller Botany Steward.

We also received the [Ellen Lea Paine Memorial Nature Fund](#) grant from the Adirondack Garden club to help cover the remaining cost of the Dr. Norton Miller Botany Steward. This Fund was established in 2005 to give financial assistance to individuals and non-profit organizations whose purpose is to study, protect and enjoy the natural environment within the Adirondack Park.

A big thank you goes to our friends at [The Mountaineer](#) for facilitating funding through [Patagonia](#). Patagonia's grant program is a great fit for the Summit Stewardship 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 to summit stewards.

The Will Cummer Gear Fund was established in 2016 in honor Will Cummer to provide gear support for future summit stewards. Thanks to this Fund, we were able to repair research counters needed for cairn tampering research and 30th anniversary summit steward hats for professional and volunteer stewards, as well as partners and past stewards for the Alpine Gathering. A callback to the beginning of the program, these retro yellow hats are similar to the ones worn by Ed Ketchledge and summit stewards in the 90's. If you want to look good and represent the program, you can get a 30th anniversary Summit Stewardship Program t-shirt at the HPIC or ADK's Lake George Headquarters. Thank you Tyra Olstad for making the design.



This year, the [#507 Fund for the Summit Stewardship Program](#) made its fourth grant to help fund stewardship. Donations to this endowment help ADK pay the salaries of summit stewards. All proceeds from the sale of [Adirondack Archangels: Guardians of the High Peaks](#), inspired by Ed Ketchledge's legacy, continue to support the Summit Stewardship Program (half go to our annual fund and half go to the #507 Fund).

[The Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund](#) granted ADK's Professional Trail Crew funding for three weeks of trail work on Haystack and Skylight. In previous years the Waterman Fund has discussed providing larger grants towards trail projects and due to discussions with land managers, trail maintainers, and researchers, they have started a new grant specifically for alpine trail work. On Haystack, the crew will be rebuilding cairns on the summit towards Panther Gorge. On Skylight, the crew will be carrying down the remainder of the rock pile and use those rocks to rebuild cairns. Summit stewards started working on these projects in the fall of 2018 but could not complete them. Summit stewards will be working with the Professional Trail Crew on these projects which help keep hikers on trail and protect the fragile alpine ecosystem.

Thank you to the Adirondack 46ers, Adirondack Council, the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, New York Flora Association, Adirondack Land Trust, REI and Northern New York Audubon for sponsoring the Alpine Gathering. If your organization would still like to sponsor the gathering, it's not too late! Please contact me if you are interested.

Thanks also to the program partners who keep the Summit Stewardship 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, Charlie Wise, and Vinny McClelland!

I'd also like to thank 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, John Wood, Vin Maresco, Lois Dannenberg, Annie Fogarty, Patrick Murphy, Jen Maguder, Jon and Alison Laurin, Jim Schneider, Jonathan Leff, Troy Tetreault, Chuck Pacer, Bill Paradies, and Brian Coville.

Personnel and Scheduling

The 2019 summit stewards are a cheerful and talented crew. This year we have a mixture of returning and new staff, creating a wealth of knowledge and a vibrant

learning environment. I am proud of the growth and experience of this crew. The alpine plants are lucky to have them!

Ryan Nerp—Ryan is returning for an astounding fourth year as the Dr. Norton Miller Botany Steward. As a Paul Smith's alum, Ryan has worked and went to school in the Adirondacks for the past seven years. When not botanizing on a remote side of a mountain, you can find Ryan paddling on some Adirondack body of water, tinkering with his hand radio, or developing his own film. He's happy to point out plants for hikers, just ask!

Michaela Dunn—This is Michaela's second year as a summit steward. She grew up in the Adirondacks in Lake George and has worked at the Wild Center as a Summer Naturalist. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire, majoring in

Wildlife and Conservation Biology. Michaela enjoys exploring caves, finding joy on and underneath mountains. She can always be found with a smile on her face!

Isabella Padrón—This is Isabella's first year as a summit steward but she has extensive knowledge of the High Peaks as a 46er and Paul Smith alum. Isabella loves adventure and has travelled from Puerto Rico to East Africa. She is a kind and gentle soul on the mountain, taking the time to connect hikers with the delicate alpine plants on the summit.

Ethan Smith—Ethan is brand new to the Summit Stewardship Program, but is familiar with the Adirondacks through his course work at SUNY-ESF's Ranger School in Wanakena, NY. Ethan is interested in the management aspect of protecting the Forest Preserve and greatly enjoys research. Bouldering and whittling are some things he likes to do in his free time.



Figure 1: 2019 Crew: L to R top: Adam Joseph, Ethan Smith, Michaela Dunn, Kayla White; L to R bottom: Tom Collins, Ryan Nerp (botany), Isabella Padrón.

Tom Collins—Although this is Tom’s first year as a professional summit steward, Tom volunteered with the Summit Stewardship Program last fall and was a Summer Naturalist Intern with ADK in 2018. Tom recently graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh with a major in Environmental Studies. He’s a natural on the mountain who loves to share fun facts about the alpine zone.

Adam Joseph—This is Adam’s first year as a summit steward in the Adirondacks, but has worked for the Green Mountain Club as a caretaker and summit steward. AJ loves thru-hiking and has hiked the Long Trail, Appalachian Trail and Pacific Crest Trail to name a few. He enjoys painting, sewing, and looking for rare alpine plants on remote mountain summits.

Seth Jones—Seth started his career here at ADK as a summit steward in 2008, which he did for three years. After spending a year running Johns Brook Lodge, he became part of ADK’s Education Department. Seth is currently ADK’s Educational Director, and has brought the Summit Stewardship Program back into the education department.

Kayla White—This is my third year as Summit Steward Coordinator, my sixth year with the Summit Stewardship Program and my eighth 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 or research without them. Volunteers have provided 31 coverage days this season, educating 3,026 hikers!

Ian Ellbogen— Ian has been with the volunteer program for a decade now. When not stewarding, you can find Ian taking his grandchildren hiking, and in the winter, you’re sure to find him skiing. He enjoys doing trail work and recently hiked up Rainer!

David Warfield— This is Dave’s ninth year with the Summit Stewardship 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 seventh 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 enjoys hiking with his family.

Jack Coleman—Jack is also back for his seventh 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 seventh season and is an amazing volunteer. Mary is also a member of the ADKhighpeaks Forum, a 46er, winter 46er, and has boundlessly energy.

Bob Rock—Bob is also returning for a seventh 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 seventh 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.

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

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.

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

Ann Fogarty—Ann is returning for a fourth year. She is very active in the Genesee Valley Chapter and hikes frequently in the Adirondacks. Ann has a friendly demeanor, enjoys traveling (she will be spending next month in Europe), and loves talking to hikers about doing the 46 High Peaks.

Jen Maguder—This is Jen's fourth 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. She currently lives in Saranac Lake and works at Great Camp Sagamore.

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 has been a tremendous help training our botany stewards in 2018 and 2019.

Jon and Alison Laurin—Both Jon and Alison are returning for their third 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 third 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 third 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. He is currently an AFR in the High Peaks Wilderness.

Troy Tetreault—Troy is another third year summit steward. Troy recently graduated from 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—This is Bill's second year with the program. 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—This is Brian's second year with the program and he's 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's settled into a new house.

Chloe Johnson—This is Chloe's first year as a summit steward. Chloe and her family are 46ers who have come to the Adirondacks for the summer to camp for years. Chloe is a quiet soul on the summit and loves giving back to the mountains she calls home.

Wayne Hayes—Wayne is not only volunteering as a first year summit steward, he is also a 46er Trailhead Steward. Wayne loves sharing his experiences hiking the 46 with other hikers. He is a thoughtful person to have on the mountain and loves learning more about the alpine zone.

Charlie Blanchet—Charlie is another 46er Trailhead Steward turned first year summit steward. While his wife is volunteering at Cascade's trailhead, Charlie will be up top stewarding. He's a teacher and a natural at building rapport with hikers.

Ross Cornelissen—While it's Ross's first year as a volunteer steward, he is no stranger to these mountains. He is a 46er and has been spending summers in the Adirondacks for years. Ross has previously volunteered with ADK as a Naturalist and done trail work projects. He is currently working as a camp counselor for ATIS.

Training

The stewards arrived on Friday, May 24th, and were greeted with orientation and introductions, equipment was distributed and we did a property tour. Then I went over alpine ecology and the Northeast Alpine Flower Watch, which is a citizen science project. Training then began with two days of Wilderness First Aid. Returning stewards were on the mountains for Memorial Day weekend.

Monday, May 27th, we did a training hike up Cascade Mt. We focused on trail maintenance including brushing in undesigned trails, scree wall construction, rock packing techniques, and cairn building. We also discussed various techniques for stewarding on Cascade and cairn tampering research protocol. The Poke-O-Moonshine and Monadnock (MERE) Stewards joined us.

Tuesday, May 28th, we did a combination of radio protocol and interpretive communication training at Region 5 NYS DEC Headquarters in Raybrook, NY. Forester Tate Connor gave a presentation on the High Peaks Unit Management Plan and all of the new changes to come. Forest Ranger Jim Giglinto went over radio protocol and personal safety training. Seth and I went over interpretive communication and coaching techniques. Andy Mossey from the Catskill Center went over Authority of the Resource Technique. We practiced some role-playing so that all could get comfortable using these interpretive techniques. We were joined for this by the Peekamoose Blue Hole Stewards, MERE Steward, Poke-O-Moonshine Steward and new and returning volunteers.

Wednesday, May 29th, 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.

Saturday, June 1st, and Sunday, June 2nd 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 from returning stewards.

Monday, June 3rd, and Tuesday, June 4th stewards participated in a Leave No Trace Trainer course taught by Education Programs Coordinator Tyler Socash, HPIC Manager Bobby Clark, Wilderness Trip Leader Liv Gundrum, and Content Strategist Ben Brosseau. Returning stewards and stewards who already have taken a Leave No Trace Trainer course went up Cascade to dig new holes for the high elevation privies and did trail maintenance on Giant.



Ryan Nerp and Tim Howard entering botany data on Wright Peak.

Wednesday, June 5th, everyone participated in ADK's All-Staff Training. I gave a short presentation for the staff on alpine ecology and the Summit Stewardship Program.

Thursday, June 6th, and Friday, June 7th was spent on Wright Peak training Ryan on the alpine population study. Tim Howard, from the New York Natural Heritage Program, lead the training on June 6th and Julia Goren and Patrick Murphy, who did the data collection in 2006-7 and 2013 respectively, lead the training on June 7th.

Saturday, June 8th and Sunday, June 9th 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 10th, we headed to Whiteface for an alpine plant identification trip and alpine pollinator training. Matt Schlesinger and Tim Howard from the New York Natural Heritage Program led the training. The folks at ORDA kindly allowed us to utilize the highway free of charge.



Summit stewards learning about bryophytes.

Tuesday, June 11th, we went on a geology training hike with Professor Jeff Chiarenzelli from St. Lawrence University and Professor David Franzi from SUNY Plattsburgh. We went to Roaring Brook Falls and Marcy Field to examine the Marcy mastiff and how glacial activity carved out the area. Afterwards, we went to The Mountaineer in Keene Valley to get fitted and took home Vasque boots that day!

Wednesday, June 12th, Dr. Sean Robinson led a bryophyte training at the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. We used microscopes and hand lenses to identify different moss species. Summit stewards will be working with Sean to create a moss species list on the summits for a second year.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the training: Bobby Clark, Tyler Socash, Liv Gundrum, Ben Brosseau, Jeffrey Chiarenzelli, David Franzi, Tim Howard, Matt Schlesinger, Sean Robinson, Andy Mossey, Tate Connor and Jim Giglinto.

Weather and Usage

With extended snow in May and a rainy June, comes a decrease in the average number of hikers recreating. We were able to cover more days, but those days have been slower than last year. The chart highlights these usage summaries below. The average represents the average number of people contacted per day.

May 2019 (weekends only)				May 2018 (weekends only)			
Mountain	# People	# Days	Average	Mountain	# People	# Days	Average
Algonquin	370	4	93	Algonquin	363	4	91
Marcy	212	4	53	Marcy	323	4	81
Wright	168	3	56	Wright	128	3	43
Cascade	1022	6	170	Cascade	900	4	225
Total	1,772	17	104	Total	1,714	15	114

June 2019				June 2018			
Mountain	# People	# Days	Average	Mountain	# People	# Days	Average
Algonquin	1656	22	75	Algonquin	1653	20	83
Marcy	1677	21	80	Marcy	1941	20	97
Wright	889	15	59	Wright	498	9	55
Cascade	1623	11	148	Cascade	1417	8	177
Total	5,812	69	84	Total	5,509	57	97

Figure 2. Summary of usage data for May and June of 2019 and 2018.

Equipment and Campsites

Summit steward equipment receives constant use, which means that something is always in need of repair or replacement. I spent time waterproofing tarps and tents and repairing uniforms at the beginning of the season.

Through a donation from ADK's Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter, we were able to pay for radio repair and batteries, new saws, books, compass, work gloves, and thermoses. We were also able to buy, through the Will Cummer Gear Fund, new 30th anniversary hats for the volunteer and professional stewards, as well as repair research counters.

[Outdoor Research](#) (OR) donated rain jackets, rain pants, convertible pants, uniform shirts, and fleece gloves. 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 the cold rain in

June and heat of July, OR makes sure we have everything we need to stay comfortable on the summits.

[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.

Many, many thanks go to the Will Cummer Gear Fund, Outdoor Research, Darn Tough, The Mountaineer, and Vasque for their generous support of the Summit Stewardship Program. Special thanks go to Ryan Nerp for setting up the Marcy and Algonquin camps.

Botany and Research Projects

This year we continued our third round of alpine population sampling from 2018, hiring Dr. Norton Miller Botany Steward Ryan Nerp. 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. New York Natural Heritage Program will be analyzing the data.

Another project that we are partnering with the New York Natural Heritage Program on is their [Empire State Native Pollinator survey](#). This survey will assess the current state and distribution of native pollinators and serve as the foundation for developing and implementing future conservation practices.



Summit stewards learning how to survey alpine pollinators on Whiteface.

To survey, summit stewards set up cups to catch different alpine pollinators, as well as periodically net insects on the summits. Summit stewards will be surveying on Marcy, Algonquin, Wright and Colden.

This year marks the twelfth 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). 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. This year, AMC implemented the [Northeast Alpine Flower Watch](#), a citizen science project which asking hikers to use iNaturalist to take pictures of those four species in their blooming and fruiting phenophases. Hopefully, this will help create a more robust and complete data set. Feel free to download iNaturalist and participate!

For a third 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. Summit stewards went up the north trail of Algonquin and Porter while stopping at specific points to listen to bird calls and map their locations. You can read their findings [here](#).

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, Saddleback, Skylight, Iroquois and Giant. We will be working with ADK's Professional Trail Crew to tackle the overgrown rock pike on Skylight and repair cairns on Haystack. We've repainted blazes on Algonquin and will repaint blazes on other alpine summits. As always we have been hard at work with regular brushing, scree wall work, cairn repair, and rock packing.

	Scree Wall in feet	Brushing in feet	Rock Packing in square feet	Cairn Rocks removed	Cairn repair	Privy holes dug
Marcy	249	543	42	147	4	
Algonquin	480	313	195	537	5	
Wright	325	85	37	90	6	
Cascade	375	302	12	4	6	2
Colden	5	227	14			

Totals as of 7/23:

Brushing (feet)	Rock Pack (feet ²)	Scree Wall (feet)	Cairn Rocks removed	Cairn repaired
1622	2237	313	962	23

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 to do Leave No Trace Awareness workshops and alpine presentations to camps, colleges and organizations who bring groups into the High Peaks. Presentations were done for Camp Echo Lake, Camp Dudley, Camp Gould Lake, Camp Kirchenwald, Gordon College's La Vida Program and Overland. Seth and I also conducted training for the Hurricane Mountain Firetower Steward, Poke-O-Moonshine Steward, 46ers Trailhead Steward Program, Catskill Center's Peekamoose Blue Hole Stewards, and the MERE Steward. 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 and have shadowed stewards on the summits. The High Peaks Information Center started a new volunteer program last year called the HPIC Host program. This is to aid HPIC and DEC staff in educating hikers at the trailhead. I helped conduct Leave No Trace and alpine training to these new volunteers.

We've also been working with ADK's Content Strategist Ben Brosseau to expand our outreach and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Summit Stewardship Program through social media. Take a look at our new [video](#) on the Summit Stewardship Program!

Conclusion

It's been 30 years that you have supported the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program. We would not be able to do it without you, our partners, donors, and volunteers. It is so important that we look back to where we've been and work together to see where we're going. Please feel free to reach out via phone (518-523-3480 x 18) or email with any questions or comments on how we can continue to improve the program and protect our fragile alpine ecosystem. Thank you.

Most sincerely,

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and

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