

To: Summit Stewardship Program Partners, Supporters, and Friends
From: Kayla White & Seth Jones
Date: 10/29/2020

2020 Summit Steward End of Season Report

In our **31st year**, the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program dealt with some unique challenges. Not only did summit stewards have to implement new risk-management strategies due to COVID-19 but they also saw an increase in novice hikers, people trying to safely recreate due to the coronavirus. This resulted in an increase in recreational impacts which included illegal camping on summits, campfire impacts, human-wildlife conflicts and vegetation damage from hikers going off trail. It also created an amazing opportunity for stewards to instill a wildland ethic and introduce them to Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics. The value in wild places and the necessity of stewardship is resonating with a whole new audience. Summit stewards **educated 28,605 hikers** this year, making our total contacts since the start of the program **585,484**.



Our accomplishments were made possible through the continuous support of our partners, donors, sponsors, and people like you. A huge thank you goes to the [Adirondack 46ers](#), who not only contributed their third installment of \$15,000 as part of their three-year commitment to the program, but they also donated an additional \$10,000 this year. They also committed to [another three years](#) of support to the program. Thanks to the [REI Outdoor](#)

[Emergency Fund](#), [REI](#) provided funding to partially cover the cost of one summit steward position. Thank you to [Stewart's Shops](#)/Dake Family who provided money through their Stewart's COVID Relief Grant to help sustain nonprofits. The family of Dr. Norton Miller has again provided funding for research in the alpine zone and has created an endowment for the program called the [Dr. Norton G. Miller Memorial Fund](#). This means the Summit Stewardship Program now has three endowments, the other two being the [#507 Fund for the Summit Stewardship Program](#) and the Will Cummer Gear Fund. Another big thank you goes to our friends at [The Mountaineer](#) for their continued support of the program with donations from [Vasque](#) and [Darn Tough](#). This spring, ADK bid on and was awarded the New York State contract for administering the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program. Funding for the contract is provided from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Many ADK chapters have also donated to the program including the Lake Placid Chapter, Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter (in memory of former summit steward Dan Kane), Niagara Frontier Chapter, North Jersey Ramapo Chapter, Adirondak Loj Chapter and others.

We had a crew of three full-time summit stewards, three full-time education staff, three fall stewards and 19 volunteers who continue to fight for the protection of our public lands and tiny alpine plants. I'm proud to be a part of such a devoted group of unwavering alpine educators. The pandemic has proven that there are always new people to educate and to enlist in the cause of alpine stewardship!

State of the Summit Stewardship 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 2020 project list in *italics*.

□ *Coronavirus Protocols*

Like many others, we had to adapt to an ever changing world due to the coronavirus pandemic. At first, we questioned whether we should even be in the field or have a stewarding season. After evaluating the risk and developing risk-management protocols we chose to still operate the program but at a lower capacity since we felt that we could do so safely. Since we operate in an outdoor setting we



were at a lower risk to contract the virus. We made safety protocols for our staff which included separate housing, cleaning schedules, social distancing and wearing masks on summits, trailheads and while passing other hikers. Stewards' first aid kits contained N-95 masks, hand sanitizer and extra gloves. Gear was not shared and camps had extra bins so everyone had their own equipment that no one else touched. Furthermore, we chose to avoid summits that had high numbers of people where one could not properly social distance. Stewards would also position themselves differently on the mountain, staying at a distance and talking to people when they first arrived to the summit. We also refused receiving food and taking pictures for hikers.

We do not know what the future holds and we predict that we will have to continue these protocols into next year. What you can do to help protect summit stewards and DEC staff is to wear a mask at trailheads, while passing hikers and on summits. If where you are going is full of people try going to a different trailhead. Remember to still social distance and be patient when

trying to pass other hikers. Be careful and don't take unnecessary risks since the person who is rescuing you is putting their life on the line. Stay local and follow state and county guidelines.

□ *Dr. Norton G. Miller Memorial Fund*

We are happy to announce the creation of the [Dr. Norton G. Miller Memorial Fund](#) in support of the Summit Stewardship Program and ADK's science and science outreach efforts. The fund was established by the family of Dr. Miller to honor his lifelong love of natural history and his esteemed career in botany research, particularly in the Adirondacks. Dr. Norton Miller was a native of New York State and took numerous trips to the Adirondacks to collect specimens. His research interests included plant systematics and floristics, especially of bryophytes and seed plants; quaternary paleobotany and paleoecology and the tertiary and quaternary history of the bryophyta. The Miller family has previously contributed funding for alpine research and we are thankful for the creation of this endowment. You can donate to the Dr. Norton G. Miller Memorial Fund [here](#).

□ Research

Scheduled for 2020, our Photopoint Monitoring project was pushed into 2021 so that we had the staff necessary to complete the project. Beginning in 1999, photopoint monitoring was utilized as a long-term monitoring tool to evaluate the recovery of alpine ecosystems by utilizing repeat photography to examine vegetation change over time. We currently have 59 photopoints scattered across nine summits. Baseline photographs were taken in the 1960s through 1990s, largely by Dr. Ketchledge, to document soil erosion and hiker impacts.

Analyses of data in 2009 showed that summits with a regular steward presence since the beginning of the program have substantial vegetation recovery in comparison to summits that do not have that regular steward presence. We found no statistically significant difference when we conducted a 2015 analysis meaning that summit stewards are holding the line despite an increase in visitor use.

For 2021, we are looking to hire a steward dedicated to the project and are partnering with the New York Natural Heritage Program on data analysis and reexamining our methodology. Our plan is to not only retake the 59 photopoints but add points to make the project more representative of the trail corridors in the Adirondack alpine zone. Furthermore, we will be using both film and digital cameras. Our hope is to transition to fully digital pictures in the future.

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

With our dedicated volunteers we were able to keep covering our main peaks and get professional staff out to other remote summits to do trail maintenance and research. Seth and I held a virtual training in May. We sent new and returning volunteers training videos and documents to review. They then had to take an online Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop and an online assessment on the materials we sent out. We then did a Zoom meeting to go over coronavirus protocols and answer any lingering questions. We were joined by DEC Forester Tate Connor who gave his presentation on the High Peaks Unit Management Plan and Forest Ranger

Jim Giglinto went over radio protocol and personal safety training. We will likely use this virtual format for next year.

We have 19 active volunteers in total, who spent **42 days** on the summits and spoke to a total of **4,983 people**. This decrease, as with our total hiker contact decrease, is due to our limited stewardship of Cascade Mountain this year. For the safety of our volunteers and staff we decided to not steward Cascade on the weekends. Therefore, paid and volunteer stewards only visited Cascade **19 days** whereas stewards covered Cascade 53 days in 2019. While we will probably continue to avoid weekends next year, we hope to expand coverage on weekdays to better mitigate summit impacts.

❑ Conducting public outreach programs & training stewardship groups

Our outreach has been severely limited due to the pandemic. Not only have we not been able to do in-person Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops and alpine presentations to camps, colleges and organizations who bring groups into the High Peaks, most groups cancelled their trips to the High Peaks all together. Instead, we've been trying to reach out to hikers virtually. I did a presentation on the alpine zone and Summit Stewardship Program in the beginning of June.

Seth and I assisted with a virtual training for the 46er Trailhead Steward Program for a fourth year in a row. Although the program didn't run this year, the training was a good refresher for returning stewards. We also assisted the High Peaks Information Center (HPIC) in virtually training ADK's Trailhead Stewardship volunteers. These volunteers aid HPIC and DEC staff in educating hikers at the trailhead.

The Poke-O-Moonshine Steward joined our virtual training and I team stewarded with her on Cascade. Turning our training virtual this year has opened up future possibilities for remote training with other stewardship groups. We hope to continue to lead the way with stewardship training. Let me know if your stewardship group is interested!

Personnel and Scheduling



Figure 1: 2020 Crew: L to R top: Isabella Padrón, Chuck Pacer, Michaela Dunn, Tyler Socash (EDU), Maggie Newell (EDU); L to R kneeling: Kayla White, Julia Goren (Adirondack Council); Cropped in: Mary Glynn (EDU)

The 2020 summit stewards are all returning staff so they know their stuff! Education staff Tyler Socash, Mary Glynn and Maggie Newell have all stepped in to help steward. I am extensively proud of them and the alpine plants are lucky to have them!

Michaela Dunn—This is Michaela's third 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 second year as a summit steward and has extensive knowledge of the High Peaks as a 46er and Paul Smith's College 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.

Chuck Pacer—Chuck has switched back between volunteer and professional staff over the past few years, having volunteered in 2016 and 2019 and was a professional steward in the summer of 2017 and fall of 2018. 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 and loves taking time lapses of clouds.

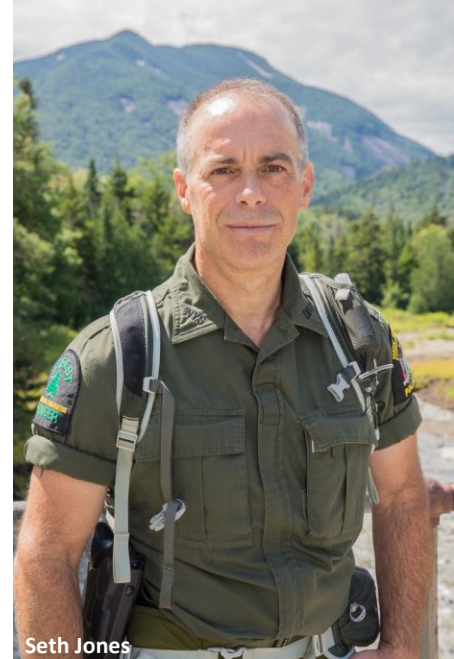
Mary Glynn—Mary is ADK's Outdoor Skills Coordinator and a familiar face at ADK. She worked on our Loj Crew in 2014, and has volunteered as a trip leader for ADK's Northville-Placid Trail Chapter. She was formerly the Field Director at the True North Wilderness Program, a wilderness therapy organization based out of Vermont. When she is not at work, she can often be found on the trail as she works toward her goal of traversing the Northeast 111.

Tyler Socash—Tyler is ADK's Education Programs Coordinator and has worked for ADK on and off since 2009. He has completed the Northville-Placid Trail, the Ninety-Miler, and the Cranberry Lake 50. Tyler has also completed nearly seven thousand miles of through-hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail, New Zealand's Te Araroa, and the Appalachian Trail in a calendar year. Listen to his podcast, Foot Stuff Podcast that focuses on adventure, antics and activism within the Adirondack Park.

Maggie Newell—Maggie is currently ADK's Backcountry Water Monitoring Trip Leader. She's worked at ADK on Loj Crew, as a Summer Naturalist and as a Community Outreach Educator since 2016. She graduated from Connecticut College with degrees in Environmental Studies and Film Studies.

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 fourth year as Summit Steward Coordinator, my seventh year with the Summit Stewardship Program and my ninth year at ADK. I'm so excited to be on this journey with such an amazing group of people!



We would like to thank Forest Ranger Jim Giglinto, who after 26 years of service has retired. Jim believed wholeheartedly in the work of the summit stewards and always advocated on our behalf. He worked hard to educate hikers on Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics, enforce regulations and execute search and rescues. Jim trained our volunteer and professional summit stewards, as well as many other stewards, and was always available to answer our questions. He had a strong wilderness ethic and always pushed others to think about their impacts on the Forest Preserve. Jim and his family moved to Montana, where he got a job at the Yellowstone Club. We will miss him.

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.

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!

Jack Coleman—Jack is back for his eighth 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 also returning for an eighth season and is an amazing volunteer. She is a member of the ADKhighpeaks Forum, on the 46er board of directors and a correspondent for those completing the high peaks. Mary is also an active 46er trail-worker and maintainer of the Esther herd path.

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

Lois Dannenberg—Lois is returning for her fifth 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 also returning for a fifth 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 fifth 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.



Volunteer Abi stewarding on Algonquin

and it's a short drive from Saratoga Springs.

Audrey Fatone—Audrey volunteered last year when she was a Summer Naturalist at ADK. She is currently going to SUNY ESF but missed her time in the Adirondacks and has come back to volunteer. Audrey loves running and protecting wild lands.

Ryan Nerp—Formally a summit steward for four years, Ryan is now working for the Adirondack Council and volunteering when he can. As a Paul Smith's alum, Ryan has worked and went to school in the Adirondacks for the past eight years. Ryan enjoys paddling, tinkering with his hand radio, or developing his own film. He's happy to point out plants for hikers, just ask!

Tom Collins—Tom is another former steward turned volunteer and was also a Summer Naturalist Intern with ADK in 2018. Currently, Tom works at the Lake Placid Pub & Brewery as a brewer. He's a natural on the mountain who loves to share fun facts about the alpine zone.

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.

Jim Schneider—This is Jim's fourth 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](#).

Brian Coville—This is also Brian's third 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

Drew Benware—This is Drew’s first year as a summit steward and is also a 46er Trailhead Steward. He is very active in his church and plays the organ. Drew is a music teacher at Saranac Lake, making him a natural educator on the mountains.

Abigail Charlebois—Abi is new to the program but is very familiar with the Adirondacks. She is currently a student at Paul Smiths and enjoys the environmental classes she’s taking there. Abi loves running for the sheer joy of it and is a strong advocate for the mountains she calls home.

Tony Canike—Tony is also new to the program but has volunteered as a 46er Trailhead Steward. Tony enjoys volunteering for a cave and karst conservancy in Virginia. He is a winter 46er and loves regaling hikers with adventure stories.

Agnes Anderson—This is Agnes’s first year as a summit steward but she loves the Adirondack Park. She is currently employed as a rafting guide in Indian Lake. Living in her grandparent’s rustic cabin there, Agnes enjoys being on the water and swimming in it. She is a joy to meet on the mountains.

Ethan Johnson—Ethan was supposed to join us this year as a professional summit steward but unfortunately the coronavirus disrupted that. We are happy that he could still join us as a volunteer. Ethan loves camping, paddling, and living in his cabin in Saranac Lake. He is a friendly face on the mountains and has a lot of enthusiasm for the area. He is currently enrolled in Paul Smiths College.

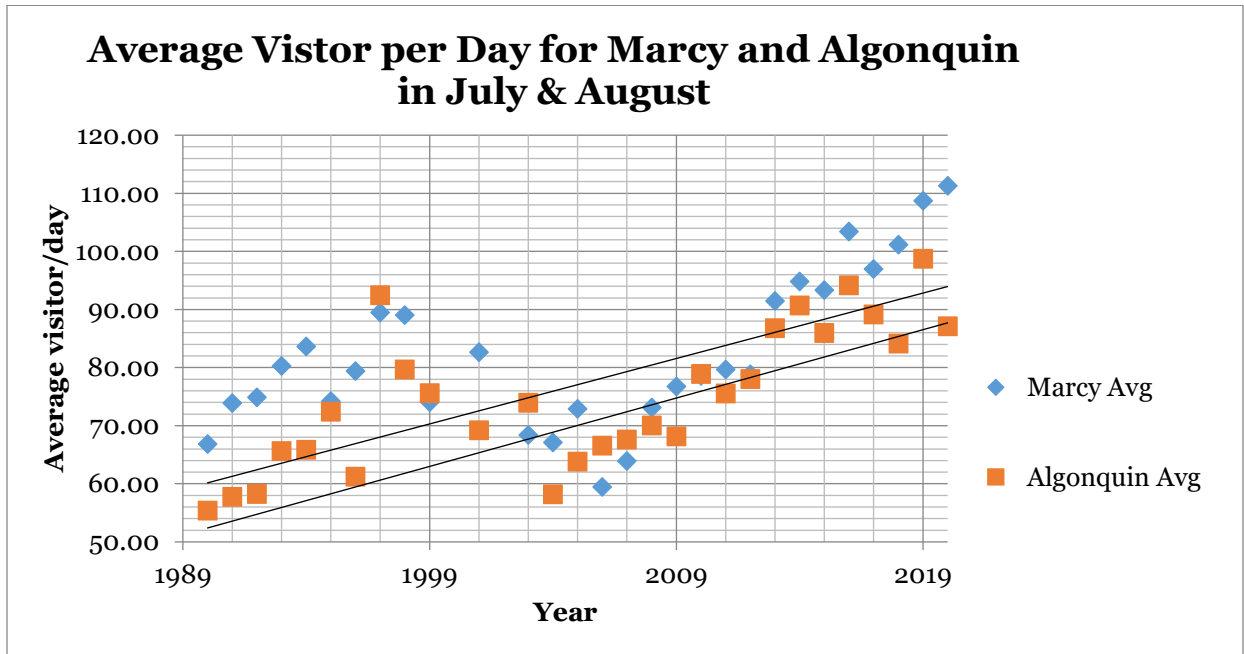
Sarah Czapranski—Sarah is new to the program but loves hiking in the Adirondack Park. Sarah began hiking the High Peaks in 2012 and is a 46er in both the summer and winter. She made the move to Albany last year but was active in ADK’s Genesee Valley Chapter when she lived in Rochester. Sarah is excited to learn all she can about the alpine plants.

Education: Usage and Outreach

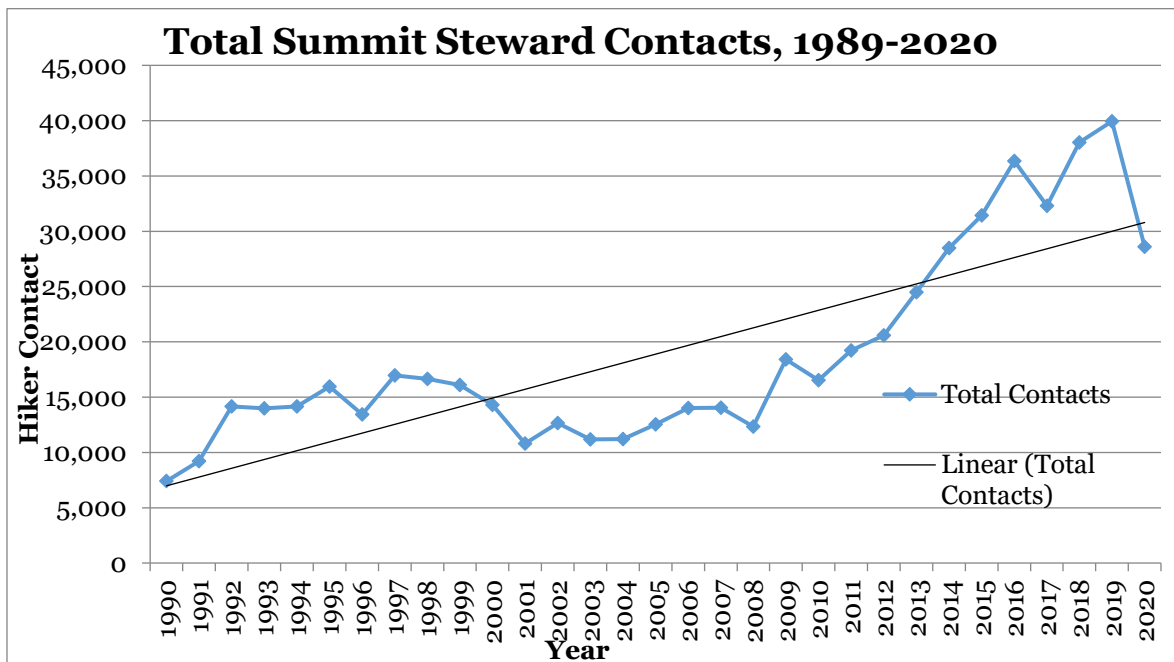
| Year | Total Contacts | Days Covered | Average |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| 2020 | 28,605 | 315 | 91 |
| 2019 | 39,939 | 393 | 102 |
| 2018 | 38,033 | 349 | 109 |
| 2017 | 31,625 | 305 | 104 |
| 2016 | 36,355 | 334 | 109 |
| 2015 | 31,440 | 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 |
| Total Contacts 1990-2019: 585,484 | | | |

Our numbers took a drop this year due to a number of factors: we stewarded Cascade significantly less and on weekdays, we started later in the season and had less staff and volunteers due to the coronavirus. Factoring that in, we did have an extremely busy summer especially when you consider that the Canadian border was closed which is ~30% of hikers who

visit the area. We are still having 200-400 hiker contact days on Saturdays. To keep the quality of hiker interactions high, we've been exploring the possibility of having two stewards team up together on Mt. Marcy (we mainly team steward Cascade) for fall Saturdays and holiday weekends next year. Mid-July and August also had high Saturday numbers on Mt. Marcy with over 300+ interactions on a sunny day.



The graph shows the average number of hikers per day for Marcy and Algonquin in July and August since the program started. This is the closest apples to apples comparison we have to look at the increase in the number of hikers, while partially negating the number of volunteers and staff that has fluctuated over the years. Marcy saw an increase while Algonquin decreased.



Botany and Research Projects:

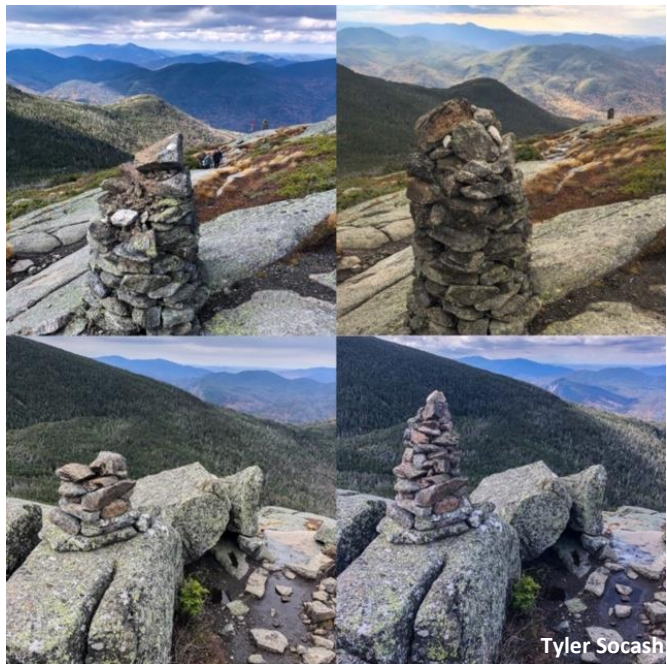
We partnered with the New York Natural Heritage Program and participated in their last year of the [Empire State Native Pollinator survey](#). This survey will assess the current state and distribution of native pollinators and serve as the foundation for developing and implementing future conservation practices. In order to survey pollinators, summit stewards set up cups to catch different alpine pollinators, as well as periodically net insects on the summits. Summit stewards did surveys on Haystack, Gothics, Skylight and Boundary.

This year marks the thirteenth year of our participation in Appalachian Mountain Club's (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. Last year, AMC implemented the [Northeast Alpine Flower Watch](#), a citizen science project which asks hikers to use iNaturalist, a phone app, to take pictures of six alpine 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 fourth 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 Algonquin and Porter while stopping at specific points to listen to bird calls and map their locations.

Trail Maintenance and Project Days:

With a seasoned crew we've been able to get a lot of work done. Trail maintenance was done on Marcy, Algonquin, Wright, Cascade, Colden, Gothics, Haystack, Basin, Skylight, Iroquois, Giant and Dix. The [Adirondack 46ers](#) provided funding for ADK's Professional Trail Crew to finish repairing cairns on Haystack in conjunction with summit stewards. We dug two privy holes for Cascade's high-elevation privies. As always we have been hard at work with regular brushing, scree wall work, cairn repair, and rock packing.



Before & after cairn repair on Wright Peak

| | Scree Wall | Brush | Rock Pack | Cairn Rocks Removed | Cairn Repair | Poop Buried |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Marcy | 395 | 775 | 62 | 292 | 4 | 41 |
| Algonquin | 495 | 518 | 136 | 209 | 4 | 10 |
| Wright | 193 | 132 | 24 | 54 | 5 | 2 |
| Cascade | 390 | | 35 | 93 | 3 | 6 |
| Colden | 85 | 310 | 100 | | | 5 |
| Gothics | 10 | 55 | | | | |
| Haystack | 165 | 45 | 30 | 15 | 8 | |
| Iroquois | 5 | 10 | 5 | 20 | | 1 |
| Giant | | | 300 | | | 4 |
| Dix | | 100 | | | | |
| Skylight | 15 | 30 | | 10 | | |
| Basin | 10 | | 15 | 20 | | 1 |
| Totals | 1,763 (feet) | 2,275 (feet) | 407 (square feet) | 713 rocks | 24 cairns | 69 poops |

Equipment and Campsites:

This year required more gear items due to the necessity of every steward having their own separate gear. We were able to use some ADK gear that wasn't being used through the Education Department. Many thanks go to the companies that provide us with equipment and clothing. Stalwart program sustainers, such as [Vasque](#) and [Darn Tough](#), help to improve the program and the experience of the stewards through their donations of gear. We are very grateful for the support!

[Outdoor Research \(OR\)](#) is unfortunately no longer a sponsor of the Summit Stewardship Program. We thank them for their many years of support. Thankfully, with a decrease in staff there wasn't much to replace for clothing. 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. Through the Will Cummer Gear Fund we were able to buy new tarps for the camps, a water gravity filter, water filters and radio equipment. We couldn't do our jobs without such necessary gear items.

Many, many thanks go to the Will Cummer Gear Fund, Darn Tough, The Mountaineer, and Vasque for their generous support of the Summit Stewardship Program. For next year, we will be replacing rain pants, convertible pants, glove liners, pack covers and work gloves. If you know of other gear outfitters who could provide clothing to the Summit Stewardship Program, let me know!

Special thanks go to Tyler Socash, Mary Glynn and Chuck Pacer for setting up and taking down the Marcy and Algonquin camps.

Future recommendations:

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

- ❑ Continue to build our virtual training arsenal
- ❑ Working to educate more hikers before they arrive at the trailhead through virtual means like social media
- ❑ Working with DEC to make sure they have the most up-to-date data on alpine stewardship
- ❑ Spending more time team stewarding, both in the beginning and throughout the season
- ❑ Do another round of photopoint monitoring and revamp the project
- ❑ Continuing to expand and improve the volunteer program
- ❑ Building group project days to accomplish more high quality trail maintenance
- ❑ Conducting more public outreach programs throughout the year to expand our visibility (and please contact me if you're interested in having a virtual program!)

Thank you!

As always, the Summit Stewardship 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
- ❑ Adirondack 46ers
- ❑ Will Cummer Gear Fund
- ❑ #507 Fund for the Summit Stewardship Program
- ❑ Family of Dr. Norton Miller
- ❑ ORDA and the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center for access to the summit of Whiteface via the Memorial Highway
- ❑ The Mountaineer
- ❑ REI
- ❑ Environmental Protection Fund
- ❑ Vasque
- ❑ Darn Tough
- ❑ Stewart's Shops

And individuals:

Sophie McClelland (TNC), Bill Martin (TNC), Amanda Ely (TNC), Jim Giglinto (DEC), Tate Connor (DEC), Scott VanLear (DEC), Jack Coleman (ADKhighpeaks Foundation), Andrew Miller, Wilson Cummer, Ian Ellbogen, David Warfield, Mary Lamb, Mike Cady, Vin Maresco, John Wood, Lois Dannenberg, Ann Fogarty, Jen Maguder, Patrick Murphy, Andrew Wood, Jim Schneider, Bill Paradies, Brian Coville, Ryan Nerp, Tom Collins, Tim Howard (NYNHP), Steve Young (NYNHP), Jason Hill, Sean Robinson (SUNY Oneonta), Paul Casson (ASRC), Rob Daley (DEC), Julia Goren (Adirondack Council), Vinny McClelland, Charlie Wise, Chuck Bruja and the entire staff of The Mountaineer, Jaeger Shaw, Tom Manitta, Bobby Clark, Ben Brosseau, Tyler Socash, Mary Glynn, and Maggie Newell.

It has been such a challenging and rewarding season. I just want to thank all of you for your continued support. Thank you for reaching out, it really has meant the world to us. I am so proud of the work we did this year and the decisions we made to keep ourselves and the public safe. The Adirondack alpine zone is such a unique and beautiful ecosystem and it is a privilege to be a part of this stewardship program. The work that we do to protect the alpine plants and the

Adirondack Park is essential. I can't imagine a better place to work or more satisfying work to do. Please feel free to contact me at any time for help or with questions, suggestions, or opportunities for the program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kayla White
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&

Seth Jones
Education Director
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