

ADIRONDACK TRAILS

Vol. 16, No. 1 Spring 2011

The annual newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club Trails Program

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FOOT BRIDGES THAT WERE REPAIRED BY THE SUMMIT STEWARDS BELOW THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT MARCY PHOTO: ANDY TESTO

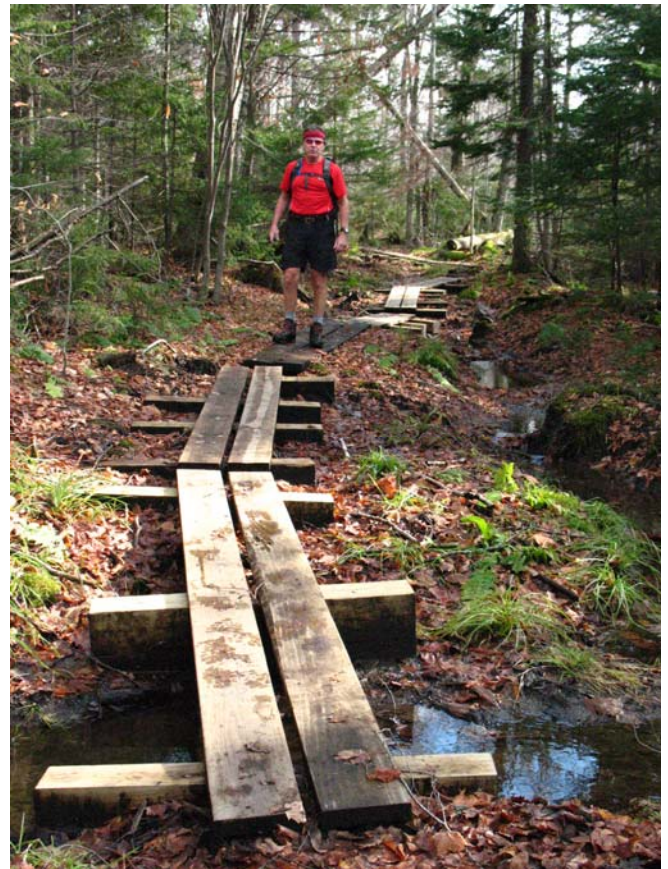
From the Trails Committee Chair - Frank Krueger

Membership on the trails committee remains strong with 24 voting members. In March, Tom Martin, Forester, DEC Region 5, and John Wood, Forester, DEC Region 6, joined the committee as non-voting consultants. Both Tom and John have been strong participants in advising the committee on DEC policy and trails construction and maintenance. John Schneider, who has run the ADK Adopt-a-Lean-To Program for many years, has recently resigned his position as volunteer coordinator of this program. John will remain on the committee. Hillary Moynihan, who recently joined the committee, has replaced John as coordinator.

Historically, the trails committee has been heavily involved in the Johns Brook Valley trail work weekend in early June, in which committee members and other volunteers spend the weekend removing blow-down and clearing out drainage ditches on the trails in and around Johns Brook Valley. Two years ago, after some frustration concerning the poor state of the trails in Johns Brook Valley, the committee decided to renovate the Klondike Trail between ADK's Johns Brook Lodge and the trail to Yard Mountain. This trail was in particularly bad shape as it passes through several perpetually wet sections on its climb toward Klondike Pass. In the distant past, these wet areas were traversed by extensive wooden bog bridges. In recent years however, the bridges have deteriorated into rotten logs and exposed steel spikes, creating a dangerous situation. The plan was to replace approximately 300 feet of wooden bog bridges over a three-year period, with 100 feet of new bog bridges installed in 2010, 100 feet of new bog bridges installed in 2011, and the remaining 100 feet of rotten bog bridging replaced by relocating the trail to a dryer area.

Since the old spruce bridging was to be replaced with treated lumber and flown into the trail site, materials for the first 100 feet of the project were purchased last fall and dried over the winter in

the ADK Trails Cabin at Heart Lake. In the spring, these materials were flown into the trail location as part of the regular ADK fly-in of materials to the Johns Brook Lodge for the summer season. The cost of the materials and the helicopter flight time for the project was underwritten by substantial contributions from ADK members Carolyn and Gene Kaczka, John Lewandowski, the Mohican, Long Island, Schenectady, North Woods, and Mid-Hudson ADK Chapters. (The food for the Johns Brook Valley work weekend is always contributed by committee secretary Marilyn Gillespie.)



Frank Krueger walking on new Klondike bridges

Under the leadership of trail boss Neil Parker (June 11-13, 2010), 100 feet of old bog bridging was replaced. Since there was such a strong turnout for the Johns Brook Valley trail work weekend, another group of volunteers, under the leadership of ADK volunteer trail leader Casey Ward, was able to complete a reroute of the trail on higher ground that avoided replacing another 100

feet of bog bridging. Meanwhile, a third and fourth group of volunteers cleaned drainage ditches on the trails up and over Big Slide and Yard Mountains. Heavy blow-down between Big Slide and Yard Mountains was removed. Thus, 2 years of planned work was accomplished in 1 year. Next spring (2011) the remaining 100 feet of bog bridging will be replaced. Meanwhile, last summer the ADK pro crew, under contract with DEC, replaced the wooden ladder up the steep crag just below the Big Slide summit. So, the hike from Johns Brook Lodge up and over Big Slide and Yard Mountain has become noticeably more pleasant and safe.

Another highlight of the year was the Backcountry Stewardship Rendezvous recently hosted by ADK. On Saturday, October 2, over 50 trail and lean-to adopters gathered at Adirondac Loj for a day of comradeship, workshops, good presentations, and good food. The event was organized by Wes Lampman, ADK Director of Field Programs, Tom Martin, DEC Region 5 Forester, and John Schneider and Herb Coles, respectively coordinators of ADK's Lean-to and Trail Adopter programs. The key-note speaker was Willie Janeway, Past ADK Trails Director and currently DEC Region 3 Director.



Herb Coles and trail steward Christine Bourjade

On a snowy, wet Saturday on October 16, ADK sponsored its annual Fall Trails Day. Notwithstanding the weather, there was a strong turnout of volunteers, who removed blow-down and

cleaned drainage ditches on the heavily used trails within hiking distance of Adirondac Loj. One group of volunteers from the trails committee, the Adirondack Ski Touring Council, and Canadian volunteers from Cyclo de Nature, worked on the Mr. Van Ski Trail, an historic trail that goes from Adirondac Loj to the Mount Van Hoevenberg Ski Touring Area. This trail, a favorite of backcountry skiers, had become overgrown. Over the past several years, through the work of volunteers organized by ADK and the Adirondack Ski Touring Council, the trail had been reopened between Mt. Van Hoevenberg and the Klondike Trail. During the fall of 2010 a strong group of Canadian volunteers from Randonee Outing Club worked with Wes Lampman to reopen the section between the Klondike Trail and the Marcy Dam Truck Road. Then, on Fall Trails Day, the remaining section of trail between the Truck Road and Adirondac Loj was cleared of extensive blow-down and vegetation. Although the bridge over Marcy Brook remains out, the entire trail is now skiable when the brook is frozen over.

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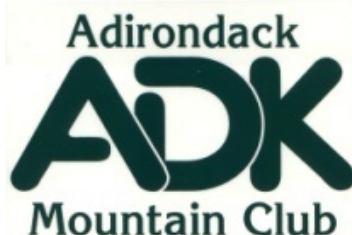
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VOLUNTEER TRAILS PROGRAM

TRAIL VOLUNTEERS 2010 – THANK YOU & we hope to see you again during the 2011 season!

Anita Abrams, Corey Aiken, Alvaro Alarcon, Neal Andrews, Alexandra Ashby, Jeffrey Bahnson, Cheryl Baker, Chris Ballway, Michael Battisti, Julie Baum, Barbara Bave, Ian Baxter, Ryan Baxter, Chris Beans, Carol & Robert Benson, Joe Berner, Anya Bickford, Peter Biesemeyer, Ron Blackmore, Brandon Bombard, Michal Bowen, Joe & Alison Brant, Chris & Shannon Bresett, Lorraine Brink, Katie Britton, Jeremy Broms, Jae Lyn Burke, Elaine Burke, Zak Campbell, Gregory & Mary Ann Charon, Paul Charon, Dan Cirenza, Raymond Clark, Madeline Cobb, William & Mary Coffin, Herbert Coles, Ellen Collins, Timothy W. Coughlin, James Covey, Noah Cutter, Kathleen Daly, Pat Danbreg, Dan D'Angelico, Kai Daniel, Noel Davis, Timothy W. Demers, John DeSeyn, Daniel DeVaul, Oliver Diaz, Keith Dickover, Lizzy DiGiouine, Noel & Wes Dingman, Kathy Disque, Jon Donahue, Adam Donohue, Bill Doss, Diane Dumouchel, Peter M. Dziamba, John Elford, Tom Ellis, Gail Epstein, June Fait, Megan Falicchio, Gault & Phyllis Farrell, Carma & Steve Flannery, Yvanoe Fortier, J. Michael Forsythe, Josh Foster, John Fritzen, Jules Gagne, Adam Garza, Gail Gaskin, Adam George, Christine Gerson, Kevin & Sharon Getman, Deborah Geurtze, Kelly Gidman, Peter & Marilyn Gillespie, Tony Goodwin, Brian Grzeskowiak, Chris Haessly, Andrew Hamlin, Sarah Hansen, Leslie Harrison, Dan Hausner, Charles and Mary Hausladen, Benjamin Hayko, Michael Heller, Larry Herko, David Herman, Emily Hibbins, Michelle Hoffman, Karen Hoffman, Nate Hutchings, Sheila Hutt, William Ingersoll, Sophia Jaffe, Walter Johnson, TJ Johnston, Seth Jones, Kevin A. Karl, George Karpas, Denise Kirwan, Don Klein, Larry Kolwaite, Martin & Phyllis Korn, Lee Kosiba, Frank Krueger, Marc Loiacono, Liane Langlois, Bill & Rosemary Larocque, Michael LaVare, Theodore Lebeaux, Wan Jae Lee, James Lenney, Linda Lessard, John Lewandowski, Anthony Lisi, Danika Luntz-Martin, Jenna Lute, Russell Martin, Evan Masten, Jan Mcann, Jonathan McDonald, Kevin McDonough, Matt McNamara, Mike McLean, Russell Mestin, Jory Mikel, Kathryn Miles, Rick & Jane Moon, Genny Morley, Ann Mundy, Tom Murphy, Richard T. Murray, Daniel & Lori Nelson, Norman Ness, Larry Newman, Emily Nolan, Jacob Northcutt, Ryan Null, Gail Opanhoske, Liz Ordway, Thomas Ortmeyer, Neil & Jackie Parker, William Pettit, Sylvain Picard, Frank and Lorraine Pine, Alain Pitre, Louise Potter, Susan Potter, Susanne Praeger, Donald Quinn-Jacobs, Martine Remondin, Devon Reynolds, Vinnie & Maria Rinella, Gilbert Riviera, Maureen Robertson, Kyle Roddy, Jody Rothmeyer, Andrew Rowney, George Runtaman, Sasha Ryan, David Ryder, Laura Santos-Bishop, Tom Schafer, Joanne Scheibly, Aurora Schein, John Schneider, Alan Schwedt, Carolyn Scripps, Joan Shikowitz, Catherine Smith, Felix Smith, Bill & Rosemary Snyder, Steven & Mery Sokal, Neil Sutter, Steve Swensen, Andy Testa, Bethany Titus, James Townsend, Bernadette Traeger, Steve & Joan Turbek, Trip Twetan, Shepard Urbahn, Evan Van Cort-Wels, Emily Van Loon, Hunter Vanyo, Kate Walsh, Casey Ward, Patty Warrington, Barbara Warschefsky, Pete Watkins, Lois & Nat Wells, Tom Wemett, Pat & Peg Whaley, Adam Whitford, Carol Willey, Leslie Wiltshire, Annie Wong, John Wood, Neil & Holly Woodworth, Sonny Young, John Wood, Neil & Holly Woodworth, Sonny Young

Every attempt was made to include everyone who participated in an ADK volunteer trail project. Please forgive us if your name is not included or misspelled.



The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) is dedicated to the protection and responsible recreational use of the New York State Forest Preserve, parks, & other wild lands and waters. The Club, founded in 1922, is a member-directed organization committed to public service and stewardship. ADK employs a balanced approach to outdoor recreation, environmental education, advocacy, and natural resource conservation.

Supervised Volunteer Trails Program

Over two hundred volunteers participated in trail projects throughout the Adirondacks in 2010. Once again, volunteers of all different ages pitched in to repair and maintain miles of trails.

2010 Volunteer Trail Crew Leaders:

Megan Falicchio – 1st year

Matt McNamara – Trails Coordinator

Casey Ward – 2nd year

Before the regular season started, the ADK Trails Program hosted an Elderhostel service project at the end of April. With five volunteers over three miles of trail was patrolled and side-cut. The Elderhostel crew also constructed and rebuilt one log water bar and dug out over eighty feet of new ditching. Trail work was focused on ski trails located on the Loj property, the Mr. Van Ski Trail, and the trail to Marcy Dam.

Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter Annual Long Lake Trip

Long time volunteers together with some newcomers cleared drainage and over 70 blown down trees from the south end of Long Lake off of route 30 north to Shattuck's Clearing. This section of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail is almost 12 miles in length. Chapter volunteers also replaced four bog bridges that spanned over 40 feet of soggy trail.

After spending well over 20 years as the stewards of this section of the N-P Trail, the Chapter has decided to pass on the maintenance duties to another steward. The ADK Field Program staff would like to thank the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter members who devoted their time and energy over multiple Mother's Day weekends to work on the trail. Hopefully the next stewards of this trail section will do as good of a job.

Annual Long Island Chapter maintenance trip on The Brothers Trail

ADK trails staff joined with Long Island Chapter volunteers to maintain the 3.7 mile long Brothers

trail. The Long Island Chapter is the designated trail stewards for this section of trail. Existing drainage was cleaned and twenty blown down trees were removed from the trail.

Trail Steward Workshop

This one-day workshop took place once again on the trail to Blue Mountain. The workshop is intended to give trail maintainers an understanding of basic trail maintenance concepts and standards. Five volunteers learned the principles of cleaning drainage, blow-down removal, side-cutting, and trail marking. These new trail maintainers were provided with the training necessary to become official trail stewards and at the end of the workshop they were supplied with a copy of ADK's Basic Trail Maintenance Manual.

National Trails Day

The ADK volunteer trails program returned to Indian Lake to celebrate the construction of over seven miles of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail that now traverses through the Blue Ridge Wilderness



Volunteers side-cutting & removing blow-down from the Northville-Lake Placid Trail. Photo: Bill Snyder Area. There were a number of different kinds of trail projects completed including repairing & building new foot bridges, creating over 250 feet of new drainage ditching, side-cutting over one mile of trail and removing over 20 blown down trees. Volunteers were allowed to stay at the Lake Durant

state campground and were treated to a barbecue dinner & music after the work day.

One Day Trail Projects

On Azure Mountain, five volunteers cleaned out existing drainage ditches and also constructed twelve earthen water-bars. In September, the Field Programs Director worked with five volunteers from the Canadian club Randonee on opening the overgrown section of the Mr. Van Ski Trail between the Marcy Dam Truck Road and the Klondike Trail. The 1.2 mile section of ski trail was heavily overgrown and had over 15 blown down trees that needed to be removed.

Multi-Day Front Country Projects

Both of the five day long front country trail projects were not well attended but in spite of that a large amount of trail work was completed. The first project was repairing the boardwalk that crosses McIntyre Brook at the beginning of the Marcy Dam Trail. Over forty feet of the boardwalk was re-leveled and raised to avoid higher water levels. Just past the boardwalk towards Marcy Dam, over fifty feet of new ski & snowshoe trail was also constructed to replace what was a steep section of trail that ended in a swamp. The second project was located in the Wilmington Wild Forest on the Flume multi-use trail network. The trail project was located on the Ridge Trail. With just four trail workers, eighteen stepping stones were installed along with over thirty square feet of protective scree rock.

Multi-Day High School Projects

There were five different high school aged volunteer trail projects in 2010. Thirty-one students between the ages of 14-17 participated. A crew spent a few days on the Northville-Lake Placid Trail side-cutting. Over a mile of trail was trimmed back to standard north of the Cedar Lake Dam in the West Canada Lake Wilderness. On the trail to Scarface Mountain located in Ray Brook, the volunteer crew built thirteen earthen water bars

along with over 200 feet of new drainage ditches. Volunteers returned to Lyon Mountain to make more improvements to the new section of hiking trail that was built in 2008. Eleven rock steps and 88 square feet of scree rock were added to the new trail. Lots of new improvements were made to the cross country ski trail that leads to Deer Pond that is located outside of Tupper Lake on Route 3. Over 60



High School trail volunteers packing out on the Deer Pond cross country ski trail.

feet of new bridges were constructed using materials that the volunteers carried in to the site by hand. The volunteer crew also managed to cut back over a half mile of heavily overgrown trail. On DeBar Mountain, a volunteer crew completed one water bar containing 15 boulders and also four new earthen water bars with over 72 feet of new ditches. Over a half mile of the trail was also side-cut.

Long Lake Canoe Project

Volunteers spent four days camping and paddling on Long Lake in August. Five outhouses were relocated and new holes were dug for each. Campsites were also cleaned up including twenty fire rings.

Fall Trails Day

Over fifty trail workers attended this year's annual Fall Trails Day event. Unfortunately, many of the drainage ditches that are normally cleaned out were filled with snow from an early storm. Volunteers

managed to patrol over 13 miles of trail and removed 10 blown down trees.

St. John – U.S. Virgin Islands



ADK trail volunteers in St. John Photo: John Schneider

For the first time ever, the ADK supervised volunteer trails program traveled to the U.S. Virgin Island St. John at the end of February 2011. In collaboration with the Friends of Virgin Islands National Park, ADK volunteers completed trail work on two sections of hiking trail and stayed at a base camp that was located in the Cinnamon Bay campground. Over a five day period, the 20 person volunteer crew completed a tremendous amount of work: 500 feet of new trail was side hilled at an average four foot width, over 400 feet of trail was re-graded at an average width of four feet, seven enormous water bars were constructed, and over 140 feet of new ditches were installed.



Volunteers add fill to a rock water bar Photo: John Schneider

Professional Trail Crew

In spite of the late New York State budget and severe cuts to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the ADK professional trails

Crew Boss and Crew Leader – Andrew Hamlin (4th year)

5th Year Member – Paul Ranum

3rd Year Members – Chris Beans, Josh Foster, Laura Santos-Bishop

2nd Year Members - Jeremy Broms, Emily Van Loon, Ryan Baxter, Dan Cirenza, Madeline Cobb, Jake Northcutt, Tom Schafer

1st Year Members – Chris Ballway, Zak Campbell, Jenna Lute, Jonathan McDonald, Kyle Roddy

Food Coordinator – David Ryder (2nd year)

program was able to complete a long list of trail projects through funding from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Without sufficient funding of the EPF and the continued support of DEC personnel, the trail contract would not have been possible. The trail crew worked in regions 5 & 6 in the Adirondacks for twenty one weeks and in regions 3 & 4 in the Catskills for fourteen weeks. At the beginning of the trail building season when there was uncertainty over the trail contract, ADK was approached by the Uihlein Foundation to build some new trail sections at Henry’s Woods. This offer couldn’t have come at a better time. Henry’s Woods is a popular network of multi-use, non-motorized trails located in Lake Placid. <http://www.lakeplacidnews.com/page/content.detail/id/502831.html> These trails are a huge asset to the community because they are easily accessed, well designed, and offer a rewarding backwoods experience just minutes from town. Over five weeks, an ADK professional trail crew built close to three miles of new trail along with a foot bridge, a rock retaining wall, and created several viewing areas. Much of the new trail was initially “roughed out” by a mini-backhoe and then the trail crew

completed the excavation of the final tread grade using non-motorized hand tools.

The ADK professional trail crew traveled to Rensselaer Falls to work at the Indian Creek Nature Center for one week. This trail project was also not a part of the DEC contract. The trail crew installed close to 400 feet of dimensional foot bridges over seasonally wet areas on the Lowland Trail. The Lowland Trail is a short loop trail that traverses along the edge of a marsh. <http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.us/>

Catskills - Region 3

Other than spending one week patrolling over twenty five miles of trail cleaning drainage ditches and removing close to 90 blown down trees, a trail crew spent six weeks creating new trail in Rochester Hollow which is located in the Shandaken Wild Forest. More work is needed on this three mile long loop trail and it will be completed during the 2011 field season. The new trail will begin nearby the Burrough's plaque and traverses through the rugged hillside above.

Catskills - Region 4

Over three and a half miles of multi-use trail with a focus on mountain biking was built in the Elm Ridge Wild Forest. This network of loop trails can be quickly accessed from the parking area for the Windham High Peak/Escarpment trail head on route 23 near Windham. These trails can not only be enjoyed from a mountain bike but also make for excellent walking or cross-country skiing.

Adirondacks - Region 5

The trail crew concentrated their efforts in the High Peaks region replacing wooden structures that were failing and also installing erosion control measures on some of the more popular trails. With the generous funding that was once again provided by the 46ers, the trail crew was able to patrol over fifty miles of trail in the High Peaks Region at the end of May.



2010 Professional Trail Crew

Many bridges were replaced over the course of the season. On the Mr. Van Ski Trail, the bridge over Klondike Brook was replaced. The last bridge was built in 1998 by an ADK trail crew and its stringers just failed last spring. Stone abutments were built for the stringers to rest on. The main bridge over the Opalescent River along with twelve, smaller foot bridges between the river and the Feldspar lean-to were rebuilt. This section of trail was also side-cut, making it much easier to follow. The last Opalescent bridge was constructed by an ADK trail crew in 1994. On the trail to Rocky Falls and Scott's Clearing, the trail crew replaced two bridges along with six stepping stones, sixty feet of drainage ditches, and over 100 square feet of turnpike in two weeks.

The trail crew spent three weeks repairing sections of the trail to Wright Peak & Algonquin. Focusing on eroded areas of trail that are above the Whales Tail trail junction, the crew set 56 rocks as stepping stones, water-bars, and retaining walls. Over forty feet of new drainage ditches and a forty five square foot turnpike were also built.

In the Johns Brook Valley, the trail crew spent two weeks respectively on the trail to Big Slide Mountain and on the Ore Bed Trail. Working above the lean-to on the Ore Bed Trail, 28 rock steps, nine rock, & seven earthen water-bars with over 231 feet of new drainage ditches were

completed by a trail crew. The main goal on the Big Slide Trail was replacing the lower set of ladders that were originally built by an ADK trail crew in 1994. This was accomplished with an improvement; the new thirty four foot ladder extends all the way to the bottom of the upper ladder that was installed in 2003. Eleven rock steps and over eighty square feet of protective scree were also laid down on the Big Slide Trail.

Adirondacks - Region 6

It was the season of foot bridges in Region 6. In all of the locations that the trail crew worked, they were replacing existing bridges that had deteriorated and become unsafe to walk over. On the Lower Sister Trail in the Pigeon Lakes Wilderness twenty bridges were replaced in two weeks totaling 212 feet. One quarter of a mile of this trail was also side-cut along with 10 blown down trees removed.

The trail crew enjoyed working on the remote Red Horse Trail in the southern part of the Five Ponds Wilderness. Two, large sections of



New bog bridges on the Red Horse Trail

bridging was replaced which allows hikers to travel this trail without having to consider going for a swim anymore. All told, twenty six bridges were replaced that span 230 feet.

In the Ha-dah-ron-dah Wilderness on the trail next to Middle Settlement Lake, more foot bridges were installed. Nearby the recently restored lean-to, seven bridges that span eighty feet were hewn out of spruce and hemlock. Some of the stringers needed small support abutments.

High Peaks Summit Steward Program

Summit Steward Coordinator:

Julia Goren - 5th year

Seasonal Summit Stewards:

Seth Jones – 3rd season

Andy Testos – 1st season

Katie Britton – 1st season

Volunteer Summit Stewards:

Frank Krueger – 9th season

Kathleen Wiley – 3rd season

1st season:

Devon Reynolds, Ian Ellbogen,

Drake Pregnall, Ryan Williams,

Andrea Hill and Greg Popp

*Excerpts from the 2010 End of Season Report by
Summit Steward Coordinator Julia Goren*

Greetings! The 21st season of the Summit Steward Program drew to a close on a beautiful and crowded Columbus Day weekend. This year has been a very busy one! Winter and spring brought lots of projects, while the beautiful weather this summer meant many visitors to the summits.

The past twenty-one years have seen a tremendous change in hiker ethics and etiquette above tree line; one only has to look around on the summits to see this change. Many hikers who come to the summits say that they've either spoken to a steward before or read information about "Doing the Rock Walk". This is fantastic, but it doesn't mean that our work is finished. Every year we have

new hikers coming to the summits, so we still have plenty of people to educate.

The Summit Steward Program and Legacies

The Summit Steward Program entered its twenty-first year this summer on a bittersweet note. This year marked the passing of Dr. Edwin Ketchledge, program founder and longtime steward of the Adirondack alpine zone. Without Ketch's passion, drive, and tireless efforts, there would be precious little alpine vegetation left to protect. We of the Summit Steward Program feel honored to be a part of his legacy and to continue his work in insuring that the alpine plants continue to thrive on our summits.

Education: Usage and Outreach

Weather this summer was a wonderful change from the 2009 season. It was warm and sunny for much of the season. May brought hot weather, causing snow to melt and flowers to bloom solidly a week early this year. June was seasonably cool and rainy, but July and August brought lots of sunshine. September and October saw a consistent pattern of rain during the week, with sunshine and cold weather on the weekends. Not surprisingly, favorable weather meant that we saw record numbers of hikers -- **16,447** people visited the summits and talked to a steward this year.

| Year | Total Contacts | Days Covered | Average |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------|
| 2010 | 16,447 | 243 | 67.7 |
| 2009 | 18,420 | 283 | 65 |
| 2008 | 12,350 | 198 | 62.4 |
| 2007 | 14,005 | 199 | 70.3 |
| 2006 | 14,004 | 242 | 57.9 |
| 2005 | 12,022 | 195 | 61.7 |
| 2004 | 10,436 | 152 | 68.7 |
| 2003 | 11,032 | | |
| 2002 | 13,182 | | |
| 2001 | 14,515 | | |
| 2000 | 14,297 | | |
| 1999 | 16,099 | | |
| Total Contacts 1990-2010: 287,819 | | | |
| ** Does not include Columbus Day weekend numbers | | | |

Unlike the 2009 season, where high contact numbers were attributable to increased staffing and greater coverage of Cascade Mt, the 2010 increase is a direct result of greater visitation. With beautiful weather for much of the summer, this increase was not surprising.

Public outreach continues to be an important part of the Summit Steward program, both on and off of the peaks. I'm always working on expanding our visibility and outreach; this season the program was featured on North Country Public Radio and in the *International Journal of Wilderness*. In addition to our coverage of peaks, I also did a number of different

outreach programs: Albany Chapter of ADK, Lake Placid Outing Club, Alpine Club of Canada new member's weekend, Gordon College La Vida program, Franklin County Biology Teachers, AP Biology class,



Environmental Studies class, Image from www.wild.org new ADK staff, Lake Placid Garden Club, Antioch University, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES, and a public program at the Johns Brook Lodge. As a Leave No Trace Master Educator, I also provided two LNT trainer courses and an awareness workshop.

Botany projects and other research

This was a tremendously productive year in terms of research for the steward program. We continued our participation in regional efforts such as Mountain Watch, assisted researchers, and conducted botany surveys for the New York Natural Heritage Program. Prior to the start of the field season, I finished analysis and completed reporting on one research grant, applied for and received a second grant, and published an article on the steward program in an internationally circulated journal.

Grant projects: During the winter of 2010, I completed analysis of the photopoint monitoring images to complete the work for the Northern States Research Cooperative funded project “Photopoint Monitoring in the Adirondack Alpine”. This was a grant for \$5,900 that we received in 2009 to answer the question of whether the Summit Steward program is making a statistically significant difference in vegetation recovery on alpine summits. The short version of the findings is that yes, the Summit Steward program has made a significant difference (for a full version, please visit the link below “Photopoint Monitoring in the Adirondack Alpine Final Report”). This is exciting news, and not just because it confirms that the program is working! We are one of only a handful of stewardship programs to be able to quantify our success, so this work has generated a lot of interest. <http://www.uvm.edu/rsenr/nsrc/fullprojectpdfs/gorenfull09.pdf>.

As a direct result of this project, I was contacted by Chris Monz, a researcher at Utah State University. We applied for and received a grant for \$25,000 from the Northern States Research Cooperative to fund two years of continued work on the photopoint project (2010 and 2011). Phase I of the project has involved more sophisticated analysis of the images and Phase II will involve rephotographing all 50 points. During Phase II the grant will cover an additional seasonal steward for the full field season to retake all 50 photopoints.

Other research: This year marks the third year of our participation in the AMC Mountain Watch phenology program. The data collected is being stored in hard copy here at the Adirondack Mountain Club and being submitted electronically to the AMC’s Mountain Watch Program. AMC will use 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. We collected over

40 observations for this project over the course of the summer.



Andy Testo looking for rare species on Panther Peak

Additionally this season, we surveyed 9 different locations to update 17 botanical species records for the New York Natural Heritage Program. We also helped with two different bryophyte research projects.

Trail Work and Project Days

We were able to accomplish both minor and major work on Marcy, Wright, Colden, Haystack, Algonquin, Gothics, Dix, and Whiteface.

Marcy: Bog bridges on the Marcy Plateau were repaired, raising the level of the planks out of the water. Several hundred feet of herd paths were brushed in between the Indian Falls and the summit. One cairn was rebuilt and approximately 90 feet of new scree walls were constructed.

Algonquin: Over 30 feet of brushing, new scree walls, rock packing, and one cairn rebuilt.

SUMMIT STEWARD PROGRAM



Painting blazes on Whiteface Mountain

Colden: Over 150 feet of brushing

Dix: 25 feet of brushing

Gothics: Over 90 feet of brushing

Haystack: Approximately 50 feet of brushing and new scree walls

Whiteface: Over 20 rock piles were removed and new blazing was done to delineate the trail from Whiteface Landing.

Wright: 3 cairns were repaired on Wright this year, along with well over 100 feet of brushing work done to close herd paths. A new sign was added, helping to guide visitors to the site of the plaque and plane wreckage. Additionally, trail signs and posts were (finally!) replaced at the Wright/Algonquin junction.

Work Totals:

Brushing: 600 feet

Scree walls: 400 feet

Rock packing: 25 new areas

Cairn repair: 5 cairns repaired or rebuilt

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
- ❑ 46er Conservation Trust
- ❑ Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund
- ❑ The Adirondack 46ers
- ❑ Northern States Research Cooperative
- ❑ ORDA for access to the summit of Whiteface via the Memorial Highway
- ❑ The Mountaineer
- ❑ Vasque for boots for stewards
- ❑ Campmor
- ❑ Darn Tough Socks
- ❑ OR
- ❑ W.L. Gore and Associates

The alpine zone is a remarkable ecosystem, and everyone should be proud to be a part of protecting it. Please feel free to contact me at anytime for help or with questions, suggestions, or opportunities for the program.

Julia Goren



Seth Jones assists Sean Robinson, researcher and former summit steward, in transport of research equipment