

To: Summit Stewardship Program Partners, Supporters, and Friends
From: Liam Ebner & Kayla White
Date: October 30th, 2023

2023 Summit Steward End of Season Report



In our **34th year**, the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program saw successes in expanding our coverage, assisting in research projects, and trail maintenance projects. This was my first season leading the program and it was definitely

an exciting one. Like the 2022 season, we hired a Chief Summit Steward in order to help train volunteers and staff. This position allows us to get more new volunteers trained every year, provide another experienced staff member to support the summit stewards, and helps us to accomplish all of our trail maintenance and research projects. This season we had one Chief Steward, five summit stewards, and 40 volunteers out on the summits.

Summit Stewards **educated 33,421 hikers** this year, bringing our total contacts since the start of the program in 1989 to **680,263**. Though total contacts have increased slightly from last season, our average contacts per day were lower. No matter how many interactions we have with hikers on the summit, we are always striving to educate as many people as possible on protecting outdoor places and Leave No Trace, increasing our understanding and knowledge of the alpine zone, and protecting alpine plants above tree line through trail maintenance.

Everything accomplished this season was made possible through the generous support from our partners, donors, sponsors, and people like you. The [Adirondack 46ers](#) have continued to be such stalwart sponsors of the program. This is the [third year](#) of a three-year commitment. A huge thank you to our friends at [The Mountaineer](#) for facilitating gear sponsorship through [SCARPA](#) (boots), [Darn Tough](#) (socks), and [Patagonia](#) (rain pants), as well as discounts on gear at The Mountaineer. In 2020, the family of Dr. Norton Miller 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. Thank you to [The Waterman Fund](#) who has provided funding to help support the growth of the Summit Stewardship Program and ADK's stewardship efforts. We now have two full-time stewardship staff. [Nine Pin Cider](#) held its bi-annual 26er Challenge which entails trying 26 new hard ciders made exclusively for the challenge over the course of one year. A [portion of the sales](#) from the 26 ciders is donated to the Summit Stewardship Program. The Summit Stewardship Program also received a grant from the [Helen and Ritter Shumway Foundation Grant](#) through Bank of America.

Thanks also to the program partners who keep the Summit Stewardship Program running: the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (ANC), and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for extensive administrative, logistical, and financial support. Funding through the [Environmental Protection Fund \(EPF\)](#) is administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. A big thanks goes to Kevin Burns and Tate Connor for their continued guidance.

State of the Summit Stewardship Program:

Below is a list of projects that I hope to work on next year, as well as projects that I would like to take a moment to discuss accomplishments from this season.

Below you can see the 2023 project list in *italics*.

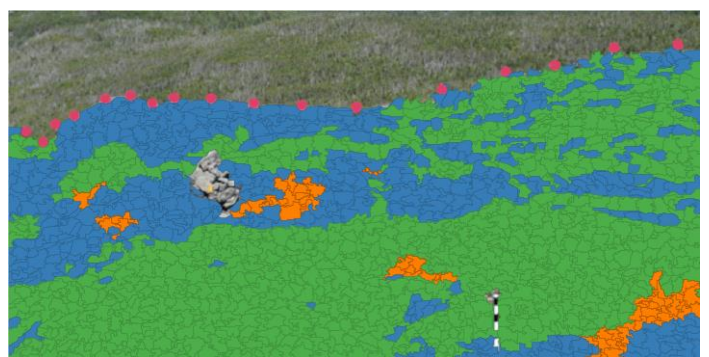
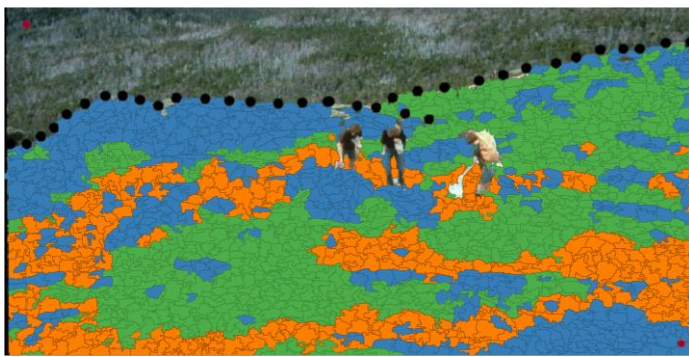
□ Photopoint Monitoring Research

The program established a photographic monitoring system in 1999 to better quantify the interplay among hiker trampling, vegetation growth and persistence, and education efforts and trail maintenance. In 2021, we retook 59 photopoint images and added new photopoints. In 2022 we added 82 oblique photopoints, 50 line transects containing 606 quadrat photos, and expanded our photopoint coverage from nine to sixteen summits. Tim Howard, from [New York Natural Heritage Program](#), has incorporated image classification into the analysis (see



Setting up a transect in New Hampshire with Hailey Lynch

below). We will wrap up the analysis of this round of photopoint over the winter and publish our findings.



1971

Blue: rock, Green: vegetation, Orange: soil

2021

In August Kayla and I traveled to New Hampshire to help train Nat Scrimshaw and Hailey Lynch from the World Trails Network on our photopoint monitoring methods. Nat hopes to establish a photopoint monitoring program on Franconia Ridge, as well as popular sub alpine summits in Northern New Hampshire.

□ *Fire Tower Stewarding on Hurricane Mountain*

This is the third year we've been educating on Hurricane Mountain, and it has been an amazing outreach opportunity. Hurricane Mountain is recommended by the DEC as an alternative hike to the high peaks. It's also a family-friendly mountain and is part of the Lake Placid 9er and Fire Tower Challenge. As fire tower stewards, we educate about the cultural history of the fire tower, the natural history of the area, and Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics. For some hikers, Hurricane is a steppingstone to the high peaks and we're there to educate them accordingly. We educated **2,932 hikers on Hurricane** which contributed to just under 9% of our total contact numbers for the year. This expansion has been an exciting opportunity for our staff and volunteers to try



Cairns help hikers find their way especially in cloudy and snowy conditions

something new. **We are looking for more volunteer fire tower stewards for Hurricane.** Please let me know if you are interested!

Since we've documented rare alpine/cliff-dwelling plants up there, we've also been working to better define the trail above treeline. We returned early in the season to move more rock and build a second cairn, as well as paint blazes above treeline. We also put a sign in the cairn discouraging hikers from tampering with it. In 2022, we had the cairn knocked over twice and the sign pulled out of it. This issue persisted throughout the 2023 season with cairns being toppled, rocks being hidden, and the sign thrown into the trees. Please help spread the word that cairns should be left alone and that they are different from stacked rocks created by hikers.

Thank you to our partners, Friends of Hurricane Mountain, and DEC for their assistance with this program.

□ Update Training for Staff and Volunteers

We can always improve on the training that we provide for our staff and volunteers. In 2022 we incorporated a visit and lecture on Haudenosaunee culture and history presented by Dave Fadden at the Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center. Hikers often ask about the presence and history of Indigenous peoples in the Adirondacks,



Julia Goren leading our botany training on Whiteface.

so this training is very helpful for stewards to have accurate information to share. In 2023, we added a training led by Mary Glynn on Mental Health Wilderness First Aid for the staff summit stewards.

□ Expand Coverage on the Great Range

The Great Range is home to a large number of the alpine plants we have in the Adirondacks, and they are all very popular mountains. Because we don't make it over there as often as other summits, the existing trail maintenance features get disturbed over time. For the trail maintenance we do in the alpine zone like scree wall, brushing, and rock packing, it needs at least semi-regular maintenance to be effective and promote revegetation of the summits. An additional issue faced with doing trail maintenance on several Great Range summits like Gothics, Saddleback, and Basin is the lack of available rock. When doing trail maintenance this season on Gothics and Saddleback, we needed to carry rock in pack frames from the col between Gothics and Pyramid, and up the "Saddleback Cliffs" to complete that trail maintenance. Restarting the carry-a-rock program on these summits can help stewards complete this important work.

Personnel and Scheduling



2023 Crew: L to R: Katie Leton, Olive Hunt, Maddy Ten Kate, Liam Ebner (Summit Steward Coordinator), Alex Cherry, and kneeling: Nate Greene, Bridey Ryan (Chief Steward)

The 2023 summit steward crew was a mixture of returning and brand-new staff this summer and was an awesome crew! I'm very proud of all the stewards this season and the alpine plants are lucky to have them on the summits!

Maddy Ten Kate— Maddy is returning for her second year with the program. She grew up hiking the fire towers and the High Peaks; her family also maintains lean-tos and has a cabin in Newcomb. Maddy currently attends the University of New England, where she will be a junior this fall. She loves educating kids about alpine plants!

Nate Greene—This is Nate's first year season as a summit steward, but he has been working at ADK since 2021 in the Naturalist Program as well as an Outreach Educator. He graduated from Paul Smiths College with a degree in Recreation, Adventure, and Leisure Management. When Nate is not stewarding, he enjoys exploring the Adirondack Park, getting to know all the plants and wildlife, and spending time with all his friends.

Olive Hunt— Olive is brand new to the program, but not to the Adirondacks. Olive met summit stewards on top of the peaks while growing up in Burlington. As a recent graduate of Skidmore College, majoring in Environmental Science with a Geoscience minor, Olive was an active member and trip leader for the Outing Club. When she's not on the mountain, Olive can be found climbing, biking, or studying for her EMT exam.

Alex Cherry— Alex is also a first-year summit steward, but he visited the Adirondacks with his family growing up in the Capitol Region. He recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire majoring in Environmental Conservation and Sustainability. Alex loves to talk about the alpine plants and show them to as many people that will let him!

Katie Leton— Katie is brand new to the program, but not the Adirondacks. She has previously worked on the North Country Camps as staff. She is a student at Colorado College, majoring in Environmental Studies and History. While Katie is not stewarding, she enjoys rock climbing, swimming, and a good book.

Bridey Ryan—Bridey has been Summit Steward for two seasons before assuming the role of Chief Steward this year. She graduated with a major in Cultural Studies from McGill University. Bridey previously worked in bird conservation in New Zealand. She's a natural up on the summits and feels passionate about protecting alpine plants.

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 Education Director.

Kayla White—Kayla is ADK's Stewardship Manager. It's her tenth year with the Summit Stewardship Program and her twelfth year at ADK. Kayla is excited to continue working

with all the stewards and volunteers and has been an amazing mentor as I am learning how to run the Summit Stewardship Program during this transition.

Liam Ebner—I'm ADK's Summit Steward Coordinator. This is my third year with the Summit Stewardship Program and with ADK. When I'm not at work I can be found paddling, birding, riding my bike, or doing something else outside.

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 maintenance or research without them. This year volunteers educated **10,303 hikers** on the summits, 30% of the total number of hikers educated this season. We were able to fully train seven new volunteers this year between the Summit Stewardship Program and the Hurricane Fire Tower Stewardship Program. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer summit steward for next year, you can reach out to me, and follow this [link for more information about the program](#) and to apply!

- Mary Lamb—11th year
- Ian Ellbogen—11th year
- Jack Coleman— 10th year volunteer, 1 year staff
- Lois Dannenberg—8th year
- Jen Denny—8th year volunteer, 2 years staff
- Jim Schneider—7th year
- Ryan Nerp—4th year volunteer, 4 years staff
- Tom Collins—4th year volunteer, 2 years staff
- Troy Tetreault—4th year volunteer, 1 year staff
- Drew Benware—4th year
- Tony Canike—4th year
- Bob George—3rd year
- Kevin Douglass—3rd year
- Klarisse Torriente—3rd year
- Lucas LaBarre—3rd year
- Matt Szopa—3rd year
- Audrey Fatone— 2nd year volunteer, 1 year staff
- Angela Ranzini—2nd year
- Tyler Lucero— 2nd year
- Tony Goodwin— 2nd year
- Caitlin Glynn—2nd year
- Jake Vitale—1st year volunteer, 1 year staff
- Esther Seacord—1st year
- Caitlin Porter—1st year

- Carla Denn—1st year
- Sean Gunderman—1st year
- Mark Epstein—1st year
- Summer Harris—1st year
- Carol Perkins— 1st year
- Kim Brown—3rd year, SSP & Hurricane
- Bob Hunter—3rd year with ADK, Friends of Hurricane Mountain
- Don Pachner—3rd year with ADK, Friends of Hurricane Mountain
- Beth Drohan —3rd year, Hurricane
- John Loughlin—2nd year, Hurricane
- Rebecca Collins— 1st year, Hurricane
- Kristy Martin—2nd year with ADK, Friends of Hurricane Mountain
- Pamela Gothner—2nd year with ADK, Friends of Hurricane Mountain
- Peter Slocum—Friends of Hurricane Mountain
- Mary Jean Bland—Friends of Hurricane Mountain

Kayla and I held a virtual training for volunteers in May. We sent new and returning volunteers training videos and documents to review and they had to take an online assessment after reviewing the materials. We then had a Zoom meeting to go over any lingering questions. We were joined by DEC Forester Tate Connor who gave his presentation on the High Peaks Unit Management Plan and Lieutenant Kevin Burns who went over radio protocol and personal safety training.

Kayla and I helped train new and returning trailhead stewards for the 46er Trailhead Stewardship Program. Kayla trained ADK's Trailhead Stewards. Kayla and Maggie trained ADK's Campground Hosts. Kayla also helped to train the Buck Mountain trailhead stewards this spring. Bridey and Kayla trained the DEC Natural Resource Stewards in Warrensburg. We have also been working with ADK's Communication Director Ben Brosseau to expand our outreach through social media.

Education: Usage and Outreach

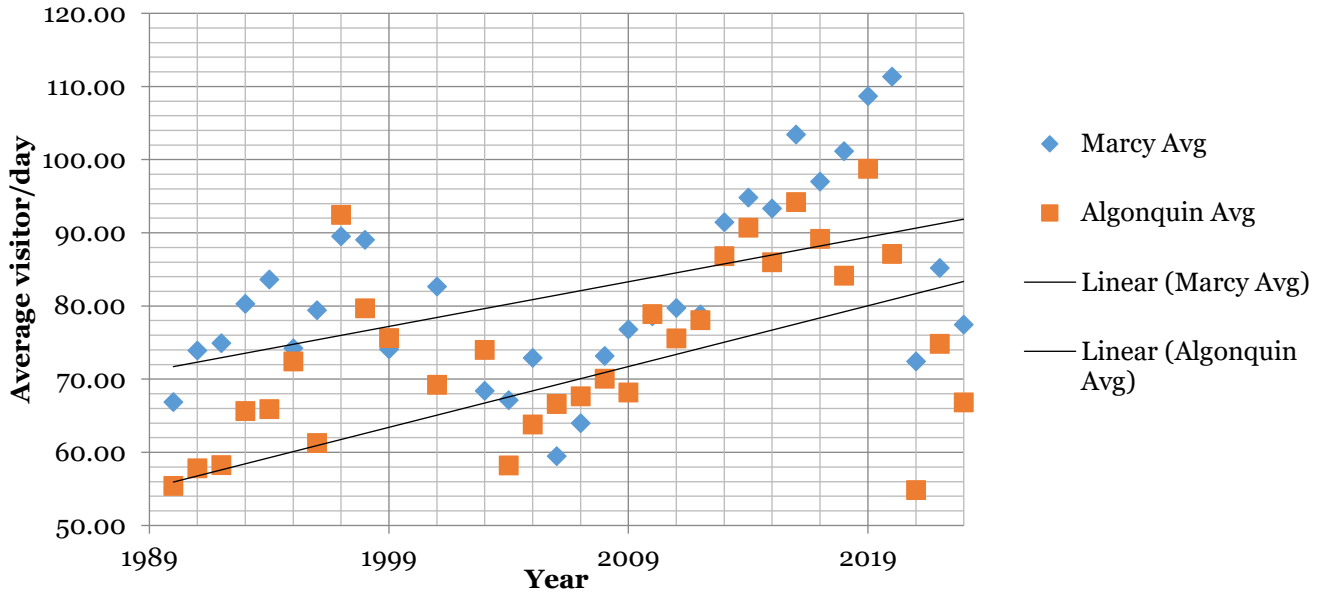
Year	Total Contacts	Days Covered	Average
2023	33,421	442	76
2022	32,844	408	81
2021	28,514	428	67
2020	28,605	315	91
2019	39,939	393	102
2018	38,033	349	109
2017	31,625	305	104
2016	36,355	334	109
2015	31,440	344	91
2014	28,488	312	91
2013	23,804	305	78
2012	20,567	269	77
2011	19,211	275	70
2010	15,639	238	66
Total Contacts 1990-2023: 680,263			

Our total contact numbers for this season are higher than the 2022 season, but we did have more days covered than last season, leading to a lower average number of contacts per day. The usage trends we presented in the 2023 Mid-Season Report continued throughout the rest of the season. Our busiest day of the season was September 30th where we had 371 contacts on Algonquin, and 367 contacts on Cascade. This season only saw three days where contacts broke 300, compared to 2022 where we had 12 days break 300. The biggest change in our coverage and contact numbers for this season was Cascade, Wright, and Giant. Without one steward being dedicated to photopoint monitoring this season, as well as a tremendous amount of coverage from our amazing volunteers, we were able to steward on Cascade 19 more days than last year, Wright 23 more days, and Giant 5 more days. Cascade accounted for just under 32% of our entire contacts for the 2023 season.

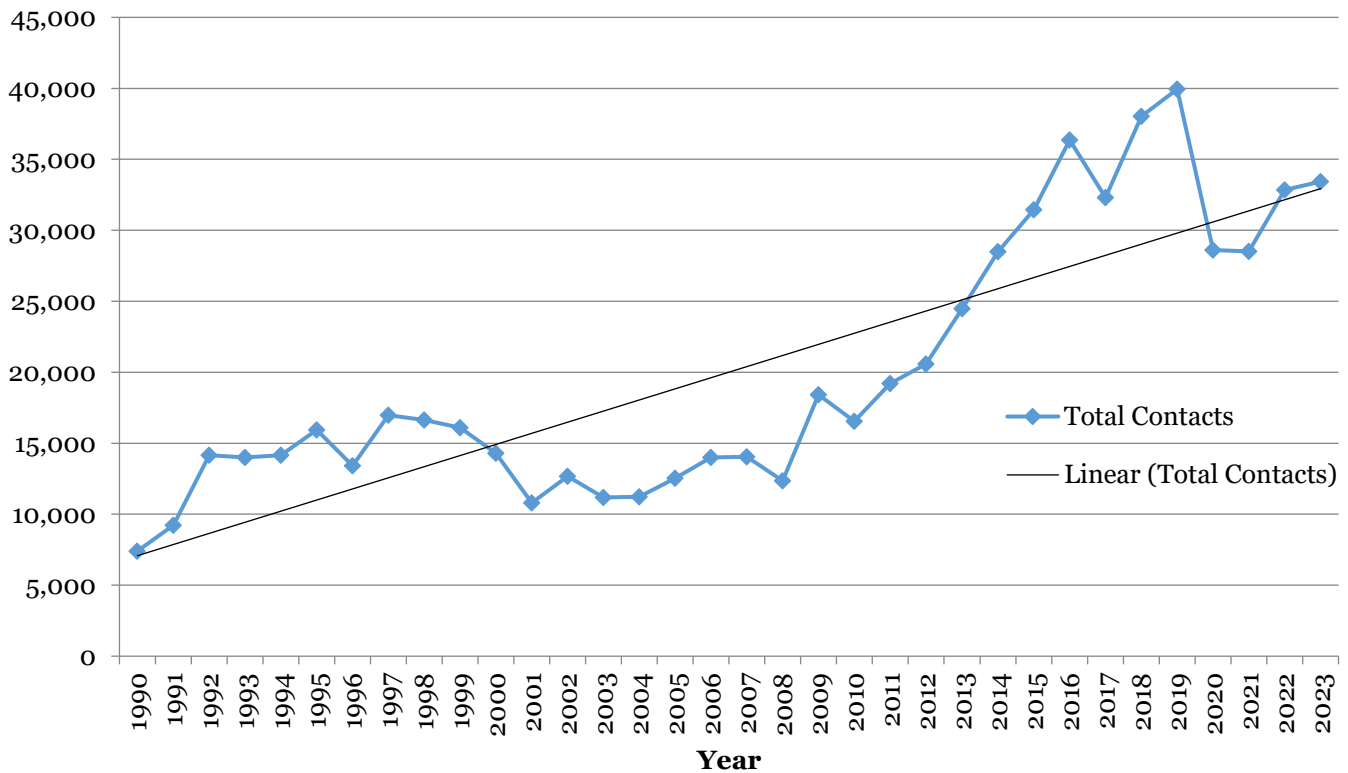
The following graph shows the average number of contacts per day stewarded on Marcy and Algonquin throughout July and August. This is the most accurate comparison we have to look at trends in hiker numbers over the years. Comparing the data this way allows us to see accurate trends since the beginning of the program, despite the number of stewards, volunteers, and length of season that has fluctuated over the years.

After the 2020 season during the height of the pandemic, we saw a sharp drop in average daily contacts on Marcy and Algonquin. 2021 saw low average contact numbers that we had not seen since 2008 on Marcy and 2004 on Algonquin. 2022 did have an increase in visitors, but nowhere close to previous numbers. These are significant declines. Are we seeing a decline in visitors overall to the High Peaks Wilderness Complex, or just to these summits? Are rainier than average summers causing these lower numbers?

Average Visitor per Day for Marcy & Algonquin in July & August



Total Summit Steward Contacts, 1989-2023



Regarding outreach, Kayla participated in *Adirondack Day* which is an event at New York's capital where we educate legislators on issues pertaining to the Adirondack Park, thank them for investing in stewardship, and tell our field stories. Thank you to the Environmental Protection Fund for helping to fund this program.

Kayla gave presentations to Gordon College's La Vida Center for Outdoor Education and Leadership, Mount Abraham Middle and Highschool, WM Environmental Field School, and Homer JH Adventures on topics including alpine ecology, photopoint monitoring, and fire tower history. We also provided Leave No Trace workshops to DEC Natural Resource Stewards, Camp Echo Lake, Camp Chateaugay, and North Country Camps. In total, we had 506 participants in the various programs that we provided.

Botany and Research Projects:

In New York, dwarf willow (*salix herbacea*) was known to only have one confirmed population in a small spot on Marcy. Algonquin had a historical presence of the dwarf willow but had not been seen since 1980 and had been considered extirpated from the mountain. Using letters, handwritten notes, and previous botany surveys from the 1990s and earlier I was able to do some research on possible locations based on descriptions in those documents. Though detailed, the clues still left us with about a quarter of the mountain as a possible location. On August 15th, Katie, Alex, and I hiked up Algonquin for the day with the sole purpose of looking for the dwarf willow. After about just an hour, Katie called out saying she found something, and sure enough, she had found a very healthy dwarf willow population! Compared to the population on Marcy, the Algonquin specimen is about 5 times as large and does not appear to be threatened by competing plants, or hikers. Fortunately, the dwarf willow on Algonquin is far away from the summit and trail. Katie's find has some interesting history to it! Some of the letters and



Katie posing with her Dwarf Willow find on Algonquin!

surveys used to aid in the search came from two of the most important people in the history of the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program, Kathy Regan and Ed Ketchledge, two of our founders. Stewards will be on the lookout for any other plants again next season!

This year marks the fifteenth year of our participation in Appalachian Mountain Club's (AMC) Mountain Watch phenology program. We monitor the phenological stages of four species 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. We made 106 observations this year. AMC has also 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!

Summit stewards spent some time this season listening for and observing Bicknell's Thrush in the High Peaks. The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas occurs every 20 years, and the current third iteration of the Atlas is ongoing, finishing in 2024. A breeding bird atlas helps to better understand the distribution of breeding birds throughout the state and helps provide data that can be used in conservation and management. The alpine zone is home to several rare bird species, one being the Bicknell's Thrush. Bicknell's Thrushes breed only in the krummholz in the Adirondacks



Dwarf Willow (*salix herbacea*) on Algonquin.

and some higher elevation areas in the Catskills, as well as similar areas across the northeast. Seeing a Bicknell's is rare, but their song is very distinct and often heard while making your way to a summit. Stewards were trained in how to upload Bicknell's observations to the New York Breeding Bird Atlas portal using eBird. You can download eBird and help add observations to the [Breeding Bird Atlas](#).

Bridey and I spent an early morning on Saddleback taking part in a Mountain Bird Watch survey. Mountain Bird Watch, led by the [Vermont Center for Ecostudies](#), monitors distribution and behavior of 10 species of high elevation song birds, including Bicknell's Thrush, Boreal Chickadee, and Winter Wren.

This summer we worked with the New York Natural Heritage Program for small mammal monitoring. Matt Schlesinger, NYNHP's Chief Zoologist created a set of protocols to [monitor small mammals](#) on several rocky summits in the High Peaks. We had six monitoring stations set up on several high peaks, focusing on rocky slope habitats to find evidence of small mammals including bog lemmings, voles, mice, shrews, and whatever else we find! Stewards visited these stations two times during the month that they were deployed to collect scat samples, swab the inside of the traps, and replenish the bait. We were able to collect scat samples from all six summits that stations were deployed on: Marcy, Algonquin, Haystack, Skylight, Iroquois, and Wright. We look forward to learning what is living on the summits once the samples have been analyzed!

Trail Maintenance and Project Days:

With a seasoned crew we've been able to get a lot of maintenance done. Trail maintenance was completed on Marcy, Algonquin, Wright, Cascade, Gothics, Haystack, Giant, Hurricane, Basin, Iroquois, and Saddleback. Stewards completed last season's cairn project on Hurricane by building a second cairn and were joined by Tate Connor to paint blazes on the summit to protect fragile vegetation. In the beginning of the



Olive rock packing on Gothics

summer, we were able to complete the brushing project on Iroquois for the herd path heading down to Shepard's Tooth. Throughout the summer season, stewards spent several days on Wright to rebuild almost all the cairns.

Stewards completed Peak Health Reports for Noonmark, Giant, and Rocky Peak Ridge. These reports focus on the general health of the summit, the flora, trail damage, and what stewards should focus on in the future.

Stewards were able to accomplish some great trail maintenance this fall! Olive and I spent three days on Haystack to rebuild and repair cairns on Little Haystack and completed brushing and rock packing along the trail leading to the summit. We also replaced an alpine zone sign on Basin. Kayla, Olive, and I spent

three days working on building a substantial scree wall on the backside of Marcy. Our goal with this project is that the large scree wall will help keep hikers on the marked trail. The backside of Marcy has several spots that are wide open in the alpine and are very easy to stray off the trail. We placed 547 feet of scree wall, with approximately 300 more feet left for next season. Olive and I spent three days on the Great Range completing maintenance on Gothics and Saddleback. Trail maintenance on Gothics was centered around the cable route. The top of the cable route was one of the most impacted areas requiring significant rock packing. At some point in July, two 10-pound weights were placed in the soil at this location, creating significant damage to the soil. The damage is visible in the above image of Olive rock packing, directly next to the cable anchor. Both summits are quite popular, but trail maintenance is a challenge due to the lack of rock on the summit area. We had to carry rock from farther away but completed extensive rock packing and brushing along the cable route, as well as brushing in some significant herd paths on the summit of Gothics. On Saddleback, we carried rocks from beneath the “Saddleback Cliffs” to the summit to complete rock packing, in addition to addressing the large herd path system on the summit. The last week of the fall season was spent on Dix where we brushed many herd paths, repaired an alpine sign, and repainted the blazes on the summit.

As always, we have been hard at work with regular brushing, scree wall maintenance, cairn repair, and rock packing.

	Scree Wall	Brushing	Rock Pack	Cairn Rocks Removed	Cairns Rebuilt	Poop Buried
Algonquin	297	255	11	199	3	6
Armstrong	0	25	0	0	0	1
Basin	0	39	6	0	0	0
Cascade	561	135	25	115	4	7
Colden	10	17	6	0	0	2
Dix	0	120	0	0	0	0
Giant	0	61	0	10	0	1
Gothics	59	124	25	0	0	1
Haystack	0	60	20	50	6	0
Hurricane	10	0	5	25	4	1
Iroquois	0	200	0	18	0	1
Marcy	1549	224	49	94	4	3
Noonmark	0	18	0	0	0	0
Rocky Peak	0	0	0	16	0	0
Saddleback	25	80	22	0	0	0
Whiteface	5	30	3	0	0	0
Wright	83	82	11	73	11	2
Grand Total	2599 ft	1480 ft	183 sq ft	598 rocks	32 cairns	24 poops

Future recommendations:

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

- ❑ Work with DEC to make sure they have the most up-to-date data on alpine stewardship.
- ❑ Finish analysis for the Photopoint Monitoring Project in conjunction with the New York Natural Heritage Program this winter/spring. Publish our findings.
- ❑ Continue to expand and improve the volunteer program and build up volunteer numbers for coverage on Hurricane, Giant (weekends), and Cascade (every day in July & August)
- ❑ Continue to build up the Hurricane Fire Tower Stewardship Program and get more volunteers.
- ❑ Complete Peak Health Reports on Hurricane and other summits that have not been assessed in recent years.
- ❑ Build group project days to accomplish more high-quality trail maintenance.
- ❑ Work to continue providing public outreach programs to camp groups, college clubs, and other organizations to expand our visibility and spread our alpine stewardship message. (Please contact me if you are interested!)
- ❑ Complete defining the trail on the backside of Marcy by finishing the scree wall started this fall.
- ❑ Expand our presence and trail maintenance on alpine summits within the Great Range. Restart the “Carry a Rock” program on summits that need trail maintenance on but lack available rock.
- ❑ Complete the next iteration of our Alpine Population Study with two botany stewards for the 2024 season.

Thank you!

As always, the Summit Stewardship Program would not be possible without the support and funding of several 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
- ❑ Dr. Norton G. Miller Memorial Fund
- ❑ Helen and Ritter Shumway Foundation
- ❑ Nine Pin Cider
- ❑ ORDA and the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center for access to the summit of Whiteface via the Memorial Highway

- ❑ The Mountaineer
- ❑ Environmental Protection Fund
- ❑ Scarpa
- ❑ Darn Tough
- ❑ Patagonia
- ❑ New York Natural Heritage Program

And individuals:

DEC: Tate Connor, Kevin Burns, Chris DiCintio, Pete Evans, Robbi Mecus, Andrew Lewis, Jenna Curcio, Charlie Foutch, Rob Daley; Andrew Miller, Wilson Cummer, Jack Coleman, Mary Lamb, Lois Dannenberg, Jen Denny, Jim Schneider, Ryan Nerp, Troy Tetreault, Tom Collins, Drew Benware, Tony Canike, Bob George, Kevin Douglass, Klarisse Torriente, Lucas LaBarre, Matt Szopa, Angela Ranzini, Tyler Lucero, Tony Goodwin, Caitlin Glynn, Esther Seacord, Ian Elbogen, Carla Denn, Caitlin Porter, Sean Gunderman, Mark Epstein, Kevin Berend, Jake Vitale, Audrey Fatone, Kate Berdan (TNC), Tim Howard (NYNHP), Steve Young, Matt Schlesinger (NYNHP), Sean Robinson (SUNY Oneonta), Paul Casson (ASRC), Vinny McClelland, Charlie Wise and the entire staff of The Mountaineer, Seth Jones, Julia Goren, Ben Brosseau, Tom Manitta, ADK's Education Department, and ADK's Maintenance Department.

This season has been a very exciting one! As my first season as the Summit Steward Coordinator, I had a lot to learn before all the stewards arrived at the end of May. Thank you to everybody that helped with the transition. None of the work accomplished this season would have been possible without the support from all of you. The Adirondack alpine zone truly is a special, unique, and beautiful place here in New York, and it is absolutely a privilege to be a part of a program that works to protect it. Even though it happens slowly in the alpine zone, it is amazing to see the work that we accomplished this year and in previous years having a positive impact on New York's rarest ecosystem. Please feel free to reach out any time with questions, suggestions, or any opportunities for the program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Liam Ebner
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he/him/his

&

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