



Randolph Mountain Club Newsletter

The mission of the Randolph Mountain Club is to promote the enjoyment of the Randolph area through hiking, trail development and maintenance, upkeep of camps and shelters, and the sharing of the collective knowledge of its members.

December 2019

ON the CRAWFORD PATH

by Bob Drescher, Trails co-chair

Laboring up to the summit of Mt. Washington as I helped the RMC crew pack out from our stint on the Crawford Path in mid-August, I paused to catch my breath and admire the visible results of their efforts, along with that of so many other trail maintainers for the last two years. Our trail crew, in addition to their work on Starr King and the Howker Ridge, again spent part of the summer working on the Path's restoration, and also learning new technical skills. It's a remarkable historic hiking trail and one well-traveled by RMC members; it is also a key section of the Appalachian Trail, leading northbound through-hikers to the RMC-maintained Gulfside section of the AT between Edmands Col and Madison Spring Hut. The opportunity to help restore the Crawford Path came from the White Mountain Trail Collective (WMTC) which planned and managed the season's work, along with securing funding

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The RMC trail crew at work reconstructing the Crawford Path; AMC's Lakes of the Clouds hut in the background. Bob Drescher photo.

RMC Volunteer Profile

The DeMarco family have been regular participants in the Volunteer Work Trips for the last few years (see page 6 article about the 2019 work trips in this issue). The editor shared a table with them at the RMC dinner at Libby's this August, and started a conversation that continues here in the newsletter. Below, Jenn DeMarco writes on behalf of her husband Fred, and children Hannah (17), Allison and Garrett (15), Nathan (9) and Caiden (6).

Thanks for sharing your RMC story with other members! How did your family get connected with trail volunteering for the club, and what have you enjoyed about it?

We met Trails co-chair Bob Drescher in October 2016. Bill and Barbara Arnold had graciously loaned us their home (again!!) so that Fred and I could celebrate our 20th anniversary with a weekend in Randolph. We hiked out to Lookout Ledge to enjoy the view of the foliage. Since it was a beautiful fall weekend, we were not alone. This is where we met Bob, and we had a long conversation about Randolph and the RMC. His enthusiasm for the club is contagious! I told him we hadn't helped out on work trips in the past because we always had small children in tow. I had always worried about the kids being a nuisance in the woods. Bob encouraged us to bring them along. So the following summer we made sure to volunteer for a work trip.

With a boost, volunteer Nathan DeMarco paints a blaze, on an RMC work trip on the Sylvan Way, 2017. Fred DeMarco photo.

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Randolph Mountain Club 2019-2020

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Historian: Judy Hudson

Cartographer: Jon Hall

Radios: Bill Arnold

Honorary

members: Bill & Barbara Arnold
 Paula Bradley
 Al & Judy Hudson
 Edith Tucker

www.randolphmountainclub.org

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From the President ...

Welcome to winter! As we go to press in November, a few good storms have already arrived in the North Country, and that pretty fall foliage that we all enjoyed in September and October has receded in the rear-view mirror. Mid-October was our most recent board meeting in Randolph, and we spent time both reviewing the past summer season and looking ahead a few years into the future. I thought I would share a few notes with you here about both of these.

The other articles in this newsletter issue will give you a good sense of our 2019 season. I'm proud of our contributions to the Crawford Path project on its bicentennial (and pleased that the White Mountain Trail Collective paid us for all of our trail crew's work hours and training). I'm looking forward to seeing the crew use their improved technical skills when they start work on the Gulfside in 2020. At the community level we had another vibrant year, bringing members and residents together to hike, picnic, perform, dine, dance and Ramble (see page 7 article)! We continue to deepen our partnerships and joint projects with the Community Forest Commission, the Randolph Foundation (five years and counting to Randolph's bicentennial) and with other outdoor organizations in the North Country. I hope you were inspired by the presentation about the Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail at the Annual Meeting, and that you'll take a trip to explore some bikeways beyond the rail trail in Randolph.

At the October board meeting, we took a break from review of our year-to-year club operations and began to identify some projects that will span several traditional August-to-August "club years" in the future. Two that emerged in this discussion are a new website (for updating our online communications, membership systems and merchandise sales), and a renewed approach to protection of our trails. We're pretty excited about getting to work on these, and making them as RMC-specific as everything else we do. I think they will challenge us to innovate while remaining good stewards of the mountains, of our club community, and of its history and traditions.

This summer another RMC tradition passed into history, when Bill Arnold made his last official radio call to the camps. Thank you Bill! For over thirty years he's been the valley voice for the RMC caretakers. Starting with a pair of walkie-talkies and ending up with the mobile base station we have now, Bill has been the one constant. For many of the winter caretakers he has been the only human they have talked to during their week up at the camps, and proof there is an outside world. He has also been coordinator for the RMC on rescue operations. To begin to replace Bill, director Chris Hawkins has set up a rotating schedule for radio call once a week, with a phone text check in for the rest of the week.

Stay safe this winter--but get out and enjoy it!

Jamie Maddock

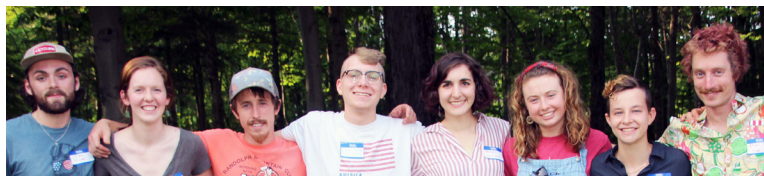
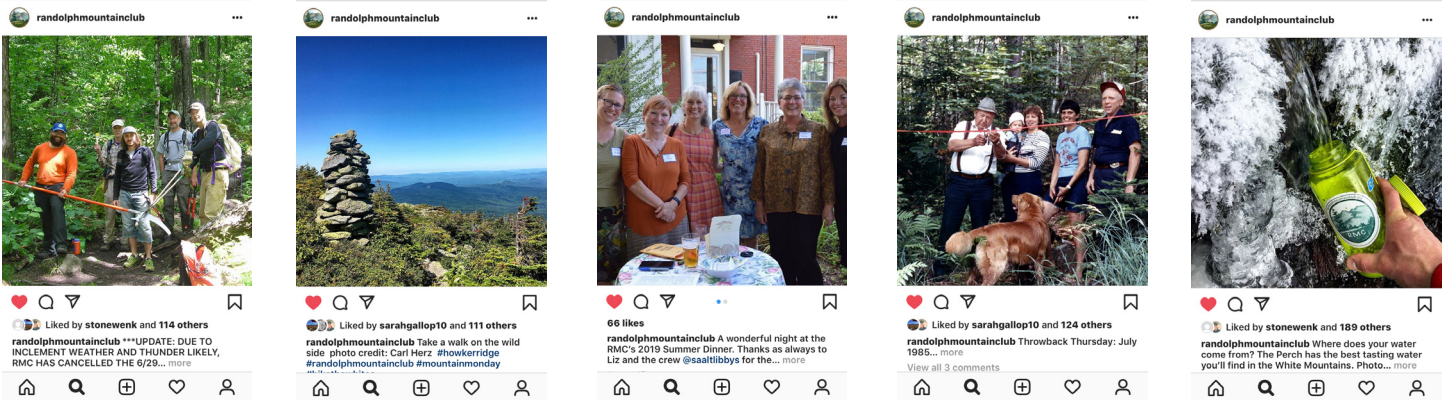
Jamie at Town Hall, October 2019. R. Meiklejohn photo.

RMC on Instagram *by Carl Herz*

Are you on Facebook or Instagram? Follow us! With the ubiquitous use of social media elsewhere, fellow RMC director Kate Hudson and I have spent the last several months ramping up the Randolph Mountain Club’s presence online to remind the outdoor community of the trails and camps we offer, as well as a look at the folks behind the club. We have started out with a weekly “Mountain Monday” post, which is typically a scenic mountain picture, and have added in occasional historic “Throwback Thursday” posts as well. Other moments such as RMC social events or dramatic helicopter airlifts are often captured here too. We hope you will take a look.

In the coming year, we hope to offer more photos of our employees in action, as they clear trees, maintain trails and take care of the camps. You may also see some of the critters that live on the mountain, too! If you want to check out the Club’s updates, sign into Facebook or Instagram and search for “Randolph Mountain Club”, then click “like” or “follow”.

Send us your photos from visits to the trails and camps via Instagram or Facebook message with a caption, and we may post your pictures as well- with photo credit, of course. So far the response has been great and has resulted in more people tuning in (1,265 followers at press time for this newsletter!), and we thank you for enjoying our posts.



Here are photos of our members, friends and employees at RMC events in summer 2019. Clockwise from left: Hayden Minifie in a cameo appearance at the Alexander-Minifie-Dempster benefit concert at Town Hall; the trail crew at the Fourth of July Tea; Alice Puccio and Carl Herz at the Tea; players in the Midlands charade (the word was “hirsute”) at the Annual Picnic; Austin Scarinza and Emma Gagne at the square dance. Jenn Scarinza photos.



Viewpoint Clearing on the RMC Trail Network

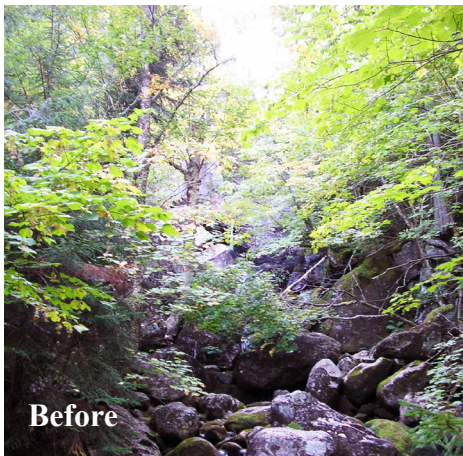
by Bob Drescher, Trails co-chair

The December 2017 issue of this newsletter featured the first wave of “viewpoint clearing” by the trail crew, at important sites along the Crescent Ridge in the Community Forest: Castlevieview Ledge, Lafayette View and on Mt. Randolph. Many members have since expressed thanks for being able to enjoy again these beloved scenic spots on “Hill side” trails in Randolph. For its part, the RMC again acknowledges the Randolph Community Forest Commission for their cooperation with and support of this initiative.

Seeing the rewards of this vegetation-management work has put us on the lookout for other restoration opportunities, some of them farther afield in our trail network, not all of them at “outlooks”. For example, we conducted several volunteer work trips on the Howker Ridge Trail this summer, and the route to our work site took us across Bumpus Brook twice a day. Eventually we noticed that Hitchcock Fall, just above the crossing, could hardly be seen by mid-summer, due to the encroaching tree limbs and foliage. We also received a request to remove the large blowdown that has obstructed the view of Cold Brook Fall for years (we all wanted that one gone!). In September, we mobilized our crew - Justin Taylor, Brian Behr, Maryka Gillis and Bob Drescher – to tackle them.

Tree-clearing work at ordinary viewpoints is already precarious, thanks to the steep and rocky terrain that lies below ledges and cliffs. The two brook sites above are likewise steep and rocky, and also slippery! Our crew stepped carefully on damp, mossy rocks to brush along the banks of both brooks, and used our new pole saw to limb many of the mature trees. The lower brook levels make fall a good time for this work, but the water is still wet! We plan on returning to Cold Brook next season with our climbing harness to continue the limbing so the waterfall can again be viewed from the Memorial Bridge. The crew also completed other viewpoint clearing at the Overlook on the Kelton Trail and at King Cliff on the Cliffway, along with some brushing at nearby Bog Cliff.

We hope you’ll get out and enjoy these re-opened areas, and let us know about any other disappearing or lost views. One intrepid member, after a recent tour of the Crescent Ridge viewpoints, has reported his “discovery” of a north-facing cliff on Mt. Randolph where the forest growth may be masking a great view; we’re adding it to the list of candidates for next season’s clearing work.



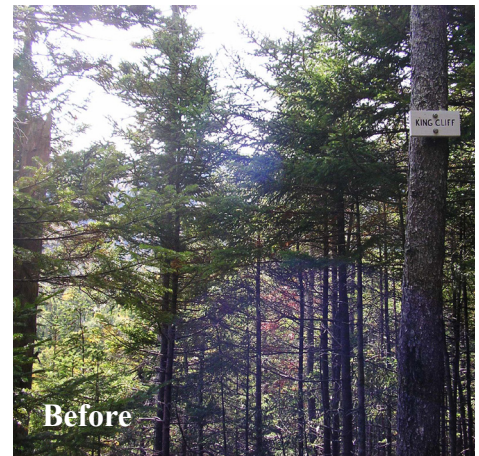
Before

Hitchcock Fall



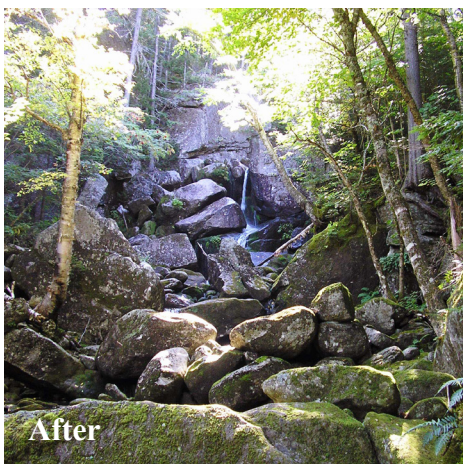
Before

The Overlook



Before

King Cliff



After



After



After



Camps Report

by Pete Antos-Ketcham, Camps chair

This fall at Gray Knob, we upgraded and improved our woodshed in order to better protect our winter fuel supply of BioBricks. Unlike regular cordwood that needs a shed that allows a lot of air flow, BioBricks come already dry and need a structure that will do everything it can to exclude moisture. With the high winds we see at the camps, we often would find that wind driven rain and snow make their way into the woodshed and saturate the fuel supply and reducing its effectiveness. The upgraded shed will help improve efficiency, reduce fuel use, and save the RMC money. Other small repair projects this fall have included: repairing the stairs and deck to the Log Cabin outhouse and fixing a broken window at Crag.

During the summer and early fall, caretakers performed general camps upkeep and maintenance (staining log shelters and oiling camp floors) as well as basic trail work on the main approach trails to the camps. Additional work included cleaning up around all four camps to continue to remove in the September airlift trash and materials that are no longer needed at the camps. Late-fall preparation for winter included draining and putting away summer water systems, finishing fall compost runs, draining and disconnecting the BTB systems (liquid management) from the privies, cleaning the chimney, and hooking up the woodstove.

The fall and winter crew are James (Jim) Baum, and Benjamin (Benjy) Getraer. Jim joined us after working as a Ridgerunner with Appalachian Trail Conservancy in the mid-Atlantic region, and Benjy most recently was working with the US Forest Service in the backcountry of Idaho. We are very thankful to have them both to care for our facilities and to welcome our camps guests through the end of March.

For this year's airlift, in September, we worked with Mark Hitchcock of Maine Helicopters. Increasing costs from our previous lift service left us looking for an alternative to help us meet our needs and stay on budget. Our annual airlift accomplished many key tasks this fall. This included flying materials for RMC carpenter John Tremblay to work on the Gray Knob woodshed as well as some other camps repair projects. The airlift also supplied Gray Knob with our winter supply of BioBricks for heat and propane to operate our cook stove and gas light. Many thanks to Chris Hawkins, Carl Herz, John Scarinza, Justin Taylor, and all the many field staff and volunteers who helped make this airlift a safe and successful one.

Our work plan for the 2020 season is still developing. We are still pursuing funding and planning for a new solar photovoltaic system for Gray Knob. We continue to monitor the overcrowding situation at the Perch and the resultant impact from user created overflow tenting areas - we will be discussing this situation and possible solutions with the Forest Service over the winter.

From top: A group of Crag Camp guests looking out into King Ravine (photo by summer Crag caretaker Jesse Carlson); the airlift, from Gray Knob; John Tremblay finishing the woodshed (Adam Ritchie photos); summer caretaker Sarah Young starting a compost run on the deck at Gray Knob (Carlson).

Volunteer Work Trips, 2019

by Wendy Walsh

The major project in 2019 was brushing and blazing the Starr King Trail, in Jefferson. The RMC was granted funds by the New Hampshire Recreational Trails Program for our trail crew to carry out erosion control and trail hardening on the lower section of this trail. This grant required a 20% match by the RMC, some of which could be covered by volunteer work on site. RMC volunteers came out for this priority: 8 of us worked 51 hours on June 22, 8 of us worked 56 ½ hours on August 28, and 7 of us worked 56 hours on August 31. These hours amounted to a contribution to the RMC valued at \$4,071.00. We also had 5 work trips on the Howker Ridge Trail.

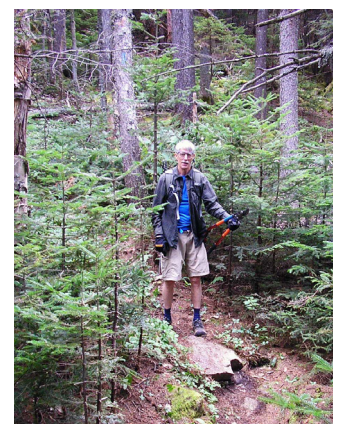
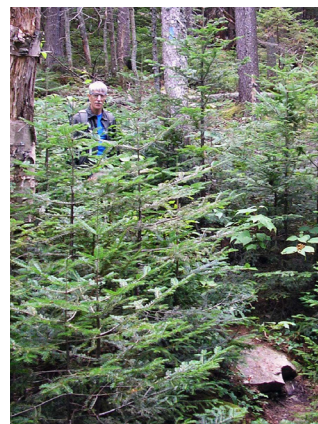
Volunteers play a major role in the maintenance of our trails, with expanding membership participation and new trail-work skills gained by our volunteers every year since the program's launch in 2011. We want to thank everyone who came out this year to help keep the RMC trail system in great shape for all to enjoy. Our trail volunteers worked a total of 487 hours on 11 scheduled trips June 22 to August 31. This year we had 12 first-time RMC volunteers. Some volunteers came out for more than one trip, as indicated by a number after the name:

Austin Black	Jason Lanz
Rudy Bourget	Jamie Maddock (2)
Dwight Bradley (2)	Tim Mather (3)
Chris Campbell (5)	Danielle Normand (2)
Ray Cooper	Amy Patenaude (2)
Jenn DeMarco	Dennis Pednault
Nathan DeMarco	David Roy
Caiden DeMarco	Doreen Roy (2)
Paul Doucette	Dianne Sikes
Bob Drescher (7)	Matthew Sikes
Renee Dunham (4)	Katie-Rose Turnbull
Maryka Gillis	Wendy Walsh (4)
Benzo Harris	Patty Watson (4)
Paul Jadis	Steve Weber (7)
Beth Krusi	Jeff Wilson (10)

Volunteers worked on the following trails:

Carlton Notch Trail	Community Forest
Castleview Loop	Intrepretive Trail
Cliffway	The Link
Crescent Ridge Trail	Starr King Trail
E-Z Way	Wood Path
Howker Ridge Trail	

In addition, seven volunteers--Bob Drescher, Chris Campbell, Ben Lieberson, Jamie Maddock, Tom Straub, Wendy Walsh, and Jeff Wilson--contributed over one hundred hours on trail work, bridge repair and construction, and trail assessments of the Ice Gulch Path, the Cook Path, the Owl's Head Trail, the GulfsideTrail and the Boothman Spring Cutoff.



From top: Volunteers on Starr King, August 31: Steve Weber, Jeff Wilson, Dwight Bradley, Amy Patenaude, Patty Wilson, Bob Drescher, and Danielle Normand. 'Before and after' pairs: Beth Krusi brushing the Howker Ridge Trail; Jeff Wilson replacing a sign; Chris Campbell brushing the Howker Ridge Trail. Wendy Walsh photos.

Trails Report and 2020 Lookahead

by Bob Drescher and Benzo Harris



In the summer 2019 season, the RMC trail crew ranged far and wide. After a successful patrol season the crew moved over to Jefferson to begin much-needed and major improvements to Starr King Trail. This trail does not directly connect to the rest of our trails in Randolph and on the Northern Presidentials, but it's an important one. As a primary access to two four-thousand-footers (Mts. Waumbek and Cabot) and as a component of the Cohos Trail corridor (which runs from below Crawford Notch to the Canadian border), the Starr King Trail is one of our most-hiked trails. So understandably it was overdue for some major erosion control work.

Looking ahead to 2020, our plan is for the crew to begin work on the Gulfside Trail, in the alpine zone. A section of the Appalachian Trail, the Gulfside is a White Mountain National Forest trail that we maintain. In 2011 the RMC became a full maintaining club of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, through our assumption of maintenance responsibility for the segment between Edmands Col and Madison Spring Hut. We expect that the alpine-zone techniques the crew learned and practiced on the Crawford Path this summer (*see separate article and photos in this issue*) will be directly applicable to the work on the Gulfside Trail. Jamie Maddock, Jeff Wilson, Justin Taylor and Sam Marshall met with the Forest Service to develop a plan for the work there over the next two seasons. The crew will also put in two weeks of work on the Ice Gulch Path.

Working on Starr King, on the Crawford Path and on the Gulfside Trail reminds us that our trail stewardship work is not just to preserve the trails, but to welcome the hiking public and help them enjoy the mountains. In many recent years we have sought funding support from partner organizations and government agencies that share this public mission, and this continues into 2020. For the Gulfside work we expect financial support from both the ATC and the Forest Service, and for the Ice Gulch we have again submitted a grant proposal to the State of New Hampshire's Recreational Trails Program (RTP). We continue also to invest substantial volunteer hours in caring for our trails, and we thank Wendy Walsh and Jeff Wilson in advance for carrying this work forward into next year, giving our members an opportunity to experience trail work first-hand and to see our fantastic crew in the field.



The RMC crew on the Starr King Trail this summer. Top: Justin Taylor, Brian Behr, Joey Schilke and Sam Marshall pondering next steps. Above, Kenzie Imhoff, Brian, and Haylee Norton. Below, Bridget Ackerley and Haylee along the trail. Right, the completed check steps. Bob Drescher photos.



Volunteer Profile, continued from page 1

I'm not sure which variety of kids were there, but I do remember how supportive everyone was of Nathan's efforts. He was only seven years old at the time, but he was so excited to help in any way he could. Bob made his summer when he let him help paint blazes. It was a great experience. We find time for a work trip every summer now, kids included.

Which trails have you volunteered on, and what trail work skills did you learn on the job?

We have worked on the Short Line, the Howker Ridge Trail, and the Sylvan Way. We have learned the basics of brushing, not just for summer travel but for how to keep branches and saplings off the trail for winter users. Nathan has learned how to cut down saplings and paint a pretty nice blaze.

How did you find your way to Randolph, and when?

We first started coming to Randolph regularly in 2004. Barbara Arnold and her daughter Alex were neighbors of my family several years ago in Dracut, Massachusetts. Barbara and my mother were friends. I babysat for Alex, and she and my youngest sister were friends growing up. They maintained that friendship into adulthood. I had been to Randolph a handful of times previously, but that year Bill and Barbara had elderly cats who needed regular medication while they were away. Anyone who knows the Arnolds knows that they like to travel. We were lucky enough to get the job of cat- (house-) sitting that summer. We loved our time there. After that we made sure to stay on Barbara's email list, and eventually got a regular house-sitting job even after the cats had passed away. We fell in love with Randolph and spent a few years looking for a place of our own here.

Where do you live when you're here, and when you're elsewhere?

We bought our cottage on Randolph Hill Road from Katy Wolff in May of 2017, and we spend as much time in Randolph as possible when our kids are out of school. Our full-time home is in North Attleboro MA.

Have any favorite White Mountain hikes to share?

Our favorite hikes are often the path less traveled. Fred is wonderful at finding less crowded but certainly not less amazing places to explore. It's amazing how the Appalachia lot can be full, but you can still spend an afternoon on the lower slopes of Adams and Madison and not see a soul. A trip to Crag Camp is one of our summer standards. Fred started taking Hannah up when she was eight. Over the years, Allison, Garrett and Nathan each got to make their first trek up Adams with one of us. Babies or injuries kept one of us home every year. 2018 was our first family trip up to Crag. It was so much fun to finally get to summit Adams as a family.



The DeMarcos out and about in Randolph. From the top: Fred with Garrett, Nathan and Caiden (back to front) and Short Line work trip volunteers at Appalachia; Jenn, two of the boys and Renee Dunham at Randolph East heading up the Howker Ridge; Jenn and Nathan at the Fourth of July Tea. Wendy Walsh and Jenn Scarinza photos.





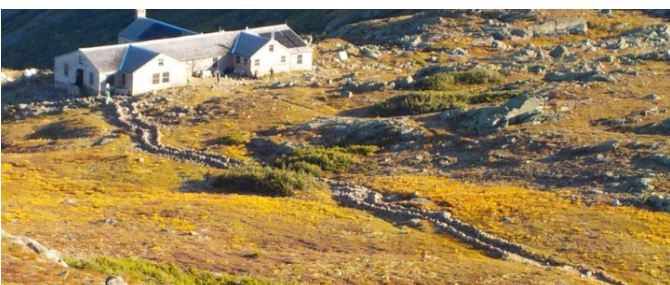
Crawford Path, continued from page 1

from Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the US Forest Service and many other donors, to help celebrate the Path's 200th anniversary.

The WMTC, now in its second full year, was created by trail clubs and trail maintainers in the White Mountain region, for the purpose of supporting our efforts to meet the enormous task of repairing the trails. The mission statement, "To preserve the legacy of trail stewardship in the White Mountains Region by supporting and enhancing sustainable care of our trails" has been in the forefront of this collective, strength-in-numbers approach to trail work. The success of this first-time in the Whites effort was due to the incredible energy and enthusiasm of many participants.

For the RMC as for most established trail-maintaining clubs, the biggest challenges continue to be trails funding and skills training for our pro crew each season, so support from the WMTC in these areas has been a valuable addition for us. The technical training provided by the Collective in each of the last two seasons, which included basic/alpine rigging, rock splitting and safety, helped get our crews up to speed more quickly and work more efficiently and safely on all of our projects. Participating with the WMTC has also presented us with the opportunity to share our skills and knowledge, enhance existing relationships with other trails managers and develop new connections as we move forward in our efforts to handle the changes that are needed to "Preserve the Legacy, Protect the Trails."

Top, before-and-after photos of the RMC's work zone (nicknamed the "Inca trail") on the Crawford Path; below, view of the work from Mt. Monroe. Bob Drescher photos.



The Randolph Ramble Returns

by Doug Mayer

RMC member Cristin Bailey on the Ramble course. Tim Mather photo.

On the last weekend of October, RMC trails in the Randolph Community Forest hosted the fourth edition of the Randolph Ramble, a 10-kilometer trail race that loops its way over the rugged terrain of the Crescent Range. Seventy trail runners from around the region took part, with some coming from as far away as Boston and southern Vermont.

Since its inception, the Ramble has featured the full range of weather the Northern White Mountains offers in the late fall. We've had beautiful late-fall days, plenty of snow, and—this year—rain, wind, fog and chilly temps. It was classic weather for hypothermia, but everyone stayed warm, thanks no doubt to the heat created trying to move quickly over the challenging terrain of Crescent Ridge.

Longtime White Mountain climbing guide Nick Yardley ran this year, and about the event he later wrote, "What a fun day that was! I love that type of running and better still the vibe of such well-run grassroots events. Great job on putting on this iconic event."

The Ramble is capped at 100 participants. A "Limmer" division allows hikers to take part and enjoy the event, going at their own pace. The number of participants was down slightly from prior years, likely due to the fact that the Ramble took a year off in 2018.

Pre-race food was provided courtesy of the White Mountain Café, and post-race chili and warm bread came from our friends at SAaLT Pub. The night before, three dozen participants and volunteers joined for a dinner at SAaLT.

Two dozen volunteers helped make the race happen, most from Randolph or Gorham. The race could not have taken place without their enthusiasm, nor without the trails of the Randolph Mountain Club and the farsighted thinking that created the Randolph Community Forest. The race is a fundraiser for the RMC, and this year \$750.00 was raised. Everyone involved in planning the race volunteered.

If you'd like to know more about the Randolph Ramble, you can follow the race on Facebook, check out the race website at randolphramble.com, or call or email Race Co-Directors Jim Anderson (jim@theendurancedrive.com), Tim Mather (mathermotorsports@gmail.com), or Doug Mayer (doug@runthealps.com).

Treasurer's Report*by Kathleen Kelley*

	Admin.	Dev't.	Camps	Stearns	Trails	Trails Grants	Total	2019 Budget
Revenue								
YTD 09/30/2019:	\$37,929	27,583	49,017	0	0	35,058	149,588	155,673
Expense								
YTD 09/30/2019:	15,958	2,265	42,051	10,179	35,600	35,058	141,112	150,479
Net:	21,971	25,318	6,966	(10,179)	(35,600)	0	8,475	5,194

At this point in the year, the club is in good financial condition. In summer and fall, we had an above-average number of overnight guests at the camps thanks to the beautiful weather, therefore camp revenue is up. Membership dues and individual donations are up as well. Before the end of the year, we will invoice for the work by the summer and fall trail crew that was funded by grants from three outside sources: the state of New Hampshire, the US Forest Service, and the White Mountain Trail Collaborative. All expenses are tracking nicely with the approved budget and anticipated cash flow. We are seeking additional volunteer support for the RMC's book-keeping functions; if you are willing to help in this area, please contact Jamie Maddock at president@randolphmountainclub.org.

Welcome new RMC members!*Joined June - November 2019*

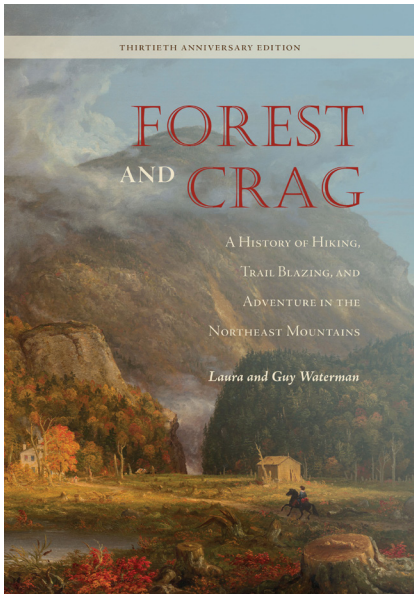
Jay Adams, Barrington RI
Alena Adams, Barrington RI
Jean Yves Ayotte, Mascouche QC
Jodi Bauer, Mattapoisett MA
James Bentley, East Burke VT
Ernest Berube, Lincoln RI
Austin Black, North Conway NH
Heather Blease, Newton MA
Marianne Borowski, Glen NH
Charlie Breunig, Greenfield MA
Jennifer Clark, Amesbury MA
Paul Clifford, Portland ME
Callahan Cole, Providence RI
Harold Cooper, New Bedford MA
Duane Coute, Littleton NH
James DiStasio, Littleton NH
Ben Douglas, Andover MA
Emily Douglas, Andover MA
Kevin Duniho, Richmond VT
Michael Dwyer, Chelmsford MA
Brent Ervin, Gorham NH
Susan Fields, Amherst MA
Tom Fraser, Ashland MA
Thomas Gesner, Sanbornville NH
Rich Glidden, Ashland MA
Stephen Goddard, Cookshire-Eaton QC
Philippe Gratton, Verdun QC
David Greenslit, Center Conway NH
Padraic Hagan, Putnam CT
Ben Hall, Hebron NH
Ken Harrison, Northboro MA
Robert Hayes, Merrimack NH
Ted Horton, Cranleigh, Surrey UK
Meloday Janson, St. Petersburg FL
Eric Kampman, Riverside CT



Members on Pine Mountain on the 2019 Gourmet Hike. Jenn Scarinza photo.

Linda Kearney, North Conway NH
Frances Keene, Rockland ME
Bob Kilham, Deerfield NH
Brigitte Kingsbury, Cape Elizabeth ME
Clover Koopman, Gorham NH
Howie Krebs and Tori Hobson, Derry NH
Arlette Laan, Tyngsboro MA
Denise Langlois, Gorham NH
Peter Laurent, Colrain MA
Roger Lebovitz, Burlington VT
Erin Lee, South Boston MA
Michael Leonard, Hooksett NH
Matt Maybruck, Eliot ME
Holly McBride, West Wareham MA
Michael McInnis, Plymouth MA
Marion Morgan, Center Tuftonboro NH
Emily Murphy, Somerville MA
Robert Pantel, Portland ME

Pierpont Pennoyer, Portland ME
Mark Rahill, Worcester VT
Suzanne Reid, Randolph NH
Alison Rhodes, Concord NH
Tonya Ring, Fryeburg ME
David Rowell, Deerfield NH
James Sadin, Ware MA
Rebecca Sawady, Cambridge MA
Darshita Shah, Medford MA
Richard Stainton, Wallingford CT
Steven Szilagyi, Cumming GA
Ben Thomas, Gardiner ME
Laura Tobin, St. Johnsbury VT
Mark Vecchiarelli, Boston MA
William Wahlstrom, Northfield MA
Karly White, Ashland OR
John White, Cambridge MA
Philip Zurek, Boulder CO



New edition of *Forest and Crag* by the Editor

Writer and RMC member Laura Waterman was last seen in this newsletter in an interview by Doug Mayer in June 2017. In the article she spoke to Doug about an upcoming new edition of the important book *Forest and Crag*, written together with her late husband Guy. The book appeared this year in its thirtieth-anniversary edition, with Laura's new preface, from which an excerpt appears below.

As in earlier editions, the book includes much about Randolph and about the RMC, and club historian Judy Hudson notes that new images from the RMC archive appear in this new edition.

Author photo and book cover photo on this page courtesy of Laura Waterman and SUNY Press.



“... Where are we now, thirty years after *Forest and Crag*'s publication? In the Preface to the First Edition we wrote that “the idea of integrating the histories of all the mountains of the Northeast in one book offered opportunities for comparing and contrasting the pace of change. . . ,” particularly in “relation to social history and Americans' evolving attitudes toward mountains and wilderness.” In the Preface to the Second Edition, which I wrote for AMC's 2003 release, I concluded, “The age of exploration in the nineteenth century has receded into the past, as has the age of trail building in the twentieth. The age of stewardship has dawned with the new millennium. . . .”

As I look back at the ensuing decade and a half, I can only conclude that the most important work that can happen in the mountains now is stewardship. That people are coming to the mountains in greater numbers than ever previously witnessed is evidenced in the spillover of cars from parking lots onto the shoulders of highways and interstates. The trails on the popular peaks see so much traffic that hikers are forced to step out of the treadway to allow others to pass. This is so common that damage to the vegetation has accelerated, and above treeline especially, where the plants recover slowly or not at all, they are, in some areas, in danger of obliteration altogether.

Our mountains need our care. We hikers are not the only threats. Our mountains contend with climate change as well as all the other ways we humans have impacted the world around us. But hikers will continue to reach for the summits. My hope for the future is that each one of us becomes a steward by learning how to minimize our impacts; that the story we will write ten or thirty or fifty or one hundred years from now will be one of health for our trails and alpine summits; that as we take in the far-off views, we will see a flourishing forest, and as we climb above the trees, we will experience an untrampled wild garden of alpine plants, remnants of the Ice Age, colonizers of this terrain for ten thousand years. Here is the alpine zone, home as well to birds, insects, and animals. It is this entire ecosystem that awes us and deserves our most heartfelt protection.”



RMC Merchandise by Michele Cormier

For that special someone, what about a one-of-a-kind gift that reminds them of the RMC all year round? We have t-shirts and other outdoor gear; we have mugs and glasses and other items for your gatherings and social occasions; and we have the surprisingly versatile RMC apron, which is just popping up everywhere. We've seen it behind the bar; in the Valley charade at the Annual Picnic, and here's a recent sighting in Santa's workshop in Randolph. Much more at the website!

For online orders, navigate to STUFF WE SELL at the website, randolphmountainclub.org, and pay by PayPal.



Our RMC apron. Left, Paul Cormier, seasonally attired. Michele Cormier photo.



Above, a new box by David Ruble; right, Jeffrey and Catherine Maletta in August. Jenn Scarinza photos.

New (and Old) Trailhead Boxes

by Franklin Stone Wenk and Jenn Scarinza, Events co-chairs

If you've attended any of the RMC's dinner events at Libby's Bistro in Gorham, you know that the auctions accompanying the dinner are full of surprises. It goes almost without saying that the items on offer will be one-of-a-kind, related to Randolph, and often lovingly hand-made. This was certainly true of one of our premier auction items this past August: a venerable "RMC information box" that, after years of service near the Appalachia trailhead, was ready for retirement. It held, among other things, information cards about the RMC, to let hikers know who's caring for the trail under their feet and inviting them to become members. Randolph resident and member David Ruble has made new weather-resistant boxes for us, and he installed one of them this summer so we could bring the old one to the auction. A big hit! After a typically polite frenzy of bidding, members Catherine and Jeffrey Maletta stepped forward as the proud new owners of the box. Now we know where they'll be keeping their maps and guidebooks!

