



ANNUAL REPORT

2018

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YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Year in Review and Looking to the Future

2018 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

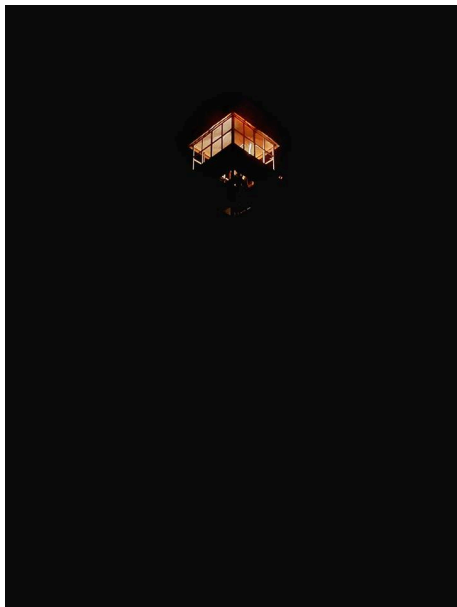
The Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower continue to receive a continuous stream of donations, large and small, from supporters. After a year of very hard work of fundraising, the Friends successfully acquired a grant from the Cloudsplitter Foundation. Every dollar goes towards furthering our mission. Thank you all for the support.



2018 OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

Successful fundraising and the Cloudsplitter grant allowed the FOSRMFT to pursue the replacement of all 24 Diagonal Angle Steel Structural Braces on St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower. Fabrication of the steel for the 24 cross braces was completed by Pat Lawrence of Pat's Welding in Keeseville, NY. The pieces were then delivered to the supplier (Jeffords Steel of Plattsburgh) who shipped them out for galvanization. After that they were delivered to the DEC maintenance facility and prepared for the flight to the summit. A Cloudsplitter Grant, DEC funding, some generous anonymous donations and hundreds of smaller donations enabled us to move forward with this project. The materials were delivered to the mountaintop by the NYS Police Aviation Unit and NYS

DEC forest rangers on October 31. Contractor Mike Vilegi and his crew were able to replace one set of cross braces before winter weather set in and forced postponement of the project until the spring of 2019.



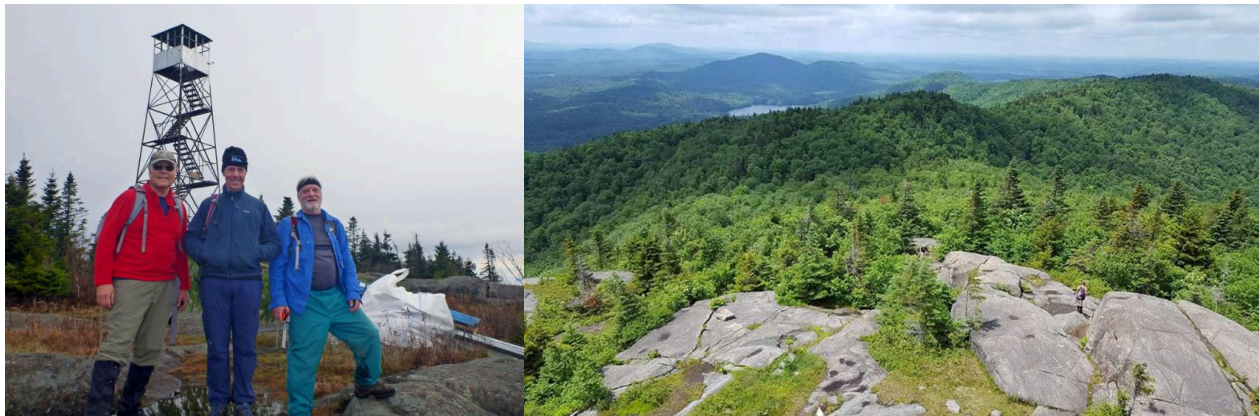
LOOKING AHEAD

2019 will be an exciting year for the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower! We are all staged to complete the cross brace replacement project. Consultation and evaluation of footers and bedrock pins will be pursued. The stairs and landings need to be removed and primed to stop the corrosion process between wherever pressure-treated wood is touching the galvanized stair treads. Additional restoration work includes cold galvanization of the window barriers to prevent future metal corrosion.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship Report

2018 was a tremendous year for stewardship on St. Regis Mountain. In partnership with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) of Paul Smith's College (PSC) and funding from the NYS DEC, the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower were able to provide 29 days of stewardship from May 29th to October 10th, 18 more days than in 2017. AWI and FOSRMFT volunteer Stewards interacted with 1129 people this year compared to 684 in 2017 and 170 in 2016 when the steward program was fully implemented.



Summit stewarding is an important way to educate visitors about the history, environment, and importance of conservation. Throughout the summer, the stewards interacted with hundreds of visitors and helped spread the word about conservation and preservation in the Adirondacks. Since the fire tower is no longer used as a tool in the forest fire prevention efforts, it is now a platform for out-of-doors education. The tower itself serves as a museum and the stewards offer information regarding how the tower and observers played a part in the protection of the natural resources of the Adirondacks.

A large part of the stewardship program success in 2018 was due to the stewardship page on the FOSRMFT website. This tool allows volunteers to see a calendar with days available for stewardship. Once a volunteer picks a day, it is either then approved or denied by a FOSRMFT Board Member. After a day has been made official, Education Chair Janelle then contacts the volunteer to provide them with any information they may need to be a successful summit steward. This includes sharing a summit steward guidebook, created largely by Board Member Bob Marrone, with the help of volunteers, which has information on the tower, its history, and the surrounding landscape.

In 2018, summit stewards continued to hand out summit cards, which are signed and dated by the stewards and allow hikers to keep an official record of their climb. The cards are especially popular with younger hikers, who are thrilled to be able to return with the certification.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

To aid in summit stewardship, progress continues to be made on fabricating and installing interpretive panels inside the tower cab. This project is being done with the assistance of Mark Kurtz Photography, who is producing the pictures. Once this project is complete, the surrounding mountains, lakes, and other landmarks will be labeled on panels hung above the cab windows.

Below is a table summary of our stewardship numbers:

DATE	NUMBER OF VISITORS REACHED
May 28, 2018	52
May 31, 2018	2
June 5, 2018	0
June 6, 2018	2
June 7, 2018	31
June 10, 2018	26
June 17, 2018	27
June 21, 2018	25
June 22, 2018	36
June 26, 2018	71
June 27, 2018	13
June 29, 2018	43
July 6, 2018	33
July 7, 2018	90
July 8, 2018	56
July 9, 2018	15
July 18, 2018	32
July 21, 2018	77
July 24, 2018	36
July 27, 2018	18
August 2, 2018	26
August 9, 2018	59
August 11, 2018	60
August 12, 2018	59
August 17, 2018	17
August 18, 2018	60
August 21, 2018	58
September 8, 2018	60
October 6, 2018	45
TOTAL	1,129

OUTREACH

Outreach

2018 was an excellent year for outreach for FOSRMFT. From different events to social media, FOSRMFT continues to find ways to reach a wider audience. A special patch and a wine label were created to celebrate the centennial.



EVENTS

Multiple events open to the public were hosted by FOSRMFT this year.

- June 21 and July 19, 2018 - Saranac Lake Downtown Art Walks
 - Board members Scottie Adams and Rich LaBombard manned a table promoting the fire tower and raising money through donations and raffles tickets.
- July 28, 2018, Adirondack Fire Towers – History and Restoration
 - This presentation given by fire tower author and historian Marty Podskoch was held at the Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center in Paul Smiths, NY. It was educational, interactive and lots of fun.
- August 1, 2018 - Paul Smith's College Third Annual St. Regis Neighbor Get-together.
 - The lake community members had many stories of their adventures going up the fire tower over the years. There was a lot of enthusiasm expressed about our restoration efforts.
- August 5, 2018 – Centennial Celebration
 - Our centennial celebration at the beautiful facility at Lake Clear Lodge enjoyed warm summer temperatures. Featured speakers were:
 - Ernest Hohmeyer of Lake Clear Lodge who spoke of the legend of the Sleeping Lady (St Regis Mountain)
 - Assemblyman Billy Jones
 - Tom Martin, DEC Region 5 Supervisor of Natural Resources
 - Julie Harjung, DEC Forest Ranger
 - Joe Rupp, DEC Forest Ranger (retired)



OUTREACH

- Laurie Rankin, Director NY Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA)
- Tom Martin, DEC Region 5 Supervisor of Natural Resources presented the co-chairs of the Friends with a special plaque of appreciation for the Friends efforts to restore the Tower. There was tasty and healthful food and beverages and live music by the local band “Birch Boys”.
- September 1, 2018 - Lighting of the Fire Towers
 - Hardy members of the Friends organization lit up the tower in spectacular fashion for all to see. Lighting of the Tower is part of an effort by many tower groups to light up towers throughout the Adirondacks and Catskills. The Lake Clear Lodge hosted a “Lighting Party” on their beautiful beach with a great view of the tower through their telescope!

NEWS ARTICLES

FOSRMFT and the tower restoration were featured in two news articles in 2018. The first was published in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise in June. The article, titled “Summer of Towering Centennials”, reported on the three fire towers in the local area celebrating their centennials. St. Regis was the fire tower pictured in the article.

In August 2018, the Adirondack Daily Enterprise reported on “St. Regis gets 100th Birthday Party”. Copies of each article can be found on our website under the “News” tab.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Jumping from the in-person world to the digital one, FOSRMFT continues to work hard to promote their mission online.

On Facebook, posts are frequently seen by hundreds of people. This statistic is measured by the “Insights” tab on the organization’s page. As of December 31, 2018, 1,044 people “Like” FOSRMFT’s Facebook page.

FOSRMFT Instagram page has gathered 539 followers (as of December 31, 2018).



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements

2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	
Grants	2000
Membership Dues	0
Donations	8857
Events	0
Interest	0
Total Revenue	10587
EXPENSES	
Legal and Accounting Fees	28
Program Expense	474
Equipment	0
Supplies	0
Printing & Copying	0
IT	35
Postage & Delivery	150
Fundraising	1730
Construction Costs	2944
Total Expenses	5361
NET INCOME	5496

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12/31/2018

Assets

Current assets:

Cash 4,614

Total assets \$4,614

Liabilities

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable 6300-

Total current liabilities \$ 6300

Long-term liabilities

Mortgage payable -

Total long-term liabilities -

Total liabilities \$-6300

CONTACT INFORMATION

FRIENDS OF ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER

Contact Information **Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower**

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<http://www.friendsofstregis.org>

Board of Directors

Doug Fitzgerald - Co-chair
David Petrelli - Co-chair
Scottie Adams- Secretary/Treasurer
Janelle Hoh - Education
Richard LaBombard- Operations
Dr. Ed Hixson
Jack Burke
Centennial Chair
Nancy LaBombard

