



## **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

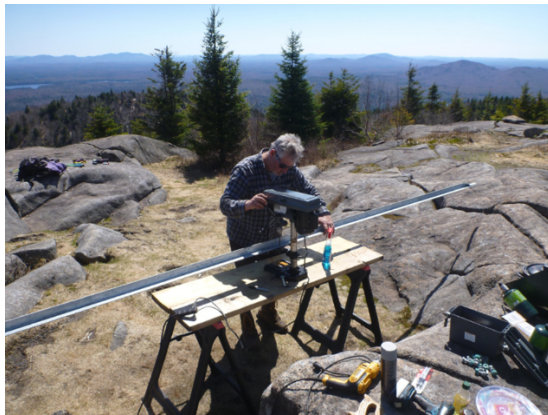
## Year in Review and Looking to the Future

### 2019 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower received a generous donation from an anonymous donor and a grant from the Cloudsplitter Foundation allowing the major reconstruction work on the tower this year to move forward. The Friends continue to receive a stream of donations from supporters. Every dollar goes towards furthering our mission Thank you all for the support.

### 2019 OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

The 2019 restoration season began in earnest on May 8, 2019. Contractor Mike Vilege, his crew of 2, and 3 FOSRMFT volunteers replaced the 8 cross braces at ground level. On May 11 co-chair Doug joined Mike and a crew of 3. Working so late they hiked down in the dark, they replaced all but 2 of the 4 braces at the cab level. The next day Mike and one crew member again worked all day to finish up the cross-brace replacement project.



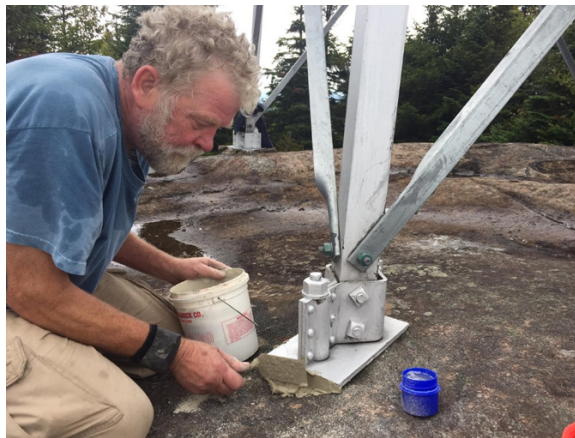
On May 22, DEC forest rangers and State Police pilots removed the old braces, tools and all equipment off the summit.

## YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Here are the old braces being flown off the mountain. The tree tied to the back acts like a rudder – keeping the load from swaying back-and-forth. Note the new braces on the tower shining in the sun as the old braces are being flown off the summit.

August 19, 2019: Mason Mike Stender repairs footings. Mike, friends Jay, John and board members Doug, Rich, Jack and Bob (with all necessary materials) rode boats to the Judy Cameron Lake Trail in Spring Bay, Upper St. Regis Lake. The hike up the Lake Trail was uneventful. At the merge with the Keese Mills Trail, they stopped to fill up several gallon jugs with water to mix with cement for the footings repair.



The same day, other workers started a stair priming project. The stairs need to be removed and the metal stringers primed to avoid rusting.

Four additional days (8/27, 9/17, 10/4 and 10/11) were spent by FOSRMFT board members working on priming the metal frames of the stair treads and the landings. On the first day they realized that many of the bolts could not be removed and so had to be cut – adding to the difficulty of the entire project. Most trips were made via the Judy Cameron Lake Trail. This shortened the hike which was nice considering the weight of the tools needed at the project site



## YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



On 10/4/21, in addition to priming 2 landings, the leg brackets were cleaned of debris and sediment which was causing them to hold water. Drainage was established because holding water could have caused damage through freezing and thawing.

### LOOKING AHEAD

2020 should be an exciting year for the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower! We are actively pursuing different avenues that will allow us to have a stronger stewardship presence on the summit. Our volunteer steward calendar will be available again for those inclined to spend a day or two as an interpreter. The cab floor is all that remains to be primed. This will hopefully occur in Spring 2020. Projects scheduled for completion in the upcoming year include: painting the whole tower and installing panoramic interpretive panels above the cab windows.

# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## Stewardship Report

2019 was another tremendous year for stewardship on St. Regis Mountain. In partnership with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower were able to provide fifteen days of coverage, between AWI staff and volunteers.

Summit stewarding is an important way to educate visitors about history, the environment, and the 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.

Below is a table summary of our stewardship numbers for 2019:

Date	Number of Visitors Reached
Saturday, May 25, 2019	46
Saturday, June 15, 2019	11
Sunday, June 23, 2019	35
Thursday, July 4, 2019	85
Friday, July 5, 2019	100
Friday, July 12, 2019	17
Tuesday, July 23, 2019	50
Thursday, July 25, 2019	45
Thursday, August 1, 2019	62
Friday, August 2, 2019	75
Saturday, August 3, 2019	90
Thursday, August 8, 2019	53
Thursday, August 22, 2019	75
Saturday, August 31 2019	2
Sunday, October 6 2019	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>866</b>

A large part of the stewardship program success in 2019 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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

steward. This includes sharing a summit steward guide book, 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 2019, 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.

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.

Year	Days	Number of Visitors Reached	Visitors Reached/Day
2016	7	170	24
2017	11	684	62
2018	29	1129	39
2019	15	866	58

## OUTREACH

### Outreach

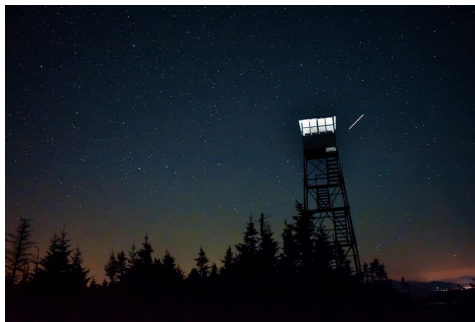
Trail reports: Summit stewards and work crews continue to give periodic reports on trail conditions which are posted on our Facebook page and on the website.

## EVENTS

### **Annual Lighting of the Tower: August 31, 2019**

This was St Regis Mountain Tower's third lighting and the 6th annual lighting state wide. This year the St Regis tower lit up brighter than before. Last year was quite windy; this year conditions were perfect. Also, the "lighting crew" carried up 10 implements of mass lighting! This year's crew consisted of board members David, Bob and Janelle; David's daughter Erin and Janelle's friend Braylin.

Meanwhile, down below at the Lake Clear Lodge, board members Ed and Scottie, their family and friends, and a packed house of tower lighting enthusiasts enjoyed anecdotes from Ed and the LC Lodge host Ernest. Scottie talked about the recent history of the tower and the need for more volunteers and donations. There was an ongoing slideshow of the work done on the tower and scenic pictures from the summit. Then a fine meal was had by all. After dinner they walked down to the beach on Lake Clear to watch the brilliant lighting of the St Regis Mountain Fire Tower!



## OUTREACH

### NEWS ARTICLES

In June 2019, the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, published a picture of the St. Regis Fire Tower.

#### Towering over the Park



Rosemary Crowley, 17, of Saranac Lake takes pictures from the top of the fire tower on St. Regis Mountain in Paul Smiths on Sunday. The tower was originally built in 1918, and a volunteer group has largely rebuilt it over the last four years, after the state Adirondack Park Agency designated it as historic. (Enterprise photo — Peter Crowley)

In the August 24, 2019 edition of the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, staff writer Justin Levine wrote an article titled “Adirondack fire towers get a second life a century on”. The article is about all Adirondack fire towers, but features a section about the St. Regis Fire Tower and how it was saved from removal and eventually restored.

Copies of newspaper articles and pictures can be found on our website under the “News” tab.

### SOCIAL MEDIA



FOSRMFT continues to work hard to promote their mission online.

Our Facebook posts are seen by hundreds of people. As of Dec. 31, 2019, 1200 people “Like” FOSRMFT’s Facebook page.

In September 2017, FOSRMFT launched an Instagram page to share pictures of St. Regis Mountain and the surrounding landscape.

The page has gathered 350 followers to date.

And of course, our website is updated on a regular basis with pictures of all the restoration efforts and ongoing activities.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Financial Statements

### 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Grants	0
Membership Dues	0
Donations	1031
Events	0
Interest	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1031</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Legal and Accounting Fees	17
Program Expense	135
Equipment	0
Supplies	91
Printing & Copying	45
IT	35
Postage & Delivery	99
Fundraising	377
Construction Costs	7387
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8186</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-7155</b>

### BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12/31/2019

#### **Assets**

##### Current assets:

Cash 2857

**Total assets \$2857**

#### **Liabilities**

##### Current liabilities:

Accounts payable 0

Total current liabilities \$ 0

##### Long-term liabilities

Mortgage payable -

Total long-term liabilities -

**Total liabilities \$0**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS FRIENDS OF ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER

## Board of Directors Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower

Doug Fitzgerald - Co-chair

David Petrelli – Co-chair

Nancy LaBombard - Treasurer

Richard LaBombard- Operations

Janelle Hoh - Education

Scottie Adams

Bob Brand

Jack Burke

Dr. Ed Hixson

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### FRIENDS OF ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER

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

Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower

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<http://www.friendsofstregis.org>