

St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower



Dedicated to Dr. Edward Hixson St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower – Ambassador



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Friends of St. Regis Mt. Fire Tower Mission

Our mission is to restore the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower for safe public access while developing an educational and interpretive program that promotes the historic and cultural values of the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower, the NYS Fire Tower Network and the Adirondack Preserve.

St. Regis Mountain - elevation 2,874'



Two trailheads: Ascent – 1,260'

St. Regis Mt. Trail - 3.4 miles - Keese Mill Rd.

Lake Trail - 2.3 miles - Upper St. Regis Lake (boat access)

Early hikers - Paul Smith's Hotel Guests



Theodore Roosevelt
1871 - Climbed St. Regis Mt.
12 years old

*“Paul Smith’s August 12th/71
We ascended Mount St. Regis today.
From the top of this mountain we
had a view of all or almost all the
lake system of this part of the
Adirondacks.”*

The Adirondack Survey

1876

Surveyor Verplanck
Colvin's first ascent
of St. Regis Mt.

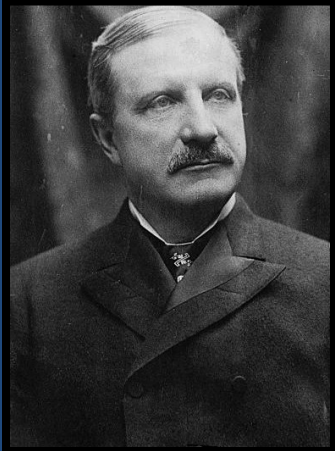


Wooden signal station
on St. Regis Mountain
circa **1900**

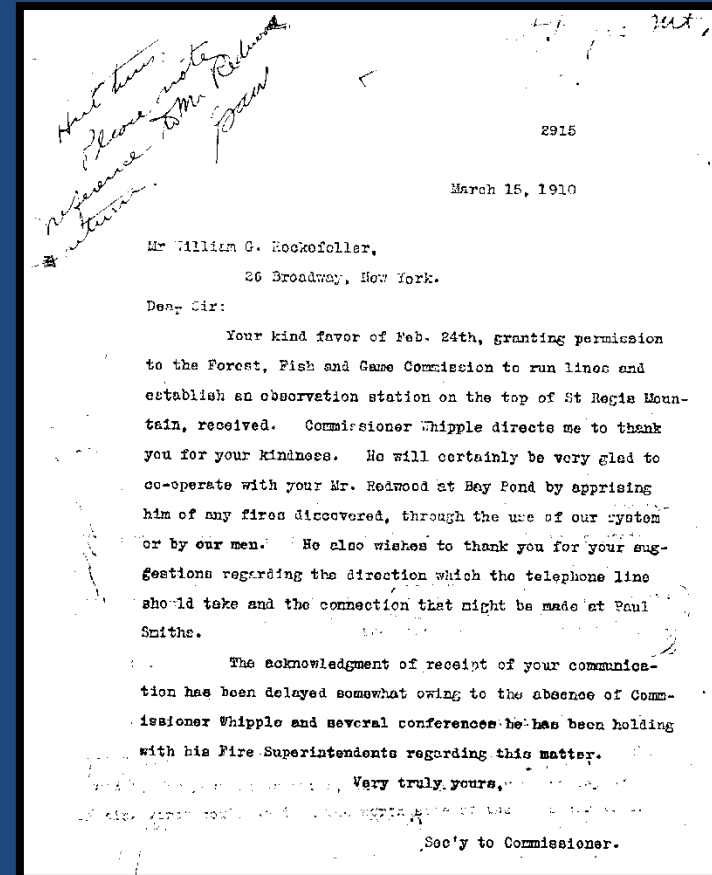
1910 – Fire Observation begins



← Aftermath of **1908**
fire on St. Regis Mt.



William Avery Rockefeller, Jr.
(1841-1922)
Co-founder of
Standard Oil Company.



1910 letter to Wm. Rockefeller



St. Regis Mt. Fire Observation Station

- Active 81 yrs. - **1910-1990**
- Current tower - **1918**
Conservation Commission
- 35' Aermotor model LS-40
- State & National Registers
of Historic Places - **2005**



Observers

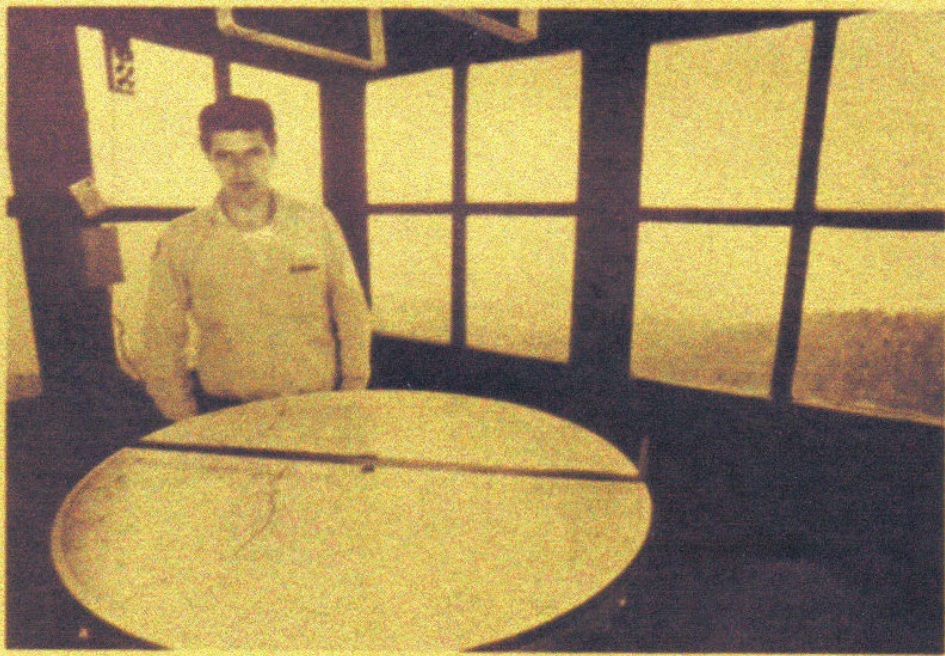
Stood vigil for
81 years

Protecting the
forests and
educating the
public

Leander Martin - Observer **1939-42**

Observers

- **19 Men & 2 Women**
- Longest service **14 years**
- Shortest service **13 days**



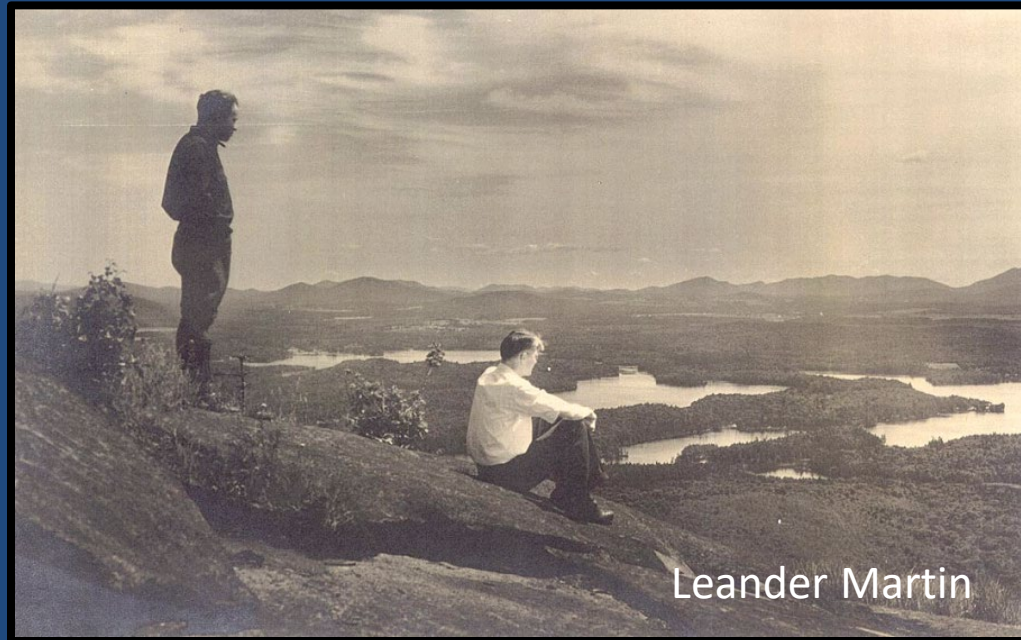
Observer on the summit of St. Regis Mt. What will be his fate and the fate of all the towers in the Adirondacks?

Ed Samburgh 1974

CAYDE H. SMITH PHOTO

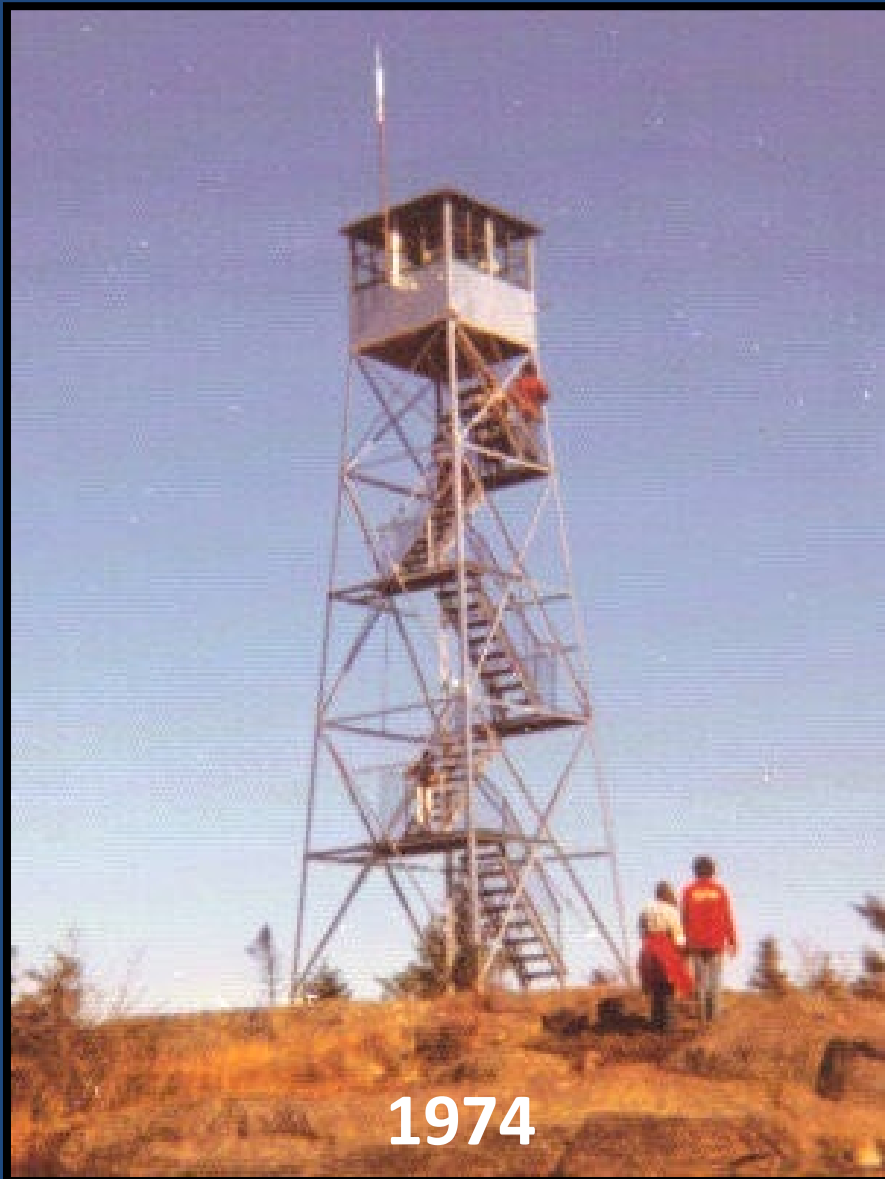
Notables

- **Albert Otis** – from Otisville (Paul Smiths) 1 of 19 children. Died in the observer's cabin at age 73
- **Ed Samburgh** – Longest service. Known for his handlebar mustache.



Leander Martin

Active Service – 1910 to 1990



Cabin built 1939 – Removed 1995



Advocacy

2001 – DEC Public Information Meeting
tower removal

2002 – Advocacy group forms
public meetings, petitions, letters, local resolutions

2005 – National Historic designation achieved

2006 – Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the St. Regis Canoe Area - fire tower highest profile issue

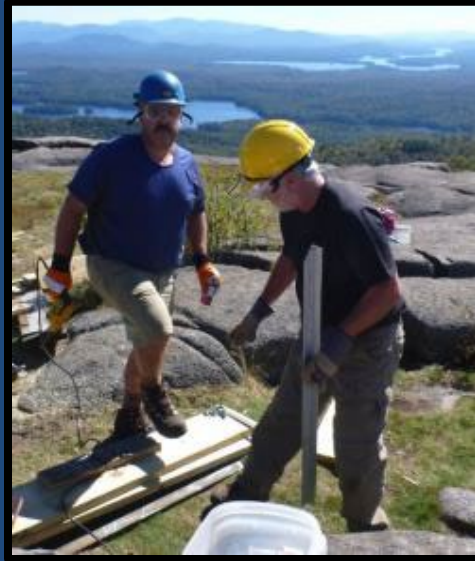
2010 – (February) DEC Fire Tower Study
called for tower removal

2010 – (October) APA Reclassification to Historic
0.5 acres St. Regis and Hurricane mountains

2014 – Fire Tower Historic Area UMP approved

2015 – Stewardship Agreement with DEC

Restoration 2015-2016



Restoration 2015-2016



7/12/2015



9/23/2015

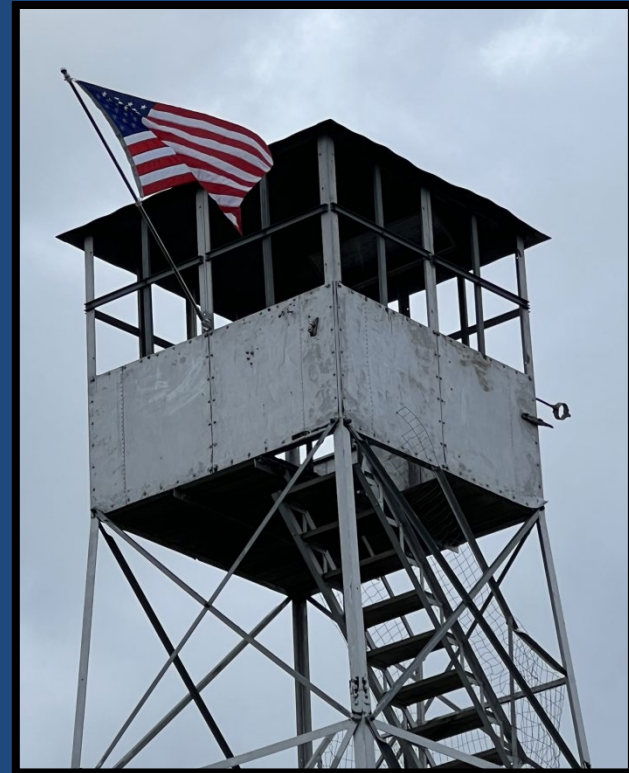


8/27/2016



9/1/2016

Restoration 2018-2023



Education

Panoramic Panels

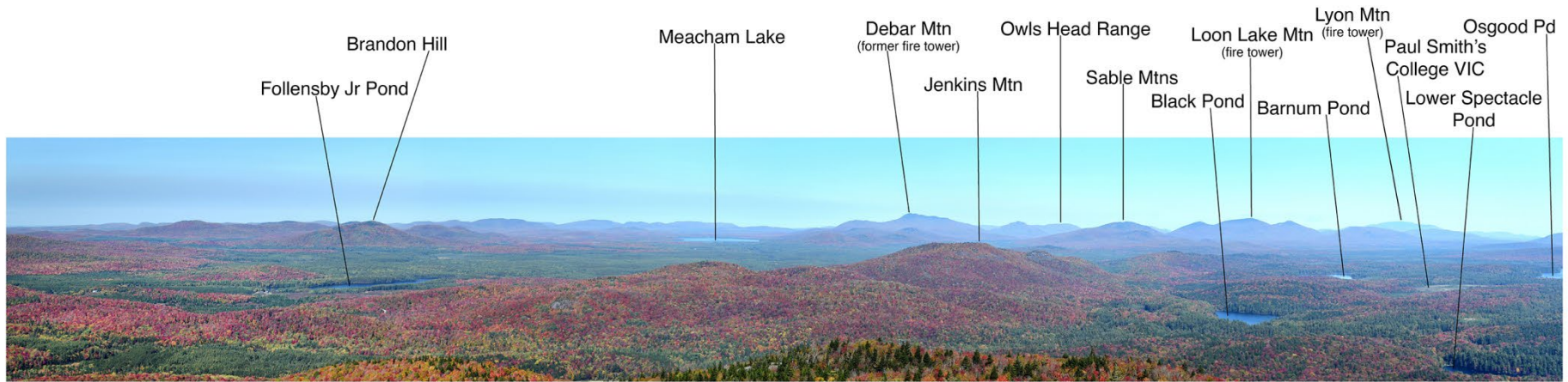
South & East Views – 2021



Education

Panoramic Panels

North & West Views - 2023



Summit Stewards

A partnership




**NYS Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

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

**Paul Smith's
College VIC**

Friends of St. Regis Mt. Fire Tower
This is to certify that:



_____ Climbed
St. Regis Mountain
Elevation 2,874'

_____ Interpreter/Steward _____ Date



Paul Smith's College – VIC

Tower Display



Original 1918 Tower Phone

Support

- **Lake Clear Lodge – Centennial Celebration and 6th Annual Light the Tower Party**



- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- NY State Police – Aviation
- **Paul Smith's College**
 - VIC
 - Adirondack Watershed Institute
- Large anonymous donor
 - roof, braces, panoramic panels
- **Cloudsplitter Foundation** – braces
- Many large and small donations
- **Dr. Edward Hixson – Memorial Fund**





Current Projects

- ❖ Replace Safety Fencing
- ❖ Panoramic Panels
- ❖ Displays at PSC VIC & Lake Clear Lodge
- ❖ Summit Steward Program

Executive Board



2022 – PSC VIC

- Doug Fitzgerald – Chair
- David Petrelli – Emeritus Chair
- Nancy LaBombard – Treasurer
- Rich LaBombard – Operations
- Bob Brand – Co-chair
- Tom Hirshblond
- Scottie Adams
- Jack Burke
- Jack Drury - Education
- Ed Hixson – in memoriam





To learn more contact the
**Friends of St. Regis
Mt. Fire Tower**

www.friendsofstregis.org

Find us on Facebook

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Lake Clear, NY 12945

Questions





Enjoy the Lighting