

STARK MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

Steward ▲ Educate ▲ Play

Look Back at 2021 | Look Forward to 2022



Preserve Our Paradise Campaign

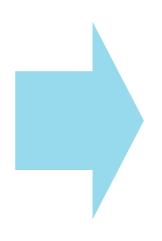
- Campaign raised over \$5.5 million for MRG
- Fundraising for the campaign ended in 2019
- ~\$210k pledge payments collected during 2021
- All pledges and gifts collected except:
 - The final ~\$50k of pledge payments planned for 2022
 - \sim \$250k in bequests
- ~\$100k in cash available for MRG programs and projects

Created ~\$542,000 endowment for MRG



Mission

"To preserve and protect the environment and ecosystem of General Stark Mountain, including its recreational access and historic value, and to support programs that promote and sustain that environment for the enjoyment of present and future generations."



Steward – help to support the habitats, skiing infrastructure, and historic elements;

Educate – create and support programs that illuminate what surrounds us to further understanding, and enjoyment;

Play – encourage our community to enjoy this magical place in all **four** seasons.

From the **spine** of the Green Mountains to **Route 17** between **Sugarbush North** and the **Appalachian Gap**



Future Emphases

SMF's revised strategic plan focuses on:

- Fostering understanding and engagement with the features (organisms, geology, trails, structures) and history of Stark Mountain;
- Encouraging passion and appreciation for Stark Mountain; and
- Enhancing the capacity and capability of the Stark Mountain Foundation.



Steward







Coming Soon

- Expanded deck
- Fox added to displays
- Support trail work



Educate

VINS: Bear Facts



70 attended in-person and virtually

Raptor Meet and Greet



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Birds of Birdland Interpretive Signs



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ROBIN Did you know....?

The American Robin is a year-round resident of Stark Mountain. This is one bird that does not migrate.

Once chicks hatch, the mama bird immediately removes the shells of the hatched eggs from the nest.

Robin eggs are a beautiful blue color. Brighter, more colorful shades of blue are often a sign of a strong and healthy bird!

"The early bird gets the worm" is about the Robin, a testament to both their being one of the earliest birds out in spring, but also to their habit of picking earthworms from the ground. American Robins also eat insects, snails, fruit, and birdseed from feeders.

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They are the largest North American thrush, and can be found roosting in huge groups. Scientists have recorded winter roosts of up to a quarter million birds!

Coming Soon

- Mammal interpretive signs
- Continue support for Junior Backcountry Program
- In-person and virtual expert-led programs



Play



MRG installed new trail map signs and printed new paper trail maps thanks to a collaboration with the Open Road Ski Company, James Niehues, and SMF

Fourth Annual StorySki



120+ kids plus accompanying instructors and parents

Hot chocolate served by SMF volunteers

Great collaboration with patrol, mtn ops and ski school

Soft launched MRG Children's Ski Scholarship program

- Created in memory of Terry Harris
- Need-based for Mad River Valley elementary school children
- Provides equipment, lunch, a seasonal ski school program, and a season's pass to each participant
- To apply, email <u>skischolarship@starkmountain.org</u>

Coming Soon

- StorySki
- Refreshed hiking and snowshoe maps
- Expand Children's Ski Scholarships
- Support Skiing for Scholars



Bears

160 Name the Bear contest entries

SMF joined several Valley organizations to co-sponsor the Mad River Valley Black Bear Initiative

madrivervalley.com /stewardmrv/livingwith-bears



Ursula Major

The General



Stephen Cold Bear

Slalom Bill

Coming Soon

Live bears and their tracks at MRG and around the valley.



Thank Our Board Members

Jim Elkind, President, Chair of Fundraising Planning and Finance Committees

Debbie Lesure, Vice President and Chair of Environmental Education Committee

Xander Patterson, Treasurer and Chair of Lands Committee

Amory Hunnewell, Secretary

Penny Parson

Deb Steines

Chris Stephenson



Donate or Volunteer

Steward



Educate



Play



Super Fun!

Thank you party for **Donors**and Volunteers

with **The Grift**

StarkMountain.org

You Can Help

- Expand our board
- Share Legal or Education expertise
- Engage your Passion for Ecology, Recreation, History