

2021 Old Hutcroo Association Honorary Membership

The O.H.A. has three classes of membership, two of which, Special and Honorary, are reserved for honoring individuals who have made exceptional contributions to The O.H.A., the huts, and/or surrounding communities. This year we are proud to award an Honorary Membership to Laura and Guy Waterman for their outstanding contributions to the mountains of the Northeast, and enriching the experiences of the AMC Hut system and its employees.

I distinctly remember meeting Laura and Guy for the first time while working as Assistant Hutmaster at Madison in 1986. I listened to the stories shared by our Hutmaster Liz Keuffel, and I was excited to meet them in person at last. From making first ascents of many notable rock and ice climbing routes throughout the northeast, to homesteading their land in Vermont, serving as stewards and protectors of the fragile alpine tundra on our mountain summits, to being noted authors and voices fostering the spirit of wildness and the important role it plays in our lives, I could hardly wait to meet them! I figured I would be able to instantly recognize them as soon as they entered the hut. But alas, they caught me off guard! They both quietly walked in, Guy with his wool “tam o’shanter” and the twinkle in his eye, and Laura with her bright smile and gentle “hello”. Honestly, I had imagined a large physical presence to match the presence and impact they were making in the mountain ranges across the northeast, and all the people who seek adventure and peace in their midst.

And here we are 35 years later, officially recognizing the tremendous impact the Waterman’s made, not only on our mountain regions, but on the AMC Hut system and its employees. Not only did we learn from Laura and Guy secret places to explore around our huts, sometimes being lucky enough to accompany them on their adventures (I will never forget and bitterly cold winter day bushwhacking with Guy up Hoxie Peak in Zealand Notch), but also other lessons that would carry us through our lives. They were always curious about each one of us as they visited the huts, offering their thoughts and experiences for us to consider as we were embarking on our own lives. While Guy may not be with us physically anymore, his spirit continues in the work of the Waterman Fund towards preserving our wilderness and our mountains. Many OH have served on the Fund’s Board of Directors, ensuring that Laura and Guy’s passion to preserve the wild places that are so dear to our hearts will continue for generations. Thank you Laura, and welcome to the OH Association! We hope you will enjoy these special gifts recognizing your accomplishments, and we look forward to welcoming you IN PERSON to Fall Fest 2022!