



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Stark Mountain Foundation Turns 20**

**The Stark Mountain Foundation celebrates our 20 year anniversary this month! General Stark Mountain is located in Waitsfield VT and is precious to many for its beauty and multi-season recreational, environmental, and educational experiences. Since its founding in November 2000, the Stark Mountain Foundation (SMF) has focused on preserving and protecting this treasure. SMF is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, supporting programs and sustaining the environment for the enjoyment of present and future generations.**

**SMF serves as a steward to the mountain. Examples of mountain preservation include funding support to Mad River Glen (MRG) for repairing bridges and culverts, replacing grooming machines and improving snow management. SMF has provided funding for Stark's Nest and the Warming Hut at the top of the double chair. We participated as the fiscal sponsor of the MRG's successful \$5.5 million Preserve Our Paradise Campaign, funding capital improvements to preserve legendary winter recreational opportunities and related infrastructure.**

**In our efforts to enhance our community's mountain experience, SMF has supported a variety of educational programs, including the Owls and Their Calls presentation from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) and the Magic of Bird Migration with Naturalist Brian Aust. Our Kent Thomas Nature Center is filled with interpretative displays focusing on the flora, fauna, and geology of the mountain. It houses a collection of animal specimens such as porcupine, fisher, and even a baby bear cub!**

**SMF recognizes the importance of recreation and play on General Stark Mountain. To this end, we have held a Story Ski for children each of the past two winters. Children ski along a trail reading pages from a story, ending with an event directly related to the story. SMF has also partnered with other organizations, such as the Green Mountain Club in creating directional signs for summer hiking and the Long Trail. Snowshoe trails add opportunities to access the mountain in winter months. Each fall, we run the SMF Hill Climb. Sadly, due to COVID, we were not able to do so this year.**

**Current members of the SMG Board of Directors include Jim Elkind, President and Treasurer, Debbie Lesure, Vice-President, George Gonnella, Secretary, Amory Hunnewell, Sarah Dillard, and Penny Parson. We extend our thanks to Brandi Myers, our past President, whose term expired last month.**

### **About the Stark Mountain Foundation**

**The Stark Mountain Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization based in Waitsfield, VT. The mission of the Stark Mountain Foundation is 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.**

**Learn more at [www.starkmountain.org](http://www.starkmountain.org)**