

Guyot Shelter and Campsite--Outhouse Improvements

Guyot Campsite is the most popular campsite of the entire AMC fleet of White Mountain Campsites, totaling over 3,000 people in 2014. This amounts to a number of things, but especially to a high volume of human waste. Guyot has long been a difficult campsite to manage human waste effectively, but thanks to the AMC Four Thousand Footer Committee and Club, we were able to significantly improve the Guyot Campsite human waste composting system, making it more efficient and sustainable.

The first item was replacing a rotting composting bin lid. The new lid was constructed out of pressure treated wood and will hopefully last for decades. The composting bin is a stainless steel 175-gallon container. The composting bin acts much like a food composting bin, providing a space for compost to decompose.

Most importantly, we replaced an inadequate mixing bin with a stainless steel mixing bin. The older bin was one-half of a 55-gallon plastic drum and was difficult to use and made the process cumbersome and less than pleasant. The mixing bin is what the caretaker uses to mix waste with new bark chips, one batch at a time, in a process that can take 8-10 hours. The stainless steel bins make composting much faster and will also have a longer life than the plastic ones.

Guyot was the only campsite that did not have one of these stainless steel bins, and since Guyot is one of the busiest sites, having that bin is all the more critical. During the caretaker season, Guyot saw over 3,000 overnight visitors, which was by far the highest use recorded. The newly upgraded composting bin was critical to stewardship of this high-use site.

The funding also paid for the airlift to the site, which is significant for Guyot as Guyot is a 15-20 minute round trip for the helicopter.

We are very grateful to the AMC Four Thousand Footer Club and Committee for providing funding to improve our stewardship of Guyot, and the alpine area around Mt Bond.

Report prepared by the AMC Trails Department 2014