

**Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Corridor Monitoring Report
Calendar Year 2009
David B. Field, Overseer of Lands**

Summary Statistics for MATC Corridor Monitoring Responsibilities	
Acres of ATPO fee lands in Maine	31,646
Acres under ATPO-held easement	492
Acres of State of Maine fee lands in nominal corridor	8,362
Acres under State-held easement*	4,353
Miles of exterior corridor boundary survey lines along ATPO fee lands	301.24
Acres of ATPO fee lands with no ECBS	3,452
ATPO monuments (including 35 rebar--rest are std. monuments and rock tablets)	2,042
Number of ATPO tracts	130
Number of ECBS map sheets for ATPO land surveys	164
Corridor monitoring sections	70
Monitoring assignments filled as of 12/31/09	64
Number of miles of ECB paint blazes renewed in 2009	3.75
Number of miles of ECB cleared during 2009***	3.75
Number of monuments positively identified in 2009	297
Number of monuments positively identified to date	889
Number of monuments digitally photographed in 2009	199
Number of monuments digitally photographed to date	634
Miles of boundary walked in 2009	53.3
Hours spent in field by corridor monitors**	387
Hours of travel by corridor monitors**	234
*Includes 1,404 acres for which NPS owns underlying fee **Incomplete. Most hours not reported for Katahdin District. All hours for MATC reported by District Overseers. Monitoring hours reported here were included in the District Overseer reports.***Incomplete. Also, a number of monitors clear around monuments and witness trees, but not along the line.	
Detailed conditions of monuments, witness trees, and lines are recorded on a spreadsheet maintained by the Overseer of Lands.	

Corridor Monitoring in Maine

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club, as a part of the delegation of responsibilities for the management of NPS-owned lands in Maine, has accepted the task of regularly inspecting these lands in accordance with procedures set forth in the Appalachian Trail Conference's *Handbook for Corridor Monitoring and Management of the Appalachian Trail*. The Corridor Monitor Coordinator for Maine is the MATC Overseer of Lands, whose duties are stated in the Club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Monitoring Sections

The 130 tracts of land that have been identified on NPS segment maps from Grafton Notch to Katahdin have been grouped or (in the case of larger tracts) subdivided into 70 corridor monitoring sections. A total of 177 tracts and sub-tracts are maintained in the Club's corridor monitoring database. Assignment of monitoring sections began at the MATC's annual meeting in MATC Corridor Monitoring Report for Calendar Year 2009 - Page 1

April 1992. Most monitoring sections coincide with Trail maintenance sections, and many Trail maintainers have taken on monitoring duties for the lands along their maintenance assignments. The remaining sections are assigned to other MATC volunteers. Corridor monitors report directly to the Overseer of Lands, but copy their reports to the Overseer of the Trail in whose district the corridor monitoring assignment lies. All work hours are collected and reported by the District Overseers. All but a few of the current monitors report via e-mail.

Monitoring Agreements

Each Corridor Monitor is required to sign a Corridor Monitoring Agreement, which spells out the respective responsibilities of the Club and the Monitor. The Overseer of Lands provides each monitor with basic instructions for monitoring, NPS segment and Exterior Corridor Boundary Survey (ECBS) maps of the assigned section, and summaries of deed information, reservations (remainder interests), known problems, and other special information for each tract or tract segment within his or her assignment.

A Corridor Monitor is expected to visit his or her assignment at least once a year. During that visit, the Monitor inspects the lands within each tract for evidence of trespass or other abuse. Exterior corridor boundaries (where they exist), including boundary line blazes, signs, and monuments should be inspected periodically. Tracts or portions of tracts that are found to be particularly vulnerable to abuse must be visited more frequently, according to a system of priorities established by the Monitor and the Overseer of Lands. The condition of corridor information signs and gates or other obstructions on roads that cross the corridor should be included in the inspection. Other problems that should be watched for include use by vehicles or riding/pack animals, the cutting of timber or other vegetation, vegetation damage from activities (such as burning or herbicide application) on adjacent lands, the dumping of garbage or litter, geocaching, planting of agricultural crops, violations of any special restrictions and terms of the deed, evidence of developments or activities on adjacent lands that could have an adverse impact on the Trail or that pose a potential threat to corridor lands, and evidence of damage to the property from natural causes, such as fire, insects, disease, or natural soil erosion.

Corridor Records

All NPS-tract land files and database information extracted from these files and from monitoring reports are maintained by the Overseer of Lands. The database includes, for each of the 177 tracts and sub-tracts, a record of monitoring priority, remainder interests, date of last inspection, date of last exterior corridor boundary (ECB) inspection, year of last ECB renewal, and a file of special problem discovery, reporting, and resolution. In 2004, the Overseer of Lands and corridor monitors began to compile a digital photographic record of the more than 2000 ECBS monuments that exist on ATPO lands in Maine. The Overseer of Lands maintains a file of these photographs. From 2004 through 2009, xxx of the xxx monuments positively identified were digitally photographed.

2009 Corridor Monitoring

Katahdin District: Monitoring Sections 1-11

About 3 miles of surveyed and marked boundary exist in the Katahdin District. This marked corridor begins on the Jo-Mary Road and runs north for about 3 miles to the T1 R 10 town line near Mud Brook. The balance of the 55 miles of the A.T. corridor is not surveyed or marked.

About 25.5 miles of the A.T. is National Park Service land from the Jo-Mary Road to Murphy Brook. About 15 miles of the A.T. is on The Nature Conservancy land from Murphy Brook to the Golden Road. About 1 mile of the A.T. is a private road walk on the Golden Road on Katahdin Paper Company land. The balance of the A.T., about 14.5 miles, is in Baxter State Park, from Abol Stream to Baxter Peak, Katahdin.

Section 1. Baxter Peak, Katahdin to the T3 R10 Town Line. 10.2 trail miles Corridor Monitor: Rick Ste. Croix Section is good. A relocation of the A.T. off the Park Tote Road, has been suggested by Baxter State Park Director Jensen Bissell. Several MATC officers and maintainers checked the suggested new Grassy Pond Trail in May of 2009 and reported back to the MATC Executive Committee. This new trail was approved to be the A.T. by the Executive Committee at the September, 2009 meeting. A new ranger cabin was built in 2007 in Daicy Field about 160 feet from the A.T. The blue blazed "Highwater" Trail was opened in the spring of 2008, along Nesowadnehunk Stream as a bypass to fording the stream at 2 places.

Section 2. T3 R10 Town Line to Abol Bridge. 4.9 trail miles. Corridor Monitor: Rick Ste. Croix Section is good. No issues.

Section 3. Abol Bridge to Rainbow Ledges. 6.1 trail miles. Corridor Monitor: Rick Ste. Croix. Section is good. This land is part of the Debsconeag Wilderness owned by The Nature Conservancy. Wood harvesting ended on 12/31/05 on this land. Access to the Hurd Brook Leanto area of the A.T. continues via the North Hurd Pond Road and a .6 mile bushwhack to the A.T. on old skidder trails.

Section 4. Rainbow Ledges to Rainbow Mt. side trail. 3.3 trail miles. Corridor Monitor: Rick Ste. Croix. Rick reports that there are still four bootleg campsites on the eastern end of Rainbow Lake where trash is cleaned up and illegal fire rings are broken up each year.

Section 5. Rainbow Mt. side trail to Pollywog Stream. 7.9 trail miles. Corridor Monitor: Rick Ste. Croix. Section is good. The land north of Murphy Brook is owned by The Nature Conservancy. The land south of Murphy Brook is owned by the National Park Service. At Rainbow Lake Dam and at a few other locations, fishermen have campsites with fire rings and some trash left behind. It seems that some fishermen fly in by float plane and others come in by boat from Rainbow Lake Camps. Some also hike in on the former path of the A.T. from nearby Nahmakanta Lake Camps. There are 5 boats stored at Rainbow Lake Dam, 7 boats and 2 canoes at the northern Rainbow Deadwaters and 1 boat and 1 canoe at the southern Rainbow Deadwaters on July 13, 2009. The ECB has not been surveyed on the NPS portion of this section.

Section 6. Pollywog Stream to the South End of Nahmakanta Lake. 8.3 trail miles. Corridor Monitor: Boyd Brown. No report from Boyd. Rick Ste. Croix reports that there are 4 boats and 3 canoes stored at Crescent Pond, as well as some bootleg campsites near the pond. There are also 3 unofficial side trails that lead to the A.T. in this section. One from Rainbow Stream that leads to Nahmakanta Lake Camps, one from Crescent Pond that leads to a road and a third from about .4 miles north of Nesuntabundt Mt. to the shore of Nahmakanta Lake. These trails are maintained by the owner of Nahmakanta Lake Camps for their clients use. Maine BPL is in the process of building a side trail that will connect to the A.T. just north of Crescent Pond. This trail has been approved by the MATC. Rick saw no evidence of this new trail on July 14, 2009.

Section 7. South End of Nahmakanta Lake to Mahar Landing side trail. 4.9 trail miles. Corridor

Monitor: Rick Ste.Croix. Section is good. Maine BPL has built a blue blazed side trail that connects to the A.T. about 1.3 miles south of the Nahmakanta Stream Bridge. This trail has been approved by MATC. Rick hiked about a 1/4 mile section of this trail and saw no evidence of any use. The footpath was covered with leaves and some branches, not used to the degree of the A.T.

Section 8. Northern Shoreline of the West End of Rainbow Lake. 0 trail miles. Corridor Monitor: Rick Ste.Croix. Section is good

Section 9. Nahmakanta Lake Camps. 0 trail miles. Corridor Monitor: Dave Field. Dave did not visit this section in 2009.

Section 10. Mahar Landing side trail to Antlers' Campsite. 6.1 trail miles. Corridor Monitor: Tom Winsor. As usual, Tom submitted no report. Rick Ste. Croix reports that the section is in good shape. For a number of years the owner of Whitehouse Camps on Pemadumcook Lake has been placing signs, business cards and painted arrows on the A.T. to direct hikers to their business. This situation was referred to National Park Service Ranger Todd Remaley in February, 2007 by the MATC Executive Committee. Todd contacted Mr. Bill Ware several times by phone and in person in June 2007 to inform him of NPS and A.T. rules and regulations concerning the A.T. In 2008 and 2009, Rick found no signs or business cards on the A.T. advertising for Whitehouse Camps.

Section 11. Antlers' Campsite to JoMary Road. 4.2 trail miles. Corridor Monitor: Tom Winsor. No Report. Rick Ste. Croix reports that the section is good.

White Cap District: Monitoring Sections 12-28

Section 12. Jo Mary Road to Cooper Brook Lean-to. Corridor Monitors Michelle Curtain and George Hillman. On 14 September Dave Field made three round trips into the old Madore camp site on Church Pond and hauled out about 200 pounds of debris, mostly metal. There is plenty of metal, plastic hose, etc. left to haul out. Michelle and George visited the section on 11 October and located/photographed 16 monuments, from 103-ME-12 to 120. They also re-blazed this section. George was back in on 22 Nov. and painted blazes and located monuments from 103-ME-10 to 11A. George went in again on the 29th and worked through heavy brush to find 103-ME-8A and 9.

Section 13. Cooper Brook Lean-to to Crawford Pond; Chaples Camp. Corridor Monitors Michelle Curtain and George Hillman. Michelle and George went in on 5 June, canoed across Crawford Pond and checked out the bootleg campsite. They did a lot of other checking around, finding no encroachments, but noting that the boundary around the pond is very badly overgrown and hard to follow. They returned on 5 December to search out the elusive 103-ME-22. After a lot of measuring and digging, they unearthed the monument 18 inches down and went on to pick up 21A and 21B as well, noting that beyond 21A "the corridor is one giant blowdown."

Section 14. Crawford Pond to East Branch of Pleasant River. Section not assigned.

About 1/2 mile of the A.T. footpath is outside of the corridor along the descent of the west side of Little Boardman Mountain. Dave Field and Lester Kenway flagged out a new route within the corridor on 6 September 2008. Dave Field, Michelle Curtain, Stan and Michelle Moody cleared all but about 1/10 mile of the relocation on 19,20 September. It will be completed in 2010.

Section 15. East Branch Pleasant River to West Branch Ponds Road. This section is not assigned. Dave Field spent a long day on 25 August and walked 3.8 miles, almost all of the boundary line on both sides of the corridor, locating and photographing 18 monuments, 104-ME-29 through 31C and 104-ME-43D through 47A. He was unable to locate 103-ME-29 despite good witness trees and a large boulder that should have contained the monument. Swamps and open water discouraged him from searching for 104-ME-32 and 32A.

Section 16. West Branch Ponds road to Summit of White Cap Mountain. This section is not assigned. On 21 October, Dave Field covered 1.8 miles of line, identified and photographed 11 monuments, 104-ME-48 thru 50C and 104-ME-28A thru 28D. He searched again, without success, for 29.

Section 17. Summit of White Cap Mountain to White Brook Trail. Section not assigned. Dave Field visited the area on 21 October and located a road and old trail that allow reaching the north side of this section, right at the junction with Section 18, in only 20 minutes from the parking spot.

Section 18. White Brook Trail to Gulf Hagas Mountain. Monitor Tim Akers. No report.

Section 19. Gulf Hagas Mountain to Gulf Hagas Cutoff Trail. Section not assigned. No report.

Section 20. Gulf Hagas Preserve. Monitor Jeff Goldknopf. No report in 2006 , 2007, 2008, or 2009.

Section 21. Gulf Hagas Cutoff Trail to West Branch of the Pleasant River. Monitor Janice Clain. On 13 August Janice and friends cleared brush along the western boundary of the former Nature Conservancy Hermitage tract, which had not been re-surveyed when added to ATPO lands. They re-painted blazes along the line.

Section 22. West Branch of the Pleasant River to Summit of Columbus Mountain. Monitor Mark Doty. On 1 June Mark and I walked 1.5 miles of the eastern boundary, locating and photographing nine monuments from 105-ME-1 thru 7. Mark returned on 19 July and continued 3,300 feet along the eastern and southerly lines, locating and photographing monuments 105-ME-8 and 9. Mark worked 10,525 feet of the line on the same side of the corridor in sections 22 and 23 on 8 November, locating and photographing four monuments, 105-ME-9A thru 11, then continued on into Section 23. E.J. Carrier, owner of lands adjacent to the corridor (as well as owner of most of the A.T. parking lot) was harvesting timber east of the parking lot and along the road west of the parking lot. Mark did not walk the boundary adjacent to the cutting. Others have reported cutting along the boundary, perhaps including a few of the trees marked with side blazes.

Section 23. Columbus Mountain to Fourth Mountain. Monitor Mark Doty. Mark continued from work on Section 22, locating and photographing six monuments, 105-ME-11A thru 12. Loggers supervised by Huber Resources had been logging adjacent to the boundary line on the other side of the corridor on Appalachian Mountain Club land, and have plans to cut along the south side of the corridor in coming years.

Section 24. Fourth Mountain to Long Pond Stream Road. Section not assigned. No report

Section 25. Long Pond Stream Road to Big Wilson Stream. Monitors Michelle and Stan Moody. Michelle and Stan made two trips to their section. On 26 April they covered the east side of the corridor, locating and photographing eight monuments, 105-ME-67 thru 69. On 22 November they located and photographing five monuments, 105-ME-69A thru 72 and **noted ATV tracks leading into a cleared area within the corridor just north of 105-ME-72.**

About 100 yards of the A.T. footpath is out of the corridor on the easterly boundary of Tract 105-12 near monument 105-ME-71. The MATC will move the Trail back into the corridor in 2010.

Section 26. Big Wilson Stream to Little Wilson Falls. Monitor Don Stack. Don visited his section on 7 September and walked about one mile of the southerly boundary line, locating and photographing six monuments, from 106-ME-2C thru 4. He also found very clear evidence of ATV traffic through the corridor along the old Prentiss & Carlisle Road to the small pond SW of Big Wilson Cliffs. (The road is a reserved Main Haul Road, so permission for the use of recreational vehicles is up to the owner of the reserved r/w. The road is gated but the ATVs bypass the gate.)

Section 27. Little Wilson Falls to Leeman Brook Lean-to. Monitor Richard Welsh. On 2 June, for the first corridor monitoring workshop of the year, Dick Welsh, Don Stack, Whitney Michelsen and I hiked in along the North Pond Road to the corridor boundary south of North Pond, then followed the southerly boundary west. We covered 1.1 miles of line, locating and photographing six monuments, 106-ME-12A thru 15 except for 14, before crossing to the A.T. at Leeman Brook Lean-to and returning to the North Pond Road. Monument 14 is buried and there are no remaining witness trees. We were unable to locate it. After the other three headed out, Dave walked along roads to the old Mudge camp site on the south shore of North Pond, then around to the Pullen Camp on the north shore to plan for its eventual removal. A great deal of debris remains to be removed from the Mudge site, where we burned the structures some years ago. There are 4 canoes and 3 boats stored along the shore there. At the Pullen camp, there are 2 canoes (one derelict) and one boat. At the A.T. intersection with the North Pond Road, there is a sign that advertises (in considerable detail) the benefits of staying at the "Hiker Haven" hostel, only a 5 minute walk away.

Dick went back in on 7 September and covered 1.7 miles of line, locating and photographing seven monuments, 106-ME-20 thru 24 except for 20, 21A, and 22. None of the witness trees remain at those three monument sites and the monuments are buried. The boundary lines are in poor shape but Dick uses a handheld GPS unit to locate the monument sites. He returned to the area on 17 September and walked about 0.8 of a mile of line, locating and photographing five monuments, 106-ME-9 thru 12 except for 9A: "A rock tablet monument. All three witness trees in good shape. The tablet is supposedly one foot from one of the witness trees. I used both triangulation and bearing and distance from the 1 foot tree. Everything pointed to a one foot depression between the tree roots. I dug with my hand trowel into the depression to a depth of two feet. I found rock at the bottom, but no monument. It could be that I found a rock that was placed over the monument. If that is the case, I did not have to tools or time to continue excavation. I'll pursue this location next year since it should be pretty obvious where the monument is." Dick's final trip was on 16 September. He covered about 0.6 of a mile of line and located and photographed monuments 106-ME-24A and 25A but was unable to locate 25, an offset rock tablet in a swamp with no witness trees.

Section 28. Leeman Brook Lean-to to Maine Highway 15. Newly assigned to Geoff Shadman. No report for 2009.

Kennebec District: Monitoring Sections 29-45

Section 29. Maine Highway 15 to Doughty Pond Side Trail. Monitors Ray and Janice Ronan. Ray and Janice went in on 26 September and made a general inspection. A new "For Sale" sign just outside the corridor points along a gravel road that crosses the corridor. Apparently land is for sale on the west side, accessible over this road which, due to an oversight, remains a legal right-of-way across the corridor.

Section 30. Doughty Pond Side Trail to Old Sturtevant Road. Monitor David Makynen. DAVID did not make it to Monson in 2009--first time in 10 years--due to work load.

Section 31. Old Sturtevant Road to I.P. Main Haul Road. Monitor David Makynen. No report

Section 32. I. P. Main Haul Road to Blanchard/Shirley Road. Monitors Ray and Janice Ronan. Ray and Janice visited the section on 1 November and located/photographed seven monuments, 107-ME-34 thru 38, except for 36B. Ray was back on 14 November and located (but did not photograph) the monument 107-ME-36B. They put up numerous "U.S. Boundary" signs.

Section 33. Blanchard/Shirley Road to Horseshoe Canyon Lean-to. Monitor Roger Merchant. No report

Section 34. Horseshoe Canyon Lean-to to Marble Brook. Monitor Milt Gross. Milt visited the section on 21 October and located monument 107-ME-24 and searched for but failed to locate 25NN

Section 35. Marble Brook to Outlet of Bald Mountain Pond. Monitor Mel McCarrison. No report

Section 36. Outlet of Bald Mountain Pond to Joe's Hole. Monitor Jim Young. Jim was unable to visit the section in 2009.

Section 37. Joe's Hole to Summit of Pleasant Pond Mountain. Monitor Dana Hall: No report for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Section 38. Summit of Pleasant Pond Mt. to Boise Cascade Road. Monitor Dana Hall: No report for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, or 2009.

Section 39. Boise Cascade Road to turn away from Holly Brook. Monitor Tim Fortune. Tim walked the entire perimeter of his section on 19 September, finding no encroachments but noting that the abutting landowner had re-painted and partially re-blazed the boundary between 108-ME-71 and the Hangtown Road.

Section 40. Holly Brook to the Kennebec River. Monitor Tim Fortune. On 20 September, Tim inspected the southern boundary from the Kennebec River east and north to the reopened road right-of-way at monument 109-75. He found the monuments to be in good condition and the line to be mostly clear. **A realtor is advertising land east of the corridor with signs at the junction of the access road and U.S. 201 and also where the A.T. crosses the road. The "suitable barrier" that the deed calls for on the road, near its junction with 201, is nonexistent.**

Section 41. Kennebec River to Outlet of Pierce Pond. Monitor Melvin McCarrison. No report for 2008, 2009

Section 42. Outlet of Pierce Pond to N. Branch of Carrying Place Stream. Monitors Bruce Moulton and Dale Temm. Bruce and Dale both had medical issues that prevented them from visiting their sections in 2009, but hope to be back out in 2010.

Section 43. North Branch of Carrying Place Stream to Sandy Stream. Monitors Bruce Moulton and Dale Temm. Bruce and Dale both had medical issues that prevented them from visiting their sections in 2009, but hope to be back out in 2010.

Section 44. Sandy Stream to SW inlet of West Carry Pond. Monitor Tom Lewis: No report for 2006, 2007, 2008, or 2009. Tom says that he plans to be out on the section in May of 2010.

Section 45. SW inlet West Carry Pond to Long Falls Dam Road. Monitor Dennis Andrews. Dennis visited this section during the fall but has not yet submitted a report.

Bigelow District: Monitoring Sections 46-59

Section 46. Long Falls Dam Road to Bog Brook Road. Monitor Dennis Andrews: Dennis walked the boundary lines around the ATPO portion of this section on 23 May, finding the lines to be in good shape. Timber harvesting on adjacent land worked along a well-flagged boundary and did not encroach on the corridor. Dennis revisited 8 monuments, 110-ME-22D thru 24C and 110-ME-17.

Dennis noted in 2004 that the AT footpath is outside the corridor in two places for a short distance near the Bog Brook Road.

Section 47. Bog Brook Road to summit of Little Bigelow. Monitors Clint and Helen Buzzell: Clint visited the section on 16 Sept. and inspected all monuments and witness trees, positively identifying monuments 110-ME-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 and patrolling .32 of a mile of boundary line. Monument 8 appears to have gone missing, although Clint's records show that it has been there in the past. **Monument 110-ME-10 has been removed by parties unknown, leaving a 6" x 12" hole.** An antenna that had been stuck in the hole has been replaced by a bush. He noted that, " The boundary between 110-ME-14 and 110-ME-16 still has debris from the abutting camp owner, but Clint noted that this is apparently OK because nothing has been done about it for two years.

Section 48. Summit of Little Bigelow to Safford Brook Side Trail. Monitors Sarah and Bill Brown. Sarah and Bill patrolled their assignment on 7 September and found no encroachments. All of their section is in the Bigelow Preserve and there are no surveyed boundaries to mark the corridor.

Section 49. Safford Brook Trail to West Peak of Bigelow. Section reassigned to Martha Graff 2007. No report for 2009

Section 50. West Peak of Bigelow to the South Horn. Section reassigned to Martha Graff in 2007. No report for 2009

Section 51. South Horn to the Bigelow Range Trail. Section assigned to Martha Graff in 2007.

No report for 2009

Section 52. Bigelow Range Trail to Maine Highway 27. Section assigned to Martha Graff in 2009. Part of the second Corridor Monitoring Workshop for 2009 covered the ATPO boundary on this section on 20 June. Martha, Geoff Shadman, Michelle Curtain, and Tony Barrett located and photographed seven monuments, 111-ME-48B thru 49 and 111-ME-1 thru 1C, except for 1B. Witness trees for this monument converge on a large, flat-topped boulder, but we found no sign of the monument despite extensive digging on and around the boulder. At edge of a swamp near monument 48C, in the corridor, we found a number of plantings (stalks harvested last year, surrounded by chicken wire, set in planting soil). Possibly a controlled substance plantation.

Section 53. Maine Highway 27 to Summit of North Crocker. Monitors Si and Lila Balch. Si and Lila visited their section on 6 June, 14 August, and 6 September. On all trips, they found the boundary lines to be in fair to poor condition, needing clearing and blaze painting. They located, but did not photograph, monuments 111-ME-2 and 3, 6E and 7, and 17 monuments 43 thru 46C except for 43, 43E, and 46B, which they were unable to find. Witness trees were in good shape at all but five of the sites.

Section 54. North Crocker to Caribou Valley Road. Monitor Dan Simonds: Dan went over this section on 1 November and located/photographed five monuments, 111-ME-10C, 11, 13, 38, and 39. He was unable to locate 111-ME-12. The line SE from 111-ME-13 is in very poor shape, needing clearing and blazing.

Section 55. Caribou Valley Road to Sugarloaf Side Trail. Monitor Geoff Shadman. The second corridor monitoring workshop of the spring began on this section. We drove into the AT trailhead on the Caribou Valley Road and located monuments along the road, then followed the boundary down to the South Branch of the Carrabassett River. The previous day's heavy rain had brought the river up to a level that was not attractive to cross, so we drove back to Route 27 and worked the boundary of National Park Land between Route 27 and the Bigelow Preserve boundary. All monuments located were digitally photographed. We found monuments 111-ME-38, 38A, and 39. We also checked a couple of the rebar monuments along the Carrabasset Valley road r/w but found none with the expected surveyor i.d. caps.

Section 56. Sugarloaf Mt. Side Trail to Mt. Abraham Side Trail. Monitor John Towey. John visited the section on 19 July and located monument 111-ME-28 then followed the poorly cleared line over very rough terrain without locating any more monuments. He returned on 23 September with Brian Stoddard and located/photographed (most of) seven monuments, 111-ME-35 thru 37, but was unable to find 34A and 36A. All three witness trees were present at 34A, but none at 36A. John's final trip was on 4 November, when he worked between the Mt. Abraham Side Trail and the summit of Spaulding Mt. He located/photographed eight monuments, 112-ME-20 thru 21 and 111-ME-30 thru 33A, but was unable to locate 111-ME-30 or 34. The first is located in an old clearcut area with no visible line and the second is also in dense new spruce-fir growth with no witness trees. His camera ran out of file space so not all monuments were photographed.

Section 57. Mt. Abraham Side Trail to Orbeton Stream. Monitors Steve Innes and Tony Barrett. Steve and Tony went in on 24 May and worked the eastern boundary line from the old RR grade to the Redington Public Lot. They located/photographed monuments 112-ME-22A and 22B, but were unable to locate 22. They noted recent timber harvesting but reported that the abutter had carefully flagged the boundary and there was no encroachment. However, they did find a

spot within the corridor along the Barnjum Road where someone had apparently changed engine oil and spilled some on the ground. On 9 August they walked the footpath along their section.

Section 58. Orbeton Stream to Saddleback Summit. Monitor Dave Field: I observed the corridor lands from vantage points along the A.T. footpath during the summer as I did maintenance work, observing no encroachments.

Section 59. Saddleback Summit to Maine Highway 4. Monitor Dan Simonds. Dan walked in from Route 4 on 9 November and located 113-ME-19, 20, and 39. Monuments 40 and 41 were displaced by road construction during 2009. I visited the site with a Maine Dept. of Transportation surveyor Jonathan Cowan on 29 June. Jonathan replaced the two monuments later in the summer after the construction had been completed.

Baldpate District: Monitoring Sections 60-70

Section 60. Maine Highway 4 to Little Swift River Pond. Section assigned to Jonathan Ellis in 2009. I had hoped to visit the section with Jonathan during the summer, but that did not work out. On 29 June, I walked the eastern boundary from Route 4 towards South Pond, locating and photographing monuments 113-ME-8, 9, 9A, 9B, and 9D. I missed 9C due to brush, sparse blazing, and heavy rain. The 26-year-old boundary line is in very poor shape; badly in need of re-blazing. Monument 113-ME-7 was lost years ago when the A.T. parking lot was built. Jonathan Cowan replaced it when he replaced 40 and 41.

Section 61. Little Swift River Pond to Sabbath Day Pond Lean-to. Monitor Derek Moody & Randy Lite. Derek and Randi visited their section on 7 August and found no problems. All of this section is on the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands Four Ponds Management Unit and there are no surveyed corridor boundaries.

Section 62. Sabbath Day Pond Lean-to to Maine Highway 17. Monitor Paul McGuire. Paul visited his section on late May with his son Peter and located monuments 114-ME-10A and 10B, but was thwarted by heavily overgrown line and faded blazes. In October, Pat Yale and Neal Watson, under contract with the ATC, came to Rangeley and worked for the better part of three weeks clearing and re-blazing 13,905 feet of the line on this section. They located and photographed monuments 114-ME-10A, 10B, 10C, 11, 11A, 11B, 12, 14A, 15, 15A, 15B, and 15D.

Section 63. Maine Highway 17 to Bemis Stream Trail. Monitor Bob Lodato. I went in to this section on 14 August, doing some recon. for an ATC boundary crew expected to be in Maine in October. I also "walked" (more like crawled--the terrain is formidable and the temperature was in the 80s) the eastern boundary line from the old RR grade south, locating and photographing monuments 114-17, 17A, 17B, 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, and 19. Bob and I went in on 30 August and worked on the west side, south from Route 17, locating/photographing monuments 114-ME-9, 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, and 10, then returned on the east side, locating/photographing 114-ME-16, 16A, 16B, and 16C. Recent timber harvesting along the east line did not encroach on the corridor. Bob and I returned on 11 September and continued work on the west line south of the old RR grade. We walked two miles of line and located/photographed monuments 114-ME-6, 6A, 6B, 7, 7A, 7B, 7C, 8, 8A, and 8B. As we walked out the A.T., we came across what may be an encroachment. There is orange flagging at intervals along the footpath from around the sign at the second Bemis summit to a point some distance north of there. At that point, the flagging leaves the footpath and heads east down over the open ledge and continues into the trees. This

sort of lines up with waypoint 386 that I recorded on 8/14 with the following note: "Line to next monument passes through very nice open going through a spruce-fir forest until it intersects the end of an old road/trail from the east in a large fern glade. The road is flagged with blue tape. There is a very large fire pit just across the line on NPS land, probably used by hunters in the fall." I'm now wondering if the blue flagging and the flagging along the A.T. might not mark a route used by snowmobilers to reach Bemis ridge. The very large fire pit might well fit winter use more than fall use.

Illegal snowmobile trail. On 18 November, I met Dick Bonney of the Slippery Sliders Snowmobile Club, Tom Lillis of the Maine Forest Service, and Shelby Rousseau of the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust at the Bemis Stream Trail trailhead on Route 17. We drove down the Wagner logging road to near the corridor and walked in. Mr. Bonney installed plastic web barriers at the eastern corridor boundary and west of the A.T. on the old logging road that had been used for the snowmobile trail. He also installed webbing a bit east of the corridor on Wagner-managed land and at the point where the snowmobile trail crosses Route 17. Afterwards, I walked the boundary line that Pat and Neal had cleared on Section 62 from the old winter logging road in to the State boundary line near Moxie Pond.

Section 64. Bemis Stream Trail to Former Clearwater Brook Trail. Monitor Dave Hodgkins. Dave had a knee replaced in 2009 and was unable to visit this section.

Section 65. Former Clearwater Brook Trail to South Arm Road. Monitor Dave Hodgkins. Dave had a knee replaced in 2009 and was unable to visit this section. He is relinquishing this section.

Section 66. South Arm Road to Hall Mt. Lean-to. Monitor Mike Hartman. No report from Mike for 2007, 2008, or 2009.

Section 67. Hall Mt. Lean-to to Wyman Mt. Monitors Harold and Wendy Hutchins: No report for 2009.

Section 68. Wyman Mountain to East B-Hill Road. Monitor Mike Ewing. Mike visited the section on 12 October, did some clearing, and noted the poor conditions of witness trees. He located and photographed monuments 115-ME-37A, 37B, 37C, 37D, 38, 39, 39A, 39B, and 39D, but was unable to locate rock tablets 39C, 39E, and 39F. He was back in on 2 November and located but did not photograph 115-ME-13D, 13E, 14, 14A, 15, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 15E, and 15F. Pat Yale and Neal Watson also visited this section in October, locating/photographing 115-ME-16E (with the help of a metal detector) and clearing the line in from the East B Hill Road about 150 feet.

Section 69. East B Hill Road to East Peak of Baldpate Mt. Monitors Harold and Wendy Hutchins. Wendy and Hallie worked on their section and located/photographed 115-ME-31C and 31D.

Section 70. East Peak of Baldpate to Maine Highway 26. Monitor Lynn Farnham: Lynn visited the section on 2 September, finding no problems. This section is all on State land and there are no surveyed corridor boundaries.

Training Workshops

Spring, 2009, saw productive corridor monitoring training sessions in T7R9, Elliotsville, and Carrabassett Valley. On the first of June, Mark Doty and I covered 1.5 miles of his new CM assignment, working from the town line near East Chairback Pond to the foot of Chairback Mountain and enjoying the spring flowers along the ledges in the area. June 6th found us back in Elliotsville for the third time in as many years for a workshop that was remarkable for its beautiful weather (after two years of rain). Dick Welsh, Whitney Michelsen, Don Stack and I covered 1.1 miles of boundary line near North Pond and checked out the numerous boats and canoes that encroach on the corridor lands along the shore of the pond. On the last day of spring, Geoff Shadman, Martha Graff, Michelle Curtain, and Tony Barrett joined me at the AT trailhead on the Caribou Valley Road and we checked boundary monuments along the road and down to the South Branch of the Carrabassett River (0.6 of a mile). After more than a day of heavy rain, the river crossing was not attractive, so we drove back to the Route 27 AT parking lot, finding the north entrance blocked by powerline construction along the edge of the road. We inspected 1.1 miles, covering both sides of the National Park Service corridor lands between Route 27 and the Bigelow Preserve. Along the edge of several bogs that we waded through, we found an interesting agricultural enterprise that appeared to involve production of a controlled substance.

Excerpts from Reports

--"I think the headwaters of the Nile were easier to find." George Hillman, 29 November.

--Monument 103-ME-22: "After a half an hour we could still not find it. We found two witness trees... So, we attached a rope to one witness tree, a beech that is 25.4 feet from the marker and our measuring tool was a dollar bill. Said bill measures 6" in length so we counted out the 25 feet with the bill along the taut rope. (We were about seven feet off from our earlier estimates and diggings.) Using our new and improved technology, we found a depression in the ground behind a rock one would naturally assume the monument should have been located on. This depression goes down 18" where another rock buried back in the Paleozoic Era lay. Said ancient rock housed marker 103-ME-22. We photographed the monument and tossed the Megalosaurus bone aside." Michelle Curtain and George Hillman, 5 December.

--" The line continues through the swamp and is clear and open through scattered trees. Few blazes because few trees and blazes are faded. I tried to walk the line but was soon up to my knees in mud, so I slogged west to the nearest dry ground and followed the edge of the swamp back to the line." Dave Field, 25 August.

-- "We finally beat the Elliotsville corridor monitoring workshop jinx and enjoyed a beautiful, sunny, warm day, with tolerable bugs." Dave Field, 2 June.

-- "So, do you want me to continue this section? Or do you want to find someone else, someone younger and nimble of foot who can leap over a skunk in a single bound?" Milt Gross, 24 October

-- "I can usually walk a straight line easily, but this morning I was on a brushy but well marked line when I hadn't seen a blaze for a bit. Looking down at my compass I couldn't believe what it said! It pointed ninety degrees off where I was facing. I tried to figure out how the compass could be so wrong! I backed up to the last blaze and tackled the brush differently next time." Tim Fortune, 19 September

-- "When we got to the area once marked by strips of clear cuts, the situation changed drastically:

in twenty years time those strips have become impenetrable walls of young fir as thick as I've ever dealt with - stuff I wouldn't have expected my beagle to have negotiated in my rabbit hunting escapades decades ago." Paul McGuire, 1 June

-- "Very heavy growth, as you know. Very challenging, even with the brush saw. We got off-track yesterday and cleared about 150', fortunately on NPS property, near monument 10C. Found our mistake and brushed in the error." Pat Yale and Neal Watson, 7 October.

--"This line could be repainted in a drier (?) season, or when the bog is frozen (enough to walk on?)" Pat Yale and Neal Watson, 21 October.

--" A bonus experience: Between Madrid and Phillips, I saw a big cow moose cross the road. Two moose calves lingered on the road shoulder until mother called to them, then they trotted across, followed closely by a little deer! The deer was not tiny but still had spots. I have to assume that the cow moose has adopted an orphan deer to go with her twin calves!" Dave Field, 30 August.

--"Watched a family of young red-headed woodpeckers sing and dance in the trees together on the side of the Kennebec." Tim Fortune, 20 September