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Maine Appalachian Trail Club



The MAINEtainer

Volume XXXIV

Number 4

Summer 2011

Leanto roof repairs end leaking problem

By Laura Flight

Over the next three years, the Campsite Committee plans to replace the plastic “skylight” roofing

panels on 12 lean-tos, which time has proven to be leaky, fragile, and faded.

So far this summer, Pleasant Pond and Bald-

pate lean-tos have undergone the improvements, and Bemis lean-to is on the schedule for August 27.

We picked an easy-to-access lean-to for our first project. On Saturday July 9 Craig Dickstein, Don Stack, Shawn Small (lean-to maintainer), and Laura Flight set out to replace the two panels on the Pleasant Pond lean-to near Caratunk.

With a five-minute walk to the site, forgetfulness or encountering unforeseen circumstances both seemed easily overcome with only a short walk to vehicles and a shorter drive to Craig’s house for possible additional tools. However, neither lifeline was implemented and the project went off without a hitch.

We interrupted one young hiker’s breakfast with our project, but he was not fazed. As is often the case, he was thankful for our work. The old

panels on 12 lean-tos, which time has proven to be leaky, fragile, and faded. as well as the ridge cap. Several layers of duct tape were removed where the plastic panels met the metal panels as part of this process; pointed evidence of leaks!

The new metal sheets were pushed into place with several corrugations of overlap on both sides to prevent future leaking. A chalk line was used with the intent of marking the nail locations so as to hit the purlins below, but the amount of chalk in the device left a lot to be desired; a great idea, but the execution lacked effectiveness.

A pencil line served as a reasonable alternative. The new sheets were nailed on, the ridge cap put back in place, and voila — a fixed roof!

With one under our belts, it was time to take on a more challenging site, one where a trip back to the parking lot would mean a 2.5-mile one-way walk.

The following weekend, Saturday July 16, eight volunteers helped to replace the plastic panels on the Baldpate lean-to. Part of the challenge of these projects has been the safe vehicular transport of the new roofing material as it is 12 feet in length and therefore requires additional fortification of roof racks as well as some Yankee ingenuity. I dubbed my Outback a “Suba-roof” with this material strapped atop.

However, it, and my car, made it to the Grafton Notch parking lot on Route 26 without incident. We had a perfect numbered eight-person crew for this project, as this allowed switching of pairs carrying the roofing material for the two-plus mile journey to the lean-to. Don Stack, his daughter Crystal Stack, her boyfriend Ed Berry, the lean-to



Richard Gower and Jeff Toothaker removing the old caulking. Laura Flight photo.

plastic panels were carefully removed so as not to damage the existing metal panels that would remain

Continued on page 2

Leanto Repairs

Continued from page 1

maintainer Michael Poirier, his brother Phil Poirier, Jeff Toothaker, Richard Gower, and Laura Flight rounded out the crew.

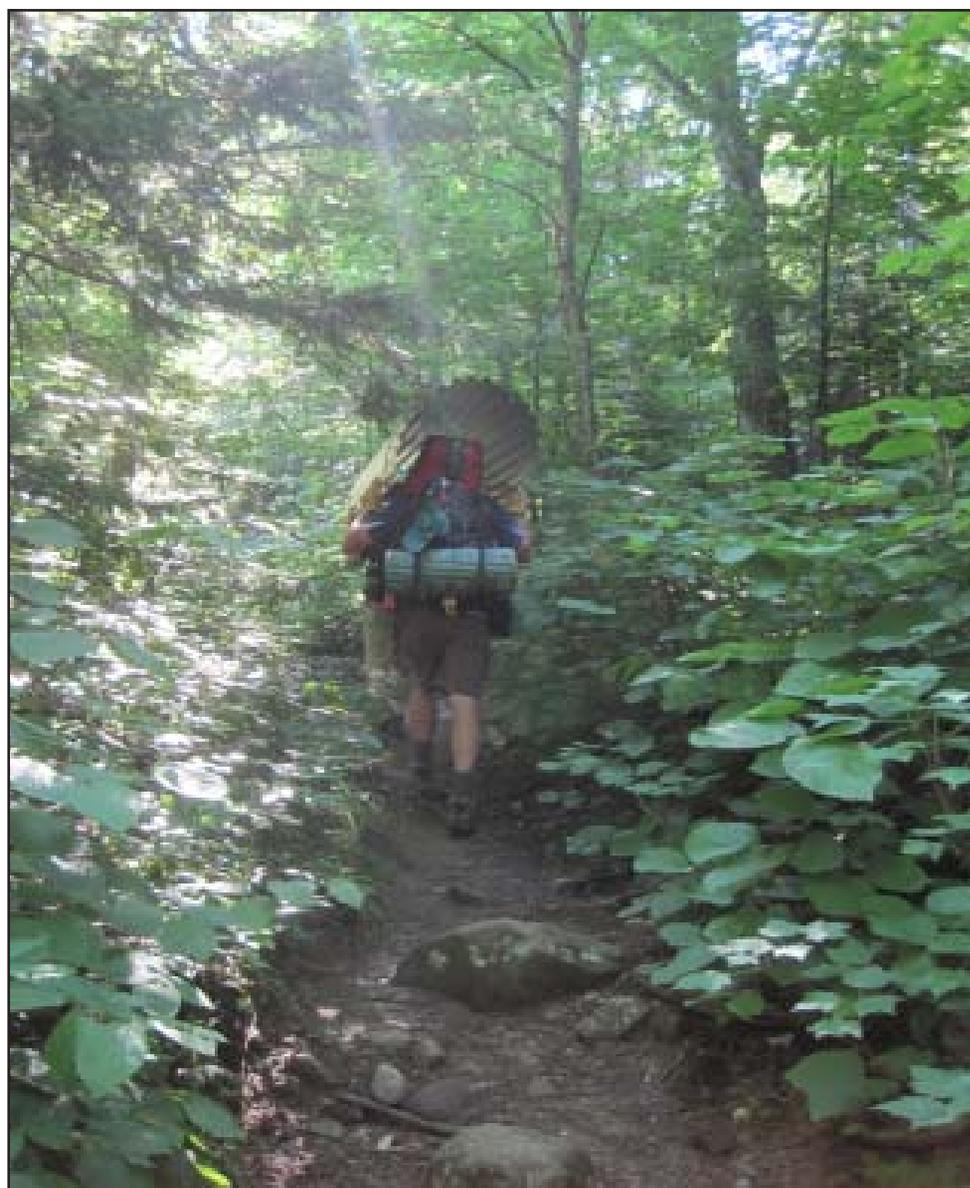
Similar to carrying a canoe, the 4-foot wide sheets of roofing material were rolled in half length-wise, tied in this position, then inverted and carried over-head with one person on the front and one person on the back. It creates a bit of a tunnel-vision experience, but according to participants it does keep the bugs away, and rain if that were encountered.

The materials arrived at the lean-to unscathed, as did the porters, and we proceeded to interrupt a group of hikers' breakfast for this project. Despite the 10 AM arrival time, this group of new, young campers was having a leisurely morning in camp.

Our pounding and banging apparently roused the rest of the troops,

which the group leader was actually thankful for. When the old plastic panels were removed, several layers of duct tape came as well. This roof also had three different layers of "goop" (some white, some black, some gray) of different degrees of hardness and genres that also required removal before the new panels could be put in place. But with persistence, the job was accomplished. Baldpate lean-to now has two shiny new roof panels, and new and old are hopefully all non-leaking!

If you are interested in helping with a roofing project, Bemis lean-to is scheduled for Saturday August 27. This trip will also require a couple mile portage of the materials, so a 6-8 person crew would be valuable. Many hands do make light work! This is very rewarding work! Please contact Laura Flight (campsite@matc.org, 215-5306) if you are interested in this trip.



Above: Carrying replacement roofing to replace the leaking skylights.

Right: Craig Dickstein and Don Stack attaching new roofing.





Above: Bruce Grant talks with an interested party in front of the MATC display at ATC's Biennial Conference in SW Virginia.

Below: Dennis Pednault, Bill Geller, Ray Ronan (l to r, back row), John Webster, Mike Davis, and Rebecca Clark (l to r, front row), joined Dave Field on 4 June for a corridor monitoring workshop on the slopes of Old Blue Mt. north of the South Arm Road. After a brief tailgate discussion at the South Arm Road trailhead, we hiked up to the north rim of the Notch and left the A.T. footpath eastward looking for corridor monument 115-ME-3. We located it after some floundering around and then walked the eastern boundary up towards Old Blue, ending the boundary walk at 115-ME-1 in heavy spruce-fir undergrowth and heading back to the A.T. footpath. This was a rough trek and, although it was an absolutely beautiful day with temperatures in the 60s and hardly a cloud in the sky, black flies were abundant. Dave Field Photos.



Two AT Baxter sections need new maintainers

Two trail sections are available for a maintainer on the A.T. in Baxter State Park.

The first section is the Hunt Trail section of the A.T., which is the northern most section of the A.T. in Maine. This section is 5.3 miles long and extends from the Park Tote Road near Katahdin Stream Campground to Baxter Peak, Katahdin. The majority of the trail work is below treeline, a distance of about 3 miles. This section is in very good shape as the previous maintainer, Dan Day, has kept the trail in great shape. This section continues to have major rock work done by the BSP trail crew and the MATC trail crew.

The second section is the Daicey Pond section of the A.T. in Baxter Park. It extends from the Park Tote Road and passes near Grassy Pond and Daicey Pond and then follows Nesowadnehunk Stream and ends at the T3 R10 Town line, a distance of 4.9 miles. This section is in very good shape as the previous maintainer, John Neff, has done a great job in keeping the trail in great shape.

Baxter State Park and the Maine A.T. Club have an agreement that the MATC trail maintainers and their helpers will clear blowdowns from the trail, clean waterbars of leaves and debris, paint white blazes as needed and clip brush and branches along the trail. The Park Director will determine when the Tote Road will open for vehicular traffic each spring and will inform the MATC. All MATC trail maintainers must follow Baxter State Park rules and regulations.

A minimum of 2 worktrips are required every year. The first worktrip will be as close to May 15th (opening day for camping) of each year as possible. This worktrip will be used to clear blowdowns, clean waterbars and clip brush and branches. The second worktrip will be in the fall before closing of the camping season on October 15th. This worktrip will be to clean waterbars of fallen leaves and other debris so that the trail is ready for snowmelt and spring rain.

I would like to thank Dan Day for the work he and his crew have done over the 7 years he has maintained the Hunt Trail section of the A.T.

Thanks to John Neff for his work over the last 10 years that he has maintained the Daicey Pond section of the A.T. John has also maintained the Hunt Trail section for 20 years.

If you are interested in either of these two sections of the A.T. in Baxter Park contact me. I will contact all applicants about 2 weeks after we receive the *MAINEtainer* newsletter.

Rick Ste.Croix, Katahdin District Overseer
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ricknrachel@localnet.com

Major Bigelow construction completed thanks to volunteers from Camp Teka and others

By Dick Fecteau

Two major projects in the Bigelow District have been completed thanks to Camp Tekakwitha. Based in Quebec, Canada with a facility in Leeds, Maine, this nonprofit gives back extensively to the Appalachian Trail. This is the twelfth year that I have had the pleasure of working with and learning from the "Camp Teka" teenagers.

Last June 30, 14 teenage boys hauled enough cedar lumber, tools and supplies to build a moldering privy at the new Abraham Campsite. They also cleared and leveled 5 tent pads and constructed a fire pit using some of the massive rocks dug from the site. This campsite is located on the new bypass trail, which avoids the old Firewarden's cabin area that burned last March. At the end of the project the boys hiked to the Abraham summit to watch the sunset while eating their evening meal.

This project was approved by the MATC exec committee as part of accepting the old Abraham Firewarden's trail as an official blue blazed side trail to the AT. This land now belongs to the State and some trail reconstruction money has been provided by the Land for Maine Future program. The Bureau of Parks and Lands will manage the property, mostly as an ecological reserve, and will hire a private contractor to build stone waterbars and steps as needed along the entire 4 mile section of trail.

The trail and new campsite have been assigned by MATC to the Maine Chapter of AMC who currently partners with the Bates Outing Club on this trail. Volunteers had already cleared blowdowns, cut brush and painted blazes on this side trail during the fall of 2010.

Last July 26-28 twelve young women from "Camp Teka" hauled enough cedar lumber and tools to build two new tent platforms at the Redington Stream campsite. This campsite, first constructed at the base of the Saddleback Horn in 2009 by the teenagers from "Camp Teka", includes a privy and 5 tent pads. The campers were directed and assisted by site designer Dave Field with help from Ben Godsoe and MCC volunteers in addition to Nancy Fischer and Piazza Rock caretaker Adrienne Tauses.

The teenagers from "Camp Teka" always amaze me with how much can be done with so many willing helpers in a short amount of time. I have learned to plan plenty of work and bring extra snacks for a mid-afternoon boost. Fig Newtons and chocolate seem to work quite well.

As in previous years the crew was able to camp near a small pond at about 2000' on the south side of Saddleback. Access to this site has made projects in this area quite possible, with many thanks to Lloyd Griscom and his family's generosity.

Bigelow District has 2 maintenance assignment openings

The two mile section of the upper Firewarden's Trail from the junction with the Horns Pond side trail to the junction with the AT at Bigelow Col is available.

This section was maintained for 17 years by Mark Sario, who is now one of the Chimney Pond rangers at Baxter State Park. This start of section is a 2.5 mile hike from the trailhead parking area and is generally in good shape.

It features 2400' of elevation gain, including one of "Maine's steepest miles" from the Moose Falls campsite to the junction with the AT. This assignment also will include checking on the Moose Falls campsite. This section needs blowdown removal and cleaning of the many waterbars that were installed by trail crews during the past ten years. I will coordinate volunteers to help with any other major projects.

Applicants should be willing to commit to making at least 3 trips per season, Spring, Summer and Fall to clear waterbars and blowdowns, do annual brush clipping as needed and blazing every few years. Just three tools are needed on most maintenance trips: a small handsaw, hand clippers and a short hand hoe.

Anyone interested in this assignment may apply ASAP and I will contact all applicants later this spring.

Also open is the 2.4 mile section from the summit of South Horn to Bigelow Col. This section was maintained for the past 20 years by Chris Dorion, who also manages the Maine Outdoor Club section on Moxie Bald Mt. This section features both the summit of S. Horn and the West Peak of Bigelow in addition to the 2.1 mile forested ridge walk between the peaks. This section is accessed by either the Firewardens or Horns Pond trails and can be done in a 12 mile loop using both trails that includes a total of 3,200' of elevation gain. This section is in great shape but will need annual blowdown removal, brush cutting and waterbar cleaning in the Spring and Fall. I will coordinate volunteers to help with any other major projects.

Applicants should be willing to commit to making at least 3 trips per season, Spring, Summer and Fall to clear waterbars and blowdowns, do annual brush clipping as needed and blazing every few years. Just three tools are needed on most maintenance trips, a small handsaw, hand clippers and a short hand hoe.

Anyone interested in these assignments may apply ASAP and I will contact all applicants later this season.

Richard Fecteau, Bigelow District Overseer
778-0870
rfecteau@midmaine.com



Also nearing completion in the Bigelow District is the rebuilding of the Stratton Brook bridge by volunteers. Shown are Steve Swatling, Rob Reed, John Lemberg and Bob Weingarten.

Greenville fourth graders enjoy walk on the trail

By Ron Dobra, Whitecap District Overseer

The major projects for the Whitecap District this summer have included two weeks by the Maine Trail Crew building rock steps and water bars on the West Peak of Whitecap Mtn. and an ongoing projects to replace about 300 feet of rotted bog bridging through the Fourth Mtn. Bog on the Chairback-Barren Range; replacement of foundation logs for the Long Pond Stream privy; and replacement of the foundation logs for Leeman Brook lean to, for which club work trips are and will be posted on the web site at matc.org.

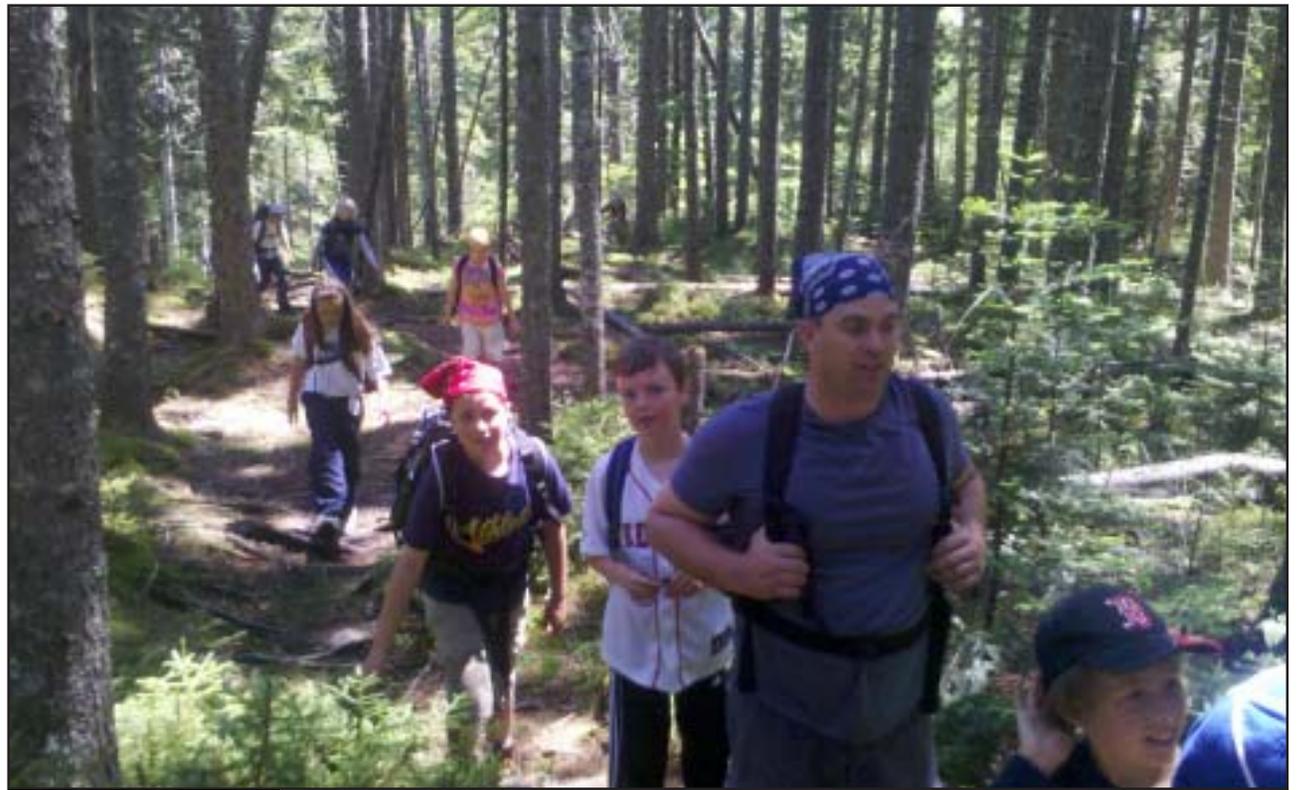
In two weeks on the West Peak of Whitecap, the crew, assisted by volunteers, including yours truly and member Janice Clain, built 35 steps, 10 feet of ditch and drain, cleaned 18 water bars, and cleared brush from a mile of trail.

The first three miles of the district heading north were also the scene of the annual Greenville Nickerson Elementary School fourth grade hike in early June. Twenty-two students were introduced to the AT, most for the first time. The students hiked from Rt. 15 to the Leeman Brook lean to and returned.

Present maintainer openings in the district include a four mile section on the crest of Chairback-Barren, from the firetower to Fourth Mtn., and the three miles in from Rt. 15 to Leeman Brook lean to.

Maintaining assignments have been reported in on all but one of the 28 maintainers for the district. Check the website for more info on openings and projects.

Ron Dobra, Whitecap overseer
ghsron@gmail.com



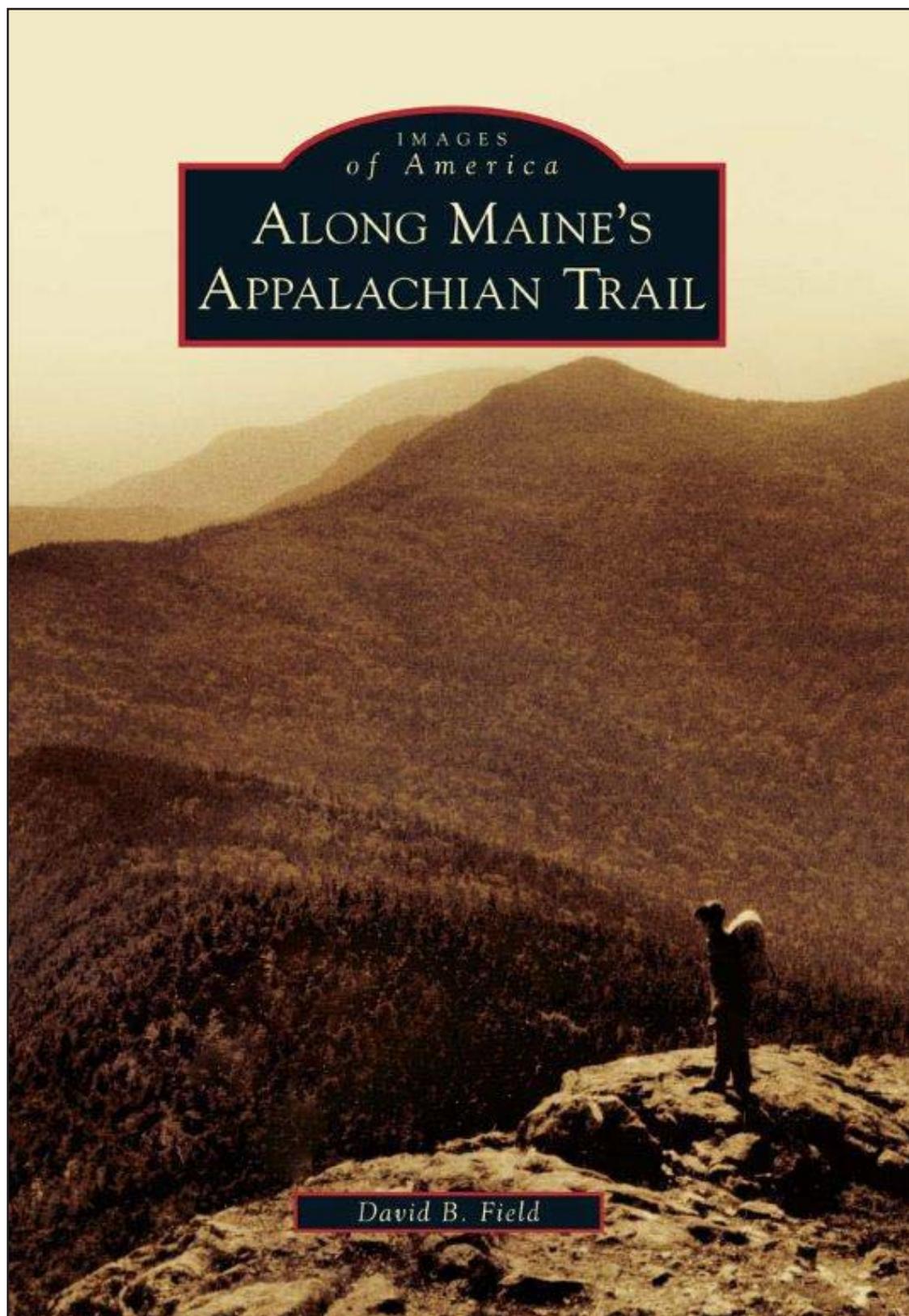
Above: Greenville 4th graders enjoy the trail.

Right: Eating lunch at Leeman Brook Leanto.

Below: at the Route 15 Parking Lot.



Dave Field writes the definitive history of Maine's trail



This book is absolutely essential reading for anyone interested in the history of the trail in Maine.

Writing as part of the “Images of America” series, Dave tells in mostly historical photographs the struggle to push a trail through the wilds of Maine in the 1930s. The photos are mostly from MATC archives, the collection of the Maine State Library, and his own collection.

Here is Myron Avery with his measuring wheel on the summit of Katahdin, on Katahdin’s Hunt Trail, chatting at the base of Whitecap, and crossing the West Branch of the Penobscot by canoe after the old dam washed away.

Also featured are numerous other Maine trail pioneers. One photo shows Frank Schairer and Myron Avery on their way to the summit of Katahdin to begin trail blazing in 1933. On August 19 that year the two placed the first sign on Katahdin’s summit, announcing the start of the Appalachian Trail.

On a following page, Frank Schairer paints the first white blaze at the Gateway where the Hunt Trail crests the climb up Katahdin.

Fascinating also are photos of numerous trail landmarks, amidst the mostly barren 1930s landscape, now heavily forested.

The original plan for the Appalachian Trail called for a crossing over the West Branch of the Penobscot River at the dam at Nesowdehunk Falls. But the dam was washed away in a 1932 flood. Hikers and trail builders had to cross the river by canoe until the Civilian Conservation Corps built a cable bridge at the dam site.

Walter Greene, a Broadway actor and master trail builder, is shown in numerous photos. When MATC was founded in 1935, Greene was our first president.

One map shows where Helon Taylor — then a game warden, but later director of Baxter State Park — cut the trail to the summit to Sugarloaf. Dave Field quotes Helon as saying “I have put in two days on a trail that is passable to within a mile or so of the top ... I have a very easy grade and I think you will agree with me that it is the best way to climb Sugarloaf.

Dave comments, “An easy grade to the powerful Taylor was not so easy for the average hiker.”

The original route of the Appalachian Trail in Maine was pretty much decided by the end of 1934, but much of it was still not built to hiking standards. In 1935 the trail became a project of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and within two years the entire route had been cleared. The CCC crews worked out of base camps set up in Millinocket, Greenville, Flagstaff and Rangeley.

Dave Field, the author of this splendid account of the trail in Maine, is retired from a distinguished career at the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine at Orono. But his passion since he began maintaining six miles of the trail 54 years ago has been the Appalachian Trail. No one else has such a history with the trail, both in Maine and nationally. Dave has served MATC in a variety of capacities, including president, and has been a major leader of the Appalachian Trail Conference.

Myron Avery is primarily responsible for the trail in Maine. A maritime lawyer from Lubec, who worked mostly in Washington, D.C., he recruited friends from Washington, and members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, for his Maine project. Without his efforts, the AT almost certainly would have ended on the summit of Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

But the trail is also the product of 75 years of dedication by MATC volunteers, the cooperation of the private forest landowners, and now the National Park Service, which owns most of the trail corridor.

This book is a journey through space and time. The trail runs from the New Hampshire border, along mountain ridges, and across wild streams to the summit of Katahdin. You can own a copy. An order form is on the next page.

Fill in Form, Print and Mail

MATC ORDER FORM

| Quantity | Description | Price |
|---|--|-------|
| | Official Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine , Fifteenth edition, published in 2009, softbound, including seven trail maps, printed on all-weather plastic paper. Member \$24.00 - Non member \$30.00 | |
| Maps may be ordered separately: Members \$6.00 each Map, Non Members \$8.00 each Map | | |
| | Map #1 - Katahdin to Nahmakanta Lake (Nesowadnehunk Stream, Abol Bridge, Rainbow Lake Area) | |
| | Map #2 - Nahmakanta Lake to West Branch of the Pleasant River (Jo-Mary, White Cap Mtn., Gulf Hags) | |
| | Map #3 - West Branch of the Pleasant River to Monson (Barren-Chairback Range, Wilson Valley Area) | |
| | Map #4 - Monson to the Kennebec River (Piscataquis River, Moxie Bald, Pleasant Pond Area) | |
| | Map #5 - Kennebec River to Maine Highway 27 (Pierce Pond, Carry Ponds, Bigelow Mtn. Area) | |
| | Map #6 - Maine Highway 27 to Maine Highway 17 (Sugarloaf, Saddleback Mtn., Sabbath Day Pond Area) | |
| | Map #7 - Maine Highway 17 to Maine-New Hampshire State Line (Bemis Mtn., Grafton Notch, Mahoosuc Notch Area); Also includes the new Grafton Loop Trail. | |
| | Unfolded Maine AT Maps - MATC members \$10.00, Non-members \$12.00 Map 1 Katahdin to South End of Nahmakanta Lake 13"X30" Map 2 Nahmakanta Lake to West Branch of the Pleasant River 13"X30" Map 3 West Branch of the Pleasant River to Monson 13"X22.5" Map 4 Monson to the Kennebec River 13"X30" Map 5 Kennebec River to Maine Highway 27 13"X30" Map 6 Maine Highway 27 to Maine Highway 17 13"X30" Map 7 Maine Highway 17 to Maine/New Hampshire State Line 13"X37.5" | |

Other Items

| | | |
|--|--|---------|
| | "Along Maine's Appalachian Trail" Book by David Field..... Non-Members..... \$21.99, plus \$3.50 shipping; (ME residents should add \$1.10 sales tax.) MATC Members..... \$18.69 plus \$.93 tax and \$3.50 shipping. | |
| | MATC Decal | \$3.00 |
| | MATC Shoulder Patch | \$4.00 |
| | MATC Pin | \$7.00 |
| | MATC Note Cards (set of 8)..... | \$8.00 |
| | MATC Baseball Cap..... | \$25.00 |
| | MATC T-Shirts - (Green logo on sand or tan - Color subject to availability) Long Sleeve - (Indicate size Small, Medium, Large, Extra-Large)..... | \$20.00 |
| | Short Sleeve - (Indicate size Small, Medium, Large, Extra-Large) | \$15.00 |

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The MAINEtainer

is the newsletter of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of MATC, its members, officers, or directors. *The Mainetainer* is published five times a year. Our mission as a club is to construct, maintain, and protect the section of the Appalachian Trail extending from Katahdin to Route 26 in Grafton Notch, and those side trails, campsites, and shelters accepted for maintenance by the club. We seek to make accessible for hiking the wild region of Maine through which the trail passes. *The Mainetainer* welcomes letters, feedback, and information from members and friends of the trail. Send your comments, photos, and information to:

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Visit us at www.matc.org

Nominate candidates for Walter Greene Award

Walter Greene, MATC's first President, was an extraordinary volunteer. In his honor the Walter D. Greene Award is presented at the MATC Annual Meeting. It recognizes the extraordinary effort or achievement by ordinary volunteers of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club.

Walter Greene cut the trail along the Gulf Hagas Gorge in 1934 and singlehandedly cut the trail over the Barren-Chairback Range in 10 days. He also was a regular member of Myron Avery work and planning crews during the early 30s.

Please submit names of MATC members who have exceeded expectations of their assigned duties in 2011 to recognize one-time or recurring work, for example:

- Writing a funding grant, or
- Making an effective presentation, or
- Helping with an emergency trail location, or
- Working on trail-related legislation, or
- Spending time with the Maine Trail Crew, or
- Accomplishing trail maintenance/repair beyond expectations.

Send your nomination(s) to Peter Roderick,
roderick1027@fairpoint.net, 293-2704.

MATC relies on you!

The support of members and donors helps to maintain
267 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Maine.

Membership

Individual \$15 Family \$20 Organization \$25

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- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000+ Katahdin | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Crocker |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Saddleback | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Old Blue |
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\$_____other

Name _____

As it will appear in the MAINEtainer

Address _____

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Family member names for membership cards:

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Make check payable to MATC.

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