Maine Trail Crew  
The Maine Trail Crew once again rebuilt sections of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. MTC supported two teams, each with one leader, One Assistant Leader, one SCA intern and from two to four ATC-MATC recruited volunteers. Enrollment has continued to be on par with recent years. We filled 73 out of 90 possible slots. Average crew size was six people. The crews worked on five projects from the Sandy River to Katahdin. Twenty one weeks were dedicated to the trail.

Maine Conservation Corps  
Three MCC teams were based in Hallowell and worked on two projects in Western Maine at Bemis Mountain and Poplar Ridge. A total of 14 weeks of crew time were dedicated to the projects, funded through the National Park Service – Public Lands Corps program.

Maine Trail Crew - 2015  
Staff  
Emily Lessard-Coord  
Alec Harris CL  
Danielle Salvucci CL  
Brandon Tigner ACL  
Savino Ranallo ACL  

SCA Interns  
Stephanie Cantu  
Caitlin Pohl  

Volunteers  
Carmen Campalans  
Janice Clain  
Noah Cline  
Amy Compare  
Rowan Ferris  
Carson Haddow  
Bailey Klatt  
Andy Kruse  
Wendy Lamparelli  
David Lapointe  
Sofia Lavrentyeva  
Molly Lykins  
Arlee Monroy  
Christina Montello  
Charlotte Price  
Lynn Reed  
Craig Ritemire  
Zoë Rothberg  
Karen Snyder
Samantha Torres
Daniella Vealquez
Erica Wenzel
Chia-Yen Lin
Yu-Ju Kuo

Maine Conservation Corps
Bemis Mountain
Edward Grondin
Chantelle Hay-TL
Bryce Neal
Courtney Perruzzi
Nicholas Terry
Brianna Winzenburg

Poplar Ridge
Leah Beck-TL
Anna Doyle
Nate Dumas
Irene Syphers
Elizabeth Thibault
Richard Van Twistern-ATL

Poplar Ridge - Fall Team
Ryan MacGlashing-TL
Emily Bruckner-ATL
James Barnard
Timothy Cromwell
Irene Syphers
Emma Winske

MATC Volunteers
Janice Clain
Lester Kenway
Ben Deering
Margaret Snell
Ron Dobra
Tom Gorrill
Mac Smith
Kate Locke
Julian Wiggins

MCC Volunteers
David Van Twistern
Ian Van Twistern
Dylan Cookson
Billy Borden
TRAIL PROJECTS:
The Hunt Trail – May 30 to June 16, 2015
All of our trail staff camped at the Katahdin Stream Campground for three weeks and worked on the Hunt Trail. The crew built stone steps at the Owl Trail Junction and a retaining wall just before the crossing of Katahdin Stream.

**Work Accomplished:**
14 stone steps
4 step stones
Several tree roots were rocked up.

120 square feet of retaining wall
16 feet of edge stones on previous steps

New Stone Steps at the Owl Trail

High anchor for Highline on Katahdin

Sandy River – June 20 to July 8, 2015
This project continued work done in 2014. Scarce, large, and deeply buried rock added to the challenge of this project. A rigging highline was used to move the stones close to the trail. Hand carry slings were put to use the move the stones the last 16 feet where the rocks were rolled and slid down to the building site. The additional stones extended the stairs down slope

**Work Accomplished:**
Installed 12 stone steps
Built 21 square feet of retaining wall

Rolling rocks to the Trail
Rocks fit into the corner
Completed Steps
3rd Mountain – June 20 to July 22, 2015
The crew worked at several locations to counter trail erosion and mud holes. Rock steps were built at 5 locations and step stones were installed at 3 locations. 21 existing drainages were cleared out and rip rap was built as well.
Work Accomplished:
Built 61 stone steps  Installed 20 step stones
Cleared 21 drainages  Built 10 square feet of rip rap

Steps on 3rd Mountain

4th Mountain – July 11- August 19, 2015
The trail on this part of 4th Mountain involved a long traverse with steep pitches along the way. It is easy to see how the route of trail was picked as it threads it’s way between two cliff faces. The objective of this project was to stabilize and improve the route over the steep sections. The primary work was to build stone steps at these places.
Work Accomplished:
Installed 61 Stone Steps

Steps on 4th Mountain
Near Little Swift River Pond - August 1 to August 18, 2015
The crew began building a 400 foot ditch and drain though a wet area about 2-1/2 miles from Route 4. Several nights of rain made the work more challenging. A group of four MATC volunteers provided help packing tools to the work site.

Work Accomplished:
74 feet of ditch as dug and 69 square feet of rip rap was lined against the ditch.

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Total MTC work accomplished in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stone Steps</td>
<td>(each)</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water bars - cleared</td>
<td>(each)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step Stones</td>
<td>(each)</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ditch and Drain</td>
<td>(linear foot)</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retaining Wall</td>
<td>(square foot)</td>
<td>141</td>
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Sometimes the only dry place is the parking lot

Wet Trail near Little Swift River Pond

The Tools
Maine Trail Crew
Hours Summary - 2015

Total hours for Coordinator = 568
Total hours for Field Staff = 2240
Total hours for SCA Interns = 914
Total hours for Volunteers = 2018

Maine Conservation Corps teams worked on two projects on the Appalachian Trail in Western Maine.

Bemis Mountain
One team worked on Bemis Mt clearing a new section of trail to avoid a very deep mud hole on the ridge of the Mountain. The team utilized a logging road to get closer to the work site only to find them selves in the midst of a major harvesting operation. They were fortunate to finish the relocation before the road became impassible. After the trail was cleared, the team began work on a very steep and eroded section of trail on the south ridge of the mountain. This reconstruction was started in 2001 and never finished by a MATC crew. The work relied on a GripHoist highline to bring large blocks of stone to the trail. The team built a steep set of stairs to complete the project.

Work Accomplished
- Cleared 2 drainages
- New trail cleared – 1000 feet
- Built 10 square feet of rip rap
- Built 59 stone steps
- Built 80 square feet of retaining wall

Poplar Ridge
The trail up Poplar Ridge alternates between steep pitches and extended bog sections. The crew camped near sluice brook and waded Orbeton Stream on their way to and from the work sites. Stone steps and stepping stones were installed to stabilize the trail.

Work Accomplished
- Cleared 5 drainages
- Built 63 stone steps
- Installed 7 stone waterbars
- Built 254 step stones

Maine Conservation Corps
Hours Summary 2015

3440 Hours of Service

All MCC members who worked on the Appalachian Trail will receive a year’s Complimentary membership in the Maine Appalachian Trail Club/
STAFFING

**Crew Recruiting** – Holly Sheehan handled the winter applications. Lester initiated advertising to supplement the recruiting done by ATC; Holly processed the applications from the ATC volunteer database, and those through the ATC and other websites. Emily Lessard took over when she started at the Island in May. We experienced four drop-outs and four no-shows during the season. This left us with vacancies. We filled 73 out of 90 slots. We have learned that supplemental advertising via internet sites can make a positive difference in our enrollment. We had many of our volunteers stay for multiple weeks.

**Summary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Trail Conservancy</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni who returned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Word of Mouth” Network</td>
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<td>MATC Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backpacker Magazine</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Conservation Association</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

73/90 slots filled = 81%
24 volunteers
Average Crew Size = 6
Coordinator – Emily Lessard of Russell, Massachusetts was our Coordinator. Emily was new to the trail world but had academic training in hospitality work that was very helpful.

Team Leaders –
Alexander Harris – was from Guilford, Vermont and previously worked with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. Alec has an extensive background in outdoor recreation.
Danielle Salvucci – was from Merrimack New Hampshire. Danielle had worked with trail crews sponsored by the American Conservation Experience.

Assistant Team Leaders
Brandon Tigner was from Columbus, Ohio and had volunteered with us in 2014
Savino Ranallo was from Bozeman, Montana and had worked in the Montana Conservation Corps

SCA Interns
Ron Dobra worked on selecting the interns and had better luck this year.

We had two Trail Interns. We selected two fewer interns than in 2014, and with our continued success with recruiting volunteers, we maintained adequate numbers of people on the crews.
Stephanie Cantu worked on a University Trail Crew in Colorado Springs, Colorado
Caitlin Pohl volunteered with us in 2014

FUNDING SOURCES FOR 2015
Piscataquis County 4.4%
Betterment Fund 8.8%
Recreational Trails Program 31.0%
Appalachian Trail Conservancy/ NPS 50.8%
Baxter State Park 5.0%

MAINE TRAIL CREW EXPENSES FOR 2015
Administration 1.7%
Housing 9.9%
Operations 0.9%
Personnel 59.7%
Trail Crew Support 13.6%
Transportation 14.2%

These percentages are approximate since not all transactions are complete for 2015.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS:

MATC PARTICIPATION
Nine MATC members joined the crew for a day or more during the season, four of them helped pack tools into the Little Swift River Pond site. All Maintainers who had projects on their sections were contacted and invited to join the crew and Mac Smith made several trips to his section with the crew.

VEHICLES
Two 5 x 8 cargo trailers continued to provide good service. We can keep up with the repairs and keep them working well for us. Purchased in 2005, they have been a good
We relied on one 15-passenger van and one 12 passenger van from Rent-a-Wreck for this season. Mechanical problems were minimal, but they are older vehicles. Rent-a-Wreck has been good to work with.

**BASE CAMP**
We continued the second year lease with the owner of “The Island” at Branns Mills Pond in Dover Foxcroft where the crew had stayed in 1995-96. One building is the kitchen/living quarters and the second building is the recreation hall and sleeps 15 people. The Island is accessed via a raft and pull rope. The situation is somewhat inconvenient and crowded at times, but very scenic and people like it. Patty Harding loaned the crew four kayaks, which were used by many.

Set up at the island was easier than usual since most of the gear was over-wintered there. In order to empty the trailers of stored items, we rented a small storage unit in Dover-Foxcroft.

**CHORES**
The greatest struggle in regards to volunteers was dishes and chores. When the Coordinator started posting sign up sheets where people signed up for specific jobs, this became easier.

**SECURITY**
The Island was robbed this summer. Several people lost lamps, computer tablets and other valuables. We need to install some lockers for people to use.

**RECREATIONAL TRIPS**
Recreational trips were offered throughout the season with 1000 mile budget. The budget was exceeded with only a few weeks left.

- 4th of July in Farmington
- Acadia
- Baxter State Park x 2
- Bigelow Mountain
- Umaine Orono – climbing gym
- Bangor – many trips

**FOOD AND PROVISIONS**
This part of the program was better than before. There were few food complaints. Only one of the five projects was backpacking this year. The two crews spent a lot of time at the Brewer High School base camp on the Katahdin Iron Works Road. It was easy to set up screen houses and use the picnic tables to make for comfortable kitchen and dining areas. Many of the crews took advantage of the 1 hour drive to Greenville to have dinner out occasionally.

**COMMUNICATIONS**
The greatest struggle faced this year in regards to recruiting was the lack of internet.
service. We had telephone service with Fair Point Communications throughout the summer. The WiFi was popular to the point of being overloaded at times so that the Coordinator did not have a connection. We did not succeed in having WiFi service in both buildings. More and more staff, interns, and volunteers bring laptop computers, tablets and smart phones. A typical evening at Base Camp will see many computers in use. Cell phone service is good at this location. By providing each crew leader a cell phone allowance, we make sure we have communications with each crew. All of the projects sites except Katahdin Stream had cell service.

CONCLUSIONS
For the most part, we succeeded in having an average of six people per crew per week, with a low of four and a high of seven people per crew. 7 weeks had 7 person crews. We had many volunteers stay for several weeks. The majority of our volunteers are young people in their 20’s. The end of the season was not as full as the beginning, and we found our biggest problem to be with cancellations. The age range was from 18 to 72.

The MCC – Public Lands Corps crew performed well. They operated very independently in remote areas with good results. Continuing the quality and quantity of communication with these crews will be the key to future successes.

Thanks are due to the Trail Crew Committee, The Maine Conservation Corps, The Student Conservation Association, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, Betterment Fund, Baxter State Park and Maine Department of Conservation – Recreational Trails, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, and all of the people who worked on the crews for making this a successful year.

Thank you to Lester Kenway, Savino Ranallo, Brandon Tigner, and Tom Gorrill for sharing their photos for this program.

Sincerely,

Lester C. Kenway
President
Maine Appalachian Trail Club