

## **Bigelow District Report 2018**

During the past 12 months there were 2780 volunteer hours contributed towards special projects and trail maintaining in the Bigelow district.

Highlights include; a week of significant blowdown removal after the Oct. 31, 2017 storm, some would call the damage “arboreal carnage”. Additionally, one end of the 32' aluminum Bog Brook bridge was pushed off its abutment and floated a dozen feet downstream during the storm and was winched back in place November 15th.

Much new work was done at the Horns Pond campsite including two new accessible privies, many thanks to Laura Flight and her crew, a new caretaker site and two tent platforms built from lumber salvaged from the old caretaker platform.

Eleven young women from Camp Teki helped move the caretaker set up and then hiked 5' long lumber up from Stratton Pond the next day...in the rain while smiling! Amazing.

The MATC caretakers met July 16th at Horns Pond for the final batch bin poo mix. Special guest that day was Steve Swatling, former Bigelow Preserve Manager.

MCC fielded a crew on Saddleback Jr. to complete some trail reconstruction to the West of the summit.

During the last week of July, nineteen teenagers, a coed group this time, dug 40 waterbars on a badly eroded one mile section of the Range Trail from the trailhead in Stratton. This during another hot, humid and wet couple of days and again they smiled and kept working.

A dozen Bowdoin College freshmen, another coed group, also helped create waterbars on the Range Trail on August 23rd.

The caretaker site at Horns Pond was closed for the season on October 13th.

Many thanks to all the Bigelow District maintainers and others who helped with everything during the past year.

Submitted by;  
Dick Fecteau