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Maine Appalachian Trail Club



The MAINEtainer

Volume XXXVII Number 2 Early Spring 2013



Our annual spring meeting is April 20, UMF

Join us on April 20 for the annual spring meeting of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. The meeting will again be held in the Lincoln Auditorium at the University of Maine, Farmington.

The sessions begin at 8 a.m. with informal coffee and socializing and two showings of the MATC photo collection of the trail in Maine.

Business decisions follow at 9 along with the report of the nominating committee by Laura Flight and service awards to individuals who have made special contributions to the work of maintaining the nearly 300 miles of the Appalachian Trail system in Maine.

Innovations this year will be a series of concurrent workshops. At 11 a.m.:

- Dave Field will lead a discussion of monitoring the AT corridor and the plants and animals that live there.
- Ron Dobra and Laura Flight will discuss how to become a good trail maintainer.
- Thru hikers, Ray Ronan and Rebecca Clark, will offer tips on hiking the entire trail from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Kahtahdin in Maine.

Lunch will follow at 12 in the UM Farmington cafeteria.

Julie Judkins, from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Harpers Ferry, will speak on AT community programs after lunch. The concurrent workshops will resume at 2 p.m.:

- Dave continues his discussion of the plants and animals that inhabit the trail in Maine, and the problems associated with monitoring the corridor borders.

- Ray and Rebecca will talk more about their ideas for a successful thru hike.
- Tony Barrett will discuss the growing problems of industrial wind towers impacting the Maine trail.

Adjournment comes at 3 p.m. A more detailed agenda follows.

Maine Appalachian Trail Club Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 20, 2013

Lincoln Auditorium at the
 University of Maine Farmington

8:00 AM Registration, Coffee, and socializing

- MATC Slide Show – 1st showing
- MATC Slide Show – 2nd showing

9:00 AM Annual Business Meeting of the Club

- Welcome – Lester Kenway, President
- Approval of the 2010 Annual Meeting minutes – Janice Clain
- Treasurer's Report – Elsa Sanborn
- Adoption of Budget for FY 2012-2013 – Elsa Sanborn
- Corresponding Secretary Report – Dick Doucette
- Report of Nominating Committee – Laura Flight

- Service Awards – Tony Barrett, Peter Roderick, and Don Stack
- President's Report on the past year – Lester Kenway

10:00 AM

- A Question and Answer Session on the Club Reports
- Meetings with District Overseers.

11:00 AM Concurrent Workshops

1. *Monitoring the AT Corridor along with the animals and plants that live there* – Dave Field
2. *Becoming a Trail Maintainer* – Ron Dobra and Laura Flight
3. *Tips for Hiking the Appalachian Trail* – Ray Ronan and Rebecca Clark

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Guest Speaker

- Julie Judkins – Appalachian Trail Conservancy – Community Programs: *"Changes and New Programs at ATC"*

2:00 PM Concurrent Workshops

1. *Monitoring the AT Corridor along with the animals and plants that live there* - Dave Field
2. *Wind Power and the Appalachian Trail* – Tony Barrett
3. *Tips for Hiking the Appalachian Trail* – Ray Ronan and Rebecca Clark

3:00 PM End of Day

Here are officers nominated for election April 20

Nominations for 2013-2015 to be elected on April 20 are **President**, Lester Kenway; **Secretary**, Janice Clain; **Treasurer**, Elsa Sanborn; **Corresponding Secretary**, Doug Dolan; **Overseer of Lands**, Dave Field. Nominations for **Overseers of the Trail: Katahdin District**, Rick Ste. Croix; **White Cap District**, Ron Dobra; **Kennebec District**, Craig Dickstein; **Bigelow District**, Richard Fecteau; **Baldpate District**, Thomas Gorrill. **Directors**: Dennis Andrews, Bob Cummings, Tony Barrett, Laura Flight, Rebecca Clark, Bruce Grant, Dan Simonds, Don Stack.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee, Laura Flight (Chair), Bruce Grant, and Milt Wright.

The position of vice president remains to be filled.

New ATC staff person sought to work mostly in Maine

After years of discussion, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, which coordinates the entire management of the trail, has announced plans to hire a full time person to work on the many problems facing the AT in Maine.

The person hired to become the Maine Conservation Resources Manager needs:

- “Demonstrated ability to prioritize and manage multiple tasks and relationships concurrently with excellent organizational and communication skills, in an environment with minimal direct daily supervision;
- Ability to work collaboratively within the Cooperative Management System, including state and federal agency partners, volunteer constituencies, alliance organizations, community and business leaders, and media representatives;
- Ability and commitment to be fully engaged in a dispersed yet cohesive staff team structure;
- Excellent analytical and critical evaluation skills;
- Strong oral and written communication skills.”

Hawk Metheny, New England regional director, reports that the new ATC employee will work closely with MATC, the Maine Appalachian Trail Land trust, and state and federal agencies.

The deadline for applying is April 1.

MATC Campsite Committee issues annual report

By Laura Flight, Committee Chair

Activity Period: October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013.

Members of the Campsite Committee include: Laura Flight, Chair; Bruce Grant, Elsa Sanborn, Kate Locke, Craig Dickstein (resigned 1/20/13), Rick Ste. Croix, Lester Kenway, Don Stack, Doug Dolan

Charge of the Campsite Committee: The Campsite Committee shall consist of a Chair and 5-9 members, and has the following primary duties:

- Annually review conditions at 25% of the campsites.
- Prepare and maintain an inventory and 5-year plan for lean-to and campsite maintenance, repair, and replacement.
- Coordinate major repair projects at campsites.
- Evaluate the need and appropriateness of existing and new campsites.
- Maintain standards and guidelines for lean-tos, privies, and related campsite facilities.
- Educate and train overseers and campsite maintainers.

Activities: The Campsite Committee completed the following on-the-ground projects:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Work Done</u>	<u>Project Leaders</u>
Bald Mountain Brook lean-to	Replaced plastic roof panels	Craig Dickstein
Logan Brook lean-to	Replaced damaged roof panels	Laura Flight
Spaulding Mountain lean-to	Replaced plastic roof panels	Laura Flight
Little Bigelow Mountain lean-to	Replaced entire roof	Doug Dolan
Sabbath Day Pond lean-to	Replaced plastic roof panels	Don Stack, Laura Flight

The Campsite Committee also spent a considerable amount of time researching accessibility for people with disabilities as it applies to campsites. An article appeared in the Fall 2012 issue of the *MAINEtainer* that explains many of the specifics. Privy design was a particular focus as many privies in our network are aging significantly and in need of repair, as well as reaching capacity.

A design was compiled that uses a moldering composting system and is based on a combination of a design from the Green Mountain Club and the U.S. Forest Service. This design will meet the accessibility requirements as well as provide a longer life for our privies. In addition, moving to this design will offer a consistent structure format from campsite to campsite that will ease maintenance and repairs. Thank you to Lester Kenway and Bruce Grant for their research on accessible privy designs.

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance request was submitted by Lester Kenway to gain permission to install a privy at the Kennebec River ferry crossing due to a human waste issue at this location. No response to this request has been provided to date.

The Campsite Committee worked to design a new MATC information sign to post at campsites and possibly at trail heads/kiosks. This sign consolidates several signs currently posted at campsites into one sign. It also includes our web page address and other modern links. The sign content is completed, but the design is still in progress. Thank you to Doug Dolan, Kate Locke, and Elsa Sanborn for their work on this project.

Goals for the Coming Year: The Campsite Committee will undertake the following on-the-ground projects. If our goals are met, since 2011 we will have accomplished the replacement of the plastic panels in all 12 affected lean-tos.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Work to do</u>
East Branch lean-to	Replace plastic roof panels
Piazza Rock lean-to	Replace plastic roof panels
Potaywadjo Spring lean-to	Replace plastic roof panels
West Carry Pond lean-to	Replace plastic roof panels
Carl A. Newhall lean-to	Install moldering privy
Kennebec River ferry crossing	Install moldering privy
Logan Brook lean-to	Install moldering privy
Horseshoe Canyon campsite	Remediate excessive ground creep on lean-to sills
Knoll Campsite (GLT)	Decommission

MATC submits windpower bill for consideration by Legislature

By Tony Barrett

After a busy 2011 evaluating the potential impact of the Highland Wind project (application withdrawn, project status pending) and supporting three legislative bills that would have amended the 2008 Wind Energy Act (those three bills along with others were combined into a legislative resolve to study the wind power-related issues further), in 2012 the wind power committee examined the potential impact of future wind projects more strategically, rather than simply waiting and reacting to the next wind project.

The State's Energy Office undertook a study of the issues, as directed by the Legislature in 2011, and produced the *Maine Wind Energy Development Assessment: Report and Recommendations – 2012*. Also in 2012, the hiking community was able to experience the visual impact of recently completed 'distant' wind projects (Granite Reliability, Kibby & Record Hill) and found their intrusion on the natural landscape to be greater than expected – both in daytime and especially at night.

Using the State's Energy Office report as a starting point and expanding upon it, MATC prepared draft legislation to implement changes to the Act, which would address the inadequate attention to scenic landscapes of Maine's mountains and lakes in the current law. The recommended changes are not radical and will not stop wind power development in Maine. Most of the concepts are found as recommendations in the state report and some are already part of

Maine's environmental protection laws but are not now applied to wind power projects. MATC's own report on the Wind Energy Act and the proposed legislation were published in the winter *MAINEtainer*.

We believe that this bill is the first piece of legislation ever sponsored by MATC, and after four years of experience with the Wind Energy Act, will achieve a more balanced public policy towards protection of mountain landscapes. The wind power committee is working on ways to advance and promote this legislation and will be calling on all MATC members for support.

In late 2012, the committee reviewed the Bingham Wind project. As proposed, the project would be, if built, the largest wind farm in Maine. It would have a potential visual impact from viewpoints from Barren Mountain to the Bigelows. MATC opposes the project as currently designed and awaits the submitted application to DEP.

The committee met 5 times this past year and we expect more frequent meetings and a busy agenda for the coming year with pending legislation and another large wind project proposed near the AT in 2013. We welcome new committee members for this interesting work.

Members of the wind power committee are: Tom Lewis, Chair, Laura Flight, Bill Millis, Milt Wright, Steve Clark, Tony Barrett, Lester Kenway and Dain Trafton

Giant Bingham wind project seeks expedited OK

The "Bingham Wind Project" plans to seek expedited wind permitting from the DEP towards the end of March, and has begun notifying a few residents of their intention to do so. This is a massive wind project that consists of 63 turbines 500 feet tall and 15 miles of transmission lines, 7 stories tall, which will run thru Mayfield Township, Kingsbury Plantation, Moscow, Abbot, Parkman, and Bingham. The wind turbines have a life expectancy of only 20 years, then who knows what will become of them. This would definitely alter the skyline as we know it and affect our quality of life with socio-economic issues, environmental issues, economic issues, and ecological issues.

The permit proposal is on public display in the town offices of Bingham, Abbot, Moscow, Dover-Foxcroft, and Parkman.

There was a public informational meeting hosted by First Wind scheduled for Wed, Mar 20, 2013 at the Quimby Elementary School, Bingham.

Concerns should be sent to Daniel.Courtemanch@maine.gov and BinghamWindProject.DEP@maine.gov. E-mails with concerns about the project should be followed up on in writing to: Dan Courtemanch; 17 State House Sta.; Augusta, ME 04333 (287-3901) prior to the end of March.

Hiker offers fond memories of Steve Longley

By Rick Towle (Troll), Class of 2010

It's often true that something good comes out of tragedy. When Alice Ferrence drowned attempting to ford the Kennebec River while hiking on the Appalachian Trail in 1986, something good did come out of it. Steve Longley.

For twenty years, and with over 19,000 hikers safely transported, Longley was the face of the AT thru hikers in Maine. To most, he was simply known as The Ferryman. Longley was a constant. Along with the mud, bugs, rain, and humidity, Longley was always at the river's edge with his red Old Town canoe with the whiteblaze painted on the bottom when he was needed.

Longley was a natural for the job. Born of one of Maine's most royal of political families, he took the traits that put his father James Longley in the Blaine House, his brother James Jr. in Congress, and his sister, Susan, in the state senate, and used them in a more natural setting.

"He came out of nowhere and proved you can achieve your dreams," Longley says proudly of his father in a 2001 *DownEast Magazine* article. "He proved you could be the underdog and win. I model myself after my father. He also said that no matter what you do, there's no substitute for hard work."

Steve's brother Jim (James Jr.) told me that their father took them both on a canoe trip when Steve was

16, and Jim was nine. Jim said he thought that was the defining moment in Steve's life that led him in the direction he took. They canoed the Allagash Waterways in Maine and Jim said he remembers the excitement Steve showed. Steve went on to have his own River Guide service and Jim went into the Marines.

With the drowning, the ATC decided that something needed to be done regarding one of the most treacherous crossings on the entire 2,175-mile trail. Steve was operating a rafting business on the river and answered an ad for the ferry. The rest is lore.

There are always the numbers. 230 hikers ferried the first year. 1,146 in his last year in 2007. But there is so much more than that. There was the hiking family that refused his service, determined to cross the river the old fashioned way. Despite the rebuke, Longley crossed the river in his canoe along with each member, providing a safety net if needed.

But it was the intangibles that truly made him legend as The Ferryman. He could be there with cold sodas as a surprise, or a ride to the hospital if needed. He was plugged into the trail as much as anyone and had news and information for those that needed it. He always had a smile at the ready and really cared for his customers. With his home just a mile north of the crossing on Rte 201, he let hikers stay on his property and carried some supplies as well.

"I'm here to help," Longley said in a 1997

Portland *Press Herald* story. "My ferry service is regarded as a safety checkpoint that gives hikers and their families peace of mind. These people are part of a tight subculture, and I am part of the chain of people who help hikers."

When I started the Whiteblaze hiker feed in 2004, Steve helped me get it off the ground and he hosted it

"When I move on, all that matters is I left this place in a little better shape than I found it." – Steve Longley

on his land. It was a huge success and continues to this day (moving to Monson in 2006).

People that knew Steve, whether for just the short amount of time in his canoe or for longer, knew he had the proper perspective about things. "I'm not out there hiking, I'm just out there observing," Longley said for the same *DownEast* article. "I have a lot of respect for someone who can put a pack on their back and be a self-contained unit."

Steve's contributions to the AT community did not go unnoticed at the national level. "That crossing is synonymous with his name," said Lori Potteiger, an information specialist for the ATC in Harper's Ferry. Potteiger says Longley has given her office some of the most accurate hiker counts ever.

Continued on page 10

Challenging corridor monitoring effort continues, volunteers needed

By Dave Field, Overseer of Lands

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club's corridor monitoring program has grown greatly since it began in 1992.

The Club, as a part of the delegation of responsibilities for the management of National Park Service-owned lands in Maine, has accepted the task of regularly inspecting these lands to monitor for any encroachments (such as timber trespass and dumping) or illegal uses (such as bear stands and marijuana plantations).

Although State-owned lands, across which the Trail passes do not have protection corridors identified by surveyed boundary lines, these lands are also included in the monitoring program.

This is a challenging assignment for the Club. The National Park Service owns 31,803 acres of land along the A.T. in Maine in fee (outright ownership) and holds easement rights on an additional 492 acres. Using a nominal 1000-foot corridor, State-owned lands along the A.T. include 8,362 acres held in fee. In addition, the State owns 4,353 acres of easement rights north of the town line just south of Antlers Campsite.

The boundary lines that define the NPS fee lands extend for 307 miles (compared with 257 miles of surveyed boundary around Yellowstone National Park). In addition, the NPS was unable to fund a survey of more than 22 miles of boundary at the northern end of its ownership. These lands must be monitored nevertheless. The boundary lines are defined by "U.S. Boundary" signs and painted blazes on trees between 2,037 metal survey monuments. The monitoring program includes locating and checking the condition of these monuments. To date, 1,275 have been located and monitors have taken digital photographs of 1,070 of them.

Monitoring Responsibilities

The corridor through Maine has been divided into 70 corridor monitoring assignments. 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.

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.

Boundary Line Maintenance

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club has never formally agreed to take responsibility for clearing and re-blazing National Park Service corridor boundary lines in Maine, but the NPS does not have a regular A.T. boundary maintenance program, although it does provide funds for an ATC boundary maintenance crew.

Because boundary lines are becoming overgrown and paint blazes are fading, Maine corridor monitors are increasingly volunteering to perform boundary maintenance. Using boundary signs and paint provided by the NPS through the ATC, monitors Bill Geller, Tom Giggey, Dennis Andrews, Janice Clain, Ray Ronan, Ron Jenkins, Dick Welsh, John Towey, Tony Barrett, and Jonathan Ellis, often with the help of friends, cleared and re-blazed 16 miles of line during 2012.

For several years, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy has allocated time in Maine for its boundary maintenance crew. Sally Naser worked with two technicians north of Route 15 in 2005 and 2007. After working with two technicians in 2010, Land Protection Associate Alison Scheiderer began recruit-

ing volunteers to help with the work and, in 2011, cleared and re-blazed more than 10 miles of line between Old Blue Mt. and Baldpate.

Also in 2011, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club organized an August work trip to clear lines north of Surplus Pond. In 2012, MATC volunteers worked with Alison and American Hiking Society volunteers to clear and re-blaze more than 18 miles of line south of Route 4 and south of Route 17. A great deal of boundary maintenance work remains to be done and MATC volunteers are likely to contribute more to this program.

Also, one of our primary corridor neighbors, the Plum Creek Timber Co., has contributed greatly to maintenance of our common boundary lines during the past two years. In 2011, Plum Creek thoroughly cleared and re-blazed 19 miles of corridor boundary lines; in 2012 they cleared and re-blazed another 9 miles. It is not unusual for timber management abutters to mark the boundary, usually with flagging, before beginning a timber harvest.

Maine law requires this. But Plum Creek's line work has gone far beyond what is necessary under the law. Not only have they cleared and paint-blazed the lines, but they have done so on very difficult terrain, such as the south ridge of Moxie Bald Mt., where there is no merchantable timber to harvest.

Open Sections

Opportunities remain to participate in the corridor monitoring program. Currently, there are 12 sections open for assignment, from the East B Hill Road in the south to Crawford Pond in the north. The MATC web site (www.matc.org) includes descriptions of each open section. You must participate in a field training session before an assignment will be made permanent. If you are unable to join a group session, I will make arrangements to train you on your own section.

ATC Boundary Maintenance Technician Nicole Wooten (left) and an American Hiking Society volunteer warm up for boundary maintenance work at the second summit of Bemis Mt. AHS volunteer Catherine McLaughlin and MATC volunteer Ray Ronan try out more basic exercises as ATC Technician Joel Baker looks on. Dave Field Photo



Here is the report on last year's spring meeting

78 club members attended the annual MATC Annual Meeting at the University of Maine at Farmington on April 14, 2012. As they gathered, attendees had the opportunity to view a slide show of the AT in Maine, with indications of maintainers assigned to each section.

Call to Order: President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 9:12 am. He welcomed old and new members and explained the format and purposes of the annual club meeting. According to the Local Management Plan, the club must meet on an annual basis to conduct a business meeting and hear reports from various committees and officers regarding club projects and the condition of the Trail. This meeting would include a one hour business meeting, reports on the club's financial status and projects, and reports from committee chairs and District Overseers. Maintainers would have an opportunity to meet with their District Overseers to review plans for the upcoming season while the President met with new attendees. The day would end with an open forum and information on land trust issues.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Don Stack, to accept the report as distributed. The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's Report. She noted assets of \$540,240, with \$344,363 in cash. She explained that some expenses are for fund raising counsel for the Trail Center proposal and for expenses for architect fees and the lease agreement legal work. She pointed out \$339,857 in the Stewardship Fund and \$39,944 in memorial contributions. Income listed is from donations and grants, dues, and sales and totals \$249,546 for the year. \$216,795 listed as expenses include salaries, and financial support for the ferry service. The club saw a net income of \$33,673.

Steve Clark placed a motion, seconded by Bruce Grant, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Those in attendance voted to accept the motion.

2012-2013 Budget: Finance Committee chairman Tom Lewis presented the operating budget for 2012-2013. The budget projects revenue of \$240,900, including \$20,000 for sales of guidebooks, \$10,000 in dues, and private support of \$97,400 in the form of donations and grants. In addition, the budget includes \$112,000 in public grants.

The budget projects expenses of \$309,600, which is an increase over last year's budget of \$269,000. Tom added that the budgeted expenses last year for opposing the Highlands Wind Project was reduced significantly since the project application was withdrawn. He explained that spending on the trail crew center continues to be phased in, including funding for a public awareness campaign and for fund raising.

The budget also includes funds to be set aside for professional services for wind power issues going forward in 2012. Tom also explained that Recreational Trails Program funding that has benefited the club in the past several years is not available this year. The budget projects a \$68,900 shortfall.

The Executive Committee approved the budget at its last meeting, on March 2.

Michelle Moody placed a motion, seconded by Stan Moody, to accept the proposed 2012-2013 budget.

Tony Barrett asked if there have been shortfalls in the past, to which Tom replied that was the case during the Redington wind power opposition, but that the club has recovered from those shortfalls and that there was an operating surplus in 2011.

Bruce Grant explained that some expenditures for the trail crew center will be paid back from the capital campaign; while no funding for that project is coming in at this time, it will later.

Club members in attendance voted to accept the 2012-2013 budget as presented.

Wind Power Committee: Tom Lewis also presented a

report from the Wind Power Committee. He noted a lot going on at this time including a legislative "resolve" that was passed in 2011 by the Maine Legislature that directed the Office of Energy Independence (OEIS) to conduct an assessment of the Wind Energy Act. MATC and others provided written comments to OEIS in anticipation of the report. The report was recently completed and included recommendations that the state (1) update the list of resources designated as having state or national significance, (2) institute more formal guidance for visual impact assessment, (3) amend the wind law to require scenic impact evaluation to 8-miles, and a 15-mile standard review option, and (4) support a clear statutory authority for permitting agencies to consider cumulative visual impacts. These recommendations are encouraging. Tom explained that Maine's statutory goals included development of at least 2,000 megawatts of installed capacity by 2015, at least 3000 megawatts by 2020, and at least 8,000 megawatts by 2030 (including 5,000 megawatts off-shore). Much of that wind power will be from sites in unorganized territories. Tom noted that the state would need to develop about 260-miles of ridgeline to meet the 2020 goal of 3,000 megawatts.

Tom reported that 8 grid scale projects have been completed and are operating with 845 megawatts of installed capacity, and that another 9 projects under construction, approved or under review adding another 845 megawatts of potential capacity, about 45% of the 2015 goal, which would require about 450 turbines. With developers looking for higher elevation locations, there has been a conflict with many groups and individuals. MATC has opposed two projects; the Redington site, which was proposed prior to the Wind Act, and which was turned down by the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) and the Highlands project, located adjacent to the Bigelow Preserve. The Highland application was withdrawn last year, and would likely have been turned down by LURC. LURC recently rejected a wind power project on Bowers Mountain, located in Penobscot and Washington counties, on the basis of scenic impact. Tom noted that while there is a lot of land in Maine, there is a scarcity of mountain area with only 1/2 of 1% of our land area above 2,700 feet.

Tom said the Highlands application may or may not be re-filed; the federal production tax credit for wind power may sunset at the end of this year, which would have a significant negative impact on the wind industry, which is heavily subsidized. Tom expressed a need for the state to reassess goals and criteria for wind development. Dave Field commented that one major impact is the amount of land deforested to connect wind power sites to the grid. Tom also noted major changes underway at LURC, which will become a planning agency; he is concerned by the transfer of wind power authority to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which is proposed in the legislature this session. He explained that the DEP uses a different process, and typically doesn't operate through public hearings or adjudicatory process where opponents have a greater chance to participate in the approval process.

Bruce Grant remarked that none of the projects in place is running above 50% of planned capacity. Tom noted that existing wind projects in fact operate at about 20% capacity. He added that MATC and other environmental groups have emphasized the need for transparency in the industry and that there has been limited responsibility by the industry to report on their production.

Tom reported that MATC will continue to monitor and provide input in the proposed changes at LURC and with the recommendations in the OEIS report. MATC has engaged Bill Plouffe (Drummond Woodsum) and Chris O'Neil (O'Neil Policy Consulting) to assist in this effort. He also encouraged interested members to participate on the Wind Committee.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Corresponding Secretary, Dick Doucette, reported on his activities in the past year. He said he has not been as busy this year answering e-mails; since he took the position in April, he has answered 112 inquiries, mostly in the April to October time period. As always, the questions "flatlanders" pose elicit laughter from trail cognoscenti: Are there any drive up cabins? Is there a road to the top of Katahdin? Is there a tent site in Mahoosuc Notch?

President's Report: Lester Kenway presented the President's Report using information from the MAINetainer and from the minutes of the year's Executive Committee meetings. It is not new

information and some would be presented in other reports during the day.

The Highlands wind power application was withdrawn, which gives MATC a respite in its wind power concerns.

MATC participated in an All Trails Celebration in June in Rangeley to mark the opening of several new multi-purpose trails.

The club held its second maintainer gathering, in February, in Skowhegan with even more members in attendance than the first year. The event was deemed successful, and gave maintainers an opportunity to learn about best practices and to discuss personal experiences with other maintainers.

The ATC Conference was held in the south in 2011. Club representative took MATC's display. The next conference will also be in the south in 2013.

Dave Field resurrected the August work trip, the first time this has happened in 15 years.

Two Maine towns have been designated as Trail Towns, Rangeley and Monson. Club and town officials are planning inauguration events in July and September.

Lester called for a moment of silence in recognition of two long term maintainers, Steve Innis and Brad Viles.

Club members participated in a partner hike on Pleasant Pond Mountain in the fall. From the trail they could view four wind power development sites.

The club instituted its first Walter D. Greene volunteer award for exceptional service.

Lester recognized the service that Holly Sheehan gives the club in her position as Club Coordinator. She has been instrumental in securing grant monies to support the Trail Crew and CARE programs, and devotes many hours to work on behalf of those two programs, as well as to general club activities.

Lester thanked Barbara Gorrill, who has served as Membership Secretary for five years. She is passing that office to Melanie Coombs.

The Recreational Trails Program has funded MATC since 1999 for up to \$30,000. RTP overpaid Maine for last three years, so rescinded funds for this year. The club has gone to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, which is funded by lottery scratch tickets.

The New England Regional Partnership Committee holds meetings in the fall and spring. It connects MATC with the 750 miles of the AT in New England and facilitates communications with ATC. MATC representatives attend both these meetings.

Lester cautioned that hikers should use the ferry because of high water on the Kennebec. Jean Ference, daughter of Alice Ference, whose drowning death prompted ATC to establish the ferry service, pays for printing and distribution of brochures advertising the service.

The past year saw the inauguration of the West Saddleback Corridor, an initiative that affords cooperation on use of motorized traffic going to Eddy Pond.

Dave Field published an Arcadia Books text, *Along Maine's Appalachian Trail*, that conveys a photographic history of the AT in Maine.

Millinocket again held its End of Trails Festival, in Millinocket, in September. In coordination with the Hard Core Team under the auspices of Paul Reynaud of the AT Hostel and Shaw's, in Monson, hikers helped out the trail with a drainage project at Gulf Hags.

Dave Field distributed and posted an on-line update of the club's Local Management Plan. This is the document that guides the club's work on the Trail and the workings of its governing entities.

Plans are currently in the works for three new proposed trails; the Orbeton Stream Trail, Pioneer Trail, on Saddleback, and the Flyrod Crosby Trail, which will extend from Strong to Oquossoc. Meetings are planned to provide stakeholders an opportunity to have input on these proposed trails.

John Neff announced publication of an Arcadia Series book on Baxter State Park and Katahdin. Friends of Baxter asked Steve and Howard Whitcomb to collaborate. The book will appear in stores in May and can be ordered. Cost is \$22.

CARE Committee Report: Dick Fecteau reported on the

Continued on page 6

2012 Annual Meeting included committee reports and volunteer recognition

Continued from page 5

CARE program. CJ Manza has been the caretaker at Piazza Rock and has been at Abol Bridge for the last two years. He will be at Horn's Pond this year. Krisdin Diehl was at Gulf Hagas for the last two years and is hiking the Pacific Coast Trail this year. Adrienne Tausers was the caretaker at Piazza Rock last season. Jonathan Lemberg was at Horns Pond last season and will be at Abol this year. That position will be completely under the jurisdiction of Baxter State Park this season.

CARE personnel educate the public and long distance hikers regarding Leave No Trace policy. They work to protect natural resources in high use areas. They monitor usage of the Trail by long distance hikers, organized groups and day hikers. They encourage people to read signs and to adhere to AT and MATC policies. They also participate in a mid-season mixer. The dual purpose of that event is to debrief and retrain caretakers and ridge runners on the current season and to service the Horns Pond privy.

Caretakers and ridge runners for the upcoming season are: at Piazza Rock, Steve Masse; at Horns Pond, CJ Manza; at Gulf Hagas, Audrey Laffely.

Campsite Committee Report: Laura Flight reported for the Campsite Committee, for which she serves as chair. That body coordinates maintenance at campsites. To provide the committee with more accurate information, Stan Moody has helped the Campsite Committee develop a campsite report form, which is included with the work trip form. It is available on the club website, and the committee asks that maintainers use the form to help them to make necessary improvements to existing campsites and to provide information on potential new campsites. The Campsite Committee also has a web page on the MATC website. It includes tips for maintaining. Laura emphasized, using vivid visual images, that soil against bottom logs of a lean-to is problematic as it rots wood. Maintainers need to clear away built up soil deposits. Laura recommends ample clearance between the base of the lean-to and the ground. She explained that lean tos are worth over \$15,000 and need to be preserved.

In 2011, the Campsite Committee replaced plastic roof panels on Pleasant Pond, Bemis and Baldpate lean-tos and replaced the front logs at Leeman Brook lean-to.

Campsite Committee work for the upcoming season includes: placing new lean-to information signs; replacing leaky roof panels on Little Bigelow, Sabbathday Pond, Spaulding and Bald Mountain Brook, and Logan Brook lean-tos; installing a privy at the Kennebec ferry crossing; moving Stewart campsite on the Grafton Loop Trail; decommissioning the Knoll Campsite on the Grafton Loop Trail. Check the coming events calendar on the website for dates.

Trail Crew Committee Report: Lester reported on activities for the Maine Trail Crew. The report of last season's accomplishments was printed in the MAINetainer and is available on the club web site. The list of projects for this season is also available on the club web site and include projects on the Horns Pond trail, on Chairback, at Gulf Hagas, on Rainbow Lake and Nahmakanta Stream.

There are two MATC trail crews, an MCC crew, and an SCA crew.

MCC worked on Pleasant Pond Mountain, on Saddleback, Old Blue, and West Bald Pate. That project, which has been under way for a number of years, may be completed this year.

In 2011, the Trail Crew worked again on the Hunt Trail, which has been ongoing since early 90's. They placed stone steps along Nahmakanta Stream, and installed a 14 foot aluminum ladder, made by Lane Construction, at Tumbledown Dick Stream. The Trail Crew built stone steps higher up on Saddleback and more steps on Old Blue and on West Peak of White Cap. They worked again on the relocation on Moody Mountain necessitated by a mud slide in the 2008 season. One of the most impressive projects accomplished by the Trail Crew was 315 feet of elevated bog bridge at Carrying Place Beaver Bog.

An SCA crew, working under the auspices of the National Park System in a program designed for student conservation groups, built some 70 steps near the peak of Bemis Mountain.

At present, Club Coordinator Holly Sheehan reports that 46

slots of 48 volunteer crew slots for the season are filled. Those include 29 individuals and a combination of SCA interns and volunteers.

Lester recognizes that the Trail Crew needs to further develop its recruiting system and that it needs to post ads throughout the season for those who don't commit early.

Lester said that the Trail Crew Committee asked local maintainers to help on projects in their section. That plan didn't work well last season, and he will now invite the entire membership to help on Trail Crew projects when possible.

Trail Crew Center Update: Lester also reported on progress on the Trail Crew Center, which began with a presentation in 2007 and a desire to do away with uncertainty regarding where the Trail Crew would be housed and what their facilities would be like. In a resumé of progress to date, Lester mentioned the property in Skowhegan, leased with Somerset Woods Trustees and formalized in a signing ceremony on the occasion of the club's 75th anniversary celebration. The site sits on a 65 acre lot near the Kennebec River. Richard Renner Associates has created an architect's schematic design and a cost estimate for the project. This is an energy efficient design, with a high level of durability. The plan now includes storage area, meeting area for club events, and a training area for off season. One of the big challenges of the site will be building a driveway. Plans for the capital campaign to finance the project include a maintenance endowment, which adds to the overall cost of the center but ensures that future generations are not burdened with expenses for upkeep.

The club was fortunate to engage Alicia Nichols as a fund raising counsel. She has helped conduct a campaign readiness survey and has concluded that the campaign is not quite ready. With input from a number of club members, she crafted a statement of need for the project. Using that document, she carried out a feasibility study, which indicated a need to raise awareness to the club's work and its mission. Alicia says that, as a result of the feasibility study, she has concluded that "MATC is one of the best kept secrets in the State of Maine." She recommended a public relations campaign, which is in its beginning stages. It includes creating a group of "Friends of MATC," updating the club web site, reaching out to younger trail users, and focusing on the stories of real people on the Trail. Alicia estimates that this will be a 12-18 month process. Lester, Alicia, and members of a Friends committee have been interviewing PR firms. They will bring a recommendation to the May Executive Committee meeting. Lester said he is also looking for people who will be interested in helping with the public awareness campaign, and invited club members to contact him.

Observing that Maine has more land trusts than any other state, MCC surveyed those land trusts on their needs and learned that the first item was a desire for training on stewardship and a place to get that training. The MATC Trail Crew Center offers the possibility to fulfill that need, leading to a business model by which the facility and its services may be rented out and may help the center to pay for itself.

Ron Dobra spoke to the future of Trail Crew and the plans for this season. He explained that the Trail Crew season is based on an NPS five year plan, which is determined using input from Overseers at a meeting with Lester in November. The Trail Crew Committee meets in November to review the previous season and formulate plans for the next. They begin advertising and interviewing prospective crew leaders and a crew coordinator in November. Lester, Margaret Snell and Ron work through the spring to select the lead positions. Ron explained that the MATC Trail Crew is not the first choice of a lot of the candidates, who are drawn to more high profile organizations further south on the Trail or in other national parks. Lester's reputation as the trail construction "guru" is often the key to convincing candidates to join on with the Maine Trail Crew. There are nine slots for leaders, crew coordinator and SCA interns. At the time of the annual meeting, most of those positions were filled.

Club Coordinator Holly Sheehan recruits volunteers to fill the other 52 slots. At the date of the annual meeting, she had most slots filled.

Lester welcomed volunteers to set up the Garland base camp on the first two weekends in May. The crew leaders and crew coordinator are available for the second week of set up.

Lester then arranges site visits with crew leaders and the Overseer in the district where the project will take place. There are three weeks of equipment training for the MTC and the Baxter State Park trail crew.

During the season, two crews are assigned for each project week. Most projects run for three weeks.

Ron emphasized the need for club members to help, particularly at the beginning or end of a project run when tools and kitchen equipment are packed in or out.

Ron noted that a brochure with projects for the season is available on the club web site. MCC also has projects on West Baldpate, East Baldpate, Poplar Ridge and Crocker Mountain.

Volunteer Recognition: Peter Roderick spoke on volunteer recognition. There are two recognition programs, one local and one at the ATC level. ATC gives pins, hats and fleece for various lengths of service time. MATC has also developed its own recognition award.

Peter called the following retiring maintainers who have given years of service to the trail and presented them with hats and fleece and a volunteer insignia:

Baldpate District: Chet Masse, 12 years; Ray Thomson, Dave Hodgkins, 10 years each

Kennebec District: Gordon Clark, 15 years

Peter also remembered Brad Viles for his years of service

Whitecap District: Eric Anderson, 38 years

Katahdin District: John Neff – past president, consummate volunteer for 43 years

This was the second year for the Walter D. Greene Award, named for the first president of MATC in the 30's and a dedicated and visionary trail blazer and maintainer. The award is given for a volunteer who exceeds expectations of the duties of his position. After nomination, the awards committee, Peter Roderick, Tony Barrett, and Don Stack, review the nominations and select the most deserving recipient.

This year's Walter D. Greene Award recipient is Tom Lewis, member since 1999 and at times chair of both the Finance and Wind Power Committees. In those positions he has overseen club finances and has negotiated for the club at legislative hearings on wind power questions. As a visual symbol of the award, Tom received a personalized trail sign.

District Overseer Reports: District Overseers presented reports of activities along the Trail in the last year.

Tom Gorrill and Mike Ewing reported on the Bald Pate District. They had to deal with a dead moose on the trail last year and are now experts on the removal of natural hazards.

The Department of Transportation rebuilt the highway at the Height of Land last summer. Because the AT crossed Route 17, the Trail was temporarily relocated. There is now a scenic overlook offering good views at the site. When construction work was completed and the relocation removed, Tom was surprised at how quickly the old (permanent) trail had grown in.

Volunteers completed two privy relocations at Bemis campsite and Frye Notch.

Students from Dirigo High School helped with a bog bridging project last season. They will work for two weeks this year, at Sabbathday Lake lean-to and on a bog bridging project. Canadian youngsters from Camp Tekakwitha also helped in the district.

Plans for 2012 include a Baldpate privy relocation. (That project has since been canceled.)

Dick Fecteau reported on the Bigelow District. He showed photos of the fire tower on Avery Peak before, during and after its removal.

A group of scouts from Brunswick helped with a project replacing log steps on an esker. The Camp Tekakwitha boys helped with some bog bridging. Dick acknowledged that Dana Hall supplies the club with bog bridging materials. The Camp Teki girls helped with construction of two tent platforms at the Redington Stream campsite.

Dick and a group of volunteers replaced the bridge over Stratton Brook using utility poles. They replaced the aluminum bridge over Bog Brook.

The MCC trail crew constructed rock steps just north of

Continued on page 7

2012 Annual Meeting report concludes with open forum

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Piazza Rock.

Volunteers, including the Camp Teki boys, established a new camp site on the old Fire Warden's Trail on Abraham and burned an old camp there. Because of damage from Hurricane Irene the hike in is .6 mile longer. The hurricane also wiped out Route 27 so some access is obstructed and some trails are still inaccessible.

Peter Roderick reported for the Kennebec District.

He showed photos of a work trip on which inmates from Somerset jail helped with weekend projects replacing a roof on the Pleasant Pond shelter.

The Maine Trail Crew worked on Pleasant Pond Mountain creating stone steps, but a proposed relocation project there was postponed because of delayed approval through the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process.

This district also had some problems this year with dead moose.

Peter reported that a snowmobile trail has been cut to West Carry Pond.

The Trail Crew built a very impressive elevated bog bridge on Carrying Place. It replaced the former floating bridging which was not reliable and potentially dangerous.

Peter referred to the new on-line trip report form, which will facilitate compilation of data for volunteer hours in fall. It captures and records work hours into a data base. He urged all maintainers to use the form on the web site.

Ron Dobra reported from the Whitecap District.

Dick Welch is the new maintainer for the section from Route 15 to Leeman Brook. Patty Hardy has taken on the Barren to Fourth Mountain maintainer assignment. The maintainer position for the Leeman Brook shelter is open. Mary Ellen Baross took on the Gulf Hags Rim Trail last year. Steve Condon has set a goal to replace the bog bridging on Pleasant River Tote Road at Gulf Hags.

Ron led the Greenville 4th grade on its annual hike from Route 15 in Monson to Leeman Brook.

Piscataquis County is asking for a trail to Little Wilson Falls. The Executive Committee has discussed the topic.

Ron and volunteers worked to repair the Long Falls Stream lean-to privy.

A work party placed a single string of bog bridging on the Fourth Mountain bog. Ron has scheduled another work trip for May 26 to cut more bog bridging materials. He hopes to finish that project in the fall.

In all, 89 people volunteered 1785 hours in the Whitecap District, not counting trail crew hours.

The Maine Trail Crew will work on the "swamp" at Chairback Gap. They will also work on erosion control at another location on Chairback. A work party will repair the roof on the Logan Brook lean-to.

Ron announced the Monson National Trail Day celebration on June 2-3 beginning at 9:00 am. Michelle Moody is spearheading the group of planners for the event.

The Monson Trail Town dedication is scheduled for July 21, with the ribbon cutting at 10:00.

Rick Ste Croix reported on the Katahdin District. He is pleased that Julian Wiggins agreed to serve as assistant overseer.

In the last season, 49 individuals logged 1065 volunteer hours working on the 55.7 miles of Trail in the district.

Rebecca and Larry Clark will divide up their section into 3 sections. Rick said two of those sections are still available. The Rainbow Lake section is also open.

John Neff and Dan Day retired from trail maintenance after several years working on the last two sections of the Trail in Maine. Priscilla Seimer and Melanie Coombs, both of whom had worked several years with John Neff, took on those assignments.

Rick reminded maintainers to check the correct overseer box on the on-line work report form; as the Katahdin District is listed first it is the default field, so reports that aren't correctly tagged automatically go to him.

Overseer of Lands Report: Dave Field reported on Corridor Monitor activities. He said 63 assignments are filled of

70 available. He explained that AT lands are mostly federal, but with some state parcels. The AT includes almost as much land as Acadia National Park, and more boundary miles than Yellowstone National Park.

AT Corridor Monitors are issued a handbook and are required to attend at least one training session. Dave schedules two field training sessions each season. This year he has set training sessions on June 2 in Blanchard and on June 9 in Caratunk on Pleasant Pond Mountain.

Corridor monitors check the boundary lines for lands within the National Park corridor. Corridor Monitors last year located 309 monuments, digitally photographed 216 monuments, and logged 493 hours and 227 travel hours. In addition, an ATC Field Crew worked in July and August 2011 clearing boundaries and hope to come again in late fall. The American Hiking Society and a Frostburg State University crew also worked on boundary clearing. The American Hiking Society plans to send a crew the week of September 17 to do more boundary clearing.

On an August 2011 work trip Dave had hoped to be able to demolish an incidentally acquired structure on Surplus Pond that the former owner abandoned. Because permission had not yet been given, the work was not completed. The August work trip also included boundary clearing on Wyman Mountain.

Dave has scheduled another work trip for August 11-13. Part of the task for that trip will be to demolish the Pullman camp on North Pond. (That trip has since been canceled.)

Dave mentioned in particular the Heritage Monitoring program which checks for rare and endangered species of plants and animals. Not a lot has been done yet on the inventory, but ATC is trying to get this project going again. Dave also mentioned the MEGA transect, which looks at the entire trail as an environmental corridor.

Land Trusts: Carole Haas provided an update on the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. Working with the Trust for Public Land, MATLT has secured a Federal Forest Legacy designation for 12,000 acres on Crocker Mountain and 6,000 acres on Linkletter Land on Orbeton Stream. They are about to embark on a capital campaign to raise money, some \$711,000, from private donors. They have already raised a considerable sum, in a quiet phase, from large donors. They will ask for "average" donor contributions later in fall.

Carole reported that the entire western mountain region, Mahoosucs to High Peaks, is designated one of three special areas in the North East for a Great Outdoors Project. MATLT expects acquisitions south of the High Peaks regions. Carole asked for suggestions from AT users for places along the AT in western Maine that need extra protection. She seeks information to use when she goes to meetings with other land organizations.

Announcements: Tony Barrett made announcements for events taking place this summer. The Girl Scouts of America is celebrating 100 years of scouting by showcasing hikes on the AT and the Continental Divide Trail. They're calling their project The Great Girl Scout Hike. After his article appeared in the MAINetainer, Tony was able to make contact with Deborah Wentworth Lansing, who now lives in Florida but grew up in Maine. She will serve as a liaison between MATC and the Girls Scouts. Tony says information on the project is on the ATC website now, though not on the MATC website.

Tony also spoke of the celebration on Saturday, August 18 in Carrabassett Valley to mark the date and location of the completion of the AT 75 years ago. That event was commemorated with a plaque in the town of Carrabassett Valley, which will also play a role in this year's celebration. This year's event will focus on the external community and will serve to raise awareness to the role of MATC, as discussed earlier in the day. MATC, MATLT and the town of Carrabassett Valley are organizing the event. Tony distributed informational cards to help get the message out about the AT celebrations.

Michelle Moody pointed out fliers for the National Trails Day weekend in Monson on June 1-3. That event would include AT work projects, a Corridor Monitoring workshop, music, camping and a breakfast.

Open Forum: With other business concluded, President Lester Kenway gave an opportunity for an open forum.

Michelle Moody emphasized the importance of water bars given the wet spring and wet fall. Lester said it costs \$300-400 to build a stone water bar. Some suggested a DVD with instructions for maintaining a water bar. Others suggested posting video instructions on YouTube. It is very important that overseers inform maintainers regarding care and maintenance of water bars. Lester said he will send DVDs to maintainers and post it on YouTube.

Dick Fecteau reminded that Julian Wiggins made an easy to understand and easy to send PDF on water bars. He suggested putting it on the web site.

An attendee asked where MATC stands on state plans for an East-West highway. Dave Field said ATC made a review when this was brought up years ago, and said he will look for the pertinent documents. Several members in attendance said an East-West highway will have to cross the AT at some point. Some asked if we know anything about the feasibility process and how much input the state will allow. Some speculated that a highway would probably cross near Moxie, and cross the Kennebec near where the ferry is now. Dick Fecteau said the highway will be mostly a truckers' road.

Some suggested that MATC approach the review committee to ask for the opportunity to have input and that the club should have a position in place, much as it did with concerns about wind.

Hawk Metheny advised that when it comes to the point of implementation, ATC has policy in place to help with guidelines.

Bruce Grant said Peter Vigue, one of the highway promoters, has scheduled a meeting with concerned citizens in Dover Foxcroft to discuss the plans. Bruce suggested that the situation merits our time to plan ahead.

Don Stack and Bruce Grant spoke about the New England Regional Partnership Committee (NERPC). As Bruce is currently the committee chair, Don is the designated MATC representative. MATC needs an alternate to represent the club. NERPC meets in Vermont in the fall and in Lowell, Massachusetts in the spring. NERPC sets policy for issues along the trail. Bruce said the committee is trying to improve communications between regional administration and the local clubs.

Hawk Metheny explained that NERPC is part of the hierarchy for the approval process for a number of policies and activities. He added that MATC brings an important perspective to the committee and contribute a lot given our strength and miles of trail and infrastructure. He also said participants in the committee bring as well as take important information.

Michelle Moody asked about policy from ATC on bridges and what people's opinions on bridges are. Lester explained that the Executive Committee discussed the subject in January. The conclusions at that meeting were that all streams are fordable at some times and not at others; some have suggested walk arounds and giving information on walk arounds and letting hikers decide. He said some hikers won't add the miles, as they are worried about time and distance. He further added that bridges can be expensive and can then be washed out in the next storm.

Dave Corrigan observed that, other than the Kennebec, no stream is so high that it can't be crossed after a wait of about 12 hours. He suggested including information in guidebooks on walk arounds and waiting time and he recommended educating the hiking population on the subject.

Hawk Metheny said the consistency of high water crossings is higher in Maine as most north bounders have had experience with easier crossings and bridges further south. There are more stream crossings in Maine and hikers often arrive there in the fall after weather events that lead to high water. He said ATC has listed fording tips and safety tips and suggested a link from the MATC web site to the ATC site. Dan Simond concurred, and said that Maine is different and that we need to communicate / educate our issues, that the geology is different here. Ray Ronan reminded that Maine and New Hampshire are favorites for long distance hikers because they are different; long distance hikers like the remoteness and wildness. Ron Dobra said we could put hints that include specific guidelines on timing and high water dangers into our guidebooks like the PCT and western trails do.

As discussions ended, Don Stack placed a motion, seconded by Michelle Moody, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 2:18 pm. Respectfully submitted, Janice Clain, Recording Secretary

Ridgerunners protect MATC efforts

Maine Appalachian Trail Club's 2012 Caretakers and Ridgerunner worked at three locations, from May 19-October 14, and had contact with 10,028 hikers. Our program is an extension of the national program, Leave No Trace (LNT), designed to mitigate environmental impact through voluntary compliance. Principles include; plan ahead and prepare; travel and camp on durable surfaces; dispose of waste properly; minimize campfire impacts; leave what you find; respect wildlife; and be considerate of other visitors. LNT is increasingly becoming the standard for back and front country behaviors, in Maine, and throughout the nation.

The **Saddleback Mountain/Piazza Rock Caretaker**, Steve Masse, was based at Piazza Rock Campsite, near Rangeley. This site attracts young families who seek out the massive, overhanging flat-topped rock. The campsite sits at the base of the majestic Saddleback Mountain range. More experienced backpackers, including camp and college groups sleep at the campsite and then continue on up to Saddleback's summit. Steve managed the campsite and patrolled the summit and ridgelines, a most strenuous and stunning section of the A.T., attracting thousands of people each year.

The **Bigelow Mountain/Horns Pond Caretaker**, CJ Manza, worked from the Horns Pond Campsite at a pristine sub-alpine pond in the Bigelow Preserve. MATC managed this position in partnership with the Maine Division of Parks and Public Lands. The popular Horns Pond campsite can host up to 50 backpackers and attracts many youth groups. The A.T. continues along the crest of the Bigelow range to South Horn, West Peak and Avery Peak. CJ patrolled this ridgeline, where hikers enjoyed alpine ecology and breath-taking summits. CJ managed the campsite and composting privy, providing human-power and leadership to volunteers at "mixers" throughout the season.

In a 2012 change, the **Gulf Hagas Ridgerunner's** (Audrey Laffely) start date began Memorial Day weekend rather than mid-June to focus on south-bound long-distance hikers traveling through the 100-mile-wilderness. The Nature Conservancy was a helpful partner allowing Audrey to live in a cabin at Hurd Brook for three weeks. The new schedule and location was a success and MATC has adopted these changes. Audrey moved to Gulf Hagas in mid-June. She continued teaching LNT to a varied and abundant number of hikers, long-distance backpackers, youth groups, families and adults. She monitored the Pleasant River crossing and would ridge-run the Rim Trail, north (over White Cap), or south (the Chairback-Barren Range). She cleared the helicopter pad, located off of the Pleasant River Trail.

Also new in 2012 was an "Environmental Impacts" log, which Audrey was able to modify to better serve the program goals. She recorded the number/amount of illegal fires; abandoned gear; trash; bare-ground from illegal campsites; damaged habitat; degraded water quality; erosion; and human/dog waste. MATC has long been recording the numbers of hikers; groups/size/preparedness; excessive noise, graffiti, vandalism and theft; lost persons; and medical emergencies. Now we have a more comprehensive system for recording impacts to the natural environment.

In addition to on-trail education MATC provided outreach to groups using the A.T. MATC mailed a pre-season packet to approximately 80 colleges, high schools and summer camps; volunteer Milt Gross provided a pre-trip group campsite registration service (175 groups); and MATC followed-up by sending Caretaker evaluations of groups to organizations, giving positive feedback and correcting behaviors that negatively impact the A.T.

This program was powered by volunteers who love the Appalachian Trail, including Daniel Simonds, Dick Fecteau, Janice Clain, Bill Millis, Geoff Shadman, Tom and Barbara Gorrill who were responsible for supervision, recruitment, hiring, training, gear and equipment. Dozens of Maine hikers "packed-in/-out" the Caretakers and Ridgerunner at the start/end of the season, setting up/taking down their campsites.

In addition to teaching Leave No Trace knowledge, skills and ethics Audrey, CJ and Steve hauled off abandoned gear, food, and human/dog waste, dispersed illegal fire rings, broke-down illegal campsites and reported safety and environmental concerns. This program protected the environment including wildlife habitat, alpine ecosystems and water resources along the Appalachian Trail. It was made possible by funding from L.L. Bean, the Quimby Family Foundation, Nestle Waters/Poland Spring, Piscataquis County and the Division of Parks and Lands.

Maintainers learn trail maintenance skills at social

On February 23rd, 36 MATC maintainers gathered at the Skowhegan Community Center for a day of learning practical trail maintenance skills.

MATC President Lester Kenway, Peter Roderick and Ron Dobra demonstrated good use of lopers and clipping techniques Proper brush cutting rules are:

- Close to the ground;
- Close to the stem and
- Throw brush off the trail.

Larry Clark's tree farm to host chainsaw training

By Craig Dickstein

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Sawyer Certification Program teaches Trail volunteers how to safely operate a chain saw to remove downed trees and to cut materials needed for Trail projects.

We offer free training courses, free personal protective equipment (PPE), and reimbursement of first-aid/CPR certification costs for MATC member trail maintainers.

For others, the fee is \$130 without free PPE and FA/CPR reimbursement. The Maine Appalachian Trail Club has one more Chainsaw Safety Workshop scheduled for 2013.

Find us at Larry Clark's tree farm in Windham on the weekend of October 5/6.

Please keep an eye on our website

(www.matc.org) for updates to this schedule.

The Fall workshop will be for both new certification and re-certification. The re-certification course will be Saturday only. The one-day re-certification class is for Sawyers with a *current* Level B certification.

If your current certification will expire in the next twelve months, or has recently expired, we urge you to sign-up for a workshop and renew your credentials. If you have not taken advantage of this valuable training and wish to use a chainsaw on the Trail, then join us for a fun and worthwhile two days.

Space is limited. Please contact Craig Dickstein at craig.donna@myfairpoint.net, (207) 672-4983 or PO Box 128, Caratunk, Maine 04925.

Bemis side trail needs maintainer

There is currently one position for a maintainer open in the Baldpate District. It is a beautiful 3.5 mile section of the Bemis Stream side trail beginning at Route 17. This is a beautiful section of trail to work on especially in the spring when the ground is almost fully covered with trout lily and painted trillium.

Applicants should send a letter or email of interest stating any previous trail maintenance experience to Tom Gorrill, Baldpate District Overseer, MATC, 27 Wildwood Lane, Gray, Maine 04039 or tgorrill@maine.rr.com.

No ferry service mishaps occurred

I am happy to report that the 2012 Ferry season came to a close without a major injury of any kind. We had a very good season, with very high hiker numbers.

As in seasons past, a small minority of hikers chose to ford the River. Every year we seem to get about one percent of the total who cross the River without the Ferry Service. Thankfully, there were no [reported] fatalities. We did have at least one close call this season. A day hiker [no pack] tried to swim across the River in early August. The air and water temperatures were about as warm as they ever get, and the River was very low and calm. About halfway across, the hiker's arms cramped up due to the cold water, and he called for help. Thankfully, I was able to get to him in time with the canoe, but there is a good chance that he would not have made it on his own. This should stand as a reminder to anyone who thinks that they are stronger than the Kennebec.

Again this year, the Ferry Service benefited from the dedication and experience of a registered Maine Guide, Craig Dickstein. Craig worked an average of one day per week on the Ferry Service. Craig's skills, and his knowledge of the trail, have made him a great asset to the Ferry Service for the past several years. Also this year, the Ferry Service benefited from the knowledge and skill of long time Ferry Operator, Steve Longley. Steve came back in 2012 to fill in on a few occasions, and I am grateful for his help.

Next year's schedule shapes up as follows:

May 24 – July 11: 9 am to 11 am only

July 12 – September 30: 9 am to 11 am and 2 pm to 4pm

October 1 – October 14: 9 am to 11 am only

As always, we will be "on call" time and weather permitting, during early May and late October. Hikers should call well in advance if they want to try to cross the River during these early and late season periods. They should also remember that due to weather and River conditions, as well as other scheduling issues, there is a chance that service simply will not be available before or after the regular season, and that all early/late season crossings cost \$50 per crossing [One or two hikers per crossing]. As of the second week of October, 2012, we are already experiencing nights in the 20s, and the higher elevations of the Western Maine Mountains have already seen snow. No crossings will be provided, at all, after October 31, 2012, and before May 1, 2013. We have a season for a reason.

Dave P. Corrigan

Registered Maine Master Guide

Fletcher Mountain Outfitters

82 Little Houston Brook Road

Concord Twp., Maine 04920

207-672-4879

maineguide@live.com

Peter and Craig swap jobs, dead moose moved in Kennebec district

Overseer – Peter Roderick

kennebec@matc.org /207-293-2704

Asst. Overseer – Craig Dickstein

The Kennebec District runs from the Long Falls Dam Road north of North New Portland to Route 15 north of Monson; a total of 54.2 AT miles with an additional 1.2 miles of side trail. Included in the District are 6 lean-tos and one campsite, plus the only ferry service on the AT.

Kennebec District Report:

October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012

There are 23 maintainers assigned in the Kennebec District, including two organizations, Pine Island Camps and the University of Maine Outing Club. 102 volunteers reported a total of 809 hours of work and travel time during the reporting period.

Highlights of the 2011-2012 reporting period included:

Volunteers from the Carry Ponds Association helped to re-activate the MATC Navy to ferry bog bridging across East Carry Pond to a work site on the northwest shore.

Stan and Michelle continue to "wrestle" with the beaver flooding on their section by consulting a variety of experts and non-experts as to a solution. A top contender for a solution is a proposed floating bridge. Stay tuned ...

In the above and beyond category, Shawn Small and others removed a dead moose from the AT on the flanks of Pleasant Pond Mountain.

Craig Dickstein assumes role of District Overseer, with Peter Roderick taking the assistant overseer position from Craig. No change in compensation is involved!

In addition to these accomplishments, all of the District maintainers got out and took care of their sections reporting great success in keeping the trail in top condition and hiker ready for another year.

Craig and I want to thank each maintainer for their continued support for the Kennebec District and the MATC. We also thank all the friends and family that worked with the maintainers to help keep the Kennebec District in great condition. Congratulations on doing your best to make the AT in Maine the standard by which the entire trail is judged.

— Peter

A special thanks to Peter for his service to the District as Overseer ... I can only hope to fill his boots — Craig

Kennebec District seeks to fill maintainer vacancy

One of the nicer sections in the Kennebec District ... okay, they are all nice ... is looking for a Maintainer. Actually, two openings exist as the section comes with a leanto. Although Matt Collelo maintained both the trail section and lean-to, that is not to say that the two cannot be broken up and assigned to two teams.

Section: Horseshoe Canyon

End Points: Marble Brook Rd to Horseshoe Canyon

Distance: approx. 3 miles

Leanto: Horseshoe Canyon

Contact: Craig Dickstein, MATC Overseer, Caratunk, 672.4983, kennebec@matc.org.

Bigelow District has maintenance assignments

The 2.4 mile Appalachian Trail section from South Horn to Bigelow Col including the 0.2 mi. North Horn Side Trail is available. This section features the summit of West peak in addition to the Horns summits.

This section is in generally good shape but needs annual brush and blowdown removal in addition to cleaning of waterbars. It is accessed by the Stratton Brook pond road off Rt. 27 and a hike up either the Horns Pond side trail or the Firewarden's trail and can be done as a 10 mile loop with 3000' of elevation gain.

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.

Three additional trail sections are available in the district and are listed on the MATC website: 1) Piazza Rock Lean-to to Eddy Pond, 2) Mt. Abraham Side Trail and 3) Caribou Valley Road to North Crocker

Anyone interested in these assignments may apply by the end of May and I will contact all applicants asap.

Bigelow District Overseer

Richard Fecteau

284 Ramsdell Rd.

Farmington, Me. 04938

207-778-0870

rfecteau@midmaine.com

Trail loses a dedicated friend with the death of Steve Longley

By Tony Barrett

Steve Longley, known throughout the Appalachian Trail hiking community by his trail moniker, "The Ferryman," passed away unexpectedly, yet peacefully, in his sleep early Saturday morning, March 2nd at his home in Solon, Maine. For twenty years, from 1987 to 2007, Steve operated the Appalachian Trail Conference's Kennebec River Ferry Service where the Appalachian Trail crosses the Kennebec River in Caratunk, Maine.

Well known for his dedication, Steve was featured in a multitude of articles and documentaries as he managed one of the most formidable and treacherous, un-bridged crossings along the entire 2,174-mile length of the Appalachian Trail. During his tenure, he transported over 19,000 hikers safely across the Kennebec's swift, powerful current "without a scratch." On his retirement in 2007, he was named "Partner of the Year" by the Maine and New England Appalachian Trail Clubs in honor of his faithful service to trail hikers.

Rick Towle remembers Steve Longley

Continued from page 3

"He's at one of the few places along the trail where every single hiker will meet the same person," Potteiger continued. "He's not only The Ferryman, he's really tapped into the trail community. I can't think of any one person who would have seen a higher percentage of through hikers."

Potteiger's comments were also for the August 2001 *DownEast* Magazine article.

In 2007, the Maine and New England Appalachian Trail Clubs named Longley the Agency Partner Of The Year for his service to the hiking community and his service at the crossing.

Many of the hikers never got to know Steve like I did. To most of the hikers he was just a friendly guy, a Mainer that helped them complete their dream of hiking the Appalachian Trail. Steve was a part of their dream and helped them to complete it. One of Steve's comments was "I kind of look at it as helping people's dreams come true."

Steve's sudden passing on March 2 brings to mind his final quote in that *DownEast* piece. "I took the road less traveled, and now my road has become more popular, so maybe I should look for a different road," Longley mused. "I'm not going to be The Ferryman forever. When I move on, all that matters is I left this place in a little better shape than I found it."

Thank you, Steve Longley.

A Registered Maine Guide and Wilderness First Responder, Steve was known as much for his quick wit as his intense love and loyalty to his large extended family and hundreds of close friends.

Steve was dedicated to the Appalachian Trail and the Kennebec River. In 2001, Mark Simpson, then president of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club described Steve in *DownEast* Magazine article, stating, "Most (trail) hikers know Steve Longley simply as 'The Ferryman'... But they all know him. His identity has become

blended with the Appalachian Trail and the river. Steve's a typical Maine guy. He's very laid back, easy to get to know, but he truly cares about the trail and its community, and he takes his job extremely seriously..."

Steve leaves a legacy as the first 'Ferryman', formed with his trademark red canoe, a personal flotation device for him and each of his passengers, a paddle, his physical strength, mental toughness, keen knowledge of this river, and most of all, his love and respect of nature and the peacefulness it offers.

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.....MATC Member \$6.00 each Map, Non-member \$8.00 each Map.		
	Map #1 - Katahdin to Nahmakanta Lake (Piscataquis River, 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"	
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Whitecap District needs maintainers

The Whitecap District needs several maintainers.

Gulf Hagas Rim Trail and several side trails. 3.0 miles. This is one of the premier side trails along the AT. The section is in good condition with several weeks of trail crew work slated this year.

From Long Pond Stream Tote Road to Logging road .5 miles north of Wilson Valley Lean-to. The section length is

4.6 miles along moderate up and down ridges bordering the Wilson Valley. Access is drivable from the Kahtadin Ironworks road down Morkill Rd. on south end and Barren Mtn. Rd. on north end (see DeLorme p. 41). I'm investigating the possibility of a short bushwack in from Morkill Rd. that might bisect this section to make for

easier access or break the assignment in two.

Leeman Brook Lean-to. Access from Rt. 15 in Monson or North Pond Rd. off of Elliottsville Rd.

Contact Ron Dobra, Whitecap Overseer, for more information (ghsron@gmail.com, 207 695-3959).

From the Myron Avery archives:

State approves the rebuilding of the Cable Bridge over the Penobscot West Branch (1950)

Contributor's Note

It is my intention to supply the MAINetainer with articles, letters, publications and the like, written by Myron H. Avery. These are stored at the Maine State Library and are gratefully reprinted with their permission.

Some of these publications may be printed throughout multiple issues of the MAINetainer. This will be done as the editor sees fit as some may be quite lengthy. No changes have intentionally been made to these writings.

No time-line will be followed; the articles will be printed without regard to chronology unless otherwise indicated. The MATC hopes that you enjoy a glimpse into the character and writings of Myron Avery. — Ray Ronan, MATC Historian

Notes on the meeting of Officers of the MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB, INC. Lewiston, Maine, April 23, 1950.

Present: Myron H. Avery, President; Stanley B. Attwood, Secretary; Marion Park, Treasurer; John W. Clark, Overseer of Trails; Roy P. Fairfield, Lawson W. Reeves, W. H. Sawyer, Jr., Helon Taylor, Directors; Jean Stephenson, Publicity Director; and Louis Chorzempa.

The President reported that arrangements had been completed for the rebuilding of the Cable Bridge over the Penobscot West Branch at Nesowadnehunk Falls. He explained in considerable detail the negotiations in connection with the matter, and that it was finally resolved during his visit to Augusta the previous Friday. The Governor and the Council had approved the project. Forest Commissioner A. D. Nutting and he had discussed it at length with Commissioner of Highways Barrows, Chief Bridge Engineer Max Wilder, and Bridge Maintenance Engineer Roy A. Wentzel. Commissioner Nutting had also taken it up with the Great Northern Paper Company. The final agreement was that the State Highway Department would do the work; the Great Northern Paper Company would furnish \$500 and the tractors for hauling; and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club would contribute \$600 to cover the remainder of the expense.

Various officers expressed themselves as gratified that such arrangements had been worked out.

The Treasurer's report was then read, which showed that there were funds on hand in the current fund and the Walter D. Greene Fund sufficient to cover this amount. The President stated that he hoped it would be possible to secure a contribution of \$100 from the Appalachian Trail Conference, leaving the contribution of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club as \$500.

Mr. Fairfield moved that \$600 be taken from the present balance in the Walter D. Greene Fund and forwarded to the Maine Forest Service for the rebuilding of the Cable Bridge. This was seconded and carried.

Mr. Fairfield then suggested that if possible a plate be placed on the bridge recording the fact that it was originally built by the CCC in 1937, and rebuilt in 1950 through the cooperation of the Maine State Forestry and Highway Departments, the Great Northern Paper Company and the Walter D. Greene Fund of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club.

This was approved in principle but it was felt that a plate would be too expensive, and the President suggested that for the present a board sign be utilized for the purpose. It was agreed that Messrs. Clark and Reeves should collaborate in preparing such a sign, and that they would send it to Mr. Sidney Tappan, York's Twin Pine Camps, Dacey Pond, prior to July 1, so that he might place it on the bridge.

The Publicity Director was instructed to see that notices of the restoration of the bridge were furnished to the editors of the A.M.C. Bulletin, P.A.T.C. Bulletin, etc., and a note of it included in the report of the meeting furnished the newspapers, and that a news release on it be issued late in June.

The suggestion was made that Mr. ~~Wentzel~~^{Wentzel} be furnished with a camera and asked for a picture of the bridge as completed, to use with the release.

Folder C# 212
Avery Collection

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

Ray Ronan reports new guidebook edition likely soon

The official Appalachian Trail Guide to Maine is a project of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. The current committee chair responsible for the publication is Ray Ronan. Ray completed the 15th edition four years ago and is working on a 16th edition. Sales are mostly handled by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, though copies can be purchased from the club.

As of early December, 2012, ATC had 4,519 sets of the Maine trail guidebook on hand.

ATC extrapolates approximately 1,600 sets are sold per year. They estimate 2.8 years in stock (again, as of early Dec. 2012). That suggests a need for the delivery of 10,000 copies of the new 16th edition sometime around August, 2015.

Even though preliminary data collection and work is ongoing, the countdown and sharp focus on the 16th edition would begin around August of 2014. Ray will periodically ask ATC for updates on inventory figures with increasing frequency as the stock approaches the projected one year level.

MATC relies on you!

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

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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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