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Maine Appalachian Trail Club



The MAINEtainer

Volume XXXVI Number 5 Late Fall 2012



New challenges face the trail we love

By Bob Cummings

The Appalachian Trail exists today because visionaries acted almost a century ago. Their dream was a continuous footpath through more than 2,000 miles of the Appalachian Mountains.

Skeptics laughed. Such a project was impossible, they said, such a path would require permission from thousands of individual owners.

But succeed it did, though in the end it took an act of Congress to preserve the trail as private ownerships changed and new owners had new ideas for their lands.

The skeptics, of course, were right. It took pretty much of a miracle to achieve such a path. The miracle came in the form of Benton MacKaye, a troubled dreamer, and Myron Avery, a workaholic, and thousands of volunteers.

Now new challenges face us, especially in Maine where the land surrounding the narrow trail corridor is increasingly no longer being used to grow forest products for Maine mills, but, rather, is being sold to developers, who dream not of wild places and wild trails, but of profits from the sale of land for second homes, luxury resorts, and condominium developments.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust (MATLT) was created a decade ago with leadership from several MATC members. We were committed to protecting the traditional ecological and recreational values of wilderness, wildlife and undisturbed scenic beauty associated with the Appalachian Trail in Maine.

The Appalachian Trail runs through the heart of the Maine's western mountains, connecting the high

peaks stretching from Saddleback Mountain to the Bigelow Preserve. It is the only high mountain region in the state without significant protection. It is both a critical ecological area and a priority conservation site.

This is the area that is the focus of MATLT's High Peaks Initiative.

These high peaks are wedged between the densely populated southern Province of Quebec, just across the border with Canada to the north, and the population centers of southern Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Land trust scientific studies found that these Western Mountains serve as a critical habitat corridor, linking large blocks of existing conservation land in Northern New Hampshire with the vast forests of northern Maine and Canada.

IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE HIGH PEAKS include:

- **An essential wood basket** producing forest products for mills throughout Maine. A key goal of the High Peaks Conservation Project is to keep this historical forest use in place and to continue to provide a source of raw materials that feed paper mills, saw mills, biomass energy plants, and local citizens with fuel wood.
- **A diversity of ecological communities** critical for species adaptation in the face of climate change.
- **Home to several rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals.** The High Peaks region has been recognized by the Maine State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and in the Beginning with Habitat (BwH) program as a

conservation focus area. It has also been designated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as Critical Habitat for the federally listed endangered Atlantic salmon. The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture identifies watersheds in the region as the highest priority for protection.

- **A relatively intact large-scale forested landscape** that hosts a diversity of motorized and none motorized recreational opportunities.
- **A 50-mile section of the Appalachian Trail** spans the area, and according to the National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club it is one of the most remote, wild and scenic sections of the entire 2,175 mile trail.

The region includes 11 of the 14 highest mountains in Maine and the largest chain of lakes in the state.

Today there are 52,944 acres, straddling Crocker Mountain, Mt. Abram, Saddleback Mountain, and others for which landowners are willing to discuss both easement and fee sales. Two tracts, in particular are most ready for acquisition – **Crocker Mountain** (11,798 acres-fee) and **Orbeton Stream** (5,808 acres-easement). These tracts and the neighboring acreage are top conservation priorities, both for the Maine conservation community and federal and state agency partners. Why? Because of their incredibly high habitat value, rich recreational opportunities, and opportunities to maintain large tracts of highly productive timber lands.

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Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust

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Approximately \$7,500,000 has been approved for federal FY 12 funding for forest conservation; \$3,500,000 is being sought as match from other public and private sources.

The region is especially important because its remote character, scenic vistas, developed recreational opportunities, and proximity to areas of high population density, increases both the risk of fragmentation and conversion to development.

The Crocker Mountain property is threatened with conversion to non-forest uses via second home development or alpine ski area development, and susceptible to liquidation forestry. Its high elevation forests are particularly vulnerable to poor forest management.

The Orbeton Stream parcel is home to dramatic views and spectacular sporting opportunities, especially native brook trout fishing. The corridor

along Orbeton Stream is highly susceptible to second home development.

If this conservation is unsuccessful both the Crocker Mountain and Orbeton Stream properties are extremely likely to be subdivided and developed; placing the remote scenic character, public recreational opportunities, and local forest products economy at risk.

PROJECT PARTNERS include:

The Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation organization headquartered in San Francisco, California, with an office in Portland. TPL uses expertise in real estate, finance, law and public policy to help communities and public agencies achieve conservation objectives. Recent successful TPL projects include Stowe Mountain, Grafton Notch, Katahdin Ironworks, and Sebobeis Lake.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust was founded a decade ago with the mission of “preserving and protecting the land surrounding the Appalachian Trail in Maine for public benefit.” MATLT owns interest in lands on Mt. Abraham and

on Saddleback Mountain in the High Peaks region.

The Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust is one of Maine’s most successful regional land trusts having conserved over 12,500 acres including 45 miles of lake and river shoreline. They manage their lands to enhance wildlife and fisheries habitat and provide public access on a 35-mile network of multi-use trails.

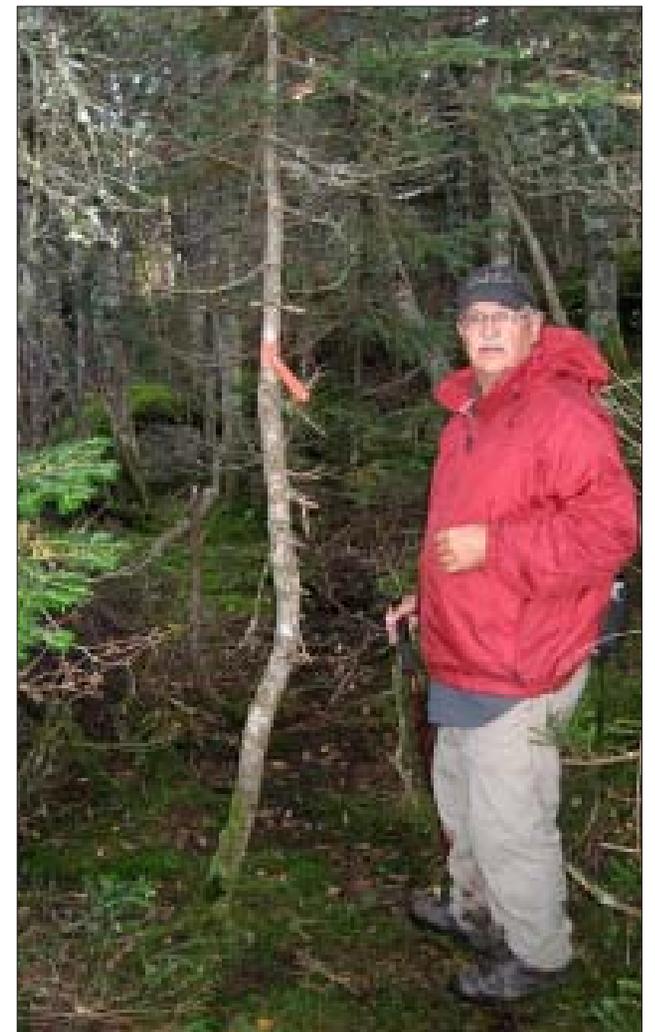
Over \$10.1 million has already been raised or pledged from a variety of sources, including federal and state public funds and private foundations. This represents 97% of what is needed.

Deadlines are looming for the remaining three percent. You can help by sending a donation to the Trust for Public Land, 30 Danforth Street, Suite 106, Portland, ME 04101, or on line by visiting www.matlt.org.

Editor’s note: Bob Cummings was a founding director of MATLT. The above was compiled from MATLT and TPL documents and from knowledge gained from a half century of reporting on ways to clean up Maine’s water and air, and to protect Maine wild places and trails



Maine AT Land Trust September Board meeting: Your land trust board meets quarterly — usually in the evening inside a centrally-located meeting room. However, the fall board meeting was held within the High Peaks region outdoors on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The meeting focused on the 18,000-acre Crocker Mountain & Orbeton Stream conservation project and the campaign to raise the last 3% needed to fund this important project. Maine AT Land Trust Board (left to right) Lloyd Griscom, Pete McKinley, Carole Haas, Bob Cummings, Tony Barrett, Chris Beach, Bill Plouffe & Milt Wright (not in the photo: Tom Lewis, Steve Bien, Peter Ventre, David Kallin & George Appell). Mt. Abraham, which was protected with the help of MATLT, is in the background.



Chris Beach navigating through thick spruce along the flagged route of the proposed Pioneer Trail. MATC this fall recommended the Pioneer Trail to be the newest official side trail — joining the AT just north of Saddleback Mountain. Tony Barrett Photos

2075 volunteer hours improved Bigelow trails, facilities

By Dick Fecteau

I received trip reports this past season from 27 maintainers who turned in 2075 volunteer hrs. A total of 142 individuals worked on 80 trips in the district this past year.

Highlights include:

The Little Bigelow two seat privy was relocated and rebuilt last summer by 25 amazing Camp Tekawithka teenagers during the first weekend of July. They dug a new pit, built a cedar crib and moved the building while repairing and painting the old privy.

Additionally they peeled, hauled uphill and stacked 50 cedar logs that were left by the Bigelow Preserve manager, Steve Swatling, for future MATC projects.

Under the direction of site maintainer Doug Dolan the roof of the Little Bigelow shelter was replaced. His large volunteer crew hauled new metal roofing, removed the old roofing and packed out all the debris during the first weekend of August. Additionally they used some of the cedar logs left by Camp Tekawithka to build new fireside seating and a tent platform frame.

CJ Manza was the Horns Pond caretaker this past season. CJ was very efficient as a caretaker and ridge runner in the area, plus being a friendly and helpful host to many hikers.

Returning during the last weekend of July, 12 Camp Tekawithka boys hauled two dozen bags of wood chips up to Horns Pond for use in the composting privies. They were greeted with brownies by a grateful caretaker for their efforts.

In six weeks the Maine Trail Crew, under the direction of Ama Koenigshof and Michael Coughlin,



National Park Service representative, Burnham Martin (right) surveying the bog in Crocker Cirque for wildlife. Snow-dusted South Crocker peak rises in the distance. The visit was part of an annual "Partners Hike." The high elevation areas of the Crockers will be included in a newly established Ecological Preserve.

constructed a remarkable number of stone drainage structures on the upper half of the Horns Pond side trail. The plan is to be back next season to complete the project on the lower half of the trail.

Also spending six weeks constructing numerous drainage structures last season was a Maine Conservation Crew under the direction of Tyler Fogg. They worked from Route 27 to the summit of North Crocker.

The translucent panels on the Spaulding shelter were replaced with new metal sections under the direction of Laura Flight on July 14. Her crew bushwhacked 1 mile to reach the AT near the junction with the Abraham side trail and then hiked another mile to the campsite while carrying the new panels and packing out the debris.

Yet another Maine Conservation Crew worked on drainage structures from Orberton Stream south under the direction of Johanna Stacy.

We were fortunate to have had Dan

Simonds as the new Piazza Rock site supervisor this past season. Dan lives just a few miles from the site and has joined the MATC exec committee.

Piazza Rock also had a new caretaker this season. Steve Masse of Rangeley was an A.T. thru-hiker as well as having volunteered in 2011 as an assistant Piazza Rock supervisor. Steve was very effective as a caretaker, site maintainer and ridge runner in the area, plus being a friendly and helpful host to many hikers.

Major projects next season include:

Due to the Fall rains and beaver activity the bridges over Bog brook will need major attention next season. I am planning new abutments and approaches using galvanized pipe and cedar plank-ing. If anyone has a source of 3" pipe in 10' lengths please contact me.

Dave Field has proposed and the MATC exec committee has accepted a new side trail that will connect the AT with the Fly Rod Crosby trail in Madrid. Dave has flagged a route along the prominent ridge on the south side of Saddleback. Dave has often referred to this as the original trail up Saddleback for the berry pickers from Madrid. It will be called the Pioneer Trail and hopefully will be cleared next season.

Many thanks to all the District maintainers and volunteers who do the vast majority of routine work that includes; blowdown removal, waterbar cleaning and blazing, without which there would be no Appalachian Trail in Maine.

Richard Fecteau,
Bigelow District Overseer



Right: ATC Regional Director along with Maine AT Land Trust and MATC representatives discuss the proposed Crocker Mountain land conservation project with state and federal officials. Tony Barrett Photos

MATC Executive committee Sept. 7, Myron Avery's voice from the past

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice President, Tony Barrett; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Corresponding Secretary, Dick Doucette; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Bob Cummings, Craig Dickstein, Laura Flight, Bruce Grant, Dan Simonds, Don Stack; District Overseers, Ron Dobra, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; Guests, Steve Clark, Wind Power Committee, Hawk Metheny, ATC New England Regional Director, Carole Haas, MATLT, Susan Thompkins, Rising Tide PR.

Absent: Directors, Rebecca Clark; Overseers, Peter Roderick, Rick Ste. Croix.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report for the May 4 meeting. Dave Field noted two corrections; on page 3, Lloyd Griscom's name was misspelled and, on page 7, the National Hiking Society should be corrected to the American Hiking Society.

Elsa Sanborn asked about the reference on page 6 to the east-west highway being co-aligned with a pipeline. The words "and is co-aligned with a pipeline" will be removed from the report.

Dave Field placed a motion to accept the report as amended. Elsa Sanborn seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's Report. Craig Dickstein asked about the continued financial support for the Kennebec ferry by the family of Alice Ference. Lester said he contacted them and they affirmed their intention to continue to fund publicity for the service.

Elsa referred to note 10 and explained that the financial commitment for the 75th Anniversary Celebration still had a couple of items pending, but that expenditures and income just about balanced.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Craig Dickstein, to accept the Treasurer's Report. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Resignation: Lester announced that Peter Roderick has resigned as Overseer for the Kennebec District. Craig Dickstein has indicated that he would be willing to fill out the term.

Tom Gorrill placed a motion to appoint Craig Dickstein as interim Kennebec District Overseer. Dick Doucette seconded the motion.

Craig and Peter have discussed exchanging positions so that Peter then does the fieldwork, and Craig attends meetings.

The Executive Committee voted to approve the appointment.

Lester asked to place New Business first on the agenda as some attendees had traveled a distance.

Proposal for ATC Staff Position in Maine: Hawk Metheny referred to documents he distributed with statistics, facts and figures to justify an added AT position in Maine. He noted that ATC currently has 45 staff total with three in New England, which is responsible for a third of the Trail mileage. He emphasized that this is an addition, not a replacement. In his proposal, he made comparisons of responsibilities and staffing in Maine and in other regions. He has asked to add a generalist position, with a distribution of responsibilities to various programs, including a variety of services and projects. He distributed a pie chart to clarify the responsibilities of the position to those programs. He asked for feedback from the club.

Bruce Grant asked how much of this person's time would spend in the field, to which Hawk responded about 40%. Hawk envisions the person doing prep work in the off-season to be able to maximize efficiency during the

Mr. Avery writes to the Hike Master

In my capacity as Chairman of the Appalachian Trail Conference, I have followed with much interest what you have told me as to your personal efforts to increase use of The Appalachian Trail by the Boy Scouts in the New York area by means of an organized campaign, and the appearance of your most excellent publication, "Hiking and Camping". I note that emphasis on Appalachian Trail travel is stressed through the prominence given to the use of the Trail by listing the accomplishments of each individual Boy Scout. Your publication is not only of much interest in itself, but it does seem to be particularly well designed toward securing its objective.

The problem of the Appalachian Trail Conference can be summarized briefly in the statement that there is a very real need of improved maintenance and Trail conditions, as well as stimulating Trail use. The Appalachian Trail is not intended for travel of any particular character. The value of its practically endless character lies in the possibility of stimulating in various sections local Trail use. The Trail has been constructed for use. It depends entirely upon the individual preference. It may be used for a day, a week, or a month. All are meritorious. It is a matter of return to the Trail user.

In reading the section in your publication "Roster of Appalachian Trail Hikers", I am impressed perhaps more by the considerable number of hikers making substantial trips than by the high mileage covered by one or two hikers. Our objective is to increase Trail use—have it become better known. When those boys, whom you will have introduced to Trail use, get beyond Scouting activities, they will recall the

Trail and perhaps help to maintain it, joining the Conference or organizations which do assist in maintaining it. In this way you are building up a potential reservoir of future Trail users. You will appreciate why it seems to us more of a gain to have fifteen people walk ten miles on the Trail and become acquainted with it than to have one person make a journey of 150 miles. A trip of extended duration represents, to the individual who makes it, a very decided accomplishment and has, therefore, an unusual appeal. However, from the viewpoint of the Conference, its gains in future users and maintainers of the Trail lie in the number of people in whom Trail use is stimulated.

I note the stress that has been placed on training the boys to avoid occurrences on the Trail which can be a source of difficulty. This is most important. I have also noticed your efforts to train Boy Scouts in Trail work and Trail technique. I have been particularly impressed by the industry and the ability of the Scouts whom you have had participating in Trail working parties where I have been present. This is all very much to the good.

As far as the Appalachian Trail Conference is concerned, I wish you to know that your efforts to increase the use of The Appalachian Trail, through the specific medium of the Boy Scouts, have not gone unrecognized. It is a contribution to the objective of increased Trail use in a manner which is most creditable and a distinct gain to the Trail project. The importance of the last consideration is becoming increasingly more manifest.

Very sincerely yours,

MYRON H. AVERY, Chairman,
Appalachian Trail Conference.

January 7, 1942.

hiking season. Bruce expressed his concern for immediacy of communications; he'd like to see a full time person in the office so Trail volunteers, whose availability is limited, can contact an official when necessary. Dan Simonds suggested "That may be an organizational issue and not a

staffing one." Craig Dickstein commented that it sounds like it's a problem of service, not staffing; he asked that the regional office make a commitment to improve the service level, to respond to a call within two days.

Continued on pages 5 and 6

Executive committee discusses future plans

Continued from page 4

Hawk said he would like to see the regional office pick up some of the work volunteers in the field now do.

Tony questioned the distribution of jobs. He asked if adding someone here would have an impact on Trail-wide staffing, to which Hawk answered that, if the New England Region hires one more, ATC will reexamine job “descriptions.”

Carol Haas explained that, in original talks with Tom Lewis as they formed the MATLT, the intention was to link all the AT organizations in Maine, with the goal to work more efficiently and to cut redundancy. Hawk agreed and added that another reason for asking for a generalist was to be able to do outreach to other AT organizations.

Hawk said he needs some letters of support to help move the proposal forward. He stressed that he needs support for the general concept, and that parties involved can work together on the details. He also reminded that his proposal is a draft and funding may be an issue; once the position is approved, funding can be discussed.

Dick Fecteau voiced club support for the proposal. Dave Field said the numbers Hawk presented help raise awareness to the needs. He added that some of the programs, like boundary assessment, are funded through ATPO.

Tony questioned the funding, as the position will serve Maine only, and in view of two capital campaigns in the works. He asked if fund raising would be focused in Maine. Hawk assured that the position and its funding are not meant to be competitive, and would be handled at the organization wide level and its funding streams. Dan Simonds questioned MATC’s position in its fund raising, and asked for reassurance that a funding search would not impinge on the club’s capital campaign.

Dick Doucette placed a motion of support for the concept of having an AT staffer in Maine. Dave Field seconded the motion.

No vote was taken on the motion, as the purpose of the discussion was to gage club support for the proposal.

Maine Trail Center Update: Lester spoke on progress on the Maine Trail Center. He referred to the report Alicia Nichols e-mailed. He explained that she’s worked with the Ad Hoc (Friends of the Appalachian Trail in Maine) Committee.

Rising Tide PR and Vreeland Marketing Report: Lester introduced Susan Vreeland, from Rising Tide, who has been working on PR for the club and has been sending monthly reports of meetings with club officials and work on behalf of the club. Vreeland Marketing and Rising Tide have been working together. They came on in June and have worked on revitalizing the club web site and on digital marketing, as well as on publicity in more traditional venues.

Monson Events: Bruce Grant and Ron Dobra spoke on the celebrations in Monson, both the National Trails Day events and the Trail Town Dedication. They said they had more guides than people, and were able to show some of the guides Trail sections they didn’t know. The day was well planned and attendees seemed to enjoy themselves.

Planners for the Rangeley event in September have used Monson as a guideline, as those events seemed to work well.

Hawk Metheny commented on his experiences at a number of these events and said that he felt the genuine pride and authenticity of the community in Monson,

more so than in other trail towns. He said we’ve begun to create a regional network, and that the trail towns will contact each other during the off-season.

As a follow-up, Bruce urged promoting community outreach. He suggested forming a community outreach committee and making more use of TTEC (A Trail to Every Classroom), giving trail communities a first shot at TTEC. Bruce volunteered to head the committee, and offered to get some who aren’t on the Executive Committee to broaden outreach, in particular teachers. Dan said he would help make connections. Hawk suggested that this might attract the non-traditional volunteer.

To that end, Bruce placed a motion, seconded by Bob Cummings, to form an outreach education committee. The motion carried.

Ron Dobra said he has some ideas of people who would help.

75th Anniversary Celebration: Tony distributed a report with details on the ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the completion of the AT. Tony and others had positive observations about the day’s events. He said 162 people participated in the celebration.

MATLT Request for MATC Mailing List: Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Dick Fecteau, to share the MATC mailing list with MATLT.

The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Rangeley Trail Town Celebration: Dan Simonds reported on plans for the Rangeley Trail Town Dedication, on September 15. The Chamber of Commerce and a couple of local business people are organizing the event. Hawk Metheny said he and Mark Wenger will attend. Dan said the town will be less busy in September than in August, which will allow for a focus on the Trail event. He said plans are coming together well.

Update on Recreational Trails Grant Application and Awards: Holly Sheehan said that MATC received the funding for the Recreational Trails Grant but has heard nothing on the Coalition for Recreational Trails Award for which we applied.

Holly asked for Executive Committee authorization to submit an application for two grants from the Recreational Trails Program, one for the Trail Crew, and the other for safety training. Elsa placed the motion, seconded by Bob Cummings, to authorize the application. The motion carried.

End of Trail Festival: The Millinocket End of Trail Festival was scheduled for the same weekend as the Rangeley event. Bruce Grant said he planned to be in Millinocket to represent MATC. Lester spoke of the annual Hard Core project. Shaw’s and the AT Lodge provide transportation for long distance hikers to reach a volunteer work project on the Trail. This year’s project would again be on the Trail near Gulf Hugas, and would involve drainage ditching. Paul Reynaud would again plan a big feed for hikers.

Millinocket Trail Town Application: Bruce made a request for support for an application for Millinocket to be the next Trail Town, as described in a letter addressed to the MATC Executive Committee. Don Stack placed a motion, seconded by Dick Fecteau, to support the Millinocket application, and the Executive Committee voted its approval.

Crocker Mountain Ecological Reserve: JT Horn, Project Manager for the Trust for Public Lands, asked for a resolution of support for a Crocker Mountain Ecological Reserve. Such a protected piece of land would benefit the AT.

Bob Cummings placed a motion, seconded by Tom Gorrill, to grant the requested support.

The preserve in question is a subset of the Crocker acquisition and will designate a portion of that land as an

ecological reserve. A major donor will contribute a large sum of money if there’s a reserve.

Tony explained that JT said he’s vetted the project with Carrabassett groups, including snowmobilers; JT assured that motorized ways are not included in the reserve. MATC has not been included in these talks. Club officials have been concerned that TPL came to MATC last.

Dan Simond proposed an addition to the original motion to include a concern that TPL consult with MATC in advance in future transactions. Tom Gorrill seconded the motion.

Dick Fecteau noted that the preserve will come under Bigelow Preserve management.

The motion carried as amended.

Pioneer Trail on Saddleback Update: Dave Field spoke on the proposed Pioneer Trail. The total length of the trail is 1.8 miles, with .2 miles across the AT corridor. As this is a side trail to the AT, it requires approval by ATC. The section that crosses the National Park Service corridor requires NPS approval. Dave would like someone from ATC to give support to facilitate the process necessary to establish the trail. As a further obstacle, the trail is above 2700 feet and requires a LURC permit, which Dave will set in motion. ATC approval would help speed that process along.

Dick Fecteau asked who will maintain the trail, to which Dave replied that MATC has agreed to maintain it. Dan Simonds commented that the trail would benefit the town of Phillips, as it connects to the Flyrod Crosby Trail.

District Overseer Reports: Lester called for reports from the District Overseers.

Tom Gorrill said there has been nothing unusual in the Baldpate District. He said there have been a lot of bad knees and medical issues with maintainers, so he has had to substitute. He announced that he has had to “fire” a couple of maintainers on sections on the Grafton Loop Trail; this is within the duties of the District Overseer, and only requires Executive Committee action if the maintainer appeals the decision.

Tom did note one privy removal.

Dick Fecteau said the Bigelow District has had a good year. One maintainer has resigned because of illness.

As Craig Dickstein was newly appointed as Overseer for the Kennebec District, he gave no report. He did mention a minor memorial at Pierce Pond, where a hiker drowned, but said it was low-key and likely to be short-lived.

Ron Dobra, reporting on the White Cap District, said one lean-to maintainer resigned but Ron was able to reassign it quickly. He also spoke of the business owner who had been leaving coolers of beer on the North Pond Tote Road, with a request to leave donations and signs advertising his hostel. Ron contacted the hostel owner to apprise him of Trail legal policy. The party agreed to move the stash onto his own property, but didn’t comply, so Ron contacted the owner again and threatened to call the authorities, at which point the man removed the drop.

Ron announced a bog bridging project on Fourth Mountain on September 8. It entailed a minor relocation of bog bridging.

Ron also mentioned a privy emergency at Carl Newhall lean-to. He is waiting for a consensus on privy construction. AMC has offered to snowmobile materials to close to the site.

Lester explained Rick Ste. Croix’s schedule. Rick is particularly concerned for the financial commitment and the work load involved in converting existing privy facilities. Laura has talked with ATC, which doesn’t have a lot of information. She said the committee would like to

MATC discusses trails and privy policies

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do more research including contacting the Green Mountain Club for their knowledge on the subject.

Steve Clark said we are dealing with debate between common sense and compliance with the law. Others commented that it makes no sense to make a privy wheelchair accessible if the trail to it from the campsite is not accessible, and that the lean-to would also have to be wheelchair accessible, as well as the trail to the water source; we need to look at the entire campsite as a single entity, not just the privy.

Steve asked if we have ever had a request for a wheelchair accessible campsite. No one replied. He agreed that it's a matter of bureaucracy, and suggested that while officials may ask if we are wheelchair accessible, it's very unlikely, given the location and remoteness of normal sites.

Steve referred to a proposed motion that frees the Campsite Committee to pursue an orderly design for campsite privies and that also satisfies the bureaucracy. He said that we should make the campsite handicapped accessible if the trail that reaches it is accessible, and that we will comply with the law when it is applicable. He said this consideration had hindered designs for any new campsite.

Lester asked for a motion to table this item, to give the Campsite Committee more time to research the matter. Tom Gorrill placed the motion, seconded by Elsa Sanborn.

Laura commented that wheelchair and disability are not synonymous; even if the trail is not accessible, structures (privies) should be.

Hawk explained that ATC may have more guidelines later in the fall, based on the Forest Service guidelines for NPS lands. He pointed out that able-bodied people have no right to judge who can and can't access facilities, and that we can't restrict access.

A tabling motion carried.

NPS Regulations Regarding Mobility Devices: Lester and Holly spoke of NPS regulations regarding mobility devices (Segways). The NPS has forbid them, but, Holly said, Rex Turner is designing a plan, based on Forest Service guidelines, to deal with this issue.

2013 Election Year: Lester noted that 2013 is a year for election of MATC Executive Committee members. He plans to form a nominating committee by November 2. The Nominating Committee will have to present the slate at the Executive Committee meeting on March 2, and it must be published in the MAINetainer by two weeks later. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting on April 13.

Maine Huts and Trails – Caribou Valley Road: Tony Barrett, Dick Fecteau and Lester have met with Maine Huts and Trails to discuss their proposed trail in Caribou Valley. The parties are negotiating to provide MHT a secured way across the Trail in Caribou Valley. The plan is for a ski trail but without mechanized grooming. Lester said the Partners Hike will provide an opportunity to observe this set up.

To a question as to whether there is to be one or two trails, Lester responded that MHT has relocated its hut to about two miles away from the AT on Caribou Pond. He added that, if it connects to our trail, we'll have to go through a long process to secure approval.

Tony noted that the East Flagstaff trail is used for both hiking and skiing. Lester added that Maine Huts and



Where is the bridge? Flood events like last years tropical storm Irene have swept away all attempts to assist hikers crossing the west branch of the Carrabassett river. The new Maine Huts & Trails route crossing the AT near this location may also provide a 'high-water' bypass trail for hikers who face unsafe conditions at this crossing. Tony Barrett Photo

Trails wants an all season trail from Bigelow Station to Caribou Pond. This impacts MATC because it invites access to the AT.

Dave Field asked if it requires an Environmental Assessment, to which Hawk replied that it means cutting trees in the corridor, so needs approval. He added that it won't be approved if they plan to use heavy machinery.

Elsa tabled the discussion until after MATC representatives have a chance to observe the situation when they go on the Partners' Hike. **Maine Huts and Trails and Bigelow Preserve:** Maine Huts and Trails wants to connect their hut on Stratton Brook Pond to the Bigelow Preserve trail system. Lester explained that, as it's on state land, the process is different; it connects to our trails, but doesn't concern ATC / NPS. Planners are working on it now. They are aware of the visual impact concerns, but technically we have less control than on other proposed trails. The Bureau of Parks and Lands will ask for MATC support to connect with our trails. Maine Huts and Trails wants to provide access to all the trails in the Bigelow Preserve.

Lester called for an ad hoc committee to work on this issue. Dick Fecteau, Tony Barrett, Dan Simonds, and Lester volunteered to form the committee.

New Trail at Little Wilson Falls: The Bangor Daily news has quoted AMC's Bryan Wentzell saying that AMC has been engaged to build a trail to Little Wilson Falls. That organization wants to build a trail into the NPS corridor to a site of an endangered species. Lester reminded that they have to follow the process laid out by the Park Service and MATC before building a trail. Hawk explained the process; the trail has to be recommended by the club to go to NERPC, which then sets in motion the process for investigation and approval. Lester clarified

that MATC serves the role of gatekeeper; we make the decision as to whether to proceed.

The Piscataquis Tourism Development Authority wants to contribute funds for building this trail from their grants in lieu of taxes.

Tony Barrett said he checked out the trail in July. He saw flagging and recent trail construction. Ron says it's been there a long time, and that outfitters have promoted waterfall tours.

Lester gave his opinion that we can leave the situation as is or build a good trail. There was also the question of the gate across the access road, and the concern for the added burden of a new trail. Ron asked if we would enforce protocol, to which Lester responded that we can't do anything until they make a proposal. Hawk says we've never had a proposal from an outside entity for a trail to enter the corridor.

Elsa added her opinion that there should be a good marked trail into the area, and it would be benefit us, and the public, if we were involved.

Tony suggested a dialog with the landowner, who has given a significant amount of money to both MATC and MATLT. He suggested a conversation with Mark Leathers, of James W. Sewall Company, Roxanne Quimby's manager, to establish points for MATC to have a stronger voice to balance AMC and Piscataquis County.

Partnership with Maine Huts and Trails on a trail from Coburn Gore to Quebec: Lester spoke on Maine Huts and Trails trail from Coburn Gore to Quebec. They hope to extend their trail from Quebec into Carrabassett Valley. Lester reminded that this is not about the AT, but if it's going to connect with the AT, we should be involved. It was Larry Warren's original Maine Huts and Trails trail.

Janice Clain, Recording Secretary

Friends of the AT formed, Rangeley becomes trail town

The first organizational meeting of the Friends of the AT in Maine was held in October at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick to discuss the group's focus: community outreach, hosting events and activities to engage people with MATC, and creating awareness to promote MATC's work. A total of

17 people attended. Laura Flight and Lloyd Griscom are interested in participating, but could not attend the first meeting.

The discussion centered on the need for messaging and defining MATC's identity; issues about the group's structure; the potential to work with other nonprofits; providing speakers to other already organized programs like Rotary Clubs and Chambers of Commerce; and the state of MATC's data base of contacts.

A second meeting was held in Augusta to identify and recruit new enthusiastic volunteers for the new Friends group through the fall and into 2013. Participating to date are: Dan Simonds, Dan Boutin, Lester C. Kenway, Ray Ronan, Rebecca Clark, Ron Dobra, Tony Barrett, Larry Clark, Anne Clark, Donald K. Miskill, Jr., Elsa Sanborn, Tim Fortune, Milt Wright, Leslie Hahn, Dick Doucette, Susan Tompkins, and Alicia Nichols.

Rangeley becomes an 'official' trail community at September ceremonies

Rangeley in September became the second community in Maine this year to be designated a Trail Community. The celebration took place on a



cool and rainy Saturday, but even the occasional downpour did not deter over 100 people from coming to help celebrate Rangeley's designation as

an Appalachia Trail Community.

Among the activities was an Appalachian Trail version of the bean-bag toss --- the Boot Toss.

Rangeley school teacher (and "Trail to Every Classroom" program alumna), Nini Christiansen constructed a scale model of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. Using approximately the same vertical elevation exaggeration as in the MATC Trail Guide and a 1-foot=1-mile scale, this model provides for a 270-foot long walk along the AT.

In-town thru-hikers joined the festivities, while

Dan Simonds, (photo) representing the MATC Executive Committee, spoke to the gathered crowd. As a Rangeley resident, Dan also participated in the planning for the event, along with the Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce, the Town and many residents.

Hawk Metheny, ATC Regional Director, Tim Kane, Rangeley Town Manager and Mark Wenger, ATC Executive Director were among those attending

Fill in Form, Print and Mail		
MATC ORDER FORM		
Quantity	Description	Price
	Official Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine , Fifteenth edition, published in 2009, softbound, including seven trail maps, printed on all-weather plastic paper. Member \$24.00 - Non member \$30.00	
Maps may be ordered separately: Members \$6.00 each Map, Non Members \$8.00 each Map		
	Map #1 - Katahdin to Nahmakanta Lake (Nesowadnehunk Stream, Abol Bridge, Rainbow Lake Area)	
	Map #2 - Nahmakanta Lake to West Branch of the Pleasant River (Jo-Mary, White Cap Mtn., Gulf Hags)	
	Map #3 - West Branch of the Pleasant River to Monson (Barren-Chairback Range, Wilson Valley Area)	
	Map #4 - Monson to the Kennebec River (Piscataquis River, Moxie Bald, Pleasant Pond Area)	
	Map #5 - Kennebec River to Maine Highway 27 (Pierce Pond, Carry Ponds, Bigelow Mtn. Area)	
	Map #6 - Maine Highway 27 to Maine Highway 17 (Sugarloaf, Saddleback Mtn., Sabbath Day Pond Area)	
	Map #7 - Maine Highway 17 to Maine-New Hampshire State Line (Bemis Mtn., Grafton Notch, Mahoosuc Notch Area); Also includes the new Grafton Loop Trail.	
	Unfolded Maine AT Maps - MATC members \$10.00, Non-members \$12.00 Map 1 Katahdin to South End of Nahmakanta Lake 13"X30" Map 2 Nahmakanta Lake to West Branch of the Pleasant River 13"X30" Map 3 West Branch of the Pleasant River to Monson 13"X22.5" Map 4 Monson to the Kennebec River 13"X30" Map 5 Kennebec River to Maine Highway 27 13"X30" Map 6 Maine Highway 27 to Maine Highway 17 13"X30" Map 7 Maine Highway 17 to Maine/New Hampshire State Line 13"X37.5"	
Other Items		
	"Along Maine's Appalachian Trail" Book by David Field Non-Members..... \$21.99, plus \$3.50 shipping; (ME residents should add \$1.10 sales tax.) MATC Members \$18.69 plus \$.93 tax and \$3.50 shipping.	
	MATC Decal	\$3.00
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The MAINEtainer

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

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The New England Regional Partnership Committee met in November at Waterbury, VT. The six New England AT maintaining clubs, ATC and many state & federal partners attended the 1-day regional meeting at the Green Mountain Club's headquarters. Above: MATC President, Lester Kenway and Bruce Grant (meeting chair). The proposed Pioneer side trail was approved at this meeting.

MATC relies on you!

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

Membership

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

Annual Contribution / Suggested Giving Levels

<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000+ Katahdin	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Crocker
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Bigelow	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Baldpate
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Saddleback	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Old Blue
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Whitecap	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50

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