

The MAINEtainer

Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Volume XXXII

Number 1

Winter 2009

Annual meeting to be April 11 at UMF

By Milt Wright

The annual meeting of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club will be held on Saturday, April 11 at the Gwilym Roberts Learning Center, University of Maine at Farmington campus. This is the same location as last year's annual meeting. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and extend until approximately 4:00 p.m.

At this meeting there will be the election of officers for the Club for the next two years, adoption of the budget for the next fiscal year, reports of the District Overseers and the Overseer of Lands and reports on wind power issues and the status of a proposed purchase of land and a proposed base camp for the Maine Trail Crew.

There will be reports by the President and other officials of the Club including some relocations of the AT in the Bigelow Preserve and elsewhere. A small constitutional amendment will be voted on to allow for the Executive Committee to vote by electronic mail, if necessary, on issues that need a timely response between Executive Committee meetings.

Lunch tickets will be available for purchase at the registration table for a meal at the student cafeteria.

This is an opportunity for all club members to learn about and to have a voice in the affairs of their organization, to vote on the annual budget and to vote for their leaders.

It is also an opportunity for members to get involved and to volunteer for activities that benefit the AT in Maine.

During the past year the Land Use Regulation Commission twice turned back a proposal to erect wind towers on Redington and Black Nubble Mountains, for environmental

reasons and because the wind towers would be within plain sight of the AT. Now a bill has been introduced in the Legislature for the same energy developer to annex 10,000 acres of Redington Township into the Town of Carrabassett Valley so as to avoid LURC jurisdiction and to be able to still build the wind towers on Redington and Black Nubble Mountains.

Come to the annual meeting to hear about the developer's plans and to learn about the counter action being taken by the MATC to thwart this scheme.

Nominations for Officers and Board of Directors: 2009-2011

Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Officers

- President – Lester Kenway
- Vice-President – Tony Barrett
- Recording Secretary – Jan Clain
- Corresponding Secretary – Stephen Clark
- Treasurer – Elsa Sanborn

Overseer of Lands

David B. Field

Overseers of Trail

- Rick Ste Croix
- Julian Wiggins
- Peter Roderick
- Richard Fecteau
- Tom Gorrill

Board of Directors

- Dennis Andrews
- Bob Cummings
- Craig Dickstein
- Bill Eddy
- Bruce Grant
- Steve Gaffney
- Bill Millis
- Don Stack

MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB CONSTITUTION

Article VI.3. Meetings

At the discretion of the President, matters may be submitted to the Executive Committee for voting by mail or electronic mail. A majority of the votes received by mail or electronic mail within the time for voting and in the manner designated in such proposals; will be determinative of such proposals.

Correction:

Thanks for putting the RPC summary in the autumn Mainetainer. The report was primarily intended for attendees at the RPC meeting, so parts of the summary might be a little cryptic to anyone who was not there. If anyone has any questions about the report, or wants more details about a specific topic, they should feel free to contact myself, Milt, Don or Bruce.

Thanks! Cosmo Catalano

Cosmo is the NE-RPC Chair and author of last issue's report, which we wrongly attributed to Holly Sheehan.

Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Barbara Gorrill, membership chair
PO Box 55
Gray, ME 04039

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Dave lists remaining corridor monitoring openings

By Dave Field

There are still some great opportunities for becoming involved in this relatively new and exciting aspect of caring for the Appalachian Trail in Maine. For information about corridor monitoring and field training sessions, visit the MATC website at www.matc.org/corridor.htm or contact me (Dave Field) at 862-3674, meeser3@roadrunner.com. Assignments will remain open until filled, but I would prefer to know who wants what for this year by the end of April. That allows time for you to ask questions at the MATC Annual Meeting in Farmington on April 11. 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.

Section 14. Crawford Pond to E. Branch Pleasant River. This is a very beautiful, easily accessible area that offers two very scenic ponds (Crawford and Mt. View) and Little Boardman Mountain. Boundary surveyed in 1995.

Section 15. E. Branch Pleasant River to West Branch Ponds Road. This section is in the big valley between Little Boardman Mt. and White Cap Mt. It is highly accessible and involves no climbing, but some wet areas. Boundary surveyed in 1995.

Section 16. West Branch Ponds Road to Summit of White Cap Mt. This is a really exciting section that includes climbing up along Logan Brook, through some old growth spruce-fir and finishes in the krummholz and open ledges of the White Cap summit. You can drive right to the start on the B Pond Road. Boundary surveyed in 1995.

Section 17. Summit of White Cap Mt. to the White Brook Trail. This section requires a hike to reach (either up White Cap from the north or up the White Brook Trail) but includes some really interesting terrain. I examined a bit of the boundary in October 2006 and found it to be well-cleared. This is a very short section. Boundary surveyed in 1994.

Section 18. White Brook Trail to Gulf Hags Mt. This section also requires a hike to reach, but I can provide advice on short-cuts. Boundary surveyed in 1994.

Section 22. W. Branch Pleasant River to Columbus Mt. This is a challenging section for someone who would like to make a big contribution to the monitoring effort. Fascinating terrain over the ledges around Chairback Mt. Easy access from the Gulf Hags parking lot. I inspected part of this section from Columbus Mt. to Chairback two years ago and ATC surveyors

renewed blazes and cleared lines up from the parking lot in 2006, so much of the section is in very good shape. Boundary surveyed in 1987 and 1994; partly renewed in 2006.

Section 23. Columbus Mt. to Fourth Mt. OK. I checked a long stretch along the south boundary four years ago and it's a real hell hole—old, faded boundary lines and very thick spruce-fir regeneration. Access is not bad from the north and the section is relatively short. Needs loving care—the sooner the better. Boundary surveyed in 1987.

Section 24. Fourth Mt. to Long Pond Stream Road. National Park lands extend only from Fourth Mt. to the T7R9/Elliotsville township line, so there is only a short section of NPS boundary to inspect. The rest of the section is on State-owned land, not all of which has surveyed boundaries. Good access to the Long Pond Stream Road from Greenville. NPS boundary surveyed in 1987.

Section 27. Little Wilson Falls to Leeman Brook Lean-to. This section also offers an excuse to visit spectacular Little Wilson Falls, as well as Bear Pond Ledges and North Pond. Good access and gentle terrain. Boundary surveyed in 1986.

Section 28. Leeman Brook Lean-to to Maine Highway 5. More of the beautiful ledge country of Elliotsville and Monson. The western portion of the assignment is on State land, with no boundary lines, and the ATC boundary maintenance crew cleared and repainted a long section in the fall of 2007, so this would be a great “starter” assignment. Easy access. Boundary surveyed in 1986; partly renewed in 2007.

Section 52. Bigelow Range Trail to Maine Highway 27. This section has been covered by one of our top monitors for several years and is known to be in good condition, but is now available. Much of it is on State land where there are no boundary lines to monitor. The boundary lines are all near Route 27 and the Stratton Brook Pond Road.

Section 53. Maine Highway 27 to the Summit of North Crocker. This is a long assignment over good terrain, recently relinquished by the same monitor as Section 52. Starts right at Route 27 for easy access. Bound-

ary surveyed in 1999.

Section 60. Maine Highway 4 to Little Swift River Pond. This assignment involves about four miles of boundary over relatively gentle terrain. Boundary surveyed in 2002.

Section 63. Maine Highway 17 to the Bemis Stream Trail Jct. This section has just become available. Really beautiful country down from the height of land on Route 17, across Bemis Stream, and up along Bemis Mt. Great access from Route 17, and the logging road system in Bemis Valley. Great views. But, the boundary was last surveyed in 1989 and is overgrown.



Steve Innes is taking advantage of the sparse vegetation and cool temperatures to clear the boundary corridor, refresh boundary blazes and locate boundary monuments on the northern slope of Mt. Abraham before the soon-to-arrive snows. October, 2008. Tony Barrett photo.

Save the date! Winter social will be held on Feb. 28

The MATC Winter Social will be held on Saturday, February 28 in the lower level of the First Baptist Church at 185 Maine Street in Freeport.

MATC member Ron Dobra will show slides and make a presentation about his hike of the Pacific Crest Trail starting after the pot luck dinner which begins at 5:30.

Participants are asked to bring an item for the pot luck dinner and to bring a plate and utensils. Soft drinks and cups will be provided.

This is an opportunity for Club members to reminisce about previous hikes and trail maintaining trips and to plan new hikes and trail maintaining activities with like minded people.

The Winter Social is a potluck meal, an opportunity to meet new and old friends and an opportunity to listen to a speaker.

Dick Anderson has agreed to make his great tasting surf clam chowder—an annual treat.

It is anticipated that the dinner hour will start at 5:30 and the speaker will begin his/her presentation at approximately 6:30 or earlier if everyone has finished their meal.

The doors to the downstairs room at the church will be open for early arrivals at 4:00 p.m. I hope to see many of you there.

To reach the Church, turn left on Main Street after leaving the interstate. The church is a few buildings down on the left (west).

—Milt Wright, MATC President

Invite a friend to join MATC

Please check the membership category and the amount of contribution you wish to make.

Individual (\$15) ____ Family (\$20) ____ Organization (\$25) ____

Additional Contribution _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____ (both optional)

Family member names for membership cards

Check activities of special interest: Trail Maintenance ____, committee work ____,

Other: _____

Send form or just a note with your dues or contribution to:

Barbara Gorrill, MATC, PO Box 55, Gray, ME 04039-211

David Theoharides is the new MATC webmaster

The MATC welcomes a new webmaster. David Theoharides, former Whitecap Overseer and now employed in an administrative capacity with the Sanford School Department, has taken over the volunteer webmaster duties from Terry Karkos who has stepped down because of increasing demands on his time from his employer, the Lewiston *Sun Journal*. The MATC owes Terry a great deal of gratitude for maintaining the website over the past several years.

The Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) is updating its web site and adding to what it can do to help clubs such as the MATC maintain records for

maintainers and overseers, plan trail maintenance trips, maintain membership lists, and a whole plethora of other items. Of course, the web site also provides the basics: information about the Club, meetings, etc. Dave Theoharides has stepped into the vacuum created by Terry's departure and is interested in tying together the work of the ATC and the MATC to benefit both organizations.

Dave also has been the Chair of the MATC's Communications Committee. He subbed for Terry Karkos for several months when Terry was unable to access the web site electronically. So Dave knows the webmaster duties quite well.



Web gurus Peter Roderick & Bruce Grant, along with MATC's new webmaster, David Theoharides, lead the discussion on changes to MATC's website at the January 10, 2009 Executive Committee meeting. The photo is taken during a WebX video-linked and Skype audio-linked

demonstration conducted by Jeanne Mahoney in Harpers Ferry of the beta version of the new Volunteer database tools that can be available to MATC. Tony Barrett photo.

Geocaching's a fun activity, but AT possibilities limited

By Tony Barrett

Last year the club was asked by avid geocachers, in the spirit of good stewardship, where a 'cache' might be placed along the trail. How would you reply? Maintainers and corridor monitors have stumbled upon caches or found them listed on www.geocaching.com, the internet 'bulletin board' for geocaching. What do you do?

To help address these questions and other land management issues associated with the growing activity of geocaching, the ATC approved a geocaching policy and issued guidelines in late 2008 (searching for 'policies' at www.appalachiantrail.org website is the easiest way to view these documents).



Kids getting ready for a geocaching adventure. Tony Barrett photos.

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The object is simple: an individual hides a container, (called a cache or geocache) with a stash of goods for other participants to find. The "hider" (or 'owner' of the cache) places the latitude and longitude coordinates of the cache on the Internet (www.geocaching.com is the most popular site), and the "seekers" use maps, and handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers to find the cache. It is customary to sign the logbook if provided, and if desired, to exchange a trinket for one in the cache. People doing this activity are called 'geocachers.'

The geocaching policy attempts to strike a balance between the value of geocaching as an outdoor recreational activity and the possible negative impacts to natural and cultural resources that unmanaged geocaching can cause (where geocaching is permitted by the managing land agency). The guidelines specifically state that MATC is not responsible for monitoring geocaches or for managing geocache requests; rather these functions reside with the land agency. However, volunteer help in finding and mitigating caches impacting natural or cultural resources is greatly appreciated. Agency staff may ask volunteers for further help at specific locations.

OK, so how does one reply to a request to place a cache along the Appalachian Trail? (Geocachers are responsible for determining land ownership and obtaining permission before placing caches on public or private land). You can direct that person to your Overseer or the appro-

priate land managing agency or if you know that caches are not permitted for the land in question, let them know that geocaches are prohibited on those lands and direct them to the land managing agency for further information.

The AT in Maine has relatively few land managing agencies and few places where caches are allowed within the corridor:

Baxter State Park: geocaching is prohibited.

BPL and IF&W State lands: Bureau of Public Lands policy since 2002 allows geocaches but subject to removal by land managers if resource degradation is observed as a result of the activity.

National Park Service -ATPO lands: geocaching is prohibited.

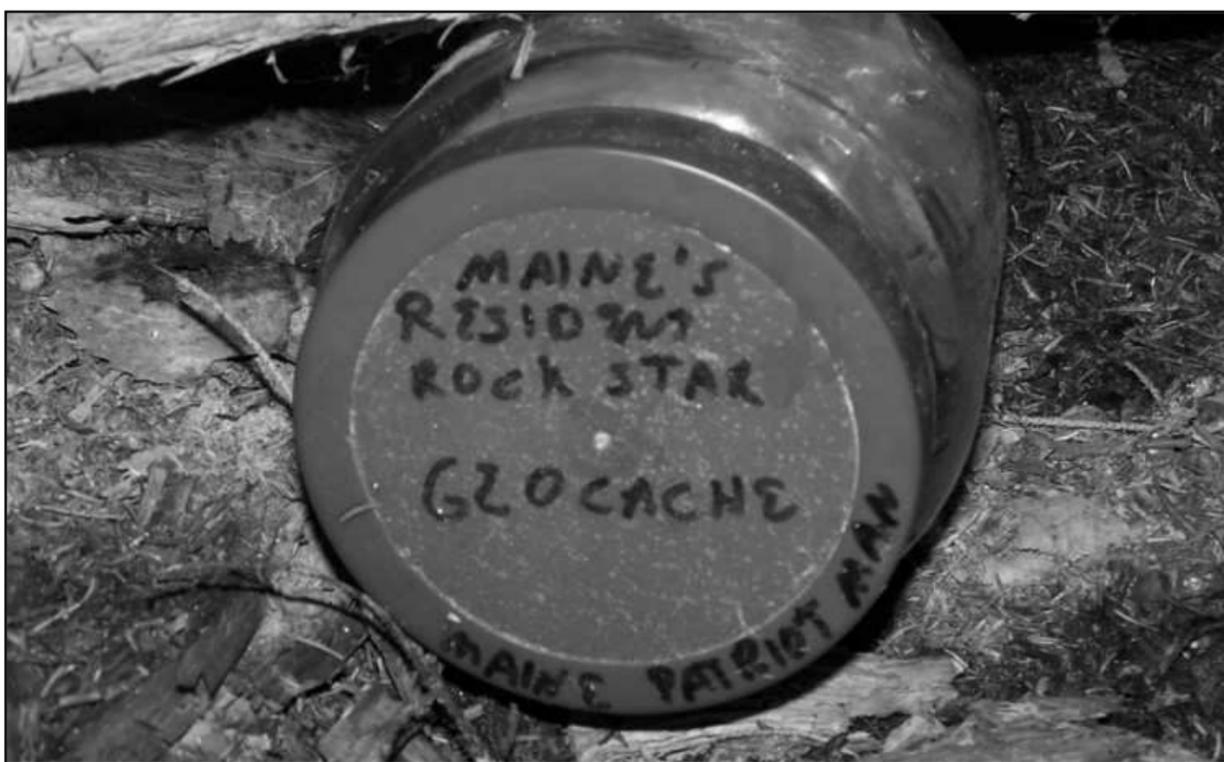
Therefore about 80% of the trail corridor in Maine does not allow geocaching. Baxter State Park and the National Park Service prohibitions are concerned about the abandonment of property, disruption to sensitive resources and off-trail social paths that would degrade the wilderness hiking experience.

What do you do if you find a 'cache' within the corridor? Please document and report your findings to your Overseer or to the land managing agency and the ATC regional office (Matt Stevens, 603-795-4935, mstevens@appalachiantrail.org).

A number of caches have been found on the ground or listed on the geocaching website within the AT corridor. Groundspeak, the company that manages the website, when informed by the NPS, has 'archived' the cache, thereby making it unavailable for viewing. The owner of the cache is then asked to remove the physical box and contents from the property.

Geocaching is a great family activity and for many, it is an excellent excuse to hike and explore public land where one has never been before. Geocaching is also a great way to get kids outside and hiking in remote lands.

These kids are the future land stewards and maintainers of the AT.



Elsa Sanborn, Dave Field provide insights into MATC history

Overseer of lands Dave Field gleaned the following 1947 correspondence involving Myron Avery from club archives.

June 12, 1947. Myron Avery's instructions to a paid (\$5/day) trail crew of Bates College students

2. Lean-tos. It is known that the lean-tos are in somewhat bad shape and the roofs required new shakes in many situations. The amount of work to be accomplished and the time available require omitting all lean-to work (except in emergencies) until another year. A very necessary feature which has not been cared for is the indication at each structure of a rough latrine, such as the one at The Horns Pond on Mt. Bigelow. However, any incidental clearing around lean-tos to eliminate fire hazards, particularly destroying fireplaces right under the eaves, can be done to advantage. Old boughs should be thrown out and, if conditions permit, burned. Bad defects in the lean-tos should be noted in the Reports in order to determine the amount of work required.

3. Paint. The paint blazing will need to be done with extreme care. Enclosed is a pamphlet of directions used on the Southern Appalachian work trip which emphasizes the high lights. Extreme care must be used to avoid over-sized and excessive blazes. The size is six inches by two inches, at eye level. Old blazes have a tendency to spread and will need to be cut down. That is the purpose of the brown or neutralizing paint in the double paint carrier. One man should in most instances be able to keep abreast of the clearing crew.

Particular care must be taken to use double blazes correctly. It is not a turn signal; it is a danger signal only and must be used only where the route presents an unexpected turn or change which be be easily overlooked.

5. Mile Markers. In most Sections these will be readily located. It is particularly important to repaint in every Section the mile markers, noting those that are missing. Careful check of the guidebook data will indicate where these are to be found. (These mile markers are a particular hobby of the Conference Chairman.)

8. Side Trails. As a general rule, blue-blazed side trails, except to viewpoints, will not be worked by the Crew, since in most cases they are regarded as a utility by the sporting camps to which they lead and the proprietor is left to maintain them.

July 8, 1947. Avery to Prof. W.H. Sawyer, Bates College

I note from our Trail tools equipment report that we turned over to Betty Beal one pair of pruning shears, two weeders and two scrapers. Since she is safely married and no longer interested, I wonder whether we could not take steps to find out where they are and obtain their return. Can you get her address and drop her a note? My thought would be that you could add them to the Trail Crew cache.

July 8, 1947. Avery to Lawson Reeves

Dear Lawson:

I have just come back from checking on the work of the Trail Crew.

They have been able to make only slow progress. The growth has been awful, even on sections cleared last year. You know the problem resulting from the fly season. The Crew stops work on August 10th and they are going to be far from covering half of the area. We are obliged to skip some of the areas and concentrate on where the work will produce the greatest result. For that reason, I thought that I had better tell you that, if anything is done to make good our statements as to the condition between Orbeton Stream and Bigelow Village, it will be as a result of your own accomplishments.

August 2, 1947. John W. Clark to Avery

The paint blazes on the Grafton end are a little under sized and not too neatly made. This is the result of a shortage of paint and an excess of flies. It is possible to paint with flies in one or even both ears; it is possible to paint with flies in both ears and one eye; but when they are in both ears and both eyes, the artistry of the brush wielding suffers. I have never seen the black flies and deer flies so bad. They were materially worse than during the preceding weeks and nothing, including new dopes, had any discouraging effect.

August 5, 1947. Avery to Mr. Charles Winkle, Camp Kawanhee, Weld

I have your letter in connection with work on the Appalachian Trail. I am much interested to know the extent of your travels on the Trail and your interest in the work. A Miss Elizabeth Bass, who is a director of one of the camps near where you are, joined one of our Maine work parties on Mt. Bigelow a few years ago and she could give you some information as to the nature of the work.

We did have a crew working in western Maine. They were not sufficiently experienced and the rainy weather and flies led them to abandon the work. This crew was working under the direction of Prof. W.H. Sawyer, of the Bates College Outing Club, and I would suggest that when you have an opportunity to be in Lewiston, you see Prof. Sawyer.

August 6, 1947. Avery to Sawyer (Commenting on the 1947 Trail Crew)

The aspect of this situation, which I hold most against the fellows, is misleading us as to their intentions after all of the effort we made to improve conditions. Either I am extremely obtuse or there was an excellent job of dissimulation. It did preclude us, apart from the expense, of trying to get under way substitute arrange-

ments and the season is lost.

Like you, I feel that we are not going to accept defeat here. I think we do have to face the situation that the ill repute of the expedition means that it is improbable that we could resurrect a B.O.C. expedition. Perhaps the solution is going to be in local individuals whose interest would be aroused like these fellows—if the prospect proves favorable.

It is rather distressing to have to write 1947 off when we had hopes for so much in the way of productive results.

August 11, 1947. Avery to Mrs. Mary Downey, Caratunk

We are glad indeed to know of your interest in taking part in maintenance activity on The Appalachian Trail in Maine. Your interest is particularly fortunate because your camp is practically on the Trail route.

If you have been at East Carry Pond, you will see what an eyesore the lean-to is. The local fishermen have given unending trouble. They have used part of the flooring for fuel and the place is always a mess. It is unfortunate, because it has such a fine view across the Pond to Mt. Bigelow. Further, those who use the structure seem to have the habit of building a fire right in front of the deacon seat which results in a fire hazard and probably explains why we have lost two lean-tos in Maine by fire. Repairing this damage would be a sort of major task and I am not sure it would be worthwhile unless one could check the situation.

Below, the 1977 MATC budget garnered from the records of Treasurer Elsa Sanborn.

April 16, 1977	
MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB, INC.	
<u>1977-78 Operating Budget</u>	
ESTIMATED INCOME	
Guidebook Sales	6,000
Memberships	1,000
Donations	200
Dividends	75
Miscellaneous	125
	7,400
ESTIMATED EXPENSES	
To Guidebook Reserves	3,500
Trail Maintenance	500
General operating	750
Telephone	150
ATC Newsletter	300
Bigelow Caretaker	200
To Savings Account	2,000
	7,400

Buzz Caverly spent 45 years creating Baxter park's wildness

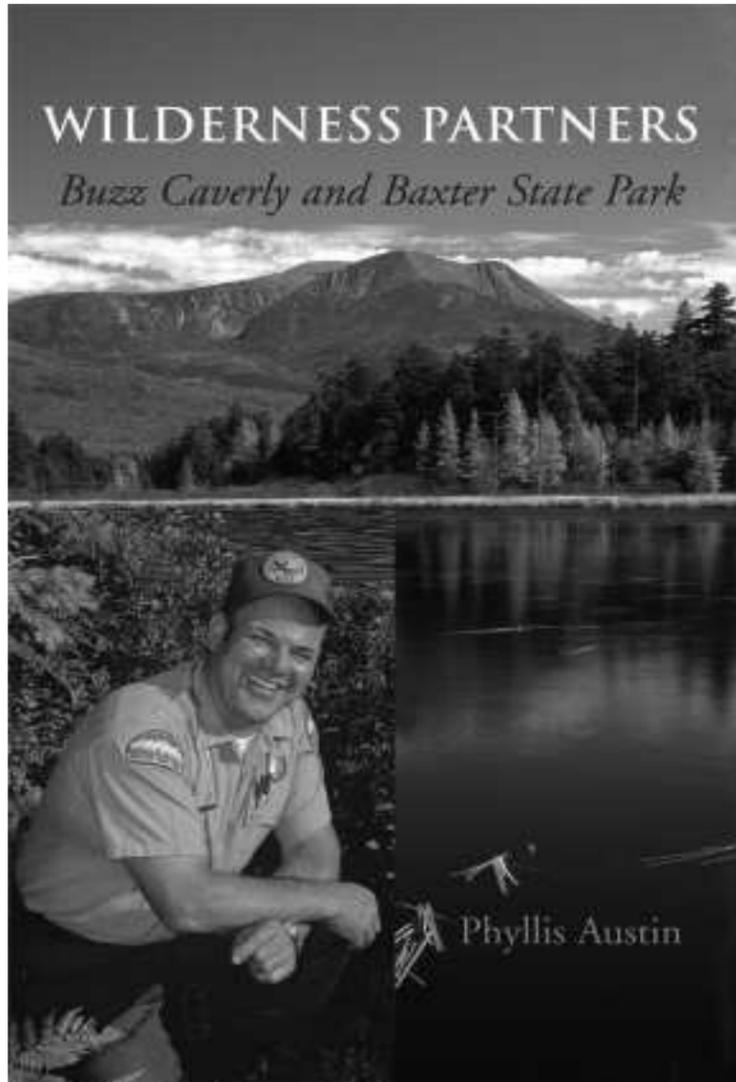
Buzz Caverly worked at Baxter State Park for 45 years, most of the time as a supervisor and for the last 22 years as the park's director. During those long years a couple of dozen different Baxter State Park Authorities ranked his abilities as excellent.

Then, three years ago, the last Baxter State Park Authority trustees he worked under forced his retirement.

Phyllis Austin, a veteran Maine reporter, who probably has attended more Baxter State Park Authority meetings than anyone outside the park staff, tells the story of Buzz's rise and "fall" in this fascinating new book.

"Buzz rose from humble beginnings and limited education to succeed through tireless work, grit, spirit and courage," Austin writes. He had grown up in Cornville, the son of farmers, picking beans for a Baxter family cannery in Hartland.

The path to being a wilderness icon was not always easy. This writer, and a variety of environmental groups, had opposed his promotion to park director. We worried that a man



Wilderness Partners
Buzz Caverly and Baxter State Park
by Phyllis Austin
Paperback, \$20, 624 pages
Tilbury House Publishing

who grew up on a farm north of Waterville, whose formal education stopped with a high school diploma and a few weeks training as a game warden, had neither the background nor the talents to run a wilderness park. We were proved wrong, as Austin eloquently makes clear.

Percival Baxter, who spent a lifetime creating what he dreamed would be a "forever wild" park, had no doubts about Buzz Caverly. Austin reports that Baxter wrote to Caverly a few months before his death, "we are partners in this project." Caverly, she reports, viewed Baxter's wishes as a "legal and sacred trust."

It was his insistence in carrying out Baxter's wishes that led to his eventual firing. Ironically his disfavor partially involved one of the park's greatest successes – the expansion of the park southerly to the West Branch of the Penobscot river. There was no serious objection to the expansion. The battle involved how the new lands should be managed.

Caverly insisted they should be a wildlife sanctuary as is most of the park. Millinocket's Fin and Feather Club, and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) wanted hunting and trapping to be allowed. Caverly argued that Baxter had allowed such activities only when the Legislature threatened not to accept the land he had purchased for the park if he didn't relent.

Caverly lost that argument. The Baxter trustees voted to allow hunting. But Caverly gained a partial

victory months later when he convinced the trustees that the bridge across a stream, a bridge that was essential to continuing ATV access, was unsafe and needed to be removed. The bridge was removed. And a political fire storm arose. Millinocket sportsmen were outraged. Other long term grievances also emerged, drawing the ire of hunting interests.

A new Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Commissioner, Dan Martin, was appointed by Governor John Baldacci. Austin makes it clear that Martin came into office determined to represent his fish and game constituents, not necessarily Governor Baxter's wishes.

Unlike other state parks, Baxter insisted that his park be managed outside the state park system. He wanted park decisions to be made by the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Director of the Bureau of Forestry. In the 1940s when Baxter made his decision, the Maine Department of Parks and Recreation was in fact a hotbed of political intrigues. The governor thought his proposed trustees would be less political. But events over the decades have shown that Governor Baxter was wrong. The AG is elected by the Legislature. Fish and Game and Forestry officials are appointed by whoever is Governor. The selections tend to change with each new administration. It's an inherently political system.

By law the trustees are in fact the policy making board. The park director, technically, carries out those policies. But realistically, commissioners with major state agencies to administer mostly paid little attention to Baxter State Park. Buzz Caverly never failed to follow directions. But he grew skilled in subverting directions that violated Governor Baxter's Deeds of Trust, as in the removal of the bridge that would have allowed ATVs into the park.

Caverly had also promoted, in speeches that were reported in the Maine press, a concept he called "wilder from within," which would have closed some park roads, including several miles of the road leading to Roaring Brook, in effect turning one of the most popular camping areas in the park into a walk-in campground, a change that neither hunters and fishermen, nor many campers welcomed, but which Governor Baxter would have praised.

Buzz also managed to create opposition from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. He fought and sometimes was successful in his efforts to remove cabins the commission thought deserved preservation. Caverly argued that Baxter envisioned restoring a wild landscape, not protecting ancient buildings.

But the final break with the park trustees came in 2005 when at the last minute he opposed building a road off the perimeter road to the portion designated as a scientific forest management area. Jensen Bissell, the forest manager, wanted visitors to see his carefully managed forest. Caverly argued that visitors were seeking a wilderness experience, not a forestry exhibit.

Commissioners responded by offering Caverly a chance to stay as a figurehead – without the ability to make decisions, or hire and fire park employees. Instead, Caverly retired that June.

Former park trustee and former commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Bill Vail best summed up Caverly's career. He said he had never met anyone like Caverly in public service, "anyone who so narrowly focused on an ideal – a trust. We probably never will see that again. No one will have that depth of history and that ability to manage things. He used his power wisely. It was never about Buzz, but always about the park."

Caverly's dedication continued, despite his ouster. After his retirement he attended all the Legislative hearings, and testified often, on the proposal to expand the park to include Katahdin Lake. And when the complicated deal threatened to collapse for the lack of funds, he devoted himself to raising the needed \$14 million.

Phyllis Austin has written a great book. She sheds new light on hundreds of park decisions, and the continuing battle to keep the park wild. It should be must reading for anyone concerned with the future of Governor Baxter's dream – especially all future Baxter State Park Trustees.

--Bob Cummings

The Whitecap District has maintainer openings

By Julian Wiggins

1: Summit of Whitecap Mtn. to Jct. of White Brook Side Trail and the White Brook Side Trail. This section incorporates 1.1 miles of trail. The White Brook Trail climbs steeply at times from an old logging yard, past the site of a former fire warden's hut to join the Appalachian Trail between Hay Mountain and the summit of Whitecap. Access to this section is difficult and involves driving over many miles of rough roads. A person should only consider taking on this maintenance assignment if they have access to a four-wheel drive vehicle with good ground clearance.

2: White Brook Side Trail to the Summit of West Peak. This section maintains a high elevation as it runs westward along the Whitecap ridgeline for 2.2 miles. The easiest access to this section is provided by the White Brook Trail. Access to this section is difficult and involves driving over many miles of rough roads. A person should only consider taking on this maintenance assignment if they have access to a four-wheel drive vehicle with good ground clearance.

Contact Julian Wiggins, 79 Bennoch Rd, Orono, 04473, 975-2011, ulianwiggins@gmail.com

Good luck to all the Whitecap Maintainers in 2009!

MATC historian seeks artifacts from the past

Do you have a piece of MATC history? For those of you who do not know, my name is Ray Ronan and the MATC has seen fit to make me Club Historian. I am currently investigating venues that are suitable for the MATC's historical items.

The first step is to ask you, the general membership, to donate any and all items pertaining to the MATC or the Appalachian Trail in Maine. Records, photographic media (negatives, prints, slides, movies or anything else I might be missing) and artifacts to the MATC are all desirable.

I will come to you to collect these items and then I will be able compile an inventory. This will give me a better understanding of what will be the best repository for this collection.

The goal is to preserve and catalogue the collection. The ultimate aim would be to make as much of the material as possible available on line for everyone to access.

Please contact me at: Ray Ronan, 86 Fall Ridge Rd, Windham, ME 04062 207.892.2600 walkinhome1@yahoo.com. Suggestions/comments are very welcome. I am retired so have a very flexible schedule.

Purchase maps, trail guides, and other items from the MATC:

Support the Appalachian Trail in Maine!

Map Price: \$4.75 members, \$6.30 non-members

Map #2 Nahmakanta Lake to West Branch of the Pleasant River

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Map #3 West Branch of the Pleasant R. to Monson

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Map #4 Monson to the Kennebec River

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Map #5 Kennebec River to Maine Highway 27

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Map #6 Maine Highway 27 to Maine Highway 17

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Map #7 Maine Highway 17 to Maine-NH Line

Quantity _____ \$ _____

N.E. Guides & Maps CD Rom Netscape Navigator

for PC - \$30.00

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Entire A.T. Guides & Maps CD Rom Netscape Navigator

for PC - \$75.00

Quantity _____ \$ _____

M.A.T.C. Shoulder Patch - \$2.00 each

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Decal - \$1.00 each

Quantity _____ \$ _____

M.A.T.C. Pin - \$4.00 each

Quantity _____ \$ _____

A.T. Note Cards - Set of 8, \$4.00

Quantity _____ \$ _____

M.A.T.C. Key Chain - \$1.00 each

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Check or money order should be made payable to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (M.A.T.C.) and mailed with this order form to Barbara Gorrill, MATC, PO Box 55, GRAY, ME 04039. You may pay by either VISA or MASTERCARD by filling out the information below (*please print*):

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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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Two sawyer certification workshops are planned

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's sawyer certification program teaches Trail volunteers how to safely operate a chain saw to remove downed trees and cut materials needed for Trail projects. We offer free training courses, free personal protective equipment (PPE), and reimbursement of first-aid and/or CPR certification costs.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club, in conjunction with the New England Regional Office of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, is planning for several chainsaw safety workshops in 2009. The dates are:

- April 18-19 in Bradford at Parker Lumber Company
- October 3-4 in Windham at Larry Clark's woodlot

The workshops will be for both new certification and re-certification. The re-certification course will be one day only, the Saturday of the noted weekend. 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. Space is limited. Please contact Craig Dickstein at *craig.donna@wildblue.net* or (207) 672-4983 or PO Box 128, Caratunk, Maine 04925.

A trail is never finally completed

By Julian Wiggins

A trail is never finally completed. New needs emerge every year. For instance, projects needing work in the Whitecap District include:

- Sidney Tappan tent site needs a new sign directing hikers to the spring
- Suggestions were made for creating a second official tent site with a sanctioned fire ring for the Sidney Tappan site.
- The lower section of the White Brook Trail needs to be rerouted away from the old firewarden's trail to a new location.
- A new sign is needed for the summit of 3rd Mtn. and for West Chairback Pond.
- A boggy area between 3rd and 4th Mtn requires bog bridging.
- The Chairback Gap bog crossing needs to be hardened.
- Long Pond Stream Lean-to privy requires new steps.
- Bog bridging between Fourth Mountain and Barren Mountain requires replacement.
- Construction of bog bridging is needed in the area between North Pond Tote Rd. and Mud Pond.
- Eventual replacement of Chairback Gap Lean-to & Leeman Brook Lean-to.
- Request for additional free beer for maintainers. Apparently there is a shortage at the southern end of the district.
- New signage is required at the Leeman Brook Lean-to. The distance to the Wilson Valley Lean-to needs to be included.

Help Wanted:

Assistant Guidebook Editor

Duties: Primarily in the area of the business side of the guidebook process i.e. putting together the print specifications, gathering bids and negotiating/interacting with print vendors to deliver the excellent MATC product known as

The Official Appalachian Trail Guide to Maine.

You can be involved with other aspects of the process.

For FMI: Ray Ronan, Editor *walkinhome1@yahoo.com* 207.892.2600