

MATC
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Maine Appalachian Trail Club



The MAINEtainer

Volume XXXV Number 2 Early Spring 2012



Caretaker, ridgerunner season set to go

The CARE program has plans well underway for the upcoming season, including several important changes.

For starters, MATC will no longer host the Abol Bridge ridge runner. Baxter Park has agreed to take on sole responsibility for that position.

At the close of the 2011 season, Bill Eddy “retired” from his responsibilities as Piazza Rock site supervisor. He continues to be involved with CARE, serving as telephone guru and as a member of the hiring committee.

Bill was able to convince fellow Rangeley resident Steve Masee to take on the job of site supervisor. However, before Steve’s first season, he applied for, and was chosen, to be the caretaker at Piazza Rock. Yet another Rangeleyite, Dan Simonds, has agreed to fill the supervisory position. The CARE Committee welcomes Dan’s participation.

Personnel for the 2012 season include:

- Piazza Rock, Steve Masee
- Horns Pond, CJ Manza, who returns for his fifth season working for CARE
- Gulf Hagas, Audrey Laffely, a 2008 thru hiker and a Maine native

Another important change to the CARE program centers on the seasonal schedule. All three caretakers / ridge runners will pick up gear and pack in on the weekend of May 18-19.

Training will take place at the Bigelow Lodge on May 20, 21 and 22. All personnel will be on duty at their respective sites for the Memorial Day weekend, May 25 and 26.

The following weekend will see them at the Maine Trail Crew base camp, in Garland, for Wilderness First Aid training.

The CARE Committee looks forward to the new season. We welcome MATC members and friends to help with packing in gear for the three CARE sites. If you can help contact site supervisors, Dan Simonds (danjsimonds@gmail.com), Geoff Shadman (shadman20@hotmail.com), and Janice Clain (jclain@midmaine.com) if you would like to help.



High Peaks Success -- from left, Laura Belleville, ATC Director of Conservation and Tony Barrett, MATC Vice President meet with Senator Susan Collins at her Washington, DC office in February to review a map of the High Peaks Initiative in the Western Mountains of Maine. Senator Collins was a key supporter of federal Forest Legacy Grants for the Crocker Mountain and Orbeton Stream areas. Though some additional funds are needed, the approval means that more than 17,000 acres adjacent to the Appalachian Trail within the High Peaks area are headed toward protection from development and preserved as working forest. See story on page 2

Maine gets \$8.7M for 17,600-acre High Peaks Project

Reported by Valerie Tucker and republished with Maintainer editorial additions from the Lewiston Sun-Journal of January 19.

Federal awards totaling \$8.73 million will protect two Western Maine forest properties from development.

Most of the funding — \$7 million — which comes from the U.S. Forest Legacy Program, will go toward preserving 11,800 acres of Plum Creek's working forest on and around Crocker Mountain in Carrabassett Valley, according to the Maine Department of Conservation.

The state will continue to harvest timber on the Crocker Mountain property, which should provide area jobs and future revenues for the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

"Franklin County has the highest percentage of workers in the forest products industry in Maine, meaning that jobs will be protected," said Wolfe Tone, director of the Trust for Public Land.

The land provides buffers for 10 miles of the Appalachian Trail and will add 3 miles to snowmobile Route 115 of Maine's Interconnected Trail System. Also benefitting will be 4 miles of ATV trails.

Protecting the property from development will guarantee access for other types of recreation, including hunting, hiking, mountain biking and cross-country skiing.

The second High Peaks Conservation Project is Orbeton Stream in Madrid Township. Maine will receive \$1.73 million to purchase a conservation easement over 5,808 acres of family-owned timberland.

The Orbeton Stream property is owned and managed by a local family-run timber company, Linkletter Timberlands of Athens, which harvests the trees to supply its mill, directly supporting 40 employees. Linkletter Timberlands will continue to harvest timber on the Orbeton Stream property for its mills. Family representative Robert Linkletter said the company made a choice to sell the easement.

"We could sell the lots along the stream for people to build camps, or we could provide this conservation easement ..." The decision guarantees access to the area by hikers and fishermen. "We decided that the easement was the best thing to do, and will help keep more people employed in the timber industry," Linkletter said.

The Orbeton property also includes a 6.4-mile section of snowmobile Route 84 of Maine's ITS system.

Protecting the property will keep the forests in timber production and ensure access for outdoor recreation. Snowmobile and ATV clubs will have new access to western Maine trails that previously been off limits.

The entire Orbeton Stream parcel has been designated by the federal government as critical to the return of Atlantic salmon. In 2007, Maine's Department of Marine Resources said salmon reared in the Orbeton watershed had returned from the North Atlantic Ocean for the first time in more than 150 years.

The Trust for Public Land must raise \$800,000 to complete the purchases, said J. T. Horn, TPL's New England project manager. Other conservation and recreation groups will also be participating in this effort, including the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust.

The Forest Legacy Program receives its revenues from oil and gas leases on federal lands. The program allocated \$135 million to support proposed projects in 2012 in the 50 states and Puerto Rico. Only 13 of the 46 applications were selected. The Crocker Mountain project ranked third among the 46. Orbeton Stream was 12th.

Chris Beach, a member of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust and the High Peaks Alliance, said the funding acknowledges the tireless work of several local conservation and recreation groups. He and others met with Carrabassett Valley selectmen and Town Manager Dave Cota, resulting in a statewide letter-writing campaign and the efforts of many organizations to support the projects. When the twin projects are completed, Franklin County will have 71,000 acres of conserved land.

"We couldn't have done this without the support at every level," Beach said.

The project could have stalled, according to Beach, when the leadership of the Department of Conservation was changed with the new Republican administration. Gov. Paul LePage appointed William Beardsley as the new Conservation Commissioner.

State Sen. Thomas Saviello, R-Wilton, arranged for LePage's senior policy adviser, Carlisle McLean, and the new commissioner to meet with the Western Maine projects' stakeholders in the fall of 2011.

Gov. Paul LePage and Beardsley "were both very enthusiastic about continuing to support the project, which helped take this to the next level," Saviello said.

LePage and the Maine Department of Conservation subsequently recommended the Crocker Mountain and Orbeton Stream projects as the state's top priorities for Forest Legacy Program funding. U.S. Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, R-Maine, and U.S. Rep. Michael Michaud, D-Maine, also offered support for the project.

"Sen. Collins really helped us with her support," Beach said. "She loves this area and has seen what we want to do."

Protection of the High Peaks has been a priority of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust since its

founding a decade ago with the help of members of MATC. The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust has been the major player in promoting the forest legacy project.



The Girl Scouts of America (GSUSA) will be celebrating their 100th birthday in 2012 by hiking the entire Appalachian Trail. Between March 12 and October 31, 2012, Girl Scout troops from all over the country and around the world will select a section of the Appalachian Trail to hike. Their goal is to complete the entire trail "in bits and pieces." Several A.T. maintaining clubs are already teaming up with local troops to plan and lead hikes and they are looking for a MATC coordinator.

If you are a former Girl Scout or current Girl Scout leader or interested in serving as a resource to help with this celebration, and an MATC member who would be willing to help coordinate hikes along the trail in Maine, please contact Tony Barrett at mainetrails@comcast.net or 207-833-0939.

Lester needs help setting up the volunteer base camp on May 5 & 12

Hello everyone,

This is the advance notice for setting up the trail crew base camp in Garland Maine. We have two Saturdays reserved for this project - May 5 and May 12. We will be setting up tents, house cleaning, moving gear out of storage, and much much more.

If you have never been to the Garland facility, you can see what life is like for the trail crews.

Lunch will be provided for everyone. If you need directions, or have any questions, please let me know. I hope to see you there!

Lester C. Kenway

President

Maine Appalachian Trail Club

15 Westwood Road

Bangor ME 04401

207-947-2723

MATC annual meeting is April 14 at UM Farmington

The annual MATC meeting will be held April 14 at Lincoln Auditorium at the University of Maine Farmington.

Meet the volunteer officers that keep our organization vibrant and meet many of the maintainers that keep the Appalachian Trail in Maine the envy of the entire 2,189 mile footpath.

We gather at 8 a.m. for coffee, socializing, and breakfast snacks. President Lester Kenway will welcome members and the public at 9 am.

The tentative agenda includes:

- Approval of the 2010 Annual Meeting minutes by Secretary Janice Clain
- Treasurer's Report - Elsa Sanborn
- Adoption of Budget for FY 2012-2013 - Tom Lewis, Finance Committee
- Corresponding Secretary Report - Dick Doucette

10:00 AM - Reports

- President's Report on the past year - Lester Kenway
- Care Committee Report - TBA
- Campsite Committee Report - Laura Flight
- Trail Crew Center Project - Lester Kenway
- 2012 Trail Crew Season Preview

Recognition and Awards

11:30 AM - Salute to Trail Volunteers

12:00 PM - Lunch (in the UMF cafeteria or on your own)

1:00 PM

- Current Wind Power issues update - Tom Lewis
- Corridor Monitoring - David Field
- Open Forum on current issues before the Club

2:30 PM

- Concurrent Meetings with Trail Overseers and Maintainers
- New member and guest welcome session - Lester Kenway

4:00 PM - End of Day

'Relaxed' Little Bigelow privy gets emergency winter repairs

By Dick Fecteau, Bigelow district Overseer

As many of you know MATC does not maintain the trails and associated campsites for winter use. But there are several trail sections that are popular winter hikes and some campsites receive much winter use due to their accessibility and plowed trail head parking areas.

The Little Bigelow trail and lean-to is one such location that gets heavy use during this time of year, especially from organized groups.

What is not well known is that the privys at many of our high use campsites need the winter "off season" to relax and let the "pile" settle a bit. Laura Flight sent me a photo she took of the facilities at Little Bigelow on February 11 in which the privy looked unusually relaxed to the point of actively discouraging winter use by visitors.

Upon closer examination it was found that the support logs that keep this large two seat facility above the hole, rotted, to the point of breaking

under the weight of a recent wet snowfall. These support logs had been replaced 10 years ago. Due to the demand for winter use at this site a crew was assembled on short notice to remedy the situation. Another consideration was that the "pile" was likely frozen and easier to work around during February than it would be in May and black fly season.

Steve Swatling, Kim Redmond and Tammy Mawhinney joined me on Saturday, February 18, and we were able to winch the building out of the hole and put a new support log under it. This was completed just as a group of 12 adventurous campers from Unity College showed up for the weekend. Our crew then hiked to the Little Bigelow summit. While descending, we met 6 hardy backpackers who were hiking over to Safford Notch to spend the night.

The base and roof of the Little Bigelow privy will need to be rebuilt next summer. The loggers currently working in the Preserve may be able to haul a bunch of cedar logs up nearby the site. The

plan is to relocate the privy and make it a moldering unit, using cedar logs as the base. This will make a dandy Camp Teki project during the last week of June next summer.



Left: Little Bigelow Shelter privy before support log was replaced in February.

Lester explains MATC Chainsaw Safety Certification requirements

By Lester C. Kenway, President, MATC
Update:

In view of the significant liabilities associated with operating a chainsaw on the Appalachian Trail in Maine without training and certification, the five Trail Overseers agreed to the following protocol at their November 2011 Annual Meeting:

If a Trail Maintainer indicates that they use or intend to use a chainsaw on their trail section, and

If a Trail Maintainer indicates that they do not plan to enroll in the chainsaw safety training program,

Then the Trail Overseer will need to ask this Trail Maintainer to resign from their trail section.

Background:

Chainsaw safety training along with required certifications and re-certifications was introduced to the MATC in the spring of 2003 when the Appalachian Trail Conservancy entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Park Service and the U. S. Forest Service to “Provide chain saw and crosscut saw operator training, certification, and recertification opportunities using Conference-affiliate Instructor/Certifiers and Instructors to meet the needs of Appalachian Trail workers to the fullest extent possible, and especially to meet the needs of Trail Clubs on National Park Service – Appalachian Trail Park Office lands, and other non-Forest Service lands.”

This agreement primarily addressed trail clubs north of Virginia. National Forests along the Southern half of the AT had been requiring chainsaw training and certification for many years where the AT was located within the Forests. Chainsaw training has been available and encouraged in Maine since 1998.

Although there did not seem to be any challenge to the value and desirability of chainsaw safety training, several AT club members felt that they were informed of the MOU after the fact and would have preferred to have been offered a more active role in the process. Questions were raised regarding the requirements of certification and recertification.

The first training session was held in Bradford, ME in April of 2004. It was a full class with two instructors and nearly 20 students. It was followed by another class in October of 2004, and the schedule of April and October classes has been repeated ever since.

Further reinforcement of the need for chainsaw safety training and certification was offered in a letter from Pamela Underhill, Park Manager to MATC President Milt Wright on May 3, 2007. “In addition to my own personal concern for worker and public safety, the Occupational Safety and

Health Administration (OSHA) has specific requirements for ‘employers’ of workers using chain saws, which apply to both volunteers and paid employees.... This program incorporates the OSHA requirements and the concept of best industry practices...”

MATC Executive Committee voted on January 12, 2008 to require all MATC Trail Maintainers and other AT workers to comply with the National Park Service/Appalachian Trail Conservancy Skills/ Training and Trail Crew Worker Safety Policy regarding training and certification. That policy requires anyone operating a chainsaw (or crosscut saw) on the AT to have received training and to have been certified for such operation. The operator must hold current First Aid/CPR credentials. Recertification is required every three years. *Note that this applies to all landowners in Maine, not just NPS.*

A one day recertification option was introduced in the spring of 2009.

Dave Field summarized additional concerns of the MATC within this letter of transmittal to ATC.

- Most of our personal health insurance policies have a clause that says that they will not cover injury that is insured by workers compensation. The NPS Volunteers in Parks (VIP) includes just that.
- A smart lawyer will say to a Trail worker who rejects VIP coverage, “You chose to reject this coverage, so we (your personal insurance) won’t cover you either.”
- In the case of tort claim, also covered by VIP, the Trail Worker, Trail Overseer, MATC president, Executive Committee, the AT, and the NPS could all end up in court.
- Suppose the case involves felling a tree, and the volunteer is not certified under the NPS/ATC program. The lawyers for the injured (or dead) hiker will have a field day.
- In addition to basic concern for the safety of all AT workers in Maine, the Executive Committee feels that the Maine Appalachian Trail Club simply cannot afford this risk exposure.

What are the benefits of Chainsaw Safety Training?

- Safe chainsaw techniques have evolved tremendously in the last 30 years. A man named Soren Erickson came from Sweden to the U.S. in the 1970s and found that the chainsaw accident rate in this country was 10 times what it was in his home country. Erickson began training best practices from Sweden’s wood worker licensing program to the point that OSHA and many other industrial safety agencies began including his

techniques in their standards. Today, these methods are incorporated in the Game of Logging, Certified Logging Professional, MEMIC chainsaw safety standards and ATC chainsaw trainings.

- It’s a social event. You will get to spend a weekend with your fellow trail maintainers. There is plenty of time to visit between training topics.
- It’s fun. Most of the time is in the woods, and you will get to see new techniques for common problems.
- Everyone learns something new and helpful. It is time well spent.
- Many people learn easier ways of doing things with their chainsaw.
- Statistics show that chainsaws are responsible for more injuries than all other power tools combined. It makes sense to dedicate a day or two to best safety practices every few years.

Chainsaw Safety Training has had a complex evolution over the past two decades. The National Park Service is required to provide chainsaw safety training to its employees and volunteers via OSHA standards. When ATC signed onto the MOU that required Clubs to participate in the training program, MATC leadership did not feel fully included in the communications, but recognized the need for participation.

The training program has been in place for eight years, and over 100 people have joined the classes. Invariably people have a good time and learn good things. If you haven’t been with us yet – watch for announcements on the MATC website for chainsaw safety training offered in Mid April and early October of 2012.

Chainsaw training scheduled this year

- April 21-22 at the new MATC Base Camp in Skowhegan.
- October 5-7 at Larry Lark’s Tree Farm in Windham.

The workshops will be for both new certifications and re-certification.

The one day recertification will be on Saturdays for sawyers with a level B certification.

Space is limited. Please contact Craig Dickstein at craig.donna@myfairpoint.net, or call 673-4983.

Craig may also be reached by writing to him at PO Box 128, Caratunk, Maine 04925

Rick has accolades for maintainers and needs to fill three vacancies

I'd like to start by thanking John Neff and Dan Day for their service to the MATC as trail maintainers. John has maintained the Daicey Pond section of the A.T. in Baxter State Park for the past 10 years.

Before that he maintained the Hunt Trail section of the A.T. for 20 years. John has also served as president of the MATC and also as Overseer of Trails. He has brought in many helpers on his trail crew over the years, one of which is Dan Day. Dan has been trail maintainer for the Hunt Trail section of the A.T. for the past 8 years. Before that he was a member of John's trail crew for several years. Dan also thru hiked the A.T.

Priscilla Seimer is the new trail maintainer for the Hunt Trail section of the A.T. Priscilla has worked with John's trail crew for over 15 years. She is also a former Overseer of the Katahdin District.

Melanie Coombs is the new trail maintainer for the Daicey Pond section of the A.T. She has also been a member of John's trail crew for the past 5 years.

Good luck to Priscilla and Melanie in their new responsibilities as trail maintainers. Thanks again to John and Dan for all that they have done for the A.T. in Maine.

Three Trail Maintainer Positions Open in the Katahdin District

1. Rainbow Ledges south to Rainbow Mt. side trail. This section of the A.T. is 3.5 miles long and includes the 0.4 mile side trail to Beaver Ponds and the 0.75 mile side trail to Rainbow Mt. There is no direct road access to this section of the A.T. Access is via hiking south 6 miles on the A.T. from Abol Bridge (18 miles from Millinocket on the Golden Road). Another way to access this section is by float plane service to Rainbow Lake. This section is in fair condition needing blowdown removal.

2. Pollywog Stream Bridge south to Nesuntabunt Road. This section of the A.T. is 2.6 miles long and passes along Crescent Pond and a short side trail to a view of Pollywog Stream Gorge. Access is from Millinocket Route 11 south about 13 miles then on the JoMary Road (gate and fee) about 25 miles (gravel logging road). Trail is in very good shape.

3. Wadleigh Stream Campsite south to South End of Nahmakanta Lake. This section of the A.T. is 2.6 miles long. This assignment also includes the Wadleigh Stream Campsite. The A.T. passes along Nahmakanta Lake with several sandy or gravel beaches. Access is from Millinocket Route 11 south about 13 miles then on the JoMary Road (gate and

Katahdin District had a great year in 2011

The Katahdin District consists of 56.0 miles of the A.T. and 4.0 miles of side trails. A total of 49 individuals worked 626 hours on the trails and campsites this year. They traveled 439 hours to get to their respective work sites.

This comes to a total of 1,065 hours of volunteer work done in the Katahdin District. There are 10 trail section assignments in the Katahdin District, the longest being 11.3 miles and the shortest is 3.5 miles. The average trail section is 6.0 miles long. The maintainers made 13 work trips this year.

1 maintainer made 0 work trips, 7 maintainers made 1 work trip, 1 maintainer made 2 work trips, and 1 maintainer made 4 work trips.

TRAIL WORK

We had an average snowfall during winter and early spring, which made for good conditions for spring trail maintenance. Work trips were done in May and early June to prepare the A.T. for the hiking season.

The weather was generally good all summer into early fall. Then tropical storm Irene dumped a lot of rain on the A.T. in Maine, but the several sections that I was able to cover in the fall were in good shape with only minor erosion. The usual trail work of clearing blowdowns and clipping back brush and branches from the footpath were done.

Painting white blazes on the A.T. and blue blazes on side trails were done where needed, as was cleaning waterbars and drainage ditches. Some bog bridges were replaced. Others that had shifted in high spring water were set back into place, a few water bars were built, and a few step stones were added to muddy areas of the trail.

Most trail signs are in good shape. A relocation of the A.T. in Baxter State Park was opened in May 2010 from Daicey Pond to Katahdin Stream Campground and goes near Grassy Pond. This relocation eliminates a 0.6 mile road walk on the Baxter Park Tote Road. Beaver activity is occurring at both outlets of the northern and southern Deadwaters of Rainbow Stream. The Maine Trail

fee) about 24 miles to the south end of Nahmakanta Lake. Trail section is in very good shape.

The maintainer should be able to make 2 or 3 work trips per season to clear blowdowns and clear brush and branches from the footpath, paint blazes as needed and clean waterbars. If you are interested in one of these three trail maintainer assignments, contact me with your name, contact information and trail work experience. I would like to fill these 3 positions by the end of April, 2012.

Thank you,
Rick Ste.Croix
17 Kenneth St.
Augusta, Maine 04330

Crew worked 3 weeks in June on the Hunt Trail (A.T.) in Baxter State Park building 61 rock steps. They reconstructed 65 feet of bog bridging and reset 150 feet of bog bridging across Katahdin Stream on the A.T. section that was relocated in 2010.

The Maine Trail Crew also built 2 sets of stairs for the Abol Stream Bridge. The Maine Trail Crew also worked 2 weeks on the A.T. near Nahmakanta Stream placing a unique aluminum staircase on the steep bank of Tumbledown Dick Stream. Some 30 step stones were also placed in muddy areas along this section of trail.

All 7 campsites received regular maintenance by the maintainers this season. The leantos at Hurd Brook, Rainbow Stream, Wadleigh Stream and Potaywadjo Spring are all in good shape as are the tent sites at Rainbow Spring, Nahmakanta Stream and Antlers' Campsites. Trash was picked up and firepits cleaned of ashes and unburnable trash. Abandoned clothes, gear, food and books left behind by inconsiderate hikers was also carried out and disposed. All campsite signs showing directions to water sources, privies and tent sites are in good shape. The moldering privy at Hurd Brook Leanto, built in September, 2000, is doing well, as is the moldering privy at Rainbow Stream Leanto, built in June, 2001. The 5 pit privies at the other campsites are in fair to good shape. Various bootleg campsites continue to be used along the trail and the maintainers continue to clean up trash that is left behind and to break up illegal fire rings.

A.T. CORRIDOR

Boats and canoes continue to be stored in the corridor at the following sites: Big Beaver Pond, Rainbow Lake Dam, Rainbow Deadwaters and Crescent Pond. The area in the vicinity of Rainbow Lake Dam has many fishermen's campsites. About 25.5 miles of the A.T. is on National Park Service Land from the JoMary Road to Murphy Brook. About 15.2 miles of the A.T. is on land owned by The Nature Conservancy from Murphy Brook to the Golden Road. About 1 mile of the A.T. is a road walk on the Golden Road owned by the Katahdin Paper Company. The balance of the A.T., about 14.4 miles, is in Baxter State Park, from Abol Stream to Baxter Peak, Katahdin.

ABOL RIDGE RUNNER

This was the 10th year of the Abol Ridge Runner program. Some of the duties were to meet A.T. hikers that were heading to Baxter State Park to finish their thru hike and to inform them of the rules and regulations of Baxter State Park. Some of which are camping fees, camping restrictions, no pets allowed and Class Day rules of trails on Katahdin. The ridge runner patrolled about 4 miles of the A.T. from Hurd Brook to Katahdin Stream. The ridge runner program is possible with the cooperation of the National Park Service A.T.

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First-Aid/CPR and Wilderness First-Aid Courses

Training and certification

Winter/Spring 2012

Sponsored by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Date, Time and Location (three options):

- ◆ **March 24, First Aid/CPR** - 9am-5pm, at the Viles Arboretum in Augusta, ME , 153 Hospital St., bring a lunch;
- ◆ **April 7, First Aid/CPR** - 9am-5pm, at the University of Maine in Augusta, Randall Student Center, upstairs lounge, bring a lunch;
- ◆ **June 2 & 3, Wilderness First Aid and CPR** - 8:30-5, at the MATC's Maine Trail Crew base-camp, 201 Campbell Road, Garland, ME (food and camping provided).

Cost: First Aid Courses - \$55 - **MATC members will be reimbursed in full** upon attendance of the course. **Wilderness First-Aid course** - \$170, \$200 if adding CPR, but **only \$20 for Maine Appalachian Trail Club members**, thanks to grant funding from the Recreational Trails Program!

Wilderness First-Aid course Food & Housing Information: Tent platforms and a bunk house will be available for sleeping Friday and Saturday nights. You are welcome to bring your own tent. Food is provided, please let us know of dietary restrictions.

Contact Information: Email matc@gwi.net or call (207) 518-1779.

Upon receiving the form below and payment, we will email you a confirmation.

First Aid/CPR/WFA - REGISTRATION FORM:

Mail this completed form and payment, to *Elsa Sanborn, MATC Treasurer, P.O. Box 8087, Bangor, ME 04402-8087.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Are you a Maine Appalachian Trail Club Member? ____ yes ____ no

Join Peter Roderick for a weekend of bog bridging work at East Carry Pond June 8-10

Date: Saturday and Sunday, June 8 - 10, 2012

Time: Meeting place and time TBD. Contact trip leader. Trip leader will go up on Friday afternoon/evening June 8. You are welcome to come then, or drive up early Saturday morning. Access to work site requires high-clearance vehicle, so carpooling is recommended.

Work Site: Carrying Place Township, east of Bigelow. Meet somewhere down-state and drive north from there. Access is from Long Falls Dam Road.

Work Description: Volunteers are needed to help with the removal of several hundred feet of existing bog bridging and replacement with cedar planking.

Work to be done along section of trail between Sandy Stream and East Carry Pond. We will car camp near the AT. Bring usual car camping gear: tent, sleeping bag and pad, cook gear, clothing, food, water, plus day hiking gear, work gloves, bug dope.

All trail tools will be provided, but you are welcome to bring what you have that's applicable to the work at hand. Come and help/stay for 1 or 2 days/nights. Any and all help is welcome! With enough people we should be able to complete the task in the two days allotted. Trip leader will provide free cold beverages to volunteers.

Contact: Carey Kish, maineoutdoors@aol.com, (207) 838-9669 or Peter Roderick, roderick1027@fairpoint.net, (207) 293-2704.

Katahdin District report

Continued from page 5

Office, Baxter State Park, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Maine A.T. Club.

I would like to thank everyone that volunteered their time and effort in the Katahdin District in 2011. Your work is very important in maintaining and protection the A.T. in Maine. Thank you.

Rick Ste.Croix
Overseer
Katahdin District
Maine A.T. Club

Kennebec District defeats beavers while maintaining 54 miles of the Maine trail

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 1 campsite plus the only ferry service on the AT.

Kennebec District – 2011 Report

There are 23 maintainers assigned in the Kennebec District currently, including two organizations, Pine Island Camps and the University of Maine Outing Club. 80 volunteers reported a total of 1108 hours of work and travel time during the reporting period.

Highlights of the 2010-2011 reporting period included:

Roof repair at the Pleasant Pond shelter by members of the Campsite Committee aided by district overseer Craig Dickstein and new maintainer of the shelter and nearby trail section, Shawn Small.

In support of this project, the section maintainers organized a prison work crew from the Somerset County Jail. Having had great success working with the County facility in 2010, contact was made with the Sheriff again this year to get a team of four prisoners and a supervisor sent up for two days of heavy lifting.

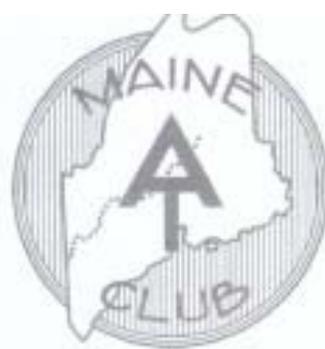
This year's project called for the carrying of two truckloads of milled cedar bridging material from the truck into the woods about 0.2 miles and neatly stacked. The enthusiasm and energy of the crew accomplished the tedious task in record time.

The County's work release program allows prisoners with less than 30 days left on their sentence to come out to do community based projects. This relationship is a win-win and we hope to continue and expand upon the opportunity.

The Maine Conservation Corps worked in the Kennebec District this summer and completed an extensive trail relocation on Pleasant Pond Mountain. The work will improve erosion control and hiker safety on the northbound approach to the summit.

Pleasant Pond Mountain, July 5 to Aug. 11

This MCC crew installed numerous stone steps, step stones and stone waterbars on the Appalachian Trail where it climbs the south side of Pleasant Pond Mountain. It was originally intended to have the crew clear a short relocation near the summit of the mountain, but the National Park Service's NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) compliance team did not arrive early enough



A WEEKEND OF FUN AND WORK ON THE AT IN MONSON JUNE 1-3, 2012

Come celebrate **National Trails Day** on **Saturday, June 2**, with the **Maine Appalachian Trail Club** in Monson for a day of trail work and a weekend of fun.

- Help MATC maintainers moving material for bog bridging, assembling bog bridging, clipping trail, and doing drainage work on the AT. Some of the work will be at the start of the 100-mile wilderness and the first section south from there (Route 15 to Doughty Pond). Plan on getting dirty. Be sure to wear sturdy clothes, shoes and gloves. Be prepared for the weather and have bug nets or bug dope. It's black fly season! We will provide hand tools but you can bring yours along as well.
- Come learn how to be an AT Boundary Monitor (a walk on the wild side of the AT).
- Not sure you want to do trail work but would like to experience the AT? Come do a little trail magic and bring snacks or drinks to those working while enjoying a hike on the AT.

Free tent Camping is available in Monson. So come early and join us for a **community potluck dinner** on **Friday evening** at 6pm at the **Monson Community Center**. After the potluck, enjoy the **music at the Monson General Store**. If you play an instrument, bring it along to join in. Anyone is welcome to play. If you plan to stay **Saturday**, be sure to come listen to the **Moosehead Community Chorus** directed by our own MATC Overseer Ron Dobra. Enjoy a **free concert** of an eclectic collection of effervescent American music at 7pm at the **Monson Community Center**. Donations gratefully accepted.

For those staying over Saturday, we may go out to finish up work on **Sunday** or go for a hike if it's done. You're welcome to join us in either case.

Contact MATC Maintainer Michelle Moody at 207-319-7355 or matc@micstan.us to get details and to sign up for camping, the potluck and trail work or go to www.matc.org.

Hope to see you there!

to make that possible.

Work Accomplished:

- 95 Stone steps
- 20 Stepping stones
- 5 Stone waterbars
- 5 Stone waterbars maintained
- 2 Ditches

The Maine Trail Crew also completed a unique bridge over a long stretch of beaver bog using unusual materials and construction techniques devised by club president and trail guru, Lester Kenway. It seems likely that we have found a way to overcome the engineering prowess of beavers with our own engineering skill.

Speaking of beavers, Stan and Michelle Moody dealt with another beaver built challenge (trail flooding) with a nice job of relocating a long section of the trail near Doughty Pond near the northern end of the district.

Last year it looked like the beavers were getting

the upper hand (paw) but I think we have regained the advantage at least for now. We will see what next spring brings us for surprises.

In addition to these accomplishments completed while working with the MTC, MCC and the Campsite Committee, 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 all of the trail should be judged.

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Asst. Overseer – Craig Dickstein

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 trail loses a good friend with the death of thru hiker, MATC volunteer, Brad Viles, 63

MATC volunteer Brad W. Viles, 63, died Jan. 22 in Millinocket. He was born Oct. 4, 1948, in Portland, the son of Harry and Verna Jones Viles.

Brad graduated from Brewer High School and attended Husson College. After working in several occupations, Brad finally realized his lifelong dream and thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Katahdin.

He was a volunteer Appalachian Trail section maintainer, continuing his interests in hiking and camping.

In 2011 Brad retired from Tempshield, Trenton, moved to Millinocket and opened Maine Woods Gear, a seasonal hiking and camping equipment store. He was a freelance writer, contributing many articles to the Bangor *Daily News* on his favorite subjects.

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

\$_____other

Name _____

As it will appear in the MAINEtainer

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

(optional) Telephone _____

(optional) E-mail _____

Family member names for membership cards:

Check activities of special interest:

Trail maintenance Committee work Other: _____

Make check payable to MATC.

Clip and mail form to:

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Visit us at www.matc.org