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# Maine Appalachian Trail Club



# The MAINEtainer

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## Hey, sawyers, take it easy on those trees!

*By Lester Kenway, President, Maine Appalachian Trail Club*

There has been a lot of attention to the Chainsaw Certification process in recent years. Over 100 people have been trained in chainsaw safety and good chainsaw techniques.

Recently I have been hearing reports of some inappropriate chainsaw use. My viewpoints have been shaped by the 26 years of my life that I have overseen all districts of the Appalachian Trail in Maine and 205 miles of trails at Baxter State Park.

While chainsaws can be very productive and enable a small crew to do great things, they can cause great harm in the hands of an indiscriminate operator. Here are some examples.

### **Needless cutting of trees**

The great friend of a trail maintainer is shade. We are much better off to limb encroaching branches with hand tools than to cut out entire trees along the trail. Cutting too many trees over time will create an open corridor along the trail and propagate brush that will take a lot of time to clear.

Yes, cutting out small spruce trees with a chainsaw is faster, but the end result will be poor. You may also be eliminating your future blaze trees.

Clearing branches with a chainsaw is also likely to cause a lot of scarring of the tree.

### **Needless cutting of trees #2**

The character of the Appalachian Trail is to be a narrow footpath. Unnecessary widening of the trail creates a path that is more like a road.

There is only one Appalachian Trail. If you want to walk on a road - there are plenty of them to choose from.

### **Cutting Hazard Trees**

Hazard Trees can be defined as those dead or dying trees that are next to or leaning over the trail.

Many sawyers are too much hooked on the idea that all of these need to be removed.

Even minor hazards trees can be rationalized into



***Rock stepping stones survive forever. Spruce log bog bridges take the trail's prettiest and best trees, only to rot away in a decade, sometimes less. Lester Kenway photo.***

the "must be removed" category. Persistence in removing hazard trees can result in an over-cleared trail.

Damage to other healthy trees can be extensive. Unsuccessful attempts can result in unsightly hang-ups that are more dangerous than the original hazard tree.

### **The Appalachian Trail is a Park**

One of the purposes of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail is to preserve the lands through which it passes.

One of our goals is to preserve trees and all of the natural features along the way. Our goal is to preserve trees, not eliminate them.

### **Cutting Blowdowns**

I think that most of us would agree that using a chainsaw to cut through blowdowns is a win-win situation. The chainsaw makes fast work of the task, and enables maintainers to cover greater distances in a day. Good Job!

### **Making Bog Bridges**

This is an activity that should be carefully considered. Usually the best trees are consumed when sawyers select them for bog bridges. This results in what we call the "slow motion clear cut." Bog bridges made from spruce trees can only be expected to last about 10 years with cedar slightly better.

With a 10 year replacement cycle, all of the best trees will be used in 2 or 3 decades. What then? While bog bridging is a relatively fast way to cross a swamp, and is a fun project, it has an impact over time.

In recent years the MATC trail crew has been spending more time building step stones in wet trail areas; this is probably a better long term solution.

I hope these thoughts and observations will help sawyer maintainers make good decisions with their chainsaws.

# Lester reports trail crew records a most successful summer

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club had another good season rebuilding sections of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. MATC continued its partnership with the Student Conservation Association for the 2012 season. MATC's Maine Trail Crew supported two teams, each with one leader, three SCA interns and from two to five ATC-MATC recruited volunteers.

Enrollment was better than ever; we exceeded our goal of 50 one-week slots by filling 62 slots. Eight person crews were the norm this year. After some heavy rain in June, the weather was mostly good this season. The teams accomplished a good amount of trail improvements. They worked on six projects from Bigelow Mt. to Katahdin. Twenty one weeks were dedicated to the trail.

The Maine Conservation Corps also worked on West Baldpate Mt. and North Crocker Mt.

## TRAIL PROJECTS:

### The Hunt Trail – May 26 to June 13

The three week assignment was very productive and served to build Griphoist and rock work skills among the crew. The work focused on rebuilding a deeply eroded section of the trail about ½ mile below Katahdin Falls. Large boulders were dragged into position to be back filled with gravel to make a nice path.

#### Work Accomplished:

- Built 104 feet of ditch and drain
- Built 2 stone waterbars
- Built 100 square feet of stone retaining wall
- Installed 1 check step
- 34 yards of gravel were spread on the trail
- Built two sediment basins

### Horns Pond Trail – June 16 to July 25

Most of the crew's effort was spent replacing log waterbars that had been installed in the 1980's. In some cases, the wood was completely rotted away. Stone steps were built to control erosion in several places.



Trail crew places stepstones on a Rainbow Lake boggy area. Trail crew photo.

#### Work Accomplished:

- 57 stone steps were built
- 40 stone waterbars were built

### Chairback Mountain – June 16 to July 3

The MTC spent two weeks working on the lower slopes of the mountain adding stone waterbars and steps to the trail. An additional week was spent working near Chairback Gap Lean-to. This work was directed to relocating the AT a short distance downhill from the spring to eliminate the mud wallow just above the water source. The crew worked on waterbars between showers during a very rainy week.

#### Work Accomplished:

- Installed 24 stone steps
- Built 17 waterbars

### Gulf Hagas Rim Trail – July 7- July 25

Work was directed at building stone steps to secure steep soils on the Rim trail a short distance west of Hammond Street Pitch. Work was slowed somewhat by a supply of large rock found near the site. This required a high-line system to position the stone, but also reduced the number of steps that were placed.

#### Work Accomplished:

- Installed a total of 36 stone steps
- Built 1 stone waterbar

### Rainbow Lake – July 28 to August 15

MTC returned for three weeks to work on the AT along the western shore of Rainbow Lake. Previous crews had dug drainage ditches and put in step stones. Mud wallows are common on this section of trail, and work continued installing stepping stones in the wet and muddy portions of the trail. The crew enjoyed a beautiful campsite at Rainbow Dam.

A group from Unity College helped for a day.

#### Work Accomplished:

- Installed 179 step stones

### Nahmakanta Stream – July 28 to August 15

This project continued work done by the crew in 2011. Deep holes and cold water typify the cedar swamp that is crossed by the AT north of the Nahmakanta Stream campsite.

Step stones were installed in several areas. Geotextile "burritos" filled with rocks and gravel were placed in two locations.

#### Work Accomplished:

- 47 step stones
- 1 Geotextile "burrito" 12 feet long
- 1 Geotextile "burrito" 15 feet long
- Stone Steps (each): 94
- Waterbars (each): 43
- Retaining wall (square foot): 100
- Step Stones (each): 226
- Ditch and drain (linear foot): 144
- Sediment basins (each): 2



Burrito with rock filling ready for placement on the trail. Trail crew photo

### West Baldpate Mt. – May 21 to June 26

This crew worked both above and below the Baldpate Lean-to. They added stone steps at several places on the steep trail up the mountain. The crew also put in step stones in some long muddy sections down hill from the lean-to. This concludes this project started 9 years ago.

#### Work Accomplished:

- 38 stone steps
- 4 waterbars
- 111 step stones

### East Baldpate – July 3 to August 9

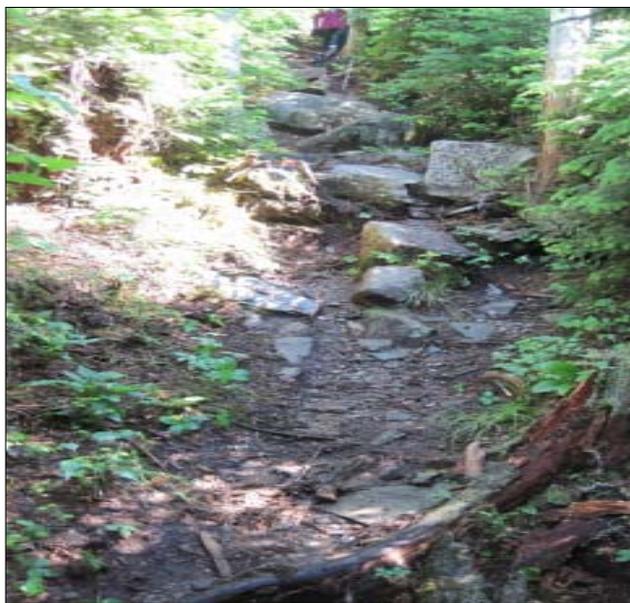
This project marks the first time that erosion control work has been done in the area that is a mile uphill from the Frye Notch Lean-to. Access was from the abandoned AT from the Cataracts on the B-Hill Road, and was not a fun hike. Stone steps and waterbars were installed at various locations to improve the trail.

#### Work Accomplished

- 11 step stones
- 39 stone steps
- 10 stone waterbars
- 5 drains
- 1 ditch and drain

### Poplar Ridge – July 3 to August 9

This MCC crew made numerous improvements to the AT where it climbs south from Orbeton Stream. They got a boost from a team from Casey Family Services.



*The Hunt Trail, before (above) and after (bottom right) trail crew improvements. Trail crew photo.*

### **Work Accomplished:**

- 81 stone steps
- 16 stepping stones
- 6 stone waterbars
- 2 ditches

### **North Crocker – July 3 to August 9**

This project installed stone steps and waterbars along the middle section of the North Ridge of Crocker Mt. Access was via the Plum Creek Road; the crew camped north of the trail.

### **Work Accomplished:**

- 51 stone steps
- 3 stone waterbars
- 32 step stones
- 30 ft side hill
- 35 ft rip rap

## **STAFFING**

### **Recruiting**

Holly Sheehan handled the winter applications, interviews and sign-ups.

Lester initiated advertising to supplement the recruiting done by ATC.

Holly processed the applications from the ATC volunteer database and processed applications that were submitted via the ATC website. Tim Naylor took over when he started at Garland in May.

Although we experienced several drop-outs and no-shows during the season which left us with vacancies, we filled 62 slots (our goal was 48) after several people backed out of 20 slots. This is the first time ever that we exceeded our enrollment goals. We have learned that supplemental advertising via the Cool Works, EcoEmploy and other web sites can make a positive difference in our enrollment. We did not see a large increase in crew members but we had many of our volunteers stay for multiple weeks. We need to analyze how we are signing up people to see if we can reduce the number of drop outs.

### **Summary:**

- 62/48 slots filled = 129% = Highest ever!
- 21 volunteers

- 16 cancellations
- Average Crew Size = 7

### **Coordinator:**

**Tim Naylor** of Warrenton, Virginia worked as our Coordinator. Tim had some getting used to the job, but overall met our needs. We learned that he makes a very good chicken dinner.

### **Team Leaders:**

**Ama Koenigshof** of Niles, Michigan came to us after serving in several conservation corps in the western states. She had very strong trail skills, and made good contributions to our program.

**Mike Coughlin** of New Orleans, Louisiana had experience with the Canyon Country Conservation Corps in Southern Utah. He adapted well to trail work in Maine.

### **SCA Interns:**

Margaret Snell and Ron Dobra worked on selecting the interns with good results. All six interns stayed the entire summer. They all completed trail skills training and provided valuable assistance to the crews. The Crew Leaders made a point to give the interns opportunities to build their trail skills and their leadership experience. Exit interviews indicated that several of these people may be interested in working with us in a leadership role again.

## **NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS**

### **MATC Participation**

Ten MATC members joined the crew for a day or so during the season. Three helped pack the crew up to the campsite on the Horns Pond Trail. Holly Sheehan, club coordinator, joined the crew with her husband for a weekend at Rainbow Lake. Fourteen others helped set up and take down the Basecamp. All Maintainers who had projects on their sections were contacted and invited to join the crew, but few chose to do so. This turnout was the best since 2004.

### **Vehicles**

Two 5 x 8 cargo trailers continued to provide good service. We can keep up with the repairs and keep them working well for us.

We relied on two rental vans for this season. One was a 15-passenger van from Rent-a-Wreck, and the other was a 12-passenger van from Darling Ford. We suffered the inconvenience of a flat tire with no spare with the Rent-a-Wreck van. Fortunately, the crew was near Katahdin Iron Works, and Ron Dobra helped them out. The Ford Van was new, and we had no problems with it.

### **Base Camp**

MTC continued to lease space at Jim Bunn's sheep farm in Garland. We have asked the owner to make some repairs:

- Rear porch and steps are rotten and dangerous
- The roof leaks in many places
- The kitchen faucet is broken and loose
- Window glass is missing in the south side of the house with wasp nests growing inside the house

### **Food and Provisions**

This part of the program was adequate, with occasional minor omissions. I participated in the Rainbow Lake trip, where we relied on Katahdin Air Service to fly in over 800 lbs of food, gear and tools.

Meals were supplemented with canned food, which made for a nice change for the crew. MTC lived up to its goal of feeding people well.

### **Communications**

Fair Point DSL continues to help because it allows telephone and internet access simultaneously. More and more staff, interns, and volunteers bring laptop computers, and this can slow down the system when many people are online. Cell phone service has improved, and people can now make calls throughout the facility. We invested in a new printer/copier/scanner which has given us good service. By providing each crew leader a cell phone allowance, we make sure we have communications with each crew.

### **Conclusions**

With two crews, and the enrollment of six SCA interns, we exceeded our goal by 29%. We averaged seven people per crew per week, which improved on a goal set many years ago.

Having many volunteers stay for more than one week certainly helped us keep the crews full.

The MCC – Public Lands Corps crew gave us a good boost. They operated very independently in remote areas with good results. We were able to improve upon the poor communications with MCC crews that we had experienced in 2011. One goal of having MATC partner with MCC is to introduce local young people to the trail. MCC had 33% Maine residents join their crews in 2012, so that goal is still being met.

Thanks are due to the Trail Crew Committee, The Maine Conservation Corps, The Student Conservation Association, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, Maine Department of Conservation – Recreational Trails, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Quimby Family Foundation, and all of the people who worked on the crews for making this a successful year.

Thank you to Mike Coughlin, Ama Koenigshof, and others for sharing their photos for this report.

Sincerely,

Lester C. Kenway, President  
Maine Appalachian Trail Club



# Latest study suggests access laws to complicate new campsite construction

By Laura Flight, campsite chair

At the September 7 Executive Committee meeting, the Campsite Committee was tasked with researching the topic of accessibility as it relates to campsite structures and future design consideration of these facilities for people with disabilities. The Executive Committee has had preliminary discussions on this topic, and some initial research has been done by individuals which includes reading lengthy documents, guidelines, and laws as well as discussions and e-mail exchanges with staff at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the National Park Service (NPS).

To start with, the term “disability” is very broad in nature. The 2000 Census recorded 20% of the U.S. population had a disability that “significantly limited one or more major life functions such as walking, seeing, hearing, or breathing.” Of that population, 4% used wheelchairs and 7.4% used crutches, canes, walkers or other mobility aids (*Increasing Opportunities for Access on the Appalachian Trail: A Design Guide*, Carl C. Demrow, 2007). Disabilities affect many people in many different ways.

Although the acronym ADA (for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) is commonly used in discussions of accessibility, this law technically does not apply to federal lands, and therefore the Appalachian Trail (AT). The law that actually applies to federal lands is the Architectural Barriers Act from 1968. Despite its forty-four year existence, it was not until the 1990s that active accommodations were made to start managing for the requirements it outlines.

As a result of this act, there are several government agency documents and guidelines in addition to the actual laws and acts from entities such as the Department of the Interior, U.S. Access Board, and Forest Service. There is an extensive history on how all of these came to be, of which I will spare you the details. The guiding document for the NPS on how to apply accessibility to NPS lands is entitled *Increasing Opportunities for Access on the Appalachian Trail: A Design Guide* completed in 2007 by Carl C. Demrow. This 75-page document describes the applicable laws, defines the common nomenclature, showcases several case studies, and in essence adopts the Forest Service accessibility guidelines as best management practices for the AT related to accessibility. The full document can be found here: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/docs/trail-maintainers-corner/increasing-opportunities-for-access-on-the-appalachian-trail-a-design-guide.pdf>

The document acknowledges that making the AT accessible is not possible everywhere and if providing accessibility would fundamentally alter the “original purpose, intent, or function for which the trail was designed,” trail and structure accommodations are not required with the proper documentation stating this to be the case. “Conditions for departure” apply if accessible design would: cause harm to significant natural features or characteristics; substantially change the physical or recreational setting for the managed use of the trail; require construction materials or methods prohibited by law; or not be feasible due to terrain or prevailing construction practices.

The document clearly outlines that only **new** or

reconstructed campsites and structures trigger the assessibility requirements, and trail maintenance or a trail relocation do not fall under the accessibility requirements. The document also notes that even though a trail leading to a campsite may not be accessible, the facilities at the campsite are not exempt from accessibility requirements (see more below).

There were also scenarios with question & answer sections in the document for typical situations a club may face in applying these guidelines. Some include:

*“We’re going to build a new shelter. Do we have to make it accessible?”*

- Yes. All new construction on any public land must be made accessible. That has been the law on federal lands since 1968 (Architectural Barriers Act), and on other public lands since 1990 (Americans with Disabilities Act).”

*“We are replacing the roof on our shelter. Do we have to retrofit the shelter to make it accessible?”*

- No, because roofs are not required to be accessible in the guidelines. If there is an opportunity to change the roof to increase accessibility, perhaps by removing a protruding overhang that is less than 80" above the ground and is therefore a potential hazard to a person with limited vision, that would be a good improvement. However, you would not be required to change any other portion of the structure to make it accessible just because you are replacing the roof.”

*“We need to put in a new privy to replace the one that is there. Do we need to make it accessible?”*

- Yes. All new construction on any public land must be made accessible. That has been the law on federal lands since 1968 (Architectural Barriers Act), and on other public lands since 1990 (Americans with Disabilities Act).”

*“If someone can accept the challenge of the Trail why can’t they accept the challenge of a shelter or privy that isn’t accessible?”*

- It is not a matter of accepting, it a matter of civil rights and the law. There is a fundamental difference between a trail and a shelter, privy, or post office for that matter, and it has to do with a built environment versus a natural environment. Under existing federal legislation, all facilities on public lands are to be accessible – it is a right for any person to expect a post office, shelter, or privy will be built in a manner that does not prevent them from using it. But a trail is a different matter: In a natural environment, all users, those with and without disabilities, choose the trails they are going to use based on the skill level required and natural setting. Facilities built on public land should not, by law, have a skill level – they should be accessible and useable by all. As explained once by a hiker who uses a wheelchair, ‘Hiking is challenge by choice, using a privy is not a choice, so it shouldn’t be a challenge.’”

There is also a NPS document appendix entitled *How to Build Shelters Along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail to Meet Accessibility Guidelines* which contains the same guidance for privies. Included in the document are plan sketches with dimensions for accessible structures that work within the typical shelter and privy plans used by clubs

keeping primitive design in mind. An important note from this document is that stairs are not prohibited from use if a ramp is not feasible, as long as proper documentation to this effect is included. The Campsite Committee and a few others have had some initial discussions on privy designs for accessibility and the implementation of moldering privies where conditions suit may be a win-win for the Club in terms of accessibility compliance and the life-span of the structure related to biological waste capacity. The full document with plans can be found here: [http://www.appalachiantrail.org/what-we-do/trail-management-support/volunteer\\_toolkit/local-management-planning](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/what-we-do/trail-management-support/volunteer_toolkit/local-management-planning).

Based on the initial information, Club practices related to campsite structures will certainly change to accommodate accessibility guidelines. In the short term, this will require an investment of the club’s time to apply these guidelines to our activities as new structures are built or renovated. Materials for such projects may also be more extensive and therefore require more financial resources of the Club. But some of these costs are an investment in time related to the life-span of the structure, such as in the case of privies. The above is an initial summarization of information learned to date, and is certainly not comprehensive nor has all of the research been exhausted. The Campsite Committee will continue to research this topic and consult with ATC staff to ensure our approach is suitable for compliance with their guidelines.

## Whitecap District has two new maintainers

The Whitecap district has seen the appointment of two new section maintainers since the last newsletter. Scott and Brenda Martel, who live in Lily Bay on Moosehead Lake, have taken on the section between Gulf Hags Mtn. and West Peak, and already have logged an amazing 18 work trips up there. Filling the vacancy left by very veteran maintainer Eric Anderson, who retired last spring, are Martin Wallace and spouse May Ellen McAllister Wallace, handling the section from Little Wilson Falls to Big Wilson Stream. Currently, there exists two shelter maintainer vacancies — one at Leeman Brook shelter and the other at Carl Newhall shelter. Contact me if interested.

Special projects this year have included two club work trips to finish up the bridging over Fourth Mtn. bog, with Ed and Sherri Langlais, Bruce Grant, Stan and Michelle Moody, Will Hunter, Jenn Maillit, Andy Grant, Ryan Hayes, Patty Harding, Mike Yao-Zheng, and Ron Dobra participating in one or both trips. The Maine Trail Crew also spent six weeks in the district working on Chairback Mtn. and the Gulf Hags Rim Trail, assisted by club members Ed and Sherri Langlais, Ben Deering, Margaret Snell and Ron Dobra. Future pending club projects for next year include a new privy at the Carl Newhall shelter and privy moving in a few choice locations. As always, help will be greatly appreciated.

— Ron Dobra, District overseer

A fun time was had by all as the ATC and MATC joined with the Town of Carrabassett and other groups in August to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the original completion of the Appalachian Trail.

Dave Coda, Carrabassett town manager, presented an anniversary plaque to Mark Wenger, ATC executive director.

Fifteen 'long distance' hikers dropped off the trail, helping to consume donated beer and to enjoy a barbeque. They were joined by 12 hikers who had done the complete trail in 1987 and had attended the fiftieth anniversary ceremony.

MATC appropriated \$500 towards the cost of the event. The objectives were to:

- Raise general awareness of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) in the Carrabassett Valley area.
- Use the event for advocacy & press media to raise the remaining 15% to purchase Crocker Mtn. (a kick-off for the 'public' fundraising campaign).
- Provide self-guided walks on the AT of various levels of difficulty and to provide people views of Crocker Mtn.
- Hold a casual evening BBQ for the 75th Anniversary celebration.
- Don't lose money
- Have fun

The town joined enthusiastically with the activities, serving as an organizer, along with the CV Outdoor Association, Maine Huts and Trails, the High Peaks Alliance, Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, and the University of Maine at Farmington.

Townpeople offered hikers rides, housing stays and tenting in the town park.

The *Irregular*, WSKI TV and the University of Maine-Farmington were "Supporting Organizations" along with six local sponsors.

The local paper (the *Irregular*) ran four weeks of articles/letters about the AT and MATC in conjunction with the event. There was also good statewide and even national media reports about the event. A number of local residents participated in the event and lingered past the end of the evening social and ceremony (perhaps to help consume the donated beer).

The meal turned into an all-you-could-eat and drink buffet for the 'thru-hikers.' Dave Field emceed the ceremony which featured remarks from Mark Wenger, ATC's new executive director, Senator Tom Savello, MATLT Bill Plouffe and others.



*Above: A view of Crocker Mtn., which trail groups hope to buy soon.*

*Right: Carrabassett town manager Dave Coda presents an anniversary plaque to ATC director Mark Wenger.*

*Below: Displays promoting the planned purchase of Crocker Mountain. Tony Barrett photos.*





Little Bigelow lean-to received a new roof this year. Tony Barrett photo.

## Campsite Committee replaces several leaky roofs this year

By Laura Flight, campsite chair

The campsite committee had a busy year, primarily focused on replacing the leaky plastic roofing panels on some lean-tos. In addition, we replaced the entire roof at the Little Bigelow lean-to (above). Many volunteers helped with these projects, and we thank them all immensely. It is enjoyable to work with others as well as satisfying to accomplish needed improvements.

On May 26, Craig and Donna Dickstein braved the bugs with Shawn Small to replace the leaky plastic panels at the Bald Mountain Brook lean-to. This roof also had some damage on the front overhang, so other needs were addressed as well. It's nice to see the lean-to is no longer living up to its name.

On July 4, Laura Flight led a group to replace the damaged roofing panels on the Logan Brook lean-to. The three maintainers for this trail section and campsite ably assisted with the work. These maintainers come all the way from Nova Scotia to work on the AT, and they truly love every minute of it! I now have some new Canadian friends, eh? Thanks to Gordan Warnica, Ross Mitchell, and James Balcom!

Ten days later, Laura Flight led a group of seven folks to replace the three leaky roofing panels on the Spaulding Mountain lean-to. The group braved the sweltering heat and humidity as they toted the 14-foot panels through a clearcut undergoing rapid regrowth. Ice cream at Gifford's in Farmington and being back in the cars

prior to the thunderstorm deluge were some of the highlights of this trip. Many thanks to Dick Boisvert, Kenlyn Clark, Ben Deering (and your jeep!), Margaret Snell, Julian Wiggins, and Kate Locke!

On August 4, the entire roof of the Little Bigelow lean-to was replaced by a group of 15 volunteers, including, but not limited to: Doug Dolan (trip organizer), Lisa Sylvester, Scott Dolan, Ed and Rebecca Gervais, Neil Boater, Laura Flight, George Brown, Dana Humphrey, John Hodges, Tony Barrett, Gary Athenian, Steve Ellis, Johnathan Ellis, and Richard Gower. Believe it or not, it took this many folks to carry up all of the materials and tools!

On September 8, Laura Flight, Tom Gorrill, Mike Ewing, and Richard Gower replaced the two plastic roofing panels on the Sabbath Day Pond lean-to. Despite the extreme slickness of the roof due to the foggy weather, the group completed the work before noon. This allowed for a stop to visit Bill and Jan Eddy in Rangeley, and we were treated to lunch and cookies as well as an enjoyable visit—Trail Magic!

On the horizon, the campsite committee will continue to replace the leaky plastic roofing panels. We are also working on a design for mouldering privies to accommodate accessibility guidelines for structures on the trail. The addition of a campsite or two is also being discussed. FMI: [campsite@matc.org](mailto:campsite@matc.org) or <http://matc.org/campsite-information.php>.

## Maine Conservation Corps

Three MCC teams were based in Hallowell, and worked on four projects at West Baldpate Mt., East Baldpate Mt., Poplar Ridge, and North Crocker Mt. A total of 24 weeks of crew time was committed to the projects, funded through the National Park Service – Public Lands Corps program.

### MTC Staff

Michael Coughlin, New Orleans LA  
Amanda Koenigshof, Niles MI  
Timothy Naylor, Warrentown VA

### SCA Interns

Alexa Dostart, Ames IA  
James Harrison, Orange CT  
Jevin Hoeper, Cincinnati OH  
Courtney Jones, Lubbock TX  
Alan Keating, Jeffersonville IN  
Kenna Rewcastle, Apison TN

### Crew Volunteers

Percy Barrier, Hallsville MO  
Bethany Becker, Libertyville IL  
Scott Bell, Columbia MO  
Kathy Corradi, Brooklyn NY  
Ron Dobra, Greenville ME  
Troy Duvall  
Brian Forman, Dublin OH  
Liam Fristos, New York NY  
Emily Goddard, Allendale NJ  
Joanna Greulich, Staufen Germany  
Paul Hadala, Gatlinburg TN

Joe Hall, Coventry CT  
Jim Holt, Cranston RI  
Levin Mattson, Portland OR  
Jillian Mayhew, Dallas TX  
Madz Negro, Berlin IL  
Andy Peake, Penobscot ME

Matt Pelc, Philadelphia PA  
Chris Richards, New York NY  
Amanda Witt, Tyngsboro MA  
Andreas Wolfe, Cambridge MA  
UnityCollege–NOVA–10people

### MATC Volunteers

Kenlyn Clark, Dryden ME  
Ben Deering, Bangor ME  
Ron Dobra, Greenville ME  
Dick Fecteau, Farmington ME  
Lester Kenway, Bangor ME  
Ed Langlais, Dexter ME  
Sherri Langlais, Dexter ME  
Steve Niles, Portland ME  
Margaret Snell, Bangor ME  
Bob Weingarten, Vienna ME  
**MCC –West Baldpate & North Crocker Mts.**  
Tyler Fogg, TL, Wellesley,

MA  
Kevin Kirby, ATL, Portland, ME  
Stuart Blanchard, Winthrop, ME  
Jacob Hughes, St Charles, MO  
Zachary Kremer, E. Sandwich, MA  
Alexander Miller, Toms River, NJ  
**MCC – East Baldpate Mt.**  
Tyler Keniston, TL, Readfield, ME  
Carl Keicher, ATL, Sandy Point, ME  
Calder Brown, Providence, RI  
Maria Mercurio, Burlington, VT  
Erin Simoneau, Brooks, ME  
**MCC – Poplar Ridge**  
Johanna Stacy, TL, Turners Falls, MA  
Sibyl Weise, ATL, New York, NY  
Erin Carr, Hampton, NJ  
Alex Crocker, Bowling Green, KY  
Scott Gailus, Alsip, IL  
Gary MacAllister, Mahopec, NY  
Shawn McMahan, Cushing, ME



Monson became Maine's first "Appalachian Trail Community on July 21. Monson residents gather for a group photo on Pleasant St. In over twenty such ceremonies to date, this was the first town where the fire engines were used to block off the street for a community celebration. On September 15, Rangeley, Maine was fêted when it became the 2nd Maine Appalachian Trail Community. Tony Barrett photo.

# Americorps volunteers maintain trail in Bigelow Preserve

By Marcie Powers, Great Strides Americorps member

On Thursday, May 24, after loading up on coffee and bagels, 22 AmeriCorps members departed Bigelow Lodge and piled into the back of a pickup truck and into a few cars for the 5 mile ride down the dirt road to the trailhead. It was a beautiful morning for trail work for the Great Stride's Rural Education Corps' final gathering, celebrating nine months of AmeriCorps service work in rural schools across Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Great Strides Rural Education Corps is one of the three AmeriCorps programs of Goodwill Industries of Northern New England. The AmeriCorps members come from all over the United States to help at-risk students in rural areas in academic, attainment and service learning opportunities. The "Spring Service Event" is a time of celebration and networking among the members who serve, creating opportunities for learning, team-building, success stories, and of course, a final AmeriCorps service project. For the last three years near the end of their service obligation, Goodwill AmeriCorps members have maintained a three-mile section of the Appalachian Trail in Maine's Bigelow Preserve, near Sugarloaf Mountain in the Carrabasset Valley. The section they maintain is from the peak of Little Bigelow to Safford Notch.

Program manager Steve Niles and coordinator June Carlson, both former AmeriCorps members (Steve with the Maine Conservation Corps and June with the National Civilian Community Corps), led this year's members in clearing brush, undergrowth and fallen trees across the trail. With loppers and saws, the team stretched out across the trail and

trimmed, pulled and sawed through the overgrowth across the trail and cleared a winter's worth of trees which fell across the path, opening up the trail and making it safer for hundreds of future hikers this summer and fall season.

In addition to the trail maintenance, the Great Strides team carried logs to replace the rotting foundation of the privy at the Little Bigelow Lean-To. The logs were provided by a recent timber harvest in an adjacent section of the Bigelow Preserve. The preserve manager, Steve Swatling, requested the harvesters leave a load of cedar logs as close to the lean-to as possible to make it easier for

volunteers to get the logs to the Lean-To area.

After hiking nine miles, clearing three miles of trail, sliding down slippery rocks and dealing with an army of black flies, the AmeriCorps members returned to the Bigelow Lodge to a delicious stir-fry feast and a final evening of fun and laughter. Perhaps the only piece of disappointment for this year's conference was the lack of view at the top of Bigelow Range; it was foggy the entire day!

Great Strides AmeriCorps member Marcie Powers served at Sumner High School in Sullivan, Maine.

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<b>Maps may be ordered separately:</b> 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.	
	<b>Unfolded Maine AT Maps</b> - ..... 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"	
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## Bruce S. Moulton, AT Corridor monitor and maintainer

Bruce S. Moulton, 70, of Scarborough and Industry, Maine, passed away unexpectedly on Aug. 5, 2012, in Stow.

Bruce was an outdoorsman who loved to hike, snowshoe and kayak. He hiked many mountains of Maine and New Hampshire with his beloved dogs and with friends from the Appalachian Mountain Club. Bruce volunteered countless hours to the Maine Appalachian Trail Conservancy maintaining trails and assisting hikers. For 10 years he oversaw two sections of Appalachian Trail boundary corridors for the conservancy.

Bruce was an Army veteran who served from 1961 to 1965. He served in many positions in Scarborough town government as well, including police officer and Town Councilman. He was a brick and stone mason master craftsman.

# 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 Maintainer* 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 Maintainer* welcomes letters, feedback, and information from members and friends of the trail. Send your comments, photos, and information to:

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Visit us at [www.matc.org](http://www.matc.org)



Six Great Strides AmeriCorps members, directed by Steve Niles, worked together to move this log, destined to serve as the new 'Deacon's Bench,' to the Little Bigelow Lean-to in June, 2012. AmeriCorps photo.

## 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

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