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Maine Appalachian Trail Club



The MAINEtainer

Volume XXXIV Number 5 Autumn 2011

Trail crew has another great season

By Lester C. Kenway, President

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club had another successful season rebuilding problem sections of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. MATC continued its partnership with Student Conservation Association for the 2011 season.

MTC supported two teams, each with one leader, one SCA assistant leader, two SCA interns and from two to five (average of 3) ATC-MATC recruited volunteers.

Enrollment was similar to last year; we filled 47 out of 49 slots. The weather was mostly good this season, with some heavy black flies in June.

The teams worked on seven projects from Moody Mt. to Katahdin. Eighteen weeks were dedicated to the trail.

Maine Conservation Corps

Three MCC teams were based in Hallowell, and worked on four projects from Baldpate Mt. to Pleasant Pond Mt. A total of 24 weeks of crew time was committed to the projects, funded through the National Park Service – Public Lands Corps program.

The Student Conservation Association

SCA was awarded a Public Lands Corps Grant as well this summer, and they fielded a team to Bemis Mt. to do erosion control work.

MTC Staff

Christopher Binder, 42 Standish Drive, Ridgefield CT
06877 – Crew Leader
Matthew R. Coughlan, 52 Kinderhook Road, Randolph
ME 04346 – Crew Leader
Amanda Royce, 52 Kinderhook Street Apt #2, Randolph
ME 04346 – Camp Coordinator

SCA Interns

Abby Seymour, 42 Westwood Road, West Hartford CT
06117 – Asst. Crew Leader
Matthew Baker-White, 70 Ballou Lane, Williamstown MA
01267
Leslie Bean, 1115 8th Ave #3128, Ginnell, IA 50112
Jaclyn Doering, 800 North LBJ Drive, San Marcos, TX
78666
Patrick Rose, 17 Karen Way, South Windsor, CT 06074
(left early)

Crew Volunteers – 30

John Agazzi, 6374 Hard Bargain Circle, Indian Head MD
20640
James Calleo, 114 West 78th Street, New York NY 10024
Janice Clain, PO Box 89, Levant, ME 04456
Tom Clark, 7411 Gauss Road, Bloomfield NY 14469
Tracey Cohen, 28830 East Kind William Drive,
Farmington Hills MI 48331
Ron Dobra, PO Box 1771, Greenville ME 04441
Ben Goff, 275 Beech Plain Road, Buxton ME 04093
Joseph Hall, 22 Highland Ave, Lewiston ME 04240
Bennett Harbaugh, 10400 32nd Ave NE, Seattle WA
98125
Phil Haynes, 234 Bell Street, Manchester NH 03103
Daniel Hill, 8807 Dianne PL, Springfield VA 22152
Christine Hsieh, 51 Centre Street, Brookline MA 02446
Leon Marincowitz, 88A Phyllite Ave., Zwartkops X5,
Pretoria South Africa
Brett Mayhew, 26 Holyoke Street Apt C. Brewer ME
04412
Scott McDowell, 51 Bliss Road, Standish ME 04084
Kelsea McGrath, 243 NW 11th Street, Boca Raton FL
33432
Jon Mills, 27893 Wild Sage Ct., Menifee CA 92585
Jennifer Muszynski, 2325 West, Jefferson MI 48183
David Nightingale, 7716 John Autry Road, North
Richland Hills TX 76182
Tom Pecsok, 528 Watershed Road, Chesapeake VA 23322



In an attempt to revive the traditional MATC August Work Trip, Dave Field organized a weekend-long clean up and Corridor Boundary Maintenance list of tasks.

The trip attracted only 7 club members (compared to past August work trips which attracted 25 to 60 members). Nonetheless, Dave was pleased that all the planned work was accomplished, even with heavy rain showers that interfered with the work. Stay tuned for next year's Work Trip, when we hope to attract more participants. Above, Jonathan Ellis installing corridor markers. Tony Barrett photo. More photos and story on Page 6.

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SOLO Wilderness First Aid Course is available to MATC members on October 15-16 at no cost

A Wilderness First Aid training and certification course will be held October 15 and 16 at Camp Mechuwan, 91 Holmes Road in Winthrop.

Sponsored by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, the 16 hours of training will be provided by the Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO)

Basic rooms at the camp are available for \$30/per night, food is on your own, a small kitchen is available. Please bring a bag lunch. The cost of \$150 to MATC **members** who are active in the club will be reimbursed in **full** upon attendance of the course.

To register: send contact information (name, address, email and phone number) and a check (\$150) to Elsa Sanborn, MATC Treasurer, PO Box 8087, Bangor, ME 04402-8087. Please include a note indicating you are registering for the WFA course.

If you are unable to attend this training MATC members may find an alternative pre-approved WFA or First-aid/CPR course and get reimbursed for the course fees.

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

Wilderness First Aid (WFA) is SOLO's most popular course and it creates a solid foundation in the basics of backcountry medical care. Started as the "Mountain/Woods First Aid" course in 1975, this was the first course of its kind in the United States, and it is the curriculum upon which all other backcountry medicine courses are based.

- Introduction
- Anatomy of a Wilderness Crisis
- Anatomy of the Musculoskeletal System
- Asthma
- Backcountry Essentials
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

- Cold-Related Injuries
- Environmental Emergencies & Survival Skills (including lightning)
- Heat-Related Injuries
- Medical Emergencies & Critical Care
- Orthopedics
- Patient Assessment System
- Patient Lifting & Moving
- Principles of Fracture Care
- Rescue Plan
- Response & Assessment
- Soft Tissue Injuries & Medical Emergencies
- Spinal Cord Injury Management
- Sprains & Strains
- Techniques
- The Human Animal
- Trauma-Musculoskeletal Injuries
- Trauma-Soft Tissue Injuries
- Universal Precautions
- Use of Epinephrine

Monson's on path to become Maine's second official 'trail town'

By Bruce Grant

It is no secret that trail maintaining clubs up and down the trail have expended a great deal of time, money and sweat over the years to build and protect the Appalachian Trail.

In recent years, a disproportionate amount of these limited resources have been expended in defending against inappropriate development that would potentially ruin the trail experience for generations to come. MATC alone has expended enough money to fund our traditional programs for multiple years.

As a result of this impact on the resources of the trail, its maintaining clubs, agency partners and ATC, the ATC board, stewardship council and staff have been seeking solutions that would deal with this problem. One solution has been to return to the original idea that Benton Mckaye had when he proposed the AT concept. He envisioned a trail that preserved adequate blocks of land that could support recreation, appropriate sustainable use of the land and communities that were an integral part of the whole project.

This "communities as an integral part" concept is what the ATC trail towns program is all about. The hope is that by doing things that encourage local grass roots support, we can build a large enough advocacy base for the AT that inappropriate development can be prevented.

We have several examples of this power here in Maine, Both the Reddington wind farm defeat and the recent conservation project on the Maine\ NH border protecting the trail were helped along by strong local support.

The AT Trail communities program is an effort to assist clubs in embracing local support for the trail and to assist these towns in developing local awareness of the value of the trail to a community and to assist them in developing appropriate infrastructure to do so.

Ultimately, this will result in increased visibility of the trail, more local support, additional club and ATC memberships, and increased political support for trail preservation.

In order for this program to be successful, it needs local club support, and it will be important to establish some sort of formal organizational structure to manage and support this program MATC has already endorsed 1 trail community (Rangeley), Monson is actively working on their application and is requesting a letter of support from MATC, and there are discussions in Millinocket about becoming a trail community. ATC can handle both Rangeley and Monson this year if MATC can support it as well.

(The MATC Board approved Bruce's request at its September meeting.)

Don needs a register box monitor for East Branch

Don Stack is still looking for one volunteer to monitor the register box located on the East Branch of the Piscataquis River.

This box is located just a short hike in (and across the river) from the Shirley Road in the Town of Blanchard.

The individual chosen will be expected to visit the register box occasionally to keep it stocked with blank cards and to retrieve the cards completed by the hikers.

The cards are then forwarded on to the data entry volunteer.

If you are interested in helping the club by volunteering to monitor this register please contact Don Stack at (207) 749-0370 or by email at donstack@sacoriver.net.

The spotlight's on Rebecca Clark

Our volunteer in the spotlight this month is Rebecca Clark, life-long trail maintainer and the newest member of the MATC's Board of Directors. On her first maintenance trip, Rebecca (age six months) learned to crawl at the now defunct Wadleigh Pond Shelter.

Her mother, Ann Clark, turned around and she was gone, apparently making her first break for Katahdin. That October work trip was immortalized when the Clarks met a writer and photographer from National Geographic.

The Clark family has a long history of service to the MATC, beginning with John Clark, Rebecca's grandfather. While the exact details of his introduction to the Appalachian Trail are lost to time, family legend has it that he became involved in the creation of the trail during his college years at Princeton in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

After his graduation, he accepted a job at the SD Warren paper mill in Westbrook, soon making contact with and joining the MATC. Besides being a maintainer, he was actively involved with the MATC for many years, including a short stint as Trail Overseer, (there was only one at that point) in the 1940s.

Like Rebecca, some of her father Larry Clark's earliest memories involve work trips to the Appalachian Trail. He remembers hiking in and being left with a baby sitter part of the time at sporting Camps at West Carry Pond while his father and mother, Peggy Clark, were out clearing the trail in that vicinity after WWII.

His father made the first iron ladder for the Baldpates, their maintenance section at the time, in their Westbrook kitchen.

When the AMC took over the Baldpates, the Clarks turned their eyes farther north, taking a section that started at the south end of Nahmakanta Lake, following near but not on the shore to Sand Beach Spring.

From there, it turned up Wadleigh Valley following it all the way through to Wadleigh Pond. Then it meandered near Pollywog Pond and crossed Pollywog Stream near the Nahmakanta Lake Camps, the end of their section.

In those days of river-driving, few roads crossed the 100-Mile Wilderness, so the Clarks drove to Millinocket, then crossed Pemadumcook Lake to Mahar Landing by boat. Then they hiked up Nahmakanta Stream to the start of their section of trail at the foot of Nahmakanta Lake.

The trail was not protected at that time. On their second work trip, the Clarks spent the

first couple of days locating and reestablishing the trail through a clear cut along Nahmakanta Stream in order to reach their section.

On a later trip, while Larry was in High School, he and his friend, Richard Porter, bushwhacked up Nesuntabunt, discovering the outlook there. The Clarks built a sidetrail up, a small portion of which is followed by the current AT.

In fact, like so much of the AT in Maine, most of the section was moved during the 1970s and '80s. Skirting closer to Nahmakanta Lake until Sand Beach Spring, it still follows its old path through lower Wadleigh Valley, but turns up Nesuntabunt Mtn after the shelter. From Nesuntabunt's Peak it descends to Crescent Pond and follows Pollywog Gorge down to the road bridge across the stream.

Rebecca has many fond memories of this process; helping peel trees for the new Wadleigh Valley Shelter, trying to locate the original flag line near Crescent Pond, running back and forth from tree to tree helping Carl Newhall choose exactly the right ones on which to paint the new blazes.

These and many other Trail people and experiences subsequently inspired her to spend a summer working for Lester Kenway on the Baxter Park Trail Crew, to through hike the Appalachian Trail and later the Pacific Crest Trail.

She and her father still maintain the section over Nesuntabunt.

Rebecca is delighted and honored to have been chosen as the newest member of the Board of Directors. Grateful for the opportunity, she hopes to carry on in her family's tradition as an asset to the club.



*Rebecca Clark, MATC volunteer and member,
Board of Directors.*

Bigelow District has two trail maintenance vacancies

The 2.4 mile section from the summit of South Horn to Bigelow Col is available. This section was maintained for the past 20 years by Chris Dorion who also manages the Maine Outdoor Club section on Moxie Bald Mt. This section features both the summit of S. Horn and the West Peak of Bigelow in addition to the 2.1 mile forested ridge walk between the peaks.

This section is accessed by either the Firewardens or Horns Pond trails and can be done in a 12 mile loop using both trails that includes a total of 3,200' of elevation gain. This section is in great shape but will need annual blowdown removal, brush cutting and waterbar cleaning in the Spring and Fall. I will coordinate volunteers to help with any other major projects.

Also still open is the two mile section of the upper Firewarden's Trail from the junction with the Horns Pond side trail to the junction with the AT at Bigelow Col.

This section was maintained for 17 years by Mark Sario who is now one of the Chimney Pond rangers at Baxter State Park. The start of this section is a 2.5 mile hike from the trailhead parking area and is generally in good shape.

It features 2400' of elevation gain, including one of "Maine's steepest miles" from the Moose Falls campsite to the junction with the AT. Additionally this assignment will include checking on the Moose Falls campsite. This section needs blowdown removal and cleaning of the many waterbars that were installed by trail crews during the past ten years. I will coordinate volunteers to help with any other major projects.

Applicants should be willing to commit to making at least 3 trips per season, Spring, Summer and Fall to clear waterbars and blowdowns, do annual brush clipping as needed and blazing every few years. Just three tools are needed on most maintenance trips, a small handsaw, hand clippers and a short hand hoe.

Anyone interested in this assignment may apply ASAP and I will contact all applicants later this fall.

Richard Fecteau
207-778-0870
rfecteau@midmaine.com

Trail Crew Report

Continued from page 1

Andrew Petras, 1404 Brierhill Estates Drive, Bel Air MD 21018

Vivian Phillips, 260 Harbor Drive, Bass Harbor ME 04653

Brendan Reilly, 302 Kensington Drive, Ridgewood NJ 07450

Lauren Rex, 858 Country Club Drive, Bowling Green State OH 43402

Craig Rightmire, 231 Channel Dr., Loudon, TN 37774

Nancy Sage, PO Box 676, Readfield ME 04355

Max Siegelbaum, 448 Riverside Drive APT 82, New York NY 10027

Brad Trudeau, 1842 Ackley, Westland MI 48186

Andrew Walsh, 654 Plimpton Street, Walpole, MA 02081

Zachary Williams, 4421 David Cox Road, Charlotte NC 28296

7 of 30 volunteers were from Maine = 23%

MCC – Old Blue Mt. and West Baldpate

Alex Bradley, 827 Middle Road, Dresden ME 04343 - Leader

Sonia Bergman, 10 Carriage Lane, Amherst MA 01002

Jake Hansen, 49 Oak Street, Springfield ME 04083

Kevin Kirby, 180 High Street, #66 Portland ME 04101

Katie Nemmer, 5265 Oak Ridge Drive, Hamburg NY 94675

Eliza Perry, PO Box 7402, Cape Porpoise, ME 04014

MCC – Pleasant Pond Mountain.

Joseph O'Brien, 7920 South 78th East Ave, Tulsa OK 74133 - Leader

Gary MacAllister, PO Box 673, Mahupuc NY 10541

Marisa Marquardt, 6 Carpenter Road, Lynnfield MA 01940

Zach Monroe, 205 Spruce Head Road, South Thomaston ME 04858

Vanessa Noricka, 115 Limerock Street APT 1, Rockland ME 04841

Emilie Rigby, 73 Elm Street, Cooperstown NY 13326

MCC – Saddleback Mountain – Ethel Pond

Tim St. Thomas, 17 Woodland Road, Montvale NJ 07645 - Leader

Ariel Lewis, 299 Lower Flying Point, Freeport ME 04032

Maxwell Martin, 11 Birchwood Road, Wilmington MA 01887

Christopher Howell, 3743 Bloomfield Drive, Macon GA 31206

7 of 14 MCC members were from Maine = 50%

SCA – Bemis Mountain

Micah Mutrux, 106 Rose Street Apt.1, Burlington VT 05401 - Leader

Kya Goldschlager, 230 Grove Street, Prescott AZ 86303 - Leader

Paul Thomas, 61 Dream Lake Drive, Madison CT 06443

Hannah Moser, 195 Edgewood Road, Asheville NC 28804

Adam Larson, 3701 Volkman Road, Erie PA 16506

Adam Koren-Roth, 24 Oak Road, Delmar NY 12054

Colton Francis, 8 Deer Street, Rutland VT 05701

0% were from Maine

TRAIL PROJECTS:

The Hunt Trail – May 28 to June 15, 2010

Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro requested that the Maine Trail Crew visit the Hunt Trail for its first project. The three week assignment was very productive. The crew installed many stone steps making use of rocks previously quarried by the Baxter Trail Crew. The crew finished step work in two weeks,

leaving extra time to improve erosion control structures lower on the trail closer to Katahdin Stream Campground. They also secured and rebuilt a flooded section of bog bridging across Katahdin Stream and rebuilt the approach steps on both ends of the steel bridge across Abol Stream.

Work Accomplished:

- Installed 61 rock steps
- Reconstructed 65' and secured 150' of bog bridging across Katahdin Stream near Grassy Pond.
- Constructed 2 sets of stairs for Abol Bridge: N 24"x6 6"x66" & S 32"x90"x66"

Nahmakanta Stream – June 18 -June 29, 2011

An aluminum staircase, unique on the trail in Maine and possibly beyond, provides a low impact solution to the erosion problem on the bank of Tumbledown Dick Stream.

Step stones were installed in numerous muddy areas found along Nahmakanta Stream. There are several hip-deep mud holes which require more drastic measures.

Work Accomplished:

- Installed aluminum staircase on steep bank of Tumbledown Dick Stream consisting of 6 threaded rod supports, 2 stringers, cedar log support, 13 steps and a handrail.
- Built 30 step stones
- Filled a 10 ft X 3.5 ft mud hole with stone

West Peak, White Cap – June 18-June 29, 2011

The MTC returned for two weeks to complete several years of erosion control work on the West Peak of White Cap. Stone steps were installed to within a quarter mile of the summit. The work completed this year finishes the hardening of the steeper, eroded grades on the south slope of West Peak started in 2004. Over 300 stone steps have been installed on this segment of trail. The crew cleared the trail and cleared all the water bars north of Sydney Tappan Campsite.

Work Accomplished:

- Installed 35 stone steps
- Cleaned 18 water bars
- Rebuilt ½ stone water bar
- Trail clearing - 1 mile

Saddleback – July 9- July 27, 2011

The crew addressed erosion issues at numerous points between tree line and Eddy Pond. This work was an extension of what was done by MCC in 2002. Rocks were plentiful at all the worksites although the rocks at the highest site were mostly too large to be of use. The crew recommended bringing a rock drill to cut rocks down to size on any future projects. The scarcity of trees large enough to support the highline left to creative slinging solutions involving up to four trees in place of a single spar. Significant work remains just below tree line where 60+ steps are needed to harden the tread.

Work Accomplished:

- Installed a total of 48 stone steps
- Armored 3 water bars.

- Replaced 2 rotting log water bars with fresh spruce
- Built 2 stone water bars
- Constructed 12 ft stone pavement
- Installed 80 square ft rip rap

Old Blue- July 9 to July 27, 2011

MTC returned to Old Blue for three weeks to work a quarter mile north of South Arm Road trail crossing. The crew started where the Maine Conservation Corps left off this spring. There are still 60+ more planned steps flagged north of where the crew finished off, which when complete, will finish hardening on the lower section of the mountain.

Work Accomplished:

- Installed 62 stone steps
- Cleared 300 ft of trail

Moody Mountain – July 30 to August 17, 2011

The project on Moody continued to improve the reroute that was cut in 2008. The worst erosion issue on the reroute was a steep section that rose diagonally across the mountain. The crew addressed the problem by building stone steps. A retaining wall was necessary to provide support for the steps as the grade was quite severe. Progress was slow. The only available stone on Moody is large blocks of stone that require substantial drilling and splitting to achieve useable sizes. A small amount of work remains to be done on the reroute including some short staircases, a few water bars and most importantly blazing the reroute and removing temporary flagging.

Work Accomplished:

- 24 stone steps
- 30 feet long by 2 ft high retaining wall.

Carrying Place Beaver Bog – July 30-Aug. 17

This project's goal was to provide a reliable and permanent crossing of a beaver flowage about ¼ miles north of the Carrying Place Road Crossing. Over the years, increasing water levels from a downstream Beaver Dam rendered traditional bog bridges useless at high water.

This new approach involved driving pairs of cedar pilings and attaching walking planks to cross pieces between the pilings. 4"x6" cedar posts were driven vertically into the ground in sets to support an elevated tread way 16"-24" above the existing tread. The new bridging curves around the existing environment in an inviting and curious manner.

In addition to the elevated tread way, a 14' bridge was installed just south on the trail to bridge a small stream, 102' of traditional bog bridging was added a half mile north on the trail in 4 different muddy sections and 110' of traditional bog bridging was added two miles south at the inlet of East Carry Pond. These smaller projects made use of the remaining lumber from the main project and replaced existing old, rotten, and slippery bridges.

Work Accomplished:

- Constructed 315' of elevated bog bridging
- Constructed 212' of traditional bog bridging
- Cleared 150' of trail
- Constructed 2 stone water bars

Total Trail Projects Work Accomplished

Structures:	Units:	Total:
Stone Steps	(each)	230
Water bars	(each)	3
Log waterbars	(each)	2
Clean water bars	(each)	5
Retaining wall	(linear foot)	30
Rip Rap	(square foot)	8
Step Stones	(each)	35
Clear trail	(miles)	1.1
Bridge/ramp	(linear foot)	13
Bog Bridge	(linear foot)	362
Elevated Bog Br.	(linear foot)	315
Aluminum Stairs	(linear foot)	14

MCC/PLC - Old Blue Mountain, May 23 to June 28

The MCC crew continued the work of previous seasons on the Appalachian Trail where the trail climbs steeply of the south side of Old Blue from the trail crossing on the South Arm Road. The crew was followed by the Maine Trail Crew in July who extended the work.

Work Accomplished:

- 47 Stone steps
- 30 ft Rip-Rap
- 12 ft of Trail surfaced with crushed stone

MCC/PLC - West Baldpate, July 5-August 11

The MCC crew was fortunate to be the ones who opened the West Baldpate Relocation, which was started by MTC in 2003. Originally estimated to be a 10 year project, the relocation was finished 2 years early due to double-teaming the project between MTC and MCC for several years.

The relocation meanders across the face of the mountain and is hardened with crushed stone and stone steps along its entire length and replaces a deeply eroded trench. The crew built steps at the top and bottom of the new trail, hauled brush into the old trail and put temporary waterbars in the old trail. They then put their efforts into stone steps and waterbars below the relocation area.

Work Accomplished

- 2 Step Stones
- 41 Stone Steps
- 1 Log Waterbar
- 3 Stone Waterbars
- 13 Temporary Waterbars in old trail
- 5 waterbars maintained
- 12 square feet of stone retainer

MCC/PLC - Pleasant Pond Mountain, July 5 to August 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 NPS NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) compliance team did not arrive early enough to make that possible.

Work Accomplished:

- 95 Stone steps

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

MCC/PLC - Saddleback Mountain – Ethyl Pond – July 5 to August 11

This project was directed at hardening wet sections of trail with step stones, providing drainage with waterbars and building stone steps on the steeper sections. A relocation near Ethel Pond to avoid extensive bog areas was scouted, but awaits NEPA review before we can build it. The crew stayed at Piazza Rock.

Work Accomplished:

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

Student Conservation Association – PLC - Bemis Mt. – July 7 to August 5

Trail improvements were made on the North Slope of the Main Peak of Bemis Mt. What had been a 20 minute drive on the “Bemis Road” was converted to a 2-1/2 mile hike over earthen waterbars. The crew packed all of their tools and gear to a point near the Bemis Mt. Lean-to where they made camp and hiked to their project site each day.

Work Accomplished:

- 33 stone steps
- 14 step stones
- 1 stone waterbar
- 1 log waterbar

STAFFING

Recruiting – Holly Sheehan again handled the winter applications, interviews and signups. Lester initiated advertising to supplement the recruiting done by ATC; Holly utilized the recruiting features of the ATC volunteer database and processed applications that were submitted via the ATC website. Amanda Royce took over when she started at Garland in May.

We experienced several drop-outs in the spring which left us with many vacancies in the roster. In order to recover, Lester posted ads on the EcoEmploy and Cool Works websites. We were pleasantly surprised to get a significant amount of inquires from these ads, and Amanda signed up many new people mid-season and replaced many of the drop-outs. The later part of the season saw additional volunteers on many crews. We had a slight increase in enrollment over last year.

Coordinator – **Amanda Royce** of Randolph, Maine returned as Coordinator. Amanda’s skills, organization and enthusiasm for the Maine Trail Crew helped continue the success of the previous year.

Team Leaders –

Chris Binder of Ridgefield, Ct, returned for his third season with the Maine Trail Crew.

Chris continued to complete his projects in good style. His special project was installing an aluminum

set of stairs on the steep bank of Tumbledown Dick Stream. He continued to accomplish good things for the Maine AT.

Matt Coughlan of Randolph, ME returned for his second season with the Maine Trail Crew. His special project was building an elevated walkway across a beaver flowage in Carrying Place TWP. The design was new to the Maine AT, and Matt did a good job with the project.

SCA Interns

Abby Seymour returned as an Assistant Crew Leader for the season. Her previous experience was quite valuable to our program. We could have made better use of her talents, and both Crew Leaders had a chance to work with her. Margaret Snell and Ron Dobra worked on selecting the Interns with good results. One person dropped out about a month before the crew started, so there was enough time to find a replacement.

3 interns stayed for most or all of the summer, with one person leaving 2 weeks early and 1 person leaving 1 week early as agreed at the time of enrollment. One intern was not happy with the program and left at the mid-point. They all completed trail skills training and chainsaw training and provided valuable assistance to the crews. The Crew Leaders made a point to give the interns extensive opportunities to build their trail skills and their leadership experience.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS:

Volunteer Enrollment

Recruiting volunteers for the 2011 season went very well. With a lack of volunteers at the start of the season, MATC began advertising full force which brought in a tremendous number of interested volunteers. We had several volunteers who stayed longer than a week and one volunteer who stayed for 7 weeks.

We had a total of 29 volunteers signed up and on the roster to volunteer for a minimum of one week. Of those 29, two volunteers were MATC members and 7 either didn’t show up or cancelled. With 7 volunteers canceling that left 22 active volunteers staying for multiple weeks allowing us to fill 46 of 48 slots.

Summary:

- 46/48 slots filled = 96% = Highest ever!
- 29 volunteers
- 7 cancellations
- Average Crew Size 6

MATC Participation

One MATC member, Janice Clain, joined the MTC for a week, Ron Dobra joined the crew for 2 partial weeks, and 8 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 no one chose to do so. We saw MATC participation decline compared to 2010.

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.

Continued on page 6

Work trips help improve multiple Maine trail facilities

Trail Crew Report

Continued from page 5

We used the Dodge Van for another season. We continued to have trouble with the fuel pump, having it changed twice in 2010 and once in 2011. The fuel pump failed in Newport when the crew was returning from Old Blue. Another fuel pump and replacing a section of crushed fuel line got the van rolling again.

The Trail Crew Committee is recommending that we sell the van now while it still has some value and rely on renting in the near future.

Our second van was rented from "Rent a Wreck" in Hampden. Other than having the brakes serviced, we had no problems with it, and rental rate was reasonable.

Base Camp

MTC continued to lease space at Jim Bunn's sheep farm in Garland. Other than having the lawn mower repaired, we did not need to make significant improvements this year.

Food and Provisions

This part of the program went admirably, due to Amanda's good organization and planning. MTC lived up to its goal of feeding people well.

Communications

Fair Point DSL allows telephone and internet access simultaneously. Computer communications are much faster now. 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. The DSL service died during the last week of the season after a major lightning strike down the road. We will need to replace some equipment. The flatbed scanner-copier continues to be helpful but has started to malfunction. Cleaning and service is probably needed.

CONCLUSIONS

With two crews, and the enrollment of four SCA interns, we came very close to having 100% of volunteers as we planned on. We averaged six people per crew per week, which meets a goal set many years ago. Having several volunteers stay for more than one week certainly helped us keep the crews full.

Having Maine Trail Crew and MCC-Public Lands Corps operating simultaneously, but not together has worked well.

The SCA-Public Lands Corps crew was a nice boost. They operated very independently in a remote area with good results.

One goal of having MATC partner with MCC is to introduce local young people to the trail. While MCC had 50% Maine residents join their crews in 2011, MTC had 23%, 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, and all the people who worked on the crews for making this a successful year.

By Dave Field

Work continued on important projects during 2011.

In June, Dick Fecteau met Dave Field and Ben Godsoe at the base of the Saddleback Jr. Road with a load of cedar lumber for the construction of two new tent platforms at the new Redington Stream campsite.

Dick was able to navigate his truck up over some monumental washouts to deliver the lumber to the top of the road, where we stowed it under a tarp. A few days later, Ben and his parents with MCC volunteers moved the lumber up to the Appalachian Trail. And in July Dick, Ben, Nancy Fischer, and Dave went up the mountain with 11 teenage girls from Camp Tekakwitha, moved the lumber to the campsite, and built two 10' x 10' tent platforms to add to the earth tent sites already there.

These platforms make a great addition to the facility. We also put up new signs.

Corridor reblazing

During the last week in July, Appalachian Trail Conservancy Land Protection Associate Alison Scheiderer worked with her seasonal assistants Ralph and Stephan and a small crew of American Hiking Society volunteers to clear and re-blaze A.T. corridor boundary lines south of the South Arm Road in Black Brook Notch.

During the first week in August, Alison, Ralph, and Stephan were joined by a crew of volunteers from Frostburg University in Maryland. They continued clearing and painting boundary lines on both sides of the corridor over Moody Mountain into Sawyer Notch, and also

renewed the lines on both sides all the way from Surplus Pond to State land in Andover West Surplus. Weather was a problem for them (painting in the rain just does not work).

August Work Trip

Only seven people, all corridor monitors, showed up for the August work trip. I arrived at 1:00 PM Friday the 12th and began to clean up the debris at the Surplus Pond cabin.

Stan and Michelle Moody arrived about 3:00 PM and we worked the rest of the afternoon, filling eight 40-gallon trash bags with cabin junk and extracting two box springs and other stuff from the loft.

Dennis Pednault joined us early Saturday and we cleared, re-blazed, and documented monuments along 1.2 miles of the west corridor boundary line and 0.3 of a mile along the east line. Jonathan Ellis met us and worked on the east side. In addition to clearing and blazing, we installed new "U.S. Boundary" signs so that one appears about every 300 feet along the line. Tony and Bob Barrett joined Jonathan and me on Sunday. We cleared, blazed, signed, and documented the east line for 0.8 of a mile from the Burroughs Brook Road to monument 115-ME-15B, joining up with the work completed on Saturday just as a very lively thunderstorm hit us. It made no sense trying to paint any more blazes, so we hiked back to Surplus Pond and finished up the afternoon cleaning out more of the cabin. In total, we hauled out 10 40-gallon trash bags of paper, clothing, metal, plastic, fiberglass insulation, etc. and two twin box springs.

Below: Camp Teki girls carrying lumber. Dave Field photo.



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	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.	
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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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Michelle Moody, Stan Moody, and Dennis Pednault pause for lunch on the Wyman Mountain ridge during an August boundary maintenance weekend. Dave Field photo.

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