

Maine Appalachian Trail Club

The MAINEtainer

Volume XXXXX Number 1 Winter 2016

MATC Executive Committee seeks two new Directors

There are currently vacancies for two Directors on the Executive Committee of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club.

The MATC Executive Committee forms the leadership group for the club. The committee meets in Augusta five times a year and addresses all manner of issues that face the club. The work can be challenging, but holds unlimited opportunities to become involved in projects centered on the Appalachian Trail. The prime qualification is an interest in getting something done for the Appalachian Trail.

DIRECTORS: The eight Directors of the Club assist the officers in the administration and articulation of established Club policies. They also serve on key committees in various Club activities, act as a bridge to the membership and along with the officers, help to formulate new Club policy. The people who fill these positions will serve at least until April of 2017.

If you are interested in serving as a Director, or would like to nominate someone to be a Director, please send a letter of interest/application or nomination to:

Lester C. Kenway, President - Maine Appalachian Trail Club
15 Westwood Road - Bangor ME 04401 207-947-2723 trailser@twc.com
Deadline is March 1, 2016

Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Maintainer's, Monitor's and MATC member's Gathering and Social

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM – Lunch will be Pot Luck

Saturday, Feb 20, 2016 – Viles Arboretum, 153 Hospital Street, Augusta ME

From the Cony traffic circle on the east side of the Kennebec River take Stone Street 1 mile south. The Arboretum is on the left.

Come join us for a day dedicated to taking care of the AT and it's lands. Meet your fellow trail workers, Overseers, Corridor Monitors and MATC members. We will review best trail maintenance practices. There will be information for Monitors and updates of trail issues. Door prizes will be awarded.

9:00 AM: Coffee and Donuts - *Appalachian Trail Standards and Best Practices Drainage maintenance, Trail Standards (blow-downs, blazes, brushing, and water-bars), Signs, Bog Bridges and Step Stones, Trail Tools – selection and maintenance, Scouting Relocations and Questions and Answers*

12:00 Lunch – Pot Luck and Social Time

1:00 PM: The Corridor Monitoring Program, Online work trip reports, Maine Trail Crew in 2016

2:00 PM: Indoor Wrap up - *Ski touring and snowshoe trails are available.*

Club to build 1st new lean-to in 21 years

We are going to build a Lean-to at Nahmakanta Stream this summer.

It has been 21 years since MATC has built a Lean-to, so we will be restoring a tradition that has been going on since the 1930's.

The site is located near beautiful Nahmakanta Stream with a stand of large hemlock, spruce, and balsam fir. We will be scouting the best route to the Lean-to site this spring.

Work trip schedule

(subject to weather and other challenges)

June 10-12: Fell, limb, peel trees

September 10-12: Mill logs, maybe some site work

September 23-25: Begin Construction

October 7-9: Finish Log Construction, install roof and bunk (carry in materials)

Please contact me if you would like to join us. We will let you know what logging roads to take. Depending on the route, it can be close to a 3 mile hike.

This project can be a lot of fun, and can accommodate lots of volunteers

Lester C. Kenway
15 Westwood Road
Bangor ME 04401
207-947-2723
trailser@twc.com

Maine Appalachian Trail Club Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Olin Arts Center, Bates College, Lewiston Maine

Schedule Of Events

8:00 AM: Registration, Coffee, and socializing

- MATC slide show

9:00 AM: Annual Business Meeting of the Club

- Welcome – *Lester Kenway, President*
- Approval of the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes – *Janice Clain*
- Treasurer's Report – *Elsa Sanborn*
- Adoption of Budget for FY 2015-2016 – *Elsa Sanborn*
- Corresponding Secretary Report – *Doug Dolan*
- President's Report on the past year – *Lester Kenway*
- Recognition and awards

10:00 AM

- News of the 2017 Biennial Meeting of ATC – *Tony Barrett and Sherri Langlais*
- News from Appalachian Trail Conservancy – *Claire Polfus*
- Question and Answer Session
- Meetings with District Overseers

11:00 AM (10 minutes to move and 50 minutes for workshop)

Concurrent Workshops

- The Other Trails – *Ron Dobra*
- Maintaining the Trail – *Lester Kenway*
- Corridor Monitoring – *David Field*

12:00 PM: Lunch

1:00 PM

- The Challenges of the Appalachian Trail and Baxter State Park – *Jensen Bissell and Claire Polfus*

2:00 PM (10 minutes to move and 50 minutes for workshop)

Concurrent Workshops

- The Appalachian Trail Experience (Film) – *Bruce Grant*
- Moldering Privies – *Laura Flight*
- Dealing with Hiker Behavior – *Claire Polfus*

3:00 PM End of Day

Program Notes

The Other Trails:

Is the AT feeling a bit crowded these days (with more to come)? Come share information and ask questions of all the other long distance hiking trails out there: especially the big western ones. Ron Dobra can give first hand observations from thru hikes of the AT, IAT, Pacific Crest, Continental Divide, and American Discovery Trails-12,000 miles worth. And for sure there are members able to share experiences of many trails other than these.

Maintaining the Trail:

Lester Kenway has been working on trails for over 40 years. Join him to hear about the standards we use to maintain the Appalachian Trail, and to hear trail work tips on how to get a quality result with less work.

Corridor Monitoring:

Meet with Dave Field to learn about the work involved in monitoring the Appalachian Trail Corridor Lands. Corridor Monitors will have a chance to exchange notes and plans for the 2016 season.

The Appalachian Trail Experience (Film):

Bruce Grant

Moldering Privies: Your Deposit Doesn't Stop Here:

What is a "moldering privy" anyway? And how do you get 150-200 loads of materials to a campsite to construct one? The Club has constructed three accessible moldering privies to date; with 40 more planned over 20 years.

We haven't used planes or trains (yet), but we have used automobiles and boats, and a lot of shoulders, as well as built a bridge. Come see the logistics of such undertakings and learn a little bit about the advantages and of the accessible moldering design and the composting process.

Laura Flight

Dealing with Hiker Behavior:

Claire Polfus

Maine Trail Crew End of Season Report

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 - LESTER C. KENWAY

Maine Trail Crew

The Maine Trail Crew once again rebuilt sections of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. MTC supported two teams, each with one leader, one Assistant Leader, one Student Conservation Association intern and from two to four ATC-MATC recruited volunteers. Enrollment has continued to be on par with recent years. We filled 73 out of 90 possible slots. Average crew size was six people. The crews worked on five projects from the Sandy River to Katahdin. Twenty one weeks were dedicated to the trail.

Maine Conservation Corps

Three MCC teams were based in Hallowell and worked on two projects in Western Maine at Bemis Mountain and Poplar Ridge. A total of 14 weeks of crew time were dedicated to the projects, funded through the National Park Service - Public Lands Corps program.

Maine Trail Crew - 2015

Staff

Emily Lessard - Coordinator
Alec Harris - CL
Danielle Salvucci - CL
Brandon Tigner - ACL
Savino Ranallo - ACL

SCA Interns

Stephanie Cantu
Caitlin Pohl

Volunteers

Carmen Campalans
Janice Clain
Noah Cline
Amy Compare
Rowan Ferris
Carson Haddow
Bailey Klatt
Andy Kruse
Wendy Lamparelli
David Lapointe
Sofia Lavrentyeva
Molly Lykins
Arlee Monroy
Christina Montello
Charlotte Price
Lynn Reed
Craig Ritemire
Zoë Rothberg
Karen Snyder
Samantha Torres
Erica Wenzel
Chia-Yen Lin
Yu-Ju Kuo

Maine Conservation Corps

Bemis Mountain

Edward Grondin
Chantelle Hay
Bryce Neal
Courtney Perruzzi
Nicholas Terry
Brianna Winzenburg

Poplar Ridge - Summer Team

Leah Beck - TL
Richard Van Twistern - ATL
Anna Doyle
Nate Dumas
Irene Syphers
Elizabeth Thibault

Poplar Ridge - Fall Team

Ryan MacGlashing - TL
Emily Bruckner - ATL
James Barnard
Timothy Cromwell
Irene Syphers
Emma Winske

MATC Volunteers

Janice Clain
Lester Kenway
Ben Deering
Margaret Snell
Ron Dobra
Tom Gorrill
Mac Smith
Kate Locke
Julian Wiggins

MCC Volunteers

David Van Twistern
Ian Van Twistern
Dylan Cookson
Billy Borden

TRAIL PROJECTS

The Hunt Trail - May 30 to June 16, 2015

All of our trail staff camped at the Katahdin Stream Campground for three weeks and worked on the Hunt Trail. The crew built stone steps at the Owl Trail Junction and a retaining wall just before the crossing of Katahdin Stream.

Work Accomplished:

- 14 stone steps 120 square feet of retaining wall
- 4 step stones 16 feet of edge stones on previous steps
- Several tree roots were rocked up.

Sandy River - June 20 to July 8, 2015

This project continued work done in 2014. Scarce, large, and deeply buried rock added to the challenge of this project. A rigging highline was used to move the stones close to the trail. Hand carry slings were put to use to move the stones the last 16 feet where the rocks were rolled and slid down to the building site. The additional stones extended the stairs down slope.

Work Accomplished:

- Installed 12 stone steps
- Built 21 square feet of retaining wall

3rd Mountain - June 20 to July 22, 2015

The crew worked at several locations to counter trail erosion and mud holes. Rock steps were built at 5 locations and step stones were installed at 3 locations. 21 existing drainages were cleared out and rip rap was built as well.

Work Accomplished:

- Built 61 stone steps
- Installed 20 step stones
- Cleared 21 drainages
- Built 10 square feet of rip rap

4th Mountain - July 11- August 19, 2015

The trail on this part of 4th Mountain involved a long traverse with steep pitches along the way. It is easy to see how the route of trail was picked as it threads its way between two cliff faces. The objective of this project was to stabilize and improve the route over the steep sections. The primary work was to build stone steps at these places.

Work Accomplished: Installed 61 Stone Steps

Near Little Swift River Pond - August 1 to August 18, 2015

The crew began building a 400 foot ditch & drain though a wet area about 2.5 miles from Route 4. Several nights of rain made the work more challenging. A group of four MATC volunteers provided help packing tools to the work site.

Work Accomplished: 74 feet of ditch as dug and 69 square feet of rip rap was lined against the ditch.

Total MTC work accomplished in 2015

Stone Steps: 148 Water bars - cleared: 21
Step Stones: 24 Ditch and Drain: 79 linear ft
Retaining Wall: 141 square ft

Maine Trail Crew Hours Summary - 2015

Total hours for Coordinator = 568
Total hours for Field Staff = 2240
Total hours for SCA Interns = 914
Total hours for Volunteers = 2018

Continued on Page 4

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Maine Conservation Corps teams worked on two projects on the Appalachian Trail in Western Maine.

Bemis Mountain

One team worked on Bemis Mt clearing a new section of trail to avoid a very deep mud hole on the ridge of the Mountain. The team utilized a logging road to get closer to the work site only to find them selves in the midst of a major harvesting operation. They were fortunate to finish the relocation before the road became impassible. After the trail was cleared, the team began work on a very steep and eroded section of trail on the south ridge of the mountain. This reconstruction was started in 2001 and never finished by a MATC crew. The work relied on a Griphoist highline to bring large blocks of stone to the trail. The team built a steep set of stairs to complete the project.

Work Accomplished:

- Cleared 2 drainages
- New trail cleared – 1000 feet
- Built 10 square feet of rip rap
- Built 59 stone steps
- Built 80 square feet of retaining wall

Poplar Ridge

The trail up Poplar Ridge alternates between steep pitches and extended bog sections. The crew camped near sluice brook and waded Orbeton Stream on their way to and from the work sites. Stone steps and stepping stones were installed to stabilize the trail.

Work Accomplished:

- Cleared 5 drainages
- Built 63 stone steps Installed 7 stone waterbars
- Built 254 step stones

Maine Conservation Corps

Hours Summary 2015 - 3440 Hours of Service

All MCC members who worked on the Appalachian Trail will receive a year's complimentary membership in the Maine Appalachian Trail Club

STAFFING

Crew Recruiting – Holly Sheehan handled the winter applications. Lester initiated advertising to supplement the recruiting done by ATC; Holly processed the applications from the ATC volunteer database, and those through the ATC and other websites. Emily Lessard took over when she started at the Island in May. We experienced four drop-outs and four no-shows during the season. This left us with vacancies. We filled 73 out of 90 slots. We have learned that supplemental advertising via internet sites can make a positive difference in our enrollment. We had many of our volunteers stay for multiple weeks.

Coordinator – Emily Lessard of Russell, Massachusetts was our Coordinator. Emily was new to the trail world but had academic training in hospitality work that was very helpful.

Team Leaders – Alexander Harris was from Guilford, Vermont and previously worked with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. Alec has an extensive background in outdoor recreation.

Danielle Salvucci – was from Merrimack New Hampshire. Danielle had worked with trail crews sponsored by the American Conservation Experience.

Assistant Team Leaders – Brandon Tigner was from Columbus, Ohio and had volunteered with us in 2014 Savino Ranallo was from Bozeman, Montana and had worked in the Montana Conservation Corps

SCA Interns – Ron Dobra worked on selecting the interns and had better luck this year. We had two Trail Interns. We selected two fewer interns than in 2014, and with our continued success with recruiting volunteers, we maintained adequate numbers of people on the crews.

Stephanie Cantu worked on a University Trail Crew in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Caitlin Pohl volunteered with us in 2014.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR 2015

Piscataquis County 4.4%
 Betterment Fund 8.8%
 Recreational Trails Program 31.0%
 Appalachian Trail Conservancy/ NPS 50.8%
 Baxter State Park 5.0%

MAINE TRAIL CREW EXPENSES FOR 2015

Administration 1.7%
 Housing 9.9%
 Operations 0.9%
 Personnel 59.7%
 Trail Crew Support 13.6%
 Transportation 14.2%

These percentages are approximate since not all transactions are complete for 2015.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

MATC Participation – Nine MATC members joined the crew for a day or more during the season, four of them helped pack tools into the Little Swift River Pond site. All Maintainers who had projects on their sections were contacted and invited to join the crew and Mac Smith made several trips to his section with the crew.

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. Purchased in 2005, they have been a good investment. We relied on one 15-passenger van and one 12 passenger van from Rent-a-Wreck for this season. Mechanical problems were minimal, but they are older vehicles. Rent-a-Wreck has been good to work with.

Base Camp – We continued the second year lease with the owner of “The Island” at Branns Mills Pond in Dover Foxcroft where the crew had stayed in 1995-96. One building is the kitchen/living quarters and the second building is the recreation hall and sleeps 15 people The Island is accessed via a raft and pull rope. The situation is somewhat inconvenient and crowded at times, but very scenic and people like it. Patty Harding loaned the crew four kayaks, which were used by many. Set up at the island was easier than usual since most of the gear was over-wintered there. In order to

empty the trailers of stored items, we rented a small storage unit in Dover-Foxcroft.

Chores – The greatest struggle in regards to volunteers was dishes and chores. When the Coordinator started posting sign up sheets where people signed up for specific jobs, this became easier.

Security – The Island was robbed this summer. Several people lost lamps, computer tablets and other valuables. We need to install some lockers for people to use.

Recreational Trips – Recreational trips were offered throughout the season with 1000 mile budget. The budget was exceeded with only a few weeks left.

*4th of July in Farmington - Acadia - Baxter State Park x 2
Bigelow Mountain - UMaine Orono - climbing gym
Bangor - many trips*

Food and Provisions – This part of the program was better than before. There were few food complaints. Only one of the five projects was backpacking this year. The two crews spent a lot of time at the Brewer High School base camp on the Katahdin Iron Works Road. It was easy to set up screen houses and use the picnic tables to make for comfortable kitchen and dining areas. Many of the crews took advantage of the one hour drive to Greenville to have dinner out occasionally.

Communications – The greatest struggle faced this year in regards to recruiting was the lack of internet service. We had telephone service with Fair Point Communications throughout the summer. The WiFi was popular to the point of being overloaded at times so that the Coordinator did not have a connection. We did not succeed in having WiFi service in both buildings. More and more staff, interns, and volunteers bring laptop computers, tablets and smart phones. A typical evening at Base Camp will see many computers in use. Cell phone service is good at this location. By providing each crew leader a cell phone allowance, we make sure we have communications with each crew. All of the projects sites except Katahdin Stream had cell service.

Conclusions – For the most part, we succeeded in having an average of six people per crew per week, with a low of four and a high of seven people per crew. 7 weeks had 7 person crews. We had many volunteers stay for several weeks. The majority of our volunteers are young people in their 20's. The end of the season was not as full as the beginning, and we found our biggest problem to be with cancellations. The age range was from 18 to 72.

The MCC – Public Lands Corps crew performed well. They operated very independently in remote areas with good results. Continuing the quality and quantity of communication with these crews will be the key to future successes.

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

MAINetainer Going Digital

by Doug Dolan, Corresponding Secretary and Communications Committee Chair

Beginning with the Fall 2015 edition, editing of the MAINetainer was taken over by Jason Phelps. One of the advantage of this handoff is that each edition of the MAINetainer will be produced in digital form. With this comes a bevy of benefits to the club.

The first benefit is the opportunity for members to “opt out” of receiving the paper postal mailed version of the newsletter. Instead, you’ll get an email with a link to download or view the digital version as a PDF file. It should also be noted that the digital version will be full color, while, due to printing costs, the paper version will remain black & white with grayscale photos. This will help the club direct more resources toward maintaining the trail! Please contact Dick Welsh, Membership Chair by email at Richard.J.Welsh@gmail.com to “opt out” of the paper version. To our neighboring Canadian members, international postage is about 4x the bulk mailing rate, so the impact is even greater if you could “opt out” of the paper version. At this writing, nearly 100 members have “opt’d out” and will receive only the digital version of each edition! This is a 12% savings and gets the Club closer to the \$3000 annual MAINetainer budget.

As another benefit, a few weeks or so after club members have received their digital or paper MAINetainer, the digital version will be shared with the public through our website and Facebook page “MATC|Maine Appalachian Trail Club.” With this timely sharing of each edition, we open up communication channels to a larger audience for upcoming project announcements and recruitment, trail maintainer or corridor monitor section openings, and other general club activities that may draw new members to the club. Over time, the consistent availability of the digital version of the newsletter will be a definite advantage to promoting our Club’s mission and activities.

While we are on the topic of digital communication, many Club members don’t have email addresses on file in our membership records. If you know or aren’t sure if your email address is on file, or have a new email address to get on file, again, please contact Dick Welsh. If you are worried about getting tons of emails, rest assured that email communications will be quite limited. The Club’s primary communications are through the website, www.matc.org, or Facebook, but it is timely and cost effective if majority of the club membership can be reached by email instead through the post office.

Correction

There was an omission in the Poplar Ridge Lean-to story in the Fall edition. Horn’s Pond Caretaker Rachel Cole was also on hand and was crucial in getting a good supply of tools back to the trail head, extending the useful life of both Dave Field and Doug Dolan’s knees! Sorry for the omission Rachel and thanks again for all your help!

Environmental Pioneer Robert Cummings passes



Dave Dostie photo

PHIPPSBURG -- Robert C. (Bob) Cummings, who reported on environmental and energy matters for the Portland newspapers for more than two decades, died at home January 21, 2016.

Cummings, 86, first called attention to Maine's public lots -- 400,000 acres of forest land the state had preserved when 6 million acres of public lands were sold in the first decades after achieving statehood in 1820. By the 1970s, these remaining public lands had been forgotten, or were assumed to be owned by paper companies who held cutting rights to the timber.

Ten years after the first of several dozen stories appeared in March of 1972, the Maine Supreme Court ruled that Maine indeed still owned the lands, despite a century of neglect. Over the years the scattered lots were swapped for other lands of greater recreational value. The 40,000-acre Mahoosuc Preserve was created from the public lots, as was most of the 35,000 acre Bigelow Preserve. Other Public Reserve Lands are scattered through the wildlands of Maine.

"Most found the idea that the state could misplace 400,000 acres of land absurd," he said. "My editors and most readers treated the story as almost a joke. None of the major environmental groups paid any attention. My role was to keep the story alive until the legal

and political processes could take notice and respond."

Though they nominated him twice for a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of public lots, his work often drew the ire of editors. One complained about his pioneering stories about the clear-cuts and overcutting of Maine forests, "We've got woodchips coming out our ears."

His work, however, was cited during graduation ceremonies at the University of Maine campuses at Farmington and Augusta, and at Unity College, and in 1978 he was named journalist of the year by the Maine Press Association.

In 1981 he was the second recipient of the environmental award issued annually by Downeast magazine. Over the years his work was also cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

He won several awards from Maine and New England press organizations. In 1982 he was awarded first place for science and technology writing by the New England Associated Press in competition with all the newspapers in New England that subscribed to the Associated Press news service. Cummings described himself as a father, husband, journalist, and a political liberal, with a passion for preserving land for future generations.

In addition to his reports on the major environmental issues, he wrote extensively on the Maine outdoors. He recounted canoe trips on the Allagash and St. John Rivers, winter trips to the summit of Katahdin, and focused attention on many of the major mountains of the state. His numerous reports on the beauty of Bigelow and the conflicts between hikers and developers were credited by some as being the primary reason for the narrow victory in the referendum creating the Bigelow Preserve.

Though he received many awards during his career, he particularly liked a comment from a working father who told him, "No one appreciates what the [Phippsburg] land trust is doing, but they will in 50 years." Among other efforts, the Phippsburg Land Trust created a 253-acre preserve protecting the shoreline of a pond in the center of town, and partnered with the town to

buy an undeveloped ocean-front beach and 85 acres of adjacent forest land.

Though he was instrumental in founding the Phippsburg Land Trust in 1974, he at first was considered too controversial to serve on the trust's board of directors. However, it was after he joined the board as an ex-officio member representing the Board of Selectmen that the land trust had its greatest successes. He served as president of the Land Trust for many years, and wrote most of the fund raising letters and designed the materials that eventually resulted in 800 acres of land trust protected land in Phippsburg.

He particularly championed housing that conserved energy. He rebuilt an 1860s farmhouse into an energy efficient structure and later designed and had built a new house to his energy-saving designs. After his retirement, he designed and helped build a second superinsulated house. His final addition to his home's energy efficiency was the installation of solar panels in 2015.

His service to Phippsburg extended over four decades. He wrote the town meeting warrant article that created the Phippsburg Conservation Commission in 1968 and served as the commission chair for 12 years. He also researched ancient public land that accessed the shore, and successfully pressed the town into recovering 125 acres of land the town had acquired in the 1930s, which had been encroached on by neighbors. He worked for years on gaining support for the construction of a pier for commercial fishermen and to create public landings on the Phippsburg peninsula.

At the time of his death he was a member of the Phippsburg Town Lands Management Committee and Shellfish Conservation Commission, and a director of the Phippsburg Land Trust.

After his retirement he was narrowly defeated in a bid for election to the Maine State Senate from Sagadahoc County. As part of his campaign Cummings purchased for a dime apiece the 8,000 copies of his book, *Housewarming*, which had not been sold and then gave them away as he campaigned door to door.

In 1993, bored with retirement, he announced he was going to Georgia and walking home. He arrived on the sum-

mit of Springer Mountain in Georgia on April 15 that year and climbed Katahdin October 16. During the intervening six months he walked most of the 2,175 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

After his retirement he also served several years as Conservation Committee chair of the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and later as newsletter editor.

He also published newsletters for the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions, covering many of the same stories he had covered while working for the Portland newspapers. Cummings was also one of the founders in 2002 of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, which seeks additional buffers to the Maine section of the trail, which in places is only 1,000 feet wide. He served as maintainer, clearing blowdowns and keeping brush from obscuring the foot path, on about three miles of the Appalachian Trail system in the Whitecap Mountain area for 25 years, and was overseer of the maintenance of 60 miles of the section of the Appalachian Trail located north of Monson for nearly a decade.

Prior to joining the Portland papers he served as city editor, chief reporter, sports writer and political columnist for the Bath Daily Times, a newspaper that later merged with the Brunswick Record to become the Times Record.

He was a 1958 graduate of the University of Illinois School of Journalism, where he had worked as a student for the Champaign-Urbana Courier. After returning to Maine he also worked briefly in the Machias Bureau of the Bangor Daily News.

Prior to attending the University he was employed as an electrician in Chicago. Born May 4, 1929, the son of William A. and Emma Blaisdell Cummings, he grew up in Bath and attended Morse High School where he graduated in 1946.

In 1962 he married Mary Ellen Remeschatis. Surviving are his wife, a daughter, Brenda Ellen Cummings of Bath and her husband Tim Richter; two sons, Stephen Robert Cummings and his partner Darla Coy of Bath and Charles Arthur Cummings of Phippsburg; seven grandchildren, Jonathan

Cummings, Nicole Cummings, Catie Bennett, Alexander Cummings, Christian Cummings, Derek Cummings, and Matthew Cummings; and one great-grandchild, Aurora Bennett. Also surviving are two brothers, Albert J. Cummings of Waterford and William E. Cummings of Farmingdale; and three sisters, Carolyn Kennard of Rumford, Margery Towne of Andover and Eleanor McKirnan of Santa Ana, California.

Contributions in his memory to the Phippsburg Land Trust, PO Box 123, Phippsburg 04562, and to The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, PO Box 761, Portland 04104 are urged.

A celebration of the life of Bob Cummings will be held on February 27, 2016 at 11 am at the Phippsburg Congregational Church.

Kennebec District 2015 Report

The Kennebec District runs from the Long Falls Dam Road north of North New Portland to Route 15 north of Monson. There is a total of 54.2 miles of AT with an additional 1.2 miles of side trail. Included in the district are 6 lean-tos, 1 campsite, and the only ferry service on the Appalachian Trail.

There are 21 trail section assignments in the District with the longest being 8.9 miles, the shortest 0.34 miles, and an average of 2.6 miles each.

There are 24 individual maintainers assigned in the Kennebec District plus two organizations, Pine Island Camps and the University of Maine Outing Club. 68 work trips were reported via the MATC Volunteer Work Report Form, accounting for 1027 work hours and 584 travel hours. Looking back over past efforts, year over year our District volunteers continue to put in more trips and total hours. Many thanks to the Kennebec team!

Highlights of the 2014-2015 reporting period include:

Trail section assignment changes: Suzanne Goulet has taken over the West Carry Pond section from Dana Thurston. Suzanne brings several skills to the job, not the least of which is her

involvement in the Waterville Senior High School Outing Club; a great pool of volunteer help for her new section. Louis Chartier will replace Craig and Donna Dickstein on the Holly Brook section in Caratunk. This will allow Craig to spend more time with his Overseer and other Club duties. Louis has been a long time member of the Club; you may know him as our sign manufacturer.

While not a section assignment, it is worth mentioning that after 22 years of dedicated effort, Sarah Carpenter passed the mantle of Kennebec Ferry Coordinator along to Craig Dickstein. Many thanks to Sarah for a job consistently well done!

The spring cleanup effort this past year was larger than usual due to above average winter damage. Several winter storms affected the trail at 2000 feet of elevation causing significant numbers of blowdowns. Several maintainers reported difficulty finding the Trail, never mind clearing it.

Projects Planned for the Upcoming Season:

- A new accessible moldering privy is scheduled to be erected at the Pleasant Pond Lean-to.
- The Pierce Pond Lean-to privy will also see improvements.
- Arnold Bog will see the construction of 260 feet of elevated bog bridging. This effort will replace the current bog bridging that floats around in the spring high water.
- Efforts will begin to find a way to relocate the Trail off of the Pierce Pond dam.

Please keep an eye on the MATC Activity Calendar (www.matc.org/home/work-trip-schedule) for the dates and contact person if you would like to get involved in the above projects.

Peter and I would like to extend a genuine thanks to all that contributed to the continued success of Trail maintenance in the Kennebec District.

***Craig Dickstein, Overseer
Peter Roderick, Assistant Overseer***

2016 Campsite Committee Work Trips being planned

by *Laura Flight*

A quick glance outside or any time spent out-of-doors might not generate thoughts of removing blow-downs, blazing and privies, but rest assured that season will come. And although time on the trail for maintenance and improvements has certainly dwindled as of late, the MATC engine is still exercising its muscles as it plans for 2016 projects and beyond.

The Campsite Committee has several work trips in the making for the 2016 season. The biggest project and one the Club has not undertaken for many years is the building a lean-to at the Nahmakanta Stream campsite. There are a couple of bootleg campsites nearby creating sprawl and human waste issues, and they are too close to the stream. A lean-to may be a more attractive over-night option for hikers and encourage them to use the official campsite. The tent sites at Nahmanakta Stream Campsite will remain. This will be a great Club-wide project to involve many folks, as well as hone and pass along some institutional knowledge of lean-to building skills. There will be four, three-day weekends planned for this project. One in June, and three in September/October. Lester Kenway (trailer@twc.com) is leading this project.

We also plan to keep pace with our privy replacement endeavor. Two accessible moldering privies will be built; one at Pleasant Pond campsite to replace the full and deteriorating privy there, and one at a new campsite that will be established near Black Brook near Andover. We are still awaiting a permit approval for Pleasant Pond, so that one will be replaced in the fall. Black Brook will be installed earlier in the season, and will also include construction of a new campsite with earthen tenting areas.

Other projects on tap include replacing the rotten deacon's bench at the Little Bigelow lean-to, moving the pit privy and building a new tent platform at Rainbow Spring campsite, and re-establishing who's boss of the nails on the Chairback Gap lean-to; many of the nails have undergone some sort of isostatic rebound, so they will be evicted and replaced with superior screws.

Dates are not set yet for these projects, so please check the "Activity Calendar" on our web site (www.matc.org) in the spring. All are welcome and there is no prior experience is necessary to participate. Many hands do make light work, and it is an enjoyable time working with others as well as a satisfying feeling to accomplish needed improvements. There will be jobs for everyone on site, as well as plenty of materials to shoulder to work sites so the more the merrier for these projects!

Please contact Laura Flight at campsite@matc.org or 207-215-5306 for more information.

MATC to offer 2016 Sawyer Certification Workshops

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Sawyer Certification Program teaches Trail volunteers how to safely operate a chain saw to remove downed trees and to cut materials needed for Trail projects. We offer no-cost (to the student) training courses for trail maintainers, personal protective equipment (PPE), and reimbursement of first-aid/CPR certification costs for MATC member trail maintainers. For others, the fee is \$130 without PPE and FA/CPR reimbursement.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club is offering the following schedule for 2016. Please keep an eye on our website (www.matc.org) for updates to this schedule.

April 16/17 – Bradford, ME

October 1/2 – Denmark, ME

The workshops will be for both new certification and re-certification. The re-certification course will be one day only, the Saturday of the noted weekend. The one-day re-certification class is for Sawyers with a current Level B certification.

New this year is an offering for re-certifying sawyers not certified for felling – stay for a Sunday session to learn felling techniques and get certified for that B-level skill set.

If your current certification will expire in the next twelve months, or has recently expired, we urge you to sign-up for a workshop and renew your credentials. If you have not taken advantage of this valuable training and wish to use a chainsaw on the Trail, then join us for a fun and worthwhile two days.

***Space is limited. Please contact Craig Dickstein at kennebec@matc.org - (207) 672-4983
PO Box 128, Caratunk, Maine 04925***

Potential Improvements to Chainsaw Training this year

MATC has been sponsoring Chainsaw Safety Training for 10 years. Tree felling instruction has been available for all students during the standard 2 day class for all of these years.

Some observations: Tree felling is generally not required to maintain the AT. Many less experienced students don't do well with the felling portion of the class. Very inexperienced students are more likely to generate hazardous situations. Given these observations we would like to focus our two day class on safety, saw handling, and a thorough treatment of bucking and limbing skills. Students would have 6 to 7 months to become more familiar with their saw and the new techniques. Some of the extra time could be dedicated to learning how to take down (or not take down) problem leaning trees. Those students who need felling instruction, such as bog bridging work would be welcomed back at the next class for a one day felling class.

Lester C Kenway



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Maine will host the
**2017 ATC Biennial
Conference Meeting**

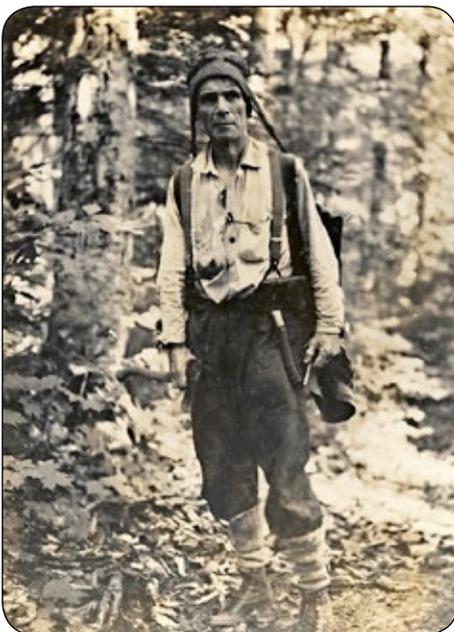
August 4-11, 2017 at
Colby College in Waterville

www.atc2017.org

Volunteers needed!
Send an email to:

biennial2017@frontier.com

for more info



Volunteer Recognition – We need your help!

The **Walter D. Greene Award** is presented at the Annual meeting to recognize extraordinary effort or achievement by a member of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club during the past year. This award is not intended to recognize length of service or long hours.

Please submit names of MATC members who have exceeded expectations of their assigned duties in 2015 to recognize one-time or recurring work, for example:

- Writing a funding grant
- Making an effective presentation
- Helping with an emergency trail location
- Working on trail-related legislation
- Spending time with the Maine Trail Crew
- Accomplishing trail maintenance/repair beyond expectations
- Current Executive Committee members are not eligible

Send your request(s) and nomination(s) to:

Peter Roderick

roderick1027@fairpoint.net

207-293-2704

by February 29.



Above: Last year's award recipient, Dana Humphries (l) with Lester Kenway (r) (photo credit: Lester Kenway)

Left: Walter Greene, a NYC actor and Maine summer resident, was an extraordinary volunteer and the first MATC President. (photo credit: MATC Archives)

Mark your calendars for the Maine event!

In 2017, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club along with the AMC Maine Chapter and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy join forces to celebrate the A.T. at Colby College in Waterville, ME. We will be bringing together over 1,200 hiking and trail enthusiasts from August 4th -11th, 2017.

We hope you join us in celebrating Maine in all of its glory with the theme of “Views from the Maine Woods”.

Planning is already underway by the Conference Steering Committee, but they need your help. Due to the lead time for publishing registration materials, many of the hikes, excursions, special events and workshops will be finalized in 2016. Please pass on your ideas (also, your offer to help conduct & organize) for hikes, workshops, local excursions, exhibitors and special events to the following Steering Committee contacts:



Workshops: Dave Field meeser3@roadrunner.com

Exhibits: Tom Mullin tmullin@unity.edu

Hikes: Peter Roderick roderick1027@fairpoint.net

Excursions: Judy O'Neal judyoneal@fairpoint.net

Volunteers: Dick Welsh richard.j.welsh@gmail.com

The MAINEtainer

is also available online at the MATC website:

www.matc.org



New England Regional Partnership Committee Meeting

Twice a year, ATC staff, government partners and representatives from the seven New England maintaining clubs meet. The Fall meeting was held at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire on November 21, 2015. Representing MATC were Don Stack, Lester Kenway, Elsa Sanborn, Bruce Grant, Claire Polfus and Tony Barrett.

A club report was reported and three projects: Little Wilson relocation, Pleasant Pond privy and Blue Ridge Connector trail were all approved by the Committee.

This photo shows the committee in session in the Tower room of the University's Library.

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 four 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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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

\$10,000+ Katahdin \$500 Crocker
 \$5,000 Bigelow \$250 Baldpate
 \$2,500 Saddleback \$100 Old Blue
 \$1,000 Whitecap \$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:

Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Elsa J. Sanborn, Treasurer
P. O. Box 8087
Bangor, ME 04402-8087



Hiking hound "Oscar" on an early season work trip.

Photo: Jason Phelps