

WHITE CAP DISTRICT

Overseer: Ron Dobra

(The White Cap District extends from Maine Highway 15 to the Jo-Mary Haul Road.)

White Cap District - 2016 Annual Report

Whitecap District report Oct. 1, 2016-September 30, 2017

submitted December, 2017

The Whitecap district stretches 60 AT miles north from the Rt. 15 parking lot in Monson to the Jo Mary Road at Cooper Brook, with an additional 7 miles of side trail largely in the Gulf Hugas area. The tread way traverses two substantial mountain ranges, Barren-Chairback and Whitecap, and follows flatter and wetter terrain along the Wilson Valley in the south and the old Cooper Brook tote road in the north. The trail is divided into 27 assignments (37 individuals), with 8 lean-tos and one tent site for the most part added to trail maintainer responsibilities (this model is being re evaluated in light of increasing shelter duties). Having walked three fourths of the trail and visited all but one camp site this summer, I can say the district is in good, and in many places, excellent condition. This is the result of 120 reported work trips attended by 168 workers logging 2,718 volunteer hours and 1,682 travel hours. This level of commitment continues to be impressive given the remote access and distance to the trail to be found in the 100 mile wilderness.

Among notable district accomplishments this year were the construction of a new moldering privy at Logan Brook lean to, overseen by Campsite committee chair Laura Flight; installation of 22 replacement bog bridge planks north of Little Wilson stream by maintainer Ken Kimball; replacement of about a dozen bridge planks north of the West Branch Pleasant River by maintainers Ed and Sheri Langlais; the combined efforts of the AMC trail crew using snowmobiles to transport 100 planks a distance along the Pleasant River tote road, and the efforts by a dozen club members as well as a work crew from Colby College to lug them the rest of 1.5 miles to place them for assembly by the Maine Trail crew this summer; our trail crew continuing the summer by rebuilding the approach trail to Little Wilson Falls, hardening trail on the south side of Barren Mtn. and the north slope of Gulf Hugas Mtn.; a continuing major project of ditch and drain along Cooper Brook by the LLBean team led by Laurie Gonyea; also a multi year ditch and drain south of the turn up Gulf Hugas Brook staffed by the thru hikers of Hard Core, supervised by Lester Kenway; a two day work trip in Wilson Valley by Bowdoin College; opening of a relocation south of Little Wilson Falls cut out by maintainer Ton Carr; and a late season start to scouting possible relocations over the worst of deterioration trail on Fourth Mtn.

New to the maintainer roster this year were Regina Erskine from Portland, who has taken complete ownership of the Gulf Hugas Rim Trail; Audrey Laffely from Old Town taking over from me on the north side of Barren Mtn.; and in late fall Eric Rose taking on the section over Columbus Mtn.

As I expect to be retired as district overseer by this time next year, I'd like to once again thank my maintaining crew for the privilege of working with them these seven years. It has been great.

Ron Dobra, Whitecap overseer
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