



The MAINEtainer

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Trail Champions Campaign Raises Over \$1.2 Million!

By Lester Kenway, MATC President

If you haven't been following our progress on Trail Champions – the Campaign for the Maine Trail Center, now is the time! This exciting campaign has huge momentum, thanks to the support of 261 donors. Since July, donors have contributed \$378,451, bringing the campaign total to **\$1,226,295**, which will be used to build a permanent home in Skowhegan to support MATC's mission to protect and preserve the Appalachian Trail in Maine.



Please join the trail champions who have already supported the campaign and make a gift by December 31. Then, bookmark the campaign web page and follow our progress on this historic campaign – <http://trailchampions.matc.org/>.

Two special efforts are underway to honor one individual and one organization that have both been dedicated to the Appalachian Trail in Maine for decades. The first special project is being led by Brian Fitzgerald, Bob Almand, and Dave Startzell of the ATC world to raise \$20,000 to name the Nahmakanta Lake Crew Quarters in honor of Dave Field.

A member of the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame, Dave first set foot on the A.T. in 1954, and over the next 67 years, his dedication to the trail has grown in epic proportions, at both the state and national level. He has been a trail maintainer, MATC club president, land manager, and served on the Appalachian Trail Conservancy board of managers, including six years as chair. Dave is responsible for rerouting much of the trail in Maine, and for taking it up and over 10 mountain peaks. His contribution to the final route of the A.T. is second to no other individual. Dave put the A.T. in Maine in the woods, away from the roads and high up on the mountain tops.

Dave is also an extraordinary A.T. historian. He authored the 2011 book “*Along Maine's Appalachian Trail*,” in which he describes the Trail's rich history in the state. If you'd like to honor Dave Field, a true trail champion, contact Brian Fitzgerald fitzgerald@madriver.com.

The second special project is being led by Bates Outing Club alumni. According to their website, the Bates Outing Club, founded in 1920, is a major student organization at the college. It is among the oldest collegiate outing clubs in the country and the first at a private college to include both men and women from the beginning. The Bates Outing Club has been dedicated to maintaining a section of the A.T. since the 1930s. Brenda Clarkson, clarkson@madriver.com, and Lester Kenway, trailer@twc.com are inviting Bates alumni to contribute toward a total goal of \$25,000 to name the Maintenance Building for the Bates Outing Club. To contribute, please contact Brenda Clarkson, clarkson@madriver.com.

In addition to individual contributions, MATC is very grateful for receiving several foundation grants, and we anticipate even more before the end of the campaign.

To all 261 donors who have contributed, on behalf of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club – thank you for your support of the Maine Trail Center!



campaign before it ends?

Happy holidays!

Lester Kenway
MATC President
Trail Champions Campaign Chair

If you haven't had a chance to give, as we approach the conclusion of 2021, can we count on your support for the Trail Champions

Steve Clark to be Inducted to A.T. Hall of Fame

By Tony Barrett

Stephen Clark, a member of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club for 68 years, will be inducted into the A.T. Hall of Fame on November 20 in Carlisle, PA. The A.T. Hall of Fame honors persons who have made exceptional and positive contributions to the Appalachian Trail or the A.T. community. A class of honorees has been selected each year since 2011 (48 honorees to date). Steve will be the third honoree from Maine joining Myron Avery and Dave Field (Class of 2013).

To many, Steve's name is synonymous with the 100 Mile Wilderness portion of the A.T. in Maine. In fact, he coined the term in the 1980's while Guidebook editor, to describe this most isolated section of the Trail so that hikers would be prepared for the lack of services and food. But Steve has contributed so much more.

After a pivotal chance meeting with former Governor Percival Baxter at Katahdin Stream campground in 1953, Steve wrote to ATC to become a trail volunteer. A short time later, Clair Sawtelle, MATC's Secretary/Treasurer visited his home in Oakland, ME to recruit him to the club. Steve was assigned to work with the then Western Maine Overseer, Louis Chorzempa (Louis went on to become the second MATC President who was a local Maine resident). The first trail assignment for the Waterville HS Sophomore was the 10-mile section from Long Falls Dam Road to the West Peak of Bigelow Mountain. Under the leadership of Chorzempa and Carl Newhall, Steve participated in the construction of 17 lean-tos.

The early editions of the Maine A.T. Guidebook were written and updated by Myron Avery and Jean Stephenson. By the early 1960s, the Guidebook was sorely out of date. Steve kicked off his writing career by becoming the MATC Guidebook Editor publishing three editions (1962-1978). Steve worked with Charlie Gilman, a retired USGS cartographer, who had a summer home in Bingham to develop separate maps. MATC was the first club to have their own guide and maps.

After Avery's 1949 Sign List became woefully out-of-date due to ongoing relocations, Steve and then wife, Barbara, updated the list with 450 signs. In the 1960's and 1970's, Barbara Clark developed a process to mimeograph typed words into signs -- stenciled black paint onto white boards. Steve and Barbara developed the current wood routed sign using Olympic stain and made 350 new signs from the updated list. In the photo, Steve is holding a current MATC wood-routed sign that he received from Louis Chartier. Steve very much approves of the

Sign Committee's work in carrying on and refining the MATC sign tradition into present times.

Steve earned the title 'Privy King' for his efforts to improve human waste management along the trail. Recognizing that the average ground temperature at high elevation campsites in Maine was better suited to preservation-by-refrigeration than decomposition, Steve worked on early moldering privy designs. He disassembled a commercial solar "one-holer" which was then airlifted up to Horns Pond for an innovative attempt for a more sustainable solution. Although not successful long-term, (that effort lives on as the current equipment shed at Horns Pond), Steve worked with the Green Mountain Club and MATC member Rick St. Croix on moldering privy designs which have evolved into MATC's current privy design. Steve visited (but did not use) a current

moldering privy in 2017 at the Colby biennial meeting and is very pleased with the work by Laura Flight and the Campsite committee.

Steve served on the ATC Board of Managers for 8 years, the last 4 as Vice Chair for New England. He was a MATC Executive Committee member from 1965 to 1985 serving as the Western Maine Overseer and then later as the White Cap District Overseer and was President of the Club from 1975 to 1979.

Some of his proudest achievements were his personal relocation of 30 miles of A.T. during the trail relocation project in the 1970's and 1980's and his participation in the ATC biennial meetings as Chair in 1979 at Sugarloaf, as Chair in 1997 at Sunday River and as Workshop speaker in 2017 at Colby College.

Steve received ATC's highest honor, Honorary Life Member, in 1981. But a memory he cherishes is when he and Barbara met Grandma Gatewood during her 2nd thru hike at the Rt. 4 trailhead. True to her "Yogi-ing ways" Grandma was treated to a very nice dinner in Rangeley by Steve and Barbara.

"I am thrilled that Steve will be inducted into the A.T. Hall of Fame. He is very deserving,"

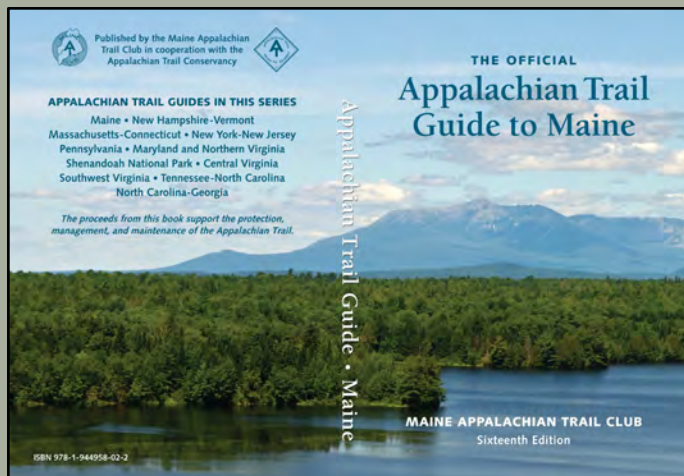
said Dave Field.

Steve will be accompanied by his ex-wife Barbara and daughter, Caia Judge, to the Hall of Fame induction ceremony on November 20.



New Edition of the Appalachian Trail Guide in Maine

The sixteenth edition of the official Appalachian Trail Guide to Maine has gone to press and will be available at a member discount price by late November. This edition has been completely rewritten and reformatted by editor Carrington Rhodes, (to whom the book is posthumously dedicated), and with maps updated by past editor Ray Ronan. The Guidebook and maps can be found on the [MATC website](https://www.maintc.org/) under the Support MATC-MATC Store.



MATLT Community Hikes Update

By Simon Rucker

Executive Director, Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust

The Maine A.T. Land Trust had its most successful Community Hikes program to date in the summer and fall of 2021! The hiking season began in June with a training hike for our volunteers and then a warm up, both of which were up Caribou Mountain in Evans Notch. Though this hike is not on the A.T., it is a good one for distance and mimics the conditions of many of the higher summits on the A.T. in Maine, but without the long drive. We rounded out July with hikes up Cranberry Peak in the Bigelow Range, Puzzle Mountain in Grafton Notch and then the Berry Picker's Trail to the Horn. For this last hike we were fortunate to have Carey Kish along, scoping for an article to be published in the next few months!

August included hikes up the Baldpates and Little Bigelow, while September featured Four Ponds and Old Speck. The season ended in October with return hikes up Caribou Mountain and Cranberry Peak.

The Maine A.T. Land Trust will post winter hikes before the end of the year so get those snowshoes out! Hikes will run from January through April.



MATLT Community Hikers on Puzzle Mountain Summit

The Great Circle Trail

Maine's Newest Backpacking Route

By Carey Kish



The sky is afire with pink, orange and purple as I shiver in the autumn chill on the shore of pristine Wadleigh Pond. One last glance, and I turn to make my way back to camp and

my companions. The blazing fire warms us, as does the nip of bourbon passed about amid the banter of good friends gathered together for a few precious days on the trail.

It's the second day of a 4-day adventure through Nahmakanta Public Land, a 43,000-acre chunk of state-owned and managed property in the heart of the 100-Mile Wilderness northwest of Millinocket. We're enjoying a sneak preview of sorts of Maine's newest backpacking route, and with each mile, we revel in the remoteness, raw beauty and rugged character of the place.



The Great Circle Trail, as it is now formally known, was still a work-in-progress when I forged these memories in late October a year ago. But I had gleaned enough

information, including a GPS track, from my friends at the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (MBPL) to follow the route for a good look-see. And as I have described, I really liked what I saw. You surely will too.

In late September, MBPL officials announced the opening of the Great Circle Trail, so the word is finally out. The 30-mile route connects several existing trails and a segment of new trail amid the rolling terrain that surrounds the 1,100-acre expanse of Nahmakanta Lake. Hike the entire length as my group did last fall and you'll gain a healthy 3,000 feet of elevation along the way.

The Great Circle Trail has been in the works ever since it was conceived by Jay Hall, MBPL's Nahmakanta Unit Forester, way back in 2005. The idea was ambitious: a long trail that would encircle all of T1 R11 WELS and the southern portion of Rainbow Township. The route would link sections of the Turtle Ridge Trail and Debsconeag Backcountry Trail, which were each completed in the early 2000's, as well as utilize a few miles of the Appalachian Trail.

To connect the dots and include other significant recreation features, like Tumbledown Dick Falls, Third Musquash Falls, Third Musquash Pond, Wadleigh Mountain and Pollywog Gorge, more than 14 miles of new trail needed to be constructed, complete with bog bridges, stone steps, water

bars, log ladders, bridges and signage. This extraordinary work was completed over 12 seasons from 2006 to 2021 by crews from the Maine Conservations Corps, Appalachian Mountain Club, Caribou Parks & Recreation Dept. and Unity College.



Scattered along the Great Circle Trail are eight primitive campsites, each with a picnic table, fire ring and simple privy. At Wadleigh Pond, the site also features two log shelters plus an old stone fireplace and chimney. At least nine trailheads with parking serve as access points. For the record, we hiked the trail counterclockwise, starting and ending at the popular Turtle Ridge trailhead on Jo Mary Road.



The Great Circle Trail is a significant addition to the inventory of multi-day backpacking opportunities around Maine, like the Grafton Loop Trail, Deboullie, Baxter, Cutler Coast,

Little Moose and the AT. The view up Nahmakanta Lake from its south end beach alone is worth the trip, but then so are the little ponds in the Debsconeag Backcountry and at Turtle Ridge, the rushing waters of Nahmakanta Stream and Pollywog Stream, and Pollywog Pond and Wadleigh Pond. Never mind the dark skies.

"Why hiking trails, you may ask?" writes Hall in his recent summary report on the Great Circle Trail project, "Maine Gains Another Backpacking Trail." "Trail lovers yearn for the adventures and challenges waiting around the next bend and over the next summit. But even more



fundamentally, I believe trails with trees touch us at the very core."

There are many ways to enjoy the new Great Circle Trail, from day hiking short stretches to overnight camping to a 3-4 day backpacking trek. However you choose to explore the wild country through which it threads, I hope you're as delighted and moved as my friends and I were on our journey. It's a truly special experience.

Get more info and a trail map for Nahmakanta Public Land at www.parksandlands.com and start planning.

Carey Kish of Mount Desert Island is an MATC maintainer, AT thru-hiker, author of AMC's *Best Day Hikes Along the Maine Coast* and editor of the AMC *Maine Mountain Guide*.

Hiking Through the Ages

By Becky Pierce

I think it could be of interest and worthwhile to readers and members to know that Mike Prokosch and I are in our seventies, live in Boston, have been backpacking together for 45 years. We decided in our sixties to hike the Maine part of the AT, at a week a year, expecting it to take us 10 years - we finished it in eight! I have been doing solo backpacks a couple of weeks a year since I retired at age 70, mostly on the AT in New England. Here's our report.

My partner Mike Prokosch and I had a wonderful trip and loved revisiting this beautiful area! The hike was 9/20 - 10/5: two of us hiking on 9/20-9/24, and me hiking alone 9/25-10/5. We started at ABOL Bridge on Monday 9/20/2021, and I finished at the KIW Road parking lot on Tuesday 10/5/2021.

My nephew from Old Town, ME, dropped us off at the start and picked me up at the finish. He picked up Mike on Friday 9/24, and brought me my first resupply at the south end of Nahmakanta Lake. He also resupplied me a second time on 9/29 where the A.T. crosses Johnston Pond Road.

The timing and navigation for all of these went very smoothly, and turned out not to be difficult at all. We also realized from all the through-hikers we met and talked to, that a lot of resupplying goes on in the 100-Mile Wilderness, on all these logging roads, but especially the A.T. crossing of Jo-Mary Rd.. We met dozens of hikers who had arranged resupplies there from the Shaw's in Monson, and a few others who had pickups or resupplies from friends or family, as we did. (The Monson Shaw's must have made thousands of dollars from the resupply deliveries to Jo-Mary Rd., at \$80 a pop plus the cost of the groceries!)

We also learned that there is cellphone coverage (at least with a good service like Verizon) from the mountaintops, including the smaller ones like Gulf Hagas Mountain and Little Boardman Mountain.

I also benefitted from a Trail Magic event on Johnston Pond Road. A guy with a trail name Sherpa (who says he does this every year) showed up with a grill and a lot of hotdogs and trimmings. I had three hotdogs for lunch and didn't have to go into my food resupply!

The stream of through-hikers provide a pretty good communication and info-sharing network, as well as a safety net for people like me. Some of them carry small satellite-GPS devices that can connect to the internet and get word out and show their location, in an emergency (or a routine check-in required by their parents) If I had needed to summon help in an emergency, I would have been well provided with means of communication.

The Nahmakanta Lake resupply-pickup rendezvous included a car breakdown which luckily happened right at the boat launch area where we planned to meet. There were other people with vehicles around to help, and I was able to go ahead with my hike as planned. Mike and my nephew waited in my nephew's car with its dead transmission, in the rain, while a couple of helpful older-generation fishermen on the

way out to Rte. 11 got word to the tow service via the checkpoint staff and the tow arrived 4 hours later.

The weather and conditions were three distinct parts---Sunny and beautiful with the fall foliage peaking during the first and last parts, and the middle part with the two days and nights of heavy rain (Sept. 24-26) followed by days of swollen rivers and streams with difficult to dangerous crossings and some large parts of the trail turned into lake or rivers with up to a foot deep of wading in the trail. I'm sure you heard about this, and I heard reports that you had a ridge-runner out at the East Branch of the Pleasant River crossing during the two or three days when it was the highest, to try to get hikers to wait and not try to get across. (I got across when it had subsided some, and I was preparing to wade 20 or 30 yards upstream at a shallower place, when a family flip-flop hiker group came along and (the youngest guy) took my pack across, and all three waited while I got across, ready to help if needed... which was great. (I was going to wait to cross anyway until a hiker came along who was willing to wait and watch me cross to make sure I made it anyway, and had spent over an hour finding a place where I could wade across safely.)

Given that these dangerous crossing conditions are likely to occur more often as global warming intensifies, it might be good for the MATC to put in more rope or cable assisted crossings, like the one with the two high, climbing-rope quality (super-strong) ropes you have at the southerly (bigger) of the two outlets of Mud Pond. There's no way I could have crossed there or would have tried, without the ropes. I put them under my armpits, so I could hang my weight on them, and easily regain my footing/keep stepping and pulling myself forward across the 20 feet or so, in between falling and being swept by the current, but unharmed because I was hanging from the overhead "bridge," above the submerged and exposed stepping stones/boulders.

The more northerly of the two outlets to Mud Pond was about the same width, but had a lot less current/water volume, so it was safe though difficult/slow for me to wade with a pole in each hand through thigh-deep water. I think most of the younger folks with 2000 miles behind them and better balance probably crossed by jumping from rock to rock, some submerged, rather than wading/walking on the stream bottom as I did.

Of course the best solution would be high bridges at all the major crossings, but cables or ropes people could hang onto while wading would make a huge difference in safety, and be a good solution, given the likely prohibitive expense and difficulty of getting enough materials and crews and power, into those remote places to build bridges.

Thanks for all you at MATC do to maintain the trail and the campsites and the river crossings, signs, side trails, etc. We are proud to be MATC members and able to support this work in some small way.

Becky Pierce and Mike Prokosch, MATC members since about 2008 (?) We section-hiked the whole Maine AT one week or so every September from about 2005-2013, in our sixties.

Ridgerunner and Maine Trail Crew 2021 Season

By Janice Clain

Both the Ridgerunner and Maine Trail Crew programs have wrapped up the 2021 season, a season that saw many changes in management and operation, due to COVID. Both programs were suspended in 2020 because of the many unknowns of the global pandemic. The Ridgerunner and Trail Maine Crew Committees spent the winter of 2020 - 2021 trying to imagine every possibility that could impact the operations of MATC employees in the field and hinder their mission of maintaining and protecting the Trail in Maine. The roll-out of preventive vaccines provided security and allowed both programs to proceed and even to relax, though not eliminate, the strict protocols that the committees had developed prior to the beginning of the season. Both programs delivered as much of their pre-season trainings as possible using Zoom, followed by hands-on in-person trainings for the on-the-ground skills that are necessary for footpath construction and for interacting with hikers on the Trail.

The Maine Trail Crew operated as two four-person paid teams, (although one person left early in the season and three more people joined the program in early August). The teams worked two different schedules, which led to logistical challenges. Team A began training in early May and wrapped up their season on October 15. Team B started in-person training in late May and wrapped up on September 28. They also assisted in removing all of MATC's gear from the Brann's Mills Pond Island as that property has now been sold. Projects for the season included: Baxter State Park, Rainbow Stream, Marble Brook, Bates Ridge, Route 17, West Carry Pond, Saddleback, Crocker, and Columbus Mountains.

In August, the managers of Lake George Regional Park, which is operated by the towns of Skowhegan and Canaan, contacted MATC after hearing a radio interview regarding the construction of the Maine Trail Center, in Skowhegan. Park officials invited the Maine Trail Crew to use its facilities as a temporary base while the Trail Center is under construction. Negotiations are still under way, but Trail Crew equipment is currently stored at the Lake George facility. The Trail Crew Committee has begun to work out details for operations for the 2022 season with a base camp at the park.

The CARE program placed Ridgerunners this season at Saddleback, Bigelow and Gulf Hagas, with the first three weeks for that Ridgerunner spent at the northern terminus of the Hundred Mile Wilderness. In addition, ATC had its own Ridgerunners, who trained and coordinated with MATC personnel at Abol Bridge and south from Monson. Ridgerunners began their season on Memorial Day Weekend. All three MATC positions packed up their base camp facilities on October 16 and met at Lake George Regional Park to discuss and wrap up the season on October 17. During the season, they interacted with thousands of hikers, long-distance, overnight and day users. They gave valuable advice on trail safety, resources protection, and information on Baxter State Park protocols for "finishing up well." They reported that summer camp and college orientation groups were back out on the Trail.

This season, MATC Ridgerunners were able to capitalize on the Fast Field Forms application that ATC introduced a few years ago. Each Ridgerunner records information on hikers and on Trail conditions, including any issues needing attention. The information is automatically delivered to the Club Coordinator, site supervisors and District Managers, who can then contact the proper volunteers to address any problems. They really did become the "eyes and ears" on the Trail.

The Ridgerunner and Maine Trail Crew Committees have already begun to meet to make plans for next season. They were pleased to know that several members of both programs were so impressed by their experiences this season in Maine, (both on the Trail and in the community), that they want to return to work with MATC next season. This season was like a new beginning under new circumstances but will provide a firm base for continuing to develop and operate these valuable MATC programs.



**Bruce and Derek at
Marble Brook**



Using the Grip Hoist at Marble Brook



Team A



**Stone Staircase on
Saddleback Mountain**

Busy Summer for MATC's Maine Trail Crew

By Holly Sheehan

MATC's Maine Trail Crew had a safe and successful season. The Crew accomplished two years of trail project over one long season, due to the program's 2020 suspension because of COVID-19. Thank you to the volunteer committee members and seasonal staff for their hard work and dedication!

2021 Maine Trail Crew Tread Way Accomplishments

Hunt Trail/Katahdin

- 21 check steps
- 3 rock stair
- 3 rock water bars
- 200 ft drainage ditch cleaned
- 9 ft² new drainage ditch created

Rainbow Stream

- 76 stepping stones installed/reset
- 28 rock stairs
- 42 ft tread maintained
- 1 rock water bar
- 1 drain
- 100 ft² "riprap" rock wall

Marble Brook

- 135 Stepping stones
- 26 rock stairs
- 2 rock water bars
- 22 feet riprap

Columbus Mountain

- 16 rock stairs
- 5 rock water bars
- 2 drains
- 44 step stones
- 18 ft armored drain
- 38 ft drainage ditch

Bates Ridge

- 42 stepping stones
- 3 new rock water bars
- 4 water bars cleared/maintained
- 8 rock stairs
- 18 ft ditch and drain
- 1 check step
- 35 ft² "riprap" wall
- 35 ft drainage ditch (14ft. armored)

West Carry Pond

- 54 stepping stones
- 7 rock stairs
- 17 ft ditch and drain
- 6 rock water bars

Route 17

- 45 ft² armored drain
- 32 rock stairs
- 2 rock water bars
- 30 ft² retaining wall
- 200 ft² "riprap" wall

The Crockers

- 8 rock water bars
- 34 stepping stones
- 7 drains
- 13 rock stairs
- 25 ft ditch and drain
- 56 ft² crush fill tread

Saddleback Mountain

- 46 rock stairs

MATC Volunteer Hours by Category for Reporting Year

Compiled by Stan Moody

Oct 1, 2020 To Sep 30, 2021

| Category | # Work Trips | Work Hours | Travel Hours | Total hrs |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Katahdin | 48 | 788.5 | 518 | 1,306.5 |
| Whitecap | 114 | 1,570.25 | 1028.85 | 2,599.1 |
| Kennebec | 72 | 904.95 | 600.6 | 1,505.55 |
| Bigelow | 98 | 1,259.55 | 659.8 | 1,919.35 |
| Baldpate | 71 | 1104 | 621.05 | 1,725.05 |
| Off Trail Construction Work | 5 | 122.5 | 34 | 156.5 |
| Corridor Monitoring | 38 | 249.3 | 149 | 398.3 |
| Trail Management | 26 | 627.67 | 28.75 | 656.42 |
| Trail Training | 13 | 258.25 | 45.5 | 303.75 |
| Corridor Management | 2 | 70 | 10 | 80 |
| Corridor Training | 1 | 18 | 15 | 33 |
| MATC Management | 163 | 3,124.75 | 267 | 3,391.75 |
| A. T. Management | 3 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Admin Training | 3 | 14.25 | 0 | 14.25 |
| Communications | 9 | 193 | 0 | 193 |
| Outreach Information | 17 | 92.3 | 0 | 92.3 |
| Outreach Training | 1 | 3.75 | 0 | 3.75 |
| Outreach Other | 1 | 200 | 4 | 204 |
| Totals | 685 | 10,611.02 | 3,981.55 | 14,592.57 |

Guy Pilote: Raising Awareness about Brain Injury on the Appalachian Trail

By Sarah Kilch Gaffney



In October of 2014, shortly after a 3-mile run, Guy Pilote had a massive ischemic stroke at the age of 49. A veteran and former police officer and firefighter, Guy was in excellent health and had no risk factors for stroke. A large portion of the left hemisphere of Guy's brain was damaged by the stroke, and doctors were uncertain whether Guy would ever walk, talk, or use his right arm and hand again. After much intensive therapy and hard work, Guy's stubbornness and work ethic paid off. He still has limitations with his right hand and with aphasia, which is a condition that can affect one's ability to speak, write, and understand language, but Guy hasn't let that stop him from returning to work and pursuing his dreams.

In April of 2021, Guy set out to thru hike the Appalachian Trail to raise awareness about brain injury while also raising funds to support the Maine brain injury community through the Brain Injury Association of America's Maine Chapter. In late October, Guy reached Mt. Katahdin and attempted to complete the trail with his family by his side, only to have to turn around 1.5 miles from the summit due to hazardous trail conditions. Guy's hike is an immense accomplishment and a testament to his drive, perseverance, and hard work, as well as his care and compassion for others. To date Guy has raised nearly \$10,000 to help support other Maine

brain injury survivors and their families as they navigate the often difficult and bewildering world of life after brain injury.

In the United States, someone experiences a brain injury every 9 seconds. Brain injuries can be traumatic, like those caused by falls, motor vehicle accidents, assaults, sports injuries, etc., and non-traumatic, as in Guy's case, like those caused strokes, diseases, toxic exposure, tumors, and lack of oxygen.

To learn more about brain injury and what resources are available in Maine, please visit biausa.org/maine, and Guy's fundraiser can be found at biausa.org/guypilote.



Whitecap District Manager's Report for 9/10/2021

Brad Deane , Whitecap District Manager

Maintainers have been busy in the Whitecap District this year. So far there have been 95 work trips for a total of 1766.6 hours, 1090.75 work hours and 675.85 travel hours. There have been 12 students from Bowdoin College hauling bog bridge planking near Long Pond Steam and 21 students from Colby College hauling privy materials to Sidney Tappan camp site. We are fortunate to have these groups available and thank them very much.

There are 4 volunteer projects ongoing in the Whitecap District: the Fourth Mountain trail relocation, the Fourth Mountain Bog trail relocation, The Wilson Valley beaver bog trail relocation and the White Brook Trail relocation. So far only the Fourth Mountain trail relocation has been approved, and there will a work section on this later this month.

Three trail maintainer positions were filled earlier in year: Robert Pantel for Head of the Gulf Trail, Ross Ludder for the Big Wilson Stream section and Justin Hennessey for the Little Wilson Steam section. Also, Herb Fithian has done an excellent job maintaining the north side of Whitecap while the regular maintainers, who are from Nova Scotia, still aren't allowed to cross the border. There are currently no openings in the Whitecap District.

Bigelow District Update - Fall 2021

By Mike Blais, District Manager and Alan Bellows, Asst. District Manager

It's been a busy summer for Bigelow district maintainers making a total of 89 reported work trips for a total of 1790 hours including work and travel. One maintainer made more than 10 trips - that's going above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you all for the work you do!

MATC's Trail Crew had crews working just north of Piazza Rock and on the north slope of North Crocker this summer. In 6 weeks they built 46 rock steps above Piazza Rock. In addition, the Maine Conservation Corp had a crew working above Horns Pond in the Bigelow range, building 14 rock water bars, 4 stone steps and 3 check steps. An MCC crew working on Sugarloaf suffered two injuries in the first week and that project had to be cancelled after completing a single set of 10 rock steps. In 2022, there is no work in the plan for the Trail Crew in the Bigelow district, and the plan is for Maine Conservation Corp to do more work above Horns Pond. There will probably be a site visit in late spring with ATC and MCC - anyone interested in participating should contact Mike Blais or Alan Bellows.

In addition to the crew work projects this summer, the Campsite Committee organized a work trip to rebuild a tent platform with PT lumber and composite decking at the Crocker Cirque campsite. It was a chore carrying that heavy composite decking up the trail to the campsite, but the cheerful dedication of many volunteers made this a quick and fun effort. The donation that funded the material purchase has enough left to buy materials for another tent platform, so look for another opportunity in 2022 if you missed this one.

We welcomed three new maintainers to the Bigelow district in 2022. Keith Corson signed up for the heavily-used Horns Pond side trail, Meg Clews took over the Bigelow Range side trail from the register box to Cranberry Peak, and Elizabeth Trask took on the AT section from the summit of South Horn to the Bigelow Range side trail, plus the North Horn side trail. Thank you all.

Trail Maintainer Wanted: We have one remaining open maintenance section in the Bigelow District, on the A.T. from the Griscom maintainer trail south of Poplar Ridge extending 1.9 miles south to the summit of the Saddleback Horn. If you are interested in this section, please contact Mike or Alan at the email addresses listed below and let us know of your trail maintaining experience.

Many thanks to all who put in so much effort to keep the trail in such good shape. As always, if anyone has any questions concerns or issues, please contact district manager Mike Blais at Bigelow@matc.org, or assistant manager Alan Bellows at Bigelow2@matc.org.

Katahdin District News – Fall 2021

By Rick Ste.Croix, Trail Manager - Katahdin District - Katahdin@matc.org

The new maintainer for the section of the A.T. from the Park Tote Road south to the Highwater Trail is Priscilla Seimer. Priscilla has been the trail maintainer on the A.T. section of trail in Baxter State Park, from the Park Tote Road north to Baxter Peak, Katahdin, also known as the Hunt Trail, for the last 10 years. Priscilla has been performing trail maintenance for about 30 years in Baxter State Park on the A.T. as well as on other sections of the A.T. in Maine and will continue to keep this section of the A.T. near Daicey Pond in great shape.

Trail maintainer wanted: This section starts at the Baxter State Park Tote Road (Katahdin Stream Campground) and extends north 5.3 miles to Baxter Peak, Katahdin also known as the Hunt Trail. MATC asks that maintainers make 3 work trips per year, late spring, summer and fall to clear blowdowns, clip branches, clean water bars, paint white blazes and send in work trip reports. If you are interested in this section, please contact me at the email address listed below and let me know of your trail maintaining experience.

On August 21 and 22, Doug Dolan led a crew to Rainbow Stream Campsite to replace the base logs on the lean-to. Two trees were felled, peeled and left to dry earlier in the summer for this project. The base logs on the back and two sides were replaced as well as the lean-to being jacked up and set on new rocks. The ground in the back and sides of the lean-to was ditched for water drainage. The roof overhang on the back of the lean-to was extended about a foot for better drainage away from the lean-to base logs. Thanks to Doug and the crew for accomplishing this much needed work project.

Enjoy the A.T. and the fall weather.

2021 Campsite Committee Field Season

By Laura Flight, Campsite Manager



Crocker Cirque tent platform haul

The Campsite Committee held its typical spring planning meeting back in March, but those were anything but typical times. Vaccines had just become available to some of the population a few weeks earlier, many of us did not know when our turn would come, and we did not know what the upcoming field season might have in store for us. Nevertheless, the future looked bright(ish) so we lined up projects for 2021- because as Benjamin Franklin said: "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail". We pushed projects involving more people to later in the summer,

lightened our load a bit, and waited for guidance on resumption of operations within the pandemic. As it turns out, we had a mostly normal season, completing two major lean-to projects, built two new accessible moldering privies, and replaced one tent platform.

The two lean-to sill replacement projects were completed at the Long Pond Stream and Rainbow Stream campsites. The



Crocker Cirque tent platform replacement

Rainbow Stream effort was a significant undertaking as both side logs had decayed, and the rear sill log was compromised as well as the one above it. Doug Dolan and a

volunteer crew ably performed the repairs by removing both rear logs and replacing them with one new one and replacing both side logs that became sill logs in the process (he led a similar effort at the Hall Mountain lean-to in 2019). Extensive drainage was also installed to allow water and sediment to drain away from the structure to prevent future accumulation of materials against the bottom logs.

At Long Pond Stream, the rear sill log was replaced and as a Rainbow Stream drainages were created to allow water and sediment to flow away from the lean-to. Leaves and other debris can still accumulate, but these will be raked away during maintenance visits. The Long Pond Stream rear sill replacement project was more straight forward, not to short-change the amount of effort involved! Lean-to projects like these involve at least two



Sidney Tappan privy haul with Colby College



Sidney Tappan privy build with Colby College

trips per lean-to. The first trip is to fell trees that will be used to replace the compromised logs, as well as de-limb, peel, and prop them up to dry for the summer. Some of the digging

required to remove the existing logs and insert new logs is also usually done on this trip. A second trip is done in the fall to do the actual log replacements. Each project is on the order of a couple hundred hours of work for multiple volunteers.

Shifting to privies, the Campsite Committee and its dedicated pool of volunteers contributed a total of 1,205 hours pre-

building, site prepping, material hauling, building, and painting and staining two new accessible moldering privies this season; one at Sabbath Day Pond and the other at Sidney Tappan.



Sidney Tappan privy build

This brings the total count of these structures to 18 at 16 different campsites (there are 2 at the Horns Pond campsite, and 1 at the Kennebec River ferry crossing). Hikers have a greater than 1 and 3 chance of doing their business in one of these commodious commodes on the A.T. in Maine.

As with lean-to projects, building a privy also involves multiple trips to complete; pre-building in the front-county, site prep, material hauling, and building at the campsite. This year we did both projects in parallel and moved the pre-build



Finished privy at Sidney Tappan

from April to July. This allowed us to keep group sizes small earlier in the summer and expand them as the season went on.

The site prep for both Sabbath Day Pond and Sidney Tappan privies was done in June with the help of friendly black flies. There were numerous stubborn stumps at Sabbath Day Pond that took a lot of coaxing to remove as well as nearly sacrificing a chainsaw chain. However, Sidney Tappan proved to be the easiest dig to date with no stumps and only a few manageable rocks. Who would have thought the White Cap range would be so kind?! We performed the pre-build at the end of July on a thankfully bright, dry, and cool day in a gap between hot and humid spells. It still amazes me that we can pre-build two of these in one day, but at this point with so



Haul crew for Sabbath Day Pond privy

many repeat volunteers we are a well-oiled machine!

The haul for Sabbath Day Pond was in mid-August, and the weather was less cooperative than

for the pre-build a couple of weeks earlier. A steady rain greeted the group at the Height of Land on Route 17, and there was no view to be had. We partnered with Pine Tree Search and Rescue for this effort, and they contributed four volunteers who made umpteen trips and zero complaints through rain and mud. The haul was an Army-Navy affair, though not a rivalry. A camp owner on Long Pond used two of his boats to motor the materials, in several trips, across the pond to the “beach” on the east side where the A.T. skirts the shore. We then hiked the materials about 0.4 miles to the campsite. The sun held off until the group photo at the end, which made it look like a spectacular day when in actuality it was a wet slog. The build took place on September 25th. We did luck out weather-wise, catching a sunny, cool day between rain events that ended in the early morning hours of the 25th and resumed late that evening. Motivated by incoming rain, the group of eleven started early, and finished late, but we built it all, including painted and stained, in one day!

A group from Colby College was a key to our success at Sidney Tappan over Labor Day

weekend. They were the shining light between a flat tire on one vehicle, a stuck parking brake on another, and using a come-a-long to coax Dana’s truck and trailer loaded with all the materials up the last pitch. We are truly grateful for their youthful and continued contributions to MATC projects year after year. And this year’s haul was not a walk in the park; it was about 0.6 miles with 650 feet of elevation gain. We approached the haul in two segments, and the healthy group of twenty-one broke into two crews accordingly. After 6.5 hours of hauling, the task was complete and the group was treated to an impromptu workshop on moldering privies as well as participated in screwing on the floor decking which they eagerly took a hand at.

Two pit privies were moved to new holes this season, but they were not projects organized by the Campsite Committee. I’d like to declare a hearty shout-out to Ben Deering for organizing and executing these two moves at Rainbow Spring and Moxie Bald! The same goes for Bruce Grant at Cloud Pond where he is keeping the existing privy in business before it is replaced in 2024.



Sabbath Day Pond privy build



Tree on Nahmakanta leanto

Back in mid-July, a group of 10 volunteers spent a day replacing one of the tent platforms at the Crocker Cirque campsite. This particular tent platform had seen better days as it was replete with holes as well as spongy to boot (pun intended). There were 32 pieces of lumber as well as tools, so we all made several trips to get the materials to the site. It was all there by lunch time and assembled by early afternoon. We used some of that fancy composite decking thanks to a generous, unsolicited, donor.

To quickly mention a few other Campsite Committee related activities this summer, the front corner of the East Branch lean-to was clipped by a tree so Brad Dean fashioned a purlin splice out of the fallen tree and the roof should hold for a while to come. An 18-inch spruce fell on the new lean-to at Nahmakanta, and it took three people several hours to remove it without further damage to the lean-to. The Baldpate privy received a new set of steps, and some tent site improvements were done at Long Pond Stream, Rainbow Stream, and

Rainbow Spring in concert with other work at those campsites. The rear roof at Rainbow Stream was extended so it had an appropriate overhang, and 5 hazard trees were removed at Wadleigh Stream. And finally, the deck was re-leveled and drainage installed at the Pleasant Pond privy.

As you can read, we accomplished several projects this summer which was welcome after last year’s lapse. Thank you again to all the volunteers on these projects; they wouldn’t be possible without you! If you have been bench warming for a while but want to get in on the action, contact Laura Flight (campsite@matc.org). As we say:



Rick Ste. Croix tree at Nahmakanta

“Many hands make lighter work!”

MATC Strategic Plan

By Alan Bellows

In February MATC chartered a Strategic Planning Committee to put together a plan to identify 3-year strategic plans and realistic implementation plans for the club. The committee, consisting of Alan Bellows, Tom Gorrill, Janice Clain, Sasha Nyary, Laurie Jevons, Ken Spalding and Craig Dickstein, aided by a team of consultants from Empower Success Corporation has been meeting every 2 weeks all year to complete the plan.

The first phase consisted of an environment analysis. The team interviewed selected volunteers, stakeholders such as hostel owners and trail town reps, partner and peer organizations reps (such as ATC, the National Park Service, AMC's North Maine Woods Initiative) and other maintaining clubs to get feedback on MATC's performance, common issues and challenges. The consultants interviewed all members of the Executive Committee. An online survey generated 534 responses and generated many useful comments.

The team is now working on setting 3-year goals and developing specific plans for implementation.

Some key areas of focus are:

- planning for the operational and financial implications of the Trail Center,
- improving our internal and external communications,
- expanding our membership and diversity,
- improving volunteer and executive committee training,
- broadening our fundraising to support club operations and reduce dependence on NPS/ATC funding.

Our target is to review the plans with the executive committee by January or February with completion by the annual meeting in April.



Bigelow Ridge Runner Pack Out

Katahdin Coffee Sponsors MATC

The MATC would like to acknowledge the generous support of our most recent Sponsor: **Katahdin Coffee**. Katahdin comes from a family of coffee mongers. From 1975 to 2014, Lyons Coffee Service, founded by Stan & Hazel Lyons, provided hardworking Mainers (and New Hampshireites) with workplace coffee and supplies. Family owned and operated, we carried Katahdin Coffee as our own private brand. Eventually, we sold the office coffee operation, and Katahdin Coffee Co. began a new chapter as a stand-alone company: Katahdin Coffee.

Katahdin Coffee's donation will contribute to sustaining the more than 25,000 hours of work done annually by the volunteers of the MATC; clearing blowdowns, digging runoff ditches, and building bog bridges and mouldering privies. Learn more about MATC Sponsorship at (<https://www.matc.org/index.php/sponsorship/>)



Current MATC Membership Numbers as of Oct 24, 2021

By Nancy Grant

- Individual members = 193
- Family members (2 per family) = 224
- Life members = 172
- Organization members = 15
- Honorary members = 8
- Trail Crew members (not including 2021) 5
- Business members = 1
- Youth members = 1

Compared with March of 2020, we have about 170 less members. Twice as many less family members compared to less individual members. The next biggest loss in membership was due to no Trail Crew in 2020.

Please encourage those you see hiking to support the trails with membership in MATC. Join or Renew your membership at <https://www.matc.org/index.php/membership/>

The MAINetainer

The MAINetainer is the official 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.

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Online at <https://www.matc.org/index.php/membership/>

Or Complete & Mail Form Below

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- ☐ Family (\$45)
- ☐ Business \$100
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- ☐ MATC MAINetainer Newsletter
- ☐ Renewal Notices
- ☐ Information about Work Trips and Meetings

Volunteer jobs are posted in the MAINetainer or on the club's web site www.matc.org

Please use the volunteer form to share your skills and interests:

<https://www.matc.org/index.php/volinterestform/>

Make check payable to MATC - Clip and mail form to:

Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Jonathan Ellis, Treasurer

P.O. Box 7564,

Portland, ME 04112

Annual Reports on Website

Did you know that you can read annual reports from various managers, committees, MTC, Care, along with minutes from the Annual Meeting? [Click this link to view.](#)

MATC on the web at www.matc.org

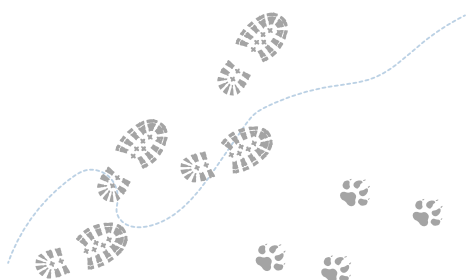
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The MAINEtainer



Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Managing and maintaining 267 miles
of the Appalachian Trail in Maine



2021 Maine Trail Crew at Marble Brook