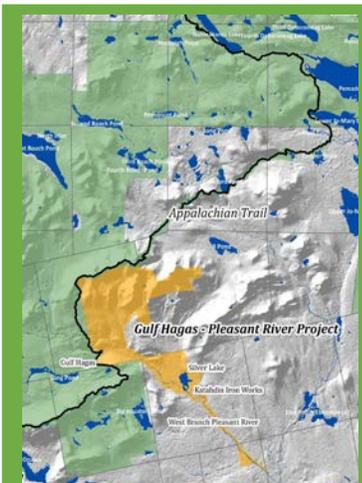
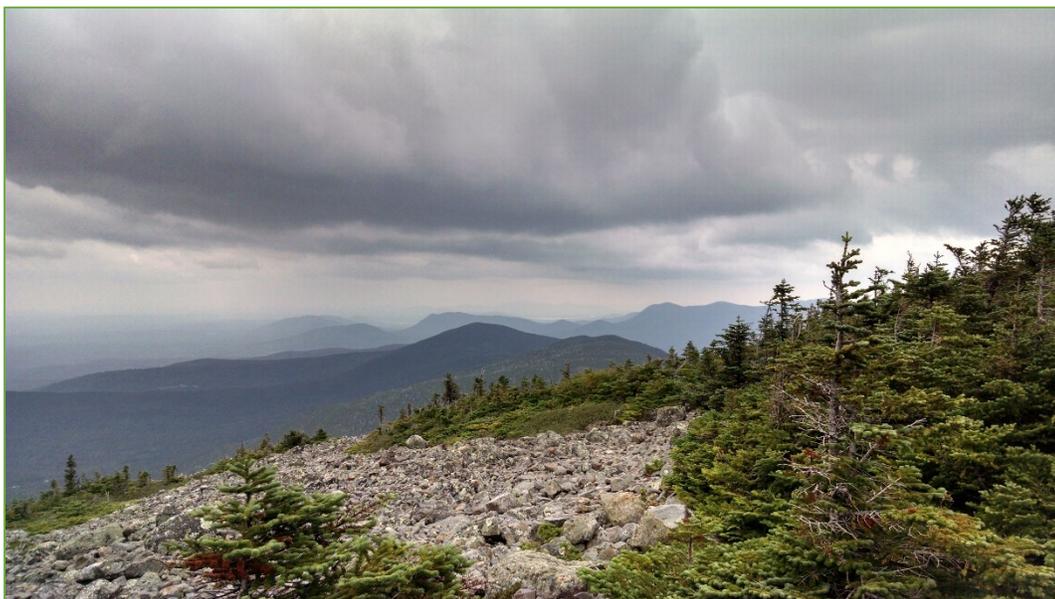


Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust

Spring 2017 Newsletter



Map showing the project in the 100-Mile Wilderness area, with Baxter State Park to the north and Monson to the southwest.

Project Profile: Gulf Hagas – Whitecap

One of the goals the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust pursues when undertaking conservation is to prioritize land along the Appalachian Trail that captures the most features. The priorities considered in A.T. conservation have evolved over time as land conservation has become more sophisticated and inclusive. Land trusts no longer focus solely on nature when protecting land for public benefit. We also protect recreational resources, cultural and historical sites, water quality, soil quality, areas resilient to climate change and agricultural lands.

One thing that has not changed since the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust started prioritizing the A.T. landscape is the importance of protecting White Cap Mountain. Though not as well-known as some of the other A.T. peaks in Maine – Baxter, Sugarloaf, Saddleback, Abraham, Bigelows, etc. – White Cap is the highest point on the Appalachian Trail north of the Bigelow Range until you reach Katahdin. It looms over the Gulf Hagas area and the vast, true northern forest begins in its environs. Not many hikers venture to White Cap for day trips, but there is a maintained A.T. side trail (the White Brook Trail) and plenty of campsites due to the A.T.'s passage through the KI-Jo Mary Multiple Use Management Forest. KI-Jo Mary is a landowner cooperative of approximately 175,000 acres of working forest land that is open for recreation.

In 2004, the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust considered the White Cap Mountain landscape so important that a standalone appendix was devoted to it in the list of Land Acquisition Priorities. When the

opportunity finally arose in 2014 to work with the Forest Society of Maine to protect White Cap, the Land Trust was unanimous in wanting to provide support. The ensuing Gulf Hagas-Pleasant River project (as shown above) will encompass approximately 18,000 acres of land that will be permanently protected - 17 miles of the West Branch of the Pleasant River, a significant wetland complex, miles of undeveloped stream and lake shore, high elevation lands including four mountain peaks, thousands of acres of working forest, and 11 miles of the Appalachian Trail corridor. The lands provide important habitat for multiple species of birds and wildlife and significant fisheries habitat for Eastern brook trout and Atlantic salmon restoration. The project lands also provide camping, hiking, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, and other similar recreational uses for more than 10,000 people every year.

The Pleasant River portion of this project has been conserved, and the Gulf Hagas – Whitecap portion along the A.T. will follow this summer. People from all over the U.S. and the world who hike this portion of the Appalachian Trail each year will be able to enjoy the view shown above and all that this landscape has to offer for years to come. Thanks to Forest Society of Maine, the State of Maine, Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and all our partners for years of hard work. Look for a project update in our summer newsletter! *NB – both spellings of White Cap/Whitecap are used.*

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Maine Appalachian Trail Conference

Dates: August 4 to 11, 2017

Location: Colby College, Waterville, Maine

Event Overview: The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) holds a conference every two years at different locations in the Eastern US. This week-long event includes over 240 hikes, numerous workshops, and excursions to local areas of interest. The conference will also include ATC's 41st membership meeting. Each evening there are exciting adventure presentations and stellar entertainment. The event draws people from around the world, but primarily from locations along the nearly 2,200 mile Appalachian Trail (A.T.). At the last conference held in Maine (1997 Sunday River), 1,380 people participated. We anticipate over 1,200 attendees in 2017.

About the ATC: The ATC, established in 1925, is a national not-for-profit that is both a confederation of 31 local organizations with assignments to maintain the A.T. and a membership organization with support from all 50 states and more than 15 other countries. Under agreements that date back to the 1930s, buttressed by federal legislation in 1968 and 1978, ATC leads a cooperative-management system for the A.T. that includes the National Park Service and USDA Forest Service at national, regional, and district levels, numerous state parks, a variety of agencies in 14 states and other land management organizations.

About the A.T.: The A.T. is one of the longest continuously marked footpaths in the world, measuring roughly 2,180 miles. The A.T. goes through fourteen states along the crests and valleys of the Appalachian mountain range from the southern terminus at Springer Mountain, Georgia, to the Trail's northern terminus at Katahdin, Maine. The A.T. was completed in 1937 (near Sugarloaf Mtn.) and is a unit of the National Park System. It is estimated that 2 to 3 million people visit the A.T. every year.

Opportunities for People in Maine to Get Involved:

- Participate in the conference – hikes, workshops, entertainment, excursions!
- Promote the conference locally!
- Become a sponsor!
- Have a vendor table in the exhibit area!
- Donate items for door prizes or for registered participant event bags!

For more information:

Conference Website: www.atc2017.org

To Volunteer: www.appalachiantrail.org/Maine2017Volunteers

To be a Sponsor or Exhibitor, mail to: Exhibits2017@ATconf.org

Hosted by: [Maine Appalachian Trail Club](#) and [Appalachian Mountain Club – Maine Chapter](#)

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Community Update



- As part of the **Portland Public Library's Sustainability Series**, the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust will be talking about A.T. conservation and how initiatives with the National Park Service and Appalachian Trail Conservancy are planning for climate change. This event is free and open to the public. *Wednesday, May 24th, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Rines Auditorium, Main Library Branch*
- Our annual **Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust Day at the Ballpark** will be on June 25th at Hadlock Field to take in a Sea Dogs game. If you would like tickets to the game, email us at info@matlt.org or call 207-808-2073. Thanks to U.S. Cellular for sponsoring this event!
- **ATC Maine 2017 Conference.** As mentioned above, the ATC Maine Conference will be held in August. The Maine A.T. Land Trust will be helping out by leading a hike up Mt. Abraham via the Fire Warden Trail on August 8th, and will be holding a workshop at 8am on August 5th. The Land Trust will also have a table at the conference – look for us there!
- **National Trails Day.** National Trails Day is on June 3rd - it is the only national event designed to unite all muscle-powered trail activities with the goal of connecting more people to trails. Our event is the Arnold Trail hike. If you don't sign up, head over to the American Hiking Society's website to find hundreds to choose from. <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/>

Project Update



- The Land Trust is taking on an increased role in the **Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership** by applying jointly (with Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Regional Conservation Partnership Network) for a grant of \$10 million from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. These funds would be used in the New England and New York Appalachian Trail Landscape and would protect working forests, wildlife habitat and water/soil quality for the land in this region.
- **Appalachian Trail Maine: Next Century.** The ATMNC program is well under way, with current work involving GIS-based mapping, data collection and cartography. Thanks to our friends at Center for Community GIS for helping us out with this project!
- **High Peaks Gazetteer.** The Land Trust has been working with frequent partners The Wilderness Society and High Peaks Alliance on an all-trails mapping book and guide for the Maine High Peaks region. It is hoped that this tool can be used for recreational planning and continued conservation efforts in the region.
- **Redington Forest.** The Redington property is still on track to be conserved this year. There have been administrative delays due to state funding and other issues, but we're hanging in there!
- The **Gulf Hagas-White Cap** project (profiled on page one) is slated to be complete by the end of this summer.

Board Member Profile: Milt Wright



How did you first hear about the Maine A.T. Land Trust?

I was hiking back from a work trip on the Grafton Loop Trail with Tom Lewis and others before the Maine A.T. Land Trust was established. Tom was concerned that Appalachian Trail Conservancy was not doing enough to conserve lands adjacent to the A.T. in Maine.

What made you want to get involved?

At the time of my conversation with Tom Lewis, I was a trail maintainer on the A.T. and the Baldpate Overseer for the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. I recognized the merits of what Tom was telling me about the opportunity to conserve land adjacent to the A.T. in Maine.

How are you currently involved?

Along with Tom Lewis, the first President of the Maine A.T. Land Trust, I am a founding member of the land trust and its first and only Secretary. I am still involved with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club having served as its President for one two-year term, and as Chair of its Personnel Committee, a member of its Development Committee and I participate in the annual meeting between administrators of Baxter State Park and the MATC where issues pertaining to the A.T. as it passes through Baxter State Park are discussed.

What is your background?

I grew up in Orrington, Maine. I became a business teacher first on Long Island, New York and later in Maine. From teaching I went to work for the Maine Teachers Association (MTA) representing educators in negotiations and grievance processing and other issues in K - 12 and higher education. Eventually I became the first full-time Director of Government Relations for the MTA, later the Deputy Executive Director and still later the Executive Director of the MTA.

Where did you work prior to working in conservation?

My background has been in education and promoting public education.

What made you decide to work for conservation organizations in Maine?

Being a Maine native, I have always had the yen to explore this great state in nearly inaccessible places. I came to appreciate the incredible beauty of nature and the beautiful hidden places here in this state. And I want to preserve these places for others to enjoy as much as I have enjoyed them.

Do you work for any other conservation organizations?

Other than paying my dues and attending meetings on occasion, I am not an active member of any other conservation organization other than the Maine Appalachian Trail Club.

What do you think are the most important issues in land conservation in Maine today?

Two of the greatest issues are threats caused by wind energy developers to place wind towers seemingly on every mountain and the subdivision of large tracts of land into kingdom lots. Certainly, the Land for Maine's Future has a crucial role in conserving lands and the beautiful hidden places in Maine for now and in the future. And certainly, the Maine A.T. Land Trust has a role in preserving the lands within the realm of the A.T. in Maine.



By Gillian Schair

I love getting outside and pushing my internal boundaries and was sure that there were other Maine women who felt similarly. Indeed, there are. In October of 2015 I gathered a handful of friends with whom to share my ideas about an adventure club, exclusive to women of all ages who wanted to grow, adventure and push themselves in a generous, fun and kind community. On that night, in the coziness of my living room, the Ladies Adventure Club was born.

It started with about 25 members and we are currently 125 members strong, ranging in ages from 20-83. Our adventures take place both outside and inside. We have hiked, snowshoed, written poetry with Portland's poet laureate, yoga'ed, surfed, learned archery, kayaked and camped in Muscongus Bay and oh, so much more.

There is something both special and rewarding in adventuring with a supportive and fun group of women. For me, adventuring with a group provides that little bit of oomph I sometimes need to get outside or to try something that is scary for me. I'm always open to new adventuring ideas and very much like partnering with other groups who may have knowledge and experience in ways that I do not.

For club members, I plan one adventure a month and two overnight adventures a year. Our upcoming adventures include a yoga class, a walk at Ovens Mouth Preserve, a day trip to Harbor Island in Muscongus Bay, a hike up Whitecap Mountain in Rumford, and a two-night overnight to Bald Mountain in Oquossoc. In June we will be featuring a guided hike with the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust up Puzzle Mountain.

For more information, click over to ladiesadventureclubmaine.com or email me at gillian@ladiesadventureclubmaine.com

Gillian Schair is a resident of Portland and a full-time mom to two kids, ages 16 and 12. She is the current board chair of the Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Women's Policy Center and has served on boards relating to both the arts and the environment; she also has a passion for social justice and equality. For ten years she served as a Maine CASA/guardian adLitem, advocating for children in the foster care system. She is a bee-keeper, a seasoned skier and an enthusiast of Maine winter recreation.

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Website: matlt.org

Next Century Hikes

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust's Next Century program features free, guided hikes for members and the public alike. This hiking season, we are offering one hike per weekend to get more people out on Maine's A.T. landscape. The calendar is being continually added to – for more information head over to our matlt.org and click on the calendar. Or contact us directly at info@matlt.org or 207-808-2073.

Arnold Trail / Appalachian Trail Hike - June 3



Hike on the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail where it runs with the A.T. in the Carry Ponds area. Arnold Expedition Historical Society guide will join. National Trails Day!

Crocker and South Crocker - June 17



Trip from Caribou Valley Road up South Crocker and Crocker Mountain (and possibly Mount Redington). A Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust project completed in 2013.

East and West Baldpate - June 18



Spectacular scenery in Grafton Notch. Ascent of two peaks above 3500 feet in alpine terrain.

Puzzle Mountain - June 24



Hike on the Grafton Loop Trail, an official Appalachian Trail side trail, with the Ladies Adventure Club. Contact them at ladiesadventureclubmaine@gmail.com to sign up.

Old Speck - July 9



One of Maine's highest peaks and the highest in the Mahoosucs.

Sugarloaf Mountain - July 15



The highest peak in Maine's High Peaks and a rugged, spectacular climb.

Berry Pickers Trail to Saddleback and The Horn via the A.T. - July 29



Newly opened trail on Maine A.T. Land Trust's Saddleback Mountain property. Backside access to the A.T.

Mount Abraham Appalachian Trail Conservancy Maine 2017 Hike - August 7



To join this hike, please register for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Maine 2017 Conference!

Avery and West Peak - Bigelow Range Hike - August 26



Hike along the Bigelow Range to the two highest peaks, overlooking Flagstaff Lake

Puzzle Mountain - September 2



Open to all members and the public!



What Is the Arnold Trail?

"In 1775 a small American army of about 1000 soldiers under the command of Col. Benedict Arnold passed over the 13 mile Great Carrying Place between the Kennebec and Dead Rivers. Col. Arnold and several companies encamped here on October 14. On the following day, they crossed West Carry Pond in their bateaux and continued over the steep ridge to the west and on to the Dead River. They then proceeded through the wilderness to attack their goal, Quebec. The Appalachian Trail between Middle and West Carry Ponds precisely follows the Old Portage Trail." *Photo courtesy of AEHS/sign by MATC*

Spring Membership Drive



Individual membership is \$25 for a limited time



Family membership is \$35 for a limited time



Your donation funds land protection in Maine.

We are looking for 200 new members who want to protect the Appalachian Trail in Maine. If your membership has lapsed, please renew today.

Corporate Sponsors

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust is pleased to have the sponsorship of the following businesses. The land trust has a unique, annual relationship with conservation- and civic-minded organizations who wish to support our mission and take advantage of the services we offer. Without them, our work would not be possible.



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Maine Appalachian
 Trail Land Trust
 P.O. Box 761
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We need your help! The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust is currently working on *four* different projects to conserve over 27,000 acres of land along the Appalachian Trail as part of our **Appalachian Trail Maine: Next Century** program. We are taking on stewardship and land management responsibilities to ensure that these lands remain open to public use! Please consider giving today – for a limited time, our individual and family memberships are discounted.

To make a donation, please send in this form with your check or head over to <http://matlt.org/support-our-work/> to make your contribution online. **We also accept gifts of stock and can work with your financial advisors.** Please call us at 207-808-2073 or email us at info@matlt.org if you'd like to discuss giving options with our staff.



Thank you for your continuing support of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust! Your donation supports our ongoing project work and allows us to continue operations, fund stewardship activities and protect land along the Appalachian Trail.

_____ \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$100 _____ **\$35** _____ **\$25** _____ \$10 \$ _____ (other amount)

Please make checks payable to: **“Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust”**

Name: _____

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Your donation is tax deductible. Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.