

Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust

Summer 2015 Newsletter



Baxter Peak, Katahdin

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REPI Challenge Grant Awarded

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust is currently partnering with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) on a number of conservation projects in the High Peaks area of the Appalachian Trail in Western Maine. We are pleased to announce that TPL has secured an additional \$2 million in funding by winning a REPI Challenge grant from the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program.

The funds will be used to restrict development of nearly 10,000 acres around the military Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape school in western Maine, by the purchase of conservation easements over lands around the base. Maine A.T. Land Trust will be holding a conservation easement over Redington Forest and will be working closely with TPL on additional projects.

The SERE school provides pilots and other select military personnel the opportunity to master the skills necessary for survival in harsh environmental conditions as well as enemy captivity. According to the DoD press release, the funds will help "restrict development on 9,728 acres of timberlands that maintain a realistic, remote environment for the Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) School in Redington Township, Maine. The Trust for Public Land led

a partnership that will help ensure necessary training conditions for the Navy while also protecting wildlife habitat and working forests that support local jobs."

Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust Awarded Davis Conservation Foundation Grant

Portland, ME (August 7, 2015) – The Davis Conservation Foundation has awarded a grant of \$12,000 to the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust to support our work on the Redington Forest project. The funds will allow the land trust to protect land along Maine's Appalachian Trail via the acquisition of a conservation easement over the project area. These much-needed funds will help defray the costs involved in the easement acquisition process – legal work, GIS needs, personnel, stewardship and other associated expenses. Much of this work has already started and progress can be tracked by following the news updates on the land trust website at matlt.org.

This grant allows Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust to focus on the work needed to complete the project, but it also serves as a catalyst grant for other donors, ensuring that the additional funds needed for Redington Forest can be secured. Thanks to the generosity of the Davis Conservation Foundation, Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust expects to conserve this valuable land along the A.T. in early 2016.

Great Maine Outdoor Weekend September 25-27



A photo from last year's Maine A.T. Land Trust GMOW hike, looking at the spot where this year's might be.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust will be having another hike for the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend this year. Last year's wildly successful Mount Abraham hike took place on a hot, clear day, which made for a nice contrast with the fall foliage. Land trust Vice President Pete McKinley, a Wilderness Society ecologist and Colby College alumnus, provided insights into the rare natural communities on the mountain, and we had a number of attendees from the Colby College Outing Club on hand.

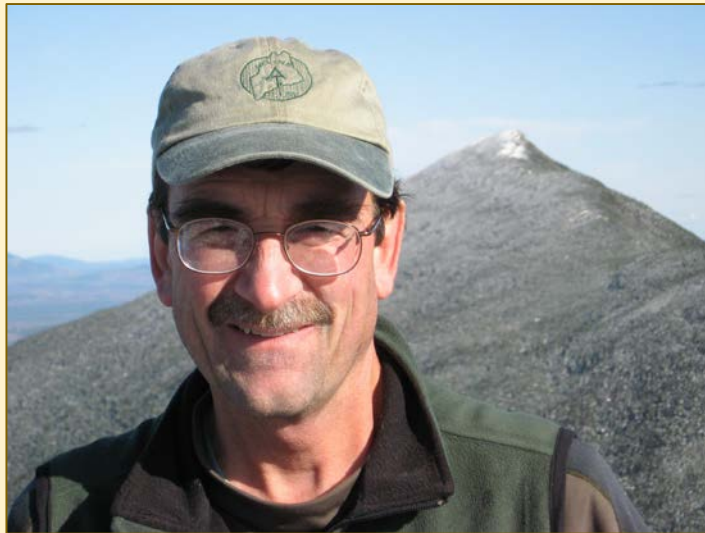
We are still in the planning stages of this year's event and hope to make an announcement soon. The Berry Pickers' Trail – a new A.T. side trail to the Saddleback Mountain ridgeline – is currently under construction and it will not be finished in time for a trip on the weekend of September 25th. Please continue to check our website at **matl.org** for updates and information.

Atlantic Salmon in the Sandy River South of the Appalachian Trail



This still photograph is taken from a video shot by Maine A.T. Land Trust Vice President Pete McKinley in the Sandy River in Phillips, Maine. The land trust was able to gather this footage of 4-year old adult Atlantic Salmon who have returned to the waters they were hatched in after a few years in the Atlantic Ocean. Paul Christman, Marine Scientist with the Maine Department of Marine Resources, has spearheaded the planting of eggs in order to ensure that Maine's rivers, including the Orbeton Stream, are filled with a healthy population of wild Salmon. To see the video go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YygTAYjfEw>

Meet Tony Barrett: Active Transportation & Land Conservation Advocate



Tony Barrett in the Bigelow Range

How did you first hear about the Maine A.T. Land Trust? Tom Lewis, the first Maine A.T. Land Trust President, asked me to join in establishing the trust as a founding board member in 2002.

What made you want to get involved? After walking the A.T. in 1999, I had a greater appreciation for the fragility of the wilderness experience along the A.T. and that the experience in Maine was especially unique. For the last 15 years, I have maintained a 4.2-mile section of the A.T. and have witnessed the sprawl development and other threats that are changing that wilderness experience.

How are you involved? I am a Board volunteer and a member of the Stewardship committee of the Maine A.T. Land Trust. I am also on the Executive Committee of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and serve as a liaison between the Maine AT Club and the Maine AT Land Trust.

What is your background - where are you from? I graduated from HS in Framingham, Massachusetts – walking and riding on trails in the New England woods.

Where did you work prior to working in conservation? I worked as a field geologist for the USGS for one field season doing surficial mapping in southern NH. Then spent 21 years working in the petroleum industry, much of that work overseas. I now work as a fishmonger (and a land conservation advocate).

What made you decide to work for conservation organizations in Maine? Much of the realm of the A.T. further south is protected by public lands. In Maine, the corridor is very narrow with the risk of development always present.

What kinds of work do you do for different conservation organizations? I am passionate about trails and access to public lands. Without people visiting and experiencing land trust properties, we will not have the public support for our mission. I am on the stewardship committee for my local land trust and volunteer for trail work on a number of local land trusts.

What do you see as the most important issues in land conservation in Maine today? 20% of the United States is conservation land. In Maine, only 15% is conserved land with less than half of that owned by the public. Yet much of the undeveloped land in the Northeast lies in Maine. The A.T. can be the ‘backbone’ for mountain conservation outside National Forests & Parks in New England. Without this conservation work, much of the undeveloped private land will succumb to sprawl (low concentration) development spread out across what is now perceived as the wildest sections of the region.

Summertime on Maine's Appalachian Trail

Note: All photos were taken on one of Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust's monthly hikes. To join us, email us at info@matlt.org or give us a call at 207-808-2073!



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Community Events



- On Sunday, August 16th we partnered with **U.S. Cellular and the Portland Sea Dogs** for non-profit night at Hadlock Field in Portland! (See photo above). We raffled off some land trust hats, gave out sticker, brochures and A.T. maps, and chatted with lots of people about our work and conservation along the trail in Maine.
- The **Rangeley Trail Town Festival** will be on **Saturday, September 5 from 10am to 4pm**. Stop by our table and say hello! We'll probably be giving some maps and other items away. You can find more information about the event at rangeleytrailtown.com.
- Our monthly hikes will be continuing through the fall.
 - **August 29 – Puzzle Mountain**
 - **September – TBD GMOW**
 - **October 10 – Table Rock (with Mahoosuc Land Trust).**
 - **October TBD – Mount Abraham**
- The **Maine Outdoor Film Festival** made a stop at **Bug Light Park in South Portland on August 29**. MOFF will also be having screening events for the Rangeley Trail Town Festival and other stops in Maine. Check maineoutdoorfilmfestival.com for more info.

Project Update



Redington Forest from Mt. Redington

- **Redington Forest.** Work the Redington Forest project has continued throughout the summer. There have been numerous site visits by board members and Executive Director Simon Rucker. Jake Hoffman, a GIS and biogeography graduate of Vassar College, has been enlisted as a land trust intern for the summer. Jake has been helping with the Baseline Documentation and mapping necessary in advance of the land trust acquiring a conservation easement over the property.
- **Gulf Hagas-Whitecap.** The land trust is standing by to acquire either an easement or ownership of land along the Appalachian Trail just south of White Cap Mountain, in order for the greater Gulf Hagas-Whitecap project to proceed. Vice President Pete McKinley and Executive Director Simon Rucker hiked to the summit of White Cap Mountain via the White Brook Trail (an official A.T. side trail) for an early stewardship and reconnaissance mission on the terrain. The White Brook Trail is in need of a Maintainer – if you are interested contact Ron Dobra, MATC White Cap District Overseer, at 207-695-3959 or rdobra@matc.org.
- **Berry Pickers' Trail.** As mentioned, work on the Berry Pickers' Trail will start in the fall and continue in the spring. We are confident the trail will be ready for public use in early summer 2016.



Maine Appalachian
Trail Land Trust
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We need your help! The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust is working on a project to conserve 10,000 acres of forest in Maine's High Peaks. **If we don't raise enough funds by the end of 2015, we will not be able to hold the conservation easement over Redington Forest which will protect this valuable land from development.** Please consider giving today - \$10, \$50, \$100 – because every bit helps.

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 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 ____\$50 ____\$25 ____\$10 \$____(other amount)

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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