

# Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust

Fall 2014 Newsletter

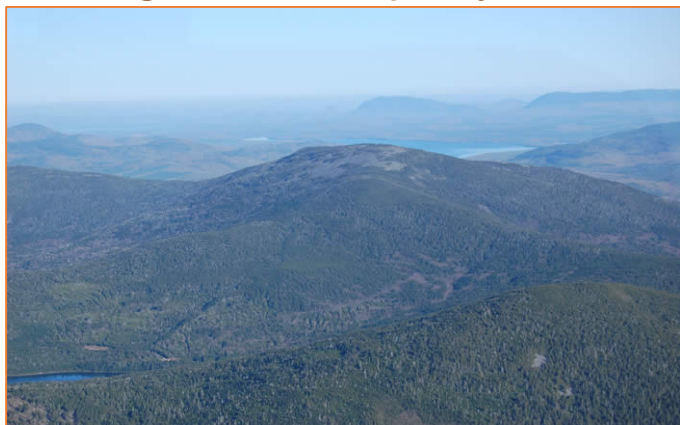


Along the Fire Warden Trail – Mount Abraham

## Fall highlights inside

- Whitecap Mountain Project
- Great Maine Outdoor Weekend Hike with Colby Outing Club
- Redington Missile Base
- Appalachian Trail Partner Hikes
- Kallin Family A.T. Thru-hike
- Maine A.T. Land Trust Project Map Re-boot
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy Five-Year Strategic Plan

## Gulf Hagas – Whitecap Project: Call/Write Your Senators and Representatives



Whitecap Mountain

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust is pleased to announce that we will be partnering with The Forest Society of Maine ([www.fsmaine.org](http://www.fsmaine.org)) on their project to conserve approximately 14,000 acres of this stunning mountain in Piscataquis County! The project encompasses sustainably managed forest, high elevation lands adjacent to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and the watersheds of three major tributaries that flow into the West Branch of the Pleasant River.

Whitecap Mountain is the first vantage point from which northbound thru hikers can see Katahdin, and is the last major mountain until Baxter State Park. In the 1930's Broadway actor and A.T. pioneer Walter Greene blazed a trail through this section, thus ensuring that the A.T. would pass over the Whitecap summit. (continued above)

While the details of the conservation project are still in the works, there's a possibility that Maine A.T. Land Trust would hold a property interest along the Appalachian Trail corridor in this area. This is an exciting project, but we would need to ensure that we have adequate stewardship and operational capacity.

**We can't let this opportunity get away. Please consider donating to Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust today.**

In order for the Whitecap project to receive U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy funding, we are encouraging all of our members to contact Maine's congressional offices by phone, online or by U.S. mail to encourage our representatives to call for full funding of the Forest Legacy program.

For more information about how to contact Maine's congressional delegation, please visit [matlt.org](http://matlt.org) or call 207-808-2073.

## Three New Board Members Appointed

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust would like to extend its congratulations to Aaron Paul, Philip Nicholas and Derek Markgren – three board members who joined the organization over the summer. Aaron is a Consulting Director at Tilson, Philip is a former project member at The Trust for Public Land, and Derek is a CPA at Purdy Powers. All three bring significant conservation expertise to the land trust. Full biographies of each can be found on our website. We are grateful to add these individuals to what is an already stellar board!

**Check our website at [matlt.org](http://matlt.org) for more info.**

## A Family Hike on the Appalachian Trail

David Kallin

My family and I just returned from a five-month end-to-end hike of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. Experiencing 2,000 miles of trail through the unjaded eyes of our seven year old daughter and nine year old son was exceptionally rewarding for my wife and me. Our hike was possible only because of the far-sighted vision of a few, and the hard work of many, in creating this long distance trail. As a Board Member of the Maine A.T. Land Trust, it is my pleasure to add my efforts to the many people who continue to make the Appalachian Trail what it is today.

Landscape-scale conservation allows for landscape-scale recreation. There is no better way to truly experience a landscape than to travel through it at human speed. Crossing into Maine on the A.T. felt like coming home for the four of us. The Maine section of the Appalachian Trail is some of the wildest, most remote, scenic and challenging terrain along an already scenic and challenging trail. Experiencing the trail through Maine at human speed connected us to the Maine landscape in a way that doesn't happen in a motorized vehicle. It also connected us with each other in a way that only occurs when you share every moment of every day for five straight months.

As a family, we worked together to deal with the early spring sleet and snow that froze our socks and shoes in the high mountains down south. In the mid-Atlantic we were surprised by rattlesnakes basking in the sun along the trail in the summer months, and bears who could climb and descend a tree faster than one would think possible. We dealt with socks so dirty they would stand on their own, appetites so voracious they were literally insatiable, and a level of togetherness not easy to achieve in our normal lives. We documented our journey at [www.kallinfamily.com](http://www.kallinfamily.com). (continued above)

Not everyone can thru-hike the Appalachian Trail with their family, but we should all get out and connect with the natural world when we can, and we should all do our part to ensure that these opportunities will exist for generations to come.



*The Kallin Family on the summit of Katahdin. The family completed their thru-hike in exactly five months (March 31 to August 31<sup>st</sup>).*

*David Kallin is an attorney for Drummond Woodsum and a board member of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust.*

## Appalachian Trail Conservancy Announces Five-Year Strategic Plan

Claire Polfus

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has announced a five-year Strategic Plan that will advance the health and long-term management of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). It is the first plan to be created and put into action since the Appalachian Trail Conference became the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in 2005. The organization plans to address trail deficiencies, address potentially hazardous road and water crossings, minimize visitor impacts, and meet land management standards set by the Land Trust Alliance. As threats to the A.T. emerge, the ATC will proactively protect the natural and cultural resources within the Trail corridor and its adjacent landscapes.

Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust has long looked to ATC for guidance in preserving and protecting the land along the trail, and the two organizations will continue to work together to protect the A.T. in Maine.

For more information about the ATC's strategic plan, visit [www.appalachiantrail.org/strategicplan](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/strategicplan).

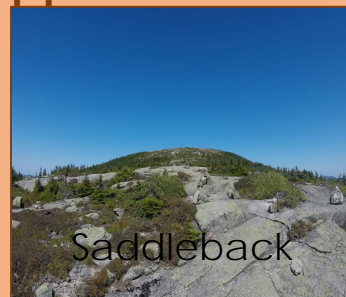
## Autumn Photos from the Maine Appalachian Trail



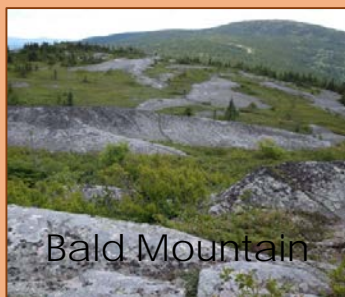
Sugarloaf



Bigelows



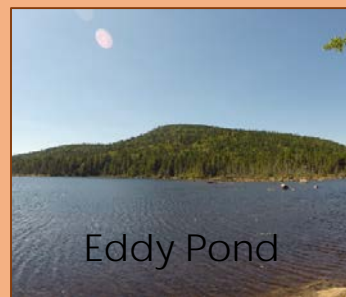
Saddleback



Bald Mountain



Barren Mountain



Eddy Pond

## Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust Comments on Redington Missile Base

*In June, the Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency announced that it was preparing an Environmental Impact Statement in regards to installing a missile defense system in the High Peaks Region of Maine – specifically, the Redington SERE Training Facility. Public comments were requested and Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust submitted the following to be included in the record.*

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process regarding the proposed additional location for the Continental United States Interceptor Site (CIS) at The Center for Security Forces Detachment Kittery Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Facility (SERE East), Redington Township, Maine.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust was formed in June 2002 as an independent land trust for the purpose of acquiring and protecting the land surrounding the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) in Maine for public benefit. The A.T. lands in the High Peaks Region of Maine represent some of the most diverse natural communities in the state and provide an important recreation resource. Maine A.T. Land Trust owns the land just east of the Appalachian Trail corridor on Saddleback Mountain and has interests in other properties in the High Peaks region. We are concerned that the locating of the CIS at the SERE East facility will adversely impact not only the Appalachian Trail itself (the corridor of which is surrounded by the facility for over two miles) but the surrounding natural landscapes and intact forest blocks which are integral to the region.

In our role of carrying out our mission to protect the land surrounding the Appalachian Trail, the siting of the CIS in such close proximity to the A.T. must be examined closely. At a minimum, approximately 350 acres in seven non-contiguous blocks would be converted from mature spruce/fir and mixed hardwood forest to CIS facilities.

The facilities would have to be brightly lit around the clock and would be entirely powered by generators. Approximately 1200 to 1500 individuals would be operating the CIS. All of this activity would be occurring approximately one half mile from the most famous walking path in the world, in the midst of one of the longest stretches of the Appalachian Trail without a public road crossing (twenty miles).

The region in which the SERE East facility lies depends on outdoors tourism, and the Appalachian Trail is a considerable draw. But other aspects of outdoor recreation would also be effected by the CIS. Naturalists are concerned with the impact on wildlife habitat – those in the A.T. area are likely to have a significantly lower chance of seeing threatened or elusive species like the Bicknell's Thrush or the Canadian Lynx. They will be concerned with water quality and the increased potential for industrial accidents. The SERE East facility also contains Redington Pond which is the source of Orbeton Stream – headwaters for an Atlantic Salmon which has just recently been successfully reintroduced.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust is concerned that the choice of The Center for Security Forces Detachment Kittery Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Facility (SERE East), Redington Township, Maine, as a site for the CIS would jeopardize the Appalachian Trail experience and environment. We request that you examine closely these and other impacts on the trail and the natural setting through which it passes in this region.

More about the Redington Missile Defense site can be found at [http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_cis.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_cis.html)

## Board of Directors

William Plouffe  
President

Peter McKinley, Ph.D.  
Vice President

Thomas D. Lewis  
Treasurer

Milton Wright  
Secretary

George N. Appell  
Tony Barrett  
Bob Cummings  
Lloyd Griscom  
David Kallin  
Derek Markgren  
Philip Nicholas  
Aaron Paul  
Claire Polfus  
Peter Ventre

### Staff

Simon Rucker  
Executive Director

### Website

[www.matlt.org](http://www.matlt.org)

## Collaborating with Our Conservation Partners

Bill Plouffe

Fulfilling the Maine AT Land Trust's mission to enhance protection of lands surrounding the Appalachian Trail in Maine requires collaboration with others; non-profits, governmental agencies, corporations and individuals. To that end, Board member Tony Barrett and I recently took AT related field trips with representatives from some of those partners.

In August, we joined the Trust for Public Land, the Appalachian Mountain Club and Trout Unlimited on a site inspection of Bald Mountain Pond and Moxie Bald North Peak. After driving over ten miles of dirt roads, we launched canoes and kayaks from the State owned boat launch at the south end of Bald Mountain Pond and paddled north. Bald Mountain Pond has an essentially undeveloped shoreline, clear water and great depth that provides habitat for one of the very few Arctic Char fisheries in New England. On this clear day we took in the views of Moxie Bald and other peaks that border the pond and listened to a pair of loons. After a two mile paddle we pulled out at the Moxie Bald Lean-To and headed up the AT to the North Peak side trail. From the open summit of North Peak there are expansive views of Bald Mountain Pond and of the route of the AT both north and south. *(continued above)*

As of now, the majority of the shoreline of Bald Mountain Pond and a portion of North Peak, with old growth woodlands, are owned by Plum Creek. If they could be acquired for conservation, they would be a great addition to AT experience; the type found in few places outside of Maine.

In October, Tony and I were part of the annual AT Partners Hike sponsored by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. We were joined by Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service and Maine Department of Agriculture and Conservation. MATC President, Lester Kenway, led us on the AT as it follows Long Pond Stream to Slugundy Falls and then climbs steeply to Barren Mountain. Lester discussed the long running "debate" in the AT community about stream crossings in Maine, which are notoriously difficult. Should bridges be built? Should alternative routes that avoid the worst crossings be offered to hikers? Should the crossings be left as is as part of the adventure? MATC's Overseer of Lands, David Field, was also along and provided many historical anecdotes about development of the AT in Maine. While standing at Barren Ledges looking across Lake Onawa to Boarstone Mountain, Dave related the story of a dispute between Myron Avery and the Moore family, owners of Boarstone, over the correct spelling of the mountain's name; Boarstone or Borestone. Things apparently got pretty intense and in the end Avery's request for permission to have the AT linked to the mountain by a side trail was denied. To this day, the MATC map uses "Boarstone" and the DeLorme Atlas uses "Borestone."

Having Maine AT Land Trust Board members out on the AT with partner organizations is not only very important but also a way to leverage the work of our one person staff. Besides that, it's great fun!

*Bill Plouffe is currently the President of the Board of Directors of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust and a founding director.*



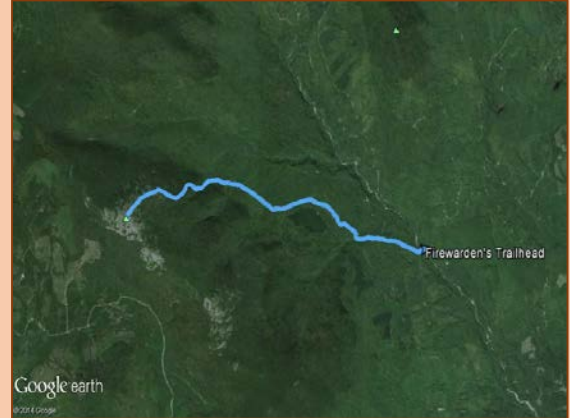
A.T. Partner Hike on Barren Mountain. Board member Claire Polfus is pictured at left.

# Abraham Colby Outing Club Great Maine Outdoor Weekend Hike

Peter S. McKinley



*Pete McKinley heads to the summit of Mount Abraham with the Colby Outing Club*



*Google Earth image of trail route taken up Mount Abraham*

The recurrence of a regular or even irregular event can be a natural trigger to think back over the previous times that such and such an occasion took place, who was there, what was going on, or what one was thinking about. The approaching Thanksgiving holiday might have some of us thinking about who was at the table sharing a meal last year at this time, the stories shared, and the group walk we might have done around the block or along a favorite neighborhood land trust trail before or after (maybe even both!) the big meal.

A favorite hiking trail, whether done regularly or not, can also be a trigger to reflect and recollect much as a holiday such as Thanksgiving. The Maine A.T. Land Trust hike up Mt. Abraham with the Colby College Outing Club last September 27th was just such an occasion for me on a few accounts. I thought back to my first hike of the mountain in 2006 on a work assignment in pretty foul weather and alone. I much preferred the 80 degree dapple light forested trail leading to sun baked summit ridge in low humidity with clear views that we enjoyed together this past September. The 2006 hike for an ecological inventory had put some food on my table and helped out in subsequent conservation efforts in the High Peaks landscape, a successful day no doubt. But this most recent hike in the sun with great company was more immediately enjoyable and a marker of time and conservation achievements on behalf of this landscape by the Maine A.T. Land Trust. Even more importantly, it was also a chance to look forward to the work ahead of us under the leadership of our new Executive Director, Simon Rucker, who had organized this hike and was right there on the mountain that day.

Over the course of the day I also thought back to the last time I had hiked with the Colby Outing Club in 1987 and I smiled at how a love affair with the trail born in those days had played forward into a career and home these many years later. One of the hikers was the daughter of one of my classmates, which provided a nice underscore to having to walk a bit slower due to having just come off knee surgery. As with my preference for this hike over the first time I had done it in foul weather on work assignment alone, I was enjoying my walk with the Colby Outing Club even more than I had when I was a bit younger and springier in those vigorous college years. Several of the students were interested in careers in conservation and wondered about their futures and where they might land. One of the students overcame a little trouble with asthma toward to the top to complete her first mountain summit that day! By the time we did our last boulder hop across a stream to get back to our parking spot, I recognized the easy kinship that a day hiking together brings to a group of strangers and I was sorry to say goodbye.

The mountain had worked its magic on us that day and had worked its magic on me as I recalled the many walks of the Appalachian Trail in Maine since my first walk in 1983 with the Colby Outing Club. How special is that? There's a place I can go and feel more and more capable even as the years tick by. Happy Thanksgiving and please do go enjoy that walk and hope to see you on one of our Maine AT Land Trust sponsored walks in the near future!

*A Climate Adaptation Ecologist at The Wilderness Society, Peter S. McKinley has been a director of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust since 2005.*



Maine Appalachian  
Trail Land Trust  
P.O. Box 761  
Portland, ME 04104

We need your help! The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust depends on the support of our members – like you – in order to continue our mission of protecting the land along the Appalachian Trail for public use. In addition to our work on White Cap Mountain, staff and board members have been out inspecting a new property along the trail which would prevent the development of a critical area along the corridor. If we aren't able to act early in the new year, the land will likely be sold to a buyer who will close off the land from public use. We hope to have good news about this parcel in our Winter Newsletter!

To make a donation, please send in the 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](mailto: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.