

Partners Look to the Future

More than fifty A.T. management partners participated in a federal land-managers meeting at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, this summer.

Participants included representatives from seven national park units, five national forests, and one national wildlife refuge. In addition to the federal partners, Buzz Caverly, director of Maine's Baxter State Park, and Dan Spedden, manager of South Mountain Recreation Area in Maryland, offered a state perspective on A.T. management.

A wide variety of issues, including backcountry management, accessible trails, education planning, commercial use, external threats, and environmental monitoring, was discussed. The discussions yielded many insights for Trail managers and also allowed progress to be made on several controversial issues, including chainsaw certification.

The July 12–13 meeting was not only an opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas about the A.T., but also allowed everyone a chance to better understand the issues of the various partners in the A.T. cooperative management system.

Are Volunteers Being Marginalized?

Opinion by Stephen Clark

Last January, at the annual all-day Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) planning marathon, a seven-to-six vote indicated a rare division of opinion on what seemed a “no-brainer.” The issue was whether the club would use its volunteers to undertake a project or contract it out and spend club funds. The vote helped this writer to define an issue that confronts the entire Trail community: “What kind of volunteer organization do we want to be?”

The project needed to be done: a survey of the club's thirty-nine campsites along the A.T. in Maine. We hoped to gather specific data, pictures, and site maps, in order to build a database of information to make those sites better able to withstand the seemingly ever-increasing number of hikers.

Money was not an issue. Contracting the project out would ensure a high-quality, uniform product, with each site surveyed by the same people in a timely manner. Having many volunteers do the project piecemeal would probably not result in the same quality and would take longer—maybe into a second year—delaying the planning and work. A no-brainer, right? So, what was the big deal?

The issue is this: Every time a task or the work of the Trail is shifted from volunteers to professionals, it diminishes the ability and opportunity of those volunteers to do future Trail-related work. Applying that premise to the MATC vote, we bought efficiency, expediency, and quality, while losing an opportunity for several volunteers to gain understanding and experience in the complex physical and human issues of A.T. campsites. We also lost an opportunity to train knowledgeable members of a future campsite committee, giving them first-hand experience with campsite-management issues. Finally—and this is speculative—we may have lost future A.T. leaders.

When club or Conference leaders decide to transfer work from volunteers to paid “staff,” it is usually because the task is perceived to be too involved, complex, distasteful, boring, technically difficult, or time-consuming for volunteers. In some cases, those perceptions are valid. In most cases, however, there is little consideration given to establishing new or alternative ways to organize and use volunteers to accomplish a given task.

The relationship between volunteers and professionals (those who receive compensation to work on or for the A.T. project) has always been dynamic. Back in the fifties, all the work of the ATC was done by exceptionally dedicated volunteers. As the project grew, it became obvious that volunteers were not sufficient. In 1968, ATC hired its first executive. Now, thirty-three years later, we have more than forty-five year-round employees distributed among Harpers Ferry and four regional offices. Our transformation from a volunteer to a professional organization is the result of necessity and events. The only remaining vital

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From the Editor

I'm writing from the Colorado Trail (C.T.), just west of Poncha Springs, Colorado. My wife and I are on a two-day rest-and-resupply layover and will continue backpacking south on the C.T. tomorrow. Unlike hiking the A.T., the C.T. requires us sea-level citizens to take it easy at first, to acclimate to the altitude. Also, there is the need to get one's trail legs back. We are both almost there and are looking forward to our next stage—which starts with an eight-and-a-half-mile uphill pull!

That isn't as tough as it sounds, however, thanks to the remarkable volunteers who have built and now maintain this trail for hikers, cyclists, and horse-packers. The physical effort necessary to construct a trail able to carry this level of traffic is exceptional. Mile after mile of sidehill cut into rocky, boulder-filled land provides a level tread. The switchbacks, necessary to limit the grade for horse travel, actually make the effort to gain or lose elevation almost pleasant. When you need to stop and breathe, however, there is always an amazing view to relish. It is a spectacular trail and a rewarding experience to hike.

So far, we have met many hikers who have hiked the A.T. and are enjoying sharing A.T. experiences. A reward in almost all of these meetings is the hikers' admiration of the volunteers and their work. Why do they do it? Why would anyone labor that hard for others? There has to be some personal reward that continues to motivate them to get out and get dirty, sweaty, tired, sore-muscled, blistered, insect-bitten, and, strangely, happy.

My mind is in a free-wheeling mode, and I've given that question some thought as I walk along. Bonding with kindred souls is the best, most basic, answer I've come up with.

Back in 1989, when the Maine Appalachian Trail Club was building a new lean-to at West Carry Pond, the same crew came out for each work trip. There were many new to this kind of volunteer work on that crew, but we all had such a grand time that we kept coming back. We had bonded. That crew has gathered together several times since the project was completed, and we shared the memories—a life treasure that continues to pay dividends to each of us. Ours certainly was not a unique experience, but one very common to folks who have shared working on a project. That is particularly true of volunteer endeavors.

The experience of shared work and time spent with like-minded people enriches our lives. We not only bond with those worked with, but also leave an even greater reward with those others who have had similar life-sharing events. Take any group from several different A.T. maintaining clubs and put them together. One thing you won't need is an incentive to get them to mix, share, have good conversation, and enjoy their time together. Maintainers, committee workers, hikers—all share in an almost immediate communion.

In communicating with folks new to getting involved with the A.T., the most consistent response to the question, "Why do you want to get involved?" is, "To pay back." I believe that, in their intent to "pay back," they get much more than they give, through the reward of this bonding experience, as well as the doing of "good works." We all probably know that in giving we receive much more—this truism helps to explain why volunteers continue to contribute. The friendships, the projects, the enrichment of life in nonmaterial value are the rewards: rewards money cannot buy!

I don't believe one can motivate a potential volunteer by trying to explain those long-term benefits. But, if we can get a new person to try it out, to have a good time with measurable results, the reward becomes evident to them, and they (we) keep on coming.

That's what I've figured out so far in my thinking about why Trail-builders, maintainers, planners, leaders, all get more than they give. Happily, we aren't motivated by a selfish need for rewards. It just happens. Every step I take on any of the thousands of miles of volunteer-built and -maintained trails measures this truth for me. I am blessed to be among such fine folks.

The Register is published quarterly by the Appalachian Trail Conference for the volunteers who maintain the Appalachian Trail and/or manage its corridor, their federal and state agency partners, and others interested in the stewardship of the A.T. It is sent without charge to maintainers and corridor managers; others may subscribe for \$5 a year. Nonprofit third-class postage paid at Harpers Ferry, W.Va. Correspondence and prospective articles and photographs should be sent to the editor or to: *The Register*, Appalachian Trail Conference, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, W.Va. 25425.

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[NOTE: The outline of the masthead box above is the size of the official A.T. blaze, 2" x 6", for your reference.]

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Draft Policy on Invasive Exotic Species

EDITOR'S NOTE: Appalachian Trail Conference policies are intended to guide the ATC Board of Managers and staff and to inform Trail clubs, agency partners, and the general public of ATC's position on matters concerning the Appalachian Trail. ATC welcomes input from Trail clubs and other interested parties during the formative stages of policy development. To this end, concerns and comments on proposed policies are solicited through ATC's regional meetings, letters to Trail-club presidents, and publication of draft versions of proposed policies in The Register. If you would like to comment on the draft policy below, please address your concerns to Bob Proudman at the address on page 2 by December 15, 2001.

This policy was discussed at the New England and mid-Atlantic regional management committee meetings last fall and at the southern regional management committee meeting in March. It will be sent to club presidents. It is anticipated that the policy will be voted on at the spring 2002 meeting of the Board of Managers.

ATC policies are compiled into a loose-leaf notebook known as the Local Management Planning Guide (LMPG), last updated in 1997. The LMPG is available from the Appalachian Trail Conference free of charge to Trail-club and governmental-agency partners and for a copying fee to others. The Conference hopes to post the LMPG on its Web site next year. If you would like a copy of the LMPG, contact Susan Daniels at ATC headquarters.

The Appalachian Trail Conference and its member clubs recognize the potentially adverse impacts of invasive exotic plant and animal species upon the ecosystems through which the Trail passes. Proliferation of these species may significantly alter the natural communities along the Trail and threaten biodiversity.

ATC's program to control or eliminate invasive exotic species will consist of the following elements:

- Education—ATC will incorporate information on invasive exotic species and the threats they present into its public-information efforts. As part of this effort, the Conference will seek to raise the collective awareness of its members, volunteers, and staff regarding the potential harm caused by invasive exotic species and methods that can be employed to control them effectively.

- Monitoring—The occurrence and spread of invasive exotic species will be monitored as resources permit. Priority will be given to those areas where threatened and endangered species are at risk and in natural communities that are most vulnerable to invasion.



A native plant surrounded by an invasive exotic species, "garlic mustard" (the heart-shaped leaves in photo).

- Control—Invasive exotic species will be controlled to the extent feasible, with priority given to those areas (1) where invasive exotic species have the potential to do the greatest harm and (2) where actions to control invasive exotic species will do the greatest good and have the highest likelihood of success. The Conference will work with its agency partners and member clubs to identify areas where rare plant or animal species or natural communities are threatened by invasive exotic species and assist in developing and implementing plans to control or eradicate invasive exotic species from those areas. Control methods that have adverse impacts on nontarget species will be avoided. Such methods will only be used where there is a clear, long-term benefit to the natural community or its component species.

Volunteers honored by AHS

The American Hiking Society honored volunteers from the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) on National Trails Day, June 2.

Those honored include: Darleen Jarman of GATC, who managed the A.T. relocation on Blackwell Creek and construction of a new shelter and privy at Gooch Gap, coordinated clean-up efforts on the Trail in Georgia following Hurricane Opal, and served as trails and shelters supervisor for the club in 1995. In 1993 and 1994, she was selected

as the club's section overseer-of-the-year and last year received GATC's trail-worker-of-the-year award.

Rick Canter, PATC's Maryland district manager, was selected for his work on the A.T. over the past ten years. He leads the South Mountaineers Trail Crew on more than twenty work trips per year and recently completed a side trail to a spring at the Garvey Shelter and installed a relocation near the Rocky Run Shelter. His spirit and dedication to the Trail were cited as an inspiration to other volunteers and A.T. hikers.

Other A.T.-maintaining club members were honored for volunteer work other than on the A.T. Al Rogers of PATC was recognized for his work on the Tuscarora Trail in the Sleepy Creek area of West Virginia. Leo Leach, of Vermont's Green Mountain Club, was chosen for exceptional work on the Long Trail over the past five years. Dick Blake, an AMC-Connecticut Chapter member, was honored for his work with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

ARE VOLUNTEERS MARGINALIZED?

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volunteer function (excluding the affiliated maintaining clubs) is its governing Board of Managers.

The maintaining clubs vary greatly in size and in their use of professionals. Many clubs have functions and purposes other than the A.T. project. Usually, it is those other "purposes" that drive the evolution towards professionalism. To my knowledge, none of the maintaining clubs, except the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), have any statement, formal policy, or specific plans to ensure the long-term health and viability of volunteers pertaining to the A.T. project. (AMC, to its credit, has been for years actively conducting general programs to promote volunteers.) This oversight is crucial to the evolving structures within each club. It's as if everyone assumes volunteers will always be around, like new grass in the spring.

Clearly, we cannot return to the all-volunteer maintenance and management of the A.T. of the past; it couldn't be done. Nor can the whole job be done by professionals; ATC or the National Park Service couldn't afford it. There will continue to be a mix of pros and "vols" in the future of the A.T. The question is: Where is the optimum point between those two to manage and maintain the A.T. and ensure the long-term health and viability of the volunteer segment? There is no consensus, nor any policy, to guide us and future leaders in this matter.

Looking twenty-five years into the future, I can see the following as a possibility, if not a probability. The Trail community will have evolved into seven or eight large Trail-maintaining organizations, with smaller affiliated suborganizations. Each will have a professional administrative unit that manages a wide variety of Trail projects, such as hiring and managing caretakers and heavy trail-maintenance crews, publishing guidebooks and other literature, interfacing with governmental agencies, conducting public programs, and arranging for volunteers to do light maintenance on various Trail sections.

Each club will continue to have its own elected officers. A lot of effort will be invested to raise the large amount of money needed to maintain the professional staff and programs. Most members will be subscribers and donors, while only a small percentage will actually do physical work on the Trail. ATC will remain professionally structured, growing larger, with continued volunteer oversight. The NPS will funnel greater amounts of financial support to ATC, some trickling down to the maintaining organizations to supplement Trail work, coinciding with diminished volunteer involvement. Sound familiar?

We are well along that path already! It's not necessarily a "bad" future—the Trail will be well-managed and -maintained. But, the volunteer tradition—so long a central part of the A.T.—will be more myth than reality.

Many men and women who serve as elected managers of the A.T. at the Conference or club level are professional managers in their private lives. They are trained to define tasks, evaluate possible courses of action, generate resources, and apply them to accomplish the tasks at hand. In their elected roles for the A.T. project, they apply those same learned skills—it's natural to do so. However, they often conclude that, because of the increasing complexities of Trail management and maintenance, volunteers are unable to do the job as well as they believe it should be done.

Volunteers do have their limitations. Families, jobs, and other interests may take precedence over involvement in A.T. projects. Needing to prioritize their private lives with their volunteer commitment often hinders their ability to complete or undertake Trail projects. This causes consternation and doubts in the minds of Trail leaders or professionals trying to accomplish their respective tasks in managing the Trail. Does it follow that, because volunteers do have limitations, the solution is to replace them rather than to supplement them?

I have reviewed the Maine A.T. Club's constitution, bylaws, and management plan and find no guiding goal, statement, policy, or plan regarding the role of volunteers in the A.T. project. Is this the same in the other maintaining

clubs? Volunteerism is not a given—it is quite fragile, easily eroded, minimized, or lost. This omission of a stated goal, policy, and accompanying action plan to promote the health and welfare of volunteerism lies at the seat of my concern. Isn't it time for the Trail community to address this issue before it becomes something it was never intended to be?

Of necessity, our A.T. managers at the Conference level concentrate on the physical Trail and its management. This has been so since the beginning of the relationship with the Park Service and the prime task of acquiring and managing the Trail corridor. Regional ATC representatives concentrate on assisting the clubs in the maintenance process. As important as they are, those initiatives tend to inadvertently steer clubs into replacing volunteer effort with professional execution. Caretakers, ridgerunners, and Trail crews are examples of this evolution. Clubs readily accept ATC money, as it is easier to do it professionally than to organize more complex volunteer programs for the same tasks.

Most clubs can rightly claim that the volunteer functions are alive and well, but signs of erosion are present within most. The process is often slow and all but imperceptible, but it's there. My own club, the MATC, now has nearly a dozen part-time employees and has considered the "need" for an executive director for more than a decade. Substantial volunteer time and energy is now dedicated to the more onerous, but increasingly necessary, task of raising money to support professional operations.

The purposes and operations of maintaining clubs vary greatly. That results in variations in how volunteers are used. That, in turn, makes the task of promoting and cultivating volunteerism more complicated. And then, there is the sensitive "turf" issue—ATC could not impose a uniform "volunteerism" policy for all clubs without a serious reaction. There are, however, common dynamic processes to strengthen volunteerism that any club, large or small, could successfully employ. Once common goals pertaining to volunteerism were identified, programs and strate-

gies could be adapted to each club's particular style of organization.

To do this, several steps need to be taken. ATC, club-elected managers, and professionals need to agree, first, that volunteerism is the life-blood of the Appalachian Trail project; second, that volunteerism is in danger (over the long term) of being minimized or marginalized; and third, that ATC and its maintaining clubs jointly need to adopt new

goals, strategies, and programs to promote and preserve volunteerism as the unique centerpiece of the Appalachian Trail project.

After forty-five years, Project One—preserving the physical Trail and its corridor—is near its end. Our leadership now needs to preserve and enhance with equal zeal the volunteer component of the A.T., the component that has made this project the success it is.

Project Two—the preservation of the volunteer tradition—is still ahead of us.

Stephen Clark has been involved with the Appalachian Trail project since 1953. He has served as New England regional vice chair on ATC's Board of Managers and as president of MATC, as well as holding other positions in the club. He was awarded honorary membership in ATC in 1970.

Encroachment in Great Barrington

By Matt Stevens

In July, Don Bertolli, an Appalachian Mountain Club-Berkshire Chapter volunteer corridor monitor, was driving his usual route to work past the A.T. crossing at Lake Buel Road in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, when something caught his eye.

Just west of the A.T. signs at roadside, a man was operating a large excavator, clearing debris from an area where many trees had been cut, boulders had been removed, and a driveway bed had been graded, apparently for a new home on an adjacent lot. The proximity of this work to the A.T. boundary made Bertolli wonder if the work site were within the protected corridor. He immediately enlisted the help of monitoring coordinator Steve Smith, and, the next day, armed with A.T. survey maps and a compass, they determined that the work had indeed crossed onto A.T. land less than 100 feet from the Trail itself.

Further investigation revealed that a National Park Service boundary monument had been damaged as well. Rain seemed to have delayed activity at the site temporarily the day Smith and Bertolli visited, and no information about either the landowner or construction contractor was available. Undaunted, the two reflagged the property line and left a note informing the



Construction encroaching on A.T. lands near Great Barrington, Massachusetts. (Photo: Cosmo Catalano)

excavator operator of the violation and asking that construction be ceased. By midday, the ATC New England regional office and the NPS A.T. ranger had been notified.

Several days and many hours of research later, Ranger Bob Gray was able to contact the landowner. Unfortunately, work at the site had continued sporadically in the days that intervened, and the site sustained further damage.

Through the persistence of the management partners, work was stopped. Pending the results of an investigation by the National Park Service, the property owners are likely to be billed for damage to the monument, ecological damages, and restoration of the site.

Thanks to the diligence and quick action of Bertolli and Smith, what could have been a significant intrusion upon the Trail was thwarted in its early stages. They are among the dedicated volunteers all along the Trail without whom real-time protection of the A.T. estate would be much more daunting and difficult.

Matt Stevens is ATC's associate regional representative for New England.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Earlier this year, another encroachment case was settled when a Dutchess County, New York, woman agreed to pay \$22,250 in damages for cutting about half an acre of woodland in the A.T. corridor. The woman was sued by the U.S. Department of the Interior after the damage was discovered by A.T. corridor monitors Mike and Ruth Rosenthal of the New York–New Jersey Trail Conference. The payment will cover the costs of the government's investigation, repairing the damaged site, and restoring an additional site.

Georgia A.T. Club Tries New Site Technique

By Marianne Skeen

Imagine spending a night at the Springer Mountain Shelter in late March or early April. The shelter is overflowing with hikers hoping to complete a journey all the way to Katahdin. At the beginning of that tremendous undertaking, many are eager to connect with their fellow travelers, to compare notes on planning and expectations. Those who cannot fit into the shelter pitch tents in nearby flat areas surrounding the shelter. Hikers congregate in groups near the shelter after supper to form new friendships and share dreams.

Now, imagine spending another night at the Springer Shelter site in June. It's a quieter place. Gone are the throngs of eager long-distance travelers. Gone also are the small plants that normally compose the forest floor in this area. The ground around the shelter is bare and compacted. Ditches are developing where the rainwater runs in rivulets rather than being absorbed by soil covered with leaf litter and small plants.

It seemed like a great idea to build the shelter on a flat section of a side ridge near Springer's summit. Flat ground has always been one of the criteria that we used in selecting shelter sites, but, when use is heavy, campsite sprawl can develop, and flat areas surrounding shelters can become severely trampled. Fortunately, we learned of Dr. Jeff Marion's ideas on backcountry-campsite management through ATC's efforts to identify the most significantly impacted overnight sites along the A.T. Marion, who has researched overnight-site design in his career as a recreation ecologist, contends that high levels of use can be accommodated at overnight sites if they are designed appropriately. His ideas have been put into practice at parks around the world.

It seemed worthwhile to consider his techniques for Springer Mountain, since use rates there are inevitably high in the spring. To many hikers, a night on Springer at the beginning of their journey is very meaningful. The area also is popular with local youth groups. How could we accommodate them while minimizing the impact on the resource?

The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) was fortunate to have Marion present a workshop on his ideas, followed by field visits to Springer and several other heavily used overnight sites along the A.T. in Georgia. We developed a site plan for

Springer that incorporated several of the principles that Marion has used in other areas.

First, we were able to locate eight new tent sites in a grassy field nearby. Grassy areas are more resilient and less susceptible to trampling. We leveled the intended tent sites to make them inviting and improved a trail from the shelter to the grassy area.

Another area in the vicinity was heavily vegetated and too steep to be inviting for pitching a tent. We changed that by clearing selected areas of vegetation and digging tent pads, using an approach similar to digging sidehill trail. Lower edges of the earth platforms were reinforced with rocks, and the pads themselves were outsloped slightly to facilitate drainage. Individual tent pads were shaped slightly differently to avoid a "cookie cutter" appearance. Competitive (but friendly) work crews debated whose pad was better than the others! A new trail then connected those sites to each other and to the shelter and water source. Intervening vegetation was left in place to discourage campers from wandering between tent sites other than on the connector trail.



A tent pad cleared as part of new site near Springer Mountain.

The third technique involved making the flat area adjacent to the shelter less attractive for tent sites. We partially buried ("iceberged") big rocks to discourage camping on the compacted soil.

How is it working? We completed the Springer project just prior to the big rush of thru-hikers this past spring, so we've had only one season to evaluate the situation. Over all, the site seems to be working well. One key to success is clear signage to inform the hiker entering the area of the options available. Individual tent sites are marked by short posts with a tent symbol routed into a flat surface made by a 45-degree cut at the top of the post. Also important was the presence of an on-site caretaker during the eight weeks of maximum use in the spring. The caretaker, jointly funded by GATC, ATC, and the USFS, was able to encourage hikers to use the new camping areas and to discourage use in the impacted flat area behind the shelter. The tent pads are fairly well established but will need to be evaluated this fall or winter. Some work will need to be done to smooth out "lumps" in the pads and correct any drainage problems that have developed. According to the caretaker, hiker acceptance of the new areas was good.

Meanwhile, GATC had been planning to replace the Gooch Gap Shelter with a new shelter located on Gooch Mountain. The site had been selected (on a flat knoll), the Trail reroute had been flagged, and the appropriate clearances from the Forest Service were nearly complete. We decided to have Jeff Marion join GATC volunteers and Morgan Sommerville and Bob Proudman from ATC to evaluate the area with a new perspective. Should we avoid using a flat area for the shelter this time? It seemed worth the effort to try Marion's backcountry site-management techniques prospectively with a new project. With some additional fieldwork and good cooperation from our Chattahoochee National Forest partners, GATC was able to modify the site design, with the intent that any overflow camping near this new shelter would be confined to well-constructed tent pads.

After more than 3,000 hours of work throughout the spring and summer, project manager Darleen Jarman opened the new section of Trail and the new Gooch Mountain campsite in September. The shelter is built on a slope, with no tempting tent sites in the immediate vicinity. Along a connecting trail that extends into the woods are six constructed tent sites. Tent pads were dug into a slope and reinforced on the lower edges with logs. Intervening vegetation provides privacy and discourages traffic between sites on anything other than the intended path.

Building a shelter on a slope has its complications, of course. The foundation work is more complicated, and we will need to watch for signs of erosion from rain running off the roof. GATC will monitor this new site as use increases beyond the volunteers who have worked on it.

Now, imagine a night at the Springer Shelter in the fall of 2006. The spring hiking rush has once again passed, and it's quiet. This time, there are also plants and small trees in the flats behind the shelter. Earlier in the season, the long-distance hikers had congregated in various places around the camping area to share their dreams and begin their friendships and then dispersed to their tent sites to enjoy a bit of privacy for the night. The youth groups had camped in the sites surrounding the grassy field, and the resilient grass had absorbed their impact. Now, the hiker arriving later in the year no longer has the impression of arriving at the site of an abandoned refugee camp.

Let's hope that is how the scenario unfolds.

Marianne Skeen has been a volunteer member and Trail maintainer with the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club since 1978. She has served on the ATC Board of Managers since 1993 and is the current southern regional vice chair.

A.T. User Survey: A Sampling of Results

By Pete Irvine

The National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office has released the results of a comprehensive visitor use survey conducted on the Appalachian Trail during the summer and fall of 1999.

The survey was a cooperative effort involving Trail club volunteers and paid club and Conference staff members, along with personnel from federal and state land managing agencies, the Appalachian Trail Park Office, and other co-operators. In all, 1,879 A.T. visitors from Maine to Georgia completed the 16-page questionnaire. Researchers from the University of Vermont and Pennsylvania State University designed the survey and compiled and analyzed the responses. Results were organized into a 479-page "Sourcebook." Here is a sampling of the results:

User profile: The majority of Trail users are white, male college graduates between 20 and 39 years of age who grew up and reside in either a town or small city. Forty-eight percent of users are married. More than two-thirds have no children living in their household.

Gender: Over all, 29 percent of survey respondents were female. Women comprised 39 percent of day users, 26 percent of overnight users, 21 percent of section hikers, and 18 percent of thru-hikers.

Trip length and duration: Day users hiked an average of seven miles on the A.T. during their trip. Overnight users hiked an average of twenty miles during an average trip of three days. Section hikers averaged 106 miles in ten days

on the Trail. Thru-hikers averaged 167 days on the Trail.

Groups: Eighty-six percent of all respondents traveled in groups of four or less. Only 3.3 percent traveled in groups larger than ten. Most users hiked with groups composed of family or friends. Only 7 percent were with an organized group, and only 0.4 percent were with a commercial group.

Security: More than 98 percent of respondents felt "very secure" or "reasonably secure" while on the A.T. That confidence dipped slightly when leaving the Trail (to go to town, for example). Thru-hikers were more likely to have encountered a security problem along the Trail during the previous twelve months (14 percent) than other hikers (2 percent).

Visitor experience: Respondents were asked to rate the seriousness of forty-four different issues on the Appalachian Trail. The highest-ranked problems included damage to soil and vegetation, Trail erosion, and rodents at shelters and campsites. Most of the items listed were "not a problem" for the majority of Trail users. Among respondents, 86 percent rated their satisfaction with their A.T. hike as at least an "8" on a scale of 1 to 10. Less than 3 percent rated their satisfaction as a "5" or lower.

The entire Sourcebook is available as two "pdf" files at the National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office site on the Internet at www.nps.gov/appa/phtml/facts.html.

Pete Irvine is U.S. Forest Service liaison to the Appalachian Trail Park Office.

ATC Regional Office Trail Management Staff Changes

Teresa A. Martinez—When the job of regional representative for southwest and central Virginia was vacated by Mike Dawson early this year after more than twenty years, Teresa Martinez, associate regional representative in the Newport, Va., office, was the unanimous choice of the search committee, made up of ATC Board and staff members. Her promotion became effective in March. With the benefit of her years of experience and many contacts among the Virginia Trail clubs and the Forest Service, she hit the ground running. Martinez has a master of science degree from the College of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at Virginia Tech and wrote her thesis on the motivations and characteristics of volunteers in nongovernmental natural-resource organizations. She has begun to implement a number of new ideas and programs in Virginia.

Jody L. Bickel—With Martinez leaving her position as associate regional representative in Virginia, a vacancy for her associate position was announced among the staff, and applications from the pool for Ben Lawhon's former associate position at the Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee regional office in Asheville were reviewed. After conducting a dozen interviews—and with the concurrence of the ATC search committee—Martinez offered the job of associate regional representative to Jody Bickel, then serving as associate regional representative in New England. Bickel is an A.T. thru-hiker (1993), has a degree in journalism from Virginia Tech, and has work experience in trail and natural-resource management with the Forest Service, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and ATC.

Derek Iburguen—With more than 130 applicants for the position of associate regional representative for Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, vacated by Ben Lawhon in April, Regional Representative Morgan Sommerville narrowed the list to a half-dozen finalists. The search committee was again unanimous in selecting Derek Iburguen, who has a master of science degree in recre-



Teresa Martinez

ation, parks, and tourism from West Virginia University, where he is putting the finishing touches on his thesis on the Saddleback controversy, and a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maine at Machias. Following his five seasons' work with the Androscoggin District in the White Mountain National Forest, Iburguen came to ATC with very strong recommendations from the Forest Service.

Matt Stevens—Jody Bickel's relocation to Virginia left an opening in the New

England region, which has been filled by Matt Stevens. He has been working in the Lyme, N.H., regional office since July 23. Stevens' background includes three seasons with the Green Mountain Club, working both as a trail-crew leader and as a caretaker. He also has experience in watershed issues and has worked coordinating a volunteer water-quality monitoring program in the Nashua River watershed. He has a master's degree in resource management and administration from Antioch University in Keene, N.H.

Janet Gibbons—Due to the growing importance of ATC's Trail-crew recruitment program, based at the southwest and central Virginia regional office, the executive committee approved a full-time program-assistant position and eliminated a part-time office-assistant position. Janet Gibbons was the staff's choice for this new position. Gibbons has been a seasonal employee with ATC's Trail-crew program for several years, working as camp coordinator with the Konnarock and mid-Atlantic crews and recruiting volunteers. After working this season as Konnarock camp coordinator, Gibbons joined the full-time staff at the southwest and central Virginia regional office in September.

Hunting Reminder

ATC encourages hikers and Trail workers to exercise caution while on the Trail during hunting season.

Use safety precautions: Wear bright colors (blaze orange is the standard); stay on the Trail; talk, whistle, or sing while you hike; and know the hunting seasons and whether the area you are visiting is open to hunting. Most stores that sell hunting or fishing equipment or licenses have schedules and inexpensive blaze-orange vests. Seasons vary widely, even from county to county within a given state.

Hunting is permitted in national forests and in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; it also may be permitted on some state-owned lands and on private lands adjacent to the Trail. Although firearms and hunting are illegal on NPS-owned Trail lands, not all hunters know that, or even know where the A.T. is. So, be aware, and beware!

National Trails Day Events

National Trails Day (NTD) began in 1993 to promote public awareness of, and appreciation for, America's trails; build partnerships among trail groups, businesses, and public land managers; broaden the constituency for trails; and encourage cooperative efforts among different trail users, including hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, walkers, and runners. It is held annually on the first Saturday in June. Promotion is coordinated by the American Hiking Society (AHS).

The **Georgia Appalachian Trail Club**, which was one of only ten organizations selected nationwide to receive "Trails for Tomorrow" awards in both 1999 and 2000 for National Trails Day events, scheduled several activities. Fifteen club members turned out to work with the Koonarock crew to complete the Blackwell Creek relocation. Other events included an eleven-mile guided hike, a kids program and hike in Amicalola Falls State Park, and other service projects within the park.

The **Smoky Mountains Hiking Club**, a "Trails for Tomorrow" winner in 1997, 1998, and 2000, scheduled a blitz of projects. "Goodie bags," with items do-

nated by outdoor outfitters and others, were given to all participants. Other donated items included tools, food, bottled water, T-shirts, and socks. Renovation of Silers Bald Shelter culminated months of planning and preparation work (including transport of materials by helicopter to the site). National Trails Day brought twenty volunteers out to work on the project, which was completed by July 10 by club members (and some passing A.T. hikers who were "bribed" with free food). The final work included a new roof, complete with clerestory windows, new seating at the bunks and at cooking shelves under a new front porch, a horse-tack storage area, and a repaired trail to the water source. Teams of workers in numerous other locations built and cleaned waterbars and check dams, built steps and rock cribbing, dug sidehill, worked on drainage enhancements and erosion control, and cut brush and cleared vegetation.

The **Maine Appalachian Trail Club** (MATC) hosted its first National Trails Day event with the goal of raising awareness of the club and its functions, gaining

new members, and promoting inter-organizational relationships. The event was held at the Bear River Grange Hall in Newry. Uncooperative weather limited the turnout and caused cancellation of the scheduled outdoor events, but indoor presentations were well received. Information was available at booths representing fifteen organizations, including MATC and the **Appalachian Mountain Club**.

Members of the **Allentown Hiking Club** in Pennsylvania hiked the club's entire section of the A.T., clearing brush and cleaning up at a shelter. A grand-opening hike was held by the **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club** on the newly relocated Darlington Trail. The **Philadelphia Trail Club** celebrated with a picnic and hikes on its Trail section between Lehigh Furnace Gap and Little Gap.

This year's "Trails for Tomorrow" awards were presented by the American Hiking Society to one trail organization in each of four regions. No A.T. organizations were selected this year. A national grand-prize winner will be announced in January.

Trail Maintenance Quiz

Answers to the questions below are not necessarily definitive but represent generally accepted practices as outlined in ATC's other publications, particularly *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance*. If you disagree with any of the answers offered, or have additional advice to add on one of these topics, or even ideas for future questions, please let me know.

—J. T. Horn, Regional Representative, New England

- When building puncheon or bog bridges out of native materials, the maintainer should use:
 - A topped log, with the top quarter removed to make a flat surface.
 - A log split in half using steel wedges.
 - A log ripped in half using a chainsaw.
- When using a saw for bucking a tree, which force will pinch your saw?
 - Compression
 - Tension
 - Spring pole
 - Leverage
- According to *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance*, what are the two legitimate conditions for installing or replacing a footbridge?
 - It is necessary to protect sensitive resources, such as soils along a river bank.
 - It is essential to keep hikers from getting wet feet.
 - It is necessary to keep hikers safe during unusual storm events and seasonal high water.
 - It will build the strength of the A.T. club by having a good project for volunteers to rally around.
 - It is essential to hiker safety during the snow-free hiking season.
- When painting an offset double blaze to indicate a sharp turn in the Trail, the _____ blaze indicates the direction of the turn.
 - Top
 - Bottom

(Answers are on page 11)

The **Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club** held its second fall freshman-orientation maintenance trip in August. Ninety-seven students and twelve faculty mem-

bers from Appalachian State University and Watauga College joined fifteen club members, along with ATC Associate Regional Representative Derek Ibarguen and a Konnarock crew member, to build 1,100 feet of new trail. The volunteers were divided into groups and assigned 100-foot sections. U.S. Forest Service staff members from the Watauga Work Center and the Appalachian Ranger District helped make the project a success.

ALONG THE TRAIL

With backcountry use in the White Mountains increasing by three to five percent annually, steps are being taken to reduce some of the pressure on popular backcountry locations. In addition to increasing the number of shelter caretakers, the **Appalachian Mountain Club** has started a voluntary-notification system for organized groups, which it educates about low-impact camping techniques. Along with the **Maine Appa-**

lachian Trail Club, AMC is building the forty-two-mile Grafton Loop Trail, which should attract some of the backpackers who might otherwise use the A.T.

Readers with Internet access may want to link to "DowntheTrail.net" from ATC's home page (www.appalachiantrail.org). This unusual A.T. Web site focuses more on Trail maintenance than food eaten and miles covered and more on Trail maintainers and natural and cultural history than on the thru-hiking experience.

Trail Help Wanted

Looking for a good time in the outdoors? Then join the Appalachian Trail Conference's **2002 volunteer Trail crew program**. One-week commitment required; room and board (tents in the field), lots of fun, and adventure provided. Beginners welcome. To request an application, send postcard to: ATC, TR-2A/C, P.O. Box 10, Newport, VA 24128.

Appalachian Trail ridgerunners and caretakers needed. Promote Leave No Trace principles. Positions Trailwide with varying salaries, responsibilities, and seasons. Must be 18 or older, experienced backpacker, personable, self-reliant, and have strong communications skills and familiarity with the A.T. First-aid certification, trail-maintenance experience helpful. Return application by January 15 to: Ridgerunner, TR-02A/RR, ATC, P.O. Box 625, Boiling Springs, PA 17007.

Appalachian Trail crew leaders and camp coordinators needed for volunteer crews. Trail-building and outdoor supervisory experience required for crew leaders; group cooking and logistics experience for camp coordinators. \$300/week and up, plus room and board. Also, crew-leader trainee positions with stipend available. Return application by January 15 to: Crew Leaders, TR-02A/CL, ATC, P.O. Box 10, Newport, VA 24128.

New seasonal paid positions on the Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Need four caretakers from March through May and one ridgerunner from May 29 through September 3. Three caretakers will roam, and one will serve the Fontana Dam area. Promote Leave No Trace principles and perform light Trail and shelter maintenance. Must be 21 or older, self-reliant, and an experienced backpacker. Need strong communications skills and familiarity with A.T. First-aid certification and trail-maintenance experience helpful. Send for application, return by January 15 to: Smokies Seasonals, ATC, ATC/GRSM, P.O. Box 625, Boiling Springs, PA 17007.

Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) positions. For detailed position descriptions, log onto the MATC Web site at www.matc.org, or contact Mark Sairio, 20 Williams Drive, Topsham, ME 04086.

Caretakers and ridgerunners needed in Maine to greet, register, and provide information to hikers on the A.T. Also will maintain composting privies and perform general site maintenance. Seeking responsible, motivated, and enthusiastic individuals with backpacking experience, knowledge of Trail, excellent communications skills, good physical condition, understanding of Leave No Trace principles, current first-aid certification, reliable transportation, and own arrange-

ments for housing on days off. Pays \$270–310 per week, depending on experience. Send résumé and letter of interest by January 15 to Mark Sairio at the address listed above. A video accompaniment to your application is welcome.

Maine Caretaker and Ridgerunner Education Program (CARE) coordinator. Full-time seasonal employee to work April 1–November 1 facilitating ridge-runner/caretaker program. Responsible for preseason planning, training of caretakers and ridgerunners, responding to emergencies or inquiries from caretakers and ridge-runners, field visits, reporting, conducting Leave No Trace training, working with groups using the Trail, writing articles, and attending meetings. Must be Maine resident with reliable vehicle (mileage reimbursement provided), telephone, personal computer with e-mail. Candidate should have LNT trainer certification, wilderness first-aid training, teaching/training experience, trail work or conservation experience, and excellent communications skills and be in good physical condition. Pays \$7.95–9.00 per hour, depending on experience. Send résumé and letter of interest by January 15 to Mark Sairio at the address listed above.

Fran P. Mainella was confirmed as the sixteenth director of the **National Park Service** in July. She is the first woman to head the agency. Mainella has more

than thirty years of experience in park management and recreation, serving since 1989 as director of the division of recreation and parks for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. A Connecticut native, she has a master's degree from Central Connecticut State College and a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut. Mainella says, "I look forward to working with the dedicated women and men of the National Park Service, as well as local, state, and private-sector partners, to help fulfill my commitment to the conservation and restoration of our national parks."

SIDE TRAILS

The **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** has a new chief park ranger. Jim Northup will be responsible for law enforcement, emergency medical services, search and rescue, and firefighting operations. The park encompasses 800 square miles and 520,000 acres. It has more visitors annually than any other national park unit except the Blue Ridge Parkway. Northup's previous assignment was as chief of ranger operations at Grand Canyon National Park. He replaces Jason Houck, who died following surgery in March.

The first elk calf in more than 150 years was born in the **Great Smoky**

Mountains National Park in June. The forty-pound male calf was the first of eight expected to be born this summer, following the release in April of twenty-five elk into the park. More of the animals will be released over the next two years in a five-year experiment to reintroduce the species.

The **Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources** is attempting to combat the hemlock wooly adelgid by releasing predatory beetles that eat their eggs. The tiny beetles have been released into large stands of older hemlocks in the hope that they will breed and become self-perpetuating. The state also is conducting controlled experiments using a Chinese ladybug that eats the adelgid.

Answers to Trail Maintenance Quiz

(from page 9)

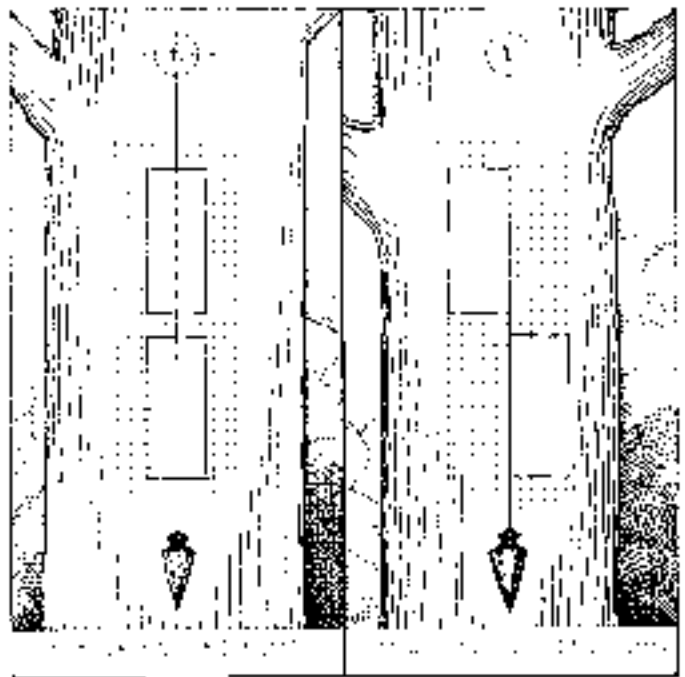
1. All three are acceptable building techniques. There are different schools of thought regarding which is preferable. The split log and the ripped log both conserve wood by getting two stringers out of each log, while the topped log only gets one stringer out of each log. However, my experience has been that a topped log will last longer, because more of the log is left intact, which slows down the rotting process. Recently, I've heard another viewpoint, that a split or ripped log lasts longer because the more durable heartwood is exposed to the weather. I'm interested to hear others' experience with the longevity of the different techniques.

2. a. Compression. Most trail maintainers have experienced a phenomenon in which their saw gets stuck while trying to buck a log. In a large tree, this can be quite inconvenient; you must use another saw or an axe to free the stuck saw. Compression occurs when the saw is "pinched" as the kerf (the opening, the width of the saw blade or chain, that is created by the removal of the chips and sawdust) closes. In contrast, the opposite side of the log is usually under "tension," meaning that the kerf will open wider.

3. a and e. The only time a bridge should be installed is when it is needed for safe crossing during the normal, snow-free hiking season or to protect the soils and vegetation at a stream crossing. Fords and stepstones should be considered before bridges are installed or replaced.

4. a. Top. An offset double blaze should be used sparingly

and only if an A.T. club has officially adopted it as part of its marking standard in the local management plan. Check with your club leadership to see whether your club is using this technique. If you do use an offset double blaze, the top blaze is offset in the direction of the turn. (See *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance*, p. 147)



ATC CALENDAR

2001			
October 20	Mid-Atlantic Regional Management Committee Meeting, Boiling Springs, Pa.	March 22-24	Southern Regional Management Committee, Roaring Gap, N.C.
October 26-28	New England Regional Management Committee Meeting, Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vt.	March 31	Deadline, Trailwide monitoring reports
October 28	Last weekend day ATC Information Center is open	April 1	Copy Deadline, summer issue of <i>The Register</i>
November 17-18	Board of Managers Meeting—Harpers Ferry, W.Va.	May 11-12	Board of Managers Meeting—National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, W.Va.
November 22-23	ATC offices closed—Thanksgiving holiday	May 18	ATC Information Center reopens for weekends and holidays
December 25	ATC offices closed—Christmas holiday		
2002			
January 1	ATC offices closed—New Year's Day holiday	Through October 22	Mid-Atlantic Crew
January 2	Copy deadline, spring issue of <i>The Register</i>	Through October 28	Rocky Top Crew (Great Smoky Mountains National Park)

2001 Volunteer Trail Crew Schedules

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 Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425-0807

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