

IAT Work Trip from Lunksoos Camps, June 2 - 4, 2016

Many thanks go to Mark and Susan Adams, Recreation Managers of Katahdin Woods & Waters Recreation Area (KWWRA), for the use of two comfortable cabins (Hunt and Deasey) at Lunksoos Camps for the Maine Chapter of the International Appalachian Trail (IAT-ME) work crew from June 2 – 4, 2016 and for all of their much appreciated assistance during our work!

Thursday, June 2nd

Thursday afternoon, Chunzeng Wang and his two great volunteer students from the University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI) – Dan Swallow and Nate Norris – with Kirk St. Peter and Eric Hendrickson headed out to put the new picnic table made by Bob Johnston at the Wassataquoik Lean-to and to work on two “beaver activity” areas of the trail: one at the crossing of an abandoned beaver dam at a tributary to Wassataquoik Stream

and the other at some small areas dammed across the trail by beavers just north of the Wassataquoik Lean-to. They cleared the trail, added five posts with IAT tags near the tributary crossing, and removed all the temporary blue flagging from last year. They also found that the small beaver ponds did not require any additional work after the culverts had been previously cleared by Susan Adams and Eric Hendrickson earlier in the week – thanks!



New picnic table at Wassataquoik Lean-to



Dave & Nancy at Katahdin Brook Lean-to

Herb Hartman arrived in time to transport Dave Rand, Cheryl St. Peter and Nancy Hathaway to the Katahdin Loop Road, where they all checked the short section of trail from the Gardner Road to the IAT southern terminus at the Katahdin Lake East (KLE) entrance to Baxter State Park. Herb then dropped off Dave, Cheryl and Nancy at Katahdin Brook, to check the Katahdin Brook Lean-to and the 3.8 miles of trail from there to the Wassataquoik Lean-to. New logbooks were added to both lean-tos, brush was cleared, and the areas around the fire pits mineralized. Dave, Nancy, and Cheryl cleared a few small trees from the trail and added a few tags at some intersections with old tote roads, but this section of trail was not in need of a lot of work.

Everyone met back at the trucks parked near the Wassataquoik ford and headed back to Lunksoos where we found that Earl Raymond, Walter Anderson, and Ford Stevenson had arrived. We had appetizers during a discussion of the division of work for the following day, then green salad, Kirk's chicken wings, chili, rice, and chicken/broccoli casserole for dinner, with cheesecake for dessert – yum!

Friday, June 3rd



Earl heading upriver w/Mark & Susan

Mark took Earl and Susan upriver early to the Big Seboeis Campsite on the East Branch of the Penobscot River to hike up Deasey Mountain and left them with a canoe to paddle back. After breakfast, everyone else made brown bag lunches, then Mark took Kirk, Nate, and Ford and Herb took Chunzeng and Nancy upriver with two additional canoes to paddle back. Kirk carried the fire map and alidade that Earl had made to be installed on the metal table in the historic Deasey Fire Cab with the tools to install it. Everyone carried loppers and saws to help clear the trail from the Fire Warden's Cabin up to Deasey's summit.



Nate & Ford heading upriver w/Mark



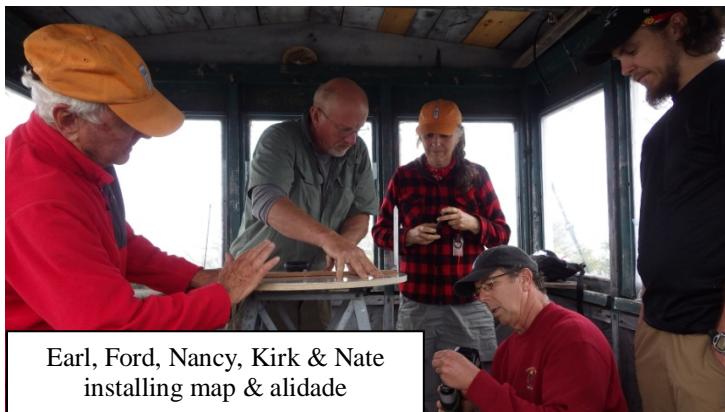
Chunzeng & Nancy heading upriver w/ Herb

Meanwhile, Dave, Eric and Dan drove Kirk's truck to the service gate south of the Wassataquoik ford, crossed the ford and headed north on the IAT toward Deasey, clearing trail as they went with loppers and saws. Eric eventually headed down to the canoes at Big Seboeis Campsite and Dave and Dan made it to Deasey's summit in time for the installation of the fire map and alidade, as well as Earl's explanation of how these were historically used to spot and determine the location of fires (<https://youtu.be/CP0UI9rjpvA>). In total, nine people were present for the installation and Earl's explanation in the historic Deasey Fire Cab!



L to R: Nate, Dan, Chunzeng, Dave, Kirk, Earl, Nancy, Ford & Susan in the Historic Deasey Fire Cab with the Fire Map & Alidade

When Herb returned with his canoe, which had a problem with the motor, Don Hudson had arrived and he, Walter, Cheryl and Herb loaded Herb's canoe on the trailer, then Don, Walter, and Herb drove north to Matagamon to install a new sign near the Matagamon Gate that Suzanne Goulet had made and donated.



As soon as new board member Elaine Hendrickson arrived before lunch, she and Cheryl drove to the Katahdin Loop Road and hiked in to Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps (KLWC) on the Baxter Park trail. Several IAT hikers had previously stated that this park trail was overgrown and difficult to follow, so IAT-ME had wanted to check it out. They found three signs at intersecting or confusing locations and the trail was marked with blue blazes on rocks and trees. Although it was fairly easy to follow, it was definitely overgrown with brush in some places.



3rd Katahdin Lake Trail Sign in meadow near KLWC garden

Although they missed Holly Hamilton, who runs KLWC for the owner, Charles FitzGerald, they met Jeff Gilbert, the cook, who was very welcoming. Holly later emailed Cheryl and said that she'd be happy to keep some IAT information on hand for hikers – thanks, Holly! On the way out, Elaine and Cheryl met Don, Herb and Walter, who were installing the second new sign made by Suzanne for the IAT Southern Terminus, which had more accurate mileages and included the Katahdin Brook Lean-to.



Everyone eventually made it back to Lunksoos, with Kirk and Dave arriving last after hiking down from Deasey on the IAT south across the Wassataquoik ford and to Kirk's truck, clearing trail along the way. They noted that at least 25 additional tags could be placed along this section of trail to aid hikers and Don stated that he would get a couple hundred additional tags made for future trail work sessions, which will include tagging the already approved IAT re-route from Shin Pond to Route 11 on the existing Patten ATV Club trail.

Dinner in Hunt Cabin included baked beans, chili, rice, and chicken/broccoli casserole with organic salad provided by Ford, and beer bread and brownies provided by Elaine – many thanks to both! Chunzeng, Dan and Nate had to leave after dinner and we wish to especially thank Dan and Nate for volunteering to work on the IAT with us “old folks”!

Saturday, June 4

After a breakfast of oatmeal with fruit/nuts and English muffins, as well as toast made with bread brought by Nancy (Thanks! Nancy), everyone packed up to leave. Since there is no housekeeping at Lunksoos and the cabins are provided at no charge for the IAT-ME work crews, we are asked to leave them better than we found them. Therefore, as Cheryl and Elaine cleaned up the dishes and emptied the refrigerator, Kirk took out the trash and bottles, while Nancy swept the floor. Both Hunt and Deasey cabins were left clean for the next guests!



On the way home, Kirk and Cheryl drove their truck from Route 11 to Shin Pond on the Patten ATV Club trail that was approved at the annual meeting in May to be used to re-route the IAT. They found that all 9 miles of trail were located on great hiking gravel “public ways” through the woods and was also drivable with 4-wheel drive. They also took a photo of the picnic table and signs at the trailhead to Mount Chase at the west end of Mountain Road. As soon as the additional tags are made, this trail can be marked and the trail map updated!

With this work session completed from Lunksoos Base Camp, only the trail on Mars Hill and the International Border Trail remain to be checked and cleared this year. It was another very successful work trip with great workers and weather and much accomplished. Many thanks to all who volunteered!