

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Before he decided to step down from the presidency of the Cohos Trail Association because of an employment opportunity as a conductor with Pan Am Railroad based in southern New England, Chad Pepau penned this report for the Cohos Trail faithful:

Greetings, fellow Cohos Trail enthusiast.

2015 has been quite a year for the Cohos Trail to-date with some interesting things happening. Our winter months are slow and we use this time to seek funding for a variety of different projects that we wish to accomplish during the trail maintenance and hiking season. This year, we successfully obtained three grants.

The first grant received came from the Coos Economic Development Corporation in the amount of \$5,000.00 to fund the production and printing of new, state-of-the-art maps spanning the entire length of the Cohos Trail. After getting estimates from three different area cartographers, TCTA has decided to work with Appalachian Mountain Club's cartographer Larry Garland.

You might be familiar with his maps if you have ever picked up a copy of the famous White Mountain Guidebook, which is complete with a map set. The Cohos Trail's new maps will be quite similar in design. We estimate that we will have the new maps produced and ready for purchase in the spring of 2016. As you might know, our last maps were produced in 2007 and many trail changes have occurred since then, so this is a major step forward for the Cohos Trail.

The second grant we received, though the funds have not yet been released, is from the Recreational Trail's Program Grant from the State of New Hampshire in the amount of \$27,555.00, requiring an additional 20% match from TCTA. These funds are to be utilized, among other things, to cut and open the proposed Trio Trail within Nash Stream

Owls Head peak in Jefferson looms over a beaver backwater within the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge. John Compton of Bethlehem took this quintessential Cohos Trail image recently. John has donated it for use for Cohos Trail sign kiosk displays, as well.

State Forest. This new trail, once completed, will leave the Percy Loop Trail very near the Percy Loop Camp tent platform site and go north, maintaining approximately the same elevation to a point just above Pond Brook Falls. Once crossing Pond Brook, the trail will come down alongside the existing Pond Brook Falls Trail to Nash Stream Road near where the Cohos Trail currently crosses Nash Stream at Trailblazer's



Bridge. This new trail will be quite lengthy, more than four miles, and will eliminate all road walking along Nash Stream Road. It will greatly enhance the hiking experience along the Cohos Trail. Though this project was scheduled to get underway in August, it has been delayed as we are waiting for the State to release the funds.

A third grant came in from our long time supporter of the Cohos Trail, the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund. This grant is for the purpose of creating several new kiosks and developing amazing graphics to place on these structures to promote the Cohos Trail throughout the Great North Woods region. This grant totaled \$3,280.00.

In March, TCTA Board members Mary Sturtevant; Bill Schomburg; Sam Farrington, treasurer; and myself met up at Plymouth State University's Museum of the White Mountains in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Here we worked as part of a collaborative effort with the folks from the museum, as well as some staff from the Appalachian Mountain Club, to raise a full-size, log cabin-style lean-to that is currently on display within the museum for the general public to view. This piece is the main component of the museum's Trail Clubs of the White Mountains exhibition. We all had a great time.

This lean-to was created by John and Caroline Nininger, owners of The Wooden House Company, Ltd. of Newbury, Vermont. Once the exhibition changes in March 2016, The Cohos Trail Association has been selected to as the lucky recipient of this beautiful masterpiece. This lean-to will be placed along the Cohos Trail in the Pittsburg area, in 2016. Formal permissions and an exact site are still pending approval at this time.

If you have not seen this exhibition, I urge you to visit the Museum of the White Mountains to have a look. It is worth checking it out. The address for the MWM is: 34 Highland Street, Plymouth, NH 03264.

Various parts of the Cohos Trail have already had basic trail maintenance this year and much of the trail is in great shape. Recently, a re-route was created by the North Woods Stewardship Center of East Charleston, Vermont in the vicinity of the Tumbledick area just south of Coleman State Park. TCTA volunteers continually strive to improve the hiking experience along the Cohos Trail.

2015 is believed to have been one of the busiest years, if not the busiest year on record, in terms of the number of hikers either thru-hiking the Cohos Trail or just doing day-hikes in every region of the 165-mile Cohos Trail. The year is not over yet and we know of a couple others who plan to thru-hike the trail this fall. We are excited to see the user numbers increasing year-after-year; however, the Cohos Trail remains a gem that is perfect for those seeking solitude. We have built this trail to be hiked, and much of the trail has a hardened footpath that is quite visible to the eye. Some areas still require attention be paid in regards to finding/staying on the trail. TCTA volunteers continually strive to stay on top of blazing and signage, especially in areas known to cause confusion.

TCTA has had a lot of positive comments from both, thru-hikers and day-hikers alike on its Friends of the Cohos Trail Facebook group page. Many folks are sharing their experiences on this social media page, as



The log lean-to shelter fashioned by John and Caroline Nininger of The Wooden House Company of Newbury, VT, on display in the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University.



well, including accounts of their adventures and photos for all to enjoy. Our Friends of the Cohos Trail group page is quite active and it is great to see that there is quite a bit of interest in the mighty Cohos

Trail. Let's keep spreading the word and let's keep sharing our adventures, too! It's exciting!

A new speed record for hiking the entire Cohos Trail was set this year. On Friday, July 24, Rob Rives set out on his fast-pack attempt of the Cohos Trail. He fast-packed, it, alright. In almost exactly 66 hours after starting out, he finished his trek on Saturday, July 25. Apparently, speed hiking is growing in popularity as a new record was set on the famous Appalachian Trail this year, as well.

Rob has shared his experience here: <http://humanityrunning.blogspot.com/2015/07/end-to-end-cohos-saga.html>

One last note. The Cohos Trail Association planned to erect one lean-to and composting latrine along the Bald Mountain Notch Trail within Nash Stream State Forest in Stark this summer; however, plans have had to be delayed until the new 10-year Nash Stream State Forest Plan has had a chance to be reviewed and the public comment period has ended.

In 2016, we plan to erect this shelter and one in Pittsburg. So if you are interested in helping with these projects, please stay tuned to the information we put out on our website, our Friends of the Cohos Trail group page on Facebook, and also through future editions of this newsletter.

If you have not had an opportunity to get out on the Cohos Trail this year, it is not too late. Late autumn and winter are perfect times to explore the Great North Woods. Besides, the ambient temperature is cooler and there are no pesky insects to contend with.

Get out there and get those boots dirty!

Regards,

Chad E. Pepau, President

(Editor's Note: Although he had to step down after serving three years as president, Chad wanted to continue to serve. So he has taken a seat on the Cohos Trail board.)

KEN VALLERY IS THE NEW TCTA PRESIDENT

Now that Chad Pepau has resigned his post as president and taken a seat on the board of directors, association vice-president Ken Vallery has agreed to take the reigns as our new president.

Ken is a resident of Lancaster, NH, and is an electrical inspector for the state. A long-time adopter of the East Side Trail in the Nash Stream Forest, Ken is often out on the pathways all over Coos County doing trail maintenance and helping with the development of trail infrastructure of all sorts.

Ken is shepherding the new Cohos Trail maps and Trio Trail projects right now and is working to obtain formal permission for a host of new endeavors to help TCTA make the Cohos Trail all the better in the future.

ALL NEW FOOTPRINTS

Recently, Cohos Trail Association board member E.H. Roy and a crew from the Northwoods Stewardship Center out of E. Charleston, Vermont completed -- blazing and all -- the new Tumbledick Mountain Trail south of Coleman State Park in Stewartstown. A sister trail, the all new Sugar Hill Trail was fully brushed out, too.

These new routes eliminate a long and tedious trek on very weedy snowmobile corridor between the state park and the former Tillotson lands well north the Balsams Grand Resort Hotel in Dixville.

E.H. laid out more than two miles of new pathways. At the height of land at Tumbledick Notch between Tumbledick Mountain and Sugar Hill, the new treadway strikes east off the original route coming up from Coleman State Park. The new path stays on the level for a short stretch and then drops gradually through mixed hardwoods and a true stretch of boreal



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forest, crosses a stream below a small cascade, and finally reaches the old skimobile route.

At the weedy lane, the path crosses directly and becomes the Sugar Hill Trail, a lazy amble through a large maple grove much of the way. This new route banks southwest on the mountain and slowly descends to the valley floor and a brook that drains Sugar Hill's eastern flank. Once across the stream, the trail pitches uphill a bit more than a quarter mile and reaches an old access to the Nathan Pond wetlands to the east.

The entire route is clear and can be walked now. Signage is being fabricated and will soon be in place. When the new maps are available, these new trails will be included. When the guidebook is updated, these pathways will also be incorporated.

The new trails were made possible with substantial funds from an anonymous donor who is an advocate for the Cohos Trail.

ORIGINAL ROUTE REOPENED

Trails that were once a part of the original route of the Cohos Trail within the Dry River Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest, but severely damaged by Hurricane Irene, have been reopened by the US Forest Service to hiking traffic.

The west leg of the Isolation Trail, the Dry River Trail, and the Eisenhower Trail were either damaged or cut off by raging waters that left nasty scars throughout the Dry River drainage.

The damage and trail closures forced the association to hastily come up with a bypass by sending hikers farther along the Davis Path to Boott Spur and over the Camel Trail to Lake of the Cloud Hut. From there, the bypass picked up the Crawford Path south over Mt. Monroe and Mt. Franklin to where the Eisenhower Trail, part of the original route, joins the pathway on the ridgeline.

Now, hikers can resume following the original route where hiking pressure is light. If they like, they can always take the bypass onto the higher ground. One of the real benefits of the original route is the fact that the Dry River Shelter and Dry River Falls, both on the Dry River Trail, are just uphill and to the north of the route. The falls is close to the original pathway, and the shelter is a long half a mile from the junction.

TRIO TRAIL TRIBULATIONS

Politics, politics, politics. An impasse in the legislature over the New Hampshire State budget and congressional delays in the authorization of the federal national transportation funding bill held up a large grant earmarked for the Cohos Trail Association this year (as Chad eluded to in his address), so we were forced to delay the much anticipated and much needed new Trio Trail and the new Pond Brook Falls Trail in the Nash Stream Forest.

The Recreational Trails Program grant administered by the NH Trails Bureau, coupled with considerable donated funds from an anonymous donor, would have made it possible in 2015 to cut, sign, and blaze 4.4 miles of new path. NorthWoods Stewardship Center crews and a host of volunteers were lined up to begin work in the summer months, but the funds were held in limbo. The association had no choice but to cancel the work.

The proposed Trio Trail and Pond Brook Falls Trail together represent a long forested bypass of the Nash Stream Road. Since the Cohos Trail's inception, hikers have had to walk to the Nash Stream Road for 1.9 miles between the Percy Loop trailhead and Pond Brook, below the falls. Getting off the road had always been a high priority, and we were all to roll and brush out the new thoroughfare.

So, we've had to put off the effort until the summer of 2016. Once cut, however, trek through the vast Nash Stream Forest should be a truly fine 18-mile hiking experience.



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A CLEAN SWEEP

Even though the Cohos Trail Association has more miles of trail to maintain than ever before, more pathway mileage was swept and improved over the last 15 months than at any time in our short history.

Here's a list of trails that received a cleaning and clipping: The southern portion of the Kilkenny Ridge Trail from Mt. Waumbek to Bunnell Notch, Slide Brook Trail, Col. Whipple Trail, Ice Ramparts Trail, Bald Mt. Notch Trail, Old Summer Club Trail, South Percy Peaks Trail, Percy Loop, Sugarloaf Arm Trail, East Side Trail, Gadwah Notch Trail, Kelsey Notch Trail, Dixville Bypass, the Table Rock link to Wilderness Ski Area, a portion of the Three Brothers Trail, Sanguinary Mt. Trail, the majority of the Sanguinary Summit Trail, the new Sugar Hill Trail, the new Tumbledick Mt. Trail, the Mt. Prospect Trail, some upgrading of the link to Ramblewood Campground, the Covell Mt. Trail, Round Pond Brook Trail, much of the Bog Bridge Trail, Moose Alley Trail, Falls in the River Trail, Idlewilde Spur, Chaput Trail, Black Cat Trail in its entirety, and the new Deer Mountain Firetower Trail.

That is quite the long list. Dozens of volunteers assisted in making that happen. In fact, the total hours worked on the Cohos Trail exceeds that of most all trail groups in the state, according to a recent state tally.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

At this writing, the association is developing a new set of free-standing sign kiosks, kiosk literature, and large graphic panel displays. With the aid of a Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund grant administered by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, we were able to give Ray Chaput of Twin Mountain the green light to begin fabricating new two-legged kiosks to complement those we already have in place.

Right this very minute there is a Cohos Trail kiosk at Young's Store in Pittsburg, one at Coleman State Park, one at Mile 9 on the Nash Stream Road, one at the Percy Road southeastern entrance to the Nash Stream Forest, and one at the parking lot on the Montgomery property near Pike Pond in Stark. By this time next year, we hope to have other kiosks and wall displays spanning the county from Twin Mountain to within earshot of the Canadian border.

The kiosks will receive new laminated information posters, a map segment, and a 24"x18" aluminum-base printed panel featuring eye-popping photography and graphics. Pro photographer Chris Whiton of White Mountain Images and exceptional shutterbugs John Compton, Robert Kozlow, and Ben Kimball have agreed to donate stunning photos of Cohos Trail vistas for the displays.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Quite a few new board members have been seated on the board of directors over the course of this past year. Elected to the board at the beginning of the year were Sue Wentworth of Lancaster, and Nate Shedd of Gorham. Chad Pepau transitioned from the president's post to a member of the board.

And within the last week, the board voted in three new members, as well, including: Lainie Castine of Stewartstown, who is transitioning from association secretary to the board; Kirsten Silfvenius of Pittsburg, who manages the Ramblewood Cabins and Campground near First Connecticut Lake; and Bruce Brekke of Whitefield, a retired computer chip designer and maintainer on the Cohos Trail.

Long time board members, Cohos Trail volunteers, and trail stewards Tracy Rexford of Berlin and Mary Sturtevant of Sugar Hill recently decided to put their energies into new endeavors. And Dana Bartlett of Colebrook, shouldering many volunteer duties including the presidency of the local Kiwanis, has chosen to bow out to reduce his heavy volunteer work load. But he still wants to help when we build shelters.

A sincere thank you to Tracy, Mary, and Dana for their long and copious work on behalf of the association.



TRAIL BYPASS CONCEPTS

Now that the Cohos Trail is complete end to end, the association is turning its attention to how it can improve the long trail system, particularly in Dixville, Stewartstown, Clarksville and Pittsburg townships.

Over the last three or four years, we have been impacted considerably by the opening of old grassy lanes and skimobile trails to ATV traffic on the new Ride The Wilds trail system in the most of the towns mentioned above. In order to ensure safety on paths that ATVs use, we are beginning to put some effort into working with the state and landowners to plan new forested foot trails so we can move all hiking enthusiasts away from vehicle-traveled trails.

In the next few years, the association hopes to be able to land permission to create up to six new bypasses, one as short as two-fifths of a mile, to one as many as ten miles in length.

Perhaps the most pressing need is to develop a new, all-woodlands trail from Coleman State Park to the double-stream inlets into the easternmost expanse of Lake Francis where the Lake Francis Trail begins. This 10-mile long trail concept, possibly including equestrian access, would provide an avenue north from the state park over a northern knob of Deadwater Ridge, along much of Whipple Ridge, out to the vicinity of Carr Pond, and then off to and across Cedar Stream Road. If this pathway could be built, it would eliminate the need for a future Cohos Trail shelter in Clarksville.

Nearly as important is finding an avenue away from Kelsey Notch Road and the wind turbine access road on Dixville Peak, both now ATV lanes. The shortest route among several options is a pathway that would hug the Columbia town line north out of the Nash Stream Forest to a crossing at the Kelsey Notch Road. From there, the concept calls for rising to two 3,000-foot summits on the southwest shoulder of Dixville Peak up to our current Dixville Bypass path and then out through spruce and fir forest to the old service lane into the summit of the Wilderness Ski Resort.

Another ambitious future project calls for either swinging a loop path off the now fully restored Deer Mountain Firetower Trail where the firetower superstructure stands, or running a roughly straight pathway north by Wright Pond and the Perry Ponds and out to Fourth Connecticut Lake and a junction with the existing loop trail around that coldwater, two-acre fen.

A route from the firetower to Fourth Connecticut Lake would run high on ridgelines, staying away from the valley floor and Sophie's Lane, an old logging toe road we still utilize as trail today. The path, if it could be opened, would have to cross Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Working Forest lands, NH Fish and Game protected acreage, and Nature Conservancy property around the headwaters lake.

Three short bypasses are in the mix, as well. The Cohos Trail runs for a short distance on ATV trail – the West Side Trail – in the Nash Stream Forest. At some point, we'd like to be able to get off that traveled way on a semi-circular path of modest length through a glacial erratic boulder field at the foot of Stratford Mountain.

In Pittsburg, the way into Lake Francis State Park is along the River Road. But there is a long established fisherman's herd path that runs out of the campground north along the Connecticut River almost but not quite to the Carr Ridge Road bridge. Cutting a very short treadway down to that herd path along the water course would greatly improve the hiking experience in the area.

And lastly, we'd like to propose a very short link between Deer Mountain Campground in northern Pittsburg out to the Deer Mt. Firetower Trail trailhead. That short stretch would require the construction of a bridge below the Moose Flowage dam and across the Connecticut River (very narrow at that point near its source). The bridge would allow the Cohos Trail to run right through the campground instead of swinging in a wide arch around it, as the trail does now.

All these ideas are just that, ideas. Some have been aired, and it is our hope to have most of them incorporated into long-range plans that the state is preparing. If all goes well, perhaps we might be able



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to cut one or more in 2017. That remains to be seen. But if we could develop a few of these ideas into fully fledged trails, the improvement of the Cohos Trail system in the far north would be substantial.

ALL P.R IS GOOD P.R.

The Cohos Trail has enjoyed a good share of media exposure in 2015. Backpacker magazine featured a segment of the trail in its September issue. New Hampshire Public Radio recorded a long feature broadcast about the development of the trail. And the Manchester Union Leader focused on the trail's development, as well.

In 2015, we worked closely with Carla Schneider of AlpineWeb Design at Bartlett, NH to develop an entirely new website that has gotten accolades from other trail organizations looking to upgrade their own sites.

We have a daily presence on Facebook, as Chad mentioned. Our Friends of the Cohos Trail page now has over 600 members, most all of them becoming active in about two years.

TWO LEAN-TOS, TOO

In 2015, we had hoped to build our long anticipated Devil's Rest Shelter on a knoll above the Bald Mountain Notch Trail in the southeast corner of the Nash Stream Forest. But because the state's long-ranging planning process for the forest has not quite been completed, as Chad noted, we've had to wait for the ink to dry. It's too late in the year to go ahead with the project, so we moved the construction date into 2016.

By pushing off the Devil's Rest building event into 2016, we may actually have two shelter projects to tackle. The donated log lean-to, the Neil Tillotson Hut that now stands as a display in the Museum of the White Mountains, will have to be moved in March. So we anticipate beginning reassembling that structure in the Connecticut Lakes State Forest when the weather warms sufficiently and the ground firms up.

The lean-to will likely be set up on native rock footings. We'll bring in floor planks, roof boards and steel roofing to put the finishing touches on the building.

That leaves the Devil's Rest project in the Nash Stream Forest for the autumn months, when temperatures are cool and the foliage is turning color. Both shelters are to be accompanied by a composting latrine. Each site has a water source close by.

By the time snow flies next year, a hiker on the Cohos Trail could stay under any one of five Cohos Trail Association-built shelter roofs: Devil's Rest, Old Hermit Shelter on Sugarloaf Arm in Stratford, Baldhead Shelter on Baldhead Mt. in Columbia, Panorama Shelter on North Sanguinary Ridge in Dixville, and Tillotson Hut lean-to in Pittsburg.

There are other three-sided shelter options, too. The State of New Hampshire maintains a lean-to shelter at Coleman State Park at Little Diamond Pond on the high ground of Stewartstown.

Ramblewood Cabins and Campground above West Bay in First Connecticut Lake in Pittsburg also maintains a lean-to shelter. The US Forest Service keeps the Dry River Shelter up and running below Oakes Gulf on the south flank of Mt. Washington, just a short pull uphill from the route of the Cohos Trail.

And finally, there are four-sided shelters out there on the Cohos Trail route, too. Mt. Cabot Cabin in the Kilkenny is operated by the Forest Service. Mt. Bungalow Mt. Prospect in Pittsburg is a donations-only overnight stay. And there is a donated refurbished cabin at Deer Mountain Campground in Pittsburg, just four miles from the border.



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NEW MAPS A MUST

Ken Vallery and Sam Farrington, TCTA's treasurer, are hard at work with AMC cartographer Larry Garland developing an all new map set for the Cohos Trail. We've needed a new map set for some time, and we'll have the maps available in the spring of 2016. Don't leave home without it.

Virtually the entire length of the Cohos Trail route has been GPSed, so accuracy should be assured. The latest trail developments will be incorporated as will the routes of a few proposed future trails so the map set may have a longer life.

The Coos Economic Development Corporation made this possible through their grant program.

NEW COHOS TRAIL DATABOOK AVAILABLE SOON

Not only our maps are being updated, but we are going to soon bring out an all new Cohos Trail Databook that will feature nuts and bolts information about how to hike the trail both northbound and southbound. So, if you are going to hike northward from Crawford Notch, you'd read the Northbound section. If hiking from the Canadian border south, you'd read the Southbound section.

The new databook should be available by February. That's what we're hoping for.

CHECK FOR TICKS

Be sure when hiking in low country to check for ticks. Forty years ago, ticks were almost unheard of north of the notches. No more. They are now common in Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge and other bog country in the spring and in the fall before hard killing frosts.

TALKING TURKEY

Nearly 50 years ago, a small flock of wild turkey was reintroduced into the state of NH in the town of Westmoreland in the southwest corner of the state. Today these great birds can be found everywhere from border to border, they are that common.

They arrived late in Coos County, but they have exploded in population throughout the North Country. It seems there is a flock around every bend in the road. They are a true wildlife success story even as far north as Deer Mountain.

THE COY WOLF

Scientific research into the origins of a new species of super coyote has recently been published, and the name being bandied about is not eastern coyote or coy dog, but coy wolf.

The new name has its origins in the nature of the animals' DNA. While the majority of the DNA can be traced to coyotes, about a third of the genetic code is that of the wolf, and about ten percent is that of domestic dog.

These creatures have become quite abundant and can be called common in the north. They range throughout New Hampshire, in fact all of the Northeastern United States and the upper Midwest and southern Canada.

Unlike their lean and lanky coyote cousins, coy wolves have bigger bone, are heavier, boast thick coats that are impervious to cold, and exhibit wolf-like faces.

The beautiful canines now occupy the niche that true wolves did centuries ago, before they were hunted to extinction in New England.

Make no mistake; this is a new animal, evolving right before our eyes in just two human generations. They are striking to behold, if you are lucky enough to see one of them for more than a second or two. They are masters at avoiding humans and may hunt day or night.

If you are lucky enough to be out on the Cohos Trail during full moon nights, you may very well hear them calling and yipping from afar.



DEDUCT THAT DONATION, DEAR

The Cohos Trail Association is an all-volunteer 501c3 nonprofit organization. Remember, any donation to the trail club is tax deductible. If you are antsy about the end of the calendar year and need a place to park that small fortune of yours, you could do no better than help us put your dollars to work “on the ground” building new trails and shelters.

You may donate on-line on the home page of our website: www.cohostrail.org. Or you may send a check or money order to: The Cohos Trail Association, PO Box 84, Lancaster NH 03584.

GEOCACHING ON THE COHOS TRAIL

Sprinkled along the Cohos Trail in hidden pockets are geocaches. More and more people are trying their luck and honing their orienting skills by searching for them.

Here are some interesting comments (largely unedited) from people who were out on the many Cohos Trail pathways this summer seeking geocaches squirrelled away throughout the forests of the Pittsburg region.

“Staying at our camp nearby for the weekend. Never knew this trail was here. We plan to hike more of it when it isn't so hot.”

“First of the day starting from Magalloway Road. Lots of birdsong. Thanks for bringing us to this beautiful trail.”

“We continued down the trail from Geronimo [Moose Alley Trail] to find this one. So many moose tracks in the mud, we thought for sure we came across one. They were probably out there watching us though! Thanks for the FTF and the fun hike!”

“Yesterday we were reading and learning about the Cohos Trail. Today we find ourselves on it. Thanks for bringing us here.”

“SUPER! Awesome, awesome views!”

“We found the way up and we could see as far as we could see. WOW. What incredible views and quite the adventure getting up here too!”

“ Found it. Very neat, loved it. Nice trail too. Thanks! 4,190th cache find.”
-- J&K from Denmark

“Found it 08/08/2015- This is part of that trail too? I'm getting to see a lot of it while here.”
--Team Bullis

“What a great area. I have never been up here this time of year. The trails are nice.
Thanks again for bringing us to this area.”



and

“This was the first cache of the day and an introduction to geocaching for grandma
and grandpa. Beautiful walk down a cross country trail.”

“Out caching with 76CJ7, Glonch's Pride , and Miss Micro. Nice to see trail system opened in the area.

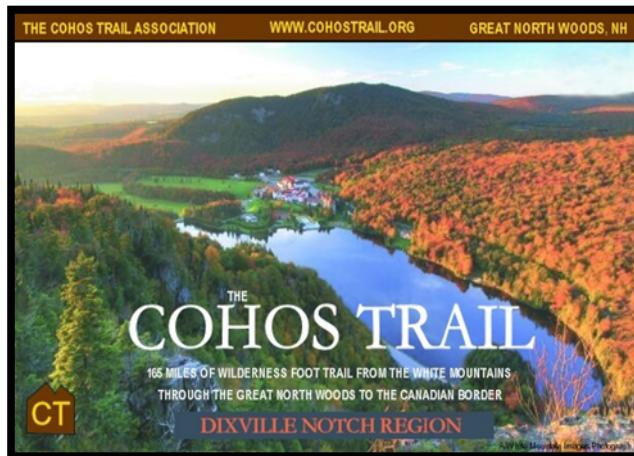
Nice walk in the woods.”

“We had a great day doing the park and grabs as well as the hike down Moose Alley Trail.”

“We found the cache and hung out for a bit enjoy the scenery. Enjoying all these great hikes!”

PUTTING A LID ON IT

John Higgins of Raymond, NH wrote recently to say he's committed to donating a standing-seam metal roof for one of our lean-to shelters, to be built in the future. All wanted to know was what color we'd want, and he'd take care of the rest. Thank you for your generosity, John. Stay dry!



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THE LAST GAP CLOSED

Once in a while, we have to move a trail. Sometimes a landowner requests we move it. Sometimes a logging cut forces a closure. And so on.

The Round Pond Brook Trail's all new bypass was completed this year to permit us to move off private property and into state easements on timberlands. Over two summers we cut much of the trail, putting a lot of effort into it this past season.

But we had one problem. In order to finish the trail and sweep it out to accepted standards, we needed to build an 80-foot puncheon span over a large seep. With the considerable effort of Sandy Young, manager of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Working Forest, and several individuals assisting him, heavy planking was hauled thousands of feet into the site during the winter months.

With the materials in place, Ken Vallery organized a work day that brought out many a volunteer, so many that he divided the crew up into two so that one party could swing down the Bog Bridge Trail and give that a going over.

By the end of the day, the new puncheon span had been installed and the last gap in the long Cohos Trail hiking system was closed. The northern stretch of the trail was sweep clean, as well.

In 2016, some additional work will be done in that general area. Effort will be undertaken to put a short puncheon span at the lowest point in the Bog Bridge Trail, at the base of the ridge below Route 3 and before trekkers reach the 800-foot bog bridge span farther east. And the Coon Brook bridge will get some attention from us and from a volunteer skimobile group from Pittsburg who want to restore the deteriorating deck.

THE LAST WORD

For nearly eighteen years now, all sorts of volunteers have been planning and working to create the Cohos Trail, one of the longest and more dramatic pathways built in the Northeast in three generations.

The Cohos Trail is just that, an all-volunteer effort. Although we sometimes contract with pro trail maintenance outfits to provide services to the a pathway without pay because we have a love for Appalachian chain mountains

We have had as many as forty people show up. Volunteers have built the shelters, erected the ladders, bog bridging, routed signs, painted blazing, hauled

Obviously, we depend on volunteers to get things done.

The stunning photograph behind the graphic con above, one of a dozen sign kiosk displays that TC developing, has been donated to the association by professional photographer Chris Whiton of White Mountain Images (whitemountainimages.com). This design isn't quite finalized and the Great North Woods, NH designation has been changed to North Country, NH, there's no replacing the incomparable view from Table Rock in Dixville Notch at Dixville, New Hampshire as the sun sets over Lake Gloriette and the Balsams Grand Resort Hotel in the autumn of the year.



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to you.

Could you spare five or six hours once a year to help us out on the Cohos Trail in 2016? Or, when you are out hiking and come across some debris that's down, could you lift it (if it isn't too darn heavy) out of the trail, or flick branches out of the way with your hiking pole?

If you see a problem on the trail that is just too tough to handle, drop us an email at cohos@cohostrail.org.

One of the great joys we experience is when new folks pitch in and become part of the Cohos Trail family. When we build a shelter or bridge, for instance, we often get quite a turnout. People like constructing things, you know, and being a part of a "raising."

You could be a part of the effort, too. We publish work day dates in advance, so look for them at www.cohostrail.org and on Facebook's Friends of the Cohos Trail.

THE COHOS TRAIL ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

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Vice-President: open as of this writing
Treasurer: Sam Farrington, Chocorua
Secretary: open as of this writing

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