



## FALL 2014

Dear Friends of the Tumbledown Area,

2015 will be the Tumbledown Conservation Alliance's 15th year. We want to tell you about some of our recent accomplishments and what we hope to do in coming year.

## TRAILS UPDATE

Catching up with the results of years of neglect is a big task, but the Maine Conservation Corps has continued to make improvements to the Tumbledown trails. TCA has helped to pay for the Maine Conservation Corps' work on the project. Please refer to the article by Bruce Farnham on the following page for a more detailed account.

Attention to water management on trails is critical to keeping them usable, especially with the increase in rainfall and large "rain events" in recent years. The waterbars that MCC has built are impressive, and should last a long time. They are made with substantial rocks unlikely to be jarred loose by a careless hiker's tread, and many incorporate a step so that neither side will wear out easily. Some wet areas are now passable by bog bridge or solid stepping stones.



*Newly constructed waterbar*

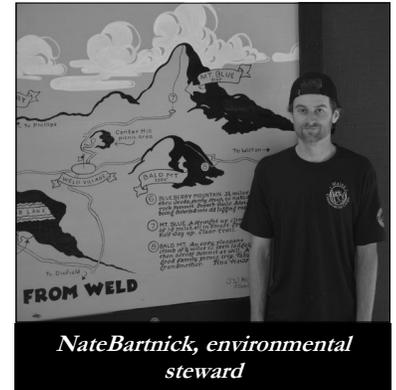
## WEB SITE

Last year we rebuilt our web site, [tumbledown.org](http://tumbledown.org). Phil Poirier of Protean Graphics was the designer and we think he did a great job. If you haven't looked at it recently, be sure to check it out. There are maps, an historical hiking guide, the

history of TCA and the Mt. Blue-Tumbledown Project, and lots of photos...and a place where you can submit some of your favorite photos. There is a page where you can find brief notes about local events, updates, and items of interest, as well as information about any TCA projects.

## STEWARDSHIP

Tumbledown Conservation Alliance has provided funding this summer for an environmental steward in Weld. We hope that with your contributions, this position will continue in 2015. The need is there.



*Nate Bartnick, environmental steward*

## TPL'S WHITE MOUNTAINS TO MOOSEHEAD LAKE INITIATIVE

Last fall, Diano Circo, a project manager with the Trust for Public Land's Portland office, talked to CA about the "White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative." It's a TPL regional initiative based on a study by The Nature Conservancy entitled "Resilient Sites for Terrestrial Conservation in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region." the Mt. Blue-Tumbledown region has features important for climate resilience. More than just high elevations, the gradient from lakes to peaks will be important to let species survive. This corridor, of which we are a part, has been identified as a focus area, and this will help to bring funding to future projects.

## WE'RE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP

Your continued support is important and greatly appreciated. In addition, public support for conservation and conservation bonds has always been strong and we remain optimistic about future conservation initiatives.

For 2015 we want to keep our promise to help with continuing maintenance and management of the land that has been protected so far in our focus area. Funds from this appeal will go towards an environmental steward position and trail work next summer, and as part of our long-term strategy, we will also add to our endowment fund.

Please contribute to help in the management of what we, the citizens of Maine, now own and to protect more of the scenic beauty, natural wonders, and recreation opportunities we value so highly.

**Thank you!**

# Maine Conservation Corps on Tumbledown and Mt. Blue

The trails in Mt. Blue State Park and on the Tumbledown Mountain Range benefitted from work done by the Maine Conservation Corps this summer. Several trails saw major improvements and upgrades. A MCC crew continued where another crew left off in 2013 on the Mt. Blue hiking trail. A number of water bars and drainage ditches were added that will prevent further erosion on the trail. There are also two new sets of stone steps on the upper half of the trail. The crew improved the overall quality of the trail which has seen an increase in use since the new tower was completed in 2013. Another MCC crew spent the summer working on the Little Jackson trail in the Tumbledown Range. Stone steps and water bars were added to the upper section of the trail. Cairns were added and repaired and a reroute was created to alleviate a hard to follow section. This makes the fifth summer improvements have been made to the trails on Tumbledown. They continue to see an increase in use which results in a need for maintenance to counteract erosion and other problems.

The Mt. Blue/Tumbledown area also benefitted from the work of two environmental stewards in 2014. The



New cairn on top of Little Jackson

Photo by Warren Keene

stewards were employed through the MCC and AmeriCorps and were stationed at Mt. Blue State Park. TCA provided the funding for one of the positions. One steward, Whitney Bushey, was assigned to the Mt. Blue State park's nature center and was an integral part of the park's interpretive program. She assisted and led a variety of nature walks and activities throughout the summer. Nate Bartnick was an environmental steward assigned to both Mt.

Blue State Park and the Tumbledown Range. Nate monitored traffic on the mountains and performed maintenance on the trails which included: reblazing, cleaning out water bars, brushing back sections and upgrading the Pond Link trail on Tumbledown. Nate spent a few nights on Tumbledown and surveyed hikers when possible. Campfires are not permitted on Tumbledown and Nate tried to prevent them through educating hikers, putting up signs and removing fire pits whenever he found them. Nate's work has helped TCA better understand the issues related to managing the Mt. Blue and Tumbledown Range.

The work done by the MCC crews and the Environmental Stewards was a great benefit to the Mt. Blue/Tumbledown area and enhanced the experience of all those who were fortunate to visit this special place in 2014.

**Bruce Farnham**

## In Memoriam

Henry Braun departed this life on October 11, 2014. He was an academic, a poet of much fame, a tireless activist, a lover of the backwoods of western Maine, a champion of mountains, and a founding member of Tumbledown Conservation Alliance. Protecting the Tumbledown/Mt. Blue area was his passion. On the day of his funeral, family members and mourners met at the start of the Byron Road in Weld. Henry's pine casket was loaded onto a wagon pulled by his neighbor David Fish's two gigantic work horses. With Tumbledown always in their sight, the assemblage walked behind the wagon to Mt. View Cemetery. Henry lived at the base of Mt. Blue on the Temple Road but now resides for eternity in the shadow of Tumbledown on the Byron Road. Everyone involved with the Tumbledown Conservation Alliance deeply mourns his passing.



Yes, I want to help the Tumbledown Conservation Alliance ensure continued access for hiking and other recreation, and to protect wildlife habitat, the forest resource, and the beauty of the Tumbledown-Mt. Blue area!

**ENCLOSED IS MY CONTRIBUTION FOR CONSERVATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *I would like to become more involved. Please contact me.*

\$55 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Tumbledown Conservation Alliance" and mail to TCA, PO Box 24, Weld, ME 04285. Tumbledown Conservation Alliance is a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) charitable organization and all contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. **THANK YOU!**

## The Road to Tumbledown- The Great Cohos Trail

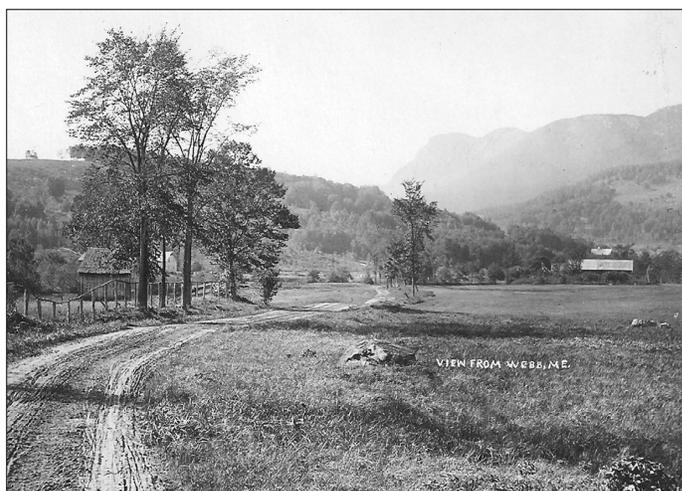
Today's hikers know it as the Byron Road. Older generations of locals referred to it as the No. 6 Road since it accessed the logging operations in the No. 6 Township and the Town of Byron beyond. Originally, however, it was section of the Great Coos (or Cohos) Trail. Weld can boast of an original stretch of this historic east to west thoroughfare which runs from the Merchant Rd. in Weld (Rt. #156 from Wilton) to Webb Corner on Rt.# 142 to the West Side Road and then down the Byron Road, past the Tumbledown trailheads to the Town of Byron.

The Native Americans who lived in the Rangeley region and northern New Hampshire were called Coosash (meaning pines) Aukes (signifying place), or dwellers in the pine tree country. The white proprietors named the trail Cohos because it opened up these wilderness lands for settlement and access to the resources of the forest.

In 1782 a group of men set out to explore the country from the Kennebec River to the upper Connecticut River to determine if it would be practical to open a road through the wilderness. A trail was blazed but it was not until 1793 when the project was taken up again by Jacob Abbott. He petitioned the General Court for four

thousand acres of land in the vicinity of Webb's Pond to construct a road along the same track. The Court granted him the land located in No. 6, north of the pond. He agreed to construct the road within eighteen months from the time of the grant, however, the road was not finished until 1802. After completion, the Coos Road connected the towns of Hallowell which was then a bustling port, Manchester, Fayette, Livermore Falls,

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Road to Tumbledown showing the Lorenzo Robertson Farm on the right. The barn burned in 1913 and it's owner perished trying to save his favorite horse from the flames.



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Address service requested

Chesterville, Wilton, Carthage, Weld, Byron, East Andover and then Errol, New Hampshire.

In 1805 the first families arrived in Weld from Andover, Maine by way of the Cohos Road. The trail was improved over time and was made into a carriage road by 1822. Farmers hauled their crops of hay, hops and corn, loggers their wood, and mill owners their cheese boxes, sawn planks, and so on, to market down the Cohos Road.

Then, as now, Tumbledown was also a place to recreate and explore. In 1893 the Austin family climbed into a buckboard and headed to Tumbledown for a climb. The party would have enjoyed sweeping vistas on route because there were large farms and pastures on either side of the road. They stopped at the Mt. View Cemetery to find a stone erected to 'Bud' with the inscription "A bud transplanted". Before turning onto the Morgan Road for the Parker's Ridge trailhead, they passed children walking to the district school. Today when you travel down the heavily wooded Byron Road, it is a test of your imagination to picture wide open fields and enormous barns that used to line the Great Cohos Road.

*Nancy Stowell*



*Picnic at the top of Tumbledown about 1910*

**Remember to always  
check out [tumbledown.org](http://tumbledown.org)  
For the latest news and photos**



