



## Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust electronic newsletter January 2007

As a friend of the Appalachian Trail in Maine, we hope you will find this e-newsletter informative and useful. If you do not wish to receive future newsletters from us, please respond to this e-mail with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

### The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust commends the Maine Land use Regulation Commissioners refusal to allow Industrial Wind Development at Redington Ridge and Black Nubble Mountains

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust (MATLT) commends Maine's Land Use Regulation Commissioners (LURC) for their January 25, 2007 decision to reject a rezoning request that would allow wind power development at Redington/Black Nubble mountains, in the heart of Maine's Western Mountains High Peaks region.

LURC commissioners voted to uphold the regulations that clearly disallow such a project at the Redington/Black Nubble site, while at the same time expressing their intention to support wind projects in suitable areas.

Highlights of the reasons the LURC commissioners rejected the request to rezone a 'mountain resource protection district' to a 'planned development district' were:

- Proximity to the Appalachian Trail and acknowledgment of the A.T. national park as an important and positive feature of western Maine
- Value of the A.T. backcountry experience to Maine and the nation
- Remoteness of the proposed project location (in the state's third largest roadless area)
- Value of the rare natural resources that would be disturbed by the project
- The disturbance to the visual landscape from the A.T. that the project would cause

These findings confirm the appropriateness of MATLT's mission, "to acquire and protect land surrounding the Appalachian Trail in Maine", and to our [MATLT High Peaks Initiative](#), which focuses our conservation efforts on the High Peaks region.

We give our heartfelt thanks to all who worked so hard to successfully demonstrate to LURC that the Redington ridgeline and Black Nubble mountains are unsuitable locations for industrial scale wind power generation.

Our thanks particularly goes to the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)** and **Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC)** for providing leadership for the campaign against the Redington project as well as the funding needed to present an effective defense against a deep pocketed opponent.

- ATC Northeast Regional Director **J.T. Horn**, whose insightful analysis of the projects flaws and effective presentation of the ATC's views were essential to the success of the effort.
- MATC's **Steve Clark** as leader of the club's Redington effort and to the **entire MATC Board of Directors** for their support and willingness to step up to the plate when financial times were tough.

The testimony of ATC/MATC on the project is on our website at [ATC / MATC Redington Testimony](#)

Thank you to **Pamela Underhill**, National Park Service manager of the Appalachian Trail, for making two trips to Maine to professionally and effectively represent the interests of the A.T. to the LURC commissioners.

Thanks also go to other organizational interveners against the project:

- **Appalachian Mountain Club**
- **Maine Audubon Society**

And to our own Board vice president, **Bill Plouffe**, who gave an extraordinary amount his time, skill and heart to this effort.

## **2006 Maine Mountain Conference a huge success**

Thanks to a dedicated volunteer steering committee, the 2006 Maine Mountain Conference, held this past October at the Saddleback Lodge in Rangeley, Maine, was a huge success. Attendance was just over 200 people, the speakers were excellent, and the event sparked interest in continued discussions concerning Maine's Mountains.

Congratulations to the Steering committee for a job well done: **Dick Fecteau, Pam Prodan, Bob Weingarten, Helmutt Bitterauf, Elsa Sanborn and Bob Cummings!**

Copies of the very interesting conference presentations and background materials are available on our website at:  
[2006 Maine Mountain Conference downloads](#)

Please Visit our web site at [www.matlt.org](http://www.matlt.org) for more detailed information about MATLT and our activities.