

On Thu, Jul 16, 2026 at 7:43 AM Bob Hedges via orford list
<orford@lists.vitalcommunities.org> wrote:

On Wednesday, the Orford Conservation Commission and Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) had 28 hikers summit Mount Cube in celebratory commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the AMC. Thank you to everyone who came out for the excellent hike. Our whole group made it to the summit. Well done, Orford! A great contribution to a special event.

We also learned a great history lesson from AMC Historian Becky Fullerton who at the summit shared the history of legendary forester and conservationist from the early 1900s, Benton MacKaye. As many may know, MacKaye was the original sponsor and planner of the Appalachian Trail. What is less commonly known is that MacKaye initially conceived of the idea of the Appalachian Trail while working here in Orford as a counselor at Camp Moosilauke in 1904! On the summit of Cube, Becky read from MacKay's personal journal recounting his long-distance hikes out of Orford. MacKay's vision of the need for and value of a long-distance hiking trail to connect the wilderness spaces of the East was first developed right here in Orford.

In a very meaningful way, Orford is "the birthplace of the Appalachian Trail" — an important historical point that has faded with the passage of time. It was so great to be on the summit of Orford's Mount Cube yesterday, being reminded of the important history of this special place where we live.

Thank you to all the hikers who participated yesterday.