

Precipice Trail



Trail History

Precipice Trail Alpine Path

Champlain Mountain (Newport Mountain)
Acadia National Park

Map: 1916 Path Map
GPS (Global Positioning System) Latitude, Longitude: 44.349739, -68.188176
Route: From the Precipice Trail parking area, up the east face to the summit of Champlain Mountain.

Funded by: Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association and Rudolph Brunnow

Rudolph Ernest Brunnow (1858-1917)
Chairman of the Path Committee 1912-1917
He laid out and designed several of the park's notable trails. "He died in the spring of 1917, leaving behind some of the most challenging, controversial, and highly crafted trails in the Bar Harbor System..." - Pathmakers, p. 77.
His cottage, north of Schooner Head, was "High Seas."

Date Established - Founded - Built: 1915

Designed by: Rudolph Brunnow

Built by:

"Up the sheer face of the precipices the path leads, precipitously enough in any place along its stretch, now running along a sandy ordinary path and now forcing the climber to ascend by means of spikes driven into the cliff in double rows to form a ladder with hand rails on either side. This path is absolutely safe, but care should be taken not to throw down any stones, as they might start a landslide. The path is rather dangerous in the early spring when the frost is liable to dislodge stones and cause them to roll down the mountain side, but after the frost is out and the ground is settled back into place, the path is absolutely safe, and women as well as men enjoy clambering over it." - Bar Harbor Times, November 21, 1914, p. 1.

Above quote and other information from:

Brown, Margaret Coffin, *Pathmakers - Cultural Landscape Report for the Historic Hiking Trail System of Mount Desert Island: History, Existing Conditions, & Analysis* (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 2006) p. 76-77, 219.
Prepared by Margaret Coffin Brown, Project Manager, Jim Vekasi.

The book is an enjoyable and necessary read for anyone hoping to understand the beginning of the park and its trail system. Be sure to consult this book before going on the trail.

PDF: https://swhpl.digitalarchive.us/files/original/13524/Precipice_Trail_-_T.pdf

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