



# A.T. Sawyer Survey Results



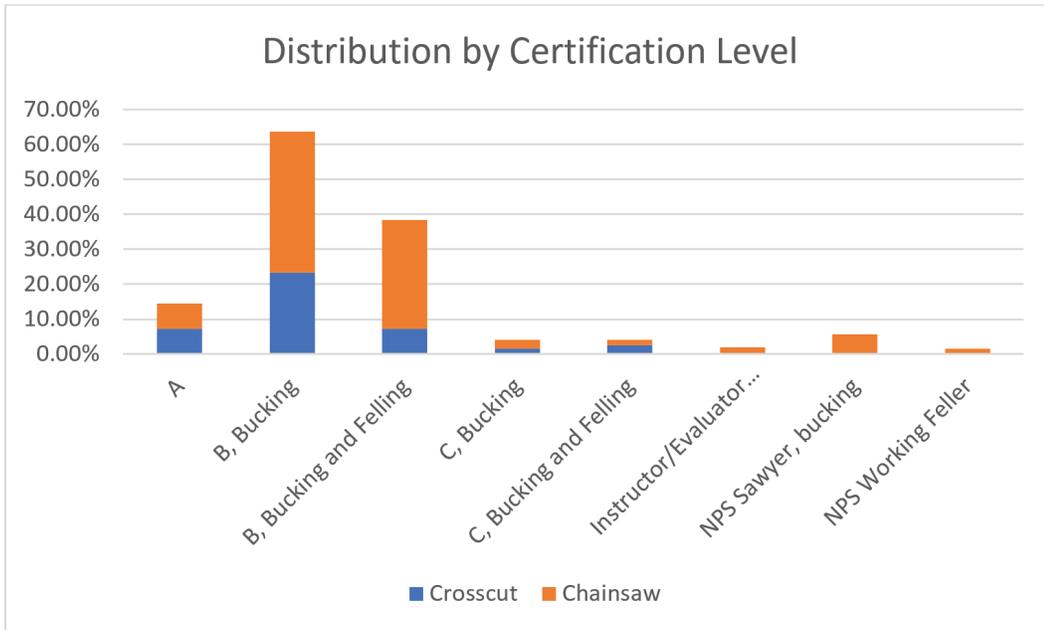
**APPALACHIAN TRAIL**  
CONSERVANCY®

799 Washington Street, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807  
Phone: 304.535.2200 | Fax: 304.535.2667 | [www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org)

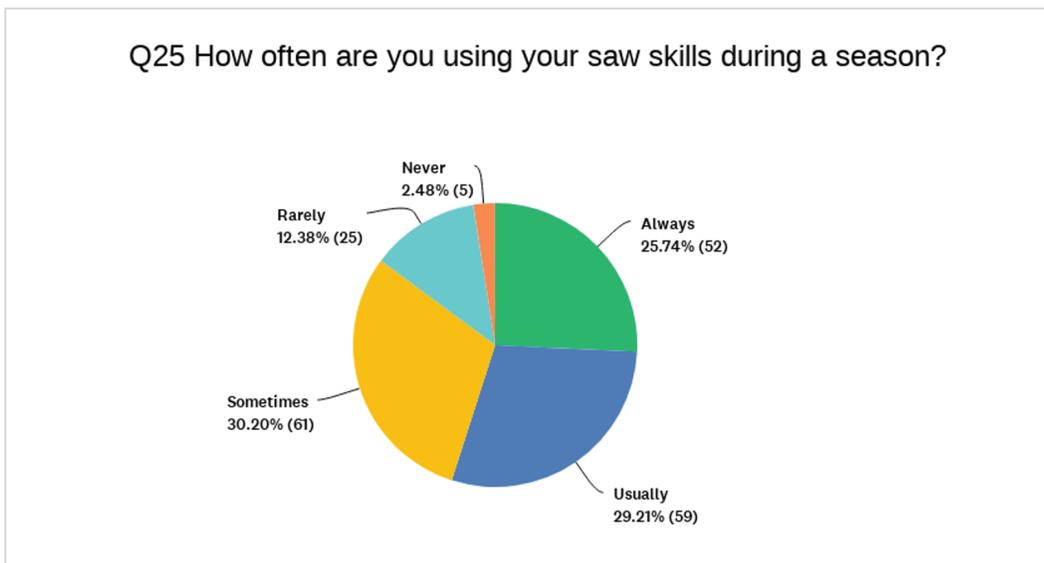
# Survey Results

Of 562 A.T. volunteers responding to an all levels volunteer survey, 178 (31%) indicated they are *current* certified A.T. sawyers.

The following survey results are based on responses from 205 people who indicated that they are or have been a certified A.T. Sawyer (crosscut or chainsaw) within the last 7 years.

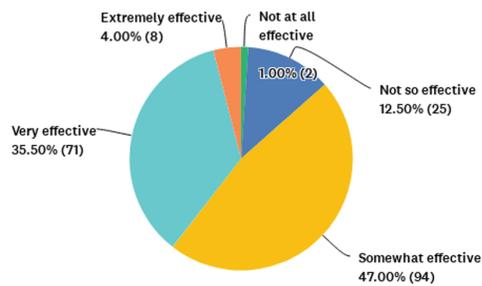


Of all A.T. sawyers, 54% usually or always used their certification during a season of work for the Trail. In order to maximize the function of existing trained sawyers, A.T. partners should identify how to best develop and support the skills and application of the remaining 46% of sawyers.

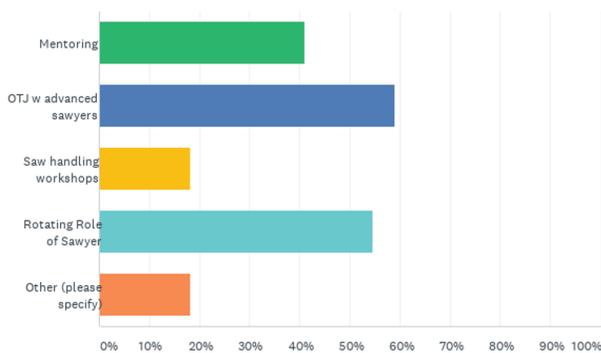


About half of A.T. sawyers feel that the cultivation of new and intermediate sawyers is only “somewhat effective,” indicating a good opportunity to enhance the practices and methods for skill development.

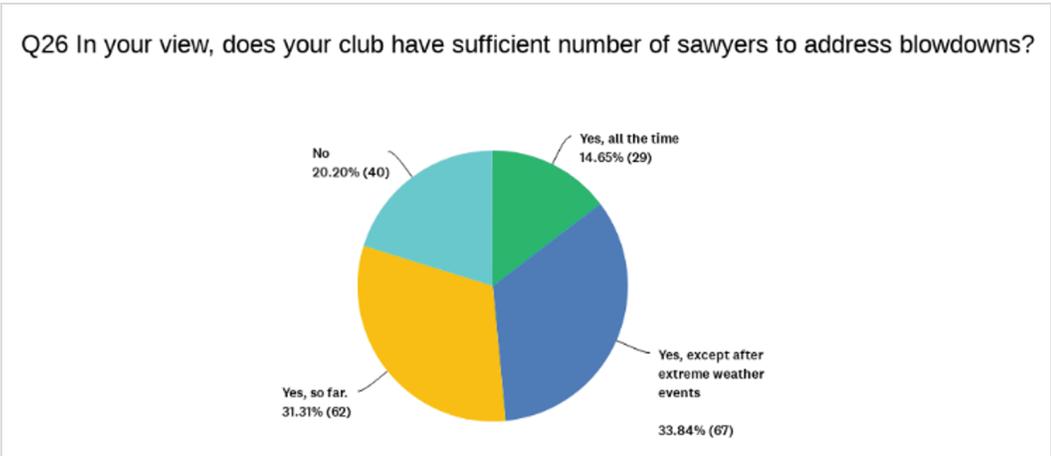
Q27 How effective is your club in cultivating skills and advancement of new and intermediate sawyers?



Q31 Which activities does your club use to cultivate sawyers' skills?



Generally, A.T. sawyers feel there are currently a sufficient number of sawyers to address blowdowns. It is interesting that general sawyers are 10% more likely than club saw coordinators to believe there are always enough club sawyers to address needs.



Leaders are about 20% more likely to know people in need of saw safety training who seem unable to get training and believe more strongly that they do not have sufficient number of sawyers to address blowdowns.



A quarter of A.T. sawyers don't use their skills on other public lands, but of the ones that do, about half of them, or 37% of all A.T. sawyers, use their skills at least monthly as part of work on other public lands. This signals an added benefit to these sawyers' skills since this is an activity that improves with practice.

Of the sawyers who have lapsed certifications within the last 7 years (15% of sawyers), the most reported reasons for not renewing are "not using the skill enough" to merit a recertification, or advanced age. The people who feel they aren't using the skill of the certification enough are 26% of those who elect not to renew, representing a loss of investment in their training.



## Recommendations

- Support certified sawyers at all levels to increase frequency of practice and deepen application of skills and safe saw operations.
- Consider convening saw coordinators and Trail supervisors to evaluate opportunities to cultivate new or intermediate sawyers.