

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



97th Anniversary

Annual Report

December 10, 2018

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

MISSION STATEMENT

Through our broad range of activities and programs, the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club encourages people to enjoy and appreciate the natural world. We believe that successful conservation depends on this experience. The Connecticut Chapter promotes the protection, enjoyment and responsible use of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut as well as other trails, rivers and byways within the state in cooperation with other maintenance organizations. We believe that the mountains and rivers have an intrinsic worth as well as provide recreational opportunity, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the state. The members of the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC form a network of users and stewards who protect these areas and educate others as to their use.

Adopted May 1993

**APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>John Grasso</i>
Secretary	<i>Jocelyn Eppich</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Past Chapter Chair	<i>Bob Guenther</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Mary Ann Gleba</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Susan Grant</i>
Communications	<i>David Roberts</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Russell Charest</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bea Holt</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bob Guenther*</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>John DeAngelis</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Paul Hayes</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Northwest Camp Vice Chair	<i>Rich Michna</i>
Program Chair	<i>Michelle Baughman</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Open</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>

* Elected to position during program year

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

As I wrap up my second year as Chapter Chair, I remain humbled and appreciative of all that our committee chairs and activity leaders are able to accomplish. Our collective love of the outdoors drives our ability to provide a wide range of options for recreation, education, stewardship, maintenance and conservation throughout Connecticut.

This has been a notable year for our Chapter with milestones, accomplishments, and activities. We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the National Scenic Trails Act and our 50 or so miles of the Connecticut section of the Appalachian Trail with commemorative "50 for the 50th" opportunities. Through a partnership with REI, a special one-day "Bear-a-Thon" delivered animal deterrent boxes to new sections of the Connecticut AT, completing their availability throughout the section. A new soup and stories event was added to the Program line-up and specialized outdoor training options were delivered by Mountaineering and Education.

In 2018, Connecticut was honored for the first time in fourteen years to host the AMC Fall Gathering at a YMCA camp in Woodstock, Connecticut. This sold-out, weekend-long event welcomed over 240 attendees for business meetings, archery, hikes, bikes, paddles, bonfires, dancing to a country-western band, presentations, and more. We directed attendees to their yurts, cabins and parking; and gifted them with special tie-dye themed commemorative buffs, inspirational bookmarks and key chains. Special kudos to our event chair Bea Holt and all the volunteers who made this event a great success.

We held our Chapter's Annual Meeting as part of the AMC Fall Gathering this year, where the following amazing volunteers were provided with our Chapter's highest honors: the Lifetime Award to David Roberts; and our 2018 Appies of the Year Awards to Bea Holt and Keith Spaar. Congratulations and thank you to David, Bea and Keith!

Please take time to read all our committee activity summaries in this Annual Report - from AT, to bicycling, to white water and flatwater paddling, mountaineering, excursions, young members, membership, conservation, education, program, Fairfield County Group, East of the River, to our NW Camp and more! Thank you to all our Executive Committee members who collectively oversee many hundreds of activities annually.

I encourage each of you to donate time to our chapter which can further the enjoyment, conservation and understanding of our Connecticut outdoors.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Cindy Butts, Connecticut Chapter Chair 2017-2018



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL GATHERING – 2017

The 96st Annual Gathering of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 12, 2017 at Saint Clement Castle, Portland, Connecticut.

Cindy started the meeting before dinner at 5:30pm where she welcomed everyone to the 96th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The evening recognized the contribution of our chapter volunteers and a short business meeting was held which includes the election of the chapter Executive Committee for 2017-2018. Faith Salter from AMC gave us a brief update about the Club activities. Then, our keynote speaker Wick Griswold let us know about pirates and privateers on the Connecticut River and other parts of Connecticut.

The members in the audience who were in the military or had family members in the military were recognized. Then a moment to honor the memory of chapter members who have passed away since our last Annual Gathering which were Alan Palmer, Walter Bretthauer, Allee Burt, George Carden, Charles Glenn, Edger Holmes, Elizabeth Shack, Carlene Smith, Marjorie Anderson “Marge” Stevenson Hicks and William Upholt. And last week, Dave Hardy, son of our past chapter chairs Sue and Gerry Hardy.

Our chapter was formed in 1921 as our founding members climbed to the top of a mountain for a bonfire and to organize. You can learn more about our Chapter’s history in this issue of our chapter newsletter and be sure to go to our site at ct-amc.org for a link to the booklet on our history through 1956.

This year, the Connecticut chapter’s level of activities remains among the highest of the 12 AMC chapters. Many hundreds of hikes, outdoor activities, excursions and programs were conducted by our various committees. Our Give a Day to the AT, AT Day and the Grand BBQ continue to be popular and important activities as we support our gorgeous section of the AT. Cindy thanked those who work on our trails.

The printed annual report was referenced for the audience to read the committees’ annual summaries in the report and to become involved whatever your area of interest. Meanwhile, chapter finances are in excellent shape under the stewardship of our Treasurer Al Puches. Membership numbers continue to grow with current membership at about 8,300.

There remain ample opportunities to participate – we could use a volunteer with programming experience, particularly with WordPress to assist as we transition our site, more family hike leaders and a co-editor to assist our veteran newsletter editor. Jim Scheef who has served as our Webmaster will be stepping down and we thank him for his service.

We will recognize those who have been selected for the two highest awards that the Chapter gives to its members, the Appie of the Year Award and the Lifetime Service Award. The Chapter introduced an Appie of the Year Award in 1997 and added a Lifetime Service Award in 2005. At this time, Dave Boone and David Roberts came forward to announce this year's award recipients.

Dave Boone noted the Lifetime Service Award goes to an individual who has at least ten years of service to the Connecticut Chapter, Al Puches who issues timely checks for us as our Treasurer for many years and a member of the Executive Committee was presented with this year's award.

David Roberts presented the Appie of the Year Award to two individuals. First, Michelle Baughman who is the Chair of our Program Committee. Amongst other events, Michelle organized the Annual Gathering which David described as a wedding on steroids. Peg Peterson who is our Excursion Chair was also recognized. Peg is responsible for organizing approximately 600 hikes a year along with our popular AT day.

The Chapter Stewardship Award is given annually to members who lead five or more-chapter activities or who donate 30 or more hours of time to chapter programs. These volunteers are listed in the program. All year long, they are out leading trips and donating many hours to other important work.

Dave Boone, chair of AT Committee, came up to describe and present the 2017 AT Trails Committee Awards. Our volunteer hours were 556 more hours than last year. Dave recognized Ethan Rain., John Grasso and Chris Varian for their volunteer service to the AT.

The meeting had a break for dinner and then continued. Cindy announced this year five of our members completed their 50th year of membership in the AMC. These persons are listed in the last page of the Annual Report. These are A. Dean, Jonathan Rosen, Edwin Rosenberg, Robert Sollmann and Donald Hubert. Dave Cullen will be distributing the 50-year pins via

mail to these fifty-year members. Those members that are completing their 25th year of membership during 2017, Dave Cullen sent their 25-year pins via mail.

The individuals and organizations that led the presentations and workshops were acknowledged. The committee chairs and several others were thanked for promoting the events. These persons were Michelle Baughman, Barbara Beckerman, Bruce LaRoche, Jim Scheef, Keith Spaar, Dale Geslien, and David Roberts.

The business portion of the 96th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter was called to order. The Secretary and Treasurer's report were accepted as presented.

Bruce Laroche, as chair of the nominating committee, presented the Slate of Nominees and conducted the election for the 2017-2018 Executive Committee. Bruce read the following names and positions and asked each person to come forward as he read their names:

Chapter Chair	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
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Mountaineering Co-Chair
Newsletter Editor
Program Chair
Whitewater Co-Chair
Whitewater Co-Chair
Young Members Co-Chair
Young Members Co-Chair

Paul Hayes
Darcy Witham
Michelle Baughman
Mark Schappert
Dennis Wigg
Corey Mott
Alison Terjek

A motion was made to approve the slate. With no opposed the nomination of the Executive committee was approved as presented.

Cindy recognized our NW Camp volunteers who have been elected into their roles by AMC. These were as follows:

Chair – Rod Parlee
Vice Chair– Rich Michna
Treasurer – Paul Thoma
Secretary – Merri Fox
Immediate Past Chair – Tom McGrath
Registrar – Craig Kennedy
Caretaker – Don Klein

Trail Monitor – John Hicks
Cabin Monitors – Art Mauger, Joel Blumert

Cindy gave a brief history of the red hats which were started back in 1951 when then chapter chair John Herr was concerned that the chapter membership had grown so large that not everyone knew who the chapter chair was. Our immediate past chair Bob Guenther was thanked for his efforts in having us partner with the New Haven Youth Opportunities Program which gets many hundreds of kids outdoors. The Past Chairs who were in attendance were recognized. These were Judy Besancon, Ledge Clayton, Dave Cullen, Dale Geslien, Beth Critton, Robert Guenther and Trish Niece.

With no other business to discuss the 96th Annual Meeting of the CT Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was adjourned at 7:27pm.

Jocelyn Eppich, Secretary

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2017**

	2016	2017
Cash at January 1	\$154,212	\$149,415
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	27,726	28,180
Program activities	19,031	22,357
Contributions	1,489	2,590
Reserve funds- sources (1)	6,280	4,835
Share of initial memberships	1,510	2,150
Leadership Training	12,390	14,293
Merchandise sales	281	290
Interest and investment income	<u>10,121</u>	<u>16,934</u>
Total revenue collected	\$78,828	\$91,629
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	20,157	26,115
Youth Opportunities Program- New Haven	10,000	10,000
Cost of Merchandise	162	636
Reserve funds- uses (1)	17,489	5,970
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	792	1,092
Conservation	1,157	729
East of the River	0	35
Education	12,013	13,887
Excursions	244	226
Executive	10,809	15,069
Flatwater	44	0
Membership	474	450
Mountaineering	973	444
Trails	8,151	12,205
Whitewater	<u>1,160</u>	<u>829</u>
Total expenditures	\$83,625	\$87,687
Cash at December 31	\$149,415	\$153,357

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2018**

			9/30/17	9/30/18
Cash at January 1			\$144,618	\$153,357
Revenue Collected:				
	Joy Street dues allocation		18,776	17,187
	Program activities		13,176	12,682
	Reserve funds- sources (1)		4,535	6,100
	Share of initial memberships		1,550	590
	Leadership training		5,829	10,803
	Contributions		2,490	3,961
	Merchandise sales		280	198
	Interest and investment income		16,931	10,865
	Total revenue collected		\$63,567	\$62,386
Expenditures:				
	Cost of program activities		15,838	16,944
	Youth Opportunities Program-New Haven		10,000	10,000
	Reserve funds- uses (1)		5,573	4,845
	Committee operating expenses:			
	Bicycling		293	268
	Conservation		669	101
	Education		8,344	13,786
	Excursions		7	0
	Executive		8,304	8,499
	Flatwater		0	0
	Membership		450	517
	Mountaineering		132	826
	Programs		0	0
	Trails		5,932	3,834
	Whitewater		74	5546
	Young Member		0	50
	Total expenditures		\$55,616	\$65,216
Cash at September 30			\$152,569	\$150,527

**TREASURER'S REPORT
RESERVE FUNDS**

(1) Reserve funds are cash set aside by the Chapter for a specific future use or spending objective. Sources of such funds are often grants, gifts, or contributions, but can also include funds set aside from the Chapter's operating budget. A summary of the Chapter's reserve funds is as follows:

		12/31/16	12/31/17	9/30/18
Reserve funds:				
	AT Handicap Accessible Project	\$5,176	\$5,176	\$5,176
	Other Trails Memorials/Grants	4,545	5,499	5,054
	Duren and Simons Memorial Scholarships	2,040	-49	3,651
	Whitewater reserve	7,029	9,757	7,806
General fund:		130,625	132,974	128,840
Total cash:		\$149,415	\$153,357	\$150,527

Al Puches, Treasurer

Appalachian Trail Committee

The Chapter Appalachian Trail (AT) Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Appalachian Trail and its side trails in Connecticut, including the adjoining public lands, in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Connecticut DEEP, and the National Park Service. Our accomplishments this year included:

- 126 individual members of the Chapter contributed 5,350 total hours to Trail activities.
- Using funding from an REI grant, 50 bear box instructional signs were printed. The signs, which describe the why and how of bear box use were attached to all bear boxes this season.
- As a result of the ATC sale of the ATC Kellogg Conservation Center, the SNE Trails Program was relocated to Noble View. As this location is some 2-hour drive from the AT, the move created a very serious logistical issue for the summer ridgerunner program and AMC teen trail crew activity on the AT in both Massachusetts and Connecticut.
- A new sign board was constructed at the "cornfield" parking near the junction of RT 7 & 112. This new kiosk, coupled with reblazing along RT 7, should help to eliminate confusion by those unfamiliar with the area as to where the trail goes from the hiker parking. Other season projects included pumping the vault privy at the Undermountain trailhead, hazard tree removal at Algo and Silver Hill, repairing/replacing bluebird boxes at Bunker Hill, kiosk replacement at Bunker Hill, Lion's Head vista clearing, improved signage for Paradise Lane, repairs to Sharon Mountain chum, expanded moldering cribs at Pine Swamp, and switching out compost bins at Brassie Brook. The bridge at Stony Brook was replaced. The "Greenager's" summer crew installed a beautiful stone staircase near Surdan Mountain Road.
- Recognizing NPS funding for open space management continues to dwindle and become more competitive each year, the Committee, in coordination with ATC staff, began to evaluate each of our open space areas, and rate their function in terms of wildlife/plant habitat, natural or cultural importance, impact by non-native species, etc. The result will be a numerical score which will help us advocate for the funding needed from NPS to maintain these areas as open. The

Committee maintains 22 individual open space areas, with a total acreage of approximately 50 acres.

- Dave was honored and thrilled to accept a Club-level "Volunteer Leadership Award" at the recent AMC Annual Summit.
- March Nor'easters greatly impacted the Trail, with reports of treetops, large branches, and blowdowns coming in from all sections. Coupled with continuing wind, snow and weather, the maintenance season got off to a slow start: still, over 100 blowdowns were removed from the trail before the beginning of the hiking season.
- 2018 was the 50th anniversary of the National Scenic Trails Act. In recognition of this event, the Committee proposed that the Chapter sponsor a "50 for the 50th" event, in which Chapter members will be encouraged to hike 50 miles on the AT in Connecticut, contribute 50 hours to maintenance of the AT in Connecticut, or a combination of both. A small recognition was created to reward participants who completes the challenge. This program was one of many celebrating the 50th anniversary nationwide.
- The Dave Hardy memorial staircase project kicked off in earnest on CT Trails Day (as it was rained out on Give-A Day to the AT). This project to install stone steps north of West Cornwall Road, was dedicated to Dave Hardy, son of Connecticut AMC past chairs and Green Mountain Club Director of Field Programs.
- **Give-A-Day to the AT 2018** was successful in spite of drizzly, grey conditions. The AT between Bear Mtn Road and the summit was brushed back, water bars were cleaned on the Undermountain Trail, the kiosk at the Lion's head trailhead was replaced, boundary was reclaimed on an easement on the east side of the Housatonic, and 283 pounds of garlic mustard was pulled---a new CT record!
- Representatives of the AT Committee organized and participated in a meeting with Trail-neighbor emergency responders, hosted by the Lakeville Hose Company. Leo Kelly, Henry Edmonds, and Dave Boone represented the AT. Participating agencies included Lakeville Hose, Salisbury Ambulance, Egremont FD, Sheffield, FD, Cornwall FD, Kent FD, and Litchfield County Fire Coordinator. Concerns regarding the nature of emergency responses to the AT were

shared, and the Committee provided information on access routes used typically for maintenance.

- Despite several personnel challenges, the Summer Ridgerunner Program successfully educated over 3000 hikers and protected our AT resources. Our extreme gratitude goes to Ridgerunner Ryan Rhodes and Ridgerunner Coordinator Mike Baggot.
- The Committee completed its goal of providing animal deterrent food storage at all our overnight sites. Funded and assisted by REI, a major one-day event entitled "**Bear-A-Thon**" successfully brought bear boxes into our six remaining and most remote, locations. 45 volunteers participated. Thanks to all who helped, including REI and AMC staff!

The Committee is grateful to our dedicated Section Maintainers, Boundary Monitors, Trail Patrollers, Natural Heritage Monitors, and all Chapter members who participate in our work parties and other efforts. Projects to improve the Trail go out nearly every weekend. Please consider coming with us soon.

*Ray Bracone
Jim Liptack
Bob Poitras
Rich Cady
Ann Sherwood
Walt Daniels
Adam Lippman
Henry Edmonds
Chip Ward
Bernadette Ellegard
Leo Kelly
Jeff Glans
Gene Grayson
Elaine LaBella
Russ Waldie
Paul Reder
Sue Spring*

*Adam Brown - ATC Stewardship Conservation Manager
Dave Boone-CT AT Committee Chairman*

Bicycling Committee

RIDE COORDINATOR:

- Mark Kiley, our bike rider coordinator has done a great job this year keeping all rides for our website, entering rides in our trip system and leading several rides.
- Tom Ebersold and Susan Grant have served as back up. Tom also kept our ride leader list up to date.

RIDE LEADER TRAINING:

- We had 3 cyclists step up to Ride Leader status.
- Two of the leaders are interested in offering more mountain bike riding.

RECURRING RIDES:

- **TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENING RIDES:** out of Manchester continued to attract many participants. Multiple rides with varying paces were offered each week. Bike leaders included Judy Borrmann, David Waldburger, Tony Calabrese and Rick Merritt. Judy extends the season for the faster riders from early spring to mid fall.
- **THURSDAY EVENING RIDES:** were successful again this year with two rides each week (one social ride, the other more challenging) averaging 10 to 20 riders with many going to dinner after the ride. Leaders included Finlay and Mary Ferguson, Mark Henebry, Wayne Chapman, and Mary Ann Gleba.

BIKE RIDES:

- On the whole; rides were less numerous this year. As we have had challenges competing with Meetup, other clubs and cyclists foregoing the trip system by sending independent email; Susan and I have worked to convince leaders to use AMC.

BIKE TRIPS:

- One trip this year - Hampton Beach, NH over Memorial Day weekend. The leaders were MaryAnn Gleba, Bruce Ebbets, Tony Calabrese and Annette Calabrese.
- This trip attracts people from CT, MA, RI, NY and NJ

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- 2018 Spring Picnic Breakfast at Macedonia in Kent was on April 28th: This was coordinated with AMC Young Members group. Two rides were offered (1 easy, 1 intermediate).
- 2018 AT Day at Macedonia in Kent was on September 29th: Two rides were offered (1 easy, 1 intermediate).
- 2018 Annual Fall Gathering in Woodstock. Several bike rides were offered over the weekend: 2 road rides that were created specifically for the weekend; and one mountain bike ride on the Airline Trail.

RIDE LEADER APPRECIATION

- Was held on October 28th in Essex.
- Two rides will be offered (one short, one long) followed by dinner and socializing at a local pizza restaurant.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE:

Susan Grant, Co-Chair

Mary Ann Gleba, Co-Chair



Communications Committee

Communications promotes all of the chapter's regular activities as well as special events including Fairfield County Group's ten speaker dinners each year, give a Day to the AT, AT Day, Spring Dinner, Annual Gathering, and training events run by the chapter's Education Committee. This year it also actively promoted the Fall Gathering.

Communications continued to produce the chapter's Weekly Upcoming Events list, which goes out each Tuesday and includes all events through the following two weekends. It also features upcoming special events. The Weekly provides readers with a convenient one stop list of events and helps to reduce the number of individual activity notice emails.

The main system used by the chapter to promote its events, in addition to the club's activity listing system, is Constant Contact, which is used to create and send out email notices. The chapter now has over 4,700 individual email addresses on Constant Contact, and, in aggregate, it's various email lists in Constant Contact have well over 6,000 addresses.

In addition, the chapter has been making increased use of Meetup and our Meetup group now has almost 2,400 members. Since inception, we have listed around 740 of our events on Meetup.

Our Facebook page, administered by Dale Geslein, also continues to be very active and now has 1,631 "likes." A wide range of topics was covered in this year's posts including outdoor activities and trail conditions, conservation, education and remembrances of a number of members, who are no longer with us. Chapter-wide and Club events were also created.

Clearly breaking all post records on our Facebook was the August 2018 "Bear-A-Thon-Mission Accomplished" post submitted by Dave Boone, AT Committee Chair, which reached 6,575 people and had 256 reactions, comments and shares.

A reminder to all that anyone can post to the Chapter Facebook page. There has been an increase in this interaction, as well as an increase in inbox messages received with a variety of inquiries. Visitor posts can be viewed by clicking "See All" in the Community section on the right side panel of the Chapter Facebook page.

The chapter Twitter account, administered by Janet Ainsworth, has 109 followers. It was created by past Chair Cindy Butts in November 2016 and became active about a year later. The account shares outdoor recreation and conservation posts from a variety of sources

Communications works closely with a number of other committees and particularly with our Webmaster and our Newsletter Editor.

David Roberts – Chair



Conservation Committee

Your Conservation Committee had two major accomplishments in 2018. We were part of a coalition, led by Connecticut Forest & Park Association, that helped promote and eventually pass a Constitutional Amendment that goes a long way to protecting public lands from being sold and developed. Prior to the passage of this amendment, the legislature could pass a law selling public lands left to the state thereby, subverting the wishes of the donor. While this amendment does not outlaw this practice; it does make it significantly more difficult. Thanks to the passage of this amendment a public hearing is required before previously public, protected land can be transferred for private development. Of course, your Conservation Committee will try to alert our members whenever such a public hearing is forthcoming.

Secondly, largely due to the efforts of Conservation Co-Chair Russ Charest, the Conservation Committee represented the AMC; while promoting conservation, at several events: North Haven Earth Day, Hamden Earth Day; Guilford Earth Day, and Connecticut Folk Festival & Green Expo.

Committee Members:

Russ Charest Co-Chair

Andrew May Co-Chair

Jamie Lee

Bob Andrews

Janet Ainsworth

East-of-the-River Committee

East-of-the-River remains a very active group of hikers. Tuesday and Thursday hikes are varied and found in all parts of Connecticut with occasional hikes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Our dedicated hike leaders vary the terrain from urban hikes, beach hikes, rail trails, to many of the higher points in the hills of our state. We continue to explore new trails to add our inventory of hikes.

There are two levels of hikes: one is a more challenging hike and the other is a more moderate hike of under five miles. The more moderate hikes are often called “alternate hikes” by the group. There is both a more challenging hike, as well as, an alternate hike on most Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. Attendance for hikes varies and sometimes consists of small groups but can also be a larger group of as many as 30.

We have other events such as our annual “cookie swap” that usually takes place at “The Arbors” in Manchester in December. After the hikes, small groups often go for pizza, ice cream or coffee at nearby establishments.

Come join this friendly group for one or more fun filled hikes.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE 2018:

Ray Phillips, Chair

Education Committee

Education had busy year.

In April of 2018, Wilderness First Aid course at White Memorial in Litchfield was attend by 36 people. Training consisted of 16 hours of various first aid topics and scenarios. SOLO provided the instructors for the weekend. Next door our one-day LTS was going on in the Mott-Van Winkle classroom where 16 new hike leaders learned A to Z on what it means to be a hike leader for the AMC.

On May 16th Sleeping Giant state park in Hamden\North Haven took a direct hit by a tornado. The entrance and picnic area totally wipe out. Sleeping Giant as a location of many AMC leadership trainings. The area around Sleeping giant was so damage the AMC LNT course on May 18th-19th had to be cancelled which was supposed to be at Wah Wah Tay See which is located down the street from Sleeping Giant state park. On June X 2018 Education committee squeezed in another WFA course at YMCA Camp Woodstock in Woodstock, CT. This was also location of the “AMC Fall Gathering” hosted by the AMC CT Chapter.

The annual June single day Leadership Training this year was at Mansfield Hollow State Park. This was a first time offering a training in the eastern side of the state. 12 people attended. One as far from New Jersey.

Education Chair Keith Spaar and Janet Ainsworth participated in a T3 Train the Trainer program at the Prindle Pond Hill in Massachusetts on November 2nd weekend. This was Keith’s 3rd time and Janet’s 2nd time attending the training provided by the AMC OLDC committee.

On November 17th-18th weekend our fall WFA and 2-day Leadership Training School was offered. Only 21 attended WFA and 14 participated in LTS. The LTS course was packed full of instructors over the weekend. Leo Kelly and Dale Geslien.

Facebook, Constant Contact, Meetup, and the CT-AMC Website is being used to advertise the trainings. 2019 the Education Committee will be looking to expand its trainings to add a Mountain Skills course and a Leave No Trace course will be offered again in May (TBA).

The Education will be also recruiting for new Education members to assist in its training offerings. Janet Ainsworth will be joining the Education Committee in 2019 as CO-Chair.

Keith Spaar, Education Chair



Excursions Committee

In the twelve months to the end of September 2018, Connecticut Chapter Hike Leaders posted over 560 hikes along with several weekend and other multi-day trips. Over 70 different Hike Leaders led at least one hike during the year. Also, 50 of our Hike Leaders and volunteers qualified for Chapter Stewardship recognition for leading 5 or more hikes or contributing 30 or more volunteer hours. All our leaders deserve our thanks and appreciation for their efforts.

In addition to hikes led by leaders who are not part of a sponsoring group, hikes sponsored by East of the River (EOR), the Thursday Western CT Hiking Group, Young Members, and Family Activities again made major contributions. The EOR Midweek Hiking Group continues to sponsor four well-attended hikes each week, the Western CT Thursday Hiking Group generally sponsors at least one hike each week, and our Family Activities group sponsored several hikes during the year. On some mid-week days, hikers have a choice of 5 or 6 hikes. There has been an increase in weekend hikes, and we thank leaders who have responded to the request for more weekend hikes. Sponsoring groups make a major contribution to the success of our hiking program and Excursions values highly the work not only of those who lead hikes sponsored by these groups, but also the work done by the group coordinators, Barry Resnick, Bob Nickels, Jill Oneiglia, Leigh Knuttel, and Dave Cronin.

Several of our Hike Leaders, in addition to leading local hikes, led ski trips both within and beyond the state, and Adventure Travel trips. Hike Leaders also strongly supported chapter-wide events such as National Trails Day, Give-a-Day to the AT (run by AT Committee), and AT Day (run by Excursions). Our leaders listed 9 hikes as part of the National Trails Day events. Phil Wilsey, Co-Chair of the Excursions Committee, spent a great deal of time this year organizing hikes for the inter-chapter Fall Gathering, for which the CT Chapter was the 2018 host. We offered 12 hikes and 3 walks a guided tour of Roseland Cottage in Woodstock as well over the weekend.

AT Day has grown to be the CT Chapter's biggest outdoor event each year. At this year's AT Day, we had over 140 participants for events which included hiking, biking, rock climbing, and trail work. Following the events, nearly 100 people attended the Grand BBQ at Macedonia

Brook State Park. Many thanks to our AT Day All-Star BBQ Team for making the day a great success.

Once again, the Excursions Committee sponsored the AMC's Fall Hiking Week, as well as supporting and providing hike leaders for August Camp. We thank everyone who organized and led hikes at these great events. This year, FHW was based in Lincoln, NH. At least 33 "formal" hikes, as well as several "bootleg" hikes, were offered over the seven-day time period to respond to the sellout crowd. This year we reached the limit of 125 attendees by early July. Half of the FHW hikes were led by several leaders from our CT Chapter. Next year Fall Hiking Week will be moving back to the East side of the White Mountains. The FHW Committee is finalizing the contract details with the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH for September 13-20.

We also thank Keith Spaar and the Education Committee, comprising mainly Hike Leaders, for organizing the weekend-long annual Leadership Training School in Litchfield and 2 one-day Leadership Training Sessions. For the first time, Keith offered one of the one-day sessions at Bigelow Hollow SP to attract leadership candidates from the Eastern portion of the state as well as from nearby MA and RI. All sessions were very well attended and are extremely important in providing potential Hike Leaders with high quality training.

Last November, we held a Hike Leader Appreciation Party targeting our leaders in the eastern part of the state. Twenty-two Hike Leaders joined the Excursions Committee at the CFPA in Middlefield for an evening of food and camaraderie and included a discussion of topics pertinent to our group.

We thank David Roberts (Communications Chair) for continuing to coordinate and send out our Weekly Upcoming Hikes List, which is well established not only for advertising our hikes but as a key element in promoting the chapter's events and events run by other committees. This past year, the CT-AMC Meetup group added almost 300 new members and is currently has 2370 members. Many thanks to the volunteers who maintain our Meetup group, another avenue for Hike Leaders to promote their hikes.

Behind the scenes, our Excursions Committee members spend countless hours maintaining our lists, approving hikes, distributing emails, and responding to many emails from Hike Leaders, hikers and potential hikers. Their contributions are invaluable and very much appreciated.

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:

Peg Peterson, Co-Chair

Phil Wilsey, Co-Chair

Carol Hassett

Dave Cronin

Bill Curley



Fairfield County Group

Fairfield County Group (FCG) had another successful year. In the twelve months to the end of September 2018, FCG organized ten events, consisting of five speaker dinner meetings in Westport; and five speaker dinner meetings in Bethel. Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for July and August and alternate between Bethel and Westport. FCG's meetings feature a wide range of topics, mainly in the armchair travel category

In Westport, where meetings were held in the Saugatuck Congregational Church, FCG organized five speaker dinners, starting in November 2017 with a presentation by FCG Co-Chair David Roberts, entitled "A Journey Through France." In January, 2018, Frank Keen presented "Brazil - Natural Wonderland" ; in March in Westport, Sam Mehta presented "South Korea – A Country at a Crossroad"; in May, Dave Pressler presented "Chilling in Chile"; and in September Joan Cavanaugh presented "Irresistible Vietnam."

In Bethel, the October 2017 speaker dinner featured AMC Hike Leaders Ian Lewis, Alan Jones and David Roberts with a presentation called "Hiking in Britain"; in December former CT Chapter Chair Bob Guenther presented "Hiking El Camino de Santiago"; in February Deborah Lewis presented "A Winter Exploration of Arctic Norway and Sweden"; in April, FCG held one of its popular movie nights featuring "Alone Across Australia"; and in June 2018, Betsy and John Murphy presented "Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail."

In addition to the Westport and Bethel meetings, FCG Co-Chair David Roberts presented "A Journey Through France" to the NY-NJ Chapter in Manhattan in April 2018. David also gave a presentation entitled "Polar Journeys – To the North Pole" at the club's Fall Gathering in October.

Attendance levels vary but Bethel meetings attract on average around 50 people and Westport around 70. FCG's events not only help to retain members within the club but have directly resulted in a significant number of people joining the AMC. FCG continued its communications efforts with posters and press releases for its events and has enjoyed good local media support. All FCG events are listed on the chapter web-site, included in the Weekly, and have featured regularly in the chapter newsletters. FCG email list on Constant Contact now has about 700

names. FCG events are now also featured in the chapter's Meetup group and on Facebook and Twitter.

While FCG's main aim is to promote the AMC in southwestern Connecticut, FCG has also worked to do this in a cost-effective way. All speakers now present for no fee, and other costs are carefully controlled.

FCG enjoys the support of many volunteers, including presenters, who are always willing to help in many ways. FCG Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers wish to thank all of them for their contribution to FCG's success.

Thomas Carruthers - FCG Co-Chair
David Roberts – FCG Co-Chair





Family Activities Committee

The Family Activities Committee offered fewer hikes this year than most years, due to the other obligations of its two leaders. The committee did offer several special event hikes, including New Year's Day, Connecticut Trails Day, Family Hiking Day on the Appalachian Trail, the New England Trail Challenge with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and AT Day. David Bellemare and I are leaving the committee's leadership. In November, I was elected co-chair of the Connecticut Chapter Education Committee and will devote more time to training hike leaders. (I also serve as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director.) New leadership has been recruited and will be elected by the Executive Committee at a future meeting. Watch the chapter newsletter for details.

FAMILY EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:

Janet Ainsworth, Co-Chair
David Bellemare, Co-Chair

Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

This year was a relatively slow year for our committee. Tom led a majority of the trips at a wide range of locations, some of his usual trips (but with new variations), and some new adventures. I admire his creativity.

We teamed up with AMC staff on two additions to the Connecticut River Paddlers Trail. We had a grand opening of the new paddler's campsite on Chapman Pond in East Haddam (after performing needed repairs after some storm damage). A new paddlers campsite was also constructed on Kings Island in Enfield, but we had to cancel its grand opening, due to high water and strong current. The event will be rescheduled for next year.

The committee continues to support important occasions in our state, such as AT Day on Lake Waramaug, CT Trails Days on the Lieutenant River, and AMC Fall Gathering/Hiking Weekend at Mashapaug Pond and Lake Naubesatuck. We hope to see you on the water!

FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE:

Tom Ebersold
Debbie Tedford

Barry Gorfain, Chair

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has been working to expand our chapter's online presence to increase awareness of AMC on social media. Our Annual Spring Hike and Breakfast at Macedonia State Park in Kent, CT was a success and we continue to work with the education committee to offer beginner workshops to help new members safely explore the outdoors.

After seeing the Chapter's Young Member audience grow by having a Co-Chair East of the River, I am seeking a Membership Co-Chair to help welcome new members from Eastern CT.

Volunteer Opportunity: Membership Co-Chair (East of the River)

The Connecticut Chapter Membership Committee is seeking an East of the River Co-Chair for 2018. You will fit well in this role if you love AMC and want to spread the word about the great work our chapter does.

Responsibilities include attending monthly committee meetings in Middlefield, CT (September - June, meetings include a pizza social and come with great company!) and organizing occasional weekend or weeknight socials and/or intro outings or workshops in or near Eastern Connecticut (you choose the day, time, location.)

If interested, please email Alison Terjek (membership@ct-amc.org) who lives far West of the River in Northwestern CT.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Alison Terjek, Chair

Mountaineering Committee

The leadership of the Committee was transitioned at the beginning of 2018 from Kurt Zoner and Pete Gajdosik to John DeAngelis and Paul Hayes as the new co-chairs.

The Committee developed a new informational brochure describing the various goals, objectives, and activities of the Committee. These were distributed among various indoor climbing gyms around the state and generated around 20 new regular members.

Community Service/Outreach: Committee members participated in 2 clean-up efforts at local climbing areas, one in the spring and one in the fall with about a dozen members participating. Many of our local climbing areas attract other users due to the vistas from the cliff tops resulting in accumulating trash and wear on the areas. These efforts help maintain our favorite climbing areas for all users. The Committee also organized and conducted two “Try-A-Climb” events, one in central and one in western Connecticut. These events enable first time climbers to experience our sport and the thrill of ascending a rock face with their hands and feet. The Committee provides all the necessary equipment and provides basic instruction and coaching as well as experienced belayers for each participant. This year about 25 people participated in these events.

Leader Training and Development: The Committee qualifies leaders by specific activity, so leaders must demonstrate the necessary skills in a specific area to be a leader of that activity. Our activities are organized into the following categories: top rope rock climbing, trad lead rock climbing, sport climbing, top rope ice climbing, lead ice climbing, and mountaineering. This year the committee qualified 5 new top rope rock climbing leaders and 1 new mountaineering leader. One top rope & trad rock leader completed the American Mountain Guide Association training program as a single pitch rock climbing instructor. One leader also completed the Wilderness First Aid training program.

Member Climbing Skills Training and Development: Nearly 50 members participated in one of 10 training programs designed to help our members reach their climbing goals. These programs are designed to help our members develop more advanced climbing skills for climbing rock,

ice, or mountains. Most of these were taught by our most experienced members/leaders and some were conducted by paid professional guides.

Climbing Events: The Committee continued a regular program of climbing event for our members. These included the most popular Thursday evening top rope climbing events during the spring, summer, and fall at various crags around the state. These were so popular, with up to 30 attendees per climb, that a new process was instituted in early summer to limit the number of participants to less than 20. This was necessary to limit our impacts on the climbing crags and local neighborhoods. Additional changes are being discussed for next year to make these easier for our leaders to manage and maintain the collegial nature of the events. Additional events included rock and ice climbing day and weekend trips within and outside of Connecticut. Weekly indoor climbing gatherings continued throughout the year at local climbing gyms to keep members in contact and to improve our skills. The Committee re-negotiated a special reduced gym membership rate for AMC members at one of the most popular climbing gyms in the state.

CLIMBING/MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:

Co-Chairs: *John DeAngelis and Paul Hayes*

Leaders:

Mike Adelson (TRR, SR)

Chuck Boyd (TRR, TLR)

Bobby Buchan (TRR, TLR)

Chris Granata (TRR)

Robert Gregory (TRR)

Mike LaChapelle (TRR)

Tim Linehan (TRR, TRI, LI)

Art Morenz (TRR, TRI)

Jesse Morenz (TRR, TRI, TLR, LI, M)

Gini Kramer (TRR, SR, TRI)

Bart Ruggiero (TRR)

Jason Smith (TRR)

Audrey Suseno (TRR, SR)

Steve Wall (M)

Paula Zimbrian (TRR)

Legend: TRR = top rope rock; SR = sport rock; TLR = trad lead rock;
TRI = top rope ice; M = mountaineering

Newsletter

The *AMC in Connecticut*, our CT-AMC newsletter, reaches more than 8,000-chapter members through online distribution and to anyone worldwide through the Internet. The member CT-AMC newsletter showcases an update from your chapter chair, information about upcoming events, access to registration and activity leaders, and stories/articles of interest to our constituents submitted by committee chairs, participating members, and the AMC. *AMC in Connecticut* is also distributed to numerous advocates and supporters. To opt in, sign up here: www.ct-amc.org/OptIn/Index.shtm

Each newsletter is always a group effort. Committee leaders and members are all encouraged to submit and promote their activities, upcoming events, and experiences. This publication works to inform members, introduce new activities, and encourage members to participate, recruit, and give of their time.

Big thanks to all committee chairs for your ongoing supply of intriguing stories, event listings, and information regarding the ever-changing environmental landscape and its management relevant to the AMC community.

Darcy Witham is editor and producer of the publication. As a volunteer, she manages all aspects of production, including preparing initial content outlines/editorial calendars, writing, editing, and providing her highly reactive, colorful design and layout skills. Darcy also puts together several additional CT-AMC associated promotions including but not limited to flyers, announcements, brochures, posters, and advertising. Eric Stones is on board volunteering his time and expertise to production support and as copy-editor. Thank you always, Eric!

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Darcy Witham, Newsletter Committee Chair

Northwest Camp Committee



The Northwest Camp (NWC) Committee had an active year managing the cabin and its surrounding 125-acres, high on the Taconic plateau. The rustic but cozy cabin is constructed of native American chestnut logs, tucked away under an old-growth Eastern hemlock forest canopy in a remote and environmentally diverse area in the very northwest corner of Connecticut. The Committee volunteers managing this serene self-service facility continue to face the challenge of balancing the needs of its guests with a safe and environmentally responsible self-service camping experience.

The sparkling pristine stream adjacent to the cabin drains to Sages ravine and is part of the unique Schenob brook watershed drainage basin. This rare watershed has been the target of protection for many years by numerous local, state and national environmental organizations and public agencies. Continuously learning and sharing what makes this fragile and vulnerable property and watershed so unique is a high priority. Striving to reduce our impact is paramount!

Many productive NWC Committee, Volunteer Camp & Cabin Committee (VCC) and CT Chapter meetings took place throughout the year. In addition to the Annual Summit, Gathering and Appalachian Trail (AT) Day the two-annual NWC workparties (first Saturday in May & November) resulted in the completion of very many tasks. At the VCC Spring meeting at Lake Ponkapoag, Rich Michna was appointed to a new VCC Safety Committee representing NWC and Merri Fox to a new VCC Task Force Committee representing NWC. The Executive board of the NWC Committee continually contribute a great deal of time and energy to the success of the VCC throughout the year.

For eleven consecutive years, the NWC Committee has been donating funds to the AMC/ATC Ridgerunner (RR's) because they value the program and how the RR's closely monitor the AT and cabin area and promote Leave No Trace (LNT) principles. The NWC Committee continues to observe the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Southern New England Regional Trails Supervisor, Andrea Franklin and the NWC Committee Co-Chairs. The MOU requires that the RR's visit and monitor the camp when possible. While at NWC the RR's run through a checklist of items that help the NWC Committee monitor the cabin and surrounding property. The NWC Committee is very thankful that in 2018 the RR season that begins in May was extended from September to November.

CT AMC Education Committee Chair and LNT Master Educator, Keith Spaar presented his 3rd annual LNT presentation to work party participants at NWC prior to the May work party. A lengthy discussion took place on how NWC could be better managed more sustainably and campers could have less of an impact by utilizing LNT techniques.

Two nights of clouds and heavy rain hampered viewing of the 10th annual NWC Perseid Meteor Shower Extravaganza in August for the third year in a row. Before the rain, participants were treated to a dazzling drone demonstration on Bald peak by Vice Chair Rich Michna. Later back at the camp and after a tasty cookout, the NWC Committee made their annual RR donation and a took photo op with Michael Baggot representing the RR's. Happy hour included a drone video filmed from the summit the night before, that was projected out the cabin front door with a portable projector through the pouring rain onto a big screen under a canopy. The rain didn't stop the attendees from having a wonderful time.

The hope remains alive that this well managed sensitive piece of property, through the committee's collaborative and information sharing process will ensure and sustain its long-term health and viability for future generations to enjoy.

2018 Committee Roster with Volunteers

Rod Parlee (Chair, Conservation Director) *
Rich Michna (Vice Chair, VCC Safety Committee) *
Merri Fox (Secretary) *
Craig Kennedy (Registrar) *
Donald Klein (Caretaker) *
Paul Thoma (Treasurer) *
Tom McGrath (Outgoing Co-Chair, Moldering Privy Committee)
Al Puches (Chapter Treasurer) *
John Hicks (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar – Trails Committee) *
Roy Hoffman (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar/Breakfastmaker)
Carol Langley (Cabin Monitor & Green Mt Club, CT Rep)*
Trent Link (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)
John Rek (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)*
Art Mauger (Cabin Monitor)
Ethan Rain*
Josh Michna*
Nick Michna*
Tom O'Connor
Joe Parenteau
Eric Harvey
Collin Deojay

* denotes Stewardship Award with more than 30 volunteer hours

Program Committee

The 2018 AMC Soup & Stories event was held January 12 at 6:00 PM at the lodge at Crandall Park 124 cider Mill Rd., Tolland, CT. The talent booked for the evening was supposed to be Carolyn Sterns, Storyteller but she was sick. AMC member and Adventure Leader Dale Geslien came to our rescue at the last minute with her presentation on the Azores. Dale Geslien delivered a lovely presentation with magnificent photography. She was very knowledgeable on her subject and she had the flexibility to field questions as she went. This gave the presentation a comfortable, friendly, casual feel, like good friends getting together to share stories about their vacation adventure. Her engaging, professional presentation really saved the event, which otherwise could best be described as a “comedy of errors:”

Big Y underestimated the amount of soup we would need. The soups also arrived cold and thus were not ready to serve at the start of the program. So we had a “backwards meal,” where we needed the advice of that motto, “Life is short, eat desert first!”

The cakes, procured from Vernon Dinner, were beautiful and delicious, and the Dunkin Donuts “box of Joe” coffee was hot and ready. People mentioned that the cake servings were too big (they came pre-sliced, so they are the identical serving size one would receive if they ate at the restaurant). But as it turns out, this was a good thing because we ended up running out of soup!

Overall, the wonderful AMC members made it an enjoyable evening despite the many “hick ups” in the plan. Bottom line: The point of the evening is to get members together in the off season to socialize, and this goal was achieved. One of the attendees, Marge Nichols expressing her appreciation for the event (despite its flaws) in an email.

The 2018 AMC Roast Beef Spring Dinner was held at the Cheshire Grange, 44 Wallingford Road on Saturday, on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th. A total of only 42 tickets were sold because of the Eventbrite ticket sales cut-off date. Perhaps if the Eventbrite sales had not been shut down, we might have sold a few more tickets. (The two mail in registrants had tried to buy their tickets after the Eventbrite ticket sales had been shut down). As the Grange requires a guaranteed minimum of 50 meals, the event was a financial loss.

Carolyn Sterns, Storyteller will be the entertainment next year.

The 2019 Annual Gathering will be held at St. Clement's Castle, 1931 Portland Cobalt Rd, Portland, CT on Sunday, November 17th. Exhibitors may start arriving at 11 am to set up their booths. Doors will open to the public at noon when coffee, tea, and cookies will be served, and attendees can visit exhibit booths to win door prizes. I urge participants to arrive in this noon hour as it is vital to our sponsors and exhibitors whose contributions defray the cost of the event (which keeps your ticket prices low) and who provide the "swag" that is donated to the tea cup auction. I have lost some very generous sponsors in the past because they felt that they hadn't received enough "traffic" at their booths to justify spending their limited marketing budgets at our event. So if more attendees arrive before the workshops begin, then we may be able to attract generous sponsors again.

Michelle Baughman
AMC Connecticut Chapter Program Chairman
programs@ct-amc.org
<http://www.ct-amc.org>



Whitewater Committee

The CT AMC whitewater committee in 2018 was very busy and has seen some growth in our membership and active participation numbers.

Middletown Pool session attendance was strong, but we did not break even on costs so 2019 sessions we will have to charge a bit more and try to increase attendance.

This summer our Lake Beseck Instructionals and Satan's Kingdom Instructionals both had very strong attendance. with 15-20 participants on average per session.

Our river trip attendance has also been very strong.

Our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School was well attended.

We happily added Ann Gillard and Merrie Avallone as new trip leaders.

This October held our annual leaders' appreciation picnic and presented the Stephen Forster Award, recognizing excellence in whitewater kayaking and leadership To Katelyn Green. Coming up in December we have our annual pool and pizza party.

As in past years, we have had many river trips to different states and different rivers.

We have been in the process of updating our fleet and equipment this year. We bought 4 new kayaks that will fit a wide range of paddlers as well as 15 new paddles to replace our very old inventory. We also have sold or given away 3 older model kayaks.

The Whitewater Committee Members for 2018

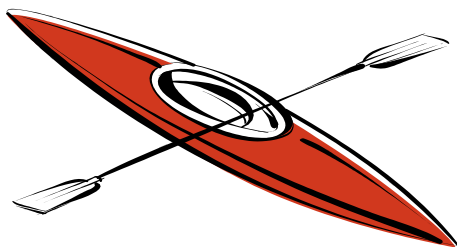
Mark Schappert and Dennis Wigg co-chairs
Dana Warner - Trip coordinator
Chris Degraf

Patti Vaughn
Robin Pleshaw
Jeff Magee
Edward Yiznitsky
Denise Deili
Jo-Ann Durdock
Troy Schinkel

**Leaders who ran 5 or more trips or 30hrs of volunteer time to the
Whitewater Committee**

Mark Schappert
Dennis Wigg
Chris DeGraaf
Denise Dieli
Jo-Ann Durdock
Jeff Magee
Patti Vaughn
Dana Warner
Troy Schinkel
Ann Gillard

Mark Schappert, Co-Chair
Dennis Wigg, Co-Chair



Young Members Committee

The Young Members Chapter organized over 20 events throughout this year! Early in the year, we held an AT Trail Series covering the entire length of the AT Trail in a series of hikes. We have partnered with neighboring chapters to have multi-level trips where there's trip opportunities for multiple abilities! In May, we worked with the Berkshire Chapter to lead two hikes of varied ability with a meetup afterwards at a local concert. Some of our hikes, including the Holiday Hike, included a social event afterwards. We also held a couple overnight trips to Mt. Monadnock and Mt. Ascutney. We had a great time making new friends and connecting with old friends at Fall Gathering. Young Member leaders helped lead two hikes during the annual event.

Coming up, we are looking forward to our annual Holiday Hike being held on New Year's Day this year. In the works are plans for a hiking series on the New England Trail, a Winter Hike weekend, and an inter-chapter event at Noble View in March!

Corey Mott, Co-Chair

Alison Terjek, Co-Chair

Nominations for the 2019 Executive Committee

In accordance with the chapter bylaws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates:

Chapter Chair	<i>John Grasso</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Jocelyn Eppich</i>
Secretary	<i>Open</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Immediate Past Chair	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Mary Ann Gleba</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Susan Grant</i>
Communications	<i>David Roberts</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Russell Charest</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Open</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bea Holt</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bob Guenther</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>John DeAngelis</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Paul Hayes</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp (*)	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>Michelle Baughman</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
(*) -AMC Appointment	

50-Year Members

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we are honoring for their remarkable 50 years of membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club!

Janet Cooper of New London, Connecticut

Thomas Desmond of West Hartford, Connecticut

Diantha Morse of Meriden, Connecticut

Rhoda Schmidt of Vernon Rockville, Connecticut

William Schmidt of Vernon Rockville, Connecticut

James Vose of Fairfield, Connecticut

